

Etta Marie Simpson Ray

LOVE
Catherine Banks Banks

Tennessee State University Fall 2008 Opening Convocation



Welcoming

The Freshman Class of 2008

and Honoring

The Tennessee A & I University Fourteen
Freedom Riders



Observing
Constitution Day

Thursday, September 18, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Gentry Center Complex

Mary Jones Smith
9-18-08
El Senzenyaku Zulu
Al Zuhli
Sandra Mitchell

09/18/08

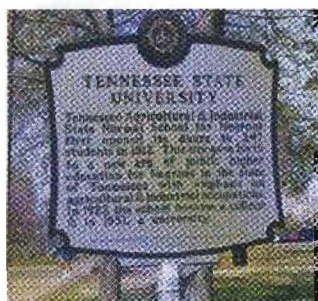
Let me continue!
J.M. Burt

Dora Toliver
Charles Butler

Allen Connor
9/19/08

9/19/08

History of Tennessee State University



Historical Marker
commemorating the
establishment of Tennessee
State University.

Tennessee State University is a comprehensive urban coeducational land-grant university founded in 1912 in Nashville, Tenn. The 450-acre main campus, with more than 65 buildings, is located in a residential setting; the Avon Williams Campus is located downtown, near the center of the Nashville business and government district.

Through successive stages, TSU has developed from a normal school for Negroes to its current status as a national university with students from 45 states and more than 50 countries. On July 1, 1979, the former University of Tennessee at Nashville was merged with TSU as a result of a court order in the 1968 Geier v. Tennessee case.

By virtue of a 1909 Act of the General Assembly, the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School was created, along with two other normal schools in the State of Tennessee, and began serving students on June 19, 1912. William Jasper Hale was appointed as head of the school. The original 247 students, along with the faculty and staff, operated as a family. Everyone worked to keep the institution running in its early years, from clearing rocks to harvesting crops to carrying chairs from class to class. In 1922, the institution was raised to the status of four-year teachers' college and was empowered to grant the bachelor's degree. The first degrees were granted in June 1924. During the same year, the institution became known as the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal College. In 1927, "Normal" was dropped from the name of the College.

As the college grew in scope and stature throughout the 1920s and 1930s, so too did its impressive roster of alumni who embodied the school's charge: "Enter to learn, go forth to serve." In 1943, when William Hale retired after more than 30 years at the school's helm, an alumnus was chosen to succeed him. From 1943 until his retirement in 1968, Walter S. Davis led the institution through an era of tremendous growth, in areas as multifaceted as academics, facilities and worldwide recognition. The General Assembly of 1941 authorized the State Board of Education to upgrade substantially the educational program of the College, which included the establishment of graduate studies leading to the master's degree. Graduate curricula were first offered in several branches of teacher education. The first master's degree was awarded by the College in June 1944.



The Floyd-Payne Campus
Center (left) and the
McWherter Administration
Building (right).

Accreditation of the institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was first obtained in 1946. In August 1951, the institution was granted university status by approval of the State Board of Education. The reorganization of the institution's educational program included the establishment of the Graduate School, the School of Arts & Sciences, the School of Education and the School of Engineering. Provisions were also made for the later addition of other schools in agriculture, business and home economics.

In 1988, the university received an unprecedented \$112 million from the state general assembly for capital improvements. Under this plan, nearly all buildings on campus have been renovated, and eight new buildings have been constructed, including the Floyd-Payne Campus Center, the Ned McWherter Administration Building, the Wilma Rudolph Residence Center and the Performing Arts Center. Currently, the downtown campus is undergoing an \$18.5 million renovation project. Through its eight colleges and schools, the TSU of today offers 43 bachelor's degrees and 26 master's degrees, and awards doctoral degrees in six areas: biological sciences, computer information systems engineering, psychology, public administration, curriculum and instruction, and administration and supervision. The university has been served by the following presidents:

William Jasper Hale	1912-1943
Walter S. Davis	1943-1968
Andrew P. Torrence	1968-1974
Frederick S. Humphries	1975-1985
Otis L. Floyd	(interim) 1986-1987, 1987-1990
James A. Hefner	1991-2005
Melvin N. Johnson	2005-Present



Convocation Program



Presiding
Dr. Robert L. Hampton
Provost/Executive Vice President

Prelude	University Wind Ensemble
Posting of Colors.....	AFROTC Detachment 790
Music.....	"The Star Spangled Banner" University Wind Ensemble
Processional	Faculty and Staff Platform Party
Music.....	University Choir Ms. Diana Poe, Director
Introduction of Platform Party.....	Dr. John Cade Associate VP Enrollment Management
Greetings	University Representatives
Tennessee Board of Regents	Dr. Charles W. Manning, Chancellor
Faculty Senate	Mr. Sammy L. Comer, Chair
Staff Senate	Ms. Mary Gamble, Chair
Student Government Association	Mr. Patrick Walker Reese, President
Introduction of Speaker.....	Dr. Melvin N. Johnson President of the University
Keynote Speaker	Reverend C. T. Vivian Civil Rights Movement Advocate
Presentation of Candidates for Honorary Degrees.....	Provost Hampton Tennessee A & I Freedom Riders 14
Conferring of Degrees.....	Doctor of Humane LettersPresident Johnson
Music	Salute to First-Year Students/Scholarship Recipients University Wind Ensemble
Salute to the United States Constitution..."America the Beautiful"	University Wind Ensemble
The Alma Mater	University Wind Ensemble
Retiring of the Colors.....	AFROTC
Recessional	Platform Party, Faculty, and Staff

Reverend C. T. Vivian Civil Rights Movement Advocate



A close friend and lieutenant of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend C. T. Vivian was born Cordy Tindell Vivian, July 28, 1924 in Howard, Missouri. As a small boy he migrated with his mother to Macomb, Illinois, where he attended Lincoln Grade School and Edison Junior High School. Vivian graduated from Macomb High School in 1942 and went on to attend Western Illinois University in Macomb, where he worked as the sports editor for the school newspaper. His first professional job was recreation director for the Carver Community Center in Peoria, Illinois. There, Vivian participated in his first sit-in demonstrations, which successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria in 1947.

Studying for the ministry at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1959, Vivian met Rev. James Lawson, who was teaching Mahatma Ghandhi's nonviolent direct action strategy to the Student Central Committee. Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, James Bevel, James Forman, John Lewis and other students from American Baptist, Fisk University and Tennessee State University executed a systematic non-violent campaign for justice. On April 19, 1960, 4,000 demonstrators marched on City Hall where Vivian and Diane Nash challenged Nashville Mayor Ben West. As a result, Mayor West publicly agreed that racial discrimination was morally wrong. Many of those students became part of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1961, Vivian, now a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) participated in Freedom Rides replacing injured members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Vivian was appointed to the executive staff of the SCLC in 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., named him national director of affiliates. Two years later, in an incident that would make national news, Vivian confronted Sheriff Jim Clark on the steps of the Selma courthouse during a voter registration drive. After an impassioned speech by Vivian, Clark struck him on the mouth, portraying Clark to the world as a racist. In 1969, Vivian wrote the first book on the modern-day Civil Rights Movement, entitled *Black Power and the American Myth*. During these years, he also started a program entitled Vision, sending students from Alabama to college; the program later came to be known as Upward Bound. By 1979, Vivian had organized and was serving as chairman of the board of the National Anti-Klan Network, which is known today as the Center for Democratic Renewal.

Vivian is also the founder of the Black Action Strategies and Information Center (BASIC), a workplace consultancy on race relations and multicultural training. In 1999, Vivian turned the leadership of BASIC over to one of his sons.

Vivian recently launched a new organization (Churches Supporting Churches) in response to the help needed for the victims and churches affected by Hurricane Katrina.



