

**Reminiscences and Highlights of the
History of the Russell High School Band:
60 years of Service and Excellence**

Volume I: 1923-1950



BY

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Dedication

“Education, like faith, is a ladder reaching from darkness to light from earth to heaven. Each one possesses a ladder, varying in size and strength according to the innate aspirations and the varied experiences on the individual builders.”¹

A Final Farewell Salute to Russell High School and a Welcome to the new Tri-Cities High School occurred in a special ceremony on 8 June 1988. Part of the ceremony included a musical selection by the Russell Band, thus ending the 60-year tradition of ensembles that went by the name Russell High School Band. This story is dedicated to the large number of honorable music students who came through the doors of the Russell High School band room from 1928 through 1988 and who chose to give of themselves and extend their musical ladders to enormous heights.

Purpose

This study attempts to offer research and documentation of historical items and events surrounding the 60-year history of the Russell Band. A history of this magnitude is never complete. At some exhaustive and logical point, one stops and organizes the information into a presentable format. Simply put, you just have to let it go. At present, however, research is ongoing, for Russell Band details continue to be uncovered.

Information for this document has been gleaned primarily from a complete set of the Russell High *Pointer* yearbooks, the *Southside Sun*, various issues of the Russell High newspaper, the *Russell Wildcat*, housed at the East Point Historical Society, microform reels of the *Fulton County Reporter* and *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* archived at the

¹ Carolyn Walker Nottingham and Evelyn Hannah, “Schools of Thomaston & Upson County,” chapter in The Early History of Upson County, 603. Vidalia, Georgia, Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1969.

University of Georgia, and *Atlanta Constitution* reels at Columbus State University (GA). Selected documents have been utilized at the Fulton County Schools Museum South in Hapeville.

While many people contacted personally and by e-mail supplied valuable material, some who were asked did not respond. It is unfortunate that their information and that of others who perhaps were unaware of this research was not included. Hopefully, the absence of some information contained here will motivate readers to submit contributions to make Volume 1 more complete and that this research on the Russell High School Band will continue. Perhaps a later edition of this volume may possibly include new material that that is not found here.

Interesting observations abound throughout this volume, but two themes are remarkable and appear consistently throughout the years chronicled here. First, the Russell Band was deeply committed to service to the school and the East Point/Atlanta communities at large as evidenced by the overwhelming number of public performances detailed in the academic years contained within the scope of this volume. Since the Russell Band was a unit of the Russell ROTC, the group was active and performed regularly at most ROTC events, such as weekly “Pass-and-Review” intra-school inspections and end-of-year ROTC competitions with other area high schools. For football season, the band performed pep music and halftime shows at home games and many away games. During the school year, the band was also called upon regularly to provide musical interludes for weekly Russell High student chapel assemblies and evening PTA programs. Additionally, the Russell Band participated in downtown East Point and Atlanta parades on average about ten times per year. Taken as a whole, the

sheer number of annual appearances is astounding and dwarfs those of contemporary high school bands.

The second theme involves the overarching impact of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller. Whether it was his direct influence and work as the Russell band director or his indirect support and facilitator of Russell Band activities while serving as the Russell head principal, the story of the Russell Band's first 25 years is the legacy of Roy Drukenmiller. As a person, he was a deeply spiritual, patriotic, and musically talented man who presented himself as a dedicated and tireless professional, and who was revered by his students and colleagues alike. The pages overflow with numerous examples of his hard work and dedication to Russell High. Undoubtedly, Roy Drukenmiller can be counted as among the best from what Tom Brokaw later described as America's greatest generation.

In Gratitude

A project of this magnitude would not be possible without the support and assistance from numerous people and organizations. Gratitude is offered to the Teaching Museum South, living Russell High Band Directors, and numerous Russell alumni who provided materials that proved to be very beneficial. Recognition is also extended to Herb Cox for festival results and to Steve Bramlett of the East Point Historical Society (EPHS) who assisted in the early stages of the research. A great amount of gratitude goes to Charles Strickland, President of the EPHS, Charles Chambers, Thursday EPHS host and 1945 Russell graduate, and other officers and volunteers of the EPHS, who have been extremely helpful during the latter time frame of this study. Gratitude is also extended to Leslie Chambers Champion, Mr. Chambers' daughter, who spent a great deal of time editing this manuscript and making it a better work to read.

A special word of thanks goes to Bill Prescott, my Russell Band Director, mentor, and long-time personal friend, for his service and untiring efforts at Russell, and who gave Russell and East Point some of the most memorable moments in the 60-year history of the Russell High School Band. It was an honor to have him as my band director. I have been fortunate to have him as a second father, whose inspiration provided me a life and career in music education.

William Enrico Fry
Russell High Band '71

History

City of East Point

Shortly after the Civil War, New South cities such as Birmingham and Atlanta experienced tremendous growth. East Point, positioned just to the south of the Atlanta city limits, experienced growth as well, and was considered at one point to be the 8th largest city in Georgia.²

The area known as East Point was first settled in the early 1820s and was primarily an agricultural area that grew to about 16 families up until the beginning of the Civil War.³ During the 1840s and 1850s, Atlanta was a hub for numerous railroads, one of which was the Atlanta & LaGrange Railroad. The easternmost point of that branch of the rail became known as East Point. Post Office records refer to East Point by 1851.⁴

² Rebecca Foltz Dodd, "East Point, Georgia: A History, 1821-1930" (Thesis, Georgia State University, 1971), iii.

³ Ibid, 3.

⁴ Ed. Records of the Postmaster, DeKalb and Fulton County, quoted in Garrett, Atlanta And Environs: A Chronicle of the People and Events. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1969; reprint of book first published in 1954), I., 6, 333.

Growth after the Civil War was enhanced by railroad access and geographical proximity to Atlanta. East Point first incorporated on August 10, 1887; a revision of the Charter in 1891 contained the provision to establish a free school system. In 1896 Central School opened for white students; African-American students attended school in church and lodges. By 1916, increased population in East Point led to overcrowding in Central (which had been renamed East Point High School), leading to the establishment of Harris Street School on land donated by John J. Eagan.⁵

Russell High School

John Eagan was a wealthy industrialist who agreed to donate ten additional acres of land for the construction of a new high school in 1923. Eagan stipulated that the school be named for his uncle, William A. Russell, a Confederate captain, who became a successful businessman in the East Point area in the late 19th Century. The new Russell High School opened in the fall of 1923 and resided in the old East Point High location until the new facility was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1924. Russell High opened for its first full year of operation in the new building in the fall of 1924 with 300 students, 10 teachers, and a graduating class of 17.⁶ The physical facility, located in Jefferson Park, contained 12 classrooms, a large auditorium, a science lab, and a state of the-art commercial department. The school was described as beautiful, spacious, and modern and was the pride of East Point.⁷ As was the case since the inception of education in East

⁵ Tonja Frazier, ed., "Short History of Russell High School," *The Pointer* (Yearbook), 1984, 3.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Anne S. Larcom, "Centennial Chronology of East Point History, 1887-1987," Typed manuscript commissioned by City of East Point, 1987: Part II, 28; located at the East Point Historical Society, East Point, GA.

Point, Russell High continued to operate independently of the Fulton County School System.

Over the years, a number of additions were made to the original building. When all East Point schools merged with the Fulton County School System in 1927, a decision was made that Russell would stand as the sole high school serving South Fulton County. A necessary expansion to fulfill this role added 13 new classrooms, a fully equipped home economics department, an armory, cafeteria, and a modernized science department. The \$105,000.00 addition was celebrated with a Masonic Cornerstone laying on 5 September 1928 with W. S. Richardson, Grand Master, officiating and Col. Ed L. Humphreys, President, East Point Chamber of Commerce, in charge of programming.⁸ The consolidation of schools in East Point, Hapeville, and College Park produced a new Russell High attendance zone that served over 1,200 students. Over the next ten years, overcrowding at Russell became an issue, which resulted in Hapeville and College Park students returning to new high schools in their respective communities by 1940.

The first Russell gymnasium was built in 1935 and an industrial wing was added in 1936. A renovation in 1943 provided space for a modern library. New books for the library were made possible by a \$1,000.00 donation by Ralph Ramsey, a former principal at Fulton High, in 1942. A building expansion in 1950 added new classrooms, library, and spacious music rooms. A new gym was constructed in 1955. The cafeteria was renovated in 1968, and a final addition, a classroom building, was added to the front of the school in January 1973.

⁸ Clark Howell, ed., "East Point Will Celebrate School Cornerstone Laying," *Atlanta Constitution*, 26 August 1928, 17 A.

Early in its existence, the Russell Band rehearsed in a room in the Mechanical Arts and Tech Building. Later, the band department moved into a wing of the new 1955 Gymnasium addition. A separate music annex, housing the Band, Orchestra, and Chorus, was built in 1962 and served as the music rehearsal facilities site until Russell ceased to exist in 1988, when the school was totally leveled and rebuilt on the same location with the name of Tri-Cities High.



Russell High School 1948

Russell High School Band

In 1928, Russell High organized a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) that functioned as an important part of the curriculum over the years. The Russell Band began in 1928 as an organization attached to ROTC. Female students participated only as Drum Majorettes starting in 1939. Ten years later, at the beginning of

the 1949-1950 school year, the band became co-ed with the addition of eleven female band students. The Russell Band became an independent, non-ROTC ensemble in 1952.

The baton Majorette auxiliary was added in 1948-49, while the Russellette Dance and Drill Team Corps became a part of the band in 1960. A Flag Corps was added for the fall 1973 marching season.

While this document is intended to be a history of the Band program, much mention is made of the ROTC department. From a practical standpoint, the Russell Band was a fully functioning unit of the Russell ROTC Department from 1928 until 1952. When the Band ceased being an attachment of the ROTC and began to be offered as a fine arts elective in 1952, the band officers – Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant – continued in the official ROTC officer structure through the 1960s. Additionally, the Band continued to perform ROTC functions, such as “Pass-and-Review” parade music, at Russell ROTC inspections during the Band’s post-ROTC years.

Russell High Band Directors

Particularly important in the Band history of Russell were the dedicated and highly qualified band directors who led the Band at various points along the 60-year time line. The band director job was not a full-time position until the 1948-1949 school year. Those who served prior to that time usually did double duty in other Russell departments. Numerous directors over the years were members of the Atlanta Symphony while serving at Russell High, and many went on to substantial and influential careers after their Russell days.

1928-1930: Harry P. Carpenter

1930-1941: Roy Drukenmiller (and Science Department)

1941-1942: Hoyt Griffin (and English Department)

1942-1943: Jack Swartz

1943-1946: Charles E. Taylor (and Science Department)

1946-1947: Capt. Warren T. Jackson

1947-1948: Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., a temporary substitute assisted by Cadet Captain Gene Carter; Robert B. Waggoner (mid-year replacement)

1948-1950: Harold W. Alenius

1950-1951: Manly C. Sanders/James Hopperstad/Charles Warren Little

1951-1952: Richard Hansberry

1952-1955: James M. Hopperstad

1955-1959: Frank V. Lentini

1959-60 Jim Lloyd; Roy Drukenmiller (Guest Conductor); Dan Hough (mid-year replacement)

1960-1963: John David Wiggins

1963-1967: William O. Latson

1967-1973: William Prescott

1973-1976: Larry Freund

1976-1979: Larry Sims

1979-1981: David Lee

1981-1984: Jim Littlefield

1984-1985: Frank Banton

1985-1988: Samuel Jay Hutcherson, Jr.

Band Director Biographical Sketches

H. P. Carpenter: 1928-1930

Born and educated in New York, H. P. Carpenter was a military musician in World War I. Mr. Carpenter taught woodwinds and music for various Atlanta music stores from about 1927 to 1931. During this period of time, Mr. Carpenter organized and directed the Russell Band. Mr. Carpenter retired to Florida in the 1940s and passed away in Tampa, Florida on 5 September 1975.

Roy Drukenmiller: 1930-1941

Roy Drukenmiller died suddenly at the age of 63 on 23 May, 1960, while working on the job as the Fulton County Instrumental Music Supervisor. According to the 24 May 1960 *Atlanta Constitution* obituary, Mr. Drukenmiller was born in Camden, New



Jersey, but spent most of his life in Atlanta. In a reference to Drukenmiller's early career, the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* wrote:

...While still a young man, he has the unique distinction of having started his career as a teacher at the age of 16; this was in Tifton, Georgia. During the World War, he was a teacher in New York for the government before he was 21.⁹

At the time of his death, Drukenmiller had served a total of 32 years in the Fulton County School System.¹⁰

⁹ C. N. Martin, ed., "East Point Fellowship Class to Hear Russell Orchestra Sunday," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 15 May 1936, 1.

¹⁰ Clark Howell, ed., "Roy Drukenmiller Dies; School Music Director," *Atlanta Constitution*, 24 May 1960, 23.

While Drukenmiller's service as the Band Director at Russell is certainly the main focus of this history, it is important to note his primary duty at Russell was that of Chemistry teacher and Science Department chairman. These science responsibilities taken alone would have been a full-time job for most teachers; yet, Drukenmiller performed his science duties simultaneously with those of director of instrumental music activities at Russell. As a branch of the ROTC Corps at Russell, Drukenmiller's main band music responsibility revolved around numerous ROTC duties, such as inspections, parades, football games, etc., along with extremely frequent performances in weekly chapel, evening concerts, and PTA meetings. In addition, Drukenmiller was organizer and director of numerous ancillary and related music groups, such as orchestra, dance band, small ensembles, and even a German Band, to name but a few. Taken as a sum total, Drukenmiller's dedication and devotion to Russell, as reflected through the sheer number of his activities, was especially impressive.

Drukenmiller certainly was remembered for his work in education; however, service in many areas outside his profession was particularly noteworthy. The *Atlanta Constitution* obituary highlighted a number of Drukenmiller's volunteer activities with community and civic groups, including with the Yaarab Temple Shrine Band (Director Emeritus), Inter-Civitan Club (Past President), and East Point American Legion Post 51 (Past Commander). Concerning a pre-war speech at the American Legion, an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* writer noted:

“At the regular meeting of the East Point American Legion Monday night, a masterful address on Americanism was delivered by Legionnaire Roy Drukenmiller of the Russell High School faculty. Drukenmiller brought a

message of duty and loyalty to our government in these days of danger and fifth column activities.”¹¹

Another noteworthy volunteer activity included Drukenmiller’s chairmanship of several recording-breaking East Point Red Cross Drives in the 1940s. Reflecting on the 14-30 March 1944 Red Cross Drive, Drukenmiller wrote:

“Let me take this opportunity of expressing to the people of East Point my deepest appreciation for the splendid cooperation received in the recent Red Cross Drive. Although our quota was increased to nearly double that of last year, the people responded with the same loyalty and enthusiasm they have always manifested in similar campaigns before.”¹²

After the 1947 Red Cross Drive, Drukenmiller expressed his gratitude yet again, stating, “The citizens of East Point again displayed their fine spirit of public service and cooperation by surpassing their quota in the 1947 Red Cross Fund Campaign.”¹³

In December 1940, Drukenmiller was appointed as a Lieutenant Colonel to the Georgia Governor’s staff. As announced in *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, “Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, member of the faculty of Russell H.S., has received notification from Adjutant-General Marion Williamson of his appointment as a Lt. Colonel on the Governor’s staff.....many friends of Mr. Drukenmiller wish to congratulate him upon this honor.”¹⁴

¹¹ C. N. Martin, ed., “Roy Drukenmiller Speaks at Meeting of American Legion,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 20 September 1940, 1.

¹² C. N. Martin, ed., “East Point raises over \$6,000.00 in Red Cross Drive; Quota \$5,000.00,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 31 March 1944, p. 1.

¹³ C. N. Martin, ed. “Red Cross Drive Again Surpasses Quota in East Point, *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 17 April 1947, 1.

¹⁴ C. N. Martin, ed. “Roy Drukenmiller Lieutenant Colonel on Governor’s Staff,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 20 December 1940, 1.

Drukenmiller's professional affiliations were particularly impressive. He was not only a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, the National Education Fraternity comprised of numerous superintendents, principals, and public school teachers, but also served as president of the Georgia Alpha-Epsilon Chapter. Indeed, President Drukenmiller and the Kappa Phi Kappa voted in favor of a resolution requesting a special session of the legislature to address a school-funding crisis.¹⁵

Several news articles revealed Drukenmiller's interest in labor issues. Drukenmiller was elected as a representative of the Fulton County teachers and appeared on their behalf at the State Federation of Labor meeting held in Columbus, Georgia on 15-17 April 1935.¹⁶ Drukenmiller was also a governing official and reading clerk with the Atlanta Federation of Trades. His name, along with official duty as a guest speaker, was invoked in an article announcing events for the 5 September 1939 Labor Day Parade in Atlanta.¹⁷ Additional involvement with organized labor continued in his capacity as Hapeville High Principal in 1942 when he argued for teacher pay increases and pay period extensions from 10 months to 12 months.¹⁸

By all accounts, Drukenmiller was a deeply religious man and served the church in many capacities. Early in his career, he had affiliations with the Pattilla Memorial Methodist Church of Decatur where he was a regular attendant and vice chairmen of the Board of Stewards. Later, he was involved with the Jere Wells Sunday School Class

¹⁵ Clark Howell, ed. "Kappa Phi Kappa Indorses Demand," *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 March 1939, 2.

¹⁶ Alton Reeves, ed., "Mr. Roy Drukenmiller Represents Teachers," *Russell Wildcat*, 10 April 1935, 3.

¹⁷ Clark Howell, ed., "Labor Day Parade," *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 September 1939, 1A.

¹⁸ Clark Howell, ed., "County School Pay Increases to Be Studied," *Atlanta Constitution*, 24 July 1942, 18.

(Teacher) and Hapeville First Methodist Church (Past Chairman of the Board of Stewards).

Drukenmiller was a multi-talented musician who excelled at conducting (Russell High and Yaarab Shrine Bands), trumpet performance (“...Mr. Roy Drukenmiller blew taps over the grave;”¹⁹ “...Roy Drukenmiller will render a cornet solo”²⁰), vocalist (“Russell High Band will play several numbers and Mr. Roy Drukenmiller will sing a solo”²¹) and piano. Mr. Drukenmiller was also a charter member of the Georgia State Defense Corps Band, noted as one of the first of its kind in America.²²

Drukenmiller also enjoyed some success as a composer. A *Russell Wildcat* article, focusing on the new Drukenmiller *March* for the Russell ROTC, detailed his compositional output to that point in time at Russell. Important among his works were *Fulton County March*, dedicated to Fulton County Superintendent Jere A. Wells, and *Georgian March*, a selection commissioned by the *Atlanta Georgian* newspaper on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. The Russell Band performed *Georgian March* for a parade the year before, earning the Band a \$50.00 prize.²³ Drukenmiller also wrote

¹⁹ Jack Smith, ed., “Richard Phillips is Fatally Injured,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 March 1934, 1. (“The sincere sympathy of the Russell High student body and faculty is extended to relatives and friends of the late Richard Phillips, a Freshman of homeroom A-4, who was struck down a fatally injured Friday afternoon, March 15, at the corner of Forest and Main Streets in East Point....the funeral was held at the First Baptist Church in East Point”).

²⁰ Clark Howell, ed., “East Point Lodge Celebrates Tonight,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 18 October 1940, 25.

²¹ Mrs. Fred Pierson, “Mrs. Jere Wells to Speak at Russell Hi P.T.A.,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 8 January 1931, 1.

²² Clark Howell, ed., “Defense Corps Band Conducts First Practice,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 26 November 1940, 2.

²³ Alton Reeves, ed., “Mr. Drukenmiller Composes Special March for R.O.T.C.,” *Russell Wildcat*, 25 February 1938, 1.

several popular tunes, including the foxtrots *One More Time* and *Chicks Won't You Cackle for Me* and the waltzes *Man on the Moon* and *Love Me*.

In one of the more unusual commendations of one's character, an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* article reported, "A group of Russell High School Teachers made a quick trip over the weekend to Panacea, Florida. Some features of the trip were...Boat Captain Fenton Jones commenting on Mr. Drukenmiller's personal disposition while on the boat."²⁴

Hoyt Griffin: 1941-1942



Mr. Hoyt Griffin earned his college degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Griffin started his Russell career in the English Department and then assumed the directorship of the RHS Glee Club. The 1939 edition of the *Pointer* listed Griffin as the faculty advisor for the Tennis Team.

When Drukenmiller left Russell in 1941, Griffin became the Director of Band activities and also was the sole assistant football coach for Coach Bowen's football team. For the 1941-42 school year, it is incredible to realize that Griffin was an English teacher, choral director, band director, tennis instructor, and assistant football coach!

Griffin was recognized as one of East Point's more accomplished adult athletes. He played in numerous East Point-area tennis tournaments,²⁵ and as a golfer, he won the

²⁴ C. N. Martin, ed., "Russell Teachers Catch Big Fish," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 28 October 1938, 1.

²⁵ Clark Howell, ed., "Frank Hunt Rallies to Beat Hoyt Griffin," *Atlanta Constitution*, 13 July 1939, 11.

1942 Gordon Morris Trophy at the College Park Golf Course.²⁶ He went into the Air Force later in 1942 and eventually served as a lieutenant in the South Pacific. The official statement concerning Griffin's induction into the Army occurred in the *Atlanta's*

Suburban Reporter:

“Hoyt T. Griffin, English Teacher, assistant football coach, and band master at Russell High School, has been appointed a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and reported to duty at Ft. McPherson this week.

Lieutenant Griffin has made a fine record while at Russell, where he also directed the Glee Club, the club receiving a superior rating in the Fifth District Music Festival held this year. They gave many programs in this community during the school term.”²⁷

The *Atlanta Constitution* announced, “Graduating from the Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School at Miami, Florida, the following Georgians were recently commissioned 2nd Lieutenants: Hoyt T. Griffin of 1329 Ridgewood Drive.”²⁸

Griffin returned to Russell High for the 1945-46 school year and left for his boyhood town of Cozad, Nebraska, the following year. He went into business with his father, working in a construction business known as Griffin and Griffin Contractors. In the early 1950s, he owned and operated a hardware store in Cozad. Shortly thereafter, Griffin returned to vocal teaching in the Cozad Public Schools, from which he ultimately retired. During his time in Cozad, he and his wife, Dorothy, continued to pursue their passion for golf.

²⁶ C. N. Martin, ed., “Griffin Captures Golf Tournament,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 22 May 1942, 1.

²⁷ C. N. Martin, ed., “Another Russell High Teacher Enters Army,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 17 July, 1942, 1.

²⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “Georgians Finish Officers School,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 28 January 1943, 7.

Griffin was very involved in Cozad community activities. His 18 May 1989

Cozad obituary revealed:

“He is a past president of the Cozad Lions Club and served as the president of the Cozad Chamber of Commerce in 1957. He also was a member of the First United Methodist Church for 65 years, and was active in the Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Eastern Star, Cozad Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and American Legion.”

Jack Swartz: 1942-1943



With Mr. Griffin’s induction into military service, Mr. Jack Swartz took over as both the Band Director and Glee Club Director in 1942. A *Russell Wildcat* article introducing Mr. Swartz revealed the following:

“Mr. Jack Swartz was born in Champaign, Illinois. Ever since his toddling days, he has been playing the piano and singing. Mr. Swartz’s father showed an attitude of disgust at his son’s ambitions of music, but this fact was not discouraging, as exhibited by Mr. Swartz’s success as a musician.

At Illinois Wesleyan University, Mr. Swartz acted in many dramatic and musical productions, and directed the College show *Soup to Nuts*. He played kettledrums in the Bloomington Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, sang in the fireside Quartet, and was the director of a weekly variety show over a local Ohio radio station.

Mr. Swartz stated that his hobby was cooking and eating roast beef, but since the arrival of his son, Paul David, his spare time has been well taken up. Mr. Swartz was bubbling over with pride when interviewed, and his new son dominated the conversation. Naturally, Mr. Swartz wanted Paul David to be a musician, and it won’t be long before the little fellow will be playing the piano and singing as well as his father.”²⁹

After receiving a B.A. degree from Illinois Wesleyan, Swartz taught music for one year in Amboy, Illinois, before moving to Atlanta to assume the Russell Band job.

²⁹ Louise Reese, ed., “Meet the Faculty,” *The Russell Wildcat*, 23 October 1942, 4.

After one year at Russell, Swartz transferred to the Atlanta Public Schools to direct the band at Commercial High.

After the war, Swartz worked for three years in a music department at a junior college in San Angelo, Texas. Soon thereafter, he accepted a music position at Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff), during which time he earned a doctoral degree in music from the University of Nebraska in 1956. Swartz moved to Florida State University in 1957 and retired there in 1978. While teaching class piano at FSU, Swartz also taught many music education teacher-training courses and supervised the dissertations of over a generation of FSU doctoral students, having set a national record for such work.

In addition to his work in academia, Swartz founded orchestras in Flagstaff and in Tallahassee, and was director of the Tallahassee Community Band and St. John's Episcopal Church Choir. Dr. Swartz passed away in December 2000.

In an obituary appearing in the 29 April 2001 issue of the *FSU Times*, Dr. Clifford Madsen, a close friend and colleague of Swartz at FSU, stated, "Dr. Swartz was a visionary of his time."

Charles E. Taylor: 1943-1946 (and Science Department)



Mr. Charles E. Taylor earned a B.S. Degree from Emory University. He came to Russell in 1940 and was introduced in the *Russell Wildcat*, which stated, "Among several hundred new pupils we have five new teachers, two of whom are former teachers from Fulton High....Mr. Charles Taylor who is teaching Health and General

Mathematics was band director at Fulton High for nine years.”³⁰

Capt. Warren T. Jackson: 1946-1947



Warren T. Jackson is listed in an *Atlanta Constitution* concert review as a cornet player in the Emory Orchestra in 1922.³¹ Mr. Jackson earned both the Bachelor’s and Master’s of Arts degrees from Emory University, the latter of which was awarded on 27 August 1927.³² Jackson did additional studies overseas and discussed these experiences with a group of Fulton County teachers in an effort to promote the benefits of overseas study.³³

Jackson began his teaching career in Fulton County in 1927 and early on was band director and head of the social science department at North Fulton High School. In September 1941, weeks after a then-unexplained and mysterious disappearance of newly named North Fulton Principal J. Elmer White, Jackson was named acting principal of North Fulton High School. At the time, the *Atlanta Constitution* reported that Jackson was a steward of the Druid Hills Methodist church and served as president of Emory’s chapter of the Kappa Phi Kappa (education) fraternity. Jackson returned to his teaching post when White was reinstated as principal in December 1941.

³⁰ Henry Osborn, ed., “Two New Teachers Transferred to Us,” *Russell Wildcat*, 1 Oct. 1940, 1.

³¹ Clark Howell, ed., “Emory University Musicians Give Splendid Concert,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 22 November 1922, 3.

³² Clark Howell, ed., “Emory Summer School to Award 42 Diplomas at Exercises Tonight,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 27 August 1927, 4.

³³ Clark Howell, ed., “Dr. M. L. Brittain to Address Teachers Today,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 30 March 1929, 5.

A month after this episode, Jackson was drafted into the military. Within a year he had attained the rank of captain and was serving as a member of the staff and faculty at the Quartermaster school in Camp Lee, Virginia.³⁴ Capt. Jackson later served as a Band Director at Ft. McPherson before assuming the Band position at Russell in 1946. Capt. Jackson was promoted to the principalship at North Fulton High School for the 1947-48 school year. He eventually was named as an Area Assistant Superintendent in the Atlanta Public School System (APS) in the mid-1950s and passed away in 1963. Atlanta's Warren T. Jackson Elementary School is currently named in his honor.

Robert B. Wagoner: 1948



Prior to the start of the 1947-48 school year, Capt. Warren Jackson left Russell to become principal at North Fulton High School. Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., RHS '44, stepped in temporarily with the assistance of Cadet Captain Gene Carter to help run the Band while a suitable band director replacement could be found. In early December, Robert B. Wagoner assumed the band director position.

After completing the 1947-48 school year at Russell, Mr. Wagoner began a long tenure of music education service in the Atlanta Public Schools. First, he assumed the O'Keefe High School Band position and later served as Band Director at Northside High School and then Dykes High School. Wagoner's career highlights included serving as guest conductor of the Junior High All-State Band and MENC conference host. Bands under his direction performed at the Mideast Instrumental Conference, National and

³⁴ Clark Howell, ed., "Former Teacher Now Captain," *Atlanta Constitution*, 9 January 1943, 8.

Southern Division MENC Conferences, and the Cherry Blossom Festival, where they won the first place trophy. He eventually was promoted to the APS Supervisor of Music position. A member of Phi Beta Mu, he is conductor emeritus of the Band of Atlanta.

Mr. Wagonner and the former Russell High Drum Majorette Jerry Long ('48) married in 1950 and recently celebrated their 65th anniversary.

Harold W. Alenius: 1948-1950

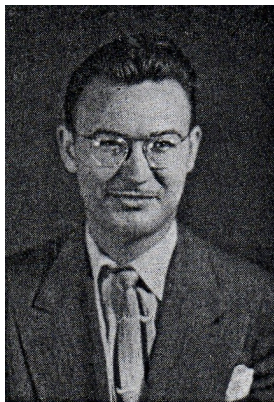
Harold Alenius, a native of Wyoming, was a graduate of Emporia College and received a master's degree from Northwestern University. Prior to coming to Atlanta, Alenius taught high school at Rock Springs and Whiting, Indiana, and served as the violin instructor and orchestra director at the University of Montevallo in the mid-1940s. He played in the Louisville Symphony and also taught school in Louisville.³⁵ While in Atlanta, he performed as a member of the Atlanta Symphony in the first violin section during after school hours. After his two-year tenure at Russell, Alenius directed the Milton H.S. (GA) Band in 1951-52.

Eventually, Alenius went into the ministry. A graduate of Bangor (Maine) Theological Seminary, Alenius was pastor at Mason Mills Church, Belfast, Maine, where he died suddenly in December 1959.

C. Warren Little: 1950-1951

Mr. Charles "Warren" Little (1927-2002) was a native of Atlanta and attended Ann E. West Elementary School, Murphy Junior High, and Boys High School. Later he attended the Eastman School of Music, Curtis Institute (for two years on full

³⁵ Nanette Gladin, ed. "Russell is Proud of Band Director," *Russell Wildcat*, 25 October 1948, 1.



scholarship), Interlochen Music Camp, and earned the B.F.A. Degree from the University of Georgia (1946-1949).

He was an important name in the flute world for the latter half of the 20th century. Anyone listening to the Atlanta Symphony during that time would have heard Warren Little as principal flute; however, few people knew that Warren Little was

the Russell High Band Director for one year and later taught at Druid Hills High School in DeKalb County.³⁶

The Atlanta Flute Club provided a retrospective on Mr. Little's life:

“An Atlanta native, Mr. Little began studying flute at age 11 under Charles I. Bradley, the original Principal Flutist of the ASO. After continuing his studies at the University of Georgia, he went on to work and study under Joseph Mariano at the Eastman School of Music and William Kincaid at the Curtis Institute. In 1949 after only one year in the ASO flute section, he was well prepared and qualified to fill the gap left by the resignation of Charles Bradley and he served as the ASO's principal Flute for the next 41 years. He was married to Jane Finley Little, the ASO's Assistant Principal Bass Emeritus. They commuted together in the 1940's from their studies at UGA to Atlanta for ASO rehearsals and performances. For decades it was a familiar sight as Jane and Warren arrived backstage, he with her bass while she carried his flute.

Through the years, he was soloist in works by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Mozart, Griffes, Kennan and others. He was recognized as one of the foremost freelance musicians in Atlanta, playing for Albert Coleman's Atlanta Pops Orchestra, Theater of the Stars, the Atlanta Ballet and countless commercial recording sessions. ‘It was quite an inspiration to play with him,’ said ASO piccoloist Carl Hall. ‘He was able to play with a wide dynamic range and could do some exquisite phrasing. I was always amazed at how softly he could play in the high register.’ Martin Sauser, a former ASO concertmaster for 17 years said, ‘He had a wonderful, lush sound with all the technique he needed to play anything. He was one of the country's great flutists.’

A rugged sometimes gruff man with a hearty laugh, he worked long and tenaciously to improve the lot of professional musicians in Atlanta. He completed 24 years of service with the Atlanta Federation of Musicians and was elected President of the Board in 1986. Mr. Little served as President of the AFM Local

³⁶ Jane Finley Little, telephone interview, 18 February 2012.

148-462 through 1992 after his retirement as Principal Flute of the ASO in 1990. He also served as president of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Players Association.³⁷

Richard Hansbery: 1951-1952



Richard Hansbery was born and raised in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school, Hansbery joined the Navy in 1939 and attended the Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C. On 12 December 1940, he arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a musician assignment aboard the USS Raleigh, a naval cruiser. He was transferred for duty aboard the USS Dobbin, a destroyer tender on 30 September 1941, just before the 7 December 1941 surprise attack. Because of its position in Pearl Harbor, the USS Dobbin only sustained shrapnel damage; but, the USS Raleigh took a torpedo to its portside, causing a great deal of damage with only a few injured. Hansbery continued to serve on the USS Dobbin for most of the remainder of World War II, writing a copyrighted composition, the *Eternal Spirit March* in the process. After the war, Hansbery earned music education degrees under the G.I. Bill from Peabody College (Boston) and the Cincinnati Conservatory.

