

Organization Name Change

Effective February 19, 2014, Virginia State Corporation Commission notified us that the name change request has been approved. We dropped the word "Alumni" from the organization's name. We are now officially **Russell Grove Association**. The change helps to clarify membership eligibility, not limited to graduates but for anyone who attended or was employed by Russell Grove schools.

Scholarships and Book Awards

RGA is proud to announce five (5) scholarships, including one honoring centurion, Henry Swann. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 or better, and affiliated a RGA student, alumnus, faculty, staff or employee.

Three (3) book awards are also available for students who need assistance during 2014-2015 school year. These students must be enrolled in a degree or an associate degree program at a two or four year accredited university or junior college. They also must be affiliates of RGA. Book award applications will be available after May 15, 2014. To receive the guidelines and an application, contact: Elaine Beard, (804) 794-6291 or email her at obeard620@comcast.net.

Brown Still Playing Baseball

Robert "Bobby" Brown, RG '61, was recognized (in the Richmond Times Dispatch) for his participation in the Senior Softball USA Tournament of Champions held in Tampa, FL in February. Brown has played ball for over 55 years, including playing with the RG Falcons in two undefeated state championships in 1960.



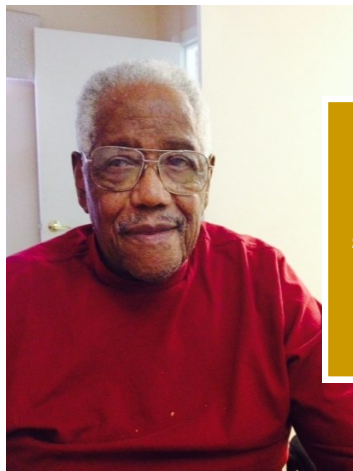
Russell Grove News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2014

Henry Swann, Class of 1937, Turns 100

Henry Swann doesn't have a secret to longevity but remembers hearing as a child that the long life lines in the palm of his hand foretold it. "I never thought I'd live this long, to be 100 years old." Mr. Swann enjoys good health and daily activities in a nursing home in Henrico County, VA.



Henry Swann, sole surviving member of Class of 1937

His memories of the Class of 1937, the first class to graduate from Russell Grove, are fond. Swann was 18 when he entered the new high school located atop the Presbyterian church. He agreed to enroll only to please his mother. If he didn't do well in the first marking period, he'd planned to drop out. On the day of reports cards, he waited for a quiet, obscure moment to glance down at his card, only to discover A's and B's. In fact, the good grades continued and he ranked number 3 in the 22-member class.

RGA Members and Youth Tour R. R. Moton Museum in Farmville



For full story, log on to the RGA website at www.russellgrovenews.com

THE MOTON SCHOOL STORY CHILDREN OF COURAGE
was made possible through generous contributions from:

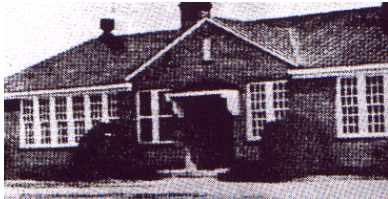
RUSSELL GROVE ASSOCIATION 2014 REUNION UPDATE

The 2014 RGA Reunion Planning Committee is working diligently to plan an exciting and enjoyable reunion. The activities will be held at the Sheraton Park Inn at 9901 Midlothian Turnpike. We have secured a block of rooms for Friday and Saturday night at the rate of \$89 per night per room. This rate expires August 16th. After that date, the rooms may cost in excess of \$150. Book early. (804) 323-1144.

On Friday night, the Class of 1964 will host a RGA Members Only Reception at the Sheraton. RGA members (\$15 membership fee must be paid) and one guest may attend. Applebee's Restaurant is across the parking lot for individuals who would like to have dinner, a drink or meet with others. The banquet will be held on Saturday evening. We will have open seating, tables will not be reserved. Attendees will pick up their name tent from the registration table and choose their seat. Cost of the banquet is \$45 per person. Registration materials will be mailed in June.

Tentatively, we are planning a RGA membership meeting on Saturday, around 4 or 5 PM. More details to follow.

