

**RAYVILLE ROSENWALD  
EULA D. BRITTON**

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SCHOOL

REUNION

JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

**EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI CENTER**

**103 COTTON STREET**

**RAYVILLE, LA 71269**

# **Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association**



## ***Members of the Board of Directors 2012 - 2014***

Mr. Ira Bradley, Jr., President

Mr. Morgan Moss, Vice President

Mr. Freddy Rivers, Secretary

Mrs. Clara Wilson, Financial Secretary

Mr. Joe Jones, Treasurer

Miss Nettie Lee, Activity Director

Mr. Leroy Collins

Mrs. Elaine Elder-Coleman 

Mr. James Gee

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*From The President's Desk:  
Elder Ira Bradley, Jr., Th.D.*



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*Greetings, and welcome to our 2012 school reunion, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Some of you have come from afar, and some of you have come from nearby in order to participate in this school reunion.*

*In traveling back to Rayville, I am sure that your minds wondered back on your classmates, teachers, and the many events that took place in the old school and in this very building, which is the only physical structure left as a reminder of where God has brought us from. From playing basketball on a dirt court when the weather permitted, God not only moved the basketball team indoors, but He also made it possible for us to have plays, socials, junior/senior proms, and our baccalaureate and commencement exercises in this old reminder of a very important part of our history.*

*Speaking of past history, my mind goes back to the Fall of 1942 when a friend and next door neighbor brought me from Bucks Quarters (what was sometimes referred to as "the mud hole") to be enrolled in Rayville Rosenwald Elementary and High School as a first grader. Needless to say, I was one scared child that day.*

*It was during that time that I became acquainted with a young principal, Mrs. Eula D. Britton, who became a part of my life (and I am sure many of yours) with her strong influence. As my mind continues to reflect back, I am reminded of a passage of scripture from the Holy Bible (Joshua 4:6&7) which reads:*

*"That this may be a sign among you that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean ye by these stones. Then ye shall answer that the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan the waters were cut off and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever."*

*In closing, my fellow alumni, let the bricks of this old building be a reminder to us and a memorial to our children of how God has brought us over the "Dirt Court Jordan"; over the ever present invisible walls of segregation and prejudice to a time when we must carry on what the pioneers of our black heritage— Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton founders— kept alive many years ago.*



*Greetings From  
Our Mayor:  
Honorable  
Harry "Kayo" Lewis*

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*It is my great honor to welcome Rayville Rosenwald/ Eula D. Britton Alumni, former faculty members and students, as well as their families and friends to the town of Rayville. We are elated to have you as our special guests. Indeed, we look forward to making your stay comfortable and memorable.*

*As you visit us, we hope you observe the improvements and steady growth in our town since your school days. However, our southern hospitality, friendly atmosphere, and community spirit remain the same. We pray that this reunion will stir up all the pleasant memories associated with growing up in the "hood."*

*The Town Council, citizens of Rayville, and I are excited about your visit and hope you will have a wonderful time. In addition, all of us pray for your safe return. Visit us again and again!*

*God bless each of you.*

*With best regard,*

*Harry "Kayo" Lewis  
Mayor & Class of '64*



# *A Daily Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to awake once again, to see, and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me, and You continue to bless me. Please forgive me every day for anything I have done, said, or thought that was not pleasing to You, and I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing and receive Your forgiveness. And when this world closes in on me, let me remember the example of Jesus – to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It is the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe that You change people, and You can change all things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers and for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love, joy in their homes; that they are out of debt; and that all their needs are met, I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation grater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.*

*This is my prayer...and I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, Amen.*

The History Of  
**Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School**

On August 16, 1904, a group of black citizens formed "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School" corporation. The men responsible for the formation of this corporation had availed themselves of the provisions of the general statutes of the State of Louisiana and acts amendatory and especially Act No. 50 of the General Assembly of 1890, relative to organization of corporations for literary, scientific, and charitable purposes and acts amendatory. As a result, the Charter of "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School," was published.

The title and corporate name of this institution was designed for a period of ninety-nine years from and after the date assigned to the document.

The object of the institute was:

The education and moral training of colored children male and female, and the dissemination of knowledge in practical agriculture mechanics, other industrial arts and sciences, together with a thorough academic, literary and business education: including domestic science, fancy, practical, and general needle and laundry work and such other useful industries as may from time to time be suggested by experience, or promote the general object and welfare of this institution and prepare its pupils for the indispensable industries of the age and guide, under proper restrictions the head, the hand, and the heart of the colored race.