In 1951, Hansbery was hired by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as a trombonist and worked simultaneously at Russell for one year. After Russell he taught at south Atlanta schools while continuing to perform with the Atlanta Symphony. Sometime in the late 1970/early 1980s, Hansbery moved to the San Francisco area of California and

³⁷ Nancy Wilson, ed., "Death of Warren Little on February 23, 2002," *Atlanta Flute Club Newsletter*, Spring 2002, 6.

was still listed in the Atlanta Federation of Musicians Directory as late as 1992 (San Rafael, CA resident). He passed away in Petaluma, California, on 9 February 2004 and was buried in Hillsboro, Wisconsin.

James M. Hopperstad: 1952-1955



James M. Hopperstad left Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 1946 and served as band director at North Charleston (S.C.) before coming to Atlanta. He first came to Russell temporarily for the 1949-50 school year and taught at Russell High beginning in 1952 while doing coursework at the Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia (Georgia State University) and playing with the Atlanta Symphony.³⁸ Mr. Hopperstad left Russell in 1955 to pursue a legal career and earned a law degree from John

Marshall Law School in Atlanta in June 1957.

Frank V. Lentini: 1955-1959

After graduating from East High School in Auburn, New York, in 1949, Frank V. Lentini earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ithaca College, New York. The Russell Band position was Mr. Lentini's first band, serving for four and a half years before returning to his hometown in Auburn, N. Y.

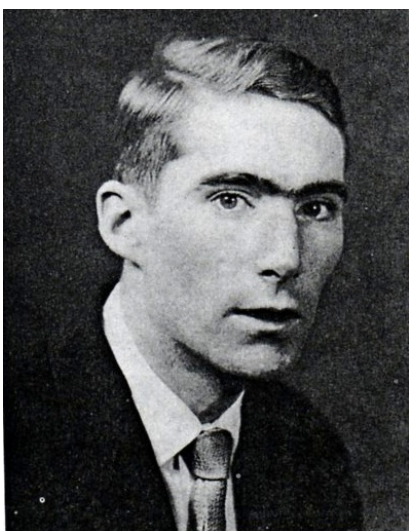
During his time at Russell High, Lentini performed as a clarinetist for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Pops Orchestra, and the Atlanta Concert Band. Also, he sang in and directed the choir of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of Atlanta.

³⁸ Ray Ellis, "Music Column," *Russell Wildcat*, 24 October 1952, 3.



Upon leaving Russell and returning to Auburn, New York, Mr. Lentini assumed the band director position at Fayetteville-Manlius High School, where he led the program from 1959-1989. As he had done during his Atlanta area days, Lentini continued to perform in numerous outside music groups including the Auburn Civic Band, the Cayugans, Standard Magic and Auburn Chamber Orchestra. In addition, he was a charter member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, performing as a clarinetist from 1961 to 1976. He was also a member of the Syracuse Concert Band from 1959 to 1989. Mr. Lentini passed away in Auburn N.Y. in 1996 at the age of 65.

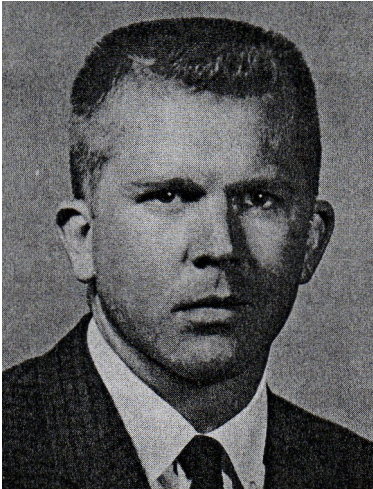
Don Hough: 1960



Don Hough graduated from the University of Illinois in 1954 and was awarded a master's degree in 1956 from the same institution. After military service, he settled in Fulton County in 1959, serving as a band and strings teacher until his retirement in 1989. Hough started his Fulton County service as an orchestra teacher at College Park High School, but was transferred to Russell as band director midway through the school year in early 1960 to finish out the school term caused by the mid-year departure of Mr. Lentini. After Russell, Hough became active as an elementary band teacher at numerous schools in south Fulton County for the remainder of his Fulton County career. Hough's service to the community included long-time membership in the Atlanta Community

Orchestra, where he played viola. Currently, he continues his service to music by holding the position of music librarian for the Atlanta Community Orchestra.³⁹

John David Wiggins: 1960-1963



Mr. John David Wiggins, a graduate of Texas Tech, taught choral and instrumental music in the Lubbock County, Texas, School System before coming to Russell. He also served in the U.S. Air Force as a jet pilot. In addition to his public school choral teaching, Wiggins' prior experience with chorus involved music director of First Methodist Church of Big Springs, Texas, Presbyterian Missionary of Tainan, Taiwan, Andrews Chapel Methodist of Newnan, Georgia, and St. Matthew Methodist Church in East Point.

While he taught at Russell, his wife, Gretchen, taught fifth grade at Harris Street Elementary School. As a semi-professional ballerina, Mrs. Wiggins also assisted in developing dance routines and coaching the Russellettes.

Wiggins had a minor degree in physical education and contributed to the sports programs at Russell. He assisted the basketball coaches and was the head coach for the B-Team Girls in 1963, losing only four games during that season.

Wiggins' decision to leave Russell was a disappointment to many. During his three years, he managed to improve the Band to a "I" or "Superior" Rating earned at the 1963 Band Festival. Concerning Wiggins, Mr. Lennard Venable, Band Booster President, stated in the *Russell Wildcat*:

³⁹ Don Hough, telephone interview, 28 February 2012.

“He has done a wonderful job with the band and is loved by all. His enthusiasm and fine qualities as band director have brought Russell a greater understanding of what an excellent band means to a high school. We wish him and Mrs. Wiggins well in their new assignment and know that they will do a fine job wherever they go.”⁴⁰

Wiggins moved to Claremont, California, in 1963 and was an avid youth sports coach and continued to work in music education. He was the first band director at Alta Loma High School and then taught at Mt. San Antonio College for 30 years, serving as the chair of the Music Department for the last 11 years of that tenure. He passed away on 6 June 2010 in Claremont, California.

William O. Latson: 1963-1967



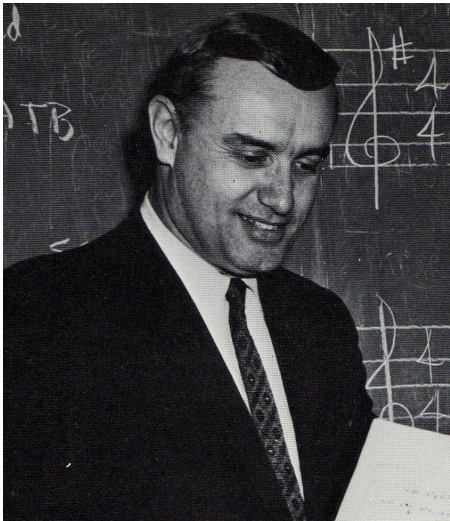
A native of Amarillo, Texas, Mr. Bill Latson enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 after his graduation from Amarillo High School. He continued his education after the war and graduated from West Texas State and later earned an AB from the University of Iowa. He did additional graduate work at George Peabody College in Nashville.

Latson was on the music faculty of West Texas State University in the early 1950s and later became band director at Amarillo High School, where he served just prior to coming to Russell in 1963. After his 4-year tenure at Russell High, he moved to the

⁴⁰ Louise Cox, ed., “Wiggins Leaves Russell,” *Russell Wildcat*, May 1963, 1.

band director position at Henry County (GA) High School. Latson resided in Stockbridge, Georgia during his retirement and passed away there in October 2012.

William Prescott: 1967-1973



William Prescott earned his Bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to coming to Russell, Prescott obtained a master's degree from the University of Florida. Prescott's six years at Russell made him the second longest serving band director in the 60-year history of the band, behind Roy Drukenmiller, who served 11 years (1930-1941). After six years at Russell, Prescott left to attend the University of Arizona for a doctorate degree. While in Arizona, Prescott served as an assistant professor of flute. In 1976 Prescott returned to the Fulton County Schools as band director at Westwood H.S., and then left in 1978 to serve as band director at North Gwinnett High School before retiring from full-time teaching in 1988.

Shortly after his retirement, Prescott was appointed as conductor of the "Sounds of Sewanee" Community Band (Forsyth County, GA) and directed for over ten years. Additionally, Prescott was selected to conduct the Yaarab Shrine Band in 1978, a group with whom he continues his association to this day on a Conductor Emeritus basis.

Prescott's major accomplishments at Russell High included:

- 1) Starting a tradition of Pre-season Band Camps held at off-campus locations
- 2) Initiating Marching Festival/Competition participation
- 3) Earning Superior Ratings in GMEA Festival each year
- 4) Producing numerous college Music Scholarship winners

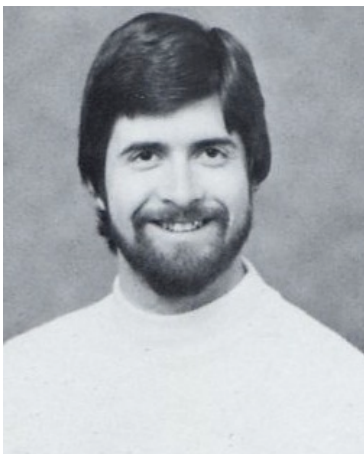
- 5) Invitations to five straight major out-of-state band trips
- 1969 Mardi Gras Parade
 - 1970 Bahamas Tour
 - 1971 Hollywood (FL) Band Shell
 - 1972 Disney World (Orlando)
 - 1973 St. Augustine Easter Parade

Larry Freund: 1973-1976



Larry Freund earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Music from the University of Georgia and began his teaching career at Appling County. After his three years at Russell, Freund worked as a band director at Brantley County High School for nine years. Mr. Freund currently works at Bacon County Middle School, and was selected to be the band director at Bacon County High School for the 2012-13 academic year.

Larry Sims: 1976-1979



Larry Sims came to Russell from the Cobb County (GA) School System. After three years, he left Russell for a teaching position in Gwinnett County (GA) School, where he also conducted the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra from 1986-2004. During his career, Sims had additional conducting experiences with the Sheppard School of Music at Rice University, the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida State University Orchestra. He also made a brief guest appearance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

David Lee: 1979-1981



David Lee earned a Bachelor's of Music Education from Florida State University in December 1978. Prior to enrolling at FSU, Lee was selected to the 1975 Georgia High School All-State Band and was a drum major and graduate of the Sugar Bear Band under renowned director Mr. Bob Barnett at Central High School in Macon, Georgia. During his high school years, Lee also was a member of the famed Sugar Bear Jazz Band. At a time when few schools attempted jazz bands, the Central Jazz Program was noted for its high quality and uniqueness. In his high school years, Lee studied flute and later traveled to Atlanta regularly to study with the Atlanta Symphony's Warren Little, who, coincidentally, was band director at Russell High from 1950-1951.

After FSU, Lee completed the school term for a band director in the southern Mississippi area. Lee arrived at Russell High in the fall of 1979 and was noteworthy for infusing jazz into a program where jazz instruction had dwindled over a number of years.

In 1981, Lee pursued a career goal of earning a Master's Degree in Flute Performance and went to the Boston Conservatory after two years at Russell High. Lee performed briefly as a free-lance professional performer after receiving his Master of Music, but decided to pursue a career in financial planning with his family's business in Memphis. Currently residing in Memphis, Lee stays active musically by playing volunteer work on flute/saxophone for Memphis area benefits.

James Littlefield: 1981-1984



James Littlefield's academic background included both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Georgia and a T-6 Specialist degree from Georgia State University. Before coming to Russell, Littlefield worked as an assistant band director for three years at Lafayette High School in Walker County, Georgia. After serving at Russell, Littlefield taught band in the elementary schools of South Fulton County until his retirement from Fulton County in 2009 after a total of 31 years teaching music.

Under his direction his bands consistently received superior and excellent ratings in the district large group performance evaluations. He has served as treasurer and festival chairman for the GMEA 5th District and peer mentor for new band teachers in Fulton County. While at the University of Georgia, Littlefield was band captain and graduate assistant for the Georgia Redcoat Band. He is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, and the Pi Kappa Lambda national honorary music society.

Currently, Littlefield is a sales associate for Jackson's Music Store (Douglasville, Georgia) and performs with the Douglas County Christian Community Orchestra and Central Baptist Church Orchestra.

Frank Banton: 1984-1985



Mr. Frank Banton is from the Memphis area. He attended the University of Tennessee as a tuba major. After Russell High, he was a special education teacher at Northeast GNETS and made a career in military bands

with the U. S. Air Force and Georgia Air National Guard. He has performed as a member of the tuba section of the Cobb New Horizons Band and resides in Smyrna, Georgia with his wife, Margaret, a freelance and military musician and clinician in the Atlanta area for over 25 years.

Samuel J. Hutcherson, Jr.: 1985-1988



Jay Hutcherson earned his music degree from the University of Georgia. Hutcherson's first experience with the Russell Band occurred during the 1984-85 school year when Frank Blanton was occasionally called away from Russell High because of National Guard duty. Hutcherson served as the substitute band director during those times, and was retained as the full-time band director when Blanton left

Russell in 1985. He has the distinction of being Russell High School's last band director and being the first at Tri-Cities High School.

Russell Band History by Year

Academic Year: 1923-1924

Construction of the new Russell Main Building commenced in 1923. The Class of '24 started the school year in the old East Point High School facility, but moved to the new Russell building during the spring of 1924.

A Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the Russell High School building was held on 25 April 1924. After the Russell student body sang *America*, Rev. J. A. Crumbley provided the invocation, followed by an address by Professor James T. McGee, superintendent of the East Point Public Schools. A band performed for the event; however, not one from Russell, but the band from the Georgia Military Academy in College Park. The GMA Band provided music for the Masonic procession from the East Point Masonic Lodge to the Russell High Building.

Academic Year: 1924-1925

Principal: Roger H. Bell; (James T. McGee, superintendent)

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- In the fall of 1924, Russell High began its first full year in the Main Building with 300 students, 10 faculty, and 20 members of the graduating class.

Prior to the merger of East Point schools with the Fulton County School System in 1927, James T. McGee had been the superintendent of East Point schools since 1921. He served as the acting principal at Russell, until the school was phased in, at which time a new principal was hired. McGee then became head of the department of mathematics at

Russell. McGee retired in 1937, after 50 years in the teaching profession,⁴¹ and was regarded as one of East Point's leading citizens.⁴²

The senior play in Russell High's first full year of existence in the new facility was *Engaged by Wednesday*. The production was presented on Friday, 22 May, in the school auditorium. The play program indicated that the Russell High School Orchestra performed selections during scene changes. Titles listed were: Scene 1-*The Heavens Resound* (Beethoven) and *Minuet in G* (Beethoven); Scene 2 - *A Fragment of Opera, from Lucretia Borgia* (Donizetti) and *La Czarine* (Canne); Scene 3 – *Chansonnette* (Seidel) and *March Militaire* (Schubert).

Russell's first graduating class of 20 held their commencement ceremony in the Russell High Auditorium on 25 May. The graduating class sang a farewell song, and senior Sara DeFoor offered a piano solo.

Academic Year: 1925-1926

Principal: Roger H. Bell

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The first edition of the *Pointer* Yearbook was published.
- According to this first edition of the *Pointer*, an unofficial football team played at Russell in 1925 with a volunteer coach, Mr. Marsh Keith, and no player uniforms. Donations helped supply uniforms by mid-season, during which the Russell team went winless, except for a 19-0 win against Lakewood in the final game of the season.

In only its second year of existence, Russell High published the *Pointer* for the very first time. While there was no band at this point in Russell's history, Miss Eloise

⁴¹ Clark Howell, ed., "Rites Friday for J. T. McGee," *Atlanta Journal*, 24 July 1940.

⁴² C. N. Martin, ed., "Professor J. T. McGee, Prominent Educator Dies, Was Russell High's First School Principal," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 26 July 1940, 1.

Olds was listed in the faculty section of this first *Pointer* as a music teacher, having graduated from Cox Music Conservatory in Atlanta.

The *Pointer* Forward read,

“The sole purpose of the senior class of 1926, in publishing this volume of the *Pointer*, is to produce an Annual, interesting and worthy of the school it represents.

If this book proves a real treasure to the students of Russell High School, our purpose shall have been accomplished. We trust that the first volume will prompt future classes to continue publication.”⁴³

On Saturday, 15 May, the East Point Board of Education sponsored a vaudeville entertainment event for the benefit of East Point Schools. The Black Jack Minstrel Company, which was comprised of nine blackface comedians and 9 musicians, performed a program of songs, dances, and comedy skits at the Russell Auditorium.⁴⁴

Russell’s second graduating class numbered 30 seniors and held commencement exercises in the Russell Auditorium on 23 May 1926. During the program, a male chorus sang three selections, *Hear the Trumpet* (Fillmore), *I Will Extol Thee* (Heyser) and *Lord’s Prayer* (Nevin). Senior Gussie Wooten provided music accompaniment; S.C. Wooten served as director of music.

The graduation class included Elwin Adams, Annie Bell, Robert Branton, Burchard Christian, Edward Clinkscales, Ophelia Cole, Eugene Damon, Lucile Dearing, Ethel Dowda, Wilbur Ellison, J. T. Goen, Kathryn Groover, Elbert Holland, Ruth Hudgins, Melba Huie, Ocie Matthews, Linton Moultrie, Reba Murphy, Ruth Perry, Bruce

⁴³ Eugene Damon, ed., *The Pointer* (Yearbook), 1926, 5.

⁴⁴ Clark Howell, ed., “East Point Schools to Present Minstrel at Russell High,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 May 1926, 3.

Payne, Eddie Ruth McElroy, Janie Rhodes, C. L. Mays, Fay McWhorter, Catherine Stallings, Ruby Thompson, Vester Smith, and Gussie Wooten.⁴⁵

Academic Year: 1926-1927

Principal: Roger H. Bell

Music Teacher: Miss Eloise Olds

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Volunteers E. C. Floyd and E. G. Richardson coached the Russell High football team. The team went 1-4-1 with an opening season 12-7 win over Bass High.

Graduation activities included a senior class production of *Aunt Jerushy on the War Path* presented on Friday 20 May. Also, a Sunday, 22 May, Baccalaureate service was held at First Baptist Church, Dr. L. J. Ballard, presiding. The Russell High Male Chorus performed several selections. The next day, 28 seniors earned diplomas in graduation exercises held in the Russell High Auditorium. Judge John P. Humphries offered the commencement speech.

Graduates included Mary Annette Branton, James Milton Brown, Ruby Lynn Brock, Ella Lousie Callahan, John Harold Callahan, Catherine Juanita Case, John Daniel Culbreath, Catherine Evelyn Duncan, Sara Jean Garrison, Leonard John Garvin, Lulabelle Garvin, Annie Elizabeth Goodwin, Evelyn Graves, Helen Clarice Jones, Robert Eakes Jones, Eunice Marguerite Johnson, Joe John Keith, Annie Pearl Kendrick, Mildred King, Roy Moss, Millard Snow Moncriet, Mabel Clare Pearson, James Edgar Rhodes,

⁴⁵ Clark Howell, ed., "Graduation Class of Russell High School (photo and caption)," *Atlanta Constitution*, 30 May 1926, 8.

Ida Chloree Ross, Sare Louise Stephens, Thomas Alfred Braxton Suttles, Henry Barron Starr, Jr., and Harriet Elizabeth Webb.⁴⁶

Academic Year: 1927-1928

Principal: M. C. Bishop

Music Teacher: Ms. Lula Belle Hill

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The City of East Point Board of Education merged with the Fulton County School System.
- M. C. Bishop (A. B. Oglethorpe) was hired as chair of the science department and as football and boys basketball coach.
- Coach J. G. Lewis organized Girls basketball for the first time for the 1928 season.

Russell's first attempt at an instrumental program began in 1927 with the formation of an Orchestra directed by new teacher, Ms. Lula Belle Hill, whose main teaching responsibility was with the Russell English Department. Ms. Hill was an A. B. graduate of Wesleyan College and did further studies at Peabody College (Nashville) and Emory University. The *Pointer* Orchestra page included the following:

“The Russell High School Orchestra, which has recently been organized under the direction of Miss Lula Belle Hill, promises to be an important asset to the school. Each member of the orchestra has entered into it wholeheartedly, and is working hard for a successful orchestra of which Russell will be proud.”⁴⁷

Members listed included: Gladys McWorter, piano; John Faulkner, trumpet; Nebby Gordon, Leon Thompson, and Clarence Ingram, alto saxes; Willis Brown, baritone sax; J.D. Suttles, clarinet; Michael Henslee, violin; Ruth Weston and Alleyne Boyle, banjo/ukulele; Hynes Shearin, percussion; and, Leroy McKibben, cornet.

⁴⁶ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High School in Midst of Exercises; Dr. Ballard to Preach,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 May 1926, 3.

⁴⁷ Katherine Damon, ed., *The Pointer* (Yearbook), 1928, p. 60.

In October, members of the staff and faculty presented *The Poor Married Man*, a three-act comedy in the school auditorium. Participants included Professor James T. McGee, superintendent of schools, M. C. Bishop, principal, S. M. Hearn, J. G. Lewis, Aloe Everton, Lois Parr, Mildred Pendergrass, and Marguerite Dobbs.

The Annual Georgia High School Association Literary Meet involved competition between high schools in numerous academic and musical areas, including debate, spelling, essay, piano and violin. The first round of competition was held on a district level; a second statewide, round involving the winners from the district level, generally was held in Athens, Georgia. A team of students from Russell won the District 5 Spelling category. Two other Russell students also performed well in the District 5 round: Mabel Henslee won third place in both the Girl's Essay and Recitation categories, while Evelyn Allen of College Park was the overall winner in the piano category.

Senior recognitions of other instrumentalists in the 1928 *Pointer* mention two other students. Concerning Ruby Suttles, the *Pointer* revealed, “ ‘Pea-Wee’ is an all-round musician....she plays well the piano, the violin, and the saxophone.” With regard to Ruth Wooten, the *Pointer* stated, “ ‘Breezy’ possesses great musical talent...without her the Glee Club and the orchestra would not be complete.”⁴⁸

Academic Year: 1928-1929

Principal: Charles W. Reid

Band Director: H. P. Carpenter

Band Officers: G. T. Mitchell, 1st Lieutenant; M.L. Thompson, 1st Sgt. & Drum Major; Jack McPherson, 2nd Lieutenant; A.D. Donehoo, 2nd Lieutenant; C. W. Reid 2nd Lieutenant; and J. D. Suttles.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 20.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The 1927 merger of the East Point and Fulton County schools brought Southside-area students to Russell High in 1928.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Commercial; @ R.E. Lee; Fulton; Douglasville; Marietta; @ Commercial; GMA; Fulton.



First Russell High School Band
1928-1929

With the 1927 merger of the East Point and Fulton County schools, Russell High was designated as the sole high school for a greatly enhanced geographic region that included students from Hapeville, College Park and beyond. Just days before the start of the academic year, the Fulton County School System completed a \$105,000.00 improvement project at Russell that allowed for an occupancy of about 900 students. Over 1,000 school officials, civic dignitaries, guests, and other visitors attended the dedication of the Russell High building addition on 5 September 1928. The festivities

included several musical selections rendered by a male chorus from East Point along with a group singing of *America*.⁴⁹

The story of the Russell Band began during the 1928-1929 school year, when the band was organized as a unit of ROTC. The band was favorably chronicled early in the school year in the *Russell Wildcat*:

“The Russell High Band, although it is a young organization, is a valuable asset to the school....under the able direction of Mr. Carpenter, it is a credit to greater Russell High. Although the band functions primarily as a military organization, it is loyal to the athletic teams and other organizations of the school.”⁵⁰

Later in the year, the 1928-29 *Pointer* Yearbook printed the following:

“The Russell High Band has proven itself a worthy and necessary organization.....The band is not yet a year old, but it is an established fact that the band has done much to create and maintain that ‘one hundred percent’ peppy attitude for which our students body is famous.”⁵¹

The ROTC Band attachment was comprised of 25 instrumentalists: 5 trumpets, 1 baritone, 3 alto horns, 9 saxophones, 1 bass horn, 1 clarinet, 1 trombone, and 4 drums. Members included George Mitchell (trumpet), Charles Reid (trumpet), Alcimus Donehoo (trumpet), John Faulkner (trumpet), J. D. Suttles (clarinet), Hamilton Hornsby (baritone), Basil Cochran (bass horn), Jack McPherson (trombone), Nebby Gordon (saxophone), Clarence Ingram (saxophone), Ray Harris (saxophone), Alwin Junior (saxophone), Eugene Stephens (saxophone), Wilfred Yeargin (saxophone), Claud Yow (alto horn),

⁴⁹ Clark Howell, ed., “1,000 Attend Dedication of New South Fulton High,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 6 September 1928, 3.

⁵⁰ John W. Faulkner, “Band News,” *Russell Wildcat*, 22 January 1929, 3.

⁵¹ _____, “Russell’s Summer Band,” *Russell Wildcat*, 30 May 1929, 1.

Leon Thompson (saxophone), Leon McDuffie (alto horn), Bernard Holbrook (saxophone), Gerald Simpson (saxophone), Willis Brown (drums), Ernest Thornton (drums), Dickie Aderhold (drums), J. W. Tice (trumpet), William Thompson (alto horn), and Marvin Boyer (drums).

The Russell Band performed a 24 March Sunday Concert held at 3:00 P.M. in the Fairfax Theater. A brief *Atlanta Constitution* concert announcement mentioned the name H. P. Carpenter as the director of a group comprised of Russell students.⁵²

Russell's first ROTC end-of-year, countywide competition occurred on 10 May. Held at Piedmont Park, regular army officers from Ft. McPherson, along with many dignitaries from both the Atlanta and Fulton County school systems, were in attendance.⁵³ Competing against established programs at Fulton High, Boys' High and Tech High, Russell earned several military prizes/commissions and third place overall. Fulton H.S. won first place and took home the "Best Drilled" Trophy. Russell's Johnny Woods won 2nd place in the competitive Rifle Drill.

After the first year of operation, Carpenter continued his recruiting efforts by organizing a summer band. A *Russell Wildcat* article made the announcement:

"Mr. Carpenter, our bandmaster, is organizing a band in East Point, College Park and Hapeville to play during the vacation. He will use the RHS band as the nucleus of this organization...The vacation band will be an aid in discovering new talent and it also will keep the regular musicians in practice. The band will give concerts and hold weekly rehearsals."⁵⁴

⁵² Clark Howell, ed., "Sunday Concert by School Band for East Point," *Atlanta Constitution*, 24 March, 1929, 3F.

⁵³ Clark Howell, ed., "Fulton High School Company Wins Drill," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 May 1929, 23.

⁵⁴ John W. Faulkner, "Russell's Summer Band," *Russell Wildcat*, 30 May 1929, 1.

Approximately 62 students graduated as part of ceremonies held in the Russell High Auditorium on 31 May 1929. Dr. M. L. Brittain, President of Georgia Tech, delivered the commencement speech. The graduating class sang *Praise Ye the Father* (Gounod) and *Greeting to Spring* (Strauss). Jamie Strickland offered the valedictorian speech, while Rebecca Hunt offered the salutatorian speech.

Academic Year: 1929-1930

Principal: C. W. Reid

Band Director: Harry P. Carpenter

Band Officers: Leon Thompson, Captain

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): John Faulkner; Ray Harris; Lamara Huie; Hamilton Hornsby; Leon Thompson (Band Captain); and Jacques Upshaw.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- R. L. Bowen began the first year of his long-time tenure as Russell football coach.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:
Marist; Fulton; @ Douglasville; Commercial; Marietta; Rome; GMA; Decatur; Douglasville; @ Powder Springs; Commercial.



1929-1930 Band

The football season for the team and first-year coach R. L. Bowen started in somewhat soggy conditions. Lengthy periods of rain altered practice plans for many of the area football teams.⁵⁵ Russell's first game was against Marist, but the wet field conditions caused a postponement of the regularly scheduled Thursday, 25 September game to the next day.

The Marist coach at the time was Joe Bean, a 26-year veteran Marist coach who was well known in prep circles at the time. Russell's new coach, Coach Bowen, working with a young football team and very little practice time, faced an uphill battle, but Russell only lost by a score of 7-0 on a very sloppy field. Coach Bowen's team would go on to win its next four games and have a successful season.

An *Atlanta Constitution* article detailing the starting lineups for the Russell-Marist game stated some interesting statistics when compared to today's almost NFL-sized high school teams. Russell's line was described as averaging 160 pounds with a lighter backfield; Marist's line weighed in at an average of 150 pounds, with a backfield averaging 145 pounds.⁵⁶ In 1955, twenty-five years later, the combined rosters of Russell, Hapeville, and College Park High Schools contained only four players who broke the 200-pound barrier.⁵⁷

The first PTA meeting of the school year drew one of the largest PTA crowds in the history of Russell. Performing on the program was the newly formed Russell Mandolin Orchestra. The approximately 16-piece organization combined forces with

⁵⁵ Clark Howell, ed., "Preps Practice Despite Rain," *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 September 1929, 19.

⁵⁶ _____. "Russell High, Marist Open Prep Season," *Atlanta Constitution*, 36 September 1929, 22.

⁵⁷ C. N. Martin, ed., "1955 Football Team Rosters," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 8 September 1955, 4-A.

other such groups around the county and performed under the name of the Fulton County Mandolin Orchestra.

This Fulton County Mandolin Orchestra Club performed at a National Education Association (NEA) meeting under the director of William B. Griffith, Mary B. Dobbs, and L.S. Eakes, all Atlanta-area professionals who were associated with the Griffiths School of Music. According to the 1930 *Pointer* Russell Mandolin Club article, the NEA performance occurred on July 4, 1929, in Atlanta as part of the organization's annual national conference. The concert occurred at Wesley Memorial Church, selections for which included *Moonlight Frolic* by Adell, *Lost Chord* by Sullivan, and *Lady Dainty* by Adell.⁵⁸

The *Pointer* article also stated:

“After the club played for the National Educational Association, the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music in New York received 749 requests in regard to its organization and system. In answer to the request, it published a ten-page pamphlet about the Fulton County Mandolin Orchestra.”⁵⁹

The 1929 Southeastern Fair opened for eight days from Saturday, 5 October, through Saturday, 12 October. The fair parade coincided with ‘Greater Atlanta Day’ held on Tuesday, 8 October of fair week. In addition to City of Atlanta politicians and dignitaries, officials from numerous municipalities, including Avondale, Decatur, Hapeville, College Park and East Point, were featured in the parade. Military units from the Atlanta area National Guard and from Ft. McPherson participated as well. The 10:30 A. M. parade included bands and ROTC units from every City of Atlanta high school;

⁵⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “National Education Association” (9 A. M. Wesley Memorial Church: General Session), *Atlanta Constitution*, 3 July 1929, 4.

⁵⁹ Carrie Lee DeLoach, ed., “Mandolin Club,” *The Pointer*, 1930, 69.

Russell High, along with other Fulton County ROTC bands and units, also received invitations to perform. The parade began at Baker and Peachtree Street and dispersed at the Trinity Avenue and Whitehall Street intersection.

Jere Wells, Superintendent of Fulton County Schools, held a large barbeque at Russell High for about 425 people on Saturday, 2 November. Several guest speakers and numerous dignitaries were in attendance for this event, which represented a token of appreciation and gratitude for the County Commission's work in improving the Russell High grounds. The Russell Mandolin Orchestra and the Russell Band provided the Music.⁶⁰

11 November 1929 represented the 11th annual observance of Armistice Day. The Russell High ROTC units paraded in downtown Atlanta with similar units from Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, and Marist School.

The Russell High PTA met in the Russell Auditorium at 2:30 P. M. on 11 February. Following a guest speaker, a Founders' Day program was presented, the conclusion of which included a musical tea. According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, "Mrs. Alice Cox Reins presented a group of students in piano and violin numbers...these children are also students of Russell High."⁶¹

The annual PTA-sponsored "Stunt Night" was held at the Russell Auditorium on 4 April 1930. Numerous groups from the Tri-Cities area provided entertainment of all types and varieties.

⁶⁰ Clark Howell, ed., "Jere Wells Host to 425 Persons at Big Barbeque," *Atlanta Constitution*, 3 November 1929, 10.

⁶¹ _____, "Russell Hi Meet Featured by Musical Program," *Atlanta Constitution*, 16 February 1930, 4K.

Russell High won the District Five High School Literary Meet held at Russell on Friday, 25 April. Russell won first place in music, home economics, debating, spelling, and won eight first places in athletic events, easily winning over second place Decatur High 75 to 24.⁶² Russell went on to win the Literary portion of the State Meet in late May. Earning first place points for Russell in the State competition were Regina Pudney, winner of the Music category, and Mary Johnson, winner in the Home Economics category.

A viewing of the 1930 *Pointer* Yearbook reveals that the band was an important segment of a large Russell ROTC Department. The Russell Band provided the vitally important music to which the ROTC units marched in parade and Pass-and-Review. In April 1930, the Russell ROTC was judged the ‘best drilled’ in Fulton County, a major recognition for which the band was responsible.

In observance of National Health Education Week, Fulton County Schools held a Health Day program at Lakewood Park on 9 May. Part of the schedule involved a pageant and parade, with music provided by the Fulton High and Russell High Bands. Both groups performed for a crowd estimated at around 6,000.⁶³

Two Russell students received high recognitions at the event. Senior Harold Walker was chosen as Health Pageant “King” from among boys representing 10 schools. A committee of physicians selected him on the basis of physical fitness and general good health. Charles Reddick was recognized as one of two students at the event who did not miss one day of school since entering first grade.

⁶² Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High Wins Annual School Meet,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 27 April, 1930, 7A.

⁶³ _____, “Fulton Schools Will Stage Health Program on May 9,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 27 April 1930, 13A.

