

(2)

In Gregg County

N. E. Williams, Prin. High School Dept.
Mrs. E. Mae Jacobs, Intermediate Dept., Domestic Science and Sewing

E. R. Williams, Ass't in Intermediate Dept., Woodwork and Auto Mechanics
Canning Department, P. T. A.

T. J. Sanders, Blacksmithing
Miss Carry Adams, Primary Department and Writing

— 1881

To —

1928 —

Gregg County Training School

Located 8 Miles South of Longview on Carthage Road

"Our Aim is to Prepare Student for the Better Home and Farm Life"

ELDERVILLE, TEXAS, 12/11-28

Mr. Gilman " You ask me sometime ago. to give you a little history of my life, will say its short I was born in Sabine Co. in the year of 1864 - near as my mother can recollect I was raised in Shelby Co. near East Hamilton until I was about 16 yrs of age. My people in 1880 - emigrated to Kans. I staid there about 1 yr & six mos. I returned to Texas - thinking I would go back to Shelby Co - But being out of means when I reached here. I stopped and went to work on the farm here with Mr. Mitchell. During all of this time I keep on privately studying books. I lived with Mr Mitchell about six years - I married in 1883 - I was encouraged by one Prof. J. A. Glenn (white) to enter the teaching profession. So I took the examination and passed. I taught a little school at Fredonia near Mr. Curryus. I short terms. After this I was called home to assist in

(3)

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E. R. Williams, Ass't in Intermediate Dept., Woodwork and Auto Mechanics

T. J. Sanders, Blacksmithing

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Canning Department, P. T. A.

Miss Carmy Adams, Primary Department and Writing

1881 Gregg County Training School 1928

Located 8 Miles South of Longview on Carthage Road

"Our Aim is to Prepare Student for the Better Home and Farm Life"

ELDERVILLE, TEXAS, ² 12-11-1928

In this same school I am now teaching during this time. I spent two part terms in Bishop College at Marshall - then summer normals - two summers I attended Justices Institute in Ala. - So you can see my training is very limited. But in all of that I have only taught in two schools. Three yrs at one. and 39 at this place - I have sent out from my school 14 teachers one doctor and two preachers. and several now assistants to the work. Allow me to say I am indebted to the best Negroes and the best white people of this country for my success. If I have made any at all. I do know one thing I have spared no time in trying to make myself and honest citizen. and all that come in my way to instruct. So this is about the career of my life. my only regret is I wish I had another one to spend.

A Brief History of
Elderville Common School District

Gregg County, Texas

By
E. R. Williams - District Superintendent

Part of this information was secured from the minutes of the Commissioners Court - August 22, 1893, in the matter of distributing Gregg County into school districts from descendants of the pioneer settlers whose forebears fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, April 23, 1836, and the History of the Creation of Gregg County - by Colonel Richard B. Levy of Longview, Texas.

District #5 received its name, Elderville, from a pioneer family, the "Elders", who operated a store and lumber, cotton and grist mill in the vicinity.

School and Patrons - There were at one time, six schools in the district, namely, Elderville, Pleasant Green, Greenville, Post Oak and Easton.

The Elderville High School was located in the southern part of the district for white students and was a county line school. Its students consisted of descendants of pioneer families, such as the Mitchells, whose family the Wilsons, came to Texas in 1850 and still maintain the homestead. W. G. Mitchell, Sr., has served on the School Board for nearly 40 years and in the capacity of President. P. M. Cock served many years as trustee. The Cunyuses, Whittingtons, Butts, Grables, Dickinsons, Watsons, Owens, Angels, Wrights, Blackburns, Prothos, Murphies, Gladneys, Austins, Burtons, Wyches have all contributed to the history and development of this section.

The influence of these families has been felt in Law, Education, Religion, Civic Pride and a lifting of economic standards for all citizens. The early teachers of the Elderville school were: Miss Mariah Mitchell, pioneer; The Reverend A. W. Livsey, who taught for many years until his death; Mr. Lon Livsey, his son; Mr. Roberson and others.

The Peatown school (originally known as Elderville School) as located a few miles west of Elderville School and was so closely interwoven with each other until a line of demarcation is difficult to draw. Some families participated in the operation of both schools with such incredible closeness the writer was never able to accurately ascertain into what two parts of the communities were divided. In 1930, both schools were abandoned and the students were transferred to the schools in the Longview School District. Such arrangement remains today.

The Colored citizenry of this part of Gregg county have played well their part in making this a colorful, picturesque and highly place to live.

Among the earliest land owners were the Mack Sanders, Sr., who were encouraged to purchase land for home and family use by the late Mrs. Anna Mitchell. Others then followed: Daniels, Garrisons, Britains, Roberts, Borders, Shedrick Jones, Edwards, Woodards, Lucases, Hughes, Gordons, and Williams. Many families caught the inspiration from these pioneers and home buying became the greatest interest.

To accommodate the children of these early families, schools sprang up, namely: Pleasant Green, Post Oak and Easton.

After many years of operation, the Pleasant Green School was consolidated with the Ned E. Williams School and in 1947 the Post Oak and Easton schools were consolidated.

The Ned E. Williams High School, as it is known today, has operated under three names: Greenville, taken from the community name in which it is located; The Gregg County Training School, built in 1918 according to the Rosenwal Plan.

On the death of the founder and principal, the late Ned E. Williams, the name was changed in his honor to the Ned E. Williams High School. The school received students from all parts of the district, transferred by buses.