Tennessee A & I Freedom Riders 14

Catherine Burks-Brooks, one of six children, was born in Birmingham, AL. As a student at Tennessee State, she joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. Her participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in her arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days. Upon her return to Nashville, she had been expelled from Tennessee State. She and husband, Paul Brooks, another Freedom Rider, continued their civil rights work in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, North and South Carolina and Mississippi. After the Tennessee court ruled in favor of expelled students, she returned and completed her degree. She has taught elementary school, owned her own business and worked for the Avon Corporation. Ms. Brooks is presently a substitute elementary school teacher and proud grandmother of Kwame Charles Gatlin.

Charles Butler, one of six children, was born in Charleston, SC. He entered Tennessee State in 1960 majoring in Psychology. He joined the Student Central Committee and participated in sit-ins, stand-ins and marches. In 1961, he volunteered to join the Freedom Rides and spent more than 30 days in prison. He was drafted and fought in the Vietnam War. Mr. Butler died December 20, 2000 leaving a legacy of service to his country.

Allen Cason, Jr., one of three children was born in Orlando, FL. At Tennessee State, he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. His participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in arrests and imprisonment in Jackson, MS. Upon his return to Nashville, he discovered he had been expelled. He then began work as a hospital technician followed by child psychology technician and even worked as the hospital lifeguard. He is the father of four sons, a Shriner, and a thirty-second degree Mason. He is currently semi-retired and owns his own landscaping business.

William E. Harbour, one of eight children, was born in Piedmont, AL. He entered Tennessee State in 1960 and joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council. He participated in sit-ins, stand-ins, picketing and marches. His participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in his arrest and imprisonment for 39 days. Mr. Harbour was expelled from Tennessee State but was reinstated after the case of *Pauline Knight et. al. v Tennessee State Board of Education et. al.* and graduated in 1964. He taught school, worked for the federal government and retired in 1998. Mr. Harbour and wife Doris have one son, Marcus, a 1990 graduate of TSU. He is an active alumnus of the University and has a scholarship sponsored by the Atlanta Alumni Association, the William E. Harbour Academic Scholarship.

Larry F. Hunter was born in 1942. He began at Tennessee State in 1960 where he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. His participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in arrest and imprisonment for 39 days. Upon his return to Nashville, he found he had been expelled from Tennessee State. He applied for conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War and was denied. Mr. Hunter made the excruciating decision to exit the United States and lived and worked in Canada for ten years. After review of his case, all charges were dropped. Mr. Hunter began working with street gangs in a social worker capacity with Jobs Now. Presently, he works for the DeKalb County school system as driver education and range instructor.

Frederick Leonard, one of three children, was born in Chattanooga, TN. He entered Tennessee State and joined the Nashville Civil Rights Movement. He demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. His participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in his arrest and imprisonment for 39 days. Upon return to Nashville, he discovered he had been expelled from the University. He then married Joy Reagon, another TSU Freedom Rider. They continued their work in the movement in Tennessee, Illinois, North and South Carolina and Mississippi. Mr. Leonard moved to Detroit and worked for the Chrysler Corporation as well as owned his own business. He is presently retired but has been actively involved in civil rights work throughout his life and is a member of the Nashville Civil Rights Legacy Foundation.

William B. Mitchell, Jr. was born in 1942 in Oklahoma City, OK. He graduated from Douglass High School and entered Tennessee State in 1960. His civil rights activity led him to imprisonment in Mississippi and expulsion from the University. He entered the University of Central Oklahoma but was drafted to serve in the Vietnam War. Determined to finish his education, Mr. Mitchell received a BS and Masters degree from Langston University. He became a high school teacher and principal. He and wife, Sandra had four children. William Benjamin Mitchell, Jr. died November 24, 2003.

Pauline Knight-Ofosu was born in Nashville, TN, one of ten children to Grover and Florence Durette Knight. She graduated from Pearl High in 1958 and began at Tennessee State where her father had been employed for many years. In 1960, she became an active member of the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council. She participated in the Freedom Rides, which resulted in her arrest and imprisonment in Jackson, MS and expulsion from the University. Ms. Knight-Ofosu and other Tennessee State Freedom Riders filed a lawsuit, *Pauline Knight, et. al. v Tennessee State Board of Education et. al.* The ruling resulted in her reinstatement and she graduated in 1962. She worked as a medical technologist for five years and then in 1967 began work with the Environmental Protection Agency. She retired in 1994 to spend time with her daughter, Durette and presently enjoys working in her flower garden.