Graduation was held in the school auditorium on 30 May. Russell graduated about 86 students, the largest number in the young history of Russell High. Dr. Witherspoon Dodge was guest speaker for the ceremony. The senior play, *Touchdown*, was staged two days earlier.

Academic Year: 1930-1931

Principal: C. W. Reid

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: J. W. Faulkner, Band Captain; E. L. McDuffie, 1st Lieutenant; J. W. Tice, 1st Lieutenant; Claude Yow, 2nd Lieutenant; Richard Aderhold, 1st Sergeant; and Lester Blackstone.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Russell added three student Clubs: the Athletic “R” Club; the Literary “R” Club; and the Student Council.
- Charles W. O’Rear (M.A., University of Georgia) was Russell’s first official baseball coach.
- The Russell Track Team earned 2nd Place in the 5th District Meet.
- The first issue of the *Russell Wildcat* student newspaper was distributed on December 1.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Marist; Fulton; Griffin; Commercial; @ R.E. Lee; Decatur; Douglasville; @ Marietta

With the departure of Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Drukenmiller, a member of the Russell High Science Department, was named as the new band director. Band members listed in the 1931 *Pointer* were as follows:

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Privates</u>	<u>Privates, con't</u>
J. W. Faulkner,	Captain	H. Baker	A. E. Keith
E. L. McDuffie,	1 st Lt.	L. J. Blackstone	H. Lipes
J. W. Tice,	1 st Lt.	A. L. Burt	W. Martin
Claude Yow,	2 nd Lt.	L. A. Buran	C. T. Nesbett
R. T. Aderhold,	2 nd Lt.	W. C. Burdette	G. Neville
H. Q. Callahan,	2 nd Lt.	D. T. Coker	J. Nolan
Richard Aderhold,	1 st Sgt.	R. Cochran	L. M. Nolan
J. P. Green,	Sergeant	J. W. Fowler	P. H. Orr
C. C. Duncan,	Sergeant	J. P. Gordon	E. P. Pierce
S. C. Simmons,	Corporal	F. Guffin	C. Roberts
A. C. Mizelle,	Corporal	H. J. Golightly	E. D. Stephens
H. G. Mathews,	Corporal	G. H. Harrison	G. L. Simpson
		R. T. Huff	E. C. Standfield
		R. H. Johnston	W. A. Thompson
			H. Warlock

The 16th Annual Southeastern Fair was held from 4-11 October. Opening Day began with an 11:30 A. M. parade through downtown Atlanta that ended at the fairgrounds. Governor Hardman and Mayor Ragsdale were among the number of guests and dignitaries featured in the parade and on hand to officially dedicate the opening of the fair. The Fred Wedemeyer Band and Nagel's Vaudeville Troupe performed various musical acts and other entertainment twice daily in the grandstands during the 8-day run of the fair. Schools closed on 6 October for 'School Day,' which attracted over 50,000 students.

Military Day, originally set for 9 October, was held on 10 October because of rain the night before. The 122nd Infantry of the Georgia National Guard and cadets from GMA performed military drills for the grandstand audience. The 122nd Infantry Band, directed by Clint C. Barber and commanded by Capt. William J. Pike, performed a concert prior to the military drill exhibition.

The annual PTA-sponsored “Stunt Night” was held in the Russell Auditorium on 12 December. The Cecil White Hawaiian Band was featured, along with other musical acts.

In January, the Home Economics Department sponsored the showing of the movie *Romance of the Rio Grande*, which was presented in the auditorium. The Russell Mandolin Club and Mary Bell Dennard, piano, performed music for the event.

The first PTA meeting of the new calendar year was held on 13 January 1931 in the Russell High Auditorium. The band provided music and Mr. Drukenmiller sang a vocal solo. The 17 February PTA meeting featured a Founder’s Day celebration. Mrs. Z. V. Peterson of the State PTA was a featured speaker on a program that included music “furnished by a group of Russell students.”⁶⁴ The next PTA meeting occurred on 10 March and featured Ruby Clonts, a Russell senior who spoke on Home Economics. A musical program concluded the meeting.

Russell High sponsored a musical variety show called the Wildcat Minstrel. The show took place on Friday, 6 March, in the school auditorium. Coach Bowen served as Master of Ceremonies, while Miss Lula Hill, head of the English Department, directed the music. Headliners included Hamilton Hornsby and Bob Bell, graduates of the Class of 1930, who sang several numbers, and Russell students Jack Landers and “Tap” Ellington who performed a black-faced comedian act.

The Russell PTA stayed busy in the spring by sponsoring school events. A well-attended Daddies Night was held on 17 March with music provided by the Russell Band. Another “Stunt Night” was held on 20 March and involved large numbers of various

⁶⁴ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High Hears Mrs. Peterson,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 22 February 1931, 4K.

civic and school organizations, including several selections performed by the Russell Band. Shortly thereafter, the Russell PTA produced the comedy, *The College Flapper*, on 23 and 24 April in the school auditorium. This production involved about 200 students, 40 of whom were from the Russell Girls Chorus. Other participants included adults and all three mayors from the Tri-City area. The production contained numerous music and choral selections.

Around 1,000 Fulton County high school students attended National Child Health-May Day festivities held at Lakewood Park on Friday, 24 April. As was the case the year before when top health honors and attendance record recognitions went to two Russell students, Russell senior James Colson, 19, of Hapeville won the top “Knight of Strength” award, and senior Mary Belle Dennard and sophomore Floy Cornett won honors for perfect school attendance since first grade. The Fulton High and Russell High Bands provided music for the pageants and Grand Health Parade.

The Fulton County Parent-Teacher Council enjoyed music entertainment provided by the Fulton County Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra during a meeting held at Fulton High School on Friday, 15 May. The large orchestra was comprised of students from Russell and other schools and was under the direction of W. B. Griffith and Mrs. Mary Griffith Dobbs.

Russell High won the District Five Literary Meet on the strength of winners in numerous categories. Overall first place winners included Robert English in Ready-writers contest; Jesse DeBarnette in Home Economics; and, Charles Snow in Piano performance. All three competed in the Statewide Literary event held at Athens, Georgia,

on 7-9 May. Charles Snow won second place at the state Piano event, earning a \$100.00 scholarship in the process.

Snow's Literary Competition progression began with being named winner of the Russell High preliminary round where he performed *Wedding Day at Troldhaugen* by Edvard Grieg, and J. S. Bach's *Two-Part Invention, No. 14*. According to *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, Snow was the pupil of Mrs. W. A. Simpson, a well-known piano instructor in the East Point area.⁶⁵

In quite a civic undertaking in the midst of the Depression, East Point built a new city auditorium, which was dedicated on 28 May 1931. The *Fulton County Review* reported, "...Dr. J.A. Yeast presented the keys to Mayor J.A. Ragsdale and music was furnished by the Russell High School Band."⁶⁶

Graduation activities included the senior play, *Miss Somebody Else*, a four-act comedy performed at Russell High on 21 May. Russell ROTC Officers hosted the Junior-Senior Prom that was held at the College Park Women's Club.

One of the first ceremonies in the newly built East Point City Auditorium was the 1931 Russell Graduation, where about 109 Russell students, the largest Russell graduating class to date, received their diplomas. Class music for the 29 May graduation included *Anvil Chorus* (Verdi) and *O Wondrous Night* (Offenbach). Alberta Palmour was selected as the class valedictorian; Mary Lee Oliver and Hilda Cochran tied for salutatorian. A post-graduation ceremony party was held for the graduates at the home of Mrs. H. A. Allen.

⁶⁵ C. N. Martin, ed., "Charles Snow Wins First Place in Music Contest at Russell Hi," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 16 April 1931, 1.

⁶⁶ Ed. "New Auditorium at East Point," *Fulton County Review*, 12 June 1931, 1.

Academic Year: 1931-1932

Principal: C. W. Reid

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Robert Aderhold, Band Captain; Conway Mizelle, 1st Lieutenant; Coleman Simmons, 1st Lieutenant; Claude Yow, 1st Lieutenant; Darby Coker, 2nd Lieutenant; Joe Green 2nd Lieutenant; and Wilber Martin, 2nd Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Wilber Martin (2nd Lieutenant); Conway Mizelle (1st Lieutenant) Coleman Simmons (1st Lieutenant); Claude Yow (1st Lieutenant).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The Russell Football team record was 6-4, the best season to date.
- Mrs. E. C. Curtis organized the Russell Glee Club. The group sang at the Georgia Education Association Convention in April 1932.
- About 36 band members were pictured in the *Pointer* band page.
- The 5th annual Georgia High School Scholastic Press Association meet was held in Athens, Georgia, on 6 May with over 350 high school journalists and faculty advisors in attendance. Russell High (*Russell Wildcat*) and Athens High (*Thumb Tack Tribune*) were the top winners in the Class 2 (high school papers in cities of 7,500 to 25,000) category.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Powder Springs; Fulton; Marist; Griffin; @Athens High; Decatur; Barnesville A & M; R.E. Lee; U.S.B.; Commercial.

The first PTA meeting held at the end of September included the discussion of several musical initiatives. First, the PTA voted to sponsor a music appreciation class to be offered by Mrs. E. C. Curtis of Atlanta. Secondly, the PTA moved to offer musical programs during the year for the benefit of the Russell PTA.

The Southeastern Fair was held at the Lakewood Fairgrounds for eight days on 3-10 October. The *Atlanta Constitution* claimed that the opening day parade was one of the largest in Atlanta's history. Mayor James L. Key was in attendance at the fairgrounds to offer an official welcoming and opening to the event. The Southeastern Fair Band and

Nagle's Vaudeville Troupe provided grandstand entertainment at 2:30 and 7:30 P.M. daily.

School Day on 5 October attracted over 75,000 students from all over Atlanta and many parts of Georgia. The State Spelling Bee, an important feature of School Day, was chaired by Dr. M. L. Brittain, Georgia Tech president; Jere A. Wells, Fulton County School Superintendent, presided as one of the referees.

Mr. Drukenmiller and Miss Mildred Pendergrass of the Russell faculty presented special music for the 11 October "Daddies Night" PTA meeting. The 10 November PTA meeting involved an observance of Armistice Day and National Education Week. The program opened with several selections performed by the Russell Band.

Over 700 people turned out for a school bond discussion being held as part of the 9 February PTA meeting. A brief Founder's Day address was also made at the conclusion of the meeting. The Russell Orchestra, directed by Mr. Drukenmiller, provided music during the evening.

The year 1932 was the bicentennial of the birth of America's first president, George Washington. As was done in many locales and schools around America, East Point held a Bicentennial Celebration, two events in which the Russell Band participated. The first occurred on the afternoon of 22 February at the East Point City Auditorium. An article in the *Russell Wildcat* indicated, "The Russell High Band, under the direction of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, played Monday afternoon, 22 February, at the East Point City Auditorium for a Washington program sponsored by the citizens of East Point."⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Ed. "Band Furnishes Music For Program on 22nd," *Russell Wildcat*, 29 February 1932, 1.

The East Point local of the Ku Klux Klan sponsored the second program, held later in the evening of 22 February in the Russell Auditorium. This Ku Klux Klan-sponsored concert was advertised in *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*:

“In keeping with the Bicentennial Celebration being observed nationally, the East Point local of the Ku Klux Klan will stage a colorful program in the Russell High auditorium Monday night. Music will be furnished by the Russell Band and Glee Club, said Mrs. Sisson” [PTA President].⁶⁸

Summing up the performance activities of the band on 22 February, the *Russell Wildcat* continued, “They also played for the program at the presentation of a flag to Russell High by the Ku Klux Klan of East Point, Monday night.”⁶⁹ The flag was a replica of the Confederate battle flag. An account of the program was also rendered in the *Atlanta Constitution*.⁷⁰

Times were different in 1932 and social elements such as the Ku Klux Klan, which are not in favor in the modern day, were commonplace at that time. The above-mentioned event would have been approved through the Fulton County Board of Education and the Russell High School administration. Any attempt to directly connect Mr. Drukenmiller, band director, or any of the band members to the Ku Klux Klan and the flag event would be erroneous and should not be presumed by the reader.

The 8 March PTA meeting focused on Citizenship and Patriotism. The Russell Band performed the *Star-Spangled Banner* as part of the program. The 19 April 1932

⁶⁸ C. N. Martin, ed., “East Point Klan to Present Flag to Russell High,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 18 February 1932, p. 1.

⁶⁹ Ed. “Band Furnishes Music For Program on 22nd,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 February 1932, 1.

⁷⁰ Malberry Smith, “New Flag Presented Russell High School,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 28 February 1932, 5K.

PTA Meeting opened with a song featuring accompaniment by Joe Karlick, violin, and Agnes Clinkscales, piano. Both musicians were featured again at the 3 May PTA meeting when they provided instrumental accompaniment for Margaret Keith, Gene Henslie, Mary Louise Ellison, and Malberry Smith in the singing of the French National Anthem on a program featuring the French Club. Claudia Wooten performed the piano solo, *Mighty Like a Rose*, to finish out the musical selections.

The annual High School Association District Five Literary Meet was held at Russell High. Russell won several categories, thereby earning the winning students an opportunity to compete in the State Literary Event held in Athens, Georgia, on 4 May. Russell students representing District Five were Charles Snow, Music (Piano); Conway Mizell, Boy's Essay; H. E. Smith and H. L. Bridges, Debate; Mary Stuart, Home Economics; and, Russell High Team, Spelling. Mary Stuart won second in the Statewide competition.

The 1931-1932 Russell Band was appreciated and well received. The *Russell Wildcat* reported:

“Russell is very proud of the progress by the band this year. Recently they have learned four overtures, *Patriotic Overture*, *The Bright Star*, *The Hunting Scene*, and *Service Overture*. They have been asked to play several selections for the operetta to be given March 10 by the Glee Club.”⁷¹

Mid-1920s technological refinements to radio made the medium accessible to a growing number of Americans. By the early 1930s, the development of radio networks

⁷¹ Ed. “Band Furnishes Music For Program on 22nd,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 February 1932, 1.

and additional broadcasting capabilities made the use of radio much more widespread. Before the advent of television, a radio was a vital piece of equipment in the home.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, it was not unusual for high school and college bands to perform concerts for an audience of radio listeners. The first reference to radio performances that Mr. Drukenmiller would perform and produce over the course of his band days at Russell was announced by a writer for the *Russell Wildcat*, who stated: “Mr. Drukenmiller says that the band is planning a program to be broadcast over all three radio stations in the near future.”⁷²

The 1930s ushered in the Swing-era in America; yet, the performance of swing music by student music organizations in schools was very rare. Indeed, many colleges around the country did not have swing bands in the early 1930s. In an innovative and very unique decision, Drukenmiller organized a small ensemble to play swing music. A *Russell Wildcat* article announced the news:

“Russell has an orchestra, folks! This startling bit of news spread rapidly after several students, upon hearing melodious sounds of the latest jazz numbers floating through the building, investigated and found a busy little group of musicians. Mr. Roy Drukenmiller plays the piano while Coleman Simmons and Conway Mizell with saxophones, Robert Aderholt with his trumpet, Joe Green with his clarinet, Joe Karlick as violinist, and Haynes Shearin as trap drummer join in making joyful noises.”⁷³

Russell graduated 140 students, the largest graduating class in that period of Russell’s history. Malberry Green won a Columbia University scholarship awarded by the Columbia University Alumni Club. Leading up to graduation, the senior class

⁷² Ed. “Band Furnishes Music For Program on 22nd,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 February 1932, 1.

⁷³ Ed. “Loud Noise Proves the Orchestra Lives,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 February 1932, 1.

produced their senior play, *Nancy Ann*, with William Whigham and Amy Cleckler starring in leading roles. The performance was held on Friday, 20 May, in the East Point City Auditorium for an admission price of 15 and 25 cents.

One of the last performances of the school year by the Russell Band occurred on 1 June with music provided for the dedication of the new three-acre Memorial Park Swimming Pool and Tennis Court complex on Spring Street. An ensemble from Virgil Baker's Hawaiian Music Conservatory also provided musical entertainment.

Academic Year: 1932-1933

Principal: Paul D. West⁷⁴

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Joe Green, Captain; D. Coker, 1st Lieutenant; R. Aderhold, 1st Lieutenant; E. Stanfield, 2nd Lieutenant; and C. Dunham, 2nd Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Joe Green (Band Captain, Senior Class President); Darby Coker (Band Captain); Wilber Martin; Estol Stanfield; and Eugene Stephens (Band/Orchestra).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Overcrowding at Russell necessitated the retention of Hapeville 8th graders at the College Avenue School in Hapeville. The 8th grade class was also retained at Richardson School in College Park for the same reason. These students came to Russell a year later as 9th graders.
- Margaret Pace won 4th Place in the Statewide Georgia Home Economics Association Contest for her entry addressing "Opportunities for Home Economics in the Present Economic Crisis."
- For the second year in a row, the *Russell Wildcat* won the top honor in the Class II division of schools at the Georgia High School Scholastic Press Association Meet in Athens, Georgia, on 5 May. Russell's Harley Warlick was an official program participant during the meeting.

⁷⁴ C. N. Martin, ed., "Paul D. West appointed temporary principal at Russell High," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 1 September 1932: 1 ["...West appointed temporarily...during the absence of C.W. Reid who has been granted year's medical leave on account of ill health"].

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

@ Decatur; Barnesville A & M; Athens; Marist; U.S.B.; @ Gainesville; Fulton; Druid Hills.



1932-1933 Band

The Russell Band supported a football team that lost only one game, the season opener at Decatur, the entire season. The team came in second in the final NGIC rankings, making this Russell team one of the most successful to date.

The ROTC Band made slight changes to its structure by reducing the leadership staff. The *Russell Wildcat* noted:

“The grand array of officers which have always accompanied the band around the field at military has been cut somewhat and now has been set at: One captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, one “top” sergeant, and three other sergeants. One of the commissioned officers will probably be drum major. Mr. Roy Drukenmiller is director of Russell’s military band. The band will be inspected once every week. It will play twice weekly in the auditorium at the chapel period.”⁷⁵

⁷⁵ Harley Warlick, ed., “Band Plans Changed From Last Year’s Program,” *Russell Wildcat*, 30 September 1932, 2.

The 17th Annual Southeastern Fair was held from 1-8 October. The *Atlanta Constitution* reported the Fair Parade contained numerous school and civic organizations and included Fulton and DeKalb County political officials, plus mayors and civic personnel from East Point, College Park, and Hapeville. The Nagel Vaudeville Troupe entertained nightly grandstand crowds with a 9-act show, while the Perry Bechtel Orchestra performed for dancing in the Casino late into the night.

A second parade, a mostly motorcade event featuring young ladies as part of “Debutants Day,” was held on 4 October with the GMA Band leading the way. A unique feature of the 1932 Fair involved the 7 October debut of “Junior Olympics Day,” a track meet that involved teams from Tech High, Boys High, GMA, Commercial High, and Russell High; single entrants were included from Albany High and Buford High. Those representing Russell High were Lewis Giles, Ralph Giles, Wilson Phillips, Wilson Cash, and Edward Baker.

An Atlanta visit in October by presidential candidate Franklin Roosevelt was cause for a huge celebration. 25 October 1932 was designated ‘Roosevelt Day’ and the accompanying parade was the largest known in Atlanta to that date. Governors and many other politicians from all over the Southeast were in town and were among the over 200,000 people who crowded the parade route. The National Guard, on hand to be a marching unit in the parade, was diverted from that duty and assigned positions to maintain crowd control.

The Russell Band and ROTC, along with similar units from Georgia Tech, Marist School, Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys High, and Fulton High, organized along Baker Street between Peachtree and West Peachtree before the parade. The parade

route made numerous turns before coming to a conclusion at the City Hall and the State Capitol.

The 14th annual commemoration of Armistice Day was recognized with a large downtown Atlanta Parade. The Russell Band and ROTC units, plus those of Tech High, Boys High, Marist School, Fulton High, and Georgia Military Academy, performed to “cheering and appreciative crowds.”⁷⁶ The large parade began at Whitehall Street and proceeded to Peachtree Street, West Peachtree, to North Avenue, before coming to a close at Georgia Tech.

Even prior to his death on 2 March 1932, John Philip Sousa (1856-1932), his music, and his band had become an American legend. His marches are among the best known and most loved musical compositions of all time. As a bandleader, Sousa shaped the history of American military bands, professional bands, and public school bands far more than any other individual. His touring professional ensemble, THE SOUSA BAND, toured for about 40 years and brought live music of a caliber never heard before to millions of Americans. Traveling by train, Sousa and his incredible band usually presented two performances a day in two different towns.

In the fall of 1932, just months after Sousa’s death, Drukenmiller and the Russell Band were hard at work on a number of Sousa works, undoubtedly as some sort of tribute to the March King. The *Russell Wildcat* reported:

“*The Stars and Stripes Forever*, one of the most famous marches of the distinguished composer, John Philip Sousa, was chosen last week for the Russell High ROTC Band to work on by the director, Mr. Roy Drukenmiller. This is the

⁷⁶ Clark Howell, ed., “Atlanta Honors Soldier Dead in Colorful Armistice Rites,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 November 1932, 1.

second of Sousa's works attempted by the band, the first being *Washington Post*, which was taken up last spring.

Several other new marches are now being played by the band; among these are *Mt. Healthy*, *Queen City*, *The Service Flag*, and *Onto Victory*. All of these are beautiful though not difficult marches selected by Mr. Drukenmiller for use on the field."⁷⁷

Most large bands have smaller units that offer the flexibility of performing for events where a large ensemble is not necessary. In a banquet given for Paul D. West, Russell's principal, a small group of band students performed. In all likelihood, this banquet was probably a welcoming celebration, for West was new to Russell in the fall of 1932. A *Russell Wildcat* reporter wrote:

"Three students from the Russell High Orchestra attended the banquet given by the Russell faculty for Mr. Paul D. West, our principal. These students furnished a number of popular selections....The quintet was completed by the addition of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller with his trumpet, and Miss Lula Belle Hill at the piano. The students attending the banquet were Gerald Pudney with his violin, George Roberts with his saxophone, and Hynes Sherian playing the bells."⁷⁸

The 15 November PTA featured "Daddies Night" activities. As part of the meeting agenda, the Russell High Orchestra performed several selections. The following semester, a 14 March evening PTA meeting was also advertised as a "Daddies Night." The Russell Band performed several selections, as did a quartet of guitar players. Drukenmiller's Home Room 112 won \$1.00 for having the largest parent turnout.

The *Russell Wildcat* noted an unusual orchestra performance in late November:

⁷⁷ _____. "Band Branches Out Into Broader Field," *Russell Wildcat*, 28 October 1932, 4.

⁷⁸ Harley Warlick, ed., "Orchestra Quintet Play for the Faculty Dinner," *Russell Wildcat*, 24 February 1933, 1.

“The prize winning stunt presented at the PTA stunt night by Mr. Roy Drukenmiller’s orchestra was at a “tacky” party at Pattillo Memorial Church in Decatur on November 23. Members of the orchestra were asked to participate in this affair, and they all said that they thoroughly enjoyed going.

Mr. Drukenmiller entertained the group by dressing up as ‘Piccolo Pete’ and clowning in his way. He also delivered his famous speech, “O, Well, You Know as much about the Subject As I.”

The orchestra acted as judges of the ‘tackiest’ costumes and awarded the prizes. Several selections were offered with Darby Coker furnishing the voice parts.”⁷⁹

The Orchestra continued to be busy up through December. An article in the *Russell Wildcat* noted:

“Mr. Roy Drukenmiller’s “Coffee Pot Dodgers” have enlarged their repertoire rapidly in the past two or three weeks, having learned two new popular numbers, *Some Day We’ll Meet Again* and *Please*.

The orchestra is the result of the club organization started this year. It has had a very successful beginning, having played in a number of different places with much success. The organization played in chapel Tuesday, December 6th, and Thursday, December 8th, and on both occasions met with the whole-hearted approval of the upper and lower classmen.”⁸⁰

Edwin Franko Goldman (1878 - 1956) was one of America's prominent band composers of the early 20th century. He composed over 150 works, his marches being the most notable. He is known for founding the renowned Goldman Band of New York City and the American Bandmaster’s Association. Goldman's works are known for their pleasant and catchy tunes, as well as their fine trios and solos. He also encouraged audiences to whistle/hum along to his marches.

Goldman visited Atlanta for a 23 March guest conducting appearance with the All-Georgia Band, a student group organized for a convention of the Southern

⁷⁹ Harley Warlick, ed., “Orchestra Plays for an Atlanta Church,” *Russell Wildcat*, 2 December 1932, 1.

⁸⁰ _____. “Orchestra Learns New Selections,” *Russell Wildcat*, 11 December 1932, 4.

Conference of the Music Educator's Association held in Atlanta. The All-Georgia Band, determined by recommendation of the school band directors, was comprised of selected students from over 20 high school bands from Atlanta and surrounding areas. Russell Band members were among those chosen for the All-Georgia Band.

The 1933 edition of the *Pointer* highlighted an Orchestra Club (Haynes Shearin, President) and a 10-piece swing band, both of which were sponsored by Drukenmiller. The Orchestra furnished music for the March meeting of the Athletic Association. Selections included *Baby* and *Just a Little Home for the Old Folks*. New to the group for this performance were Lula Belle Hill, piano, and Richard Huff, saxophone.⁸¹

Russell High representatives to the District Five Literary Competition were generally selected by head-to-head competition within the school. In the piano division selection process held at First Methodist in East Point, Claudia Wooten won the Russell title, with Floy Cornett coming in second. Playing *Paraphase on Rigoletto* (Verdi/arr. Liszt) and *Two-Part Invention #8* (J.S. Bach) in Decatur on 29 April, Claudia Wooten went on to earn 3rd place against other District Five competitors.

Toward the end of the school year, the Russell Band performed in an unusual concert series. Russell, Fulton and North Fulton High Schools traveled to each other's schools and combined for performances. A *Russell Wildcat* reporter remarked:

“A joint band concert was given Friday, April 7, in the Russell High auditorium by North Fulton, Fulton and Russell bands. Each band was composed of about 35 members and the bands were allowed to play 3 selections each. . . Third in the concert, Russell High band under the direction of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller played *Serenade*, *A Night in June*, *Trombone Smear*, *Shoutin' Liza*,

⁸¹ Harley Warlick, ed., “Orchestra Performance,” *Russell Wildcat*, 10 March 1933, 3.

and an overture, *Queen City*. These same bands will give concerts at Fulton High and North Fulton High at later dates.”⁸²

At this point in time, the Fulton High band director was Charles Taylor; Warren T. Jackson conducted the North Fulton High Band. Interestingly, both of these men would become future band directors at Russell: Taylor from 1943-1946, and Jackson from 1946 to 1947, after which he left to become principal at North Fulton H.S.

On Tuesday, May 16, the Russell Band performed incidental music and the Star-Spangled Banner at a flag raising ceremony held at Colonial Hill School. The school P.T.A. organized the donation of the flag, which was presented by the order of the Klux Klan No. 51 of East Point.

Graduation week activities involved the 19 May Junior-Senior Prom held at the College Park Women’s Club. On 26 May the senior class presented the play, *The Whole Town’s Talking*, a three-act comedy featuring seniors Florence Smith and Jack Clay. The performance was held at the Russell Auditorium for an admission price of 25 cents.

Graduation was held for 140 seniors at the East Point City Auditorium on 2 June 1933. Class music included *Pilgrims Chorus* (Wagner); *Hark, Hark, The Lark* (Schubert); and *Carmena Waltz Song* (Wilson). Dr. J. Spole Lyons delivered the graduation address. Class valedictorian was Elsie Maynard; Joe Pottle Green, Band Captain, was salutatorian. He also was recognized with a Columbia University scholarship awarded by the Columbia University Alumni.

Academic Year: 1933-1934

Principal: Paul D. West

⁸² Harley Warlick, ed., “High School Bands Join in First Group Concert at Russell,” *Russell Wildcat*, 14 April 1933, 4.

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Charles Duncan, Band Captain; Jerry Fitzgerald, President, Orchestra Club.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Haskell Baker (Band Lieutenant); Mary Bennett (Orchestra); John Howard Cagle (Band); Rudolph Cochran (Band); Charles Duncan (Band Captain); Jerry Fitzgerald (Orchestra Club President); Fred Guffin; Clifford Harris; Chester Harris (Band Lieutenant); Henry Lipes; Robert Matthews (Band/Orchestra); Ernest Pierce; Gerald Pudney (Band/Orchestra); Gerald Simpson; and Harley Werlich.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- During the 1933-34 school year, Russell saw extensive interior renovations.⁸³
- Also, Russell was awarded a C. W. A. grant for a new gym.⁸⁴
- The seventh annual Georgia High School Scholastic Press Association meeting was held in Athens, Georgia, on 4 May 1934. For the third year in a row, the Russell High newspaper, *The Wildcat* (Jack Smith, editor), won first place in Class II and was awarded a trophy by the *Athens Banner-Herald*.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Commercial; Marist; Griffin; Newnan; Decatur; North Fulton; Gainesville; LaGrange; Fulton; Marietta.

Mr. Drukenmiller had high hopes for the 1933-34 Band. He spent time during the summer working with new students and prepared details for the band's guest performance at Georgia Tech's opening game with Clemson. With fourteen new members joining a rather high percentage of returning students, this edition of the Russell Band was probably the largest one to date. The band was the subject of a *The Russell Wildcat* feature article:

⁸³ Ed. ["The interior of Russell High is being completely renovated. This work was begun during the Christmas holidays and will be completed some time in March. This work is a C.W.A. project"], in "C.W.A. Fixing Russell High," *Fulton County Review*, 19 January 1934, 1.

⁸⁴ Ibid. ["The Fulton County CWA board Thursday announced award of \$14,000.00 to the county board of education for the erection of a gymnasium at Russell...the building is to be a wooden structure."] in "Russell High Awarded Gym," *Fulton County Review*, 19 January 1934, 1.

“All members of the ’33 Russell Band, with the exception of Robert Aderhold, Joe Green, Curly Stanfield, Darby Coker, and Joe Karlick, are playing in the band again this year. Fourteen new members who will be playing with the rest of the band in a month are: James Preston, Edward Garner, Sidney Farrar, John Cagle, Eugene Harris, Harold Taylor, Claud Wynn, Billy Cleckler, W.A. Duncan, Jr., Mahlon Brewer, Bob Keith....The band is planning to play at Georgia Tech’s opening football game against Clemson College. It is also planning to play at Russell’s opening game with Commercial High School of Atlanta.

“Mr. Drukenmiller plans this year to organize a small drum/bugle corps. During the summer Mr. Drukenmiller worked very hard getting new members and giving them lessons. As a result the band is larger than it has ever been and is expecting to do better work.”⁸⁵

Mr. Drukenmiller’s high expectations for the 1933-34 Band were presented in some detail in a subsequent the *Russell Wildcat* article:

“Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, director of the Russell High Band, announced that the band of ’33-’34, in addition to being the largest in the history of the school, has fine possibilities of becoming the best one. About 30 of last year’s men are back, and promising new material is in evidence. The band has several new marches and overtures, in addition to a new book containing 16 marches, seven of which have been learned and played.

The band has played at the East Point City Auditorium and is contemplating other public appearances for future dates. The band is still inquiring for a new first sergeant, since Simpson is undecided as to whether he will give to the pressure. The brass section is making rapid improvement.”⁸⁶

Overall management of the Southeastern Fair was turned over to Mike Benton, a successful Atlanta businessman and past vice president of the Fair Association, who was also a musician of some note. He opened the 1933 Fair on 2 October with a parade and “School Day.” The GMA Band and the Famous Higgins Band led the parade. A new fair feature included a live on-site radio broadcast of Perry Bechtel and his Carolina Tarheels

⁸⁵ Jack Smith, ed., “Russell’s Band Full; Old Boys Missed,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 September 1933, 3.

⁸⁶ _____. “Company ‘D,’ ” *Russell Wildcat*, 17 November 1933, 4.

Band. Bechtel and his group also performed afternoon shows for the grandstand audiences; the Higgins Famous Band played the nightly grandstand audiences.

With the country in a deep economic depression, a parade was held in Atlanta on 4 October to support President Franklin Roosevelt and his National Recovery Act (NRA) Program initiated earlier in the year. The Russell Band and ROTC units, along with similar units from Georgia Military Academy, Riverside, Boys Tech, Fulton, and Marist participated in this Great NRA Parade. With over 600 Russell student participants in the parade, a *Russell Wildcat* reporter remarked that, “Russell made a very creditable showing in the parade, especially the Band and the bus carrying girls dressed in Russell’s colors.”⁸⁷ A 100,000-strong crowd of onlookers along Peachtree, Whitehall, and Mitchell streets, together with 50,000 marchers, made this the largest parade in Atlanta’s history to date.⁸⁸

Having been created as a new ensemble the year before, the Russell High Swing Orchestra started its second year of existence in October. Even though Drukenmiller was busy with marching band, he found time for this new group. A *Russell Wildcat* article introduced the Orchestra:

“Last Friday morning, October 20, the Russell High School Orchestra held its first meeting at Harris Street School on Harris Street in East Point. The orchestra will be under the direction of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller and will consist of six members: George Neville, trumpet; Gerald Pudney, violin; Miss Lula Belle Hill, piano; Jerry Fitzgerald, banjo; Robert Matthews, drums, and Byne Shearin, bells.

Some of the pieces the orchestra is working on now are *Under a Blanket of Blue*; *Lazy Bones*; *Last Round-up*; *Don’t Blame Me, Thanks*; *Love is the*

⁸⁷ Jack Smith, ed., “Many Russellites March with NRA,” *Russell Wildcat*, 13 October 1933, 3.

⁸⁸ _____, “Great NRA Parade Proves a Success; 50,000 Parade for President Roosevelt,” *Russell Wildcat*, 13 October 1933, 1.

