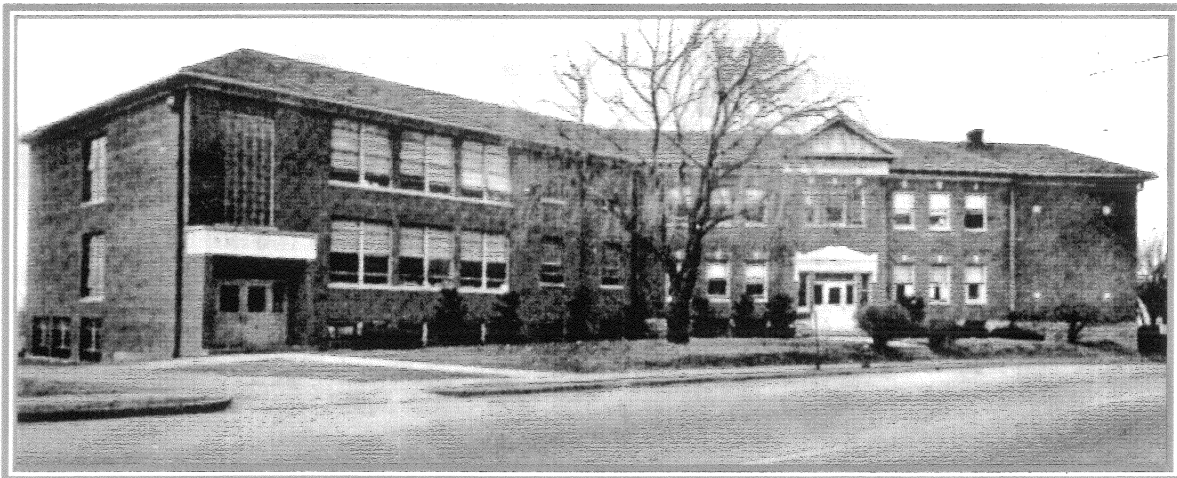




Bate High School Alumni Association Reunion 2000 – Guarding the Legacy



Bate School 1912 – 1964

We, the Bate High School Alumni did not give birth to Dear O'le Bate. Indeed! We are not even its' father. But with all this school means to this black community, we should be its legal guardian."

—H. Kenneth Alcorn



President: Emma Rose Shannon

Credits, Acknowledgements and Recognition's

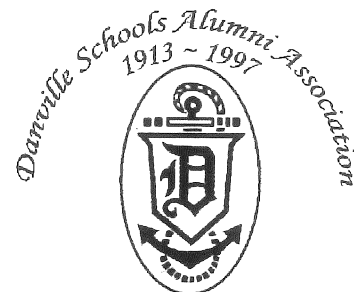
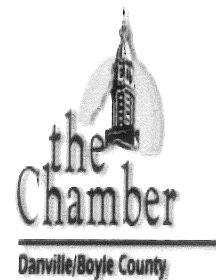
Mr. Shannon Wilson
Mr. Robert Rowland
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Robert Trumbo

Special Credit to:
Berea College, Hutchins Library, Special Collections
Superintendent of Independent Schools, Danville KY
Danville Schools Alumni Association
Danville High School

A special "thank you" goes to the following organizations and businesses for their assistance.



The Heart of Danville



The Advocate - Messenger

Revision 2 – July 22, 1999

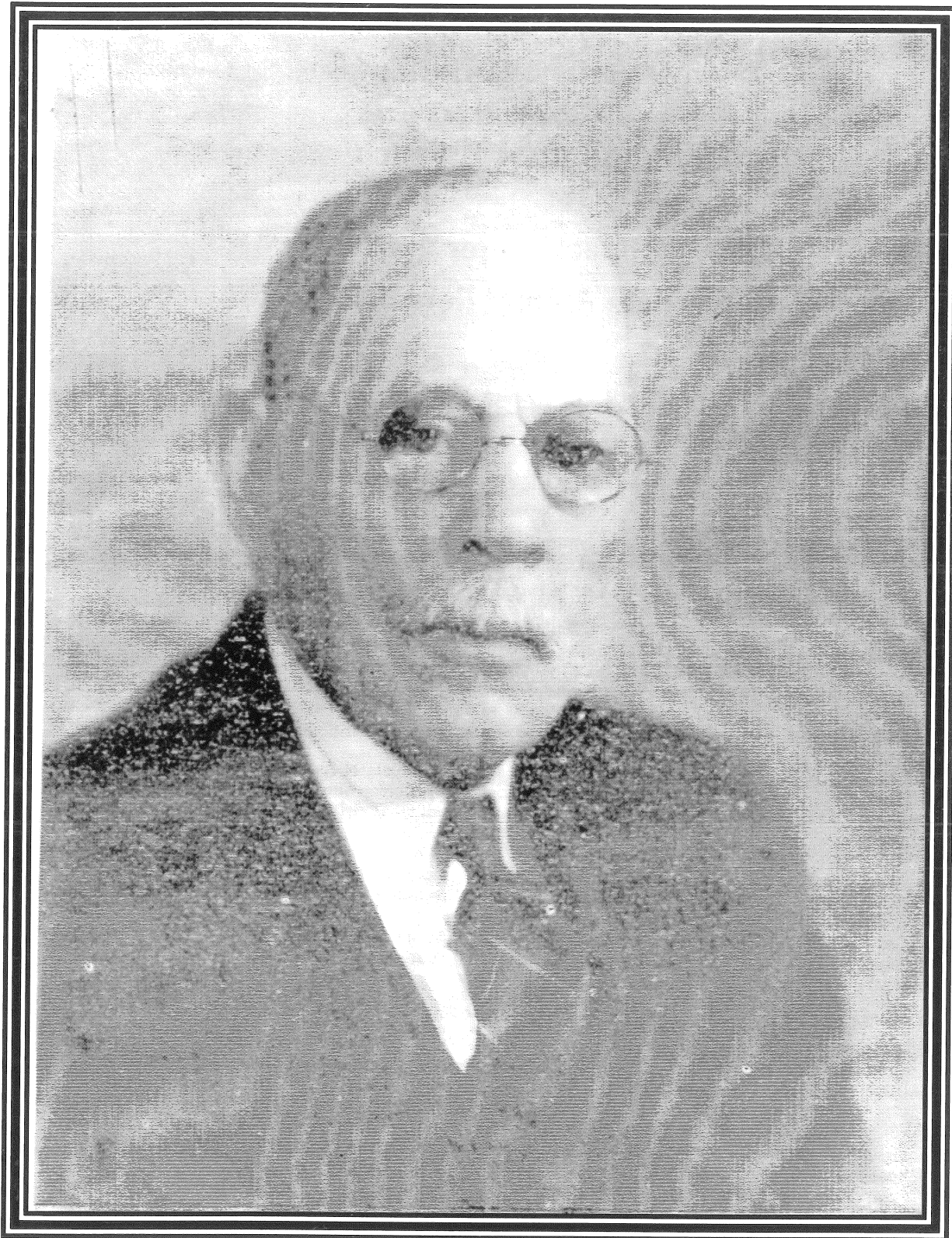
Dedication



Lucy J. Stephens

Tipping my hat and bowing my body, I dedicate this history of Bate School to Mrs. Lucy J. Stephens for her tireless, unselfish work with the Bate School Alumni Association. Mrs. Stephens is honored for her commitment to the Black students of Danville, Kentucky during her professional career and her dedication to protecting the Professor John W. Bate School Legacy in her retirement.

H. Kenneth Alcorn



John W. Bate
Principal Bate School 1879 - 1941

Preface

This brief history of Professor John W. Bate and Bate School is written with two purposes. First, it is intended to formally document the educational struggles of the Black people of Danville, Kentucky and the surrounding communities.

The short document was gleaned and compiled from duplicates of records located at Berea College, Special Collections Department of Hutchins Library along with copies of articles and records furnished by the Danville Schools Alumni Association and the recollective writings of Mrs. Gertrude S. Sledd. Some of the documents are photocopies of originals in Professor Bate's own hand, and others are copies of official files and accountings taken at the time of an occurrence, interviews, and retrospective compositions by journalists.