Ernest Rip Patton was born in Nashville, TN. He entered Tennessee State in 1958 as a Music major and became a member of the Aristocrat of Bands. He joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. His participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in arrest and imprisonment for over 60 days. After his expulsion from the University, he worked for the Congress of Racial Equality in New York and returned to Nashville in 1962, continuing his musical career with various groups. A professional long haul driver, he has been employed in this arena for over 20 years. Mr. Patton continues to participate in civil rights activities, continues his music interest as a member of the Pearl Cameron Community Choir and plays music for different churches. Mr. Patton has one son, Michael A. Patton.

Etta Marie Simpson Ray, one of eleven children, was born in Nashville, TN. Mrs. Ray entered Tennessee State in 1960 and was recruited by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to promote social change. She demonstrated against racial intolerance in Nashville, Alabama and Georgia. The Freedom Rides resulted in her arrest and imprisonment for over 30 days. After expulsion, she married William Earl Ray and had one son, Robert Anthony Ray. She became a school bus driver for the Metro Nashville school system where she is presently employed. She is an active member of Scotts Avenue Church of Christ. Mrs. Ray's life focus has been dedication and service to others.

Mary Jean Smith was born in Nashville, TN and enrolled in Tennessee State pursuing a major in Elementary Education. She joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. Her participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in her arrest, imprisonment and expulsion from Tennessee State. Upon reinstatement to the University, she attended for a short period before joining the medical support staff of Meharry Hospital and later Centennial Medical Center Women's Hospital. She is a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church and continues to make speeches regarding the Civil Rights movement. She has two children, Michael and Kimberly and a thirteen year old shih tsu, Casey.

Frances Wilson was born in Nashville, TN. She entered Tennessee State and joined the Nashville Civil Rights Movement. She demonstrated in sit-ins, stand-ins and other civil rights activities. Her participation in the Freedom Rides resulted in her arrest and imprisonment for 39 days. Upon return to Nashville, she discovered she had been expelled from the University. The search for current information regarding Ms. Wilson continues.

Clarence Melvin Wright, one of ten children, was born in Mason, TN. Mr. Wright worked with his family as they participated in voter registration drives. His experience as a Freedom Rider and study of non-violent principles and practices helped clarify his community work in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Detroit. He married Elnora Ellis and was the father of six children. While in Detroit, he worked for Conrail and was an independent security contractor. Mr. Wright died in 1974 leaving a legacy of passion for education and belief in justice and non-violence.

El-Senzengakulu Zulu, (formerly Lester G. McKinnie), one of five children, was born in Bolivar, TN. At Tennessee State, he joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council. He participated in sit-ins, stand-ins, pickets and marches. As a result of his participation in the Freedom Rides, he was arrested and imprisoned for over 30 days. Baba Zulu was chair of the Student Central Committee in Nashville while completing his degree at Tennessee State. He worked in the Civil Rights movement for many years in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. He founded the Ujamaa School in Washington, DC in 1968 and has been its director for the past 39 years. Baba Zulu has eight children, all of which are in professional arenas, a testament to his belief in education and self-determination.