Sweetest Thing; and, *The Big Bad Wolf*. The orchestra will probably be the best Russell has had yet, and it is looking forward to a bright future.”⁸⁹

The Russell Band, along with ROTC companies A and B, marched in the Armistice Day Parade in College Park. The College Park American Legion organized the parade that was billed as “the greatest patriotic demonstration in the history of this section of the country.”⁹⁰ The 11 November parade staging put the Russell Band behind the United Daughters of the Confederacy and in front of the Boy Scouts. The parade began at the Georgia Military Academy and ended at the new golf course.⁹¹ In a separate Armistice Memorial ceremony, Russell students joined others from Georgia Tech, Marist, and Fulton High at St. Philip’s Pro-Cathedral in Atlanta to mark the 15th anniversary of the signing of the armistice.⁹²

Continuing what was a well-received home-and-away concert series involving three groups performing separately on one evening concert, the Russell Band again expected to perform with Fulton and North Fulton High School bands. An article in the *Russell Wildcat* noted, ... “the Band which increased recently to 45 members has mapped out their program for the coming year... they expect to give three concerts, at Russell, Fulton, and North Fulton High Schools, and present several programs over the radio.”⁹³

In information gleaned from *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, a school club or organization generally sponsored monthly meetings of the Russell PTA. Following the

⁸⁹ _____ . “Orchestra Meeting Held Last Friday,” *Russell Wildcat*, 23 October 1933, 1.

⁹⁰ Ed. “More than 3,000 Seen for Armistice Parade, ‘Cue in College Park,” *Fulton County Review*, 3 November 1933, 1.

⁹¹ Jack Smith, ed., “Armistice Day is Observed by Parade in College Park,” *Russell Wildcat*, November 1933, 1.

⁹² Clark Howell, ed., “Armistice Memorial Marks Day in St. Philip’s Pro-Cathedral Rites,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12, November, 6C.

⁹³ Jack Smith, ed., “Prospect for Band Better than Last Year,” *Russell Wildcat*, 27 October 1933, 1.

business portion, the program frequently featured a guest speaker, along with a presentation by the sponsoring group. The band and orchestra performed at several of the PTA programs during 1933-34: the band in September and November and the orchestra in January and March meetings. In a PTA notice in the *Atlanta Constitution*, the November meeting was held particularly for fathers, who heard a speech by Jere Wells, with “music rendered by the Russell High Band.”⁹⁴ Coverage of this November PTA meeting appeared in the *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, which noted favorably, “the famous RHS Band with Director Roy Drukenmiller played several selections, which the audience enjoyed immensely...”⁹⁵

The fall of 1933 was a particularly busy period, and certainly was not a time for Drukenmiller to get sick; however, that is exactly what happened. Drukenmiller was absent for much of December recovering from an appendicitis operation. A status report in the *Russell Wildcat* indicated:

“Roy Drukenmiller, Chemistry teacher, underwent an operation for appendicitis Wednesday December 6 at St. Joseph’s Infirmary and is reported to be doing well.

Mr. Drukenmiller had been suffering from appendicitis for some time, but an operation was not necessary until last week. He expects to return to school at the close of the Christmas holidays. During his absence, Mr. Phillip Edminson is acting as Chemistry teacher.”⁹⁶

With Drukenmiller’s return in January, he and the band got down to some serious work. The 9 February PTA Founders Day Program at Russell High involved a joint

⁹⁴ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High will hold a Daddies meeting Tuesday, November 14.” *Atlanta Constitution*, 8, section M.

⁹⁵ C. N. Martin, ed., “Russell High Held Interesting Meeting,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 17 November 1933, 1.

⁹⁶ Jack Smith, ed., “Mr. Drukenmiller Better After Having Operation,” *Russell Wildcat*, 21 December 1933, 3.

meeting of the five East Point PTAs. The Russell Band performed for the large audience. The Band also performed several selections for the 13 March PTA meeting.

Other important performances were scheduled to complete the year, including the prestigious Georgia Education Association Convention concert in April. Several articles discussed these upcoming performances:

“The ‘Band Boys’ are doing better after weeks of practice. They have an overture that they will be playing on various occasions. They also have two marches that the band played three years ago.

Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, the director, expects to receive *The Bells of St. Mary’s* overture and *Operatic Mingle* overture. After these pieces have been learned well, the band will be considered one of the best high school bands in the country.

Fulton is practicing every day on overtures and other pieces, hoping to be the only high school band to know more than the other. Mr. Drukenmiller found out this information and is practicing every day on these overtures to show Fulton and the other bands what Russell’s band can do.”⁹⁷

“The Russell ROTC Band, under the direction of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, has become a very popular and a beneficial organization in the school. On Tuesday, April 3, at the Junior-Senior chapel, and on Thursday, April 5, at the Freshman-Sophomore chapel, the band entertained the students with several numbers. They were *Headway*, *Monarch*, *Operatic Mingle*, and *Military Escort*, a march by which the students entered and left the auditorium. Also, on Thursday afternoon, April 5, the ROTC band entertained the Citizens Conservation Corps members at Ft. McPherson. They played most every number that they were familiar with.

Again on Saturday, April 7, Russell’s band practiced at Fulton for the program at the G.E.A. Convention the following Friday. The Russell band played *Warming Up*, *Blue Moon*, *Neptune*, and *Operatic Mingle*. In addition to these engagements, the band is to play on radio programs in the near future.”⁹⁸

“The Russell High Bands played over radio station WGST at 4 o’clock Friday afternoon, April 12. The numbers played were *Operatic Mingle*, *Overture*

⁹⁷ Jack Smith, ed., “Band Boys” Doing Better After Weeks of Practice,” *Russell Wildcat*, 9 February 1934, 4.

⁹⁸ _____, “Russell Band Makes Big Noise at Assembly,” *Russell Wildcat*, 12 April 1934, 1.

Manoa, and *Warming Up*. Since the title *Warm-up* did not sound ritzy enough for Director Roy Drukenmiller, the name was changed to *Captain General*.⁹⁹

“The Russell and Fulton High School bands will combine into one large band and will play at the Georgia Education Association Convention to be held Friday, April 30, at the Atlanta Auditorium.

Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, director of Russell’s Band, will direct some of the pieces and Mr. Taylor, director of the Fulton Band, will direct the rest. The two bands met last Saturday morning to practice.

The Russell High Band will also play over the WGST radio station at 4 o’clock Friday afternoon.¹⁰⁰

The Russell Band performed in a 26 April College Park Confederate Day Memorial Parade organized by the Robert E. Lee Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy (College Park). The Band and ROTC units marched from Virginia Avenue and N.E. Main Street to the Hawthorne Monument.

America was still in the throes of a severe depression in the mid 1930s. To help with morale and to assist with a forward-looking vision of prosperity, the City of Atlanta organized a parade called “Atlanta’s Mardi Gras and Better Times Parade.” According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, parade organizers claimed, “The celebration will be one of the most colorful parades and pageants ever held in Atlanta.”¹⁰¹ The Russell Band performed in the 29 April parade and was part of a larger East Point entry.¹⁰²

National Music Week was celebrated in a 8 May school assembly program involving several musical selections performed by students Gerald Pudney, Claudia

⁹⁹ C. N. Martin, ed., “Russell and Fulton Bands to Play Friday,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 27 April 1934, 3.

¹⁰⁰ C. N. Martin, ed., “Russell and Fulton Bands to Play Friday,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 27 April 1934, 3.

¹⁰¹ Clark Howell, ed., “Parade for ‘Better Times’ Marches Here Monday Night,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 29 April 1934, 11.

¹⁰² C. N. Martin, ed., “East Point Wins Second Honor in Atlanta Parade,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 4 May 1934, 1.

Wooten, and Hynes Shearin. In addition, Eloise Olds lectured on the instruments of the orchestra.

As busy as the band was with concerts and parades during the spring, they still had their regular ROTC duties and responsibilities, which included inspections:

“On May 7, when Colonel Reed inspected the Russell ROTC unit, he remarked that the band was one of the best he had seen. As a result, he and Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, who acted as judge, took only 7 points off in inspection. Billy Cleckler, Walton Simmons, Gene Harris, and Hynes Shearin won individual inspection for the band.”¹⁰³

The senior class play, *Broken Dishes*, was presented on 27 April in the Russell auditorium. Leads for the play were Evelyn Flowers and John Cordes. A record high number 179 seniors graduated from Emory University’s Wesley Memorial Chapel on 25 May 1934. The graduating class sang *Unfold, Ye Portals* (Gounod) as part of the ceremony. *Greeting to Spring* was also included, along with *Rigoletto* (Liszt), a piano solo performed by Claudia Wooten. Speakers on the graduation program included Elsie Blackstone, Valedictorian; James A. Davis, Salutatorian; and Frank Wells, Jr., winner of the senior class declamation contest, class orator. Elsie Blackstone won the Atlanta Journal Cup as the best all-round student and scholarship to Wesleyan College.

Academic Year: 1934-1935

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Ed Sims, Captain; Max Fix, President, Co-ed Orchestra Club

¹⁰³ Jack Smith, ed., “Band Shows Well In Gov’t. Inspection,” *Russell Wildcat*, 22 May 1934, 3.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): [No directory...No senior band list.]

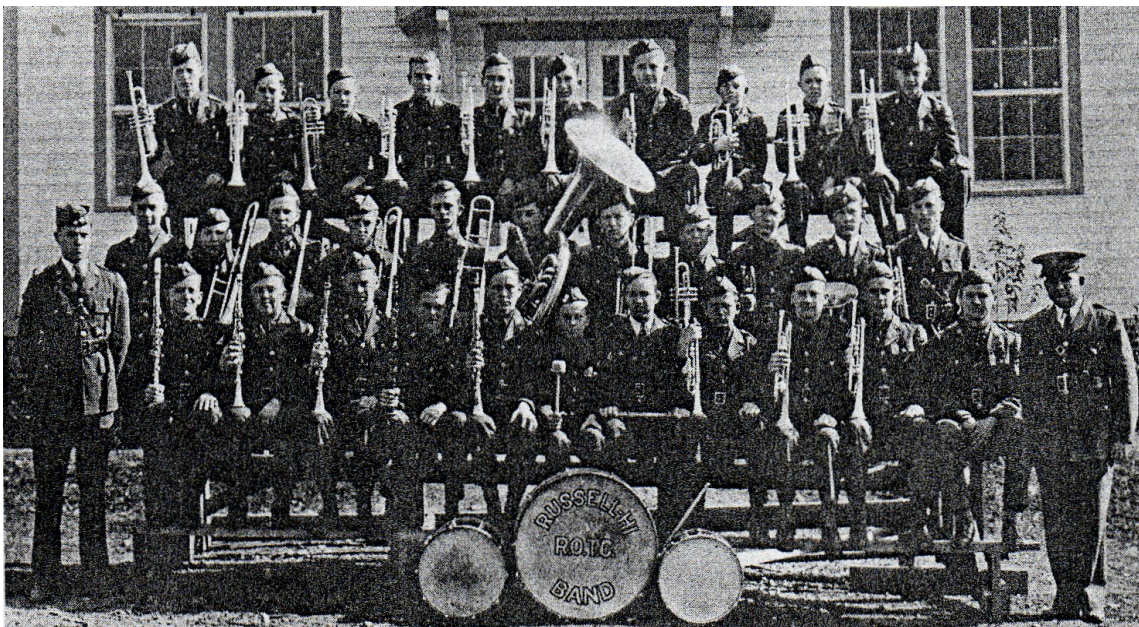
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- On 19 October 1934 the new Russell Gym was dedicated.
- The Russell Basketball team, coached by John G. Lewis, won Russell's first North Georgia Interscholastic Conference (N.G.I.C.) State Championship over Commercial High (23-22).
- The Russell chapter of the National Honor Society was first organized in December.
- The Russell Tennis Team began N.G.I.C. and G.I.A.A. competition.
- The Georgia Scholastic Press Association awarded the *Russell Wildcat* newspaper first place in Class (3 May 1935).
- Eleanor Harlee, a Russell freshman, won the Fulton County Spelling Bee, beating out representatives from 15 other schools.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

GMA; Monroe A & M; @ Griffin; Newnan; Marist; Commercial; Gainesville; Fulton; Marietta; Decatur.

The 1934-1935 *Pointer* featured a photo of the 10-member Orchestra Club, Max Fix, president. Another photo shows a 33-member, all-male, ROTC Band.



1934-1935 Band

Russell High and all of East Point were proud that one of their own, Miss Josephine Bowling, won the “Miss Georgia” crown at an event held in Chicago. The *Russell Wildcat* proudly reported:

“Miss Josephine Bowling, Russell student, was crowned “Miss Georgia” at the Century of Progress in Chicago. It was “Georgia Day” at the fair and several thousands of people, including Governor Talmadge, witnessed the event. Miss Bowling was selected from a group of twenty-one contestants at a ball held Tuesday night at the Morrison Hotel. As a reward for her honor, Miss Bowling received a new automobile. Miss Bowling won the right to compete in Chicago by winning from a large field of contestants at the College Peach Ball held recently.”¹⁰⁴

The Russell Band was part of the celebration and homecoming for the new “Miss Georgia.” The *Russell Wildcat* recounted:

“On Saturday night, September 29, Atlanta welcomed home her peach queen, “Miss Georgia,” who is none other than our own Jo Bowling. The queen arrived at the Union Station in Atlanta about 7 o’clock to find her family and hundreds of friends awaiting her.

The students of Russell High showed Jo how much they appreciate her by turning out in large numbers. The Band and part of the Military Unit were there in uniform; and as “Miss Georgia” came into view of the crowd, the Band started playing and marched before her.

She was then escorted from the station by the rest of the Military Unit to a waiting car which accompanied the motorcade to the College Park Woman’s Club where a reception was given in honor of the Queen’s return.”¹⁰⁵

One of Bowling’s first official duties was to lead a large 20 October American Legion Parade in downtown Atlanta that concluded the National Convention of the American Legion. Gov. Eugene Talmadge accompanied Ms. Bowling.

¹⁰⁴ Billy Clecker, ed., “Russell Senior Girl Crowned at Fair in Chicago,” *Russell Wildcat*, 27 September 1934, 1.

¹⁰⁵ _____, “Band, Military Unit Acclaim Jo Bowling,” *Russell Wildcat*, 18 October 1934, 4.

The 1934 Southeastern Fair ran from 29 September through 6 October. The overall designation for the fair was an “America Indian Exposition,” a theme that was one of the most outstanding in the over 60-year history of the fair. Members of the Cherokees, Pueblo, Navaho, and Seminole Indians set up camp on the fairgrounds, performing rituals and interacting with the audiences. Thavia’s Century of Progress Band performed nightly for the grandstand crowds.

On Friday, 19 October, the new John J. Egan Memorial Gym at Russell was dedicated before the home football game with Newnan High School. The *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter* wrote: “the Russell Band will open the program with several appropriate selections.”¹⁰⁶ According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, over 1,500 spectators were on hand.¹⁰⁷

The annual fall carnival was always a festive occasion enjoyed by the Russell students and East Point community. A highlight of the event included the naming of the King and Queen, along with the Queen’s Maid of Honor. For the 1934 Fall Festival, Drukenmiller had the responsibility of providing the orchestra.¹⁰⁸

Armistice Day in 1934 fell on a Sunday, requiring a commemoration change to Monday, November 12. Schools were closed to allow students the opportunity to participate in the day’s activities. A parade in downtown Atlanta included ROTC units from Atlanta and Fulton County schools. The parade started at Whitehall & Mitchell and ended at Georgia Tech’s Rose Bowl Field.

¹⁰⁶ C. N. Martin, ed., “Russell Dedicates Gymnasium Today,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 19 October 1934, 1.

¹⁰⁷ Clark Howell, ed., “John J. Egan Memorial Gym Dedicated,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 October 1934, 8.

¹⁰⁸ _____, “Russell High Plans Annual Carnival on Oct. 29,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 14 October 1934, C.

The Band performed a short concert of novelty selections for the 14 November PTA meeting. Selections included *Pop Goes the Weasel*, *Old McDonald Had a Farm*, and *Little Rat*. Another PTA meeting was held on 20 November to commemorate National Education Week. The Russell Band performed several numbers during the social hour followed the business meeting.¹⁰⁹

The December 11 PTA meeting featured numerous Russell music students: Hynes Shearin played several bell solos with Nell Thurman accompanying on piano; and Mabel Henslee performed several violin selections with Frances Peacock on piano. The program concluded with several Christmas carols from the Russell Glee Club and a one-act play by the Drama Club.

Russell High celebrated Robert E. Lee's birthday in a school assembly ceremony on 18 January 1935. Members of the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy (College Park) were special guests. Writing in the *Atlanta Suburban's Reporter*, Mrs. B. D. Gray wrote, "Mr. Drukenmiller, the commander of the large school band, thrilled all hearts with melodies, old and new, closing in a burst of glory with *Dixie*."¹¹⁰

On 12 February, five combined East Point PTAs met at Russell High to celebrate Founders Day. The Russell Band provided musical entertainment for the event.

Army Day was established by a World War I veteran organization in 1929. The purpose of the annual event involved a celebration of the U. S. Army on April 6 each year, a day selected to coincide with America's entrance into World War I. Prior to

¹⁰⁹ Clark Howell, ed., "Meetings for Daddies are Held by Parents, Teachers in November," *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 November 1934, 5K.

¹¹⁰ B. D. Gray, "Russell High Gives Program Honoring R.E. Lee's Birthday," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 25 January 1935, 1.

1935, most of these annual observances were confined to an "Open House" format, whereby the general public was invited to view military hardware and facilities at various military bases.

This was the case at Atlanta's Ft. McPherson. The 1935 Army Day activities at Ft. McPherson included an appearance of 230 cadets from GMA in College Park. Numerous Downtown Atlanta businesses displayed flags and other patriotic exhibits, while the American Legion Post 1 held a flag-raising ceremony at Atlanta's Five Points.

Russell students participated in a WGST radio program designed to popularize music in the schools. Appearing on the show were Neil Thurman, piano; Dorothy Turner, piano; Leland Sims, violin; and the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Drukenmiller.

Band Director Drukenmiller taught in both the Science and Music departments. Drukenmiller added to his already busy schedule by being elected as the representative of the Fulton County teachers and appearing on their behalf at the State Federation of Labor meeting held in Columbus, Georgia on 15-17 April.¹¹¹

A newly formed German Band became active with a number of April performances. This group was comprised of James Preston, bass; Roy Miller, baritone; Clyde Freeman, George Wilkes, and Eugene Harris, clarinet; Edward Garner and Arthur Nelson, trombone; and Pair Simpson, trumpet. They performed at First Methodist Church in Decatur on April 6; at the Perkerson PTA on 10 April; and for a beauty contest

¹¹¹ Alton Reeves, ed., "Mr. Roy Drukenmiller Represents Teachers," *Russell Wildcat*, 10 April 1935, 3.

sponsored by the Hapeville Women's Club.¹¹² One special Russell Band Chapel performance occurred on 25 April 1935 for an East Point American Legion Post-sponsored Essay Contest Ceremony that featured the awarding of medals and prizes. The Russell Band performed the *Star-Spangled Banner* and other selections.

The Russell Band participated in two separate Confederate Memorial Day events on 26 April. The day began at 10:00 A. M. with the Russell Band performing *America* and the *Star-Spangled Banner* at the monument in College Park. The R. E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy sponsored the program. Beginning at 1:30 P.M., the Russell Band and ROTC units marched in the downtown Atlanta Confederate Memorial Day parade.

Observances of the annual event traditionally were very important in Atlanta and throughout Georgia. Before and during the 1930s, Confederate Memorial Day was a holiday where state offices and businesses closed, along with schools. Parades on these days were huge affairs, involving military units, civic organizations, and school ROTC groups. After the organizations staged on streets perpendicular to Peachtree Street, the parade proceeded down Peachtree, turned left onto Hunter Street before concluding in Oakland Cemetery. Many dignitaries and guests attended a ceremony, part of which honored those confederate soldiers who were still living.

The annual Russell ROTC inspection was performed at Russell High on Thursday, 2 May. Colonel William L. Reed rated the unit with a score of 91.99%, the highest score earned in the history of Russell High ROTC. Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Paul Glover led the overall Russell group, with Cadet Captain Ed Sims leading the band.

¹¹² Alton Reeves, ed., "Russell High Band Plays German Music," *Russell Wildcat*, 10 April 1935, p. 3.

The next day, Friday, 3 May, the band participated with the Russell ROTC in a competition held with the Fulton High ROTC on the Russell Field. Russell High won the competitive company drill, and Russell's Cadet First Lieutenant Rudolph Nisbitt and Cadet Private James Cook won individual honors for a military routine execution.¹¹³

The Russell Band was busy on Friday, 10 May. In the morning, the Russell High student body heard the Russell Band in a lecture and music presented as part of the National Music Week Observance. Later in the school day, the Russell Band performed patriotic music as part of the Harris Street Elementary flag-raising event. That night, the senior class presented *Tommy*, a three-act comedy. The Russell Band, under the direction of Mr. Roy Drukenmiller, provided the music accompaniment.

About 189 students graduated at Wesley Memorial on 31 May 1935. Music for the program included *Wondrous Night* (Offenbach) and *O Turn Thee* (Gounod). Honor graduates included Eugenia Northrup, who spoke on "Co-operative Education;" John Virgil Ruppensburg, whose topic was "Cultural Forces in Education;" and William Edward Sims, Band Captain, who discussed "Our Heritage." Sims was also awarded the 'Atlanta Journal Cup' for the most outstanding all-round Russell student.

Academic Year: 1935-1936

In Memoriam:

Leland Ross Sims, Class of 1937, died 21 December 1935.

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Bill Clecker, Captain; Richard Bretz, 1st Lieutenant; Harold Coan, 2nd Lieutenant; Pugh Smith, 2nd Lieutenant; and Joe Smith, 2nd Lieutenant.

¹¹³ Clark Howell, ed., "Russell High Wins Honors on ROTC Day Program" *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 May 1935, 12.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Mary Wiley Ballantine (Orchestra; Senior Class President); Richard Bietz (Band, 1st Lieutenant); Harry Cameron; William “Bill” Clecker (Orchestra, Band Captain); Harold Coan; Sidney Farrar; Marjorie Gates (Orchestra Club); Edward Mahle (Band/Orchestra); Walton Simmons; Joe Smith (Band/Orchestra); Earl Pugh Smith; and R. L. Terrell, Jr.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The new Industrial Arts Building was completed in 1936.
- The *Russell Wildcat* earned a “Certificate of Distinction” at the Scholastic Press Association Meeting in Athens, Georgia, making this the fifth year in a row to be awarded either the top winner or Certificate of Distinction.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

R.E. Lee; Griffin; @ Tech; Decatur; @ Commercial; Fulton; @ Gainesville; Marietta.

The Southeastern Fair was held from 30 September through 7 October. Building on the success of the Native Indian theme the year previous, the 1935 Fair featured a newly renovated American Indian Exposition, which hosted Hopi Indians. The Exposition also featured California Frank’s Wild Rodeo and a Western Frontier exhibit. The Frank Cervonne Band served to provide the regular grandstand music, while Pete Underwood and his ‘Cotton States Band,’ a local Atlanta group, performed at other fair events.

The Russell Band performed for a “Daddies night” PTA meeting in November. The audience heard from Dr. Harle L. Parks, dentist, who spoke on the topic of the “Importance of Good Teeth.” Billy Clecker, the Band Captain, conducted the band at the PTA meeting during an absence of Mr. Drukenmiller.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Alton Reeves, ed., “Russell Band Plays for Daddies Night,” *Russell Wildcat*, 18 November 1935, 1.

Later that month, the Russell Band appeared in the annual 11 November Armistice Parade, an event that formed at Mitchell and Forsyth Streets in Atlanta and ended at Grant Field at Georgia Tech. A post-parade ceremony included a short welcome by Georgia Tech president D. L. Brittain and a speech by Major General George Van Horn Moseley, who spoke on the necessity of national defense. The event concluded with a massed band concert performed by all the parade bands conducted by A. J. Garing, director of the Georgia Tech Band.¹¹⁵

Atlanta's Community Chest Drive was held during November. Several local bands offered their support by performing a series of concerts at Five Points. In addition to Russell, bands from Fulton High, Boys' High, North Fulton High, and Marist participated in these programs.

Future president Roosevelt visited Atlanta just before his first election in the fall of 1932. At that time, he was greeted by over 200,000, owing partly to his popularity as a part-time resident at Warm Springs, Georgia. In November 1935, nearing the end of the third year of his first term as president, Roosevelt again traveled to Atlanta and was met this time by over 400,000 dignitaries, school children, and supporters in what was easily the largest such event in the history of Atlanta at that time.

Instead of a long parade, over 75 bands were stationed at specific locations along the motorcade route. The Russell Band, along with those of Boys' High, Tech High, and Fulton High, had the honor of being positioned in Piedmont Park to perform patriotic selections for the 2,000 Boy Scouts and thousands of others in that area. As President Roosevelt stopped by the park, he joined the huge crowd in saying the *Pledge of*

¹¹⁵ Clark Howell, ed. "Parade Heads Rites for Armistice Day," *Atlanta Constitution*, 7 November 1935, 3.

Allegiance and in singing *America* accompanied by the group of four bands present.

Later, the Russell Band, along with numerous others, performed as a massed band in selections offered at Grant Field, the last stop of Roosevelt's motorcade.¹¹⁶

The 10 December Russell PTA meeting included Dr. W. H. Kiser who spoke on the topic of the "Mental Health of the Child." The Russell Orchestra provided musical entertainment for the event.

The Russell Band and Russell High School at large were saddened by the death of Leland Ross Sims on 21 December 1935. He was a member of the band and orchestra, and had his own orchestra called 'The Southern Syncopators.' He was a very popular member of the junior class and held the title of Room 103 President.

1936 marked an important milestone in the history of the Russell Band. Prior to the completion of the Industrial Arts Building, the Band practiced in Mr. Drukenmiller's science classroom. When the Industrial Arts Building was completed, the Band was given a room, with storage availability, dedicated exclusively for the Band activities.

The 41-member ROTC Band was reviewed favorably in February 1936. The inspecting officer commended Russell's ROTC program and "highly praised the Band."¹¹⁷

In February 1936, five East Point school PTAs met at the Russell auditorium for a PTA Founder's Day Concert. An unusual group of singers, comprised of mothers from

¹¹⁶ Clark Howell, ed., "South's Governors to Greet Roosevelt," *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 November 1935, 4.

¹¹⁷ Alton Reeves, ed., "Col. Cutts of Corps Area Reviews Unit," *Russell Wildcat*, 28 February 1936, 1.

around Fulton County, was at the meeting. A *Fulton County Review* article reported “music was furnished by the Mother’s Chorus of Fulton County and the Russell Band.”¹¹⁸

On 5 March, the Russell Band appeared on a Novelty Review sponsored by the Church Street Elementary PTA. The event, held at the East Point City Auditorium for an admission price of 10 cents, featured 12 stage acts.

In March, select members of the music department were featured in a WSB radio broadcast produced by Mr. Drukenmiller. The show, called *Atlanta Journal School of the Air*, highlighted the talents of Marjorie Gates, violin; Mary Wiley Ballantine, piano; and numbers rendered by the Russell Orchestra.¹¹⁹

Army Day 1936 included the usual “Open House” format at Ft. McPherson; however, the observance also included a new feature at the old Atlanta Post Office: a luncheon was added and attended by numerous Atlanta and Georgia dignitaries. Special guests included members of several foreign consulates. Commenting on Army Day activities, the *Atlanta Constitution* noted that a band performed patriotic music from a position on Forsyth Street.

Atlanta’s Dogwood Festival debuted in the spring of 1936. In addition to a Dogwood Festival Parade and the show of gardens around which the celebration was created, an important event involved a day of music at various venues around Atlanta. On 19 April, the Buckhead Symphony, under the direction of Enrico Leide, performed a concert at the Buckhead Shell. According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, around the same time, the Yaarab Temple Shrine Band appeared at the Grant Park pavilion and performed

¹¹⁸ Ed., “Five East Point PTAs Observe Founder’s Day,” *Fulton County Review*, 14 February 1936, 1.

¹¹⁹ Alton Reeves, ed., “Russell High Takes Part in School of Air,” *Russell Wildcat*, 28 February 1936, 4.

“a spirited program of favorite classical and semi-classical numbers to a crowd gathered to enjoy the music in the sunshine.”¹²⁰ At 3:00 P. M., the Russell Band performed a program in Piedmont Park.

The 20 April Parade featured a City of Hapeville float that carried the “Hapeville Queen,” Miss Mary Ruth Ragsdale, and her Maids of Honor, Mrs. Ruth Lewis Askew and Miss Marion Stewart. Miss Ragsdale was selected from among over 50 contestants in a pageant held on Friday, 10 April, in the Hapeville auditorium. The Russell Band provided the music.

For the third year in a row, the Russell Band and ROTC units participated in the annual Confederate Day Memorial parade in Atlanta on 26 April. The Russell groups were combined with similar groups from North Georgia College, Tech High, Boys’ High, Fulton High, and Marist. The huge parade proceeded down Peachtree Street, turned left onto Hunter Street before concluding in Oakland Cemetery, where several guest speakers offered comments.

The April PTA meeting was of particular interest to the future of the Russell High music program. The occasion featured a performance of Atlanta’s WPA Orchestra, a 25-member ensemble directed by W. W. Hubner and organized as part of the national Work Projects Administration. As written in an *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter* article, the main PTA topic for the evening was, “Why music should be taught at Russell High School.”¹²¹ Various guest speakers argued for including music instruction in the general Russell curriculum.

¹²⁰ Mozelle Horton Young, “Musical Features of Festival Day Attract Many Lovers of Music,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 April 1936, 6.

¹²¹ C. N. Martin, ed., “WPA Orchestra to Give Concert at Russell High PTA Meeting,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 10 April 1936, 1.

The German Band performed for the Freshman/Sophomore Chapel on 30 April. Members of the group included Pair Simpson, George Wilkes, Clyde Freeman, Eugene Harris, Roy Miller, James Preston, Ed Garner, and Richard Bretz. Two weeks later, several of these students, along with other Russell Band students, performed in the *Atlanta Journal*-sponsored WSB School of the Air radio program.

The Russell Orchestra was part of a large number of musical acts in concert on 14 May 1936. In celebration of National Music Week, the Orchestra, along with the Central Park Glee Club and the East Point Choral Club, performed at the East Point City Auditorium.¹²²

Drukenmiller and the Russell Orchestra were invited to appear and perform for the Fellowship Class of First Methodist Sunday School in East Point on Sunday, 17 May. The concert announcement in the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* included Mr. Drukenmiller's biographical information and indicated that he would play a trumpet solo. A list of orchestra members was also provided and included the following young ladies: Mary Ballentine, Marjorie Gates, and Jane Johnson. Male membership included Carl Ekerman, Pugh Smith, Billy Cleckler, Harold Coan, Richard Bretz, George Wilkes, Thurman Creel, Joe Smith, Arthur Nelson, and Albert Bailey.¹²³

On 29 May 1936, 202 seniors graduated at the Erlanger Theater. Ada Cordes was selected as the class valedictorian; Jeanette Carroll was the class salutatorian. Graduation class music included *List the Cherubic Host* (Gaul) and *Stout-Hearted Men* (Romberg).

¹²² Alton Reeves, ed., "Excellent Musical Program Honors Music Appreciation," *Russell Wildcat*, 22 May 1936, 1.

¹²³ C. N. Martin, ed., "East Point Fellowship Class to Hear Russell Orchestra Sunday," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 15 May 1936, 1.

Mr. Drukenmiller served as director of music, while senior Marie Waters performed piano accompaniment. Activities leading up to graduation included the senior class production of *The Ghost Train* presented on Friday, 15 May, at the Russell auditorium.

Academic Year: 1936-1937

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Edward Garner, Captain; J.D. Booth, 1st Lieutenant; Pair Simpson, 1st Lieutenant; James Preston, 2nd Lieutenant; and George Wilkes, President, Music Club.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): James Preston (Senior Class Vice President, Band Officer, German Band); Marvin Raymond Ansley, Jr; James Baggott; H. A. Bishop; J. D. Booth; George Christian; Thurman Orestor Creel (Band/Orchestra); James Corley; Clyde Freeman; Edward Carlton Garner; James Richard Holland; Vincent Keith Jackson; Arthur Lewis Nelson (Band/German Band); Frank Louis Sheram; and Harold Pair Simpson (Band/German Band).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Overcrowding continued to be a problem at Russell throughout the early 1930s. In addition to Hapeville-area Russell 8th graders who were retained at College Street School to help with overcrowding in 1932, 9th graders were also retained at their Hapeville school.
- The *Russell Wildcat* newspaper was recognized as one of three Honorable Mention winners in the annual statewide school newspaper contest held in Athens, GA.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

GMA; Cartersville; R. E. Lee; Griffin; Spalding; Tech; Gainesville; Marist; Commercial; Decatur.



1936-37 Russell High Band

Until 1936, there were no confirmed, or documented, Russell High Band performances at the Southeastern Fair. An article written in a September issue of the *Fulton County Review* directly referenced a series of Russell Band performances at the Fair. This major Atlanta event was held annually from 1915 to 1975 at the Lakewood Park and Fairgrounds in South Atlanta. Organized by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, this one-week celebration held annually in early October featured a wide variety of amusements and exhibits such as midway rides, stock car races, beauty pageants, and fireworks.

