

Danville Bate Alumni Association Members and
Friend

November 8, 2003

Hutchins Library, Berea College



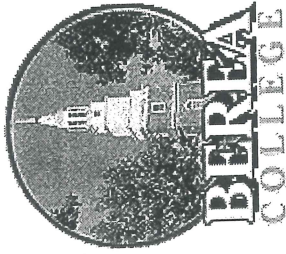
Left to Right: Mr. Alonzo McGuire, Ms. Monie Bedinger, Mr. Charles Grey (HISTORIAN), Ms. Anna Grey (Friend) Ms. Emma Rose Shannon (CHAIRPERSON), Ms. Ella Johnson, and Ms. Mae Rice

Note:

The above is only for identification of members
of the Bate Alumni Association.
Attached is the original copy of this Photo.

St. John's College

Charles Gray



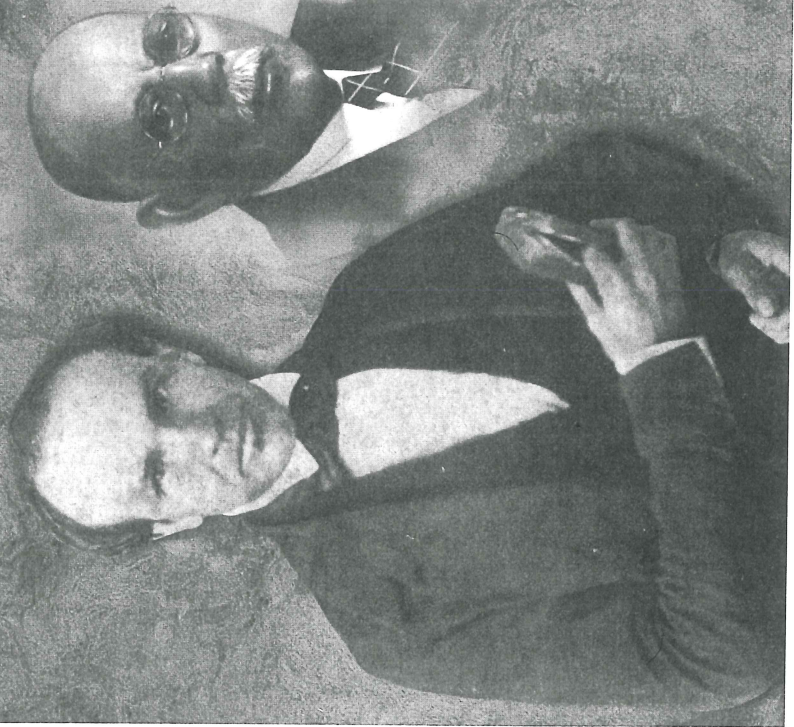
*Charles
Grey*

Bate High School Alum

JOHN W. BATE
Founders' Day 2002

FOUNDERS' DAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2002
PHELPS-STOKES CHAPEL



Founders' Day Convocation

3:00 p.m. Phelps-Stokes Chapel

"Jesus Is a Rock"
Black Music Ensemble

Invocation
Gabrielle McWhorter

The Legacy of John G. Fee
President Shinn

Presentation of the John G. Fee Award
President Shinn


Reflections on "Professor" John W. Bate
by his descendants

"I Will Sing Praises"
Black Music Ensemble




The third annual Founders' Day Convocation of the new Millennium celebrates Berea's interracial history by honoring "Professor" John W. Bate, 1881, an African American who overcame many obstacles to attend Berea College and to live out Berea's mission through his life's work as an educational advocate and founder of Bate High School, an all-black high school in Danville, Kentucky, which was in operation from 1915 to 1964. His distinguished service to his community reflects the ideals of John G. Fee and his vision of an education for all. President Larry D. Shinn will present the John G. Fee Award in the name of "Professor" John William Bate to his grandchildren.

Sponsored by the President's Office




Convocations

Program



Event Detailed Information

Founders' Day Convocation



October 17 - 3:00 PM

Phelps-Stokes Auditorium

(Sponsored by the Office
of the President)

This Convocation will celebrate Berea's interracial history by honoring Professor John William Bate, '1881, an African American who overcame many obstacles to attend Berea College and to live out Berea's mission through his life's work as an educational advocate and founder of Bate High School, an all- black high school in Danville, KY which was in operation from 1915 to 1964. President Shinn will present the [John G. Fee](#) Award in the name of John William Bate to his grandchildren.