Second, it is intended to cause the Bate Alumni to understand, celebrate, protect, and enhance the rich legacy of Bate School they have inherited. Perhaps the understanding of this heritage will cause a renaissance within the Bate Alumni Association causing them to recommit themselves in the tradition of Professor John W. Bate and those that he taught.

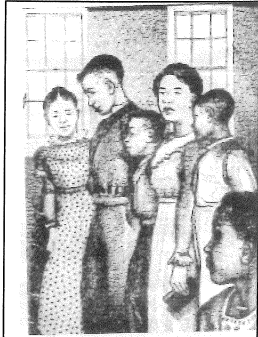
This accounting of events while comprehensive is deliberately concise to accommodate the requirements of the program in which it is published. For a more complete accounting, please review the source materiel in the Bate High School Alumni Association archives.

Bate School History

By

H. Kenneth Alcorn

*B*ate Middle School is named in honor of a freed slave, Prof. W. John Bate.



The Beginning

“Fifty-nine years are a long time to work in one place. I could write a volume about my years of teaching in Danville, but if you would like a summary in a few words, here it is: I came to the school at 26 and retired from Bate at 85. I found a one-room school and I left a building of twenty rooms. I was the one teacher and now there are fifteen. I found six students and I left a school with 600”.

Those are the words of “Danville’s own Booker T. Washington”, Professor John W. Bate talking to Elizabeth Hagan of the *Louisville Courier Journal*® in an interview published on August 10, 1941.

Professor Bate started his primary education at the age of ten and entered college at 16.

“Wishing to serve my people, I sent out ten applications for positions and I had eight favorable replies. You wonder why I chose Danville out of the eight? Well there were two reasons: It was a college town. Centre College and Caldwell College was here at the time; also, it was a temperance town. There were no grog shops in Danville,” said Professor Bate.

After making that pivotal decision, Professor Bate began teaching in a Danville, Kentucky summer-school program while still in his undergraduate studies at Berea College in 1879. In 1881, he received his Bachelor’s Degree from Berea and started teaching in the one-room school on Stanford Road. The school session was in the summer months and Professor Bate was paid by the state sixty dollars for the duration. Even, he had to wait until the completion of the term to receive his pay.

“The first two years I taught in Danville, the school term lasted only three months and I received \$60 as my entire salary. The third year I taught the term was extended to six months, later to seven, then eight and now nine” explained Professor Bate.

Before John W. Bate came to Danville, the Black citizens following the advice of their white friends had bought land and donated it to the Federal Government sometime before 1868. This allowed the Freedman's Bureau with the help of the American Mission Association to fund the construction of the one-room school building that was erected on the property circa 1868.

The Freedman's Bureau¹ was created by an Act of Congress just after the Civil War. When the war ended, the newly emancipated slaves clamored for education. Before they were freed, slaves opportunities to improve their minds were limited and often barred by law. As soon as they were set free, they quickly attempted to set up schools with whatever resources were available.

Although in most areas the Bureau was hesitant to offer monetary aid, it did show a willingness to finance schools. Regarding education, the Bureau seemed to have more latitude and funds available than in other areas. There were many examples of schools being funded by the Bureau. It participated in the construction, furnishing, and upkeep of schools and the purchase of schoolbooks.

When funding the construction of a school building, the Bureau would define special terms and provisions to ensure the building would be "open for all without distinction of sect."² This allowed the house to double as a place for worship but ensured it would not be used in any way to make it denominational.³

Northern aid societies played an active role as well. The Bureau facilitated their involvement by corresponding with them and acting as the intermediary for the freedmen. These societies included the American Tract Society, the Freedman's' Union Commission and the American Mission Association.

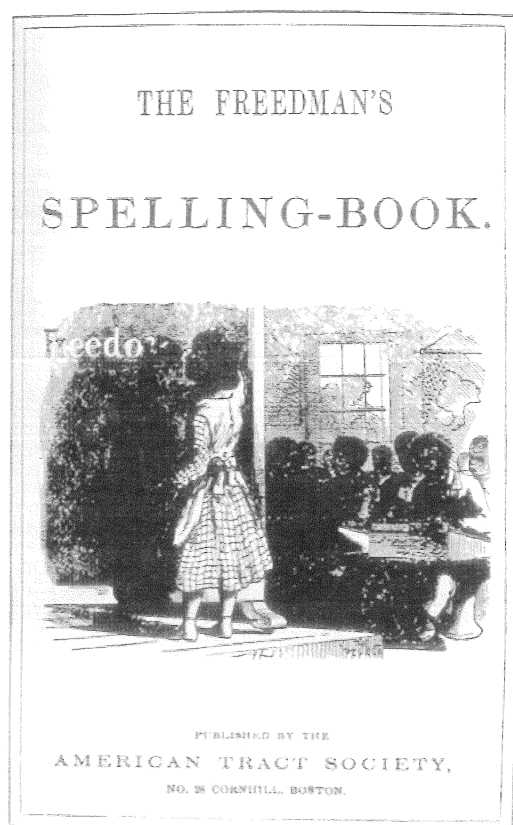
Some Whites regarded the aid societies as "meddlesome."⁴ Even so, they were still very active in establishing and funding Common Schools.

¹ Freedmen's Bureau of Augusta County, Virginia

² Freedman's Bureau letter, District of Virginia 1868

³ Freedman's Bureau letter, District of Virginia, 1868

⁴ Freedman's Bureau of Augusta County, Virginia



In addition to logistical support, these charitable organizations also contributed funds and schoolbooks, such as the one pictured on the left.

Another important role they served was finding teachers who were adequately trained. They sent recommendations to the Bureau, which in turn consulted with the freedmen about who to hire. These teachers were then "furnished"⁵ by the aid societies.

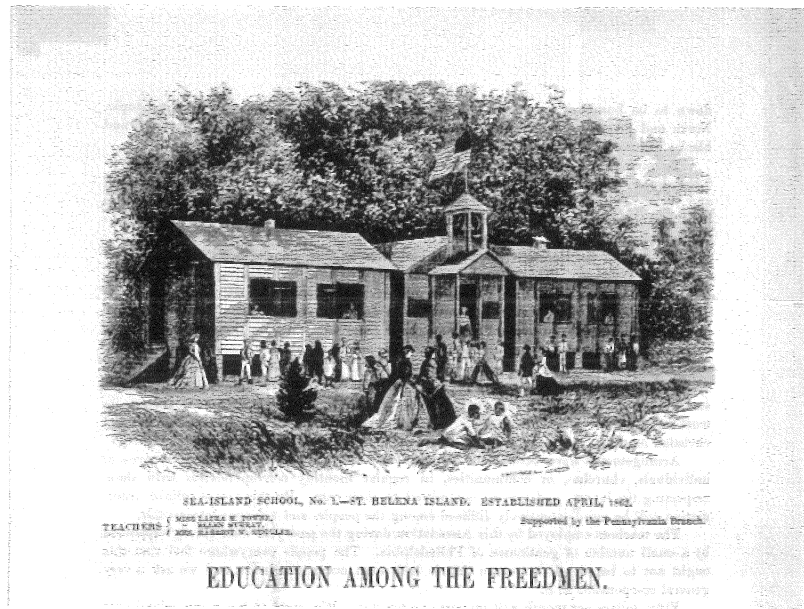
The Aid Societies tried to insure that schooling was available to all free blacks. However, the Bureau and Aid Societies success was not just one-sided⁶. In addition to the problems of opposing whites, they struggled with the issue of

lack of funding. Nevertheless, they were still successful in establishing and maintaining several schools for the freedmen

The emancipated slaves' proud of their new freedom and eager to improve themselves rushed to these schools. Not only children, but also middle aged and elderly blacks filled schoolhouses. When school buildings were not available, they took their lessons in fields to learn from a teacher who often was barely literate, but the most well educated person available.