Once known as one of Georgia's largest outdoor events, this Fair was extremely popular, particularly with Atlanta-area students. For example, an October 1931 *Fulton County Review* article detailing events for "School Day" estimated that approximately 50,000 students, teachers and parents would attend for the day.¹²⁴ Additionally, in 1943, the Russell-Decatur football game was moved from Friday to Thursday to allow for the

¹²⁴ Ed., "Fair School Day to Draw 50,000," *Fulton County Review*, 2 October 1931, 1.

Friday “School Day” at the Southeastern Fair.¹²⁵ As late as the latter 1960s, Atlanta-area students enjoyed early release days to attend the Fair.

The first confirmed evidence of the Russell Band’s attendance at the Southeastern Fair occurred in 1936; subsequent newspaper documentation of Fair participation is found in 1940 and twice in the early 1950s. Undoubtedly, however, the Russell Band probably participated numerous other times in addition to what has been documented here.

According to the *Fulton County Review*, the 1936 appearance involved several performances:

“Russell High School’s Band, under the direction of Professor Roy Drukenmiller, will make its second appearance of the year Monday, 5 October, at the Educational Exposition at the Southeastern Fair. The East Point band will play in the morning and afternoon.

Friday of the same week Russell High will have an important part in the 1,000-piece band that will play in front of the grand stand. Russell’s band will also participate in the mammoth opening day parade Monday, October 5.”¹²⁶

The Russell Band participated in the 5 October parade that was reported to be over two miles long. Later in the week, on ‘School Day,’ Friday, 9 October, the Russell Band performed two grandstand massed band performances along with the bands of: Thomasville H. S. (W. T. Verran); Moultrie H. S. (C. H. Jennison); Albany H. S. (Fred Percilla); Lanier H. S. (W. J. Marshall); Silvertown H. S. (J. A. Metcalf and Martha Mills); GMC-Milledgeville (Godfrey Osterman); Augusta H. S. (D. M. Lincul); Washington H. S. (Walter P. Graham); North Fulton H. S. (Charles Taylor); Georgia

¹²⁵ Charlie Roberts, “Decatur-Russell Game Changed to Thursday,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 21 September 1943, 19.

¹²⁶ Ed., Russell High Band Will Play at Fair,” *Fulton County Review*, 25 September 1936, 1.

Tech (A. J. Garing); G. M. A (Capt. John Lee); Tech H. S. (Maj. P. S. Woodward); and Boys' High (R. T. Martin)

Additional fall season concerts included the 9 November PTA meeting where both the Glee Club and the Band performed several selections. Mr. Paul West, Russell principal, presented a speech at the PTA meeting, which was recapped in the *Fulton County Review*:

“...music selections were rendered by the band. Mr. Paul West, principal, informed the association that a workshop had been begun which will give the Russell Boys another helpful vocation from which they may obtain much benefit.”¹²⁷

This 9 November PTA meeting for the Russell Dads was also reviewed in the *Atlanta Constitution*, which mentioned a speech by Judge T. O. Hathcock, who said, “If the youth of our country are to be good citizens, they must respect the rights of others.” The short article also mentioned that Solon Drukenmiller, Roy Drukenmiller’s older brother, led the community singing.¹²⁸

An 11 November Armistice Day Parade in downtown Atlanta was organized and sponsored by Atlanta American Legion Post No. 1. Governor Talmadge and Mayor Key, along with many other civic and military personnel, led the parade that ended at Georgia Tech’s Grant Field. Governor-elect E.D. Rivers spoke on “Our Country,” while Dr. M. L. Brittain, Georgia Tech President, and other dignitaries offered other speeches.

¹²⁷ Ed., “Russell PTA Holds Dad’s Night Meeting,” *Fulton County Review*, 15 November 1936, 1.

¹²⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High P.T.A.,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 15 November 1936, 10 M.



Large Atlanta parades were organized into divisions, or smaller groups, staged at various locations where the bands filed in line after the preceding division. Each of these divisions generally had a well-known figure as leader, usually someone who came from the military officer ranks. Similar-type groups, such as High School ROTC units, generally comprised these divisions. In this parade, the First Division contained all the important parade figures and the parade marshal. The Second Division, led by Lieutenant Colonel Chester E. Martin, was made up of the ROTC units of Russell High, Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, Marist School, Bass Junior High, and Hoke Smith Junior High. A division of veterans marched in the Third Division, while state/city officials and public safety units made up the Fourth Division. The final and largest Fifth Division contained memorial and patriotic societies of all types and sizes.¹²⁹

Traditionally, Armistice Day commemorations were held all over metro Atlanta and other parts of Georgia. While Russell ROTC units were in the Atlanta Parade,

¹²⁹ Clark Howell, ed., "City to Unite Today to Honor War Dead," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 November 1936, 1.

another group of Russell High students, together with those from Georgia Military Academy and some Legionnaires, held a morning parade in College Park that began a series of all-day events. The Fort McPherson Army Band provided music for some of those events.¹³⁰

The PTA Christmas program occurred on Tuesday, 15 December, in the school auditorium. The feature of the program was a Drama Club presentation of *The Table Set for Himself*. Drukenmiller led an audience group singing of various Christmas carols. Included also was a violin/harp duo performance by Mrs. R. H. Polk and Mr. Lucien Thomson.

The Russell football team was honored at an end-of-season luncheon held at Russell on Wednesday, 16 December. For the contributions of the Russell Band, Mr. Drukenmiller attended as an honored guest.

Russell High presented a first annual Talent Show on Friday, 12 February, in the school auditorium. The show highlighted a wide variety of acts, including a piano performance by Russell student, Louis Montgomery. According to the Talent Show details chronicled in an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* article, "the role of 'examiner,' 'inquisitor,' or 'presider-over of the gong' will be in the able hands of Roy Drukenmiller, Russell's maestro and composer, and R. L. "Major" Bowen, coach, interlocutor and official gong-master."¹³¹

Nathan Sewell, Jr., won the Russell High Piano Competition held in late March. His win earned him the title of Russell's representative to the District Five High School

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ C. N. Martin, ed., "Amateur Night at Russell High Holds Spotlight as Performers Vie for Prizes," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 12 February 1937, 1.

Association Literary Meet. Additionally, Nathan also won the privilege of performing in a School of the Air program over WSB radio.

In April, the Russell Band was the subject of two features in the *Atlanta Georgian* newspaper. The paper reported that the ROTC band membership was up to 43 members, and that a then newly-created concert band, separate from the ROTC unit, was comprised of 12 members and performed non-military and other concert band music. A photo accompanying the articles showed the ROTC Band marching in parade formation (see p. 91).¹³²

Confederate Memorial Day on 26 April was celebrated with a downtown Atlanta Parade and other activities. In preliminary events held the day before, the Russell Band was on hand at the Georgia Soldiers' Home and performed for the residents, some of who were actual veterans of the Civil War. State Treasurer George Hamilton was the guest speaker for this event, which also included a Confederate flag and Stars and Stripes flag presentation by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.¹³³

Russell seniors performed the play, *Skidding*, by Aurania Rouverol, on 29 April 1937. Helen McLarey played the lead female role; Thomas Veazey performed the lead male role. This comedy in three acts used music accompaniment by the German Band, Mr. Drukenmiller, director. Members of the band included Edward Garner and Arthur Nelson, trombones; Pair Simpson and H.A. Bishop, trumpets; G. Wilkes and Clyde Freeman, clarinets; Eugene Harris, bass drum; Ira Rogers, set drums; and James Preston, bass.

¹³² Ed. "Band Boosts ROTC Unit," *Atlanta Georgian*, 1 April 1937, 8.

¹³³ Lee Fuhrman, "City Joins Today in Tribute to Dixie's Gray-Clad Heroes," *Atlanta Constitution*, 26 1937, 1.

Five Russell ROTC cadets were recognized as commissioned officers and were awarded new Army sabers to be utilized in drills by the regiment. The sabers were made possible through a donation by Lyle Brewster Post of the American Legion of College Park, the East Point Post No. 5 of the American Legion, the East Point Masonic Lodge No. 288, and by Carlos Hemperley. According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, the officers accepted the sabers as part of the weekly parade and review on 28 April.¹³⁴

The Russell ROTC (including the Band) competed in the Fulton County ROTC Day held at Grant Field on 7 May. In front of a crowd estimated to be around 1,500 people, Russell High, along with Fulton High and North Fulton High, presented a variety of events, fancy company drills, individual drills and regimental reviews. Among the three groups entered, both the Russell High ROTC and Fulton High ROTC won top honors for the second year in a row. An account of the activities appeared the following day in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

“The exercises began at 1 o’clock when Cadet Colonel Clyde London, of Russell High School, presented the brigade sponsor, Miss Bobby Pruett. The various regimental, battalion and company sponsors were then presented.

Following the company fancy drill, won by Russell High School, under the leadership of Cadet Captain Fred Bonner and the individual officers’ drills, medals were awarded the cadets for distinguished work in rifle marksmanship, military efficiency and to outstanding effort.”¹³⁵

The Class of 1937 graduated over 240 students. Margaret Lambert, Class Valedictorian, spoke on “Master Builders;” Sarah Fagan, Class Salutatorian, discussed “Looking Forward;” and James Baggott, band member and class orator, spoke on “Our

¹³⁴ Clark Howell, ed., “New Army Sabers Presented ROTC,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 29 April 1937, 4.

¹³⁵ _____. “ROTC Day Staged by Fulton Cadets,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 8 May 1937, 2.

Heritage.” The band performed *The Triumphal March* from “Aida” (Verdi) for the Graduation processional and ceremony that was held at the Erlanger Theater on 28 May 1937. Class songs included *Welcome, Sweet Springtime* (Rubinstein) and *The Bells of St. Mary* (Adams). Band members recognized for winning awards included James Preston with the best band member medal, and James Baggott with a scholarship to Washington & Lee University.

Academic Year: 1937-1938

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Clifford Boswell, Captain; Gene Harris, Lieutenant; and George Wilkes, Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience):

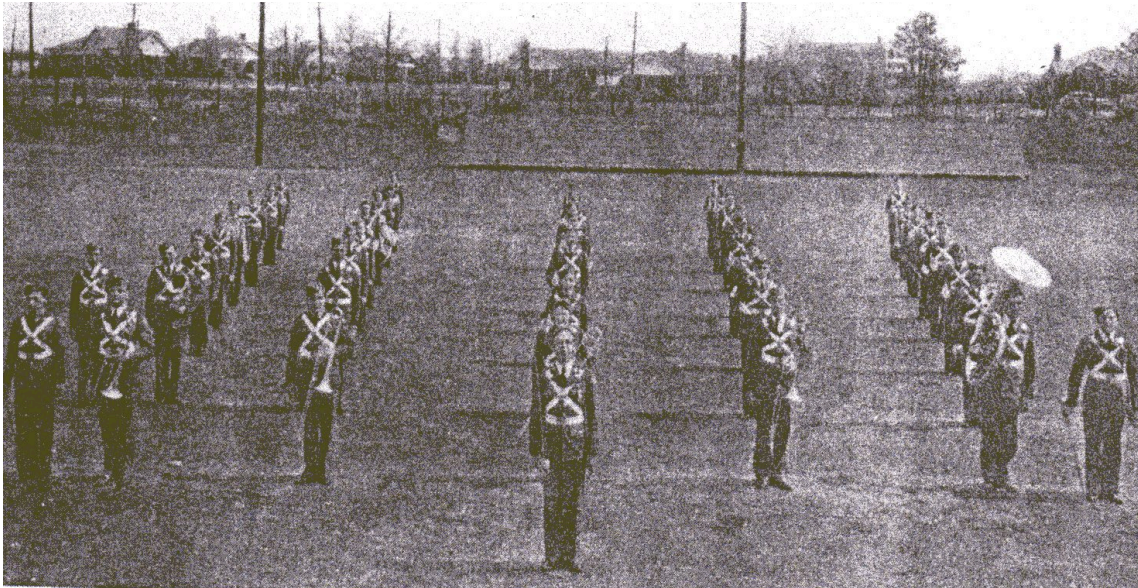
Calvin Blackwell; Benjamin Clifford Boswell (Band Captain); Thomas Bullard (2nd Lt.; German Band); Eugene Harris (Band Officer; German Band); Bob Headrick (Band Lt.); J.C. Johnson (1st Lt., German Band); Robert May; Louis Montgomery (Orchestra Club); Marion Owens; George Wilkes (Band/Orchestra); Milton Zellner; and Robert Haseltine ('36-'37).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The Russell Basketball Team, coached by John G. Lewis, won Russell's second N.G.I.C. State Basketball championship with a 26-25 victory over Griffin High School.
- Russell fielded its first Cross Country team and was led by Roy Cash, team captain. He was undefeated for the year and set a Russell record for the mile run on the track team.
- Severe overcrowding at Russell was somewhat alleviated by the addition of a 10th grade at Alonzo Richardson School in College Park. A more permanent overcrowding solution involved plans for a new Hapeville High School to be built on a 6-acre tract in the Hapeville City Park.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Fulton, Griffin, North Fulton, Commercial, Cartersville, @ Athens, Gainesville, @ Marist.



1937-1938 Russell High Band

On Thursday evening, 23 September 1937, night football was introduced for the first time at Russell, a moment billed in the *Russell Wildcat* as “one of the greatest moments in the history of Russell.”¹³⁶ With the donation of light poles from Southern Wood Company and contributions from numerous East Point businesses, the marching band performed under the lights for the first time. The field was ready for a night game on 23 September, an evening premiere won over Fulton High School by a score of 46-0.

Recounting the events of that first night game, an article in *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* reported: “With one of the largest crowds ever assembled at any one place in South Fulton, the Russell High newly-lighted football field was dedicated which

¹³⁶ Elizabeth Reeves & Leila Truitt, eds., “Band and Military Units Add to Color,” *Russell Wildcat*, 23 September 1937, 1.

preceded the game...the assistance of the engineers of the Westinghouse Electric Company and the Georgia Power Company in the lighting project was very helpful.”¹³⁷ The *Atlanta Constitution* reported on the attendance of the following honor guests: East Point, Hapeville, and College Park mayors and respective City Councils, along with Fulton County commissioners Ragsdale and Longino.¹³⁸

The Russell Band was a large part of the celebration that night. An article appearing in the *Russell Wildcat* revealed:

“No other group has done more to put Russell on the map through its many endeavors than the Russell Band – and Mr. Drukenmiller, we await with much enthusiasm the opening number tonight which will herald the beginning of Russell’s biggest year.”¹³⁹

Reflecting the importance and high esteem in which the band was held, the above-mentioned *Russell Wildcat* article was accompanied by a group photo of the band under the caption, “This Aggregation was Responsible for Many of Last Year’s Victories.”

1937 marked the centennial year of the founding of Atlanta. Numerous centennial recognitions occurred throughout the year, but City officials utilized the Southeastern Fair, which ran an expanded 10 days from 7-17 October, as Atlanta’s biggest Centennial Year celebration event. Neel’s Concert Band and Perry Bechtel’s Centennial Orchestra provided a majority of the music entertainment throughout the Fair.

¹³⁷ C. M. Martin, ed. “Russell High’s Newly Lighted Gridiron Dedicated with Smashing Victory, *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 24 September 1937, 1.

¹³⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High Dedicates Field,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 September, 1937, 2B.

¹³⁹ Elizabeth Reeves & Leila Truitt, eds., “Merry Music Makers of Russell High,” *Russell Wildcat*, 23 September 1937, 4.

The 9 November PTA meeting included performances by the German Band and the Glee Club, both of which presented two selections each. The 14 December PTA meeting was turned over to Russell students who presented a Christmas Cantata.

While large numbers of groups marched in the 11 November Armistice Parade in downtown Atlanta, the *Atlanta Constitution* reported that the Russell ROTC units, along with those of Georgia Military Academy and Alonzo Richardson High School, marched in a separate, Lyle-Brewster Legion Post-sponsored Armistice Parade in College Park. The parade formed at the corner of Rugby Avenue and Main Street and proceeded south through College Park to West John Wesley Avenue before concluding at the monument, where speakers were recognized.¹⁴⁰

The 1937 Fall Carnival was held on 19 November. The annual Fall Carnival was a popular Russell football season tradition. The school grounds and many areas inside the school were utilized for various Carnival events and activities. Over the years, Drukenmiller presided as Master of Ceremonies for the Carnival Amateur Hour, a musical event held in the auditorium. Every half hour, Carnival goers paid an extra 5 cents to see numerous short instrumental music acts and assorted vocal groups. One such group, the German Band, was also engaged to perform for the North Fulton Stunt Night on Thursday, 9 December. Selections included *Man on the Flying Trapeze* and *Baruska*.

The band performed twice in Chapel just prior to the Christmas break. Songs included *Annette Waltz*, *Little Rastus*, *Bright Star Overture*, and *Do-a-do-da*.

Writing in the 16 December *Russell Wildcat* under the heading of “Heed, Ye Musicians,” Drukenmiller encouraged mid-year recruitment into the band. He stated, “All

¹⁴⁰ Clark Howell, ed., “Peace Call Sounds in Veteran March,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 November 1937, 4.

boys interested in becoming a band member after Christmas, see Mr. Drukenmiller in Room 112 before the holidays begin.”

After Christmas, the members of the band were happy and proud to receive a U.S. Government donation of white uniform belts for parade and public performances. Included with the donation was one new trumpet.¹⁴¹

In January 1938, Miss Anne Grace O’Callaghan, supervisor of music in the Atlanta Public School system, organized an “All-Star” student orchestra called the ‘In and About Atlanta High School Orchestra.’ Directed by Gaines Walter of Boys High, the Orchestra’s membership numbered about a hundred students by year’s end. In addition to instrumental music students from Russell High, the Orchestra also included members from Girls’ High, Boys’ High, Tech High; O’Keefe, Bass, Joe Brown, and Murphy Junior High Schools; Decatur Girls’ High and Boys’ High; Druid Hills, North Fulton, E. Rivers, North Avenue, Presbyterian, Smyrna, Norcross, Griffin; Georgia Tech, and University Evening College.¹⁴²

On 31 January, the German Band performed for a Roosevelt Dinner and Theatre Party, a benefit fundraiser for Infantile Paralysis Foundation in Warm Springs. This unique event began with dinner in the Russell cafeteria; later, Dr. M. L. Brittain of Georgia Tech delivered a keynote speech. The celebration concluded with a 10:45 P.M. showing of *Paradise Express* at the Fairfax Theater.

The German Band was particularly active during the winter. In addition to the above-mentioned Roosevelt Dinner at the School, the *Russell Wildcat* reported a number

¹⁴¹ Elizabeth Reeves & Leila Truitt, eds., “Band Members Receive New Belts,” *Russell Wildcat*, 25 February 1938, 1.

¹⁴² _____, “In and About High School Orchestra is to Give Concert,” *Russell Wildcat*, 22 December 1938, 1.

of performances, including: 1) Dinner for the Mayor and Council of Hapeville at the Hapeville Presbyterian Church; 2) Men's Bible class dinner at Hapeville Presbyterian Church; 3) Senior Epworth League meeting of the Atlanta District at the Hapeville Methodist Church 4) Camp Fire Girls doughnut meeting; and 5) Founders' Day program of East Point PTAs.¹⁴³ The German band also performed for an East Point Women's Club dance on 24 February 1938.

Band Festivals and Contests have been an important element in many school bands since the beginning of the American school band movement in the early 20th century. These annual performances, generally organized and administered through the state music education professional organization, were created to enhance the quality of bands through an evaluation process. Typically, panels of adjudicators offer comments and assign overall ratings that range from I (Superior) and II (Excellent), to III (Good) and IV (Poor). Groups that earned a I (Superior) rating at the Georgia District level were eligible to perform again at the State Music Festival, which was initiated in 1937 at the Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia.¹⁴⁴

This adjudicated evaluation event included both large band and solo/small ensemble performances. The Russell Band, Brass Sextet, and German Band entered the 5th District Band and Ensemble Festival held at Fulton High on 18-19 March 1938. Large group and solo/ensemble adjudicators included Frank D'Andrea of Georgia State College for Women, and J. Oscar Miller of Chattanooga. The Brass Sextet earned an "Excellent" rating at the district level and later earned an "Excellent" rating at the State

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Many states held both a District and State Contest for some years prior to Georgia's first attempt in 1937.

Solo/Ensemble Contest held in Milledgeville, Georgia in May. Members of the group included Ed Flanders, Clifford Boswell, Douglas Couch, Harold Buck, Richard Lochle, and J. C. Johnson.¹⁴⁵

Russell's Glee Club and Drama Club collaborated to produce *The Belle of Barcelona*, a 3-act operetta, in the Russell Auditorium on March 24-25. This was Russell's first attempt at mounting a serious work, one that involved music and choral accompaniment.

Army Day 1938 had grown in scope over similar such observances in 1935 and 1936. The 22nd Infantry Band performed at the usual Ft. McPherson "Open House," and afternoon and evening banquets and other related activities continued; however, the 1938 Army Day now included numerous bands of patriotic organizations performing in various sites along Atlanta's city streets. Parades at this time still were not part of Army Day celebrations.

The Russell Band was featured in a movie that was made of an early April ROTC Battalion review. According to the *Russell Wildcat*, A & B companies, Color Guard, and the Band were filmed and seen later in a special student assembly viewing.¹⁴⁶

The Russell Band and ROTC were part of a huge Confederate Day Veterans Parade on 26 April. The path of the parade followed the traditional parade route beginning at Peachtree and Baker and ending at Oakland Cemetery. Numerous schools were represented in the parade, as were large numbers of military, civic, and fraternal

¹⁴⁵ C. N. Martin, ed., "Russell High Brass Sextet wins High Rating in Contest," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 15 April 1938, 1.

¹⁴⁶ Elizabeth Reeves and Leila Truitt, eds., "Behind the Lines," *Russell Wildcat*, 8 April 1938, 2.

organizations. Former Governors Talmadge and Slaton were featured speakers at Oakland Cemetery.

The 12 May meeting of the Russell PTA featured the installation of new officers and a Home Economics presentation. The Russell Band performed several selections for musical entertainment.

Inspection of ROTC units is an important part of the military tradition. Such reviews generally occur quite often. In addition to numerous individual on-campus inspections, Russell fared well in annual competitive inspections against other schools. As a part of the Russell ROTC unit, the band performed an important function, particularly in the ““Pass-and-Review”” portion of parades and inspections. In May 1938, Russell and Fulton High Schools were the only two ROTC units awarded “Honor” ratings by the War Department inspectors.¹⁴⁷

Lakewood Fairgrounds, known mostly for the 10-day Southeastern Fair held annually in late September, was the site for a summer amusement park. The official opening of the 1938 summer season was highlighted by an inaugural Junior Chamber of Commerce-sponsored “Homecoming Week,” a special event that included a Band Contest on 22 May. In addition to Russell, other bands represented in the concert contest were Boys’ High, Tech High, Commercial High, Fulton High, North Fulton High, Georgia Military Academy, Decatur High, and Druid Hills High. The 160-piece All-Girls Military band performed in exhibition. The contest deadlocked in a three-way tie for first place between the Tech High, Boys’ High, and Georgia Military Academy bands.

¹⁴⁷ Clark Howell, ed., “Fulton, Russell Cadets Rate High,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 31 May 1938, 9.

The Russell Junior-Senior Prom was held in the gymnasium on 4 May. The annual senior class play, *The Thirteenth Chair*, was presented on 27 May. On 3 June, 271 students graduated at the Erlanger Theater. Miss Fields and Mr. Drukenmiller directed the class music that included *Blue Danube Waltz* and *Oh! Wondrous Night*. Featured seniors included Frank Lambert, Class Orator; Florence Camp, Class Valedictorian; and Margaret Anne Ward, Class Salutatorian. Leila Truitt won the Journal Cup for the best all-around student at Russell. A commencement sermon held earlier included musical selections by the Russell Glee Club, Mr. Griffin conducting.

Academic Year: 1938-1939

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

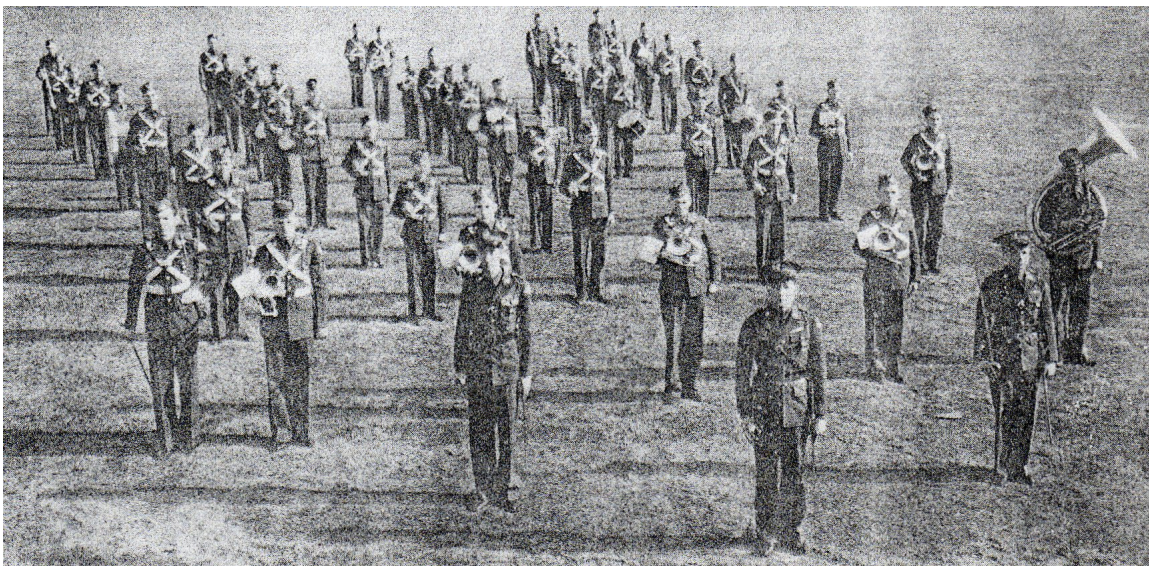
Band Officers: Albert Tull, 1st Lieutenant; Lewis Slaton, 2nd Lieutenant; Tommy Plumber, Drum Major; Mary Helen Hodges, Drum Majorette; and Elsie Carmichael, Drum Majorette.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Bill Brown (and “Midnight Ramblers Orchestra”); Edwin Flanders; Mary Helen Hodges (Drum Majorette); Lewis Slaton (2nd Lieutenant); Albert Tull (1st Lieutenant); and Buddy Vandiver.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Hapeville-area Russell 8th and 9th graders remained at College Street School during the 1930s to help with overcrowding at Russell. In 1938, 10th graders living in Hapeville were also retained at College Street for the same reason.
- For the third time in five years, the Russell Basketball Team, coached by John G. Lewis, won the N.G.I.C. State Basketball Championship with a 42-20 win over Gainesville High School.
- The Girl’s Basketball Team finished 25-2 for the season and earned the N.G.I.C. Championship.
- The *Russell Wildcat* newspaper earned a “Certificate of Distinction” at the annual Georgia Scholastic Press meeting in Athens, GA.
- Elizabeth Reeves, Russell honor student Class of 1939, was crowned Miss East Point, winning out over Doris Minor, Class of ’38, in a close ballot.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule: GMA; Decatur; Cedartown; North Fulton; Commercial; LaGrange; Gainesville; Athens; Newnan; Fulton.



1938-1939 Russell High Band

1938 was an election year and the Russell Band appeared at several political rallies. On Saturday, July 30th, prior to the beginning of the new school year, the Russell Band provided incidental music for a political event held at Hapeville's new city park. A short time later on Saturday, 27 August, the large lawn in front of Russell High School was the site of one of the largest single political gatherings in Georgia's history. In an all-day series of events that included a parade, the crowning of "Miss East Point," and motorcades for, and campaign speeches (broadcast over WGST) by, numerous local and statewide candidates, the Russell Band was heavily involved, from the opening of the ceremonies to a concert in mid-afternoon.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁸ E. D. Martin, "10,000 People Expected Here Saturday," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 19 August 19 1938, 1.

The previous year brought lights and night football to the Russell Field.

Additional improvements in the fall of 1938 included a new bandstand. Details were indicated in a the *Russell Wildcat* article:

“The Russell High athletic field is soon to have another improvement - a bandstand constructed just in back of the west grandstand, even with the top row of seats.

The stand will be built so that the track will run under it and will not obstruct it in any way. This stand will be about 20 by 14 feet, sufficient to seat and protect the entire personnel of the band. Around the top a rail is to be built-so that it can be decorated with school colors.

Mr. Butner and some of the students of his wood shop classes are supervising this work. Mr. Butner stated Monday, ‘We hope to have this stand completed by Friday night, for the opening football game.’¹⁴⁹

Drum Majorette Mary Helen Hodges created quite a sensation during the halftime of the North Fulton game on 14 October. In an action described in the *Atlanta Constitution* as a circus act, Hodges stood on the shoulders of Drum Majors Joe Farrell and H. T. Griffin (Glee Club teacher and member of the Russell English faculty, who would become the band director in 1942) with all three spinning their batons in unison.

The *Russell Wildcat* reported on the Band’s trip to the Gainesville game. Harold Cater, sports editor wrote that “The school band made its first trip of the year when it accompanied the football team to Gainesville.....the music makers and a bus of students attended.”¹⁵⁰

The 1938 Russell Marching Band received a good review of their activities during football season. In an *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter* article, a reviewer commented:

¹⁴⁹ Albert Tull, ed., “Bandstand will Be Erected on Field,” *Russell Wildcat*, 23 December 1938, 3.

¹⁵⁰ Harold Cater, ed., “Band Accompanies Team to Gainesville, *Russell Wildcat*, 18 November 1938, 3.

“The Russell Band played an important part during the season with its fine playing and snappy drill during the game and between halves. The Gainesville and Newnan trips were something these two cities will never forget, for they really put on a show in parading through the city, and in Newnan, last night the spectators of that city complimented highly the features of entertainment afforded by this organization.”¹⁵¹

The *Russell Wildcat* reported that the band made its second appearance of the year at the Southeastern Fair. The second of these two performances involved two concerts held on Monday, 5 October at 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M. The annual Southeastern Fair at Lakewood Fairgrounds, historically a good venue and publicity generator for high school bands, featured a new concept in 1938. Fair president, Mike Benton, scheduled a performance of the combined Fulton County bands at 2:30 P. M. and 7:30 P. M. on 7 October. The groups, which included the Russell Band, also performed two free shows in front of the grandstands.¹⁵²

Other performances during the first half of the school year included an 8 November PTA program. In an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* PTA notice, the paper announced “...the Russell High Band, under director Drukenmiller, will give the musical program, which includes the following marches: *Flyer*, *Warming-up*, *Wave the Flag*, and *Overture Neptune*.”¹⁵³

The Russell Band and ROTC units marched in the 1938 Armistice Parade in downtown Atlanta. The parade made its way down Whitehall, through Peachtree Street,

¹⁵¹ E. D. Martin, ed., “Russell to Have Home-coming Day; Football Team Plays Fulton,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 18 November 1938, 1.

¹⁵² Clark Howell, ed., “Children Reign at Fair Today,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 7 October 1938, 1.

¹⁵³ E. D. Martin, ed., “Russell High School P.T.A.” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 4 November 1938, 2.

before arriving at the final destination at Georgia Tech's Grant Field. There, the parade participants heard addresses by Governor E. D. Rivers and other prominent individuals.

The 1938 Carnival was held on 18 November. As he had done many times before, Mr. Drukenmiller presided as Master of Ceremonies for Amateur Hour, a Carnival musical event held in the auditorium. Every half hour, Carnival goers paid an extra 5 cents to see numerous short music acts such as the Novelty Band (German Band), piano solos, string orchestra, a variety of small instrumental ensembles, and assorted vocal groups.

The reelection of Governor Rivers was celebrated with an Inaugural Parade in Atlanta on 11 January 1939. A continuous drizzle dampened the crowd and parade participants. The parade route began at the state capitol and proceeded down Mitchell Street to Whitehall and Peachtree Streets before dispersing at Peachtree and Ivy Streets. The Russell Band and ROTC units paraded with many other similar high school groups from around Atlanta and other parts of Georgia.¹⁵⁴

The Band and Glee Club presented several musical selections for the Annual Founders' Day celebration titled, "A Pageant through the Years," in the Russell auditorium at 2:30 P. M. on February 16.¹⁵⁵ The band also provided entertainment for the March 14 "Daddies Night" PTA meeting.

Army Day 1939 was celebrated much like similar observances in the past. Additions for the April 6 event included a downtown Atlanta parade that featured a

¹⁵⁴ Clark Howell, ed., "Music and Color To Mark Parade," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 January 1939, 6.

¹⁵⁵ Clark Howell, ed., "Founder's Day Fete Planned for Thursday," *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 February 1939, 6M.

column of over 50 light tanks and other military material. Later that night several Army officials made an address on WATL radio that was preceded by an Army Band Concert.

In the early days of band festivals in Georgia, various high school bands were able to perform as a marching unit, and/or as a concert ensemble. In addition, the festival offered select students, including majorettes, the option to perform as a soloist or in small ensembles, for ratings. Owing to the fact that the Russell Band at the time was primarily a military unit of the Russell ROTC, the earliest record of Georgia District Festival performance for Russell was for that as a marching band in 1939.

