

THE SUMPTER WILLIAMS HIGH School Blue Devil Marching Band didn't always have uniforms, as they did in this picture. Band Director Paul Bonnee said marching bands existed from 1953 or 1954, shortly after he began teaching at SWHS.

This picture was made during a photo session for the 1958-59 Blue Devil, the first and only yearbook of the school. Bonnee now runs a music store on Brashear Avenue in Morgan City.



MEMORIES OF THIS PROM date it only in the mid-40s. Identities were also sketchy but, as best as possible, from left are Elsworth Brown, Camille Earlycutt, Edna Johnson Riles, Hazel Johnson Davis, a woman with the last name Harris who is the sister of Jimmy Harris, Rudolph Jones, Dolores Cox, William Granger (in white jacket) standing next to Dave Smith, June Rose Francois, Ananias

Brooks (white jacket), Evelyn Smyles, Albert Wilkerson, Lorraine Cross, a person identified as either Doug or Dudley Sanders or Alton Granger, Shirley Ruth, Grandville "Bubba" Brooks, Alice Stanchemore, Landry Banks Jr., Hilda Schnexyder Smith and Edna Prophet Lagarde.



THE 1959-60 VERSION of the Sumpter Williams High School Blue Devils gathered for the traditional team photo prior to the start of the season. The team, which reportedly finished the year with about a break-even record, faced opponents like Willow Street High of Franklin, C.M. Washington of Thibodaux, Southdowns High of Houma, Boley High of Jeanerette, Carver High of Hahnville, Carlson High of St. Martinville, Herod High of Abbeville, Carver High of Breaux Bridge, Iberville High of Plaquemine. The team's home games were played at Norman Park. Members seated

from left are Joseph Hill, Alvin Singleton, Gerard Pratt, Leroy Johnson, Otis Granger and Wilbert Valentine. Kneeling in the same order are Dale Irving, Earl Johnson, Timothy Pratt, Robert Russell, Cleveland Bartley, Johnny Dardar and Alvin Jones. Standing in the same order are the team's only head coach Charles Ireland, Russell "Peter" Verdine, Anthony Johnson, Clarence Griffin, Edward Thomas, Louis Wilson, Jessie Howard, Frank Francis, Ezekiel Skinner, Thomas Henderson, Andrew Hebert and Leroy Lewis.



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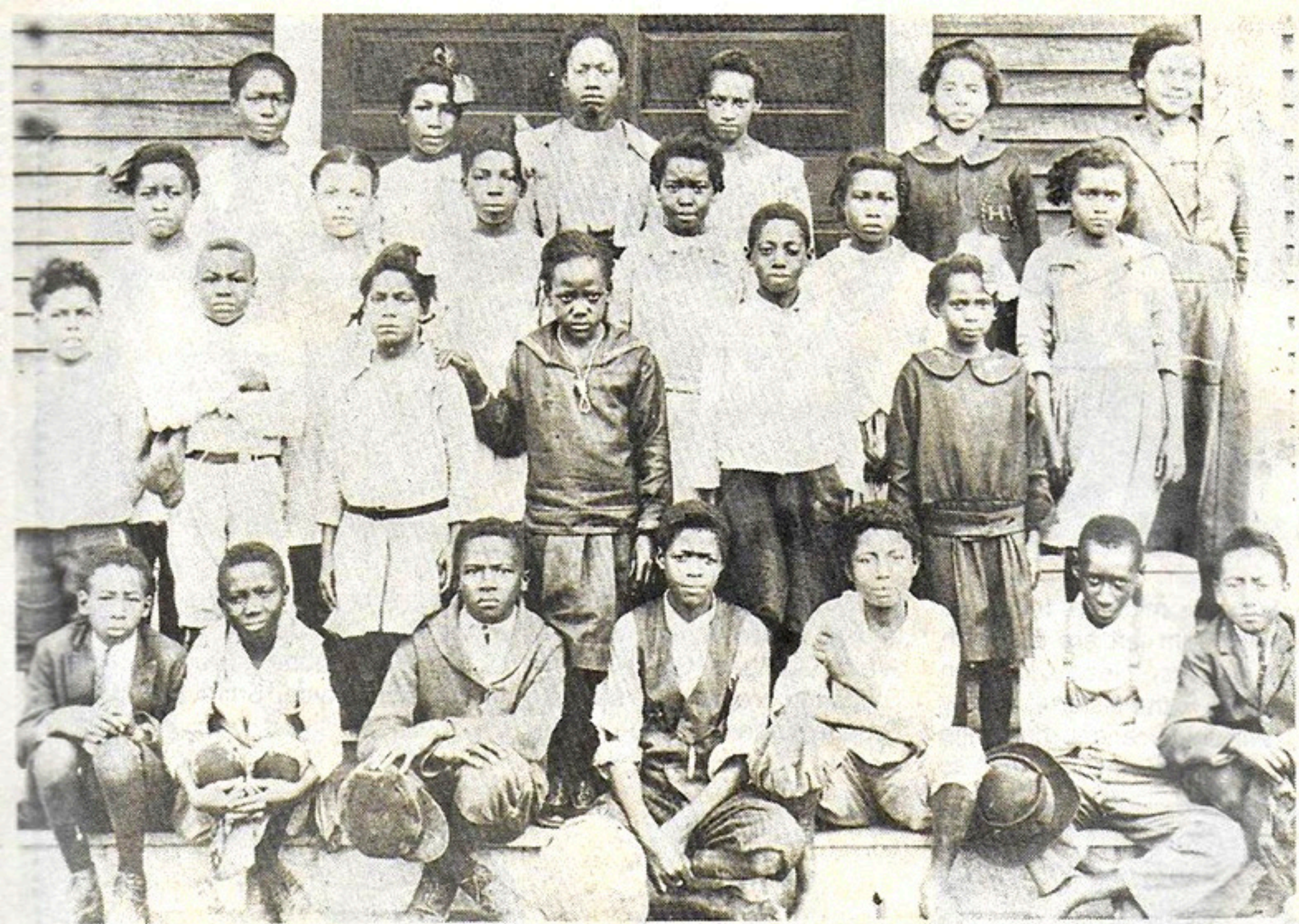


MRS. RUTH R. WILLIAMS
PRINCIPAL

WILLIAMS
RUTH R. WILLIAMS



THE REV. FINNEGAN HAMS was among the first pastors of the Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Morgan City, serving in that capacity from 1918 to 1935. Considered by all to be a kind and understanding man, he and the Rev. E.S.M Coston were instrumental in securing the first \$5,000 to build the Rosenwald School. That institution was later converted into a public school with the assistance of C.R. Brownell Sr., who donated the land. Rev. Hams was a prominent citizen of the community who owned property in the vicinity Federal Avenue and Bowman Street and in the area where the Sauls Real Estate office now stands.



STUDENTS OF THE ACADEMY, one of the first if not the first organized black school in Morgan City, posed in this picture, date of which could not be determined. The names offer a clue, however. Seated on the front row from left are Herman Victor, Bradford Tucker, Gladstone Junifer, Bryant Sherney, Zelmo Watson, Eddie Prophet and George Washington. Standing on the second row from left are John Harris, Eune Delahoussaye,

Estelle Walker, Gioca Gamble Hill, Robert Evans and Mary Louise Sherney. On the third row from left are Vivian Brown, Nola Marie Lewis Jacquet, Ella Young, an unidentified person, Oralean Watson Ruffin and Myrtle Hayes. On the top row from left is an unidentified person followed by Mary Walls, Mandy Coleman Williams, Bertha Hills, Idell Irving and the teacher, Mrs. Annie Kyle. The date was in the mid- to late-1920s.