⁵ National Freedman's Relief Association Letter, October 18, 1867

⁶ Freedman's Bureau of Augusta County, Virginia

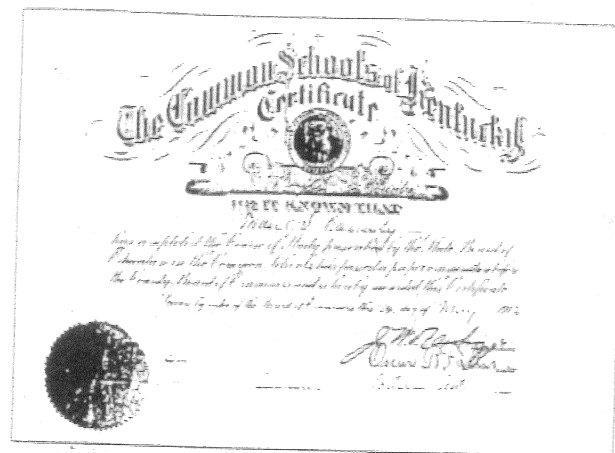


Typical Freedman's bureau Schoolhouse⁷ pictured above. The Bureau usually allocated \$150 for the construction.

Knowing that these *Common Schools* usually consisted of 12 rooms, Professor Bate believed there was some dishonest use of the funds by the builder of the Common School of Kentucky in Danville. This most likely accounted for the small size and inferior construction of the decrepit building located on Stanford Road. It only measured about 30 feet by 40 feet.

Later, during the superintendence of Mr. John W. Rawlins two rooms were added to the hopeless structure that housed the little common school.

Nevertheless, the Common School was still not popular among the Negroes. They followed the White people of Danville in their admiration of the private school. In addition, Professor Bate said "the Colored people suspected that a teacher without Reverend in front of his name would not amount to much".



Private schools established in churches and homes were some of the tiny roots of public education for freed slaves and blacks after the civil war. Two African Americans with Danville connections⁸ made use of and helped nourish these roots.

⁷ Library of Congress

⁸ Education for blacks in Kentucky, Richard C. Brown undated

Willis Russell⁹, another freed slave, apparently conducted such a school in a house on Walnut Street given to him by his former master¹⁰.

Belle Mitchell Jackson¹¹ also helped develop several of these tiny roots. She was born in Boyle County to Monroe and Mary E. Mitchell, devout Methodists who had purchased their freedom from slavery. In the 1850s they sent their daughter to a primary school for Free Blacks conducted by the Methodist Church in Danville. Belle Jackson continued her education at Berea College¹².

The Little Common School was one of four schools in Danville for Black students during that time. The Boyden school was in the Black Presbyterian Church on Walnut Street, there was Belle Watson's school, and the other was the privately owned Fisher's Polytechnic on South Second Street.

Nevertheless, in its first thirteen years, the Common School enrollment had grown from six to 300 pupils with an average daily attendance of 260. During this time, the Common School only included nine grades and graduate candidates had to pass a state examination to receive their diplomas. The first annual commencement was held in 1886.

In 1894, there were fifteen candidates for diplomas and nine of them were successful. In 1896, there were eight graduates from the school, followed by seven at the 11th annual commencement in 1897.

Other triumphs during that school year included establishing a school library of 400 volumes and the buying of an organ.

By 1897, the enrollment had reached 372 children. The dilapidated old frame building quickly became inadequate to accommodate the rapid student population growth. The school had over 400 hundred children enrolled by 1907 and the old frame building was in a state of decay.

Consequently, in that year an effort was taken to fund the construction of a new building. The district black population voted the constitutional limit for school purposes of twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars to fund the construction.

⁹ Education for blacks in Kentucky, Richard C. Brown undated

¹⁰ Education for blacks in Kentucky, Richard C. Brown undated

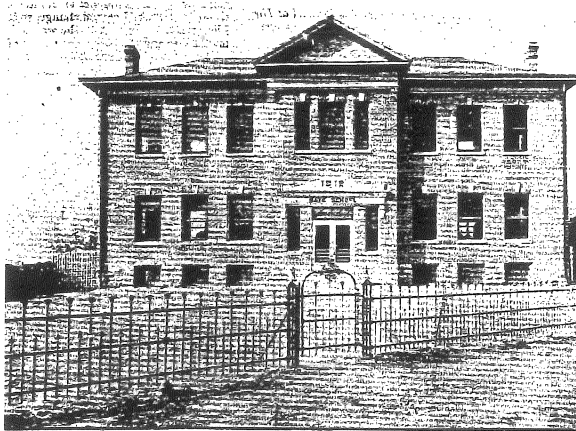
¹¹ Education for blacks in Kentucky, Richard C. Brown undated

¹² People/Places Advocate Messenger News undated

There were about \$150 thousand of taxable property in the district among the Black residents bringing \$800 for three years and a total of \$2,400 from taxation. The vote carried by a whopping eighty percent showing how willing the Black property owners were to tax themselves so their children could have the advantages of an education. Professor Bate also raised by private subscription over \$500 coming from the Black People and he was confident of raising that much more.

Professor Bate expected a liberal assistance from the White people of the city also. When interviewed by a *Danville Messenger*® reporter, he had only approached three of the businessmen in town and had received a pledge of \$100 from each of them.

The County Board of Education appropriated \$5,000, which was supplemented by the \$1,900 raised by the private undertaking to fund the construction. The new building was built in front of the old frame structure on Stanford Avenue in 1912 and it was named Bate School after its founder.



In this undated photograph, Bate School had a dirt road in front of it. A gymnasium was later added to the school, said Lucy Stephens, who owns the photo. The school was located on Stanford Avenue where Bate Middle School now stands.

Thirteen students passed the State examination that year, permitting them to move into the new high school department taught by Professor Bate. Eleven were pupils from Danville and two were from Parksville. Ten graduates received their State High School diplomas.

Sometime after accepting the new building, Professor Bate made a cunning move to establish Bate School in this, as he put it, "aristocratic community." Since he did not have Reverend in front of his name and with Danville being a temperance town, the Baptist having their own private school "put all sorts of obstacles in my way" said Professor Bate. He said, the principal even urged him to "give up that little Common School and go back to Berea." Professor Bate said "I've always liked to fight in a nice way, so do you know what I did? I employed

the daughter of the Colored Baptist minister (Miss Gertrude Spillman) to be my primary teacher. When she first showed up to take up her duties, she brought ten little children from the Baptist congregation with her.”

Professor Bate had found his way to win acceptance of the school in this sophisticated community. Two years later, the Baptist school folded. Soon after that, Danville citizens stopped referring to it as the “Little Common School.” Bate School was now recognized as one of the best facilities for Black children in the State of Kentucky.



Mrs. Gertrude Spillman Sledd stands with Prof. John W. Bate after graduation exercises.

In 1915, while Miss Lydia Lewis was superintendent a new High School department consisting of two grade years was added. Miss Spillman taught one and Professor Bate taught the other. However, in the fall of 1917, Miss Spillman went to Paducah, Kentucky to train and teach. Miss Annie Singleton of Louisville, Kentucky was employed as her successor. Miss Singleton only stayed one year and a teacher was not hired to replace her. Consequently, there were no graduates in 1919. Miss Spillman returned to Bate in the fall of 1919 while Mr. Fallis was superintendent.

Miss Spillman’s time in Paducah was also rewarded in ways other than her training and teaching. She met her future husband and married him in 1921. After assuming her new surname, Mrs. Gertrude Spillman Sledd would spend the summers in Paducah with her new husband.

Bate School was under the County Board of Education then. Accordingly, in 1921 by a requirement of the State of Kentucky, Bate became a part of the Danville School system. Afterwards, in 1927 the building was enlarged again with the addition of four more classrooms, a gymnasium, and a principal’s office. As the enrollment increased and teachers were added, the High School was increased to four years.