The following is extracted from a copy of an article that appeared June 29, 1944 (held by Special Collections, Berea College).

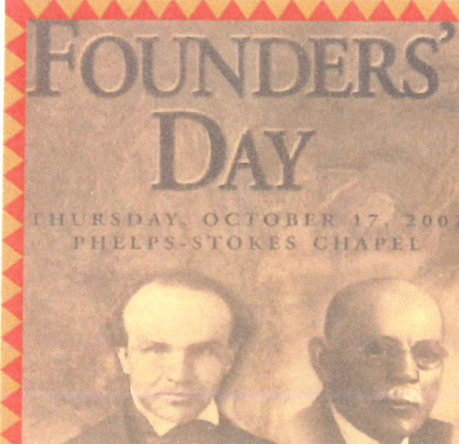
"J. Wesley Hatcher, M.A., Professor of Sociology, Berea College, presented Mr. Bate for citation of honor in the following words.

'Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting for honorary citation, John William Bate, tireless student, scholar, educator, efficient and faithful servant of his race and of the nation, oldest living graduate of Berea College. Born in slavery (Dec. 22, 1854); plunged into unspeakable poverty by emancipation; a member of the despised race; caught the vision of complete living and rich service through education; laid his foundation for education in Mission schools in Louisville; entered

Berea as a student at the age of sixteen; received from Berea the A.B. degree in 1881, and an honorary M.A. degree in 1896; studied in Germany. By his unimpeachable character, vital interest in the community, and achievement, he has won the signal honor of First Citizen of Danville, to whom the citizens affectionately refer as OUR BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.' "

Other information:

Ask for assistance in the Special Collections of Hutchins Library, Berea College.



FOUNDERS' DAY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2002
PHELPS-STOKES CHAPEL

The third annual Founders' Day Convocation of the new Millennium celebrates Berea's interracial history by honoring "Professor" John W. Bate, 1881, an African American who overcame many obstacles to attend Berea College and to live out Berea's mission through his life's work as an educational advocate and founder of Bate High School, an all-black high school in Danville, Kentucky, which was in operation from 1915 to 1964. His distinguished service to his community reflects the ideals of John G. Fee and his vision of an education for all. President Larry D. Shinn will present the John G. Fee Award in the name of "Professor" John William Bate to his grandchildren.

Sponsored by the President's Office

Berea Honors African-American Educator John W. Bate

By Zachary C. Pence, '03

On October 17, the Berea College community welcomed the relatives of Prof. John W. Bate to celebrate the extraordinary life of this distinguished African American educator.

Bate was honored with the annual John G. Fee Award at Berea's Founders' Day celebration. The Award honors alumni of 1866-1904 who served their community, especially in the field of education, and who reflect the ideals of Berea founder Rev. John G. Fee as evidenced in the College's motto "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth." Nine of Bate's relatives (some representing others who could not attend) accepted the awards during the Founders' Day Convocation, which featured music from the Black Music Ensemble.

Born a slave in Jefferson County in 1855, Bate and his family were freed in 1863 and joined the exodus of freed slaves to Louisville, where he attended the Mission School. When his favorite teacher left for Berea, Bate followed her.

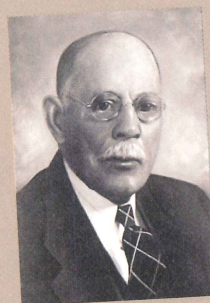
In a 1941 interview in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Bate described his experience in Berea. "I was in Berea nine years in all. At the time tuition was \$3 per month and board was \$6, so I would have had enough money from my two years labor to last for years if the bank had not failed," said Bate. "As it was I worked at anything: sawed wood, white-washed, and rang the college bells."

Bate received his Bachelor's Degree in 1881 and an honorary M.A. degree in 1896. Following his graduation, Bate devoted himself to educational work in Danville, Ky. where he founded the Bate High School, which was in operation from 1915-1964. At the time of Bate's retirement the school had grown from one room to twenty, from one teacher to fifteen, and from six students to six hundred.