Early pioneer teachers of the Black Schools were: John W. Lucas, the Reverend H. Y. Jones, W. M. Daniels, Mary J. Jones, Dr. J. H. Dodd, Ned E. Williams an Miss Anna Williams.

Resources of the district were: farms, timberland, gas, oil, the Knox-Lee Power Plant and the Santa Fe Railroad.

Ned E. Williams graduates relive past at reunion

By Mitzie Avera
Staff Writer

Remembering the past and preserving it for future generations is what several graduates of a school that no longer exists are striving for.

Recently, more than 300 people attended the fourth reunion of the Ned E. Williams School to relive the past and renew old friendships.

Lucy Dixon, a 1953 graduate, said people came from as far away as California and Maryland to attend the three-day reunion.

In 1885 the school was built in the Easton Community, and was later named the Ned E. Williams School. The all-black campus operated under two different names before taking its final banner from teacher and principal Ned E. Williams.

Williams, at age 21, was principal of the then-Greenville High School, and in 1918 the school's name was changed to Gregg County Training School. The school was later named for Williams at his death to honor

his dedication to the teachers and students there.

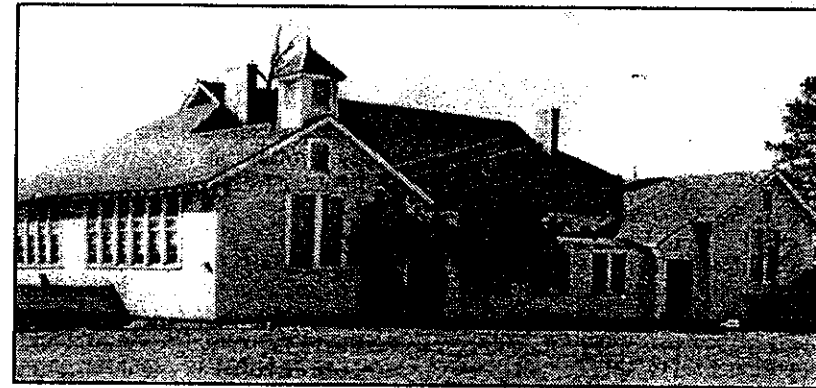
In the late 1960s, consolidation and desegregation closed the school, and during the past few years, the last remaining building on the campus was torn down.

Even though the walls no longer stand, the students who attended the school say they will never forget the values and lessons they learned.

"I remember that you really felt like you were somebody. The school taught us a lot of self-esteem and you knew that everybody was concerned and cared for you," said Helen Lucas Forest, a 1953 graduate.

Education and student attitudes have change through the years. And one disturbing aspect the graduates see is the lack of respect and discipline children have for today's teachers.

"Discipline is a major problem in schools today, said Forest, a teacher with the Chicago, Ill. public school



Students attended classes in the Ned E. Williams High School Building.

district.

"It was total respect for teachers when we were in school," said Carmentia Jones Anderson of Longview, a 1949 graduate.

And study habits of students have changed since the days of the Ned E. Williams' School. "Children today just do enough to get by," said Ruby Portley of Longview. "Kids just don't put their best effort forward. If you can make 80 (percent) on a test then you can make a 100." She said so many students want to stop at the 80 percent mark. "When I was in school it was important to the students to do well."

When the school was closed, its students and alumni were filled with mixed emotions and sadness. Portley was a senior then. "We had mixed emotions about it, but we adjusted fairly well."

Forest said when the school was torn down she felt a "a sense of loss in identity ... part of our heritage was gone."

To keep the memory of the school alive some of the school's former students began organizing a reunion for all graduates and former students of the Ned E. Williams School.

In 1986 the group held their first reunion. This started an every two-year tradition.

Dixon said that she is trying to get a historical marker on the land where the school once stood.

"I am gathering documents now," she said, adding that the paperwork would be sent to Austin for approval.

She said doing the research necessary for the declaration provided her background into the school of her childhood.

DEDICATION OF THE HISTORICAL MARKER

It gives me great pleasure and it is an honor for me to now dedicate this memorial to the great educator, Mr. Ned E. Williams. I would like to dedicate this historical marker to all the alumni of the Ned E. Williams School and to the friends and descendants of Mr. Ned E. Williams.

I will now read the text of the marker and following this the marker will be unveiled by Mr. Horace Bryant, Former Teacher and of the class of 1953.

Return TO Office

History - Ned E. Williams High School

Our school was organized in 1884 under the name of Greenville School from the community in which it was located. Mr. Ned Edward Williams, a graduate of Bishop College and Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama was appointed as it's first Principal and served in this capacity until his death - 1945. The first faculty of the school consisted of - Mr. W. O. Lewis, Mr. Hilburn, Reverend H. Y. Jones and Mr. John W. Lucas.

At one time there were six schools in the Elderville Common School District namely, Peatown, Elderville, Pleasant Green, Greenville, Post Oak and Easton. Elderville and Peatown schools served the white students of the district and the remaining four served the colored students. In 1930 both of the two white schools were abandoned and the students transferred to Longview school district. This arrangement remains today.

After many years of operation, the Pleasant Green School was consolidated with the Greenville School. Post Oak and Easton schools were consolidated in 1947 and Easton and the Ned E. Williams High School were consolidated on January 27, 1958,

The Ned E. Williams High School, as it is known today, has operated under three names: Greenville, The Gregg County Training School and the Ned E. Williams High School.