Nevertheless, even with all the fledgling school’s successes, Professor Bate still had his critics. A 1939 interview published in the *Danville Messenger*® characterizes Professor Bate, of the Phi Delta Literary Society, as “being highly educated.” “But instead of inspiring the Colored boys and girls to become college

graduates and training them for the professions in competition with White people, he endeavors to train them in the work they will be called upon to do when they leave school, such as domestic science, carpentry, and woodwork. He is now working toward having an industrial department added to the school along with domestic science.”



Mrs. Gertrude Spillman Sledd

With that goal in mind, Professor Bate appeared before the Danville Chamber of Commerce in 1939 seeking the cooperation of the city businessmen to work with him to reestablish the industrial department at the school at an estimated cost of \$10,000. He explained, at one time the school had an industrial and domestic science department that was a model for other schools. The students had won many of the prizes offered by the Kentucky Negro Education Association in manual training work, woodwork, chair bottoms, canning, and the like. Nevertheless, for the lack of room, it was discontinued in 1927.

Professor Bate was successful in gaining the businessmen’s support. He said, “I’ve always fought in a nice way to get what I wanted for my people”, and “I’ve always used diplomacy.” “Don’t you see, you must always use diplomacy” he explained.

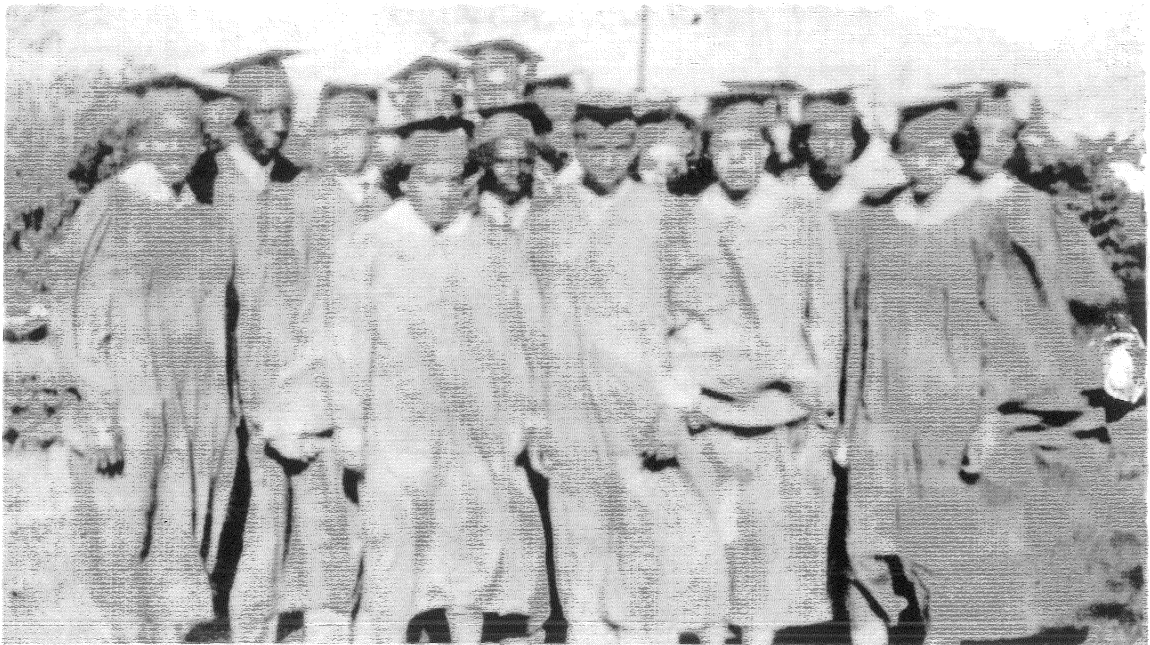
Professor Bate had learned well the power of diplomacy most likely from the teachings of his fraternity. Although it could not be confirmed by my research, Prof. Bate is believed to be a member of the Omega Psi Phi (ΨΦΩ) Greek Fraternity. His probable association to this group is evidenced by his adopting of its colors (Purple & Gold) and mascot (Bulldog) as symbols of Bate School. Further evidence is his association with Dr. Carter G. Woodson the founder of what is now known as Black History Month. It was at the Nashville

Pictured below is the graduating class of 1929 – Front row seated, James M. Gayton, Zilla Hines, George Gentry, Linelle Walker, Standing from left – Virginia Coulter, William Thomas Swann, Marzie Burchett Durr, Horace Epperson, Elwood Violet, Gertrude Sledd
Photo donated by James M. Gayton



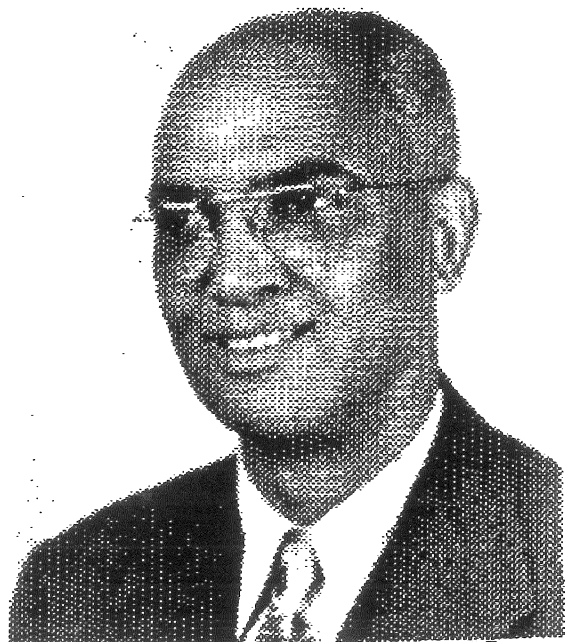
Conclave that elected the Eighth Grand Basileus in 1920 that Carter G. Woodson inspired the establishment of National Achievement Week to promote the study of Negro life and history. Dr. Woodson is a Berea alumnus and renown member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternal Order.

Professor Bate instilled the creed of the Omegas into the students of Bate School as well. Upon completion of their under-graduate studies many of the alumni returned to Dear O'le Bate to teach those that came after them. The Bate School faculty of 79 teachers and principals over its history was made-up of over 25% alumni. This tradition of the "Bridge Builder" continued at the school even past the close of Professor Bate's magnificent career.



Class of 1944

Professor Bate with his sight growing dim, retiring from Dear O'le Bate School in 1941 passed the mantle to a Bate Graduate, Mr. Hannibal E. Goodloe. Mr. Goodloe served as advisor and administrator of Bate School for the first five years of his tenure. He was very innovative and worked to improve the school recalled Mrs. Sledd. The Batesonian School annual was his idea and the Chaterbox School paper was published, she wrote. Under his supervision, woodwork was restored and the Business Department was added she continued. When he was appointed principal in 1946, he served in that capacity until 1950 when he was succeeded by Professor William Summers, still another Bate Alumnus.



