

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
Hattiesburg Cultural Center  
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## HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The recent donation of a class composite photo of the first Rowan High School graduating class and an inquiry about an elementary school's name sake were reminders that the HAHS needed to compile information about the people for whom the Hattiesburg schools are named. It was surprising how little was known about some of them and how few of our residents had actually known the individuals or the reasons for their selection.

Before those who know the information are gone or someone wants the buildings renamed, the HAHS had compiled the following research. If you have additional information please call or write us.

### Circa 1910 postcard of the early schools



#### Postcard from left to right:

Top row, Third Ward School (Eaton School), Main Street School. Center: Hardy Street School (Camp School), Bottom row: Court Street School (Walthall School), and Fourth Ward School (Bouie Street-Lamar School).

#### **Walthall Elementary School** (formerly Court Street School) Built in 1902.

Named for Edmund Cary Walthall a Major General in the Civil War. He was elected to the U.S. Senate from MS in 1885 and served until 1898. Walthall School is where the first PTA in Mississippi was organized. It is currently used as condominiums and as a meeting place for the HHNA (Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood Association.)

#### **Eaton Elementary School** (formerly Third Ward School for whites) Built in 1903.

Named for Sam Eaton a local lumberman who gave the land for the school and enough books to begin the library. The Pinebelt Boys and Girls Club was organized here. Currently it is in a state of disrepair.

#### **Lamar Elementary School** (formerly Fourth Ward - Bouie Street School) Built in 1907.

Named for L. Q. C. Lamar, a Mississippi congressman. The school, located at 605 Bouie Street, was closed in 1964 and eventually torn down. The land is inside the Shemper Salvage lot now.

#### **Camp Elementary School** (formerly Hardy Street School) Built in 1907.

Named for H.A. Camp, a lumberman, who gave the land and the bricks for the school to be built. It currently serves as the Hattiesburg Public Schools Central Office.

### Main Street School

Hattiesburg Schools started in a cabin on Main Street that was also used for church services. Later official school buildings were built. Built in **1897**—a wood frame building to replace the cabin.

Built in **1898**—a brick building to replace the wood frame building that was condemned in 1911.

Built in **1912**—a brick building to replace the 1898 building.

(1912 HHS building shown at right.)

Built in **1922**—a brick front (architect Robert E. Lee) to the existing 1912 building. The 1912 and 1922 parts served as the high school until 1959. Later the building served as the Hattiesburg School District Central Office, classrooms for Jr. High students who would later move to Thames, and as the Alternate School.(Photo middle right)



### Main Street Elementary School (part of front section) Built in 1922.

A section of the building built on Main Street was used for an elementary school. These students later attended Davis School.

A fire set by arsonists in May 2007 left only the façade of the building standing. Currently the Hattiesburg Historic Downtown Association, which owns the property, has given an option to buy to a developer interested in making the building into condominiums.

### Eureka Community Education Center Built in 1921.

Eureka school was built to serve black students grades 1 – 12. The name Eureka was chosen for the school when a community consensus could not be reached on any other name. It was felt that the Greek word “I have found it” would do. When Royal Street High School and 16th Section Elementary School were built, Eureka became an elementary school. It currently serves as a community education center and EURO museum. (1925 photo at right)



**Jeff Davis Elementary School** (formerly a 1907 frame building known as Columbia Street School). B. J. Allen donated the lot. Built in **1925**.

Named for Jefferson Davis, cotton farmer and soldier, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and U. S. Senate. He was the U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce and President of the Confederate States of America. Head Start used the building after the Elementary School was closed. The Lighthouse Mission currently occupies this building. (Picture at left taken in 1993)

Hattiesburg Public Schools continued on page 4.

### MORE “POPEPOURRI”

Information from Mayor Moran Pope, Jr.

1. The YMCA formerly occupied the site of the William Colmer Federal Building.
2. The residence of lumberman W.S.F. Tatum was on Main Street where the Fire Department is today.
3. In 1925 Hattiesburg replaced its street cars with busses.
4. Pine Hills neighborhood was originally the Hattiesburg Homesteads.
5. From 1909-1925 there were 25 sawmills operating within 15 miles of Hattiesburg.
6. The area of the rose garden at USM was once a Sunken Garden.
7. May Pole Dances were held at Woman’s College (now William Carey University).
8. Hattiesburg’s first newspaper in 1884 was *The Herald*.



## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

June 1, 2015 – October 13, 2015

- Book: *The Jolly Boys at the Front Porch*. Moran Pope, Jr.
- Scrapbook: Soap Box Derby. Preston and Greg Bounds
- Framed front page of the April 12, 1945 Hattiesburg American. Dr. Douglas F. Thomas.
- Framed Class Composite of the 1958 Rowan Class. Charles Brown
- Group pictures of 416 Walnut Street and 600 Block of Elizabeth Avenue. DVD Post Katrina of 600 block of Elizabeth Avenue. Harry Ward
- Book: *The Story of the Negro Baseball League* by McKissack; Book *How to Be a Sports Expert*. Fall 1973 Donovan-Lane; Vintage Baby Book. Ursula Jones.
- Talbot Print of Frostop; Nov. 2, 1980 Hattiesburg American Picture of Bonhomie and Hattiesburg Southern engines; Book, *Historical Hattiesburg* by George Watson; Booklet, commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hattiesburg; History of Hattiesburg Coloring Book; 1968 City Directory. Rick Forte, Sr.
- Various papers and pictures from the Weems Family found in Wake Forest, NC. Barbara Lyon
- 1991 Historic Neighborhood Posters and cards; various pictures, signs, and programs. "Don't Look Back" signed T-shirt. Harry Ward.
- WWII Army Field Jacket & Boots. Estate of Rowland Heidelberg. Web & Michelle Heidelberg