Growth of the school is evidenced through progress from the first four room structure which was built through subscriptions to the present plant; which consists of an auditorium, ~~an~~ agricultural and mechanical shop building, homemaking building and a modern brick structure consisting of eight class rooms, library, book room, combination science room and laboratory, two restrooms,

one utility or storage room and two administrative offices.

Some of the graduates of the school are situated in prominent positions throughout the nation. They are serving in the Armed Forces, field of religion, field of medicine and the teaching profession, to name a few.

Some of the faculty members who have served the school through the years are:

Mr. W. O. Lewis
Mr. Hilburn
Mr. John W. Lucas
Reverend H. Y. Jones
Mrs. Mary J. Richards
Mrs. Annie D. Jones
Mrs. E. Mae Jacobs
Mrs. Allie R. Smith
Mrs. Tommie Sanders Holland
Mrs. Zeffie Roberts Hilburn
Mr. E. H. Moore

In 1945 upon the death of the founder and first Principal of the school, the late Mr. Ned E. Williams who served the school for 57 years, E. R. Williams, his son, was elected District Superintendent, after having served for 26 years in the system. Mrs. E. Mae Jacobs, was elected as Principal and served in this capacity until May - 1959, at which time she retired from the teaching profession. The school has continued to grow the present faculty is as follows:

E.R. Williams, B. A., M. A. - District Superintendent
Mrs. L. B. Lee, B. A., M. Ed., High School Principal
George E. Brittain, B. A., M. Ed., Junior High School Principal
Algie P. Daniels, B. A. - Elementary Principal
George A. Bates, B. A., Science and Mathematics
Mrs. Margarette Cotton, B. A., M. Ed., English
Horace B. Bryant, B. A., Music
C. A. Cobb, B. S., Vocational Agriculture
Miss Clemmie E. Calloway, B. S., Homemaking Education
Mrs. Inez D. Sanders, B. A., Grade 4
Mrs. Ora Bradford Timberlake, B. A., Grade 5
Mrs. Lena B. Thurmond, B. A., M. Ed., Grade 3
Mrs. Minnie Bradley, B. A., Grade 2
Mrs. J. A. Nixon, B. S., Grade 7
Mrs. Almora K. Elder, B. A., M. Ed., Grade 1
Miss L. Y. Bennett, Itinerant Teacher

(6)

The Ned E. Williams High School as it is known today has operated under three names: Greenville taken from the community name in which it is located, The Gregg County Training School - built in 1918 according to the Rosenwal Plan.

On the death of the founder and Principal, the late Ned E. Williams, the name was changed in his honor to The Ned E. Williams High School. The school receives students from all parts of the district transferred by buses.

Early pioneer teachers of the Colored Schools were: John H. Lucas, The Reverend H. Y. Jones, W. M. Daniels, Mrs. Janie Holt Daniels, Mrs. Eva Hamilton Daniels, Mary J. Jones, Dr. J. H. Dodd, Ned E. Williams and Miss Anna Williams.

Resources of the district are: farms, timberland, RAN, GAT, The Knox-Lee Power Plant and the Santa Fe Railroad.

(1)

A Brief History of Elderville Common School District # 5
Gregg County, Texas

By
E. R. Williams - District Superintendent

Part of this information was secured from the minutes of the Commissioners Court date August 22, 1893, in the matter of distributing Gregg County into school districts from descendants of the pioneer settlers whose forebears fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, April 23, 1836, and the History of the Creation of Gregg County - by Colonel Richard B. Levy of Longview, Texas.

District No. 5 received its name, Elderville, from a pioneer family, the "Elders", who operated a store and lumber, cotton and grist mill in the vicinity.

Schools and Patrons. There were at one time, six schools in the district, namely: Posttown, Elderville, Pleasant Green, Central Hill, Post Oak and Easton.

The Elderville High School was located in the southern part of the district for white students and was a county line school. Its students consisted of descendants of pioneer families, as the Mitchells, whose family the Wilson's came to Texas in 1850 and still maintain the homestead. W. G. Mitchell, Sr., has served on the school Board nearly 40 years and is now President. P. M. Cock served for many years as trustee. The Cunyus, Whittingtons, Butts, Grables, Dickinsons, Watsons, Osens, Angels, Wrights, Blackburns, Prothes, Kurphies, Gladneys, Austins, Burtons, Wyches have all contributed to the history and development of this section.

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The influence of these families have been felt in law, education, religion, civic pride and a lifting of economic standards for all citizens. The early teachers of the Elderville school were: Miss Mariah Mitchell-pioneer, The Reverend A. W. Livsey who taught for many years until his death, Mr. Lon Livsey-his son, Mr. Roberson and others.

The Peatown school (originally known as Elderville school) was located a few miles west of Elderville school and was so closely interwoven with ^{each} other until a line of demarcation is difficult to draw. Some families participated in the operation of both schools. With such incredible closeness the writer was never able to accurately ascertain into what two parts the communities were divided. In 1950 both schools were abandoned and the students were transferred to the schools in the Longview school district. Such arrangement remains today.

The Colored citizenry of this part of Gregg County have played well their part in making this a colorful, picturesque and highly desirable place to live.

Among the earliest land owners are the Mack Senders, Sr., who were encouraged to purchase land for home and family use by the late Mrs. Anna Mitchell. Others then followed: Daniels, Garrisons, Brittains, Roberts, Borders, Hedrick Jones, Edwards, Woodards, Lucas, Hughes, Williams. Many families caught the inspiration from these pioneers and home buying became the greatest interest.

To accommodate the children of these early families, schools sprang up namely: Pleasant Green, Post Oak and Easton.