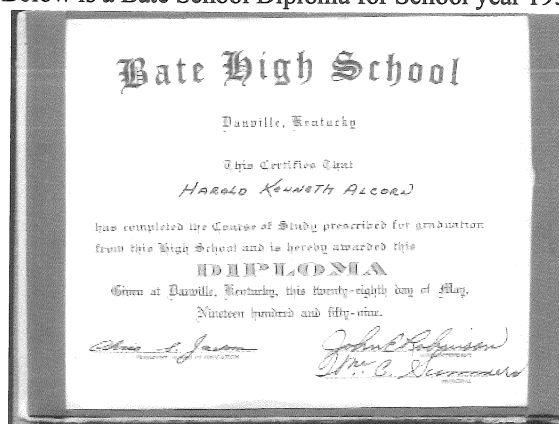
Professor Hannibal E. Goodloe
1941 - 1950



Professor William C. Summers
1950 - 1964

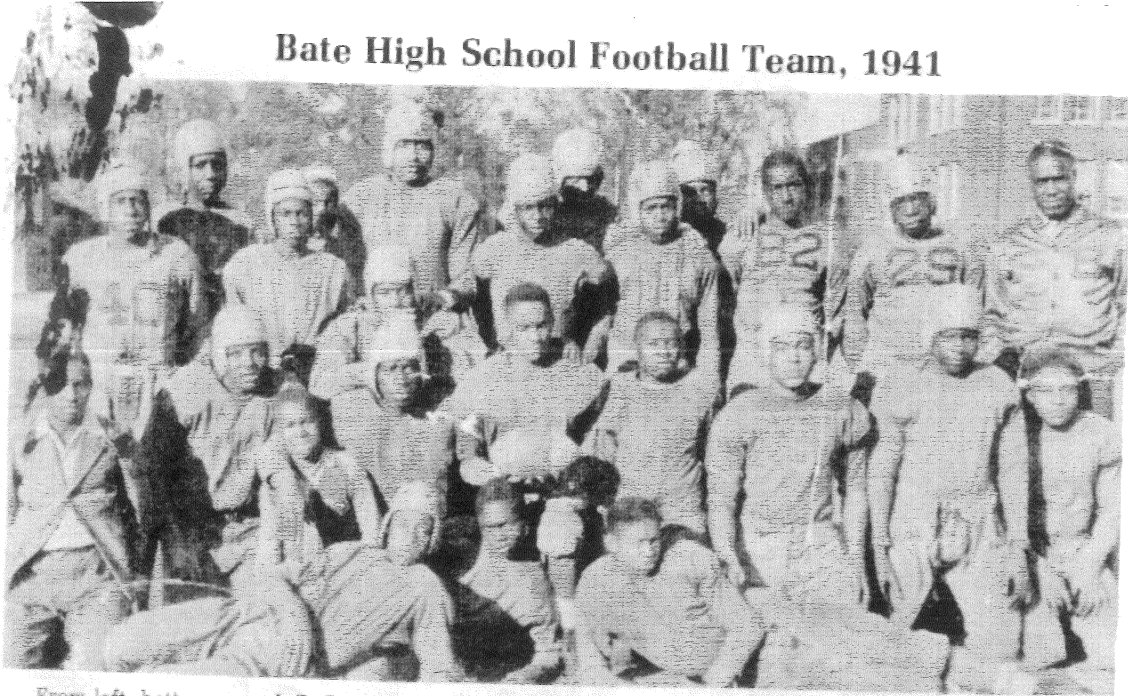
Professor Summers' education philosophy was to make good citizens remembered Mrs. Sledd. During his administration in 1953 an addition to the building costing over \$200,000 was completed, again placing the Bate School facilities among the best in the state.

Below is a Bate School Diploma for School year 1959



Also, in the mid 50's, following the Brown V, Board of Education Supreme Court Decision and the 1954 -- Civil Rights Act, a revolutionary change in the way Black youth were educated began to occur in Danville. The move was to a racially integrated school system. This proved to be the most profound change in the history of the school. The gradual shift caused the black community to seemingly loose a part of its identity.

Bate High School Football Team, 1941



From left, bottom row - J. B. Segar, Charles Bottoms, J. L. Doneghy. Second row - Trainer, James Simpson, Marian Jackson, Trainer, John Segar, Co-Captain, William Letcher, Captain, James McPherson, Joseph Simpson, J. L. Prewitt, Willie Mac Johnson, Frank Guest, Third row - William Chitterson, James Tresenwriter, Sylvester Johnson, Pete Helm, Robert McGill, Jesse Jones, Robert Neil, Coach, Wilmer West, Fourth row - Cecil Cohen, Howard Seawright, James Smith, Ted Sleet, Banks Johnson.

Mr. Goodwin was succeeded as coach of the Bulldogs by Mr. William Summers who was later replaced by Charles Dabney in basketball and Grover Stevens in football. Other Bulldog coaches were Wilmer West, Sanford Roach, Ozenia Hawkins, and Joe Gilliam.



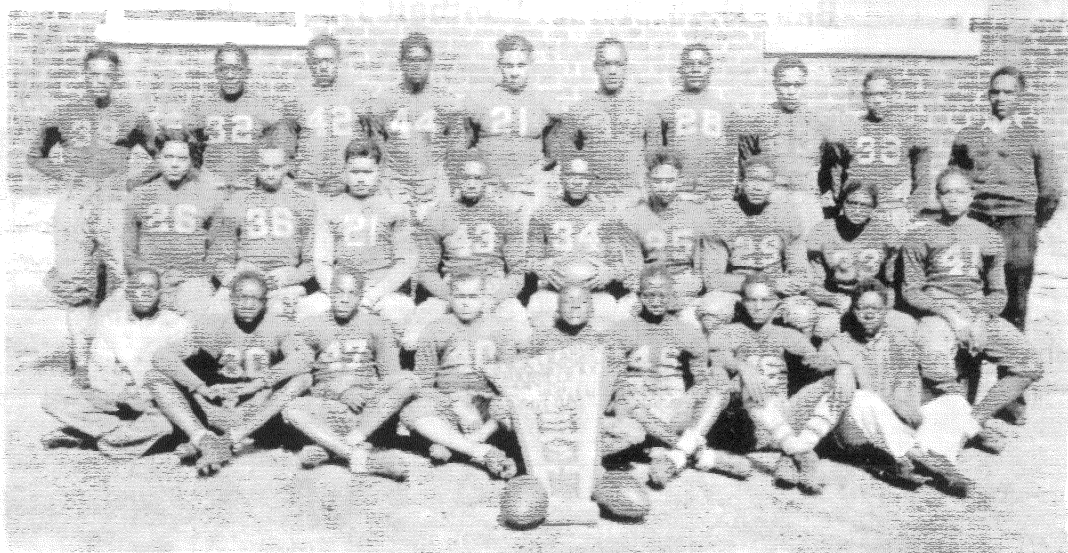
THE BATE BULLDOGS, front row, left to right, Charles Berry, Donald Davis, Lawrence Robinson, Charles Gray, James Ogie and George Shannon, Back row, same order, James Donoghue, James Hamilton, John Bradshaw, Melvin Alcorn, Michael Smith, Jesse Adams and John Wilkie. Jackie Lewis was not present when the picture was taken.

Sports

Bate students excelled in several extracurricular activities also winning many honors for the school. While the young ladies were learning to knit in Hi-Y and Y-Teens, the boys were honing their skills on the football and basketball teams.

“Bate School always won everything. They had so many trophies, cases and cases of trophies,” said Mrs. Lucy J. Stephens an alumnus and teacher. “Most of the trophies and awards were lost following integration. They took the trophies out and we found them up to Danville High School where they stored them and we got some of them and restored some of them,” she said.

Bate Bulldogs



B.G.A. LEAGUE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM, 1931

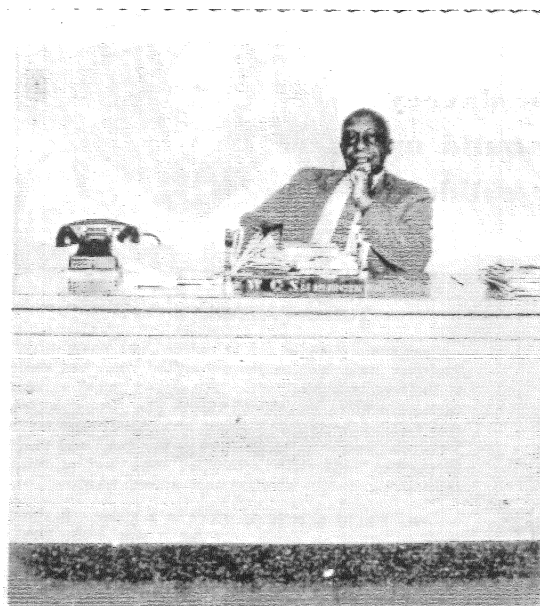
From left, first row - John Turner, Elwood Saunders, William Davis, Roscoe Doram, Francis Saunders, James Coates, Theodore Davis, Herman Warren; second row - James Doram, Porter Smith, Robert Trumbo, Robert L. Jackson, Worthington Beasley, George Coffey, John Taylor, Paul Routt, Sanford Roach; third row - Allen Caldwell, Eugene Stewart, Robert Rowe, David Routt, Ralph Smith, David Hale, Frank Fisher, James Baughman, Joe Gaines Reed, Coach William Goodwin.