The 1939 District Music Festival included the usual large ensemble and related solos and small ensembles; however, in a major departure from established precedent, a new Saturday night marching festival, sponsored by the *Atlanta Constitution*, was added. The paper's first announcement of the event occurred as a Page 1 news article on Tuesday, 24 January. In addition to the normal logistical information, the article provided rules for the 21 April Band Contest as presented by Ben L. Sisk, band director at Commercial High School, who was chairman of the GMEA's 5th District band director's committee. In a follow-up article, Clark Howell, editor and publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution*, announced that the *Atlanta Constitution* was sponsoring the marching festival at Georgia Tech's Grant Field in an effort to "stimulate interest in high school music and activities."¹⁵⁶

This evening festival represented a huge public relations benefit for the cause of music education in the Atlanta area. Writing in his weekly message in the *Atlanta Constitution*, Willis A. Sutton, Superintendent of Atlanta schools, exclaimed, "the

¹⁵⁶ Clark Howell, ed., "Thirteen Bands Will Participate in Festival Here," *Atlanta Constitution*, 2 April 1939, 13A.

purpose of this great concert is to stimulate the study of music and the harmonious co-operative working together that is required in order to produce a good band.”¹⁵⁷

To help advertise the event, and to generate exposure for the bands, the *Atlanta Constitution* highlighted each participating band with an attached photo in successive days leading up to the festival. The Russell Band was actually featured three times. First, a large page 1 photo close-up of four bandleaders (Elsie Carmichael, Hoyt T. Griffin, Joe Farnell, and Mary Helen Hodges) marching with the band in the background, made an impressive visual.¹⁵⁸ Secondly, a prominent picture and paragraph insert of two uniformed Russell Band trumpet players, Hubert McKown and Leon West, added additional publicity for Russell.¹⁵⁹ Finally, a large photo of Mary Ellen Hodges, Russell’s Drum Majorette, accompanied the announcement of Russell’s participation.¹⁶⁰ In his recap of the Festival activities and competition, Lamar Q. Ball wrote:

“The never-falling Mary Helen Hodges, of Russell High School, twirled a baton with an easy facility that won her first place among the talented young majorettes, in a competition that was baffling.”¹⁶¹

“Mary Helen Hodges performed with the experience of a baton twirler with years of experience. The baton did not slip in her unfailing grip; she held the stick at arm’s length throughout her performance; she performed all her twirling with her wrist and she was in perfect command of her arms and her stick throughout. She strutted off after the judge decided she was capable of standing out there all night in easy command of herself.”¹⁶²

¹⁵⁷ Willis A. Sutton, “Superintendent’s Message,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 16, April 1939, 7B.

¹⁵⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “School Band Units To Participate in Constitution-Sponsored Concert on April 21,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 24 January 1939, 1.

¹⁵⁹ _____, “Inevitable Picture! Long and Short of It,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 27 January 1939, 12.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ball, Lamar Q. “Musicians Display Form of Veterans,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 22 April 1939, 1.

¹⁶² Ibid, 3.

The Russell Band earned a II Rating in the senior high marching band division, finishing second to the Boys' High Band, which won the Festival competition by earning a I rating. Other senior high division ratings were: Georgia Military Academy Band, II; Tech High Band, III; North Fulton High Band, III; and Fulton High Band, III.

To assist with the evening marching Festival, the *Atlanta Constitution* enlisted over 500 school patrol students to work as ushers and PTA groups joined the effort.¹⁶³ Mr. Graham T. Overgard, Director of Bands at Wayne University in Michigan, was hired to serve as an adjudicator and guest conductor of the Massed Band performance that concluded the Festival.¹⁶⁴ The finale also included a Chorus of 1,000¹⁶⁵ and fireworks.¹⁶⁶ The Festival was a great success, with an audience of over 20,000 in attendance at Georgia Tech's Grant Field.

Confederate Memorial Day was celebrated in Atlanta with a huge parade on 26 April. The Russell Band and ROTC units were among a number of bands that included Fulton High, Marist, North Fulton, Boy's High, Tech High, Georgia Tech, and numerous military groups. Dignitaries, including Gov. Rivers and Mayor Hartsfield, led the parade that proceeded up Peachtree Street.

For a small percentage of ROTC programs that were very active and earned very high scores on annual end-of-year inspections, the U.S. War Department awarded a

¹⁶³ Clark Howell, ed., "P.T.A. Urged to Back Band Festival," *Atlanta Constitution*, 14 April 1939, 3.

¹⁶⁴ Clark Howell, ed., "Michigan Band Director Will Judge Contest Here," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 April 1939, 1.

¹⁶⁵ Drake, Frank, "Bands to be Accompanied by Chorus of Thousands," *Atlanta Constitution*, 13 April 1939, 1.

¹⁶⁶ _____, "Patriotic Fireworks Display Will Climax Band Festival," *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 April 1939, 1.

“Honor School Ratings.” For the second year in a row, the Russell High ROTC and Band won such a distinction.

A record 270 seniors graduated at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on Friday, 26 May 1939. This senior class was the last to include Hapeville-area students. The audience heard from Lois Marie Norton, Class Valedictorian, and Jacquelyn Maria Peacock, Class Salutatorian. Vernon Gould, Russell class orator, spoke of “The Power of Ideals.” Mr. Drukenmiller directed the music, while senior Herman Allison, Jr., performed as piano accompanist. Class music included *The Green Cathedral* (Carl Hahn) and *On the Road to Mandalay* (Speaks-Barlow). Senior activities leading up to graduation included the senior play *Clarence*, a 4-act play by Booth Tarlington.

Academic Year: 1939-1940

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Eugene Blackstone & Tommy Plummer, Drum Majors; and Mildred Carroll & Johnnie Mae Pair, Drum Majorettes.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): John Henry Adams; Eugene Kelly Blackstone (Drum Major '39-40); Harold Henry Buck; Jean Douglas Couch, Jr.; Jerry Cronin; Claude Olin Gunnin; James Nathan Holcombe; Charles Robert Johnson; Joe Gideon Johnson, Jr.; Ed Jones; Ezra Bruce Moles; Johnnie Mae Pair (Drum Majorette); Claude Mortimer Reeves; Billy Smith; and Louis Willis Walker.

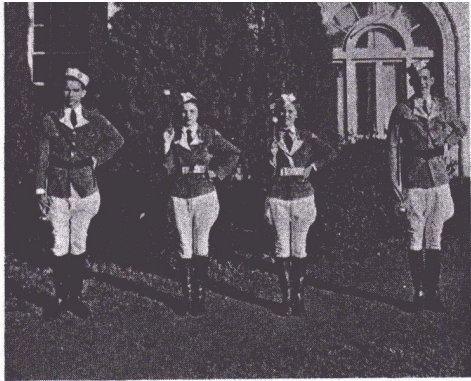
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Russell underclass students residing in Hapeville were retained at Hapeville’s College Street School for most of the 1930s to alleviate overcrowding at Russell. While this arrangement helped reduce overcrowding at Russell, the situation at College Street became increasingly congested.
- In 1939, the new Hapeville High School opened and students living in Hapeville no longer attended Russell.
- Improvements to the Russell High infrastructure were made possible by a \$23,026 grant from the Work Projects Administration (WPA).

- The *Russell Wildcat* newspaper was one of ten schools in their division to win a Certificate of Distinction at the Georgia Scholastic Press Association contest in Athens, Georgia.
- The Girl's Basketball team won the Fulton County Athletic Association Championship Title.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Tech; Decatur; Hapeville; North Fulton; Commercial; LaGrange; R.E. Lee; Newnan; Griffin; Richardson.



DRUM MAJORS and DRUM MAJORETTES
Eugene Blackstone, Mildred Carroll,
Johnnie Pair, Tommy Plummer.

The Russell Band was particularly active during the 1939-40 school year and was viewed very positively. In an article written toward the end of football season, an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* writer observed, "The crack Band and

Drum majors and majorettes headed the motorcade. Last year at Newnan, this fine body

stole the show from the football game and we are sure they will put on a fine show there between the halves this year."¹⁶⁷

Mary Helen Hodges, a former Russell Band Drum Majorette whose picture was featured in the *Atlanta Constitution* the previous April as part of the *Constitution*-sponsored Band Festival at Georgia Tech's Grant Field, received some notoriety in September. She was the drum majorette leader of the Atlanta American Legion Post No. 1 during a parade down Michigan Avenue in Chicago.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁷ E. D. Martin, "Russell Motorcade Goes to LaGrange," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 27 October 1939, 1.

¹⁶⁸ Ed. "Local Girl Leads Band in Chicago," *Fulton County Review*, 28 September 1939, 1.

Numerous bands were featured and prominent throughout the Southeastern Fair residency from 1-8 October. A total of 22 bands made appearances at the Fair at a rate of about two daily; 11 bands performed as part of 'School Day' on Friday, 6 October. A DeKalb County Band performed on Monday, 2 October; the Laurens County 4-H Band led a 11:00 A.M. Saturday, 7 October 4-H parade and performed again later that day. Throughout the week, the Georgia All-Girls Military Band and the Georgia Tech Band performed special concerts on the Fairgrounds.

Two nationally known swing bands were engaged for the Fair: the Bunny Berigan band performed a 4-hour set from 9:00 P. M. to 1:00 A. M. on Monday through Thursday; and, Gene Krupa's band arrived from New York to play the Friday and Saturday night sessions. Both bands played in a building designated as the "Hall of Swing."

The Russell Band played for the opening of the East Point Library on 3 October 1939. The ceremony was held at the East Point City Auditorium with a Library Open House later. Along with Mayor J. R. Parham, featured speakers included Paul D. West and James T. McGee of the Russell faculty.

The annual Armistice Parade on November 11 began at 9:30 A. M. in an area around Whitehall, Mitchell, and Hunter Streets. The parade route included a march down Peachtree, to West Peachtree, and then to Fifth Avenue. The parade then proceeded to Techwood, then to Sixth Street, to a conclusion at the Rose Bowl on the Georgia Tech campus. The Russell Band and ROTC units paraded with similar such groups from Georgia Military Academy (GMA), Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, West Fulton High, North Fulton High, Decatur High, and Marist School.

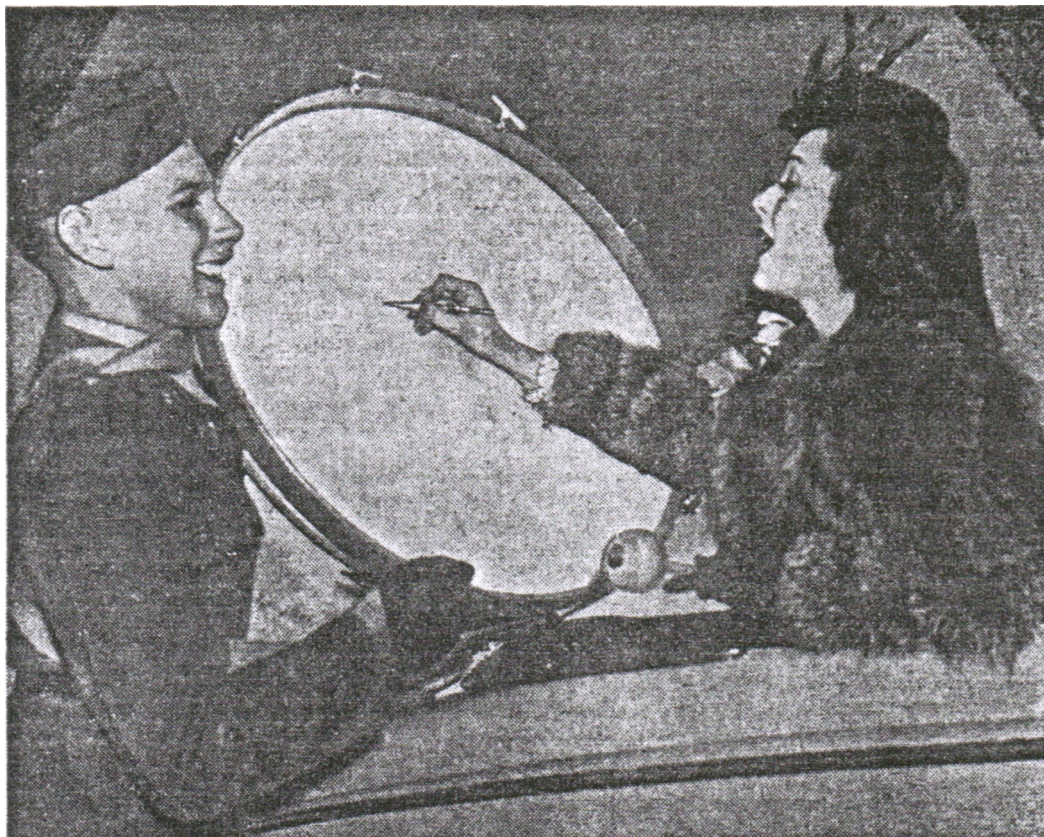
For two days in December of 1939, the eyes of the world were on Atlanta for the world premiere of David O. Selznick's *Gone with the Wind* (GWTW), an all-time favorite movie that took place at the Lowe's Grand Theater on the evening of Friday, 15 December 1939. The lead up to the premiere put Atlanta in a frenzy. Practically every downtown show window was decorated with GWTW memorabilia and confederate flags. Hotels were filled to capacity. Governor Eurith D. Rivers took the unheard of action of proclaiming a one-day state holiday for the movie premiere. Not to be outdone, Mayor William B. Hartsfield declared a three-day city Festival. An afternoon parade a day before the premiere drew an estimated 300,000 energetic people, many of whom were students released early from the Fulton County and City of Atlanta Schools. An event of this magnitude required the utilization of numerous bands, so practically every possible school band within a comfortable radius of downtown Atlanta participated.

The Thursday, 14 December late afternoon parade was designed primarily as a motorcade of the movie stars and MGM officials, along with numerous politicians and dignitaries. Instead of utilizing bands as marching units, organizers positioned bands in stationary locations from the beginning of the parade route at Candler Field (the Atlanta Airport) to the end at the Georgian Terrace Hotel on Peachtree Street, thereby providing continuous music as the caravan moved along.

The first plane from the west coast to arrive at the airport carried Vivien Leigh (Scarlett), Olivia de Havilland, Laurence Olivier, and GWTW producer David O. Selznick and his wife Irene. Their arrival was cause for celebration, and the Russell Band was in position beside the airport tarmac to provide musical entertainment, playing

Dixie almost non-stop. Upon hearing the band, Vivien Leigh remarked to Laurence Olivier, “Isn’t that nice – they’re playing the song from the picture.”¹⁶⁹

Kay Kyser, a leading Big Band leader who was scheduled to headline two GWTW events, arrived at the airport earlier in the day and made an impromptu conducting appearance with the Russell Band as he was awaiting the arrival of the movie stars. Ann Rutherford, the then 19-year-old actress who portrayed Scarlett’s little sister, Careen, had arrived by train the day before and was also present at the airport to greet her fellow actors and actresses. While waiting, she (pictured right, below) autographed a bass drum head held by Russell student Olen Gunnin, a moment memorialized in a famous *Atlanta Journal* photograph.¹⁷⁰



¹⁶⁹ Gerald Gardner and Harriet Modell Gardner, *The Tara Treasury*, Westport, CT: Arlington House Publishers, 133.

¹⁷⁰ Photo is found in the *Atlanta Journal*, 15 December 1939, 30.

Eventually, the plane carrying Clark Gable (Rhett) and his wife, Carole Lombard, arrived at Chandler Field. After greetings from Mayor Hartsfield and a number of other dignitaries, a motorcade of about 30 open cars slowly departed the airport at around 4:30 P.M. with the musical strains of the Russell Band heard in the background.

The following bands were positioned along the parade route: Commercial High at Brotherton Street; Fulton High at Garnett Street; O'Keefe Junior High at Mitchell Street; Murphy Junior High at Alabama Street; Joe Brown High at Wall Street; Georgia Tech at Five Points; West Fulton High at Luckie Street; the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps at Grand Theater; North Fulton High at Cain street; Washington (GA) High at the West Peachtree - Peachtree intersection; Marist at the Peachtree-Ivy intersection; Boys' High at Pine Street; Tech High at Linden Street; Georgia Military Academy at North Avenue; and Georgia State Girls' Military at the Georgian Terrace Hotel.¹⁷¹

Arriving at the Georgian Hotel, the entourage was met with music provided by the Georgia State Girls' Military Band. From a platform beside the hotel, the celebrities were introduced and offered a few words to the massive crowd. Clark Gable raised a Confederate flag, after which the Georgia State Girls' Band played *Dixie* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*.¹⁷²

Clark Gable, who played the leading role in GWTW, remarked at a post-parade party that the crowd estimates were around 300,000. He also said: "When I saw all those people, even the young ones who had climbed on telephone and electric poles and those

¹⁷¹ Clark Howell, ed., "Stars Parade Peachtree Today," *Atlanta Constitution*, 14 December 1939, 1, 16.

¹⁷² Herb Bridges, *Gone With The Wind: The Three-day Premiere in Atlanta*, Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1999: xvi.

leaning out office windows, it seemed to me like 3 million. Everybody was waving and cheering. It was really one of the most exciting moments of my life.”¹⁷³ The Russell Band’s performance and role at the airport earlier in the day was an important moment in the Band’s history.

Just before Christmas, Mr. Drukenmiller organized a new trumpet quartet consisting of: DeForrest Williamson, first trumpet; Bruce Moles, second trumpet; Edwin Bishop, third trumpet, and Harold Cook, fourth trumpet. According to the *Russell Wildcat*, the quartet was engaged to perform for three Christmas parties: one at Pattillo Memorial Church in Decatur, the second at the Hapeville Methodist Church, and the third at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Russell in Hapeville (Mrs. Russell was the staff school secretary at Russell High).¹⁷⁴

A Christmas celebration was the main subject of the Russell PTA program on 19 December. In addition to a “Spirit of Christmas” speech by Dr. W. A. Duncan of First Baptist Church in East Point, the Russell Glee Club, under the director of Hoyt T. Griffin, sang Christmas carols.

In February, the Russell Band organized a Valentine’s Dance hosted by Martha Ann Yarbrough, Band Sponsor, and Richard Loehle, Band Captain, at the East Point Women’s Club. According to a the *Russell Wildcat* article, the “club was beautifully decorated for the occasion with red and white crepe paper and vari-colored balloons...Dancing and games were enjoyed by the guests, which numbered

¹⁷³ Yolanda Gwin, “Author’s Coat Hangs in Hall,” *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*, 14 December 1975, 21-G.

¹⁷⁴ Doris Wright, ed., “Trumpet Quartet Organized In Band,” *Russell Wildcat*, 22 December 1939, 1.

approximately 150.¹⁷⁵ Chaperones for the event included Mrs. Loehle, Mrs. Yarbrough, Mr. Pickle, Mr. Drukenmiller, and Mr. and Mrs. Case.

The Russell faculty presented the play, *The Whole Town's Talking*, a 3-act comedy on Tuesday, 5 March, at the East Point City Auditorium. Miss Ruth Colley and G. L. Carroll starred in the program and were supported by other members of the faculty: Cecil Jackson, Mrs. Jesse Dolvin, Mrs. Charles Bullard, Miss Ruth Casey, Miss Laura Cates, B.B. Fuller, Hoyt Griffin, Miss Jo Will Hearn, and Miss Virginia Moody. In addition, Principal Paul D. West had an important role; Miss Kate L. Atkinson directed.

For the 26 March meeting of The Inter-City Civitan Club at the College Park Women's Clubhouse, a panel of physicians spoke about health for children. For the musical portion of the meeting, Russell High provided an instrumental quartet for entertainment.

The GMEA 5th District Instrumental Festival was held at Russell High School on 28-30 March. Over 3,000 students, representing Bands, Orchestras, small ensembles, and instrumental soloists from school districts around the metro Atlanta area, performed for ratings. Events were held in the Russell auditorium and gym, and at Harris Street School. The auditorium was the venue for vocal soloists and small ensembles on the morning of Thursday, 28 March. Instrumental soloists and small ensembles performed in the gymnasium. Piano soloists were adjudicated at the Harris Street School auditorium.

Large group bands, orchestras, and vocal groups performed on Friday. The Friday afternoon session also included initial rehearsals for a 3,000-voice massed choir scheduled to perform for the 2nd Annual *Atlanta Constitution* Greater Atlanta Music

¹⁷⁵ Doris Wright, ed., "Band Gives Annual Dance at E. P. W. Club," *Russell Wildcat*, 23 February 1940, 1.

Festival to be held later in May. Miss Anne Grace O'Callaghan, Atlanta's high school music supervisor, led a committee charged with organizing and rehearsing the massed choir. Numerous elementary school large groups were represented throughout the Saturday portion of the Festival.

Judges for the overall event included James C. Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina (bands, orchestras, instrumentalists); Wendell Kenney, Furman University, Greenville, N.C. (piano); and E. J. Gatwood, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee (vocal events).¹⁷⁶ Principal Paul D. West, Mr. Drukenmiller, and Mr. Griffin, Russell's choral director, were local site hosts for the large event. A staff writer for the *Russell Wildcat* quoted organizing officials as saying, "the festival at Russell was the best in the history of contests in the Fifth district."¹⁷⁷

In the Marching Band Division of the Festival, Russell was awarded a "Superior" (I) in Class A, beating out Tech High, which earned a II rating, and Decatur High (II in Class B), Chamblee High (II in Class B), and Georgia Military Academy (I in Class F). Other Russell ratings for the event were: Trombone Quartet, Superior (Richard Loehle, Rollie Allen, Bobby Johnson, Albert Buck); Brass Quartet #1, Superior (DeForrest Williamson, Richard Loehle, Douglas Couch, Claude Reeves); Brass Quartet #2, Superior (DeForrest Williamson, Rollie Allen, Harold Cook, J. P. Eidson); Drum Majors, Superior (Eugene Blackstone, Mildred Carroll, Johnnie Mae Pair); Accordion Solo, Superior (Cyril Johnson). Writing in the *Russell Wildcat*, Principal Paul D. West stated

¹⁷⁶ Frank Drake, "Music Festival to Open Thursday at Russell High," *Atlanta Constitution*, 24 March 1940, 4B.

¹⁷⁷ Henry Osborn, ed., "Russell Gets Lion's Share of Honors in Music Festival," *Russell Wildcat*, 5 April 1940, 1.

that “the high rating of our Russell High School students should serve as an added stimulus to the development of an even harder program of music work.”¹⁷⁸

At the conclusion of the Festival, it was announced that Mr. Drukenmiller was selected to serve as the overall GMEA 5th District Festival Chairman for the following year. A large photo accompanying this announcement in *The Atlanta Constitution* prominently featured Russell Drum Majorettes Johnnie Pair and Mildred Carroll.¹⁷⁹

By virtue of their district Superior rating, the Russell Band earned a trip later in the spring to the Georgia State Music Festival in Milledgeville, where they earned the significant honor of a Superior Rating. Russell also participated in the massed band performance that closed the State Festival. Other high school marching bands participating in the mass band were Blakely, Quitman, Tifton, Albany, Cordele, Dublin, Moultrie, Thomasville, Washington, Georgia Military Academy, College Park, Lanier (Macon) and Atlanta’s Commercial High.

Peter Buys, director of the Hagerstown, Maryland, Community Band conducted the massed band.¹⁸⁰ A picture of the Russell Band taken during the State Contest appeared in the *Music News of Georgia*,¹⁸¹ the official journal of the Georgia Music Education Association. Drum majors Johnnie Mae Pair and Eugene Blackstone won Superior honors. In addition, Richard Loehle, Albert Buck, Bobby Johnson, and Rollie Allen, members of the Russell Trombone Quartet, earned a Superior rating.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid., 1.

¹⁷⁹ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell Director is Named to Head Music Festival,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 31 March 1940, 8-A.

¹⁸⁰ _____. “Music Festival Opens Monday in Milledgeville,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 April 1940, 9.

¹⁸¹ Max Noah, ed., *Music News of Georgia*, Sept/Oct 1940, 25.

The Russell Band was a part of the first Atlanta Dogwood Festival in 1936, a festival that had become an important social and artistic event by 1940. The Russell Band performed again for the 1940 Dogwood Festival, this time as a parade unit instead of a concert ensemble as was the case in 1936. On 16 April, the Russell Band paraded along Mitchell and Hunter Streets, down Peachtree to Ponce de Leon. Other participating bands included Georgia Military Academy, Boys' High, and Tech High. The Russell Band won \$8.00 for their second place finish.

Previous Atlanta Confederate Memorial Day parades were large events. The one held on 26 April was no different. The parade line-up was huge, involving bands, military groups, civic organizations, and miscellaneous groups of various descriptions. The Georgia State Military Girls' Band led the parade down Peachtree Street. The Russell Band and ROTC units were grouped with similar groups from Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, North Fulton High, and West Fulton High.

The inaugural *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Greater Atlanta Music Festival held the year before was an overwhelming success for the organizers, audience, and music participants, including the Russell Band members. The Russell Band participated in the 2nd Annual Festival held again at Grant Field on Saturday, 4 May. Russell's Drum Majorette, Johnnie Mae Pair, earned First Place among the numerous bands in competition.

Henry Reid from the University of Alabama Band adjudicated Johnnie Mae and the other drum majors. The difficult task he faced was described in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

“...folks...sat spell-bound while high-stepping drum majors and higher stepping drum majorettes led prancing bands up and down and back again in whirling convolutions that dazzled the eye. They sat goggle-eyed while these same strutting bandleaders twirled the silver sticks that are the badge of their high calling in a contest the like of which has never been seen here. Henry Reid called a halt and handed the 'winners' palms to Miss Johnnie Pair of Russell High, and high-stepping Joe Lee of G.M.A.

They deserved to win. They did everything with the silvery baton but tie it in a knot and eat it like a pretzel.”¹⁸²

This 1940 edition of the Greater Atlanta Music Festival, corresponding with the conclusion of National Youth Week, was organized to be the largest ever such outdoor music event in the Southeast. In addition to the increased number of bands, the festival added a group of over 600 dancers and a massed chorus of over 3,000, a large percentage of whom had started rehearsals at Russell High as part of the 5th District Music Festival held earlier in March. Choral selections for this group included *Sweet and Low* (Barnaby) and *God of Our Fathers* (Warren). A massed band of over 1,000 concluded the festival with a performance of *God Bless America*. An audience of over 30,000 attended the event at Georgia Tech's Grant Field.¹⁸³

By virtue of the Greater Atlanta Music Festival being an *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored event, the newspaper printed numerous articles throughout April and May to promote the competition. In a newspaper photo with the byline, “One Year Ago,” Mary Helen Hodges, former Russell Drum Majorette, and Russell Ellis (of Boys' High), were featured hugging each other after winning their respective drum major divisions the year

¹⁸² Harold Martin, “G.M.A., Russell High Winners in Band Contest,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 5 May 1940, 1.

¹⁸³ Frank Drake, “Greater Atlanta Music Festival to Be Staged Saturday May 4,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 7 April 1940, 11A.

before at the 1939 event.¹⁸⁴ Later the Russell High trombone quartet of Bobby Johnson, Rollie Allen, Albert Buck and Richard Loehle, appeared in an *Atlanta Constitution* photo and caption.¹⁸⁵

The annual Fulton County ROTC Inspection was held on 12 April at West Fulton High School. Competing against North Fulton, Fulton, and West Fulton High Schools, Russell won the honor of “Best Drilled Company.” According to the *Russell Wildcat*, the win in this category was the seventh in the past eight years for Russell.

For the first time in a number of years, the Russell student body and parents were guests and observers during the Russell ROTC annual inspection on Tuesday, 23 April. Major Elliot from Augusta, Georgia, conducted the inspection. A *Russell Wildcat* article published two days after the event noted that the 1:30 P.M. parade, led by the Russell Band, and the Unit ceremony were well received by the audience. Among many awards, the Cadet Captain earned a gold Medal for recognition as the best all-round cadet at Russell.

The Russell Band and ROTC units were part of an extremely large Confederate Day Parade on 26 April 1940. Using the smallest font possible, the *Atlanta Constitution* parade order listed that day occupied about one-quarter of the page. Other high school bands and ROTC units included Tech, Boys’, Fulton, North Fulton, and West Fulton. The Georgia State Military Girls Band led the parade down Peachtree Street and were draped in capes and uniform colors that formed a “living” Confederate Flag.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁴ Clark Howell, ed., “One Year Ago,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 15 April, 1940, 7.

¹⁸⁵ Bill Mason, photographer, “Slide Horn Experts,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 5 May, 1940, 2.

¹⁸⁶ Clark Howell, ed., “Memorial Day Parade To Be Full of Color,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 26 April 1940, 5.

In May, the War Department issued a statement designating Russell as the top school from among seven area ROTC programs. With a score of 97, Russell earned the top rating and won the title of “Honor School” for the third year in a row. Other schools earning “Honor Ratings” were Tech High, Boys’ High, Decatur Boys’ High, Fulton High, North Fulton High, and West Fulton High.

In a fitting conclusion to what was a memorable year for the Russell Band, Mr. Drukenmiller was the honored recipient of the RHS 1940 *Pointer* Yearbook Dedication, which read, “Foreword and Dedication to Roy Drukenmiller, Ph. D., M. A., for his ability, honesty, good judgment, willingness to use his talents in promoting the best interests of the school; his work as head of the Science Department and as Band Director have won for him our whole-hearted commendation. In grateful appreciation we dedicate this volume of the *Russell Pointer*.”¹⁸⁷

The senior class staged the play, *A Full House*, on 24 May at the East Point City Auditorium. Leads for the play included Doris Wright and Ed Jones.

Russell graduated 205 students at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on Friday, 31 May. Student speakers were Guelda Mae Heaven and Henry Augustus Osborn, Jr. In addition to Heaven and Osborn, other honor graduates included Hazel Bryant, Robert Bryant, Sara Cash, Edith Craft, Barbara Jane Daniels, Mary Garvin, Mabel Norton, and Doris Wright. As part of graduation, senior music, under the direction of Mr. Drukenmiller, included *Carmena Waltz Song*, and *God Bless America*, with Lucy Field at the piano.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁷ Lillian Warner, ed., *The Pointer* (Yearbook): 1940, 4.

¹⁸⁸ Doris Wright, ed., “This Year’s Senior Class to Graduate 205 Friday,” *Russell Wildcat*, 29 May 1940, 1.

Academic Year: 1940-1941

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Officers: Rollie Allen, Captain; Tommy Plummer, Drum Major and 1st Lieutenant; DeForrest Williamson, 1st Lieutenant; Harold Boswell, 2nd Lieutenant; Fred Wilson, 2nd Lieutenant; Mildred Carroll, Drum Majorette Captain; Beulah Wright, Ruth Lewis, and Jean Shelton, Drum Majorettes.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Ernest Allen ('39-'40; Band Captain); Wiley Baker ('39-'41); James Bishop ('37-'41); Tommy Plummer ('37-'41; Drum Major); Jimmy Stratton ('38-'40); William Suttles ('38-'40); Roy Williamson ('38-'41; 1st Lieutenant); and Thomas Wilson.

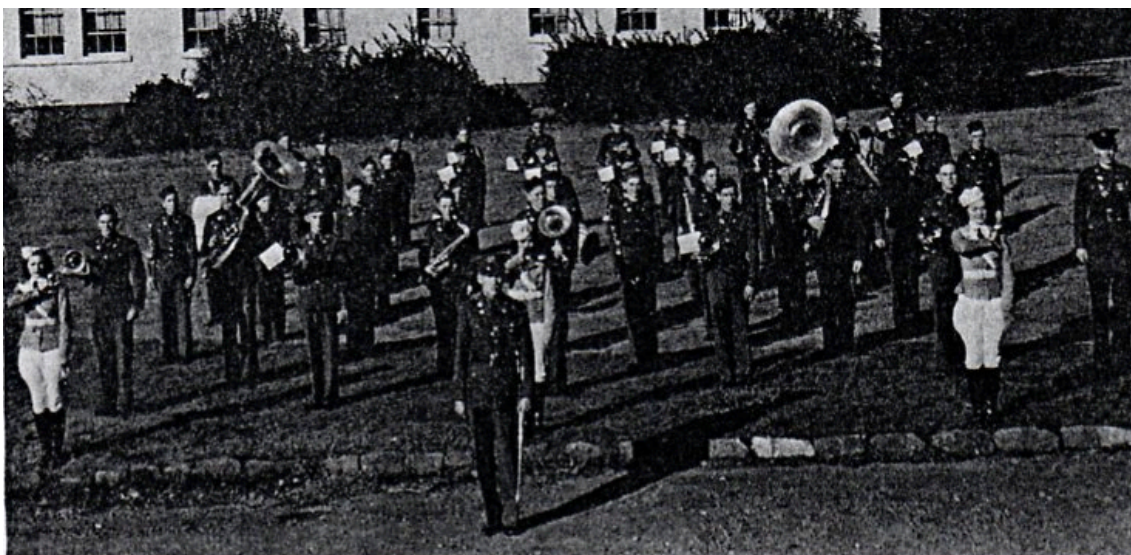
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The football team finished with a 7-1 record, their best in school history. In an *Atlanta Constitution* interview, Coach Bowen described the football team as the “best bunch ever coached.”¹⁸⁹
- For the second year in a row, the Girls’ Basketball team won the Fulton County Athletic Association Championship Title.
- The Track team earned 2nd place in N.G.I.C.
- Mr. Knox Walker, former Russell assistant principal and current Fulton County School Assistant Superintendent, was elected Georgia Education Association President in April 1941.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Decatur; LaGrange; R.E. Lee; North Fulton; Fulton, Gainesville; Griffin.

¹⁸⁹ John Martin, “Finest Bunch Ever Coached, Says Russell Coach at Banquet,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 December 1940, 22.



1940-1941 Russell High Band

The school year started with a great deal of optimism for the Band. With 15 new members joining a group of 40 returning boys, the *Russell Wildcat* reported that this edition of the Russell Band would be “the largest band in the history of Russell and probably the best band we have ever seen at this school.”¹⁹⁰ Mr. Drukenmiller also announced the formation of a beginner’s band to compliment the advanced band program.