After many years of operation the Pleasant Green school was consolidated with the Ned E. Williams school and in 1947 the Post Oak and Easton schools were consolidated.

1

Five Days Return To
J. F. & KING
ATTORNEYS AT-LAW
GROESBECK, TEXAS

Life

History of Ned E. Williams

1864 - 1945

N.E. Williams ESQ

Elderville,

TEXAS

11-28-45



NED E. WILLIAMS SCHOOL

1883 - 1969

On this site in 1883, an all colored school named Greenville was established in the Elderville Common School District by Ned E. Williams. This school was built to accomodate the children of the newly organized District # 5 of Gregg County, which included Pleasant Green, Elderville, Greenville, Post Oak and Easton. In 1918, the school's name was changed to Gregg County Training School. Mr. Williams became the first principal and upon his death in 1945 was honored by having the school named for him and his 57 years of service to the education of children.

His son, E. R. Williams, followed his father at the school as principal and was later named district superintendent. Mrs. Edna Mae Jacobs then became the first black woman to serve as this school's principal.

A modern brick structure was built in 1964 and closed in 1969 when this school consolidated with Longview Independent School District.

Professor Ned E. Williams' teaching of the better ways of living to the youth of this community shall live forever.

Dedication of a Historical Heritage Marker

Ned E. Williams School
1883-1969

Former Site of
Greenville Gregg County Training School
Ned. E. Williams High School

Saturday, July 6, 1996
10:00 a.m.

Sponsored by
Ned E. Williams Alumni



Ned E. Williams School
1883-1969

On this site in 1883, an all colored school named Greenville was established in the Elderville Common School District by Ned E. Williams. This school was built to accommodate the children of the newly organized District #5 of Gregg County, which included Pleasant Green, Elderville, Greenville, Post Oak and Easton. In 1918, the school's name was changed to Gregg County Training School. Mr. Williams became the first principal and upon his death in 1945 was honored by having the school named for him and his 57 years of service to the education of children.

His son, E.R. Williams, followed his father at the school as principal and was later named district superintendent. Mrs. Edna Mae Jacobs then became the first black woman to serve as this school's principal.

A modern brick structure was built in 1964 and closed in 1969 when this school consolidated with Longview Independent School District.

Professor Ned E. Williams' teaching of the better ways of living to the youth of this community shall live forever.

Program

Mistress of Ceremony	Lucy A. Dixon, Chairperson Historical Committee, Class 1953
Invocation	Rev. Robert L. Davis, Pastor, Pleasant Green Baptist Church
Welcome	Mr. Weldon "Tip" Moore, Class of 1950
Introduction of Special Guest	Mr. George Bates, Executive Director, Ned E. Williams Reunion Committee, Class of 1950
Remarks	Mr. Charles H. Lee, Former Principal, Ned E. Williams Mr. Woodard Roberts, Former Principal & Community Leader
Dedication and Reading	Dr. Norma Black, Chairman, Gregg County Historical Commission
Unveiling of Marker	Mr. Horace Bryant, Former Teacher, Class of 1953
Response	Mr. James Elton Williams, Son of E.R. Williams and Grandson of Professor Williams, Class of 1947
Gift to the Community	Mr. Melvin Snoddy, Property Owner, Class of 1967
Ned E. Williams School Song	Alumni Choir, Mrs. Loretta Robinson Goree, Director, Class of 1947
Benediction	Mr. Danny Craig LISD Board Member
Choral Benediction	Choir

Please remain for pictures of the Williams Family,
Special Guests and the Pioneers of the Community

Acknowledgments

This local Historical Heritage Marker was suggested by
Mrs. Johnnie Blanton Brashear
School Reunion 1986

Principal, Dallas ISD, Adell Turner Elementary School

The Class of 1953 Special Project

Ned W. Williams Alumni
of all classes attending from 1900-1969

Longview Independent School Board

Dr. Ron Michael, Superintendent

First National Bank

Mr. Mike Northcutt, Senior Vice President

First State Bank, Hallsville-Longview

Mr. John B. Ruff, President & C.E.O.

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman, Gregg County Historical Commission

Mrs. Beth Dodson, Gregg County Historical Commission

Mrs. Carolyn Lindsey, Foster Middle School

New Orleans Garden

Texas A & M University

Longview News & Journal

Jill Hathaway Education Reporter

KLTV - Channel 7

Edie Dryer

Mr. John Harrison, President LISD Board

The Print Shop

Steven Video

Mr. Ray Hanks

Community Consultants: Mr. Woodard Roberts, Mrs. Doshia Walker,
Mrs. Ethel Jones and Mr. Willie (Bill) Hutchins

Trustees

TRUSTEES OF DISTRICT NO. 5

Mr. Gardner William Mitchell - 40 Years

Mr. P.M. Cocke

Mr. Louis Ballenger

Mr. Harvey Butts

Mr. Dump Roberts

Mr. J.R. Earles

Mr. Gus Roberts

Mr. H.Y. Jones

Early Land Owners

Mrs. Anna Mitchell highly encouraged blacks to purchase land for homes and family use. Namely Mr. Mack Sanders, others followed, the Daniels, Garrisons, Brittain, Roberts, Borders, Edwards, Woodards, Lucases, Hughes, Gordons, Williams and Shedrick Jones.