Bate did not have a football and a basketball coach in its infancy. Mr. William H. Goodwin was the “coach.” “Professor Goodwin, he was from Frankfort. He was supposed to be one of the winningest coaches that they had. We didn't have a football coach and a basketball coach. He coached everybody, and he really was supposed to be outstanding in the state of Kentucky,” Mrs. Stephens recalled. “His teams would play their home football games at Foag Park on Duncan Hill” she remembered.

A gymnasium was added to the school building in 1927. It was used for basketball until the building was torn down in the middle sixties.

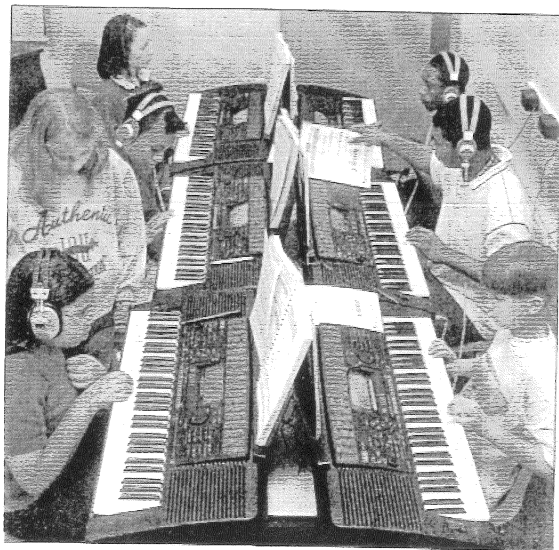
While still under Professor Summers' supervision, Bate High School was discontinued in 1964. It became the Danville Bate Junior High School with Mr. Kenneth Snowden as principal.

When the Junior High School was fully integrated in the old Bate School building, Professor Summers assumed the position of coordinator of all Federal Programs for the Danville City School System. In that capacity, he worked with projects under the National Defense Act, Title I, II, and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the Economic Opportunity programs.



Professor Summers Served Both School and Community with High Honors.

Only three Bate Schoolteachers (Bertha Bowman, Jewell Lay, and Lucy J. Stephens) joined the faculty of Danville High School. A few others entered the Danville elementary school system. The Bate students joined the Danville School system both in the Elementary and High School grades.



Bate Middle School students use digital keyboards to give them a "hands-on" experience in their music appreciation class. Danville Advocate® Staff photo by Kent Brown

The old Bate School building was razed in the name of this progress. The grounds were purchased from the state of Kentucky and in 1976 a new building construction began on the property just behind the original building. Bate Middle School was opened in this new building in 1978. Bate Middle School¹³ is now fully racially integrated in the new building on the original site. It has a student body of approximately 425 in grades 6 through 8 and a multi-racial professional staff of 38. The current principal is Mr. Chuck Stallard.

¹³ Bate Middle School WEB Page

The technology at Bate is state-of-the-art. It was upgraded from IBM Model 25 to Pentium computers. The computer lab has access to the World Wide Web (WWW) and the Local Area Network (LAN) with its 31 Pentium Desktop Computers through the T1 Web Server at Danville High School. This gives them E-Mail capability internally as well as linking them to the other schools on the network.

Bate School is the most excellent example of the ultimate calculated progressiveness in the education of the Black youth of Danville and surrounding communities. It produced 596 high school graduates and countless others that "*quit-uated*" for various social or economic reasons during its brief existence as an all Black school. "The portrait of the man, Professor John W. Bate, who was for the most part responsible for the school's success hangs in the entrance hall," wrote Mr. Robert E. Rowland, the current superintendent of Danville Independent Schools. Professor Bate passed the Bate School legacy to us on Saturday, September 8, 1945. He left us a legacy that should be celebrated, protected, and enhanced.

The Last Graduating Class On A Tour of Washington, D.C.



Bate School Faculty 1912 – 1964

| Superintendents: | Principals: |
|---|--|
| <p>Mrs. Lydia Lewis Mr. O. E. Fallis Mr. L. C. Boseley Mr. John W. Rawlins Mr. Birkhead Mr. Marvin Glenn Mr. John E. Robinson Mr. John Biles Mr. L. N. Taylor</p> | <p>Prof. John W. Bate 1912 – 1941 ✓ Prof. Hannibal E. Goodloe 1941 – 1950* ✓ Prof. William C. Summers 1950 – 1964</p> <p>* - Served first five years as administrator and advisor</p> |
| Teachers: | Teachers: |
| <p>Mr. Robert Baines Miss Maxine Baughman Rev. Henry Bevel Mrs. Mary Black ✓ Miss Bertha Bowman Miss Margaret Bridgewaters 1920 – 1922 Mr. Emmet Broadus ✓ Mrs. Amelia Burton 1953 – 1964 Mr. Thomas Camper Mrs. Eunice Caston Mr. William Cherry Mrs. Loretta Clark Miss Loraine Coleman 1920 – 1922 ✓ Mrs. Elizabeth M. Cunningham Miss Virginia Curd 1923 – 1923 Mr. Charles Dabney Mrs. Lola Turner Dale Mr. William Davidson Mrs. Malinda Doneghy 1920 – Miss Birdie Edwards ✓ Mrs. Susie B. Fish 1920 – ✓ Mrs. Helen Fisher Frye ✓ Mr. John Franklin Fisher 1938 – Mr. Erskine Frison Mr. Joseph Gilliam Mr. William H. Goodwin 1932 – Mr. Thomas Green Mrs. Valeria Griffith 1923 – 1923 Mrs. Mary Hanley ✓ Mr. Ozenia Hawkins Mrs. Margaret Andrews Helm 1932 – Mrs. Edna Hogan Mrs. Mary Hudson ✓ Mrs. Florine Ingram 1920 – Miss Edna Jett ✓ Mrs. Lillian Caldwell Jones 1925 – ✓ Mrs. Mary Belle Jones 1924 – 1927 Miss Margaret Jones 1920 –</p> | <p>Mr. David Kimbell Mrs. Jewell Lay – 1964 Mrs. T. F. Lauderdale ✓ Miss Zula Levingston Miss Cordelia Lockett Mrs. Arlene Marshall Mrs. Loriane McGee 1932 – 1934 Mrs. Barbara Smothers Moody Mrs. Lucile D. Mumford 1925 – 1931 Mrs. Lindell Parr Mrs. Martha Rowe Patton 1920 – 1931 Mrs. Mary Pittman Miss Ella Pryor Miss Mary Reid Miss Francis Richardson 1936 – Miss Louise Richardson 1924 – 1924 ✓ Miss Mary Agnes Riffe Miss Ruby Riffe Miss Anna Riggs ✓ Mrs. Jessie Roach 1923 – 1927 ✓ Mrs. Mary Smothers Roach Mr. Sanford Roach Mrs. Helen Ross Mr. Clarence Sams Miss Annie Singleton 1918 – 1918 Mrs. Gertrude S. Sledd 1915 – 1964 ✓ Miss Virginia Smothers 1936 – ✓ Miss Viola Smith 1932 – Miss Geneva Stanley ✓ Mrs. Lucy Jones Stephens 1951 – 1964 Mr. Grover Stevens Mrs. Mayme Summers 1924 – 1931 ✓ Mr. William Summers 1944 – 1950 Mrs. Margaret Taylor 1923 – 1923 Mrs. Dorothy Blackwell Travis Mr. H. C. Warren Mr. Wilmer West Mrs. Yvonne Wilson</p> |

✓ - Indicates Alumnus

The Common Schools of Kentucky

Graduation Class Roles

Disclaimer

The following graduating class roles were taken from copies of official records furnished by the Danville Alumni Association. The Bate High School Alumni Association is not responsible for the accuracy of these records. Please contact the Danville Board of Education if you believe these records are incorrect. Report typing errors to the author or the Bate Alumni Association.