Scholarship Recipients – Fall 2008 New Students

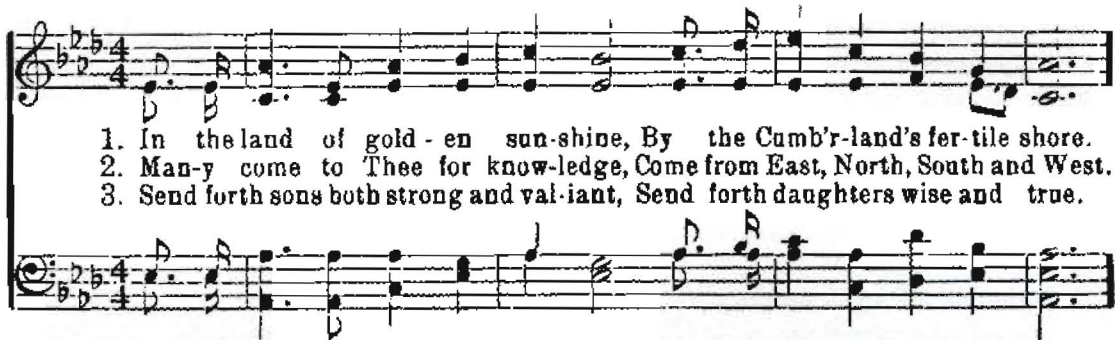
Last Name	First Name	MI	Major	Scholarships
Anderson	Kalimah		DH	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Anderson	Jasmine	J	NUBS	Building Bridges Grant
Armstrong	Deanna	C	NUBS	Building Bridges Grant
Bailey	Megan	M	HS	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Bather	Justin	B	BADM	Academic Work Scholarship
Becker	Michael		BADM	Building Bridges Grant
Bell	Quanisha	C	NUBS	Academic Work Scholarship
Berry	Ryan	A	SPCH	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Blackmon	Micah		MEEN	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Bolden	Jacqueline	M	NUAS	Academic Work Scholarship
Brown	Jeana	E	BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Brown	Kimberly	N	ACCT	Academic Work Scholarship
Burke	Susanne	L	HPSS	Building Bridges Grant
Burton	Kayla	N	BADM	Academic Work Scholarship
Coleman	Ashia	C	BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Cook	Kenesia	L	NDUG	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Dickerson	Erica	S	BIO	Building Bridges Grant
Douglas	Ayeshia	D	PSY	Academic Work Scholarship
Dozier	Colton	J	MEEN	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Farmer	Stephanie	L	ACCT	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Foust	James	R	ELEN	Academic Work Scholarship
Foy	Mari-Ashli		BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Giles	Jeanishra	K	HS	Academic Work Scholarship
Gist	Renetra	R	NDUG	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Gladney	Miranda	D	BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Green	Jermeca		UDUG	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Harris	Carmell	M	BIO	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Harvell	Olivia	N	BIO	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Hawkins	Alicia	J	CHEM	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Hayden	Terri	N	MT	Building Bridges Grant
Hayes	Brittaney	N	PSCI	Building Bridges Grant
Hedrick	Megan	B	PSCI	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Jones	Ashley	N	UDUG	Academic Work Scholarship
Kimes	Malcolm	S	BADM	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Kimes	Maurice		UDUG	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Kimes	Myron	S	BIS	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Lee	Ledarron	M	AREN	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Lopez	John	C	MEEN	Building Bridges Grant
McFerren	Brandon		ENG	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
McGaha	Michael	D	ECFN	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Milem	Toarian	D	CS	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Moon	Devin	J	PSCI	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Moore	Robert	T	PSY	Building Bridges Grant
Morgan	Camill	M	UDUG	Academic Work Scholarship
Parker	Gabrielle	S	ACCT	Academic Work Scholarship
Patterson	Jasmine	N	CIEN	Academic Work Scholarship

Pendilton	Breanna	Z	ENG	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Perry	Tierra	A	SPCH	Building Bridges Grant
Pope	Kellye	A	BADM	Academic Work Scholarship
Poston	Carice	L	BIS	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Powell	Kristin	N	BIO	Building Bridges Grant
Pryor	Tyranny	A	BIO	Academic Work Scholarship
Reid	Jacqueline	A	BIO	Academic Work Scholarship
Robinson	Tallor		NUBS	Academic Work Scholarship
Simmons	Kiara	K	ASCI	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Simmons	Calvin		AREN	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Sloan	Keyara	A	ECFN	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Smith	Janine	A	DH	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Spencer	Tabreka	L	CJ	Academic Work Scholarship
Swearinger	Jasmine	E	ECCD	Academic Work Scholarship
Talley	Tonesha		BADM	Academic Work Scholarship
Thomas	Tyronecia		ENG	Academic Work Scholarship
Tyler	Lauren	E	BIO	Building Bridges Grant
Watson	Christina	D	FCS	Academic Work Scholarship
Willis	Richard	K	CS	Academic Work Scholarship
Wilson	Shatira	J	BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier
Wiseman	Cecily	N	AREN	Academic Higher Achiever Scholarship
Woods	Joseph	L	BIO	Academic Out of State Tuition Wavier