*A tree will be given in
memory of each teacher or employee
by Texas A & M University.*

Teachers

Early Pioneer Teachers of the Black School were John W. Lucas, the Reverend H.Y. Jones, W.M. Daniels, Mary J. Jones, Dr. J.H. Dodd, Ned E. Williams and Mrs. Annie Williams, Mrs. Edna Mae Jacobs, Mrs. Leola B. Lee, Mrs. Jannie A. Nixon, Mr. C.A. Cobb, Mr. E.H. Moore, Mr. Lena B. Thurmon, Mrs. Annie D. Jones, Mrs. Mary J. Bryant, Mr. George E. Brittain, Mr. E.R. Williams, Mrs. Nellie B. Robinson, Mrs. Dolores Robinson Crawford, Mrs. Zeffie Roberts, Mrs. Ella Sanders, Mrs. Nancy Dodd, Mrs. Lenora Fowler, Mrs. Allie Rene Hall Alexander, Mrs. Tommie Sanders, Mrs. Varrie E. Portley Bryant, Miss Clemmie E. Calloway, Mrs. Minnie Bradley, Mrs. Margaret Cotton, Mrs. Almora Elder, Mr. Inez McAfee, Mrs. Ora B. Timberlake, Mrs. Annie L. Davis, Mrs. Dorothy Daniels, **County School Nurse** Reba Sanders Bush, **Bus Drivers** Mr. Val Coleman, Mr. Oney Daniels, Mr. Henry Pegues, Mr. A.C. Garrett

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Lilla V. Jamison



*In Honor of J.W. Bryant
1946 Cum Laude
50th Anniversary
by Horace Bryant 53*



*Congratulations &
Best Wishes
Pauline & Bob Stoker*



*Congratulations on your
Preservation of History —
Keep The Dream Alive.
Varrie Portley Bryant*

*Congratulations & Best Wishes from
H.J. Butts Family*



*Congratulations on the
Dedication of the
Historical Heritage Marker
Mr. & Mrs. M.T. Sanders*



*Congratulations & Keep
The Dream Alive!
Judge & Mrs. Johnnie Brashear*



*Keep your hopes and dreams alive.
Congratulations and Best Wishes.
My first year of teaching was 1929.
Mrs. Eula Bell*

Memorials

*In remembrance of my
Grandfather Legacy
Professor Ned E. Williams
Winston A. Williams*



*In Loving Memory of
My Sisters
Mrs. Catherine Flanagan Morris-Lars
Mrs. Hattie Lorene Morris Webb
Mrs. Berta Morris Harris*



*In Loving Memory of my Husband
Archie D. Garrett
Lorean M. Garrett*



*In Loving Memory of
Judge & Mrs. Fred Erisman
Emily Erisman Myers*

*In Loving Memory of My Dad
Mr. John H. Blanton
who taught and demonstrated character,
honesty, integrity, love and
caring for the needs of others
Lucy Dixon, Retired LISD Administrator
Johnnie Brashear, Elem. Principal, Dallas ISD*



*In Loving Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Brittian &
Mrs. Dorie Brittian Johnson (Sister)
Odie L. Beaty*



*In Loving Memory of
Mr. C.A. Cobb
The Cobb Family*



*In Loving Memory of My Mother
Mrs. Minnie Bradley
Joe L. Bradley*

*In Loving Memory of
My Grandfather
Professor Ned E. Williams
Lois Wade Costille*



*In Loving Memory of
My Father
Mr. Paul Hutchins, Sr.
Brothers
Mr. Paul Hutchins, Jr.
Mr. Reginald Hutchins
Mr. Y.D. Hutchins
Rochelle Hutchins Buggs*



*In Loving Memory of
Our Mother
Mrs. Lena B Thurmond Bradley
Your Children
Lorene Thurmond Blackshere
Opha Thurmond Holland
Verdean Thurmond Goodlow
Carnell Thurmond Hilburn*



*In Loving Memory of
Our Loving Parents, Brothers & Sisters
Mr. & Mrs. Gaddie Jones, Parents
Mrs. Fannie Mae Jones Willis, Sister
Mrs. Verdian Jones, Sister
Mr. G.D. Jones, Jr., Brother*



*In Loving Memory of
John Henry Garrison
Willie Mae Garrison, Wife
Annie M. Davis, Daughter
Jammie Garrison
Gwen Smith & Gloria Collins, Granddaughters*



*In Loving Memory of
My Aunt Elvie Roberts
Loving Yours, Dorothy Jean Mitchel*



*In Loving Memory of my
Loving Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pegues
Wilbert & Etta Pegues & Family*

*"In Memory of the Legacy Endowed by God"
Mr. Elsie R. Williams, Grandfather
Professor Ned E. Williams,
Great Grandfather
Lovingly Yours,
Great Great Granddaughter
Jacqueline K. (Williams) Thornton*



*In Loving Memory of
Harvey Boyd
Uncle & Classmate
Pearlie Smith Wallace, Niece*



*In Loving Memory of
Earnest Jones Sr.
Mrs. Ethel Jones
Mrs. Carmenia Jones Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Earnest Jones, Jr. & Family*



*In Memory of
My Dad & Mother
E.H. Moore Sr. & Zelma L. Moore
E.H. Moore Jr.*



*In Memoriam
Mr. Monnie Bryant, Sr.
Mrs. Harriet Bryant
My Parents
Horace Bryant & Family*



*In Loving Memory of
Mrs. Rebecca Sanders Mills
Your Sister
Mrs. Charleye Mae Bruce*



*In Loving Memory of My Parents
Eugene & Willie Aaron Whitaker
Willie Gene Whitaker & Family*