The corporation was governed by a president and general manager and a Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen members. The first officers and members of this corporation were: President and General Manager, Reverend R. Amos; President of the Trustee Board, Reverend F. Turner; Vice President, N. W. Draper; Secretary, A. L. B. Strother; and Treasurer, N.W. Woodson. Members were: W. C. Cooper, J.B. Winchester, Reverend J.L. Elbert, Leroy Coleman, G.H. Washington, Tom Dunnick, W. M. Bodger, John Draper, Gus Kenton, Lee Stephenson, and Alex Tignor.

As a direct result of the 1904 Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School Corporation, the Rayville Rosenwald, Rayville Colored High and finally Eula D. Britton High School had its beginning. The first school\_ was known as "The College." Professor Amos was the president and the instructors were Professor and Mrs. Tombs, Miss Elliot (Delhi, LA), Professor J. Anthony (Rayville), and Professor P. J. Sims (Lincoln Parish). The students attending the college were enrolled in cooking, sewing, music, math, and English courses.

The College was dissolved because of financial difficulties, and the next school for the children of the black community was held in Macedonia Baptist Church.

In October of 1916, the first school session was held with Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr., of Houma, Louisiana as the new principal. Some years later, Professor Jackson became the principal with Mrs. Clara Bell Coleman serving as the assistant and Mrs. Jackson as the third member of the faculty. The third principal serving during this time was Mrs. Ollie Hill of New Orleans, with Mrs. Eula D. Britton, Mrs. O.S. Hill, and Mrs. Evan as members of the faculty.

During the latter part of 1924, land was purchased from Mr. William Tolliver Cook, and grades 1-6 were transferred from the Macedonia Baptist Church to the new school building, present site of the recreational area. Mrs. Britton was named the principal, and the first graduates from the 7th grade held their graduation exercises at the Macedonia Baptist Church. Members of the class were: Mrs. Mary Jenkins Kennedy (valedictorian), Mrs. Jessie Williams Gundy (salutatorian), Mrs. Geneva Cross, Mrs. Alberta Hawkins, and Mrs. Alberta Osborne. The second 7th grade class of graduates (1925) held their exercises at the First Baptist Church.

In 1933, the second school was approved as a junior high school, and in 1939 the first senior high school was approved and given a "B" rating, with eleven young men and women receiving high school diplomas. In 1940 the school was accredited and given the "AA" rating which was the highest rating given to Negro high schools in the state of Louisiana. During this time, the teaching staff increased, and more room was added.

Rayville Rosenwald grew from a one-room, one teacher, and a five month school term to twenty-four rooms, twenty-six teachers, and a nine month school term with an enrollment of one thousand thirty. Other specific improvements were a full-time librarian, equipped lunchroom with seven lunchroom workers, a well-equipped home economics building, a modern gymnasium, and a fast developing agriculture department. Future plans include a new plant with the following: twenty-six classrooms (fully-equipped), commercial department, music department, teachers' lounge (2), clinics, sewing department with fitting rooms, a cooking department and science department.

Since Rayville Rosenwald High School has been accredited, it has turned out three hundred and eleven graduates. A considerable number of them entered such schools of higher education as Grambling State University, Leland College, Florida A&M University, University of Illinois, and others. It boasts of business men and women, college professors, military soldiers, ministers, and other professionals.

Through the years the growth of the school from the "College" to Eula D. Britton High School (1954) was phenomenal. The original concept in 1904 until dissolution in 1970 was based on the need to provide educational opportunities for black citizens of Rayville. During the 63 years of actual school existence, unlimited efforts were made to ensure the perpetuation of this idea, implanted in the minds of the early pioneers of the Rayville black community.



# *"Lest We Forget"*

## *A Tribute To Mrs. Eula Dunning's Britton*



*Your outstanding abilities as a teacher and principal were shown in the product of your hands in honesty, integrity, and truthfulness of many graduates. Your optimism, sense of humor, sound judgment, and good temper, founded upon Christian faith and hope, exerted a profound influence for good in our homes, our churches, and our community.*

*Your keen sense of responsibility to your school and community, quietly carried, was a contribution unparalleled in our area. Your abiding faith, your steadfast devotion and unwavering loyalty to your church, your community, your professional calling, your friends, your many graduates, and to your God were an inspiration and a source of strength for us all.*

*History may record but a few of your remarkable achievements and services, yet many girls, boys, men, and women, here and in distant lands, will carry your message of noble brotherhood, devotion to service, intellectual pursuits, honesty, integrity, truthfulness, and your love for God and for mankind.*

*You blessed our community with your birth. You enlightened our community with your teaching. You glorified our community with your devotion to God and to country.*

*You will live forever in our hearts, deeds, and thinking. Your memory will live on as we continue to share your story over and over again.*

*You laid the foundation... To God be the glory!*



*“The Builder”  
A Tribute To Mr. James P. Smith*



*“It’s not what we gain...but what we give  
that measure the worth of the life that we live.”*