1894

There were fifteen candidates for diplomas. Nine were successful. The class list is unavailable.

1896

Malinda Williams
John P. Caldwell
George M. Higgins
Lula Moore
T.F. Richardson
Sara Rowe
Henry C. Thomas

1897

Ophelia Tibbs
Mary Hudson
Lettie Rowe
Sarah Withers
Arthur Barber
Fernando Weiseger
William Moore

1912

Florence Farris
Montacle Adams
Oscar Richardson
Clarence Bate
Forest Elkins
Mandess Canada
Charley Hansford
Bernie Embry
Lillian Burdette
Gladys Sweeney

Bate High School

Graduation Class Roles

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1917

Eugene Burdette Langford
Elizabeth Penman

1920

John Frye
Carrol Franklin

1921

Vivian A. Bate
Zula May Livingston

1922

Ashby Gorden Smith
Dorothy May Doram

1923

Lydia Margaret Hughes

1924

George W. Andrews Jr.
Ruth Amanda White
Mary Thompson Coleman

1925

Helen Thompson Boston
James Nathaniel Wilson Jr.
Eula Kee McBeth

1926

Mayme Tibbs Beard
Jessie Elizabeth Jackson
Annie Elizabeth Jones
Hattie Loraine Griffin
Hellen Catherine Beard
Henry Graves
Minnie Louise Hale

1927

Viola Elizabeth Smith
Hattie Jeanette Hawkins
Thelma Lee Clay
Florence Elizabeth Skinner
Janie Della Smothers
Mabel Alberta Caldwell
John McFerran Jr.
Homer Ray Smith
Clarence Woodson Hall
Susie Moore Walker
Thelma Mae Patterson
Vivian Landis Rowe
Maggie Ellen Fields
Florence Anett Coleman
Ada Queene Hafford
Elizabeth Ester Mitchell
Victoria Belle McCormick
Harriet Francis Ball
Henry Smith Walker

1928

Mattie Francis Carpenter
Lawrence Richardson
Nannie Elizabeth Swann
Mary Hannah Owens
William Thomas Cowan
Otis Elmore Peters
Virginia Lee Smothers
Edith May Nevius

1928

Ophela Jane Trumbo
Eliza Carniva Mitchell
Lawrence Mullins
Cleopatra Cowan
Susie Belle Bailey
Lena Dee Marshall
James Thomas Irvin
James Madison Tarrence

1929

Elwood Violett
Willian Thomas Swann
Virginia Veatrice Coulter
Maeon Helen Wright
James Merdith Gayton
Zillah Gertrude Hines
Horace Clayton Eperson
George Washington Gentry
Marzie Thelma Burchett
Linelle Walker
Anna Elizabeth Bridgewater

Bate High School

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1930

Jerry Ross
Ella Mae Marshall
Christa Belle Carpenter
Fannie Mae Chinn
Theodore Chinn
Herman Miller
Richard Lee Swann
Cornelia Simpson
Dora Simpson
John Webster Smith
Eliza Ann Sutton
Mary Elizabeth Jones

1931

Booker Talafairo Rowe
Clarissa Mae Cooper
Cecil Redd Tarance
Mary Cathern Gray
Katie Lou Price
Helen Lucille Atlas
William K. Caldwell
Leslie J. Anderson
William Johnson Dunn
Allie Gray
Rice Hyatt Jones
Elouise Madeline Thurman

1932

Hattie Mae Cook
Mary L. Smothers
James Baughman
Nancy E. Bailey
Dora Bell Bess
Emma Jane Clark
Natalie Brown
Theodore Fields
Beatrice Bottoms
Pauline Griffin
Bruce Harlan
Mildred D. Lackey
Mary Catherine Peters
Joe Gaines Reid
Henry Saulter
Lucien J. Stewart
Ruth Walker

1933

Jane Letcher
Sanford T. Roach
Worthington Beasley
Saddie Belle Burton
John Edward Cohen
Mary Eva Cohen
John Franklyn Fisher
Harry Fields
Alice Olivia Langford
Grace Helen Penman
Paul W. Raines
Amelia E. Sleet
Daisey Mae Simpson
John A. Taylor
Mary Ann Wade

1934

Charles Irvin Moran
Edith Mitchell Baughman
Lucy Evelyn Rice
Pauline Caldwell
Charles Zetta Coffey
Irene Victoria Davis
Joseph Gilbert Cohen
Adele Lanier Wade
Robert Rivers Roper
Leon Richardson
Clara Ophelia Atlas
George Franklin Walker
James I. Evans
Regina LaVonn Cowherd
Ira Wesley Brown
Henry Thomas Laughlin

1935

William Gray
Conklin Gentry
Dorothy Broyles
Oscar Butler
Mary F. Caldwell
Francis L. Carpenter
Pearline Coates
Theodore Davis
William E. Goodloe
Viola Helm
David Robinson
Robert Rowe
Elwood Saunders
John Turner

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1936

John Felix Ross
Lillian Gray
Wyndle Theora Tarrance
Fredna Bruce Laughlin
William Howard Cohen
Georgia Ellen Ripton
June E. Crosby
Charles Milton Letcher
Ruth Hulsia Rowe
John Thomas Gray
Mae Virginia Adams
Mary Rosezetta Hale

1937

Henry Anderson
William Emory Davis
Hubert Andrews
Carl Baughman
Sam Bailey
William Brown
Ralph Doram
Richard Frye
Jamis Jones
Moneta Sleet
Zenobia Smith
Sallie Golden Whitney
Gilford McKittrick Sr.
Eleazen Gray

1938

Helen Fisher
Jessie B. McPherson
Lillian K. Beasley
Mary E. Spillman
Helen Rose Garr
Ophelia Ingram
Helen L. Shannon
Sarah E. Ingram
Cora Lee Jones
James M. Cohen
Alberta Fields
Averilla Fields
Christine Ball
Mary Griffin
Matthew Fisher
Luther Denis Huges
Francis J. Saunders
David Elwood Routt
Herbert Royal
Emma Lou Smith
Ophelia Faulkner

1939

John Howard Baker
Florence Elkins
Julia M. Fisher
Minnie L. Ford
Francis Gordan
Pauline Shelby
James Singleton
Benjamin Jenkins
George R. Parr
Elizabeth C. Tarrence
Henry White
Glenna Doram

1940

Getrude Lee Boner
Mary Catherine Boner
Eugene Crowdus
George W. Fields
James Charles Grey
Julia Myers Hayes
Wallace Hines Jr.
Mattie S. Smith
Lucy E. Jones
Viola D. Rowe
Nannie B. Shannon
William A. Sleet
Mattie L. Ingram
Opal Sleet
Myorine Wilkerson

1941

Horace Ball
Alyce Brown
Curtis Brown
Alma Bruce
Marvin Davis
Sophia Epperson
Eugene Harlan
Jerry Ingram
Mabel Mayfield
Walter McPherson
Viola Mckittrick
Dorothy Owsley
Clara Simpson
Marie Williams

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1942

Bertha Mae Bowman
Viocca Christine Strange
Marie Elaine Brown
Dorothy Lena Burdette
Sylvia Berneice Faulkner
John Leslie Prewitt
Florine Elizabeth Gray
James Thomas McPherson
Margaret Eunice Spaulding
George Calvin Griffin
William H. Letcher

1943

Lonetta Penman
Florence Walker
Mary O. Thornton
John W. Raines
Mable E. Letcher
Anne M. Smith
James W. Smith
Joseph F. Simpson

1944

Mary Loneste Macon
Eva M. McPherson
Emma Jean Alcorn
Georgia F. Boner
Beatrice Bowman
Robert Brown
Cecil Cohen
Ann Janet Pruitt
James Simpson
Lillie M. Sleet
Cecil Steele
Maxine Strange
Ethel P. Smith
James Tresenwriter
Dorothy Walker
Edith Walker