*In Loving Memory of
Mr. Monroe Gordon
Your Daughters
Mrs. Mattie B. Gordon Butler
Mrs. Eddie Lee Gordon Williams*

Our Dedicated Leaders



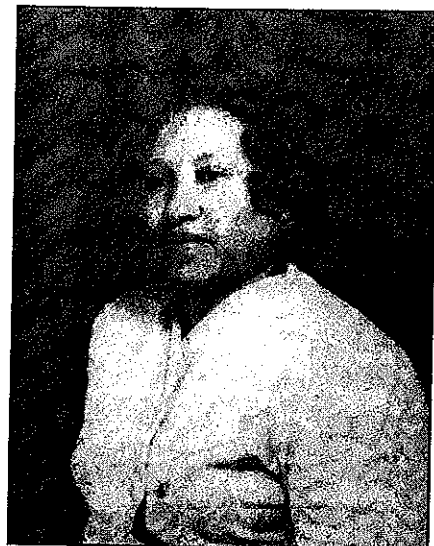
Professor Ned E. Williams
Founder



Mr. E.R. Williams, Principal
District Superintendent



Mrs. Edna Mae Jacobs
1st Black Lady Principal



Leola B. Lee
Last Interim Lady Principal

Congratulations and Best Wishes
Greenville, Gregg County Training School
Ned E. Williams School Alumni

Guardians of the Dreams

This is one of the happiest days of my life. A dream that has become a reality!! As stated in the acknowledgments during the closing ceremony at the 1986 school reunion, my sister Johnnie Blanton Brashear stated in her vision for the future, a Historical Marker be erected on the school grounds. Following the close of our first reunion, three of my classmates suggested we take this on as a project. **Mr. Robert Henry Calloway, Mrs. Billie Jo Moore Thurmond and Mrs. Jewel Bradford Slayton.** Unfortunately, all three have passed on and we only have their wishes, dreams and spirits with us today.

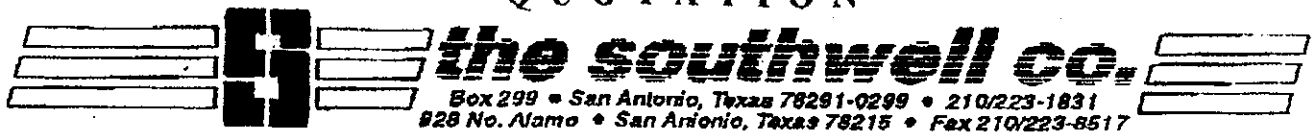
I enjoyed the research. I learned a lot about our history and legacy. I have been contacted to write a book, non committed. There are so many people to thank. I would like to say "Thanks" to our many friends, classmates, faculty, family and community. A special thanks to Mr. James Elton Williams for the memoirs of his dad and grandfather; Mrs. Helen Ruth Williams Wright, my two community consultants, Mrs. Doshia Roberts and Mrs. Ethel Jones, who without their encouragement, understanding, prayers, support, and a huge wealth of knowledge of the history of Greenville School and the community this project would not have been completed.

Last, but not least, Mr. Frank (Bud) Lucy, for memoirs and history of Gregg County. Special thanks to the members of our Historical Heritage Committee: Hosea Hutchins, Pauline Stoker, Ruby Portley, Horace B. Bryant, Esterlene Austin, Loretta Goree, Carmenia Anderson. With your help and God's blessing our dreams have become a reality. To my dear departed classmates, we did it! I couldn't give up because of my promise and commitment to you. We bring out the true meaning of being Guardians of the Dream. Our task is completed as we celebrate the dedication and unveiling of the Historical Heritage Marker of the Ned E. Williams School.

Thanks Again,
Mrs. Lucy A. Blanton Dixon
Class 1953

Hats off to Hosea Hutchins for his true dedication and sacrifice.

QUOTATION



TO: Gregg County Historical Commission
417 Mobberly Avenue
Lougview, TX 75602

Date: April 18, 1996
Quote # 4278

Attn: Norman Black

RE: Ned Williams School

Gentlemen:

Please enter our quotation covering the following materials as per your specifications.

STANDARD PLAQUE

QUANTITY: One (1)
MATERIAL: cast aluminum
FINISH: black background
SIZE: 27" wide X 40" high
BORDER: single line
LETTERS: Classic
MOUNTING: post

PRICE: 1 - Plaque @ \$1,135.00
1 - Photo-Etching @ \$375.00
1 - Post Mounting @ \$200.00
Shipping & handling: \$75.00
Sales tax @ 8.25%: Please verify tax exempt status
Total price: \$1,785.00

COMMENTS:

PAYMENT POLICY: 50% Deposit / Balance C.O.D.

Written order to be received in 30 days. Shipment to be accepted within 90 days.

F.O.B.: San Antonio, TX

PRODUCTION: +/- 6 weeks

Please return one copy as your acceptance of this quotation.

PAYABLE IN SAN ANTONIO, TX	
Quotation Accepted	04-22-96 (Date)
Signed	<i>Lucy A. Dixon</i>
Ship to	LUCY A. DIXON DR. NORMAN BLACK GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION 417 MOBBERLY, LONGVIEW, TX 75602

The Southwell Co.