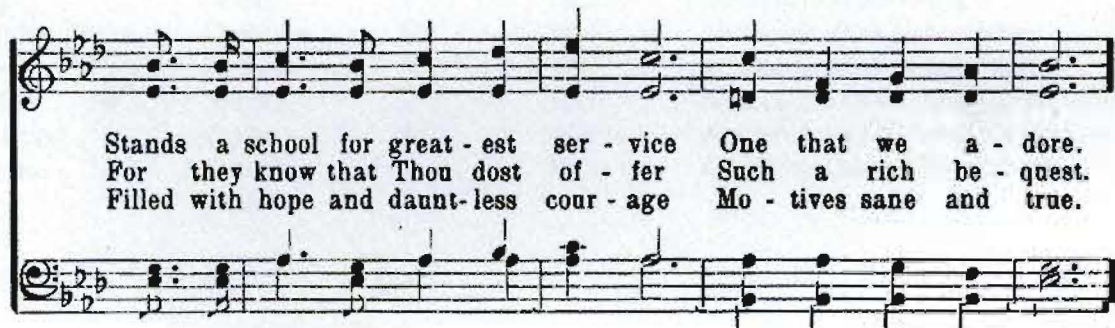
Alma Mater

L. M. Averitte

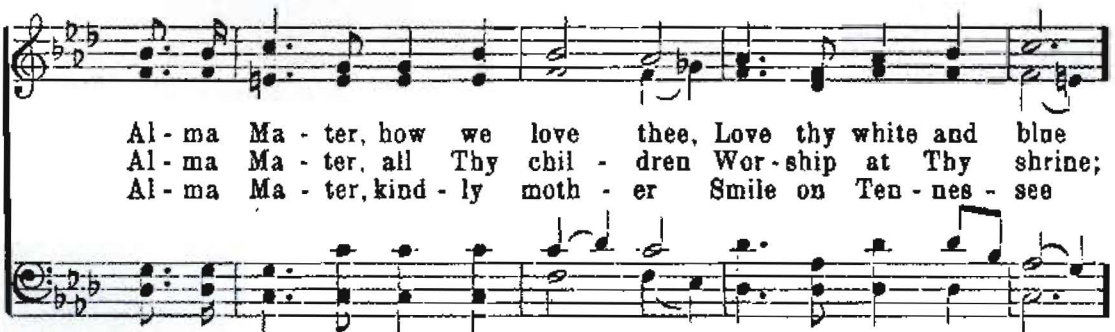
Clarence Hayden Wilson



1. In the land of gold - en sun-shine, By the Cumb'r-land's fer-tile shore.
2. Man-y come to Thee for know-ledge, Come from East, North, South and West.
3. Send forth sons both strong and val-iant, Send forth daughters wise and true.



Stands a school for great - est ser - vice One that we a - dore.
For they know that Thou dost of - fer Such a rich be - quest.
Filled with hope and daunt-less cour - age Mo - tives sane and true.



Al - ma Ma - ter, how we love thee, Love thy white and blue
Al - ma Ma - ter, all Thy chil - dren Wor-ship at Thy shrine;
Al - ma Ma - ter, kind - ly moth - er Smile on Ten - nes - see



May we strive to meet Thy man - dates With faith that's true.
May the God of na - tions bless thee With gifts di - vine.
May she lift her head toward heav - en Honor Country, God and Thee.