*Mr. James P. Smith loved his work as principal and prided himself on being able to communicate with students in such a way as to be helpful in their choices of preparing for a world of work. He believed that each student should aim high and embrace values that were eternal: pride, respect, dedication, hard work, courage, and integrity.*

*We live in a world of bewildering potentialities for good and evil, but there are means and resources available by which all may build a more satisfying life.*

*Democratic school activities at Eula D. Britton High School trained young people to take part in what they desire and further developed within them qualities of initiative, resourcefulness and independence.*



*Mr. James P. Smith...A Master Carpenter of Education!*

## *“A Salute To Our Former Teachers”*



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*We, the former students of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School, would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the hard work, and dedication that you displayed in helping to shape and mold the lives of so many people – young then, but much older now.*

*We know that for many of you, it was not an easy task; but because of the love, motivation, and inspiration for teaching, you persevered. We also know that it could not have been for the PAY!*

*If it were not for teachers like you, there would be no doctors, nurses, preachers, or even a black president.*

*Teachers, this is your night, and we take great pride in saluting you. We want you to know that we truly love and appreciate you. May God continue to bless and keep you in His tender loving care.*



*Forever Grateful,  
Your Former Students*

*Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D Britton  
Alumni Association  
Reunion Agenda*

- I. Opening**
- II. State of the Alumni**
- III. Minutes of the 2012 Reunion**
- IV. Old Business**
  - A. Landscaping**
  - B. Sidewalk and Parking**
  - C. Stage Curtains**
  - D. Class Banners**
  - E. Men's Restroom**
  - F. Kitchen Needs**
    - 1. Stainless Steel Work Tables**
    - 2. Cabinets and Storage**
    - 3. Larger Ice Machine**
    - 4. Cooler**
    - 5. Commercial Sink**
  - G. Lawn-Mower/Tractor**
  - H. Picnic Tables**
- V. New Business**
  - A. 2016 Reunion Registration Fees**
  - B. Election of Board Members**
- VI. Alumni Comments**

**REUNION MMXIV**

**ITINERARY**

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Rayville Rosenwald Eula D. Britton Alumni Center

103 Cotton Street

Rayville, Louisiana 71269

**THEME: Continuing Our Legacy**

**FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2014**

Registration ..... 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Meet and Greet

Fashion Show ..... 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Alumni Dance ..... 8:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.

**SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2014**

Parade (*Please Wear Your Alumni T-Shirt*) ..... 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast..... 10:00 A.M.

Alumni Meeting Immediately After Breakfast

Alumni Banquet ..... 7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Rev. John Calvin III

**SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014**

Ecumenical Service ..... 8:00 A.M.

Speaker: Rev. James Smith

*Alumni Presidents*

*\*Mr. Willie Larkin, Jr.*

*\*Mrs. Susie Lewis*

*Mr. John Lancaster*

*\*Mrs. Wilma Hill*

*Elder Ira Bradley, Jr*

*Deceased alumni are represented by an \*.*

# ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, July 5, 2014

7:00 A.M.

*Theme: Continuing Our Legacy*

Mistress of Ceremony ~ Annie Ruth Stewart-Staton

## Musical Prelude

### Seating of:

2003 Golden Girl ..... Mrs. Ola Bunnitt - Class of 1951  
2012 Golden Girl ..... Mrs. Irma Hunter - Class of 1951  
2013 Little Mr. & Little Ms. Black Heritage ..... Comran E. Smith & Zaire C. Rivers  
Honorary Alumni Members ..... Mrs. Marie Hill, Mrs. Mary Plain, and Mrs. Ethel Berry

Invocation ..... Minister Hattie R. Hartwell

Music/Solo ..... Ms. Cierra Wallace

Greetings ..... Major Harry Lewis

Music ..... Dr. Willie Allen Naylor

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dr. Jarvis Calvin Phal

Speaker ..... Rev. John Calvin  
Class of 1962

Special Recognition ..... Mrs. Annie Ruth Stewart Staton

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Graduating Class ..... Dr. Robert Smith, Class of 1939

55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of State AA Basketball Championship ..... Class of 1959

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of State AA Basketball Championship ..... Class of 1964

Presentation of Longevity Awards ..... Attorney Marshall Williams

Presentation of Alumni's President Award ..... Mr. Freddy Rivers

### Presentation of Zephyr Stephens,

Melvin Rodgers, & Mary Ricks Scholarship ..... Class of 1960

Farewell Address, Remarks, Announcements ..... Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.  
Alumni President