By: Scott Southwell

QUOTATION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

The Southwell Co. standard cast metal plaque: raised letters on a painted leatherette texture background. Our standard: pattern design, letter style, border design, satin finish, lacquers & paint colors/materials, mounting method & hardware, casting methods & materials. Three (3) standard rubbings (proofs) submitted for approval prior to casting. Standard mounting attachments included in price. Unless otherwise noted, quoted delivery charges are for standard ground service by a common carrier. Tax will be added unless tax exempt information is on file with us. Paint color match is \$35.00 (Net). Alterations/changes to the contents, requirements or execution of this quotation will make it invalid and subject to additional costs.

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East Texas Calendar

Joan Rathbun



Steakhouse. Information: **Bonnie Barker**, 759-4188.

Upcoming

■ **Longview Opera Repertory Company** tickets available for June 13, 15 performances of "Tosca." Cost: \$20 adults, \$10 students. Information: 234-1300, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

■ **Single Direction**, adult Christian organization, Boot 'N Scoot party, 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Woodland Christian Church, South High and Richardson streets. Music by the band Self-Employed. No alcohol. Admission: \$5. Information: 753-1271.

■ **East Texas Area Camp Fire summer day camps**, July 8-12 and July 15-19. Kindergarten-fifth grade. **Registration deadline Friday.** Information: **Marcia Dean**, 759-1726 or 1-800-700-6918.

■ **Ned E. Williams High School Reunion and dedication of historical marker**, July 5-6. Need information on all classmates. Donations accepted for marker. Information: **Lucy Blanton Dixon**, 643-3978, **George Bates**, 643-2420, or **Ruby J. Portley**, 643-7370.

Today

■ **Extending the Use of Your PC**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. today-Wednesday, Kilgore College Longview Center, computer repair lab, 300 N. High. Includes installing CD ROM, adding memory, adding modem. Fee \$75, including CEU credit. Information: 753-2642 or 983-8281.

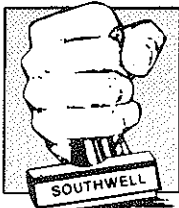
■ **Deep East Texas A&M Club**, noon today, Canton Restaurant. Speaker: **Van Craddock**. Cost: \$5 meal. Information: **V.G. Rollins**, 758-2336.

■ **Thanksgiving Food Drive** startup meeting, 1:30 p.m. today, KFRO. Information: **Mary Helen Bair**,

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			966027	SC-99	27126	06/28/96
QUANTITY	PRODUCT CODE	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE			NET AMOUNT
1	CAP	CAST ALUMINUM PLAQUE	1,135.00	0%		1,135.00
1	ETCHING	PHOTO-ETCHED PLAQUE	375.00	0%		375.00
1	POST	ALUMINUM OR BRONZE POST	200.00	0%		200.00
1	F	FREIGHT & CRATE	75.00	0%		75.00
<p>27"W X 40"H, SINGLE LINE BORDER, CLASSIC LETTER STYLE, 3" DIAMETER POST FOR MOUNTING, "NED WILLIAMS SCHOOL". THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEPOSIT OF \$900.00, 4/22/96, CASHIER'S CHECK #256024. THE BALANCE IS \$885.00 COD.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>For Your Records Only</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please Pay From This Invoice</p>						

ck by Mrs. Dixon

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Alumni to dedicate historical marker at old school site

From Staff Reports

Alumni of the Ned E. Williams School will sponsor the dedication of a historical heritage marker at 10 a.m. Saturday at the former site of the campus.

The school was located on FM 349, two miles east of the Gregg County Airport. Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, will participate

in the ceremony, along with former students and faculty of the school. A picnic lunch will be held after the ceremony. Barbecue will be served at a cost of \$6 per person.

Lucy Dixon, a 1953 graduate of Ned E. Williams and retired assistant principal of Longview High School, is chairing the event.

The Ned E. Williams School was closed in 1969, when it consolidated with LISD.

Williams started the school, then named Greenville, in 1883 to accommodate black children in the Elderville Common School District. In 1918, the school's name was changed to Gregg County Training School. Williams became the first principal

and upon his death in 1945 was honored by having the school named for him after 57 years of service to children.

His son, E.R. Williams, followed the founder as principal and was later named district superintendent. Edna Mae Jacobs then became the first black woman to serve as this school's principal.

Remember when...

Former students gathered Saturday to reminisce, dedicate a historical marker

By George Zarazua

Staff Writer

ELDERVILLE — A Historical Heritage Marker was unveiled Saturday on the site where the Ned E. Williams School once stood, bringing “oohs” and “aahs” from the audience.

“Oh, that’s beautiful,” a lady in the audience of about 50 said.

“Very beautiful,” another replied.

Those gathering, mostly made up of alumni celebrating their sixth school reunion, later took turns having their pictures taken beside the marker bearing a laser-edged likeness of the school building.

The picture’s silver lining reflected the afternoon’s hot sunlight.

Earlier in the program, several people, including alumni and faculty of the school, expressed their appreciation for those who helped establish the marker.

“Nobody knows how much this means to the family, the community and the state of Texas,” said James Elton Williams, whose father and grandfather both served as the first principals of the school. “Words cannot express our appreciation.”

It was more than a century ago, in 1883, that Ned E. Williams established and became the first principal of the all-colored school in the Elderville Common School District.

At the time, the school was named Greenville and accommodated the children of the newly organized District No. 5 of Gregg County, which included Pleasant Green, Elderville, Greenville, Post Oak and Easton.

In 1918, the school’s name was changed to Gregg County Training School. It wasn’t until

Williams’ death in 1945 that the school was named for him, honoring his 57 years of educational service.

The Ned E. Williams School closed in 1969, five years after it was consolidated with the Longview Independent School District.