Known as Danville's "Booker T. Washington," Bate was honored by the Berea Alumni Association in February 1941 as the oldest living graduate. On Commencement Day in 1944, Bate was given a Citation of Honor by Berea College in recognition of his service as an educator. Bate passed away on September 8, 1944 at his home in Danville.

Berea President Larry D. Shinn presented the awards, which were designed and handcrafted by Berea College Woodcraft and Berea artist Ken Gastineau. Made of walnut with a cast-bronze medallion, each features the African "sankofa" symbol, a bird looking back to pick up something with its beak. Derived from the language

of the Akan people of Ghana, the sankofa symbol represents the idea that to move forward requires retrieving and understanding one's heritage. Both this award and the school named for Bate are memorials to a great educator and gentleman.



John W. Bate

The John G. Fee Award honors alumni of 1866-1904 who served their community, especially in the field of education, and who reflect the ideals of Berea College founder Rev. John G. Fee.



The Bate family gathered with alumni of Bate High School to honor John Bate at Berea's 2002 Founders' Day Celebration.

Photo by Terry Nelson

**SANKOFA - GO BACK AND
RETRIEVE****SANKOFA - GO BACK AND RETRIEVE**

Symbol of **WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, and the PEOPLE'S HERITAGE**

From the aphorism: *Se wo were fi na wosan kofa a, yenkyi.*

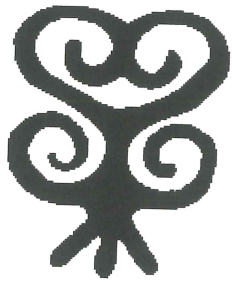
Literal translation: **There is nothing wrong with learning from hindsight.**

The word SANKOFA is derived from the words SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take). This symbolizes the Akan's quest for knowledge with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, and intelligent and patient investigation.



The symbol is based on a mythical bird that flies forwards with its head turned backwards. This reflects the Akan belief that the past serves as a guide for planning the future, or the wisdom in learning from the past in building the future.

The Akans believe that there must be movement with times but as the forward march proceeds, the gems must be picked from behind and carried forward on the march.



In the Akan military system, this symbol signified the rearguard, the section on which the survival of the society and the defense of its heritage depended



Dr. Larry D. Shinn, Jesse Zander, Kenneth Bate, Daryl Grigsby, Camille Bate Mongrief, Monroe Peeler

Founders' Day Convocation Berea College

Thursday, October 17, 2004
Pheps Stokes Chapel

Bate High School Alumni Danville Ky.

First row:
John Frye

Second row:
Helen Frye
Emma Rose Shannon

Third row:
June T. Christy,
Margaret Alcorn, Tillie Stallworth
Monie Bedinger

Back row:
Melvin Alcorn, Charles Grey,
Ethel Hunn



THE BATE FAMILY AND BATE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

First Row: John Frye, Hillary Devon Grigsby, Carmille Bate Moncrief

Second Row: Monroe Peeler, Tina Hyson, Helen Frye, Ms. Kenneth Bate, Kenneth Bate, Emma Rose Shannon

Third Row: June T. Christy, Margaret Alcorn, Tillie Stallworth, Monie Bedinger

Back Row: Leslie Robinson Grigsby, Daryl Grigsby, Louren Alysia Grigsby, Melvin Alcorn, Charles Grey, Ethel Hunn

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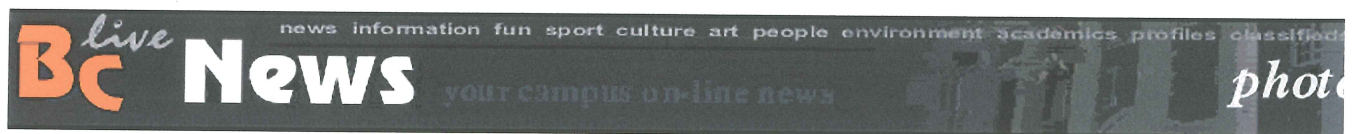


@2002 www.bclive.net (Pics by Kristin

Carmille Bate Moncrief

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