Blessing of Food ..... Minister Hattie F. Hartwell

Dinner is Served

Usher ..... John Ross, & Joe Jones,

**\*Congratulations to the Class of '64 on their 50<sup>th</sup> Year Class Reunion**

# ALUMNI BANQUET MENU



*Brisket*

*Chicken Breast*

*Scalloped Potatoes*

*Green Beans*

*Dessert*

*Rolls*

*Tea (Sweet/Unsweet)*

*Water*

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

***Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni***

***Sunday, July 6, 2014***

***8:00 A.M.***

*Theme: Continuing Our Legacy*

*Scripture: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their father in time to come, saying, What mean ye by those stones? Then ye shall answer them that the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off; and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever.*

*Joshua 4:6-7.*

Program Guided by ~ Minister Marge Roberts

**Musical Prelude**

Director.....Mrs. Mary N. Ricks  
Scripture & Prayer ..... Rev. James Smith  
Congregational Singing ..... "We've Come This Far By Faith"  
Sermon..... Rev. James Smith  
Invitation to Salvation ..... Rev. James Smith  
Music/Song ..... "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"  
Remembering Our Staff and Classmates By Lighting of Memorial Candle..... Mr. Danny Henderson  
Soft Music..... Dr. Willie A. Naylor

**Offering**

Mr. Ollie Reddix Allen, Mrs. Bettie Curry Naylor, Mr. Samuel Stewart, & Dr. Samuel Donald  
Final Words of Gratitude & Benediction ..... Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.

**~ Ushers ~**

**Ms. Barbara J. Wilson, Ms. Ruthie Kelly, Mr. Ronnie Jenkins & Mr. Larry Strange**

*Golden Girls*



*2003 – 2012  
Golden Girl Mrs. Ola Bunnitt*



*2012  
Golden Girl Irma Hunter*

*2012 Golden Girl Court*



*Left to Right*

*Madams:*

*Louise Wilson, Ella Wagner,  
Jessie Turner, Queen Irma Hunter,  
Charlene Phillips, Alice Martin &  
Mary Collins*