On Saturday, all that remained of the school was the concrete foundation of the gymnasium that had also served as an auditorium. A raised platform toward the corner of the foundation marked where the stage once

stood. Ironically, basketball goals have since been positioned so that people can still make use of the gymnasium floor.

The land where the Ned E. Williams School stood was recently purchased by Melvin Snoddy, who served as president of the school’s student council in 1966.

Snoddy, with the help of Lucy A. Dixon and the school’s historical committee, established the marker and donated the land for community use.

“I wanted to make sure we got

a marker to symbolize our heritage,” said Dixon, chairperson of the historical committee.

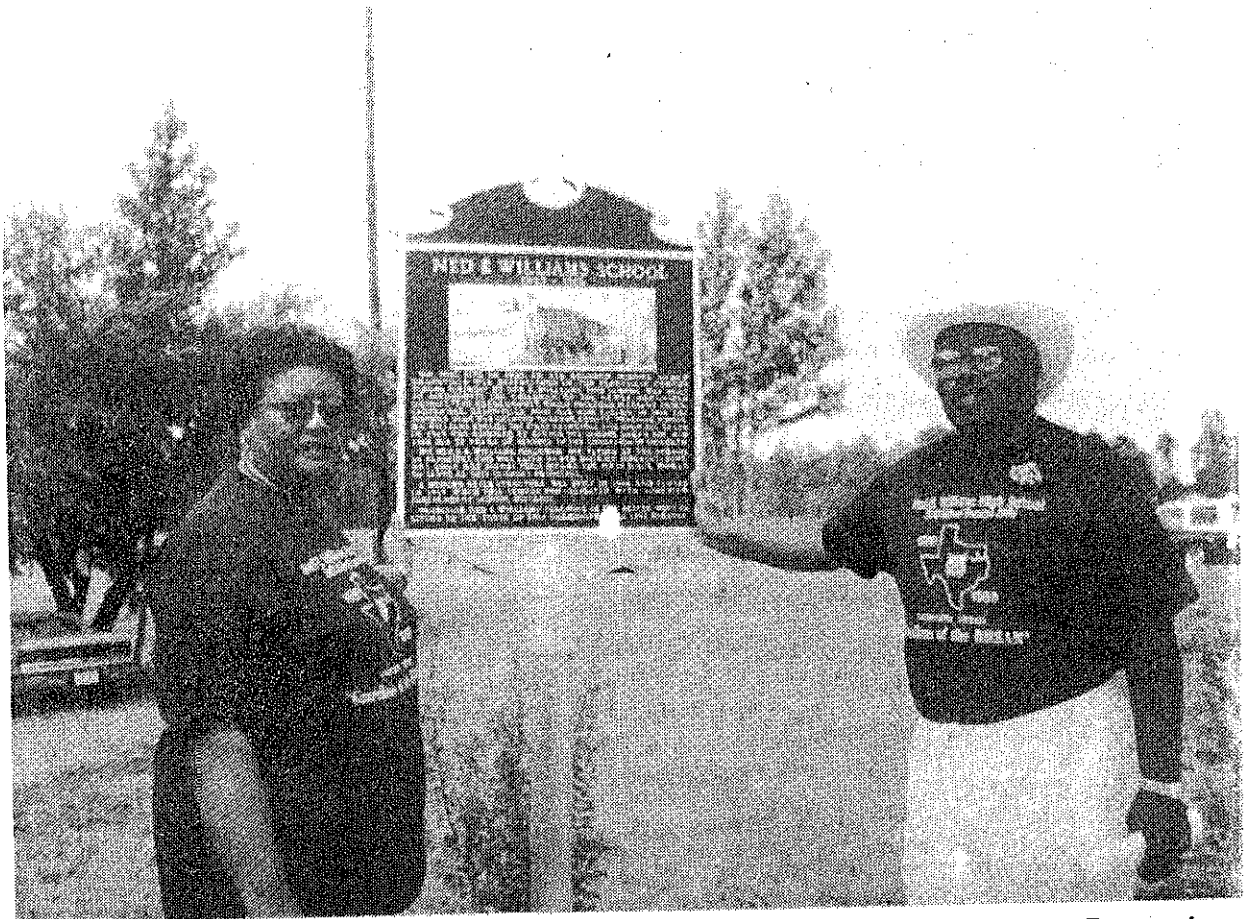
Charles H. Lee, who served as the last principal of the Williams school, said the school will be remembered as a place where everyone — teachers, students and the community — worked together.

“An expression of love was present in this school,” Lee said. “This further expresses our respect and love,” said alumnus Marvin Calloway, referring to the effort made by alumni to dedicate the marker.



Darlene Chapman-Davis/Staff Photographer

Loretta Robinson-Goree, far right, leads a group of class alumni in the school song after the dedication of a historical marker Saturday morning on the site where Ned E. Williams School once stood.



HISTORICAL HERITAGE — Judy Bryant Cotton of the Class of 1959, left, and her brother, Horace Bryant of the Class of 1953, right, recently stood in front of the marker dedicated in remembrance of the Ned E. Williams High School (1883-1970) during the school's sixth reunion. The school, which was named for their uncle, was closed because of court ordered integration, and the

building later demolished. Ms. Bryant is a longtime teacher of KISD and now teaches at Kilgore Intermediate School. Cotton retired from Longview ISD in 1990 and is now a substitute teacher at Maude Laird Middle School and Overton Junior and Senior High Schools. (Photo provided by the Cotton-Bryant family)



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