The Reunion Planning Committee members are Garland Hicks '69, Gloria Williams, '69, Joyce Perkinson, '64, Herbert Hicks, '64, J. Vann Wilson, '64, Frank B. Tyler, Jr. '64, Joyce Hicks, '66, Viola Hicks, '71, Leslie Montague, '60, Marjorie Dudley, '57 and Brenda Johnson, '70, Chair. Contact Brenda at (804) 561-2722 or email her at bhicks52@aol.com for more information.

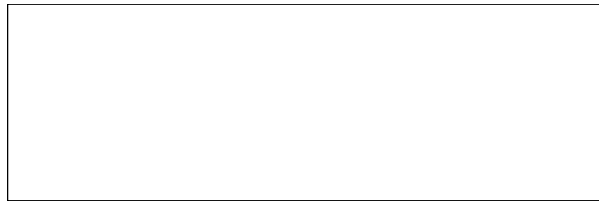


Russell Grove News

Russell Grove Alumni Association, Inc.
8701 Otterburn Road, Suite 103
P. O. Box 213
Amelia, Virginia 23002

Website Updated

Log onto RGA website:
www.russellgrovenews.com



Newsletter made possible by **RogJon Photography & Design**,
Sylvia Hicks, President/CEO

RGAA OFFICERS

Henry J. Featherston Jr.

President

LaVerne Johnson

Vice president

Sylvia Hicks

Secretary

Elaine Beard

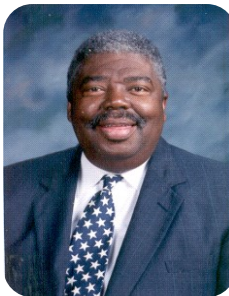
Assistant Secretary

Brenda Johnson

Treasurer

Della Montague

Financial Secretary



Dr. Featherston

Greeting!

We have had another great year. We are excited about the organization's official name change (**Russell Grove Association**) which will help us extend our membership to everyone who attended or worked at Russell Grove.

Our recent tour of the R.R. Moton Museum in Farmville reflected on the history of education for blacks in the segregated South and reminds us to cherish the rich legacy of Russell Grove. Your generosity allows us to continue to provide educational scholarships, mentoring programs and activities to meet the needs of children. Thank you.

The 2014 Reunion Weekend is just around the corner. Be sure to register early for this wonderful opportunity to fellowship with school-mates and friends. Stay in touch and feel free to share ideas and comments through the RGA email or call me directly at 561-2736.

Henry J. Featherston, Jr.

Missing the "Chicken Coop" School Bus

Reflections from Mabel W. Thronton RG '41

In September of 1937, my brother Raymond (number 9) and I enrolled in Russell Grove High School, Amelia County, VA. We did not enroll the first week of school because our bus fare had not been arranged. After the county P.T.A. arranged to pay mine for a year and Raymond was deemed age-eligible for an in-school job sponsored by the Federal Government, we were so happy that we could go to high school. Our brother Marion (number 8) was three years ahead of us. He had been riding with a lady from the community and had been the first of the eleven children to attend high school in the county.

This year, a bus was coming through our Truxillo community on the dirt road that led to the paved road. This bus had been put together by the driver who was an auto mechanic. He had built a "bus body" on top of a truck, with benches along the side and across the back for seats. This was not easy riding and sometimes the rattling and shaking caused the windows to slide out of place and we became victims to the snow, rain and winds. It was shaped like a chicken coop and that is what we called it.

We had been warned by our parents that we needed to be up, ready and on time for the bus because it did not wait for anyone. Raymond and I were a bit slow getting the message and we were left on two occasions. The first time we headed back home through the woods thinking Daddy would take us to school. We had a car then, but it was still being paid for and gas was a precious commodity not to be used to transport disobedient children to school. So we were simply asked, "Why are you coming back here?" So we turned around in our tracks and headed to school walking. We were blessed the first time. A gentleman from Cumberland who knew us as "Rev. Isaiah's children" stopped and offered us a ride. We also recognized him so we got in and he carried us to school. We had only walked about a mile.

The next time we never thought of going back home but struck out down the road hoping for the same luck as before. Not so, we had to walk every inch of the five miles. Neither of us was late again for any event over which we had control. Also we learned that no matter the shaking and rattling of the "Chicken Coop" bus, it was better than walking five miles.

Reprinted from the Springfield Memories Senior Citizens Home newsletter where Mrs. Thronton resides.

Ruth Ann Gills RG '65

Gertrude Hicks King RG '60



Charlie Wingo '60