*Little Mister & Little Miss  
Black Heritage 2013*

*Zaire Cleopatra Rivers  
&  
Camron Elijah Smith*



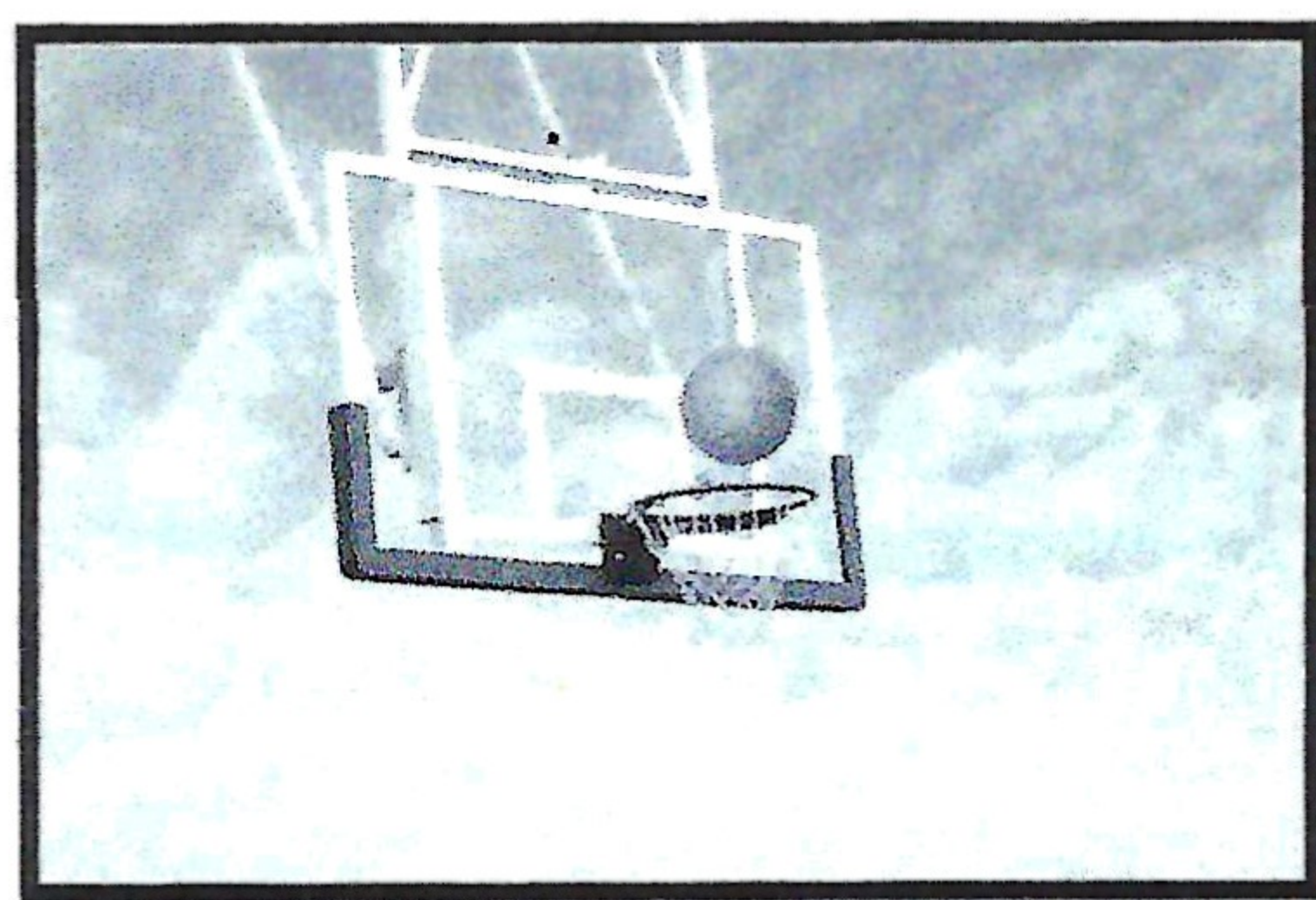


## Louisiana State AA Champs in 1964

The class of 1964 enjoyed a very exciting year as the Eula D. Britton Basketball team won the Louisiana AA State Basketball Championship defeating DeQuincy High School in DeQuincy, Louisiana. The Starting Five, mentored and coached by Mr. Melvin Rogers consisted of: Elvin "Toad" Hayes, center; Harry "Kayo" Lewis and Ronnie Jenkins, forwards; Willie Rick, Vernon "Wolf" Warner, guards; and Samuel Stewart; trainer. The "Starting Five" were all offered basketball scholarships by Grambling State University presented by Coach Fred Hobdy. Elvin accepted a scholarship to the University of Houston, Houston, Texas. and Samuel Stewart went to Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. Other seniors on the team were Hector Williams who left the team and Walter Spain who also attended Grambling.

All of the players have led successful careers and are active members of their churches and communities. Two members of the "Starting Five" have brought much notoriety to Rayville through their professional careers. Elvin became a professional basketball player, with the Washington Bullets Basketball Team winning the NBA championship. He has received many athletic honors; placing Rayville on the map through his basketball career.

Harry Lewis has achieved a childhood dream of becoming the Mayor Rayville. He is also the *first* African American Principal of Rayville High School. The "Starting Five" were taught and learned the game of basketball well from former players on the 1959 Championship team and others in the community. They all realize that the game of basketball assisted in making college a reality for them. We are truly proud of the accomplishments of "The Starting Five" and today pay tribute to them. *To God be the glory.*





**Dr. Robert Henderson Smith, PhD**  
*1939 Graduate Rayville Colored High School*

Seventy-Five years ago, Robert and class mates; Leon Bowler, A.C. Hunter, Charles Wallace Roberson, Minnie Sanders, Benny Taylor, Peter G. Holmes, Frederick D. Perkins, Hattie B. Robinson, Henry Walker, and Mary L. Wright proudly completed the eleventh grade becoming the first graduating class of Rayville Colored High School. Robert was President and Salutatorian of the class; also he is the only living graduate of his class. Mrs. Eula D.

Britton was the principal.