1945

Susie Ellen Graves
Robert Harding
Marie Johnson
Ozenia Hawkins
Margaret Young
Howard Seawright

1946

Johnetta Elizabeth Cooper
Herbert Tunis Ford
Catherine J. Faulkner
Milford Gray
Mary Margaret Crowdus
Bernice Gray
James Bavian Wilkerson
Lucy Sadie Mary Taylor
Ruth Gray

1947

Jearldine Harding
Helen Gray
Margaret Rice
Anginette Williams
Minnie Walker
Alicia Simpson
Mattie Holton
Mary B. Penman
George Wickliffe
Irene Brown
Rowena Patton
Deroy Coates

1948

Julian Andrew Fitzgerald
Clayton Blanchette McGuire
Katherine Seawright
Joy Caldwell
William Whitney
Isaac Burke
Myrtle Arlene Faulkner
Robert Baker
Sonora Mae Segar

1949

Johnetta Bedinger
Annie Burdette
Theodore Burdette
Betty J. Current
Monroe Garr
Mae Guest
Jeanette Turner
Lucille Langford
Alene Napier
Larue Patton

1949

Eloise Penman
Donald Redd
Carl Rice
Cleo Richardson
Mary A. Riffe
John L. Segar
David Wade
Willie Kee Walker

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1950

June Andrews
Suella Boner
Alva Patton
Zola Rice
Sarah Riffe
Maureen Sleet
Lena Walker
Anna Washington
Alma Williams
Mary Williams
Geneva Wycliffe
Charles Bedinger
June Christy
George Cowan
Randale Dale
Wm Ben Hudson
Matthew McCowan
Eugene McGill

1951

Deloris Adams
Doris Andrews
Calvin Bedinger
Johnetta Brand
June Daugherty
William Faulkner
Marjorie Fischer
Margaret Fox
John Irvine
Carolyn Jones
Robert Jones
Viola Langford
Eugene McGill
Alma Penman
Kenneth Prince
Delores Revely
Donald Segar
William Segar
Josh Shannon
Florence Simpson
Thelma Swann
William Tucker
Blanche Walker
Harry Whitley

1952

Martha F. Bradshaw
Sara Boner
Ethel Christie
Theodore Chinn
Dorothy Hunter
Juanita Gash
Joe Irvine
Eliza Ann McCowan
Joe McKitric
Alice Lee Penman
Melinda Revely
James Shannon
Virginia Spaulding
Louise Wheat
Eunice Ford
Archie Newland

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1953

Raymond Alcorn
Raymond Andrews
Samuel Boner
Clarence Daugherty
Bessie Davis
Donna Doram
Mayme Fisher
Eleanor Segar
Pearline Washington

1954

Mary Elizabeth Buster
Charles Chitterson
Deborah Doneghy
Laura Evelyn Higgins
Rovena Johnson
Charles Langford
Maurice O'Neal
Monie Ross
Doris Jean Routt
Emma Rose Routt
William Shannon
Patricia Smith
Martha Simpson
Doris Singleton
Geraldine Tucker
Oliver Wheat
Mary Josephine Young

1955

Della J. Bridgewater
Catherine Caldwell
Corrine Carpenter
Deanna Coleman
Helen L. Crowdus
Mary Joyce Doneghy
Mary Dexter Harris
Robert T. Johnson
Isabelle Kinley
Ella Lee Logan
Jeane Agnes Logan
Besse Marshall
Gladys Evans Revely
George Simpson
Paul Lawrence Smith
Lawrence Trumbo
Shirley Mae Tucker
Glenna Jean Turner
Henry C. Walker
George Julius Wood

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1956

John Cecil Adams
Mary Odell Bradshaw
Minnie Luverne Caldwell
John Thomas Davis
Norman R. Faulkner
Mary Lucinda Fields
Sally Mae Gae
Dorothy Mae Girten
Agnes Carroll Neal
William Pittman
Bettye Jean Segar
Audrey Singleton
Coleman Singleton
Raymond Warren
Delores Elizabeth Whitley

1957

Carl Jeffery Alcorn
Lythia Anne Adams
Barbara Anne Bright
Eugene Bright
Bessie Mae Cowan
John Eddie Doneghy
Curtis Allen Kinley
Joseph Edward Lewis
Georgia Alice Marshall
Rose Etta Marshall
Edward Miller
Gwendolyn Mae Napier
Alberta Faye Neal
Annette Marie Routt
Charlotte Anne Turner
Shirley Evelyn Young
James Leonard Curry
Edward Harlan

1958

Edith Mae Allen
Melvin C. Alcorn
Margaret V. Bates
James M. Daugherty
Henry Albert Fisher
John Thomas Girten
Rebecca W. Jenkins
Barbara Lee Mayfield
Lawrence G Robinson
Melissa Robinson
Jack B. Smalley
Michael M. Smith
Clara Ann Walker
Lula Hazel Young

1959

Harold Kenneth Alcorn
Homer Barleston
Viola Coffey
Donald Lloyd Davis
James Doram Jr.
James Monroe Doneghy
Charles Edward Farley
Joanne Faulkner
Estella Jones
Benjamin Garr
Barbara Mae Hill
Martha Ann Lockett
Johelen Mayfield
Carolyn Agnes Miller
James Ogle
William Eugene Pope
Sandra Marie Routt
George Webster Shannon
Lloyd Ann Segar
Roscoe Tucker Jr.
Elenor Whitley

1960

Jesse T. Adams
Glenn A. Ball
Barbara A. Coulter
Joyce Olivia Doram
Tyrone E. Doram
Clyde A. Girten
Charles D. Grey
Sarah L. Hamilton
John A. Harris
Patricia Elaine Jones
James A. Lewis
Elizabeth W. Linton
Florence O. Marshall
Kathryn M. Moran
Joseph Benjamin Napier
Mary A. Smalley
James A. Stallworth
Gene Earl Walker
Lonnie Sue Walker
John Lee Wilhite
Margaret Louise Yowell

1961

Betty Caldwell
Minnie Barleston
Leonard J. Bates
Theodore Fields
Leon R. Farley
Helen Guest
Mary J. Lockett
Martha Ann Mayfield
Masie Stallworth
Ella L. Johnson
Ethel N. Hunn
John H. Key
John Peters
Joe P. Routt
Harold Wilhite
Lenora Wilhite
Ralph Coulter
Clifford Napier
William Harlan
David Blake

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1962

Lucretia Barleston
Joseph Caldwell
Stella Denny
Thelma Gray
Mattie Ingram
Henry Keys
Georgia Lofton
Alonzo McGuire
Cecil Napier
Malvina Bernice Napier
Mayme Joyce Penman
Horace Ross
Lillie Raye Seawright
Judson Singleton
Norman Smith
Jay Henry Walker
George Wilhite
Patricia Wilhite
Tillie Yowell

1963

Patricia Ann Cohen
James Willian Coulter
Theodore Churrel Davis
Jessie Mae Diggs
Ann Maxine Faulkner
Curtis Lee Ford
George Gregory Hamilton
Joan Lewis
Mary Beatrice Napier
Larry Lawrence Spaulding
Annie Mae Simpson
William Anthony Warner
Rosa Ann Chenault

1964

Elijah Adams
Betty Barleston
Sharon Bedinger
Betty Bright
Terry Bruce
Rosann Chenault
Chester Coulter
George Fields
Mildred Fisher
Gary Ford
Anthony Gray
Gloria Johnson
Wilbur Johnson
Nancy Jones
Martha Leavell
Miller Lewis
Sarah Lewis
Ronald McCowan
James Mumford
Ronnie Pryor
Rosa Ross
Antionette Singleton
Christine Singleton
Judy Tresenwriter
Barbara Turner
Henry Walker
Robert A. Walker
Cairlyne Wilhite
James Franklin Curry