The 1940 football season brought several improvements to the football field: Rock seats were installed on the east side; the wooden seats on the west side were taken down and replaced; a fence surrounding the field was installed; and a track was added around the football field.¹⁹¹ Total seating capacity was improved to over 2,000.

¹⁹⁰ Ora Jean Porter, “Band to Have Fifty-Five Members This School Year,” *Russell Wildcat*, 10 September 1940, 1.

¹⁹¹ E. D. Martin, ed., “Construction of Russell High School New Football Stadium,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 26 July 1940, 1.

The first half of the 1940-41 school year was particularly active. In addition to football game responsibilities, numerous performances detailed in a *Russell Wildcat* article included:

“The Russell High Band extended its acquisition of honors to winning a cash prize of \$50.00 for its performance in the Southeastern Fair parade. The band has been furnishing music and parades between the halves at each of the football games and expects to continue the same during the entire season. The formation of letters by the band and the twirling of the drum majors and majorettes has become a feature at all of our games.

Next Saturday the brass music makers will go to Atlanta to participate in the annual Community Chest parade when we hope they will live up to their past reputation of outplaying all of their competitors. Next week the band will make its debut in chapel at which time several concert numbers will be played. Among the numbers on the program are *Washington Post March*, by John Phillip Sousa, *The Junior High March*, a recent composition by Jacobs, and a new Fox Trot by Bennett.

The organization will specialize this year on patriotic numbers such as *Anchors Aweigh*; *Americans, We*; *The Red, White and Blue*; *God Bless America*; and *Stars and Stripes Forever*.¹⁹²

The above-mentioned Southeastern Fair Parade occurred on opening day, 28 September. Russell was one of six bands that marched through downtown Atlanta to the Fairgrounds. For the first time, the parade featured military vehicles and hardware, which then were parked and exhibited during Fair week. To conclude opening day, the Russell Band was part of a huge massed band that performed at the grandstand at 7:30 P.M.

The Atlanta Community Chest Parade was held on 19 October. The parade, led by the Georgia All-Girl's Military Band, proceeded down Peachtree for a number of blocks before coming to Trinity Avenue. Russell, along with the high school bands from

¹⁹² Ora Jean Porter, ed., “Band Again Wins Honor in S.E. Fair Annual Contest,” *Russell Wildcat*, 17 October 1940, 1.

West Fulton, Boys', Fulton, O'Keefe, Joe Brown, Murphy, and Georgia Military Academy, marched at various intervals throughout the parade route and performed a variety of patriotic songs. Unusual visual and aural celebration components included private planes flying overhead and factory whistles blowing precisely at 11 o'clock.

The Russell Band marched in the City of Atlanta Armistice Parade on 11 November 1940. Many military and political dignitaries led a 9:00 A.M. parade that formed at Whitehall Street and proceeded down Peachtree, to West Peachtree, through 5th Avenue, down Techwood Avenue before concluding at Tech's Rose Bowl Field. Other participating bands included Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, West Fulton High, North Fulton High, Decatur High, and Marist School.

Over the years the Russell Band was a frequent musical highlight for Russell PTA programs. For "Daddies Night" on Tuesday, 12 November, the band opened the program with a performance of *Headway* and *System*. Later in the program, the band played *Dona Do Dat* and *Bright Star Overture*. The band participated later in the PTA program, not as instrumentalists, but rather as vocalists. According to a report in *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, "The Russell High Band will render a musical program....Mr. Drukenmiller, director of the band, will lead the group in singing of several patriotic songs."¹⁹³ This audience participation segment included the singing of *Red, White, & Blue* and *God Bless America*.

The Christmas season included a Russell Music Department production of *Come, Let Us Adore Him*. Mrs. Kate Atkinson staged the pageant portion; Mr. Hoyt Griffin,

¹⁹³ E. D. Martin, ed., "Daddies Night at Russell High School," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 8 November 1940, 1.

director of the Russell Glee Club, directed the music. Mrs. T. H. Fitzgerald handled costumes, and Ruth Miller served as piano accompanist.

Toward year's end, General Marion Williamson announced that Mr. Drukenmiller was selected as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Home Guard. As reported in the *Russell Wildcat*, "Mr. Drukenmiller is identified as an active participant in community affairs, having recently helped in organizing a band in the Home Guard with several Russell boys as the nucleus, is assistant superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School in Hapeville and a member in good standing in the Tri-City Civitan Club."¹⁹⁴

In response to growing military threats in Europe, President Roosevelt and congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act (STSA) on 16 September 1940, thus becoming the first peacetime draft in U.S. history. The STSA initially required the registration of all men between the ages of 21 to 45 for one-year of service with induction made possible by a national lottery. After Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941), the STSA was amended to include men ages 18 to 64 for an extended service time through the duration of the war. Ultimately, about 50 million men registered and over 10 million were inducted.

Family, friends, and various city officials honored the first group of East Point draftees at a farewell event on 10 January 1941, an occasion memorialized in an *Atlanta Constitution* photo.¹⁹⁵ The picture shows Drum Major Tommy Plummer, and Drum Majorettes Mildred Carroll, Beulah Wright, Ruth Lewis, and Jean Shelton with other select members of the Russell Band.

¹⁹⁴ Ora Jean Porter, ed., "Home Guard Gives Mr. Drukenmiller High Appointment," *Russell Wildcat*, 20 December 1940, 4.

¹⁹⁵ Pete Reton, Photo: "In the Army Now," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 January 1941, 2.



Constitution Staff Photo—Pete Rolon.
IN THE ARMY NOW—The first group of draftees from East Point's local board left early yesterday morning for induction at Fort McPherson, and this was the farewell they got from the Russell High school band, city officials and board members. The first draftees are Volunteer William C. Kuglar, second from the left, and Mitchell R. Smith, Walter J. Russell, George E. Stovall, Bill Downs, Woodrow W. Moore, Clyde F. London, Benjamin C. Starr, Oscar M. Chambers, Oliver A. King, Guy D. Bishop and Wilbur J. Ellison.

For the second year in a row, Russell High had the honor of hosting the 3-day Fifth District Music Festival held on 20-22 March. A front-page *The Russell Wildcat* article detailing the event claimed, “Russell: the Best Band in the Land.” An accompanying block band photo listed the following band students:

Capt. Rollie Allen, Tommy Plummer, Drum Major DeForrest Williamson, Harold Boswell, Fred Wilson, Edwin Bishop, Tommy Wilson, Wiley Baker, Benny Rhodes, James Slaton, Hubert McKown, Lucian Bowen, Albert Buck, John Cash, Harold Cook, Bobby Thompson, Carl Westbrook, Spencer Baxter, Jack Brown, Homer Boggs, Ramsey Buice, Wendell Cagle, Bill Campbell, Bill Cannon, Jimmie Christian, John Dailey, Roy Drukenmiller, J. P. Eidson, J.E. Gaddis, Hall Goode, Tom Harper, Charles Horton, James Matthews, Glenn McElroy, James Oliver, Bill Powers, Jimmie Pruett, Walter Richards, Edwin Pratt, Claud Rigsby, William Sharp, James Smith, Jimmie Stratton, James Stubbs, Charles Thomason, Gene Thurman, Richard Walters, Bobbie Wells, Clyde

Watson, Norman Westbrook, with drum majorettes Mildred Carroll, Ruth Lewis, Beulah Wright, and Jean Shelton.¹⁹⁶

With Mr. Drukenmiller as the chief organizer, the Festival featured orchestras, bands and band auxiliary groups from Decatur and Atlanta City schools and from the counties of DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, and Fulton. Over 2,000 students visited the Russell campus for this important annual event.¹⁹⁷

In addition to Mr. Drukenmiller and a number of other local music educators who handled the Festival details and logistics, a number of nationally known music educators participated as adjudicators and guest speakers. Those so indicated were listed in a *Fulton County Review* article, which reported,

“...This three-day Festival will climax on Saturday night with a dinner sponsored by the ‘In and About Atlanta Musical Educators Club,’ at which Dr. William L. Larson, head of music education of the Eastman School of Music at Rochester, N.Y., Herbert Hazelman, supervisor of instrumental music, Greensboro, N.C., and Dupre Rhame, professor of Voice at Furman University, will be principal speakers... Rhame, Hazelman and Enrico Leide will act as judges.”¹⁹⁸

A Festival recap appearing in the *Atlanta Constitution* included a large photo of Russell’s two Drum Majorettes, Mildred Carroll and Beulah Wright, along with Commercial High’s Laura Woodall. The article also mentioned that Hoyt Griffin, Russell’s Choral director, was selected as choral organizer for the upcoming 1942 District Festival. Rain during the District Festival Marching event caused cancellation of

¹⁹⁶ Clark Howell, ed., “Festival to Attract Some 2,000 Contestants,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 March 1941, 1.

¹⁹⁷ E.D. Martin, ed., “Three-Day Music Festival Underway at Russell High,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 21 March 1941, 1.

¹⁹⁸ Ed. “Russell High School Host to Thousands,” *Fulton County Review*, 21 March 1941, 2.

the Marching Band portion, but those entered were awarded an honorary superior rating, thus allowing them to continue on to the State Festival.¹⁹⁹

The Russell Band did opt to attend the Georgia State Music Festival held at Milledgeville, Georgia on 7-8 April and won several awards in the military division. The Marching Band, entering in Class A, received an Excellent (II) rating; the Brass Sextet, Trombone Solo (Rollie Allen), and Drum Majorettes Mildred Carroll and Beulah Wright won Superior (I) ratings.²⁰⁰ According to an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* festival recap, the brass sextet (Lucian Bowen, Albert Buck, DeForrest Williamson, Carl Westbrook, Rollie Allen, and Roy Drukenmiller, Jr.) won the highest rating in the state.²⁰¹

The Russell High Band and ROTC Company marched in an Atlanta parade for the Georgia Confederate Memorial Day celebration on 26 April. The Russell Band was in formation with ROTCs and Bands from Boys' High, Tech High, Fulton High, North Fulton High, and West Fulton High. The parade route started at Peachtree and West Peachtree to Oakland Ceremony, with a reviewing stand at the Capitol City Club.²⁰²

The Russell Band paraded in the annual school inspection on 2 May. Captain Benjamin J. Holt, of Macon, Georgia, administered the inspection, while numerous school district administrators, military personnel, and numerous others observed. Elizabeth Walker sponsored Rollie Allen, Band Captain, while Gladys Camp sponsored Fred Wilson, Band Lieutenant. Band Drum Majorette Captain, Mildred Carroll, served as

¹⁹⁹ Frank Drake, "High Ratings Given Bands in 5th District," *Atlanta Constitution*, 23 March 1941, 10A.

²⁰⁰ Ora Jean Porter, ed., "Four 'First' Places in Music Festival at Milledgeville," *Russell Wildcat*, April 25, 1941, 1.

²⁰¹ E. D. Martin, ed., "Russell Band Wins Many Honors at Music Festival," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 11 April 1941, 1.

²⁰² Clark Howell, ed., "South Honors Confederates on 26 April 1941," *Atlanta Constitution* 24 April 1941, 6.

sponsor to Lieutenant Virlyn Johnson. High scores and a successful body of work during the year earned the ROTC the distinction of “Honor School Rating” for the fourth consecutive year.

The Russell Band participated in the inaugural *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Greater Atlanta Music Festival in 1939 and performed in the event again in 1940. Both these events, held at Georgia Tech’s Grant Field, were huge successes; yet, the 1941 version promised to be even bigger. Publicity for the Festival included daily *Atlanta Constitution* features of bands and units in the days leading up to the Festival. The Sunday, 4 May, edition of the *Atlanta Constitution* highlighted the Russell Band with a block band picture, along with a caption, which stated:

“Another of the showy bands to Parade May 16 at Grant Field will be Russell’s high-rating organization. Here’s the band, spic and span, as it appeared at the annual military inspection Friday with flying colors.”²⁰³

Attached to this material was another picture prominently featuring Jeanne Richardson and Mary Jo Pace, two of numerous Russell ROTC sponsors.

A follow-up *Atlanta Constitution* article listed the Russell Band personnel. Those listed were as follows: Jean Shelton, Mildred Carroll, Ruth Lewis, and Beulah Wright, drum majorettes; Tommie Plummer (drum major); DeForrest Williamson, Harold Boswell, and Fred Wilson, lieutenants; Edwin Bishop, Tommy Wilson, Wiley Baker, Benny Rhodes, James Slaton and Hubert McKown, sergeants; Lucian Bowen, Albert buck, John Cash, Harold Cook, Bobby Thompson, and Carl Westbrook, corporals; Homer Boggs, Ramsey Buice, Wendell Cagle, Bill Campbell, Bill Cannon, Jimmie

²⁰³ Clark Howell, ed., “Russell High Band,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 May 1941, 6A.

Christian, John Dailey, Charles Daniels, Rov Drukenmiller, J. P. Edison, J. E. Gaddis, Hall Goode, Tom Harper, Charles Horton, James Matthews, Glenn McElroy, James Oliver, Bill Powers, Jimmie Purett, Walter Richards, Edwin Pratt, Claude Rigsby, William Sharpe, James Smith, Jimmie Stratton, James Stubbs, Charles Thomason, Gene Thurman, Bobby Wells, Clyde Watson, Leon West, and Norman Westbrook.

Boy Scouts made their first appearance as part of the 1941 Festival, as did ROTC marching units from North Fulton High, Boys' High, Tech High, Georgia Military Academy, and Russell High.²⁰⁴ Russell High's honor-winning Company A was selected from the Russell companies to participate. Lieutenants Fred Wilson and J. O. Alexander assisted Cadet Captain Tommie Dillard, Commander of Company A.

More bands, including the Spalding County High School Band from as far away as Griffin, were added to the parade. Folk dancers on the field and an audience participation special effect (the lighting of lanterns with the stadium lights off) were held over from the previous year.

The guest conductor for the 1941 Massed Festival Band was John J. Heney, the Stetson University (Florida) Band Director and a former member of the Sousa Band. Under his baton, over 1,000 band members performed *There's Something About a Soldier*, *Washington Post March*, and *Stars and Stripes Forever*, the last of which was accompanied by fireworks.

Grant Field's maximum capacity of 30,000 was reached before the start of the Festival and thousands were turned away, prompting a page one *Atlanta Constitution*

²⁰⁴ Frank Drake, "Festival Crowd to See Fulton's Crack ROTC," *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 May 1941, 6A.

apology for those who could not attend.²⁰⁵ For her part in the Russell Band field performance, Russell Drum Majorette Mildred Carroll was awarded second place in the Drum Majorette competition.

With World War II in full swing in Europe, and with calls for America's intervention, war was on everyone's mind. In response to this mood, a Patriotic Rally was held at the East Point City Auditorium on the evening of 23 May 1941. A writer in the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* implored, "All loyal Americans are urged to attend....it will be an evening of splendid entertainment....music by the Russell High School Band, directed by Capt. Roy Drukenmiller."²⁰⁶

The senior class sponsored a performance of the play, *Growing Pains*, by Aurania Rouvanal, on Tuesday, 6 May, in the East Point City Auditorium. Acting leads included George Sparks II and Eva Mae Goen. Additional cast members were Dotsy Smith, Fred Wilson, Edna Reynolds, LaMaria Nordan, Elizabeth Leake, Jeanne Richardson, Tommy Wilson, Ray Brock, Virlyn Johnson, Phillip Warren, William Brown, Mary Ellen Tull, Ammarie Carter, Elizabeth Walker, Howard Kenyon, and Nell Wyatt.

Graduation for about 199 Russell students was held at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 30 May. Honor graduate George H. Sparks spoke on "American Youth and National Defense," and Fred Bradford, class president, delivered a speech entitled, "Youth and Democracy." Featured honor graduates included: Carol Elizabeth Bauer, Margaret Ellen Campbell, George Brannon Gloer, Reba Gladys Goins, Annie Altee Loyless, Jacqueline F, McClain, Dorothy Lucile McGough, George Hartmann Sparks, Jr.,

²⁰⁵ Clark Howell, ed., "The Constitution Apologizes," *Atlanta Constitution*, 17 May 1941, 1.

²⁰⁶ E. D. Martin, ed., "Big Patriotic Rally at East Point City Auditorium Friday 23 May 8 P.M.," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 16 May 1941, 1.

John Calvin Stanfield, and Edward F. Wallace. Senior music, under the direction of Mr. Drukenmiller, included *Soldiers Chorus* and *A Song of Home*, with Lucy Fields at the piano.

Academic Year: 1941-1942

Principal: Paul D. West

Band Director: Hoyt T. Griffin

Band Officers: Albert Buck, Captain; Lucien Bowen and Harold Cook, 1st Lieutenant; Jack Moore, Drum Major; Beulah Wright, Drum Majorette Captain; Anna Bergstram, Jean Shelton, and Ruth Lewis, Drum Majorettes. **Social Officers:** Lucien Bowen, President; Jimmie Christian, Vice President; Bobby Thompson, Secretary; Harold Cook, Treasurer; and Albert Buck, Social Chairman.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): James Bowen ('39-'42; President '42); Albert Buck ('38-'42); Harrison Casey ('38-'40); James Christian ('39-'42; Band Vice President '42); Harold Cook ('39-'42); John Dailey (Band); J. P. Eidson (Band); James Smith ('39-'42); Robert Thompson ('38-'42; Band Secretary, '41-'42); Walter West, Jr. ('39-'41); and Beulah Wright (Band Drum Major '41-'42).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The Russell Football Team won the 1941 N.G.I.C. Football State Championship. An important member of the team, N.G.I.C. all-star lineman Hiram Menslee, left school early after season and reported for Naval duty within days after the December 7 Pearl Harbor attack.²⁰⁷
- Later in the school year, the Russell Track Team won the N.G.I.C. State Track championship.
- J. W. Dempsey (3rd), Monroe Boyd (6th), and Albert Horton (22d) finished very high against a nationwide field of 154 in the 1942 National Interscholastic Academic Individual Championships.
- The National Tuberculosis Association awarded the *Russell Wildcat* a "Certificate of Commendation" for news coverage of the 1941 anti-tuberculosis campaign.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Decatur; @ LaGrange; West Fulton; Richardson; @ North Fulton; Griffin; Gainesville; Fulton.

²⁰⁷ Henry Dailey, "Russell Team Given Awards at Grid Dinner," *Atlanta Constitution*, 18 December 1941, 24.

At the end of July 1941, prior to the start of the school year, a special ceremony was held honoring the legacy of James T. McGee, a former East Point Schools superintendent and Russell's first principal, who had passed away the year before. A marble marker and sundial memorial were erected at the entrance of Russell High that future generations would see upon entering the main door.

After about 13 years of dedicated service in both the Russell High Science and Band Departments, Mr. Drukenmiller was promoted to the principalship of Hapeville High School.²⁰⁸ The *Atlanta Constitution* reported the news as a domino shift of administrators that began with the retirement of W. F. Dykes, a well-known veteran of Atlanta education.²⁰⁹

Drukenmiller, who replaced Douglas McRae at Hapeville, was warmly received and welcomed in a *Hapeville Yearbook* message that stated:

“(Roy Drukenmiller) was head of the Science Department at Russell for 12 years. All of us who know Russell High School know what a grand band they have, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. Drukenmiller, and we know he will be missed in that department of the school as well as many others.”²¹⁰

Hoyt Griffin, a veteran member of the Russell English Department and Glee Club director, and who later served in the military, was selected to direct the band activities. He continued to serve as Glee Club director. In a *Russell Wildcat* article, Mr. Griffin wrote:

²⁰⁸ E. D. Martin, ed. “Roy Drukenmiller Named Principal of Hapeville High School, *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 6 June 1941, 1.

²⁰⁹ Clark Howell, ed., “Dykes to Leave County School Post; 3 Shifted,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 June 1941, 1.

²¹⁰ Ed. “Roy Drukenmiller Welcomed New Principal,” *Hapeville Yearbook*, 1942.

“The Russell Military band has been organized with a roster that lists fifty-seven members, which is an increase of about ten over last year’s group. The rehearsal room has been moved from the Industrial Arts Building to the Gym, with rehearsals held daily during first period.”²¹¹

The *Russell Wildcat* announced the formation of the Russell Band’s first social officers. Those elected were: Lucien Bowen, President; Jimmie Christian, Vice President; Bobby Thompson, Secretary; Harold Cook, Treasurer; and Albert Buck, Social Chairman. These officers were charged with the responsibility of creating additional enthusiasm among the members.²¹²

The Russell Band helped to kick off the 1941 Southeastern Fair by marching in the downtown parade and performing as part of the mass band concert later in the evening of Friday 26 September. The parade was billed as an “American Youth Parade” and featured numerous 4-H clubs from around Georgia. U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas presented an opening day speech that was broadcast over NBC Radio.

Another parade the next day on Saturday, 27 September, featured over 25,000 students who marched from Baker Street, down Peachtree Street and out Whitehall Street. 21 bands, led by the Atlanta Police Band (A. J. Garing, director) were part of a parade that was considered to be the largest Southeastern Fair Parade in history.

At this point in time, the Russell Band did not enroll females in the instrumental section of the band. Several Russell girls, however, did participate in an ensemble called the Georgia Famous Girls’ Band (also referred to as the Georgia All-Girl’s Military

²¹¹ H. T. Griffin, “Band in Full Swing; Many Places Open,” *Russell Wildcat*, 2 October 1941, 1.

²¹² Ora Jean Porter, ed., “Band Names Social Officers,” *Russell Wildcat*, 19 December 1941, 1.

band). The 132-member group included the following Russell girls: Barbara Christian, Cleo Carter, Margaret Allen, Betty Owens, Estelle Wise, and Katherine Ware. They performed with the group at the Southeastern Fair Opening for a special reception held in honor of Georgia Supreme Court Judge Douglas, who viewed the Georgia Famous Girls' Band previously during two performances at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair.

At the conclusion of football season, the Russell Band was involved in a number of performances leading up to Christmas season. Atlanta celebrated the 23rd annual observance of Armistice Day on 11 November with yet another huge parade. Participants ranged from political officials, active duty military units, State Defense Corps groups, veteran organizations, to patriotic societies and Civic/Fraternal organizations. Among this large number of parade participants were the ROTC units from Russell High, GMA, Boys' High, Tech High, Fulton High, West Fulton High, Commercial High, North Fulton High, Decatur High, Marist School, Murphy Junior High, and Joe Brown Junior High.

Additional late fall season Band activities were reported in *The Russell Wildcat*:

“Post-football season saw the band in usual activities, such as a performance at the November 21 Russell High P.T.A. In December, The Russell High's “Melodic Military Musicalities” (the Band, to those who don't understand) entertained the student body December 9, and December 11, in Chapel. Several specialties were rendered among which was *Tiger Rag* with a novelty trombone and bass section. Included also was a march *Indiana, O Indiana* featuring Cyril Johnson on the *Euphonium*.²¹³

The 13 January PTA meeting featured a talk on “The Tax Dollar and Education.”

The Russell Vocational Department shared part of the program, which ended with musical entertainment provided by Russell students. In a ceremony that included a tree

²¹³ Ora Jean Porter, ed. “Band Gives Two Programs in Chapel,” *Russell Wildcat*, 19 December 1941, 1.

planting dedication and a proclamation in honor of area PTAs, the Russell Band performed at the Annual “Founders’ Day Program” held at Russell High on 7 February. The following month, the Russell Band performed as the opening group for an East Point Defense Rally. The evening featured information concerning blackouts, civil defense procedures, and air raid warnings.²¹⁴

The Band and Glee Club traveled to Joe Brown Junior High for the GMEA 5th District Music Festival held during 11-13 March. The Glee Club earned a Superior rating,²¹⁵ while a rainout resulted in automatic A-1 (Superior) ratings for the marching band entries, including Russell High, GMA, Tech High, Boys High, and North Fulton. Superiors were awarded to Beulah Wright and Ruth Lewis, who participated in the (indoor) twirling contest.²¹⁶ Festival adjudicators included Dupre Rhame of Furman University, John Vincent of Western Kentucky State Teacher’s College, Earl Slocomb of the University of north Carolina, and Arthur Henderson of Western Kentucky State Teacher’s College.

The Russell Band performed at a graduation of Air Raid Wardens on 17 March. About 244 of the graduates were part of a practice air raid drill held two nights later in East Point between 8-10:00 P.M.

Highlights of the 6 April Army Day events at Ft. McPherson involved a formal guard mount, one of the Army’s most colorful ceremonies, and a band concert by the Ft.

²¹⁴ E. N. Martin, ed., “Defense Rally for East Point will be Held at Russell High Auditorium,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 27 March 1942, 1.

²¹⁵ The Glee Club also earned a Superior rating at he the State Music Festival held in Milledgeville on April 9-11. J. W. “Bo” Dempsey and L. E. Casey, soloists with the group, also earned superior ratings at the State event.

²¹⁶ Ora Jean Porter, ed., “Band and Glee Club Rate ‘Superior’ in Recent Fifth District Music Festival,” *Russell Wildcat*, 3 April 1942, 1.

McPherson Reception Center Band. Army Day 1942 activities in Atlanta included a return of an Army Day Parade that involved not only the Army, but also the Navy and Marine Corps as well. In addition, civic groups, such as the police, firemen, civil defense, Red Cross and veteran organizations, also participated. The 2:00 P.M. parade began at Peachtree and Baker Streets and moved down Peachtree to Whitehall and Hunter before arriving at the state capitol, where the units disbanded.

In his *Atlanta Constitution* coverage of the parade, writer Lamar Q. Ball commented on the solemn nature of the parade as opposed to past parades down Peachtree Street. With America's entry into the war just four months before and at a time when the situation was very dire for the American military, parade onlookers were more poignant and reserved in their response. Ball wrote:

“Most noticeably absent was the carnival atmosphere that usually attends a parade. The crowd watched quietly. There was little talk along the sidewalks. There was no cheering. There was no applause. Hats were lifted from heads easily and without flourish when the flags swept by.

Atlanta was there to pay homage to an Army that faces a tough job with a tough enemy, and Atlanta walked quietly away after the parade feeling tough and assured that the American soldier and American arms will do the job.”²¹⁷

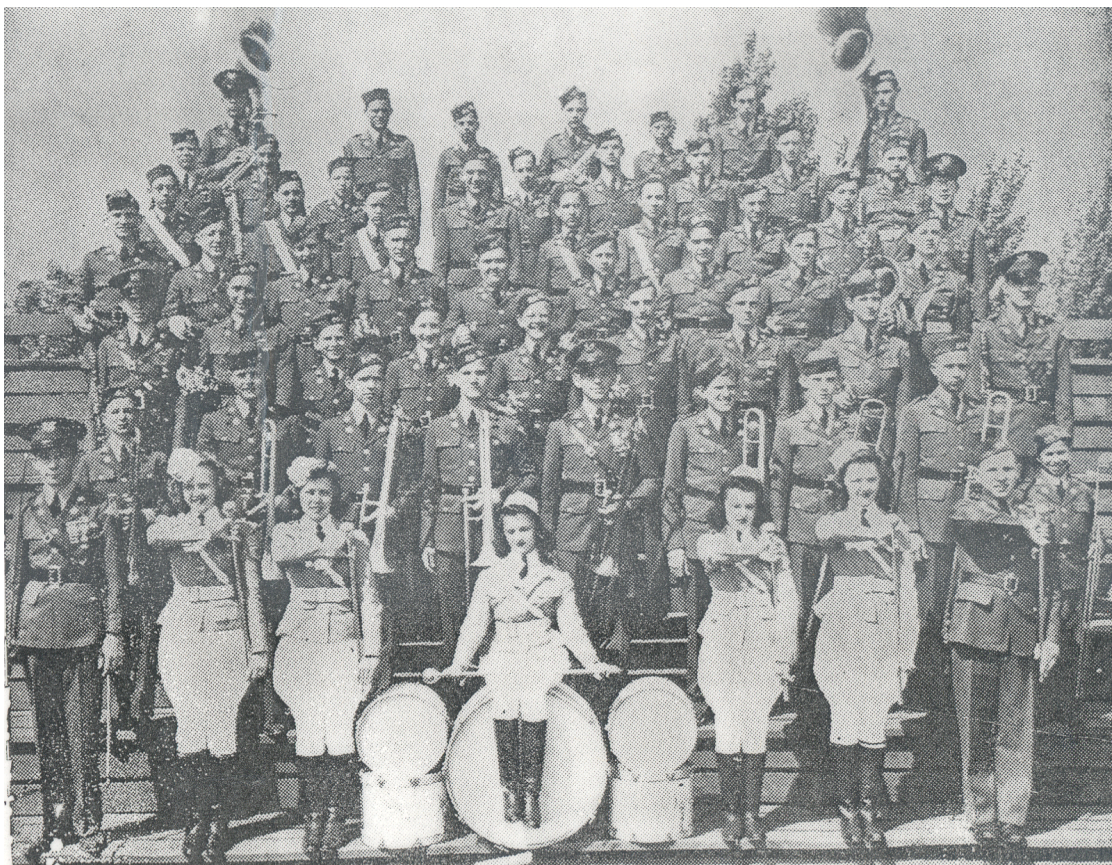
In 1939, the *Atlanta Constitution* initiated an annual patriotic tribute called the “Greater Atlanta Music Festival” held at Georgia Tech's Grant Field. In the early years, these events were well attended; but, with America at war and patriotic feelings running high, this 4th Annual Greater Atlanta Music Festival drew a record number of over 45,000 spectators. Additionally, Dorothy Lamour, famed Hollywood actress, who was in

²¹⁷ Lamar Q. Ball, “Atlanta Throng Pays Homage to U.S. Army,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 7 April 1942, 1.

Atlanta to help with the Georgia War Savings Bond pledge campaign, was featured on the 1942 Music Festival program and used her appearance to help sell war bonds.

In a lead up to the 9 May event, Frank Drake, in the first of two promotional Russell Band articles and photos in the *Atlanta Constitution*, wrote the following:

“Here’s another of the fast-moving bands trained in military precision which will be among the score (of bands) in the fourth annual Greater Atlanta Music Festival next Saturday night, 9 May, at Grant Field under the sponsorship of *The Atlanta Constitution*. The show, which is free to the public through the co-operation of the *Constitution* and the schools in this area, begins at 8:00 o’clock. It features a 1,000-piece massed band, 1,258 Atlanta school dancers – and Dorothy Lamour, screen star, who is being brought here by the Treasury Department.”²¹⁸



1941-1942 Russell High Band

²¹⁸ Frank Drake, “Russell High’s Band,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 2 May 1942, 6.

A second article, listed below the first, provided additional details:

“Russell High School’s military band, led by five smartly clad drum majorettes, will do one of the specially prepared marching exhibitions next Saturday night when the big Constitution-sponsored Greater Atlanta Music Festival spreads over Grant Field for the fourth consecutive year.”

“The festival, featuring the personal appearance of Dorothy Lamour, who is here on that date to launch the Fulton and DeKalb war bond pledge drive for the Georgia War Savings staff on May 11, will begin at 8 o’clock one week from tonight and will be entirely free to the public.”

“Russell High’s Band, which always puts on a good show wherever it appears, is directed by Hoyt Griffin. Its special feature will be one of the many exhibited by the score or more of the colorful bands on the night’s program. In addition to the bands, 1,258 Atlanta elementary school children, 200 flag swingers and baton twirlers will be in the show.”

“Personnel of the Russell Band follows: Major, Harold Cook; Captain, Lucien Bowen; first lieutenants, Carl Westbrook, John Christian; second lieutenants, Albert Buck, James Smith; master sergeant, Billy Powers; first sergeant, Cyril Johnson; sergeants Charles Daniels, Roy Drukenmiller, Tom Harper, James Mathis, Glenn McElroy, Jack Oliver, Godwin Pratt, Bobby Thompson; corporals, Jack Brown, Ramsey Buice, Hall Goode, Dicky Lane, Bill Sharpe, Richard Walters, Clyde Watson, Bobby Wells; cadets, first class, David Gillon, George Gould, Troy Huff, James Lowe, Lonnie Milligan, David Richardson, Spencer Baxter; privates, Wendall Cagle, Billy Cannon, Jimmy Carlisle, Fred Cox, John Dailey, J. C. Fincher, John Gaddis, Johnny Haggard, Charles Horton, Harvey Jarrett, Julian Knowles, Don Loehle, C. E. Parker, Max Ramsey, Ed Simmons, George Snow, John Stubbs, Hugh Thompson, Claude Tucker, Norman Westbrook; Drum Major, Jack Moore; Majorettes, Captain Beulah Wright, Ruth Lewis, Jean Shelton, Charmaine Smith and Anna Bergstrom.”²¹⁹

Twenty bands, including the newly formed Hapeville High School Band, under the direction of Principal Roy Drukenmiller, participated in the event. Each band performed a short individual field presentation and finished with a massed band performance directed by Paul Yoder, famed band director and music arranger from

²¹⁹ Frank Drake, “Russell High to Have Role in Music Festival,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 2 May 1942, 6.

Chicago. The massed band musical selections included: *El Capitan March* (Sousa), *Any Bonds Today* (Irving Berlin/arr. Yoder), and the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

An *Atlanta Constitution* review of the festivities included a short recap of Russell's performance: "Russell High was next with majorettes in gold and white breeches and jackets, boys in the favorite color of the day – olive drab. They did some mass pirouetting and bewildering formations."²²⁰ Russell's Ruth Lewis won second place in the Drum Majorette competition.

