

Jackson

High school



Waha

Indian

## Dear Jackson High School

Rosa Jackson (1938-1970)

Dear Jackson High School  
Aims for the Golden Rule;  
This keeps our school in line,  
Always on time.  
Jackson we're on your side,  
Your buildings and grounds  
Are admired,  
They help us all to be inspired.

Jackson our dear school,  
We'll love you ever,  
Always remember rules,  
Forsake you ne'er.  
We'll never stray,  
But always pray  
That our school will go onward  
Day by day.

Our school adores  
Its Purple and White  
It means to all  
That we are right,  
With Jackson spirit,  
We will always stand the test  
Whether we are far away or near.

JACKSON HIGH



WAHA

## The History of Jackson High School

By Naomi D (McDonald) Farley

Prior to 1922, there were no schools for blacks in the Jonesboro area. St. Rest community established a school in 1886. Other schools were established throughout Jackson Parish and were financially supported by patrons and black churches. These schools were one room structures, with one teacher in all elementary grades. These early schools were poorly organized and poorly attended.

In August of 1922, four white citizens of Jonesboro decided that an organized school was needed in Jonesboro. These white citizens were Elma Cox, Martin Shows, Dr. Ed Simonton, and Superintendent of Jackson Parish Schools, George Odom. They decided to contact Professor G. L. Hawk who, at that time, was principal of Dodson Training School for blacks, in Dodson, Louisiana.

Professor Hawk, a noted educator, was born in Macon, Georgia, June 1, 1864, on the Hildred Hawk Plantation. His parents were Andrew and Melissa Blossombone Hawk.

His parents were slaves who 13 years after the Emancipation Proclamation moved to Louisiana. The Hawk family settled on Sugar Creek in Claiborne Parish on the Big Ben Plantation. Professor Hawk attended school on the plantation provided for the sharecroppers' children, and he advanced enough at this school to teach.

Professor Hawk attended Coleman College in Bienville Parish and taught school in a settlement around Homer, Louisiana. He erected the Evergreen School in Bienville Parish, served as principal in Ruston, Louisiana and erected a Rosenwald school in Dodson, Louisiana. Professor Hawk resigned from the Dodson Training School and came to Jonesboro to set up a school for blacks.

School was first held in the old Travelers Rest Baptist Church. Later three acres of land were purchased from Jesse Jones for \$30 an acre. The present Hawk primary School is located on this plot of land.

The school was known as Jackson Parish Training School. The first classes were held in October, 1922. With the following teachers: Professor G. L. Hawk, Principal; Mrs. Willie B. Hawk Pearrie, Domestic Science; Mrs. Willie Mae Boyer, Basic Education. Later, Mr. A. J. Pearre was employed as agriculture teacher and Mrs. Sadie Banks, as the music teacher.

After school opened, the blacks in the community made plans to raise their part of the money to qualify for a Rosenwald school building. Professor Hawk was informed by the Rosenwald Foundation Agency that the Jackson Parish School Board must not only accept the plan, but it must pay a certain percent of the building fund before the Rosenwald funds would be approved

The school board agreed for only a four month school term, but the Rosenwald Foundation required an eight –month term. The teachers agreed to work four months for their pay for whatever they made from their school concert.

There were hardships. There was not enough money to finish the four room building. The carpenters discontinued their work on the building and blocked the doors to keep teachers and students from

entering until they received their \$175, the cost of labor. Mr. Bud Garner, a black citizen, paid the \$175 on a promise that the black community would pay him back when they raised the money.

Many white friends supported the newly organized school, but there were many whites who did not support it and threatened to destroy the school by burning it down. The black men armed themselves and watched the campus at night.

There were nine black citizens who supported the newly-organized school during its lean years. They were Reverend W. M. Boyer, H. J. Jordan and W. M. Rush; Mr. Rub Garner, Mr. Sim Jones, Mr. Cecil Knox, Mr. O. Lindsay, Mr. Mose McDonald and Mrs. Dora Rogers.

The first high school graduation was held May, 1937. Professor Hawk retired in 1937. Mr. J. R. Wilson became the principal. In 1930-1949, the school was divided into separate schools- an elementary and high school. A building was erected on the present Jackson High School site, housing grades 8-12. Mr. J. R. Wilson served as principal from 1937-1965. Mr. Jerry Cole, Jr. served from 1965-1969, and when parish schools were integrated in January of 1970, Mr. Verlon Malone was the principal. When the school was closed in January, 1970, the small flame that started in 1922 was now a great blaze for Jackson Parish Training School, Jonesboro Colored High School, and Jackson High School. These schools had educated inspired and motivated students to excel, in spite of handicaps. Jacksonites are scattered all over the United States and abroad. They have made and are still making positive contributions to the American society. The Jackson High School is closed, but the Jackson High School spirit will live forever.