

Hollywood Colored School

Location: S2/T4/R6E

1938-1939 Gladys Robertson, 5 months at \$50

This was not a Rosenwald school. It was built too late to be included in this set of school. Mary Hunter was at one time principal at this school.



Archie was “about six or seven” when he started to school. “The first school I went to was located on county road 105 in Black Ankle, about a half mile from the house. It was in the St. James Baptist Church. We would go there in the summertime for about a month or six weeks, then we would go to a school in Hollywood. We had to walk to get to the school in Hollywood. It seemed like five miles, but it was only about three. If it was raining bad we didn’t go, we had no way to get there. The thing about it is that when we started we did not know our alphabet. So we spent the first two months in what we called the ABCs. The next year we had a primer, and we spent a year on it. And then we had the first grade. Once I spoke at Rainsville and was asked why I was so interested in Head Start, and I said it took me three years to get out of the first grade, and I didn’t want that to happen to anybody else.

“There was just one room in the church in Black Ankle for school. The girls had a privy but the boys had to go to the woods. We just had one teacher. We continued to go to Black Ankle in the summer and Hollywood in the winter into the sixth grade, but both together did not make up a whole year. If it was raining bad we might be late or we didn’t go, we didn’t have any way to get there. When I first went to Hollywood, it was in a separate building, and I remember that I thought it was big and high, but there was only one teacher. Then the number of students increased, and the PTA demanded another teacher, and they finally had two teachers when I was in the fifth and sixth grades. Then when I was in the seventh grade, in 1933, I believe, school opened the first of November, the weather was pretty that year, and daddy said we had to gather the cotton, and go to school after we got the cotton out. And of course we got the cotton out, and we got ready to go to school, but it lasted only one month. There was no money because of the depression, so we didn’t have any more school that year.”

Mr. Stewart recalls that back then boys would go to school until it was time to work and the girls went until they got married or got a job. “They got married pretty young.” His parents were different from most in that they encouraged Archie and his siblings to go to school. They “didn’t talk much about how much education they had, but from my understanding, they had about an eighth grade education. My mother was pretty good, she would hold a kerosene lamp and show me how to do fractions. My daddy taught us at home, too. But they didn’t have to make us study at home, we all wanted to learn. I don’t know that this was typical of other families, but the Johnson family was smart and competed with the Stewart family in school. Their parents must have pushed them.” Of course, the schools in Black Ankle and Hollywood were all black. “Equal opportunity in schools was not an issue or concern back then. I would think that blacks and whites got along together, but we didn’t have a lot of contact. At harvesting time, we would pick cotton together, no big thing about that, but we didn’t go to school together.”

As things turned out, the one month in the seventh grade at Hollywood was the last time Archie would attend school in Jackson County. “The next year, a black fellow named Walter Gravett, who was the extension agent for blacks in Jackson and Madison counties, came up and he was trying to get students to go to A&M. He asked my daddy about my going. Daddy said if I wanted to go, all right. I was about sixteen at that time, and I wanted to go, but I didn’t

want to leave my dad at the farm. Finally, I decided to go. I was in the seventh grade and went there as a work student. Most of the students there at that time were in high school. I worked all day, mostly in the kitchen, and then went to school two nights a week while I was in the seventh grade. In the eighth and ninth grades I went to school all day but worked some at night. We took mostly math and English in school there."


Mr. Stewart's education was interrupted the following year. "When I was in the tenth grade, I had to come home because my dad had a stroke and sat in a chair for two years, and I had to take up the family. I only went one semester that year.

And in the eleventh grade, I still had to gather crops, I didn't go but one semester. So the only high school work I had was one semester in the tenth grade and one in the eleventh. I never had the twelfth grade. I was in charge of the family. I did the best I could with them. Of course, I don't want to leave my adopted brother Robert. He was at home during

JACKSON COUNTY MONTICELLO, MONTICELLO, ALABAMA, 21

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS

This is one of a series of articles on Jackson County Schools



Hollywood Colored School

The school building is a two-story structure with a prominent chimney on the left side. It has a series of windows along the front facade and a small porch area. The building is surrounded by a lawn and some trees.

Stevens Rosewald School

The school building is a two-story structure with a prominent chimney on the left side. It has a series of windows along the front facade and a small porch area. The building is surrounded by a lawn and some trees.

Hickwood Colored School

The school building is a two-story structure with a prominent chimney on the left side. It has a series of windows along the front facade and a small porch area. The building is surrounded by a lawn and some trees.

Big jobs...

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News Items

respondent

More Contributors To Chest Fund

Hollywood colored school children

Blue Moon Cafe Mrs. Vain Kyle Family Reserve Insurance Co. Scottsboro Produce Co. Miss Opales Sentell

Mrs. Claud Terry of Tenn. visited relatives this week-end. and Mrs. Kyle Smith, Mr.

Progressive Age (Scottsboro, Alabama) - 05 Sep 1912, T

TRUSTEES SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale in a deed of trust in the nature of a mortgage executed by L. W. Hinshaw, J. L. Larkin, Joe Trinne, John J. Johnson and Reuben Searcy, Trustees to T. J. Roach as beneficiary and E. H. Caldwell, trustee, on the 1st day of April, 1893, and recorded in Mortgage Book 27, page 104, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Jackson County, Alabama, I, as such trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in front of the court house in Scottsboro, Alabama, on Monday, September 22d, 1912, the following described real estate to-wit: Six acres in the sw corner of sec. 35, tp. 3, r 6 east, in Jackson County, Alabama, known as the lot on which Hollywood colored public school is located.

This September 3, 1912.

363 E. H. Caldwell, Trustee.