Charles Carden Snow, a prominent former Russell student and East Point musician, wrote an Operetta, *Magnolia Blossom*, as a benefit for the East Point Navy Relief Committee. The work was produced in the East Point City Auditorium on 21-22 May and starred numerous Russell students in the acting and singing roles. Joan Gunnell performed the leading lady role, while J. W. Dempsey performed the hero's role. Other actors included Anne McDuffie, Tommy Tankersley, Janet Brown, Robert Oliver, L. E. Casey, Janice Dumas, and George Wilkes.²²¹

As the school year came to a close, it was evident Mr. Griffin's first year as the band director replacement for Mr. Drukenmiller was very successful. Writing in the *Russell Wildcat*, Principal West praised Mr. Griffin and the Band, stating, "The Military Band has been a valuable adjunct of the entire program...under the able direction of Mr.

²²⁰ Lamar Q. Ball, "Young America Thrills 45,000 in Mammoth Music Festival," *Atlanta Constitution*, 10 May 1942, 1.

²²¹ Clark Howell, ed., "East Point Unit to Give Show for Navy Relief," *Atlanta Constitution*, 17 May 1942, 12D.

Hoyt T. Griffin, this organization has won many laurels and is today recognized as one of the strongest musical organizations in our state.”²²²

A caption attached to a large the *Russell Wildcat* Page 1 band group photo related:

“The Military Marching Band and Concert Band, under the direction of Hoyt T. Griffin, has made an enviable showing in its many activities during the school year. The Drum Majorettes who have enlivened the cadence of the musicians are in the forefront.”²²³

End-of-year ROTC recognitions included the awarding of a “Honor School Rating” for the fifth year in a row. Also, sophomore Roy Drukenmiller, Jr. earned the ‘fourragere’ award for his two-year service as unit bugler. An end-of-year senior activity included the presentation of *Young April*, a comedy in three acts. Miss Kate L. Atkinson, director of Russell drama activities, directed the play.

About 215 seniors, comprising one of Russell’s largest senior classes to date, received diplomas at graduation held at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 29 May in 1942. Class speakers included Charlotte Richardson, who spoke on “Education for Democracy,” and Harold Johnson, whose subject was “The Dawn of Victory.” Class music included *The Night has a Thousand Eyes* (Nebel Cain) and *The Dawn of Victory* (Harold Grant Johnson). Mr. Griffin directed the music; Charles Carden Snow provided the piano accompaniment.

²²² Paul D. West, “Military Program Trains Our Youths To Serve Country Most Constructively,” the *Russell Wildcat*, 24 April 1942, 1.

²²³ Ora Jean Porter, ed., “The Military Marching and Concert Band,” *Russell Wildcat*, 24 April 1942, 1.

Academic Year: 1942-1943

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Jack Swartz

Band Officers: Charles Daniels, Cadet Major; Glenn McElroy, Captain; Hall Goode, 1st Lieutenant; Ramsey Buice, 1st Lieutenant; and Bill Sharpe, 2nd Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): George Julian Brown ('39-'41); William Ramsey Buice; Charles Lester Daniell; Hall Carson Goode; Troy B. Huff; Harvey Luke Jarrett; Cyril Nathaniel Johnson, Jr.; Howard Ledford; Alice Ruth Lewis (Drum Majorette '41-'43); James Wesley Lowe; James Matthews; Edward Glenn McElroy, Jr.; Jared Leon Moore (Baton Twirling; Drum Major '42-'43); and Carl Travis William Bennie Morris, Jr.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- After spending a year as principal of Hapeville High School, Roy Drukenmiller returned to Russell as the new principal. He succeeded Paul D. West, who was promoted to the Fulton County School General Supervisor position.
- Drukenmiller's replacement at Hapeville was John G. Lewis, who came from Russell after 15 years as a math teacher, basketball coach (N.G.I.C. Championships in 1935, 1938, and 1939), and athletic director.²²⁴
- The Russell Track team, State Champions the year before, earned second place in the 1943 State N.G.I.C. Track Meet, finishing with 65 points to North Fulton's 78 points.
- Russell's Grace Kurtz won the "Outstanding Female Athlete Award" in the *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Fulton County Field Day.
- For the second year in a row, the school newspaper, the *Russell Wildcat* (Louise Reese and Doris Clark, editors) won a Certificate of Honor from the Tuberculosis Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press for articles written for the prevention and control of tuberculosis.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Decatur; LaGrange; GMA; Richardson; North Fulton; Griffin; Fulton.

Mr. Griffin enlisted in the military at Ft. McPherson in July 1942 and was replaced as band director by Mr. Jack Swartz. Considering that the Russell Band was

²²⁴ Clark Howell, ed., "Teacher Staff Shifts in Fulton Are Announced," *Atlanta Constitution*, 2 September 1942, 2.

involved with ROTC and football game responsibilities, several additional Atlanta-area performances made for a busy September.



Roy Drukenmiller, former Russell Band Director, returns to Russell as Principal

Occasional citywide blackouts and air raid drills were reminders of the threat of enemy activity during World War II. Various civic groups were organized to administer the Civic Defense program, including the first all-female Air Raid Wardens in East Point. This group graduated from their Red Cross First Aid and Air Raid Warden courses in a 1 October ceremony at the East Point City Auditorium. The Russell Band was on hand to provide musical entertainment, while Mr. Roderick McDuffie presided.

A reference to the Russell Band's halftime show performance was mentioned briefly in a recap of the Russell vs. LaGrange football game played in LaGrange on October 2. The *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* indicated, "During the intermission the

Wildcat Band paraded on the field, forming the letters ‘R’ and ‘L.’ The band this year is led by Captain Swartz, a newcomer here, succeeding Captain Hoyt Griffin, who entered the U.S. Army during the summer.”²²⁵

The annual Southeastern Fair at Lakewood Fairgrounds was a proud and hugely successful Atlanta affair. The 8-day event held at the end of September or the beginning of October was traditionally an important showcase for bands, which were utilized in opening day parades, grandstand performances, and on-field massed band extravaganzas. Indeed, the Fair was sometimes referred to as the “Fair-A-Ganza.”

With America actively involved in war since December 1941, the continuation of the Southeastern Fair was very much in doubt. In an effort to conserve resources, Joseph B. Eastman, U. S. Defense Transportation Director, issued a directive in June 1942 urging the postponement of all state and county fairs, along with non-essential conventions, meetings, and group tours. Mike Benton, President of the Southeastern Fair, decided to proceed with the Fair, citing the essential business and agricultural nature of the Fair and the fact that no specific law prohibiting the Fair was issued.²²⁶

The 1942 edition of the Southeastern Fair opened as usual, utilizing a “United Nations” theme to show solidarity with the war effort. The Russell Band, along with 20 other bands, participated in the Southeastern Fair Opening Day Parade through Atlanta on September 24. At the Fair the following day, the Russell Band entertained a crowd estimated at around 2,000. A *Russell Wildcat* article revealed the following additional details:

²²⁵ E. D. Martin, ed. “Russell-LaGrange Game Broadcast Over LaGrange Station,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 9 October, 1942, 1.

²²⁶ Clark Howell, ed., “ODT Urges that all Fairs Be Deferred,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 June 1942, 25.

“From the U.S. Motor Court at 5:30 P.M., the Band played a program of marches that was broadcast over radio station WAGA. At eight-thirty the grandstand show got underway. Marching on the field, the band played Sousa’s *Washington Post March*, and then formed the Letter “A” playing *America*. Other letters presented in formation were “R” and “V,” and the *Stars and Stripes Forever March* and *Warming Up* were other selections played. The climax came as each member of the band carried a flag representing one of the Allied Nations, placing it on the reviewing platform. The singing of the *Star Spangled Banner*,” led by the Russell Band Director, Mr. Swartz, and played by the band, brought the show to a close.”²²⁷

With America’s World War II presence well into its first year, many Hollywood movie stars volunteered to make public relations tours to help with the selling of War Bonds and Stamps. One such Hollywood personality, Veronica Lake, arrived in Atlanta for a one-day war bond drive on Tuesday, 29 September. She was welcomed with a parade that included the Russell High and Commercial High Bands, both of which escorted Ms. Lake to her hotel.²²⁸

A Navy Department representative spoke to the Russell High ROTC in recognition of Navy Day on 27 October. The Russell Band performed the *Star-Spangled Banner* for the Flag Raising and later played *Warming Up*, *Washington Post*, and *Honor Band* as part of the ceremonies.

A Pearl Harbor Day Victory program was held at Russell on 7 December. The Diversified Co-op class-sponsored event raised over \$1,550.00 in bonds and \$135.00 in stamps. The 18 December football banquet featured the music of Charles Snow, an East

²²⁷ Louise Reese, ed., “Band Entertains at Fair,” the *Russell Wildcat*, 9 October 1942, 3.

²²⁸ Betty Sue Nally, Bobby Wells, and Ramsey Buice, “Russell Band Greets Veronica Lake on Bond Selling Drive,” *Russell Wildcat*, 9 October 1942, 1.

Point elementary school music instructor, and Russell student Cyril Johnson, accordionist. A Russell halfback also contributed with a vocal selection.²²⁹

Swartz directed the Russell Glee Club as the featured group on the December meeting of the East Point Music Lovers' Club on 15 December. Selections from many foreign countries reflected the theme, *Christmas Around the World*. The following night, on 16 December, The Russell Glee Club performed a holiday concert at Russell. In addition to several traditional Christmas carols, the ensemble performed selections from Handel's *The Messiah*.

On 10 February 1943, the Russell Band marched in the Atlanta Cruiser Parade in downtown Atlanta. The parade was a benefit to raise money to replace the U. S. S. Atlanta that was sunk in the South Pacific in 1941. The original U. S. S. Atlanta, sponsored by Margaret Mitchell (author of *Gone With the Wind*), was a Navy cruiser launched on 6 September 1941. It saw action in the Battles of Midway and Eastern Solomons. Shortly thereafter, in the Battle of Guadalcanal, the U. S. S. Atlanta was heavily damaged beyond salvage and was scuttled.

On 11 February, the day after the Atlanta Cruiser Day benefit, Russell High School held its own "Cruiser Day" celebration. The festivities began in the morning with the Russell Band and ROTC in military parade. A replica of the Cruiser Atlanta was on display all day, as was the availability of Bonds and Stamps. Admission to the dance following the Russell/Decatur basketball game was by purchase of war stamps. A

²²⁹ Ralph McGill, ex. ed., "Cats, Hornets, Rams, Honored at Fete Here," *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 December 1942, 10B.

newsreel of the day's activities and events was made for distribution at local theaters.²³⁰

The final total of Bond and Stamp sales exceeded \$5,000.00.²³¹

Sponsors for the band officers were announced in March and accompanied the officers for spring ROTC events such as the annual parade and other social activities. Those selected and their officer escorts were: Cadet Captain Charles Daniels and Miss Gwendolyn Johnson, Cadet Captain Glenn McElroy and Miss Lenora Starr, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Hall Goode and Miss Charlotte Sockwell, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Ramsey Buice and Miss Jean Shelton, and 2nd Lieutenant Bill Sharpe and Miss Ruth Lewis.²³² At the end of the year, the Russell High ROTC program won a U. S. War Department "Honor School Rating," the sixth such recognition in as many years.

A large Red Cross Benefit Parade was held in Atlanta on the evening of 15 March. The parade route began at Peachtree/Baker Streets and proceeded along Mitchell Street to Trinity Avenue. The Russell Band marched with the bands of Commercial High, Georgia Military Academy, Boys' High, Tech High, North Fulton High, Hapeville High, Marist School, West Fulton High, Fulton High, Decatur High, and O'Keefe Junior High.

Russell High initiated the Russell Auxiliary Corps (RAC), a new student organization, on 1 February 1943. This group debuted as an official Russell organization and marched with the Russell contingent as part of the above-mentioned Red Cross Drive Parade in Atlanta. This 60-member group wore uniforms of khaki and white, and was the only female unit present in the Red Cross Parade.

²³⁰ Ralph McGill, ex. ed., "Plan 'Cruiser Day' at Russell High," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 February 1943, 15.

²³¹ E. N. Martin, ed., "Russell High Sells \$5,000.00 Worth of Bonds Last Friday," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 19 February 1943, 1.

²³² Louise Reese, ed., "ROTC Officers Select Military Sponsors for Ceremonious Highlight of the Year," *the Russell Wildcat*, 5 March 1943, 1.

On the evening of 6 April, a Victory Song Rally was held at Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium as part of a joint conference of the Southern Division of the National Music Educators Association, the Georgia Music Educators Association, and the Georgia Association of PTAs. Of the over 1,000 students singing from the top floor of the auditorium, 150 were from Russell. Also, the 3-day conference featured Russell student Cyril Johnson leading the audience in the Pledge to Allegiance, along with Russell student Ruth Webb, who was a featured speaker on the topic of the raising of over \$1,500,000.00 in War Bonds sold in local schools.

The Russell High PTA meeting on Tuesday, 13 April 1943, was billed as "Parents Night." The Russell Glee Club, under Mr. Swartz's direction, provided several musical selections.

A large Atlanta War Bond Drive Parade was held on Monday, 19 April. The parade formed at Peachtree and Baker Streets and proceeded along a route southward on Peachtree/Whitehall Streets to Mitchell Street before concluding at Trinity Avenue. The *Atlanta Constitution* reported that approximately 200,000 to 250,000 people viewed the parade, making it one of the biggest in Atlanta to date. The Russell Band, along with the newly formed, all-female Russell Auxiliary Corps (RAC) and A, B, and C companies from the Russell ROTC, were among a number of marching units. In addition to the Russell Band, numerous other school bands participated, including those from West Fulton High, Hapeville High, Commercial High, Hoke Smith Junior High, Joe Brown Junior High, North Fulton High School, Georgia Military Academy, Richardson High, Bass Junior High, Tech High, Boys' High, Fulton High, Decatur High, and Washington High.

Atlanta was the scene for a huge Fulton-DeKalb Horse Show held at North Fulton Park during the weekend of May 26-28. Over 300 horses were featured in the twice-daily shows that opened to packed audiences. The event began with a large May 26 afternoon parade that traveled down Peachtree and Whitehall to Trinity Avenue. The Ft. McPherson Band was first up in the procession; Russell participated in the parade along with high school bands from Hapeville, North Fulton, Decatur, and West Fulton. The Russell Band was the 61st group of a 62-unit parade that featured mostly horses. Normally this proximity in the parade order would have made for a messy and smelly marching situation; however, the City of Atlanta Sanitary Department interspersed numerous street sweepers between the parade units, the last of, Sweeper #60, was thankfully just in front of the Russell Band.

Pre-graduation senior activities included the presentation of the comedy *And Came the Spring*. The show was directed by Miss Virginia Moody and performed on 23 April. The Class of 1943 numbered at 205 students. The class Valedictorian was Mary Helen Kelly, who earned the honor by making all A's and posting an overall average of 97.6 and perfect attendance for her four-year Russell career. Indeed, she never made anything but "A"s for her entire 11-year life as a student.²³³ The graduation class music included *Ode to the Homeland* (Noble Cain) and *The Ramparts We Watch* (Lt. Commander Beecher). Mr. Swartz directed the music for the graduation ceremonies held at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 4 June 1943; Molly Leatherwood provided piano accompaniment.

²³³ Clark Howell, ed., "Girl Makes All 'A's Offered During 11-Year School Career," *Atlanta Constitution*, 4 June 1943, 13.

All Atlanta-area Elks Lodges celebrated Flag Day with special music and guest speakers on 13 June. In East Point, the Russell Band provided music for the 4:00 P.M. event held at the East Point City Auditorium. Mr. Willis A. Sutton, Superintendent of Atlanta Schools, delivered a patriotic speech for the East Point event.

Academic Year: 1943-1944

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Charles E. Taylor

Band Officers: Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., Captain; William Cannon, 1st Lieutenant; and Jimmie Carlisle, 2nd Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Jack Brown ('40-'44); William Cannon ('41-'44); David Daniels ('42-'44); Roy Drukenmiller ('40-'44); Band Caption '44); John Gaddis ('39-'44); John Haggard ('41-'44); Richard "Dick" Lane ('41-'44); Jack Oliver ('40-'44); Robert Richards ('40-'44); Ralph Sims ('44); Charmaine Smith (Drum Majorette '41-'43); and Norman Westbrook ('40-'44).

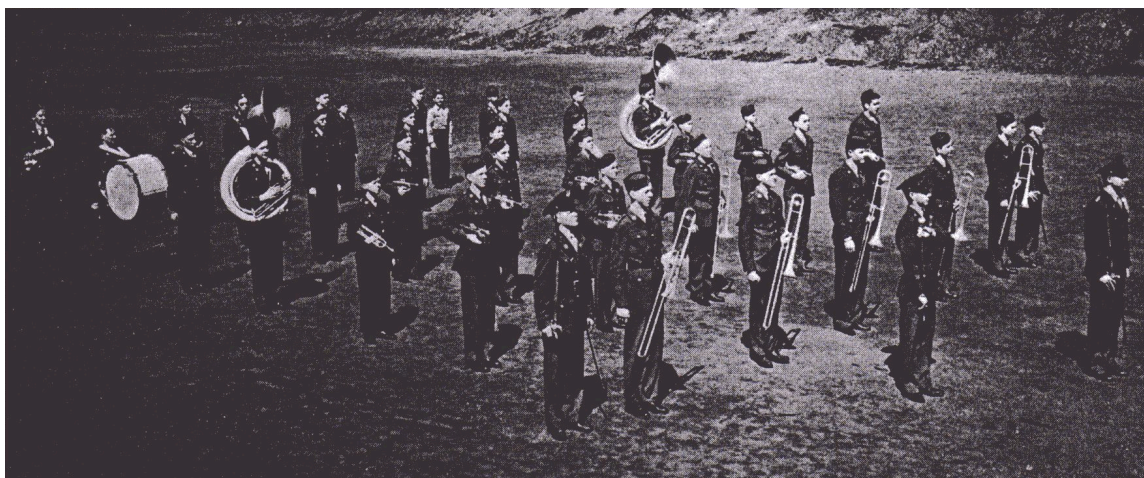
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Russell Teachers and Students raised \$53,548.45 during the Fourth War Loan Drive, exceeding all other high schools in the county.²³⁴
- The Russell Track Team won the 1944 N.G.I.C. Track State Championship.
- A Russell High donation of \$1,000.00 for the East Point Red Cross Drive represented 100% participation of both students and faculty, making Russell the leader among the City High Schools.²³⁵
- Ms. Ruby White Brown was hired as the new Choral Director.
- The Boys Glee Club was organized.
- Russell violinist Ralph Simms earned membership in the Atlanta Youth Symphony.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule: Hapeville; Decatur; LaGrange; Boys'; College Park; North Fulton; Commercial; Gainesville; Fulton; Griffin.

²³⁴ E. N. Martin, ed., "Russell High School Chalks Up Another Marker for Victory" *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 18 February 1944, 1.

²³⁵ E. N. Martin, ed., "East Point Raises over \$6,000.00 in Red Cross Drive," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 31 March 1944, 1.



1943-1944 Russell High Band

After one year as the Russell Band Director, Mr. Swartz left Russell for the Commercial High band director position in the City of Atlanta School System. Mr. Charles E. Taylor, a member of Russell's science department and former band director at Fulton High School, assumed the Russell Band Director position.

A third Greater Atlanta War Loan Drive Parade was held in downtown Atlanta on the evening of 20 September. The parade, organized by Mitchell (Mike) McIver Benton, moved northward along Baker Street, up through Carnegie Way and Five Points, and concluded around the Trinity Avenue and Garnett Street area. The Russell Band, ROTC Color Guard, and other ROTC units marched, along with similar units from Commercial High, Boys' High, Tech High, North Fulton High, and West Fulton High; the bands of Murphy Junior and O'Keefe Junior High also participated.²³⁶

The Southeastern Fair was held from 24 September through 3 October. As was the case the year before, officials debated whether to cancel the Fair as a method of conserving fuel, tires, and other war material. The decision to continue was based on

²³⁶ Paul Warnick, "Thousands March in Great War Loan Pageant," *Atlanta Constitution*, 21 September 1943, 2.

boosting morale and providing better food and nutrition, especially as it related to generating interest in developing victory gardens. Consequently, the Fair theme for 1943 involved food conservation and preservation and featured Canning Exhibits in the Agriculture Building.

“School Day” for Fulton County and other non-City of Atlanta students was held on Friday, 24 September; students from the Atlanta Public Schools held their “School Day” on Friday 1 October. The Russell Band performed on the first “School Day” at 2:30 P.M. at the Fair Grandstand and performed later that night in a massed band concert with bands for other Fulton County high schools. The *Atlanta Constitution* reported, “In the grandstand the bands from all the Fulton County high schools gave a concert....Every seat was filled, with a generous overflow standing by the fence.”²³⁷

College Park held a local Third War Loan Drive on Sunday, 26 September. The parade formed on West Rugby and marched to the City Hall, where a rally was held. The Russell Band and ROTC units marched along with bands from GMA, College Park High School, and George F. Longino School. Shortly thereafter, East Point sponsored a local Bond Rally at the East Point City Auditorium. Mr. Harlee Branch was guest speaker for the event, music for which was provided by the Russell Band and male quartet.²³⁸

With World War II in full swing, the annual Community Fund Appeal merged with the National War Fund in a campaign that lasted through much of October. An Atlanta parade calling awareness to this important event was on Monday evening, 11 October. In addition to Russell, other participating bands included: Hapeville High, West

²³⁷ Martha Summer, “Starry-eyed children at Fair Fascinated by Midway Sights,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 September 1943, B7.

²³⁸ Clark Howell, ed., “East Point Residents Urged to Attend Rally,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 26 September 1943, 10A.

Fulton High, North Fulton High, Decatur High, Boys' High, Tech High, Commercial High, O'Keefe Junior High, Bass Junior High, Murphy Junior High, Joe Brown Junior High, and Hoke Smith Junior High.

Pre-Game festivities for the Russell/Gainesville football game on November 5 reflected the reality of the times. The East Point Civilian Defense Organization staged a realistic demonstration of a simulated air raid attack. Trained volunteers demonstrated and discussed proper safety techniques of various emergency contingencies.²³⁹

Prior to 1943, faculty members from various departments at Russell handled Russell choral groups and glee clubs as secondary assignments. At the beginning of the school year, Ruby White Brown became the first full-time vocal specialist hired at Russell High. She transferred from Decatur High School, where she directed one of the finest programs in the Atlanta area. She was also a veteran officer of local and statewide Georgia Music Educator Association choral division activities.

Her hiring paid dividends from the outset. By Christmas, Ms. Brown instituted the first of what over time would become popular Christmas programs involving numerous departments at Russell. The 9 December Christmas Concert was a collaboration of the Band and Choral Departments and was promoted as the First Annual Community Christmas Festival. In an *Atlanta Constitution* article covering the event, Principal Drukenmiller was "recognized for his untiring efforts in bringing about a closer relationship between the school and the community...this is another occasion where the citizens of East Point can come to the school house and enjoy an evening of good

²³⁹ Ralph McGill, ed., "Raid Show Set For East Point," *Atlanta Constitution*, 5 November 1943, 10.

fellowship, music, and inspiration.”²⁴⁰ The *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, which published a concert invitation, indicated, “Russell High’s Band, under the baton of Charles Taylor, will open the program with a medley of Christmas Carols.”²⁴¹

During the month of March, the Russell Band was very busy with activities related to American Red Cross drives. On 10 March, the Band played an evening concert in the Russell High auditorium as a benefit for an East Point Red Cross Drive. According the *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, several hundred people attended. The band, along with Russell’s RAC unit, also marched in an evening City of Atlanta Red Cross parade on Monday, 13 March 1944. Other area participating bands included Commercial High, North Fulton High, Fulton High, Tech High, Boys’ High, Washington High, and Marist School. The Russell Band’s final Red Cross appearance occurred on Monday, 20 March with a 2:30 P.M. performance in the Red Cross Drive Parade in East Point, a celebration that featured numerous civic, civilian defense, and regular military organizations. The parade’s motto was, “Give that he may live.”

In between Red Cross performances, the Russell Band performed as part of a 17 March “Memories of Music” program, a collaborative effort of four Fulton County high school bands – Russell, North Fulton (R. S. Lowrance, Jr., director), College Park (A. R. Strang, director), and Hapeville (Mildred Wade, director) - held at the College Park City Auditorium. Each band performed individually and then combined as a massed band conducted by Miss Joy Ruth Adams, Fulton County music supervisor. The Russell portion of the program included *Cavalcade of the United Nations* and a medley of

²⁴⁰ Ralph McGill, ed., “Russell High PTA Plans Community Christmas Fest,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 30 November 1943, 15.

²⁴¹ C. N. Martin, ed., “Russell PTA First Community Christmas Fest,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 26 November 1943, 1.

military service songs. The massed band concert concluded with *Our Director*, *America the Beautiful*, and *Star Spangled Banner*.

The Tuesday, 18 April, meeting of the East Point Music Lover's Club was held in the sanctuary of the East Point First Baptist Church. The Russell Band performed a program of World War I music. Solo performances were rendered by Mr. Drukenmiller on bugle, and by Mrs. Claude Pepper, vocalist; Mrs. Ruby White Brown, Russell's Choral Director, was involved as the program director.

Miss Joy Ruth Adams organized yet another instrumental gala for 24 April; however, this time the occasion involved bands from the entire Fulton County district. In addition to Russell, the following bands performed at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium as part of the Music Gala: College Park & Fulton (A.R. Strang, director); Hapeville (Mildred Wade, director); North Fulton (R.S. Lowrance, Jr., director), and West Fulton (Joy Ruth Adams, director). The combined bands played *Our Director* (Bigelow) and *Fortuna Overture* (Zamecnik) to begin the Gala. The 600-voice all-County choir was partially comprised of the Russell High, 100-voice, all-male Choir. This Russell group gave a special performance of the Negro spiritual, *Go Down Moses*. All the bands and choirs combined for the finale of *American Anthem* (Yeats).

The Russell ROTC finished very strong in May. For the annual school inspection, Russell won the coveted "Honor Rating" awarded by the War Department. On 9 May, Russell celebrated ROTC day with the announcement of sponsors and a formal military ball. Officers and their sponsors included: Captain Roy Drukenmiller, Jr. and Miss Anna Bergstrom; 1st Lt. William Cannon and Miss Frances Maxwell; and 2nd Lt. Jimmie Carlisle and Miss Mary Louis Moore. Finally, Russell competed head-to-head

with ROTC units during the annual Fulton County ROTC competition. An *Atlanta Constitution* publicity article advertising the event was printed on Sunday, 23 April, and featured a large photo of Russell ROTC members shining brass from medals to batons to sousaphones. Those pictured in an array of shining items were Sgt. Bobby Carroll; Sgt. Bill Moden; Lt. Bill Cannon; Capt. Bobby Andrews; Lt. Thomas Morgan; Capt. Roy Drukenmiller; Staff Sgt. Jack Jomage; Lt. Col. Harry Teems; and Maj. Forrest Phillips.²⁴²

The Russell Company commanded by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Harry Teems won “Best Overall.” Russell Cadet Colonel Charles Harkley won the medal for being the best Colonel in the County, and Cadet Private Pat Boles earned the medal for being the best private in the County.²⁴³ A reference to this honor in *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter* stated, “This has probably been the best military year in the history of the school.”²⁴⁴ Coverage of this event also was found in the *Atlanta Constitution*.²⁴⁵ Indeed, the Russell High ROTC won the “Honor School Rating” for the seventh year in a row. The Russell Band, being an integral part of the Russell ROTC, performed an important part in this honor.

End-of-Year senior activities included a senior class production of *Good Bye, Clarence*. The performance was held at the East Point City Auditorium on Friday, 5 May. Mr. Drukenmiller’s son, Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., was cast in the play, along with

²⁴² H. J. Slayton, staff photographer, “Shine Cadets,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 23 April, 1944, 12A.

²⁴³ E.N. Martin, ed., “Russell High School Wins ROTC Honors,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 12 May 1944, 1.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ Ralph McGill, ed., “ROTC at Russell High Acclaimed Best Drilled,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 15 May 1944, 3.

Jean Miller, Billy Cannon, Betty Sue Nally, Gladys Lancaster, Carle O'Quinn, Jane Mitchell, Marvin Wall, George Padgett, Thomas Morgan and Betty Jane Fields.

Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., was a member of the band from 1940-1944, and was also the Senior Class Vice President. On 3 June at Atlanta's Municipal Auditorium, he delivered a graduation speech entitled, "We Who Are About to Live, Salute You." Doris Clark was also a class speaker. Ms. Ruby White Brown directed the musical program.

Academic Year: 1944-1945

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Charles E. Taylor

Band Officers: J. C. Fincher, Cadet Captain; Julian Knowles, Cadet 1st Lieutenant; and Charles Lowe, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant & Drum Major.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Charles Allen ('43-'45); Anne Catherine Bergstrom (Majorette '41-'44); William Cagle ('40-'44); Jefferson Finchner ('41-'45; Band Captain '44-'45); Charles Lowe (Band/Drum Major '42-'45); and Claude Tucker ('41-'45).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The Russell 1944 football team earned their first undefeated season and second State N.G.I.C. Championship with a 33-0 win over Griffin High School.
- A Russell Chapter of the Civitan Club was organized.
- Ralph Simms earned a second year of membership as a violinist in the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra.
- The liberty ship "East Point Victory" was launched from the Bethlehem/Fairfield Shipping Yard in Baltimore on 26 March 1945.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Decatur; LaGrange; North Fulton; College Park; Commercial; West Fulton; Gainesville; Fulton; Griffin.

The 1944 Southeastern Fair was a ten-day event held from 28 September to 8 October. The Opening Day Parade through Atlanta was billed as a 'March to Victory'

and included high school bands from around the state. Troops from Warner Robins produced and participated in Army grandstand shows at 10:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. daily.

A new Fair event included the first-ever use of high school choirs for feature appearances at the Agriculture Building. The Russell High Glee Club performed two shows, one at 2:00 P.M. and the other at 4:30 P.M., on 8 October, the last day of the Fair. Choirs appearing earlier in the week were the Girls' High Chorus, Commercial High Glee Club, and the North Fulton Glee Club.

The Russell Band was involved with several post-football season performances. The band performed for the 9 November PTA program, and building on the success of the Community Carol Fest initiated the year before, the band performed at the 2nd Annual Community Carol Fest on 8 December. The band performed carol medleys, while the Russell choruses, directed by Ms. Ruby White Brown and Joy Ruth Adams, Fulton County Music Supervisor, performed a selection of ancient carols from around the world. Principal Drukenmiller led the audience in the singing of popular carols.

With the assistance and cooperation of Principal Drukenmiller, the East Point Elks Lodge converted a lodge gymnasium into a teen club for Russell students. Opening on 4 November as "Teen Town," the facility was a gathering place for dancing, socializing, gaming, and music making. Onice Fields, an employee of the Atlanta YMCA, was the adult in charge.

Miss Joy Ruth Adams, the Fulton County Music Supervisor, sponsored an all-Fulton County Band that performed at the College Park auditorium on Friday, 9 February. C. W. Schudder, then-Georgia Music Educators Association President from

Cordele, served as guest conductor. Students from Russell, Hapeville, College Park, North Fulton and Fulton were part of the all-star music group.

The concert program for the event included:

Prayer and Dream PantomimeHumperdinck/arr. Maddy
 From Hansel & Gretel
Eroica Overture.....Skornicka
Mystic Land of Egypt.....Ketelby
Rampart Overture.....North

After a four-year suspension of the GMEA 5th District Music Festival due to World War II, College Park H.S. hosted a resumption of the event on 5-6 April. Captain John Lee, Band Director at Georgia Military Academy, served as instrumental coordinator. J. Harris Mitchell from the University of Georgia adjudicated the band events.

The 1945 Atlanta-area American Red Cross fund appeal was held over a 2-week period from March through April and included a large parade on 25 March. Military units and vehicles, along with groups from the Yaarab Shrine Club, civic organizations, and high schools, participated in the parade that proceeded up Peachtree Street, through Five Points, and out to Whitehall Street. The Russell Band performed in the parade that also included bands from Boys' High, Tech High, D. T. Howard High, B. T. Washington High, and West Fulton High.²⁴⁶

The Russell PTA held a retirement banquet in May for Ms. S. M. Hearn and

²⁴⁶ Paul Warwick, "Red Cross Parade To Dazzle City Today," *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 March 1945, 1.

Mr. J. R. Campbell.²⁴⁷ Musical entertainment was provided by a Russell Boys' quartet under the direction of Mrs. Ruby White Brown. Principal Drukenmiller was presented a life membership in the PTA. The Russell PTA won a "Superior Standard" from the Georgia Congress of PTA.

On the morning of 21 May, the Russell student body heard patriotic songs from the band and a lecture from Judge Carpenter as part of "I Am An American" Day celebration. Later in the day, a similar such celebration was held at Lakewood Park under the sponsorship of a civic group led by School Superintendent Jere A. Wells. Robert Weede, New York Metropolitan Opera star, the Georgia Girls' Victory Band, and 12 other school and military bands provided musical entertainment.

In early May, the ROTC announced the following Band officer sponsors: Captain J.C. Fincher and Betty Baker; 1st Lieutenant Julian Knowles and Martha Berry; and, 2nd Lieutenant Charles Lowe and Helen Ginn. For the first time in eight years, the ROTC program did not win a U.S. War Department "Honor School Rating."

World War II hostilities ended in Europe with Germany's surrender on 7 May 1945. Atlanta was chosen to be the first city in America to have a homecoming celebration for returning military service personnel. General George Marshall, army chief-of-staff, ordered this unique designation for Atlanta. With short notice, Mike Benton, president of the Southeastern Fair and organizer of numerous past Atlanta parades, was called into duty to plan this homecoming welcome.

²⁴⁷ Ralph McGill, ed., "J. R. Campbell, Fulton Teacher for 30 years, Dies," *Atlanta Constitution*