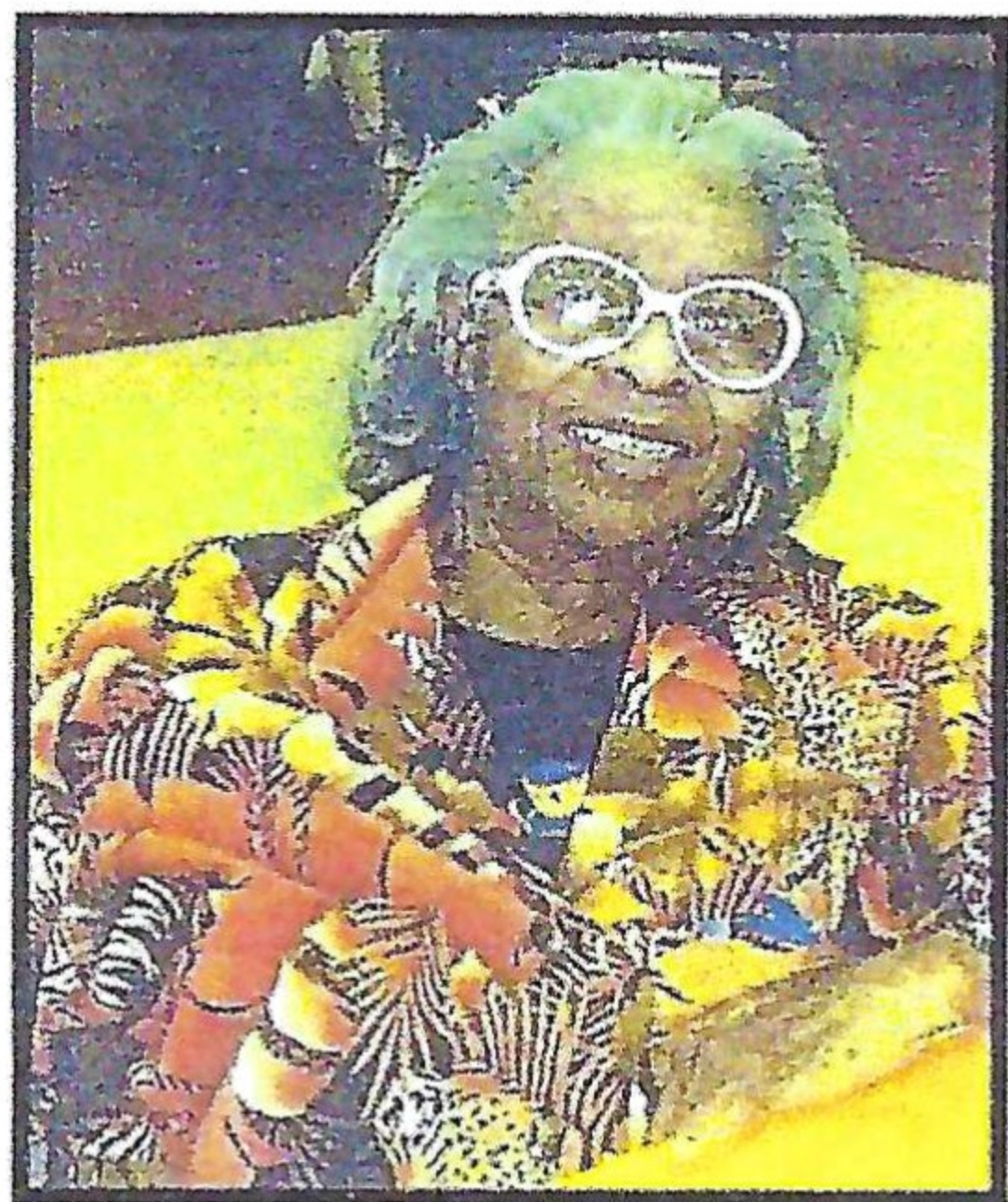
Realizing the need for a high school in Rayville; in 1936, Robert's father, Rev. Henderson Smith, other ministers and community leaders established a committee which entered into an agreement with the Superintendent of Richland Parish School Board which resulted in the development of a school in the Rayville, community.

The committee would build a room a year and the Superintendent would provide the teachers. During the next three years, the classrooms were built enabling the children of Rayville to attend high school at home instead of boarding with families in Delhi. The twelfth grade was added later. The school was located across from the present school gymnasium.

Although Robert's education started in a one room classroom, he continued his education. After serving in the United States Army, he graduated from Southern University in 1947 and later received a PhD in Sociology from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Within his professional career, he has held several positions which have included teaching at Florida A& M University, Tallahassee, Florida, Tugaloo College, Tugaloo, Mississippi and serving as Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Smith has always been a strong advocate for education and has touched many young lives.

He is the son of the late Reverend Henderson E. & Rosie L. Smith, the older brother of the late Reverend James P. Smith and sister, Mrs. Pearl S. Hall. He and his wife Grayce have three children; Robert Jr., Rodney, and Rhonda, and two grandchildren, Michael and Lauren Smith. He comes from a Christian family and has led his own family in the fear and admiration of the Lord as members of the New Hope B.C. in Jackson, Mississippi where he serves as Chairperson Emeritus of the Deacon Ministry. Additionally, he humbly serves as the Patriarch of the Lewis, Smith and Stewart family.

## *The First Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Honorary Alumni Members*



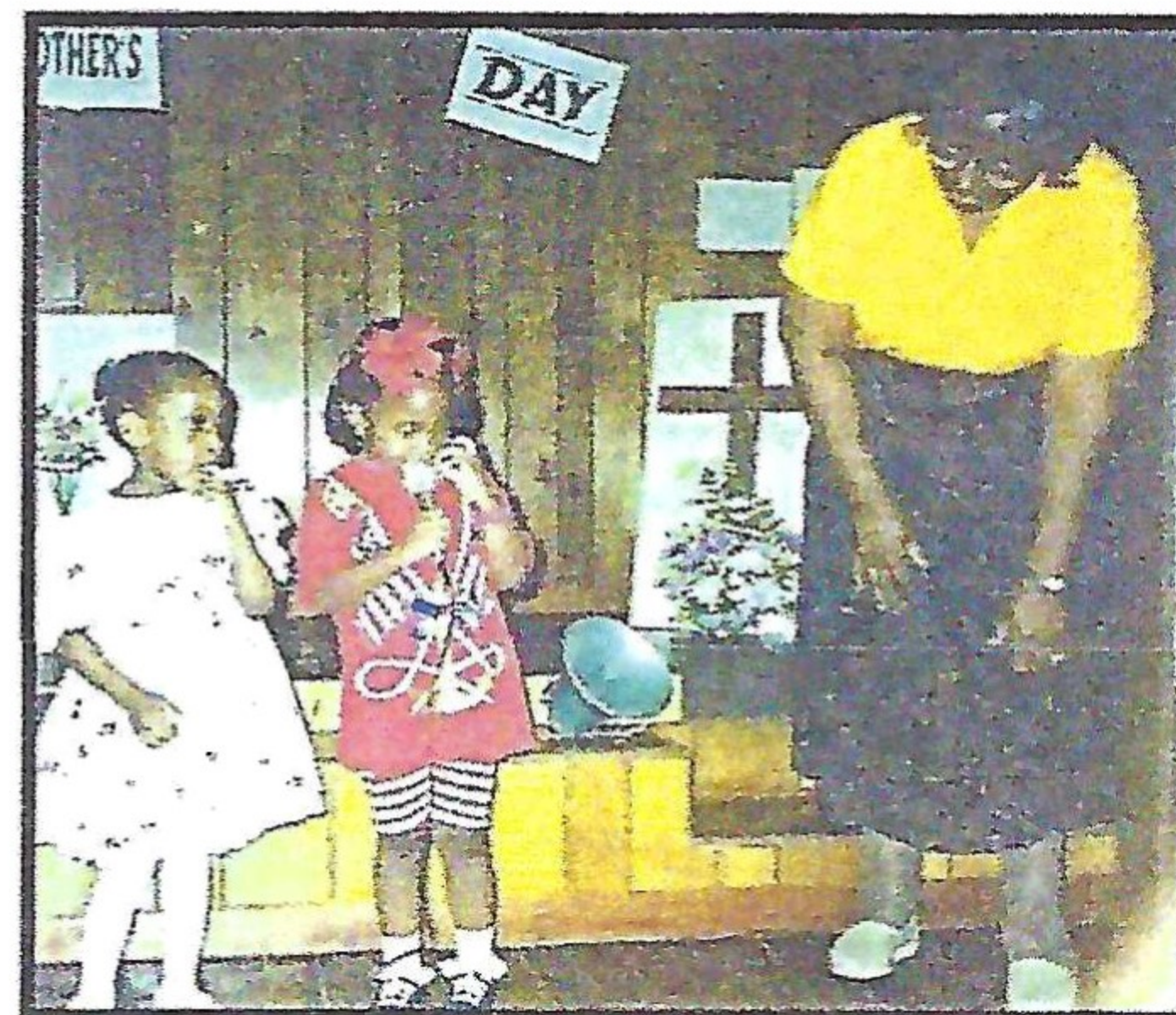
*Mrs. Marie Hill*

*Mrs. Marie Hill is an active church member and an active civic and community participant. She serves as treasurer of the Martin Luther King Memorial Society. Whenever children are involved, she wants to be a part. She is a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System from 1938-1972.*



*Mrs. Mary B. Plain*

*Mrs. Plain is a church and community worker. She worked in the Richland Parish School System for 25 years. She taught at Ester Toombs High School and Delhi Elementary School for 12 years and later became Curriculum Supervisor of the Chapter I Program for 13 years. She has two sons: Wendell and David, Jr.*



*Mrs. Ethel P. Berry*

*Mrs. Berry is the former First Lady of the Town of Rayville, the widow of the late Mayor Isam Berry, Sr. She is an active church member and community worker. She is a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System for 34 years. She is the mother of four children: Isam, Jr., Daryl, Abbie, and Roderick.*



## *President's Farewell Address*



*My Fellow Alumni:*

*Time, health and situations have brought about a great change in my life. This change will eventually affect all of us. It is with mixed emotions that I will be retiring as a member of the Board of Directors and as President of the Alumni Association. Having been president for over 20 years and a member of the alumni years before that, it is time that someone else take my place and move the Alumni Association further.*

*I am very proud of the accomplishments that have occurred during my reign as president. We now have central heat and air, the floor has be re-tiled, we have a commercial kitchen, new women's powder room, complete inside paint job, and complete roof repair with more things in the works.*

*I would like to thank the members of the board for diligently working with me in getting the alumni association and the alumni building where it is today. I could not have done this without their help and support. I would also like to thank other alumni members and supporters who helped me and the board as well.*

*Although I am retiring, I will always be a member of the alumni association and will assist the board and the new president if I can. I will attend alumni meetings if and when I can. I will not retire and fade away.*

*Thanks for your support and prayers.*

*Sincerely yours,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ira Bradley, Jr."

*Rev. Ira Bradley, Jr.*

**CELEBRATING FIFTY-FIVE YEARS**  
**EULA D. BRITTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**1959 STATE AA CHAMPIONS**

**MR. MELVIN ROGERS, COACH – MR. JAMES P. SMITH, PRINCIPAL**

**TEAM**

Roy Bradley  
Willie A. "Spongey Boy" Naylor  
Robert Piper  
Bobby "Chick" Ricks  
Hershell "Newt" West  
Jonathan Lewis- Statistician

The spring of 1959 was an eventful and exciting year for Eula D. Britton High School; especially for the basketball team. Coach Melvin Rogers and the "Starting Five" of the basketball team won the Louisiana State AA championship defeating W.D. Boston High School; Lake Charles, Louisiana. The game was played at Southern University in Scotlandville, Louisiana. Basketball fans from Rayville and the surrounding towns came to support the team; it was the talk of the town.

The winning team was referred to as the "Starting Five" who started playing basketball together in the fifth & sixth grades under their teachers, Mrs. Hazel Nelson and Mrs. Drahawn who served as the girls' basketball coach. They played their first game against Pardue Elementary School and won. No matter what, they always stayed together as a team.

Whenever they were together, they were honing their basketball skills and learning from older players including Ezell West the older brother of Hershell West who played basketball at Grambling State University.

Seeing these young men play, Coach Fred Hobby offered all five of them basketball scholarships to Grambling State University. This was history for the entire team to receive a scholarship and the statistician. J. W. Bradley only played one semester and moved to Chicago. Willie A. Naylor's love *for* music compelled him to leave the team and join the band. Robert Piper played one year. Bobby Ricks and Herschel West played for four years and Jonathan joined the United States Marines.

Although they played in hand-me - down uniforms, they were happy to have the opportunity to play basketball. They are thankful for the life skills and lessons they learned and have been able to share them with many youth. Basketball was not just a game for them but a ticket to a college education.

Saddeningly, J. W. Bradley and Robert Piper are now deceased but their legacy of being members of the Eula D. Britton and Grambling State University Basketball teams will long be remembered. Bobby, Herchell, Jonathan, and Willie are all retired and active members of their churches and communities.

Special Thanks to the early basketball pioneers as Vernon Moore, Joe Willie Ricks and the "Starting Five" for paving the road for all of the future Basketball players from Rayville.

*Celebrating Fifty Years*

*Eula D. Britton High School*

*1964 State AA Basketball Champions*

*Mr. Melvin Rogers, Coach---Mr. James P. Smith, Principal*

*The championship game was played at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA.*



State AA Champions - 1963-64 - Played at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.

*Front Row: H. Williams, H. Davison, J. Craigh, T. Autman, F. Ricks, B. Washington, S. Lancaster, W. Collins and W. Spain. Back Row: Coach Rogers, S. Stewart, V. Warner, R. Jenkins, E. Hayes, H. Lewis, W. Ricks, T. Calvin and L. Vaughns*



*State Champion Jacket*



*State Championship Trophy*

## *School Names*

Eula D. Britton High School  
Rayville Rosenwald High School  
Rayville Colored High School  
Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School



## *Founders*

Rev. R. Amos	Alex Tignor
Rev. F. Turner	Rev. J. L. Elbert
Nelson W. Draper	William C. Cooper
A. B. Strother	W. M. Bodger
Gus Kenton	John Draper
Leander Stephenson	Tom Dunnick
N. W. Woodson	Leroy Coleman
George H. Washington	J. B. Winchester



## *Principals*

Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr.  
Professor Jackson  
Mrs. Ollie Hill  
Mrs. Eula D. Britton  
Mr. James P. Smith  
Mr. John B. Jennings

# Rayville Rosenwald / Eula D. Britton



## *Alma Mater*

Let our voices loudly ringing  
Echo far and near,  
Songs of praise thy children singing  
To thy memory dear.

All the days we've been together  
Fondly we recall,  
Days of fair and stormy weather  
Thou has gladden'd all.

Years may dim our recollection,  
Time its change may bring,  
Still thy name in fond affection  
Evermore we sing.

### **Chorus**

Alma Mater, Alma Mater!  
Tender, fair, and true,  
Britton High with love unfailing  
We owe our love to you.