## Recent Monetary Contributions

June 15, 2015 – October 13, 2015

### LIFE MEMBERS

Alan Oubre  
Ilse S. Hale

### MEMORIALS

A J Jones  
Dr. T. Erskine Ross III  
Nell Coppedge

### HONORARIUMS

Ursula Ruth Jones  
Laurie Crowson

### DONORS

Hugh M. Howell  
Lynn Jones Meador  
Joyce Lee

### DONORS Continued

Ursula Ruth Jones  
HHS Class of 1955  
Glade Baptist Church Seniors  
Ensign John Sheldon Chapter  
Norvell Robertson Chapter NSDAR  
MSState Colonial Dames XVII Century  
Tatum Charitable Trust



### Hattiesburg High School graduating class of 1918 on the steps of the Main Street building.

From left: **Front row**—Edith Reid, Willie Graves, Jessie Marie Naylor, Pauline Hardin, Lillie Powell, Elsy Massengale, Edna Pickett, Gladys Howell. **Second row**—Grace Montgomery, Annie May Siebe, Margaret Venable, Irene Burke, Margaret Jackson, Gladys Parker, Sadie Bush, Ruth Katz, Maggie Lou Holleman. **Third row**—Annie May Mixon, Virginia Fairley, Katherine Donald, Ebert Cooper, Mildred Askew, Valie Allsup, Dora Lum, Gussie Caperton. **Fourth row**—Willie D. Patton, Marie Denham, Mary Crymes, Gussie Ruble, Pearl Cockran, Mary Ellen Thames, Willie Morris Jackson, Lucius Cowan. **Fifth row**—Kirby Walker, Ray Foley, Willard Lueg, Lincoln Brannon, David Hemeter, Ingram Schwartz, Earl Warren, Harry Koch. **Top row**—Mark Ryan, Paul Draughn, James Patton, Owen Reedy, Walter Reynolds, Harris Sullivan. **Not present for the picture:** Ruth Burt, Ota Cray, Cecil Johnson, Amelia Massengale and Evelyn Rush.



**HAHS MUSEUM**  
**Post Office Box 1573**  
**Hattiesburg, MS**  
**39403-1573**

**MUSEUM HOURS**  
**Mon., Tues., Thurs.**  
**2:00 - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Or by Appointment**  
**Call 601-582-5460**

**Located in the**  
**Hattiesburg Cultural**  
**Center**  
**723 Main Street**  
**Downtown**  
**Hattiesburg, MS**

**Web site:**  
**www.hahsmuseum.org**

**Email: hahsmuseum@**  
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## **OFFICERS**

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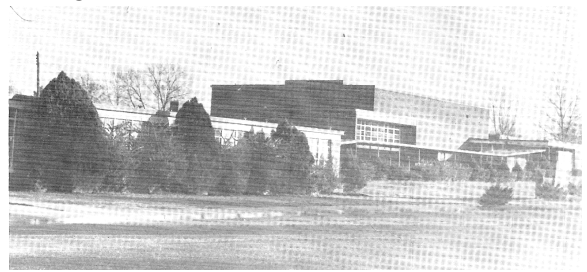


**Woodley Elementary School (West End Grammar School ) Built in 1949.**

Named for educator F. B. Woodley who served as Superintendent of the Hattiesburg Schools from 1901 to 1921. Previously he taught school in Smith and Scott Counties. Today it is a grades Pre-K – 5 school. (1950 aerial photo at left.)

**Rowan Elementary School (formerly Rowan and Royal Street High) Built in 1949.**

Originally named Royal Street High, it was later named for Levi J. Rowan the President of Alcorn A. & M. College which is now Alcorn State University. He was the former instructor and mentor of N. R. Berger who was the principal at the time the school opened. Today it serves Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades. (1968 photo.)



This article on Hattiesburg Public Schools will be continued in the Spring 2016 Newsletter.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF HAHS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.** The HAHS welcomes contributions of all items related to the area's history. We have a great demand for photographs identifying older homes and businesses. We are looking for City Directories from the 1920's and 1930's. Please check with us before you throw it out!!

**Before Head Start and Public Kindergartens there were private kindergartens in Hattiesburg. One of those was Mary's on Sixth Avenue.**



**Mother Goose's Garden Party Presented by Pupils of Mary's Kindergarten Mrs. Herbert Hemeter, Director. Y.W.C.A. May 13, 1955**

Seated across the front from left: Julia Sutherland, Mary Sutherland, Kathy Bradley, Ursula Jones, Hope Headrick, Mary Hill. Seated in the curve: Joanne Thompson or Cammie Smith, Bobby Fairbank, Joanne Thompson or Cammie Smith, Danny Ketchum, Patti Pitcher, Chuck Blount, Eric Matison, Paul Tatum, Nella Kornrumpf, Douglas McDuff, Kathy Sullivan, Lake Douglas, Clair King. Standing: Wayne Hughes, Beth Owen, Sam McLendon, Lynn Oden, Karlynn Hughes, Luther Ott. Back Middle: John Collins or Gary Bryde, Randy Ross. Back row continued: Susan Cluff, Nancy Propst, Bob Glenn, Patricia Hyde, Regis Domergue, David Hicks, Wyche McMullan. If you can help us identify the students of which we are not sure or have corrections, please notify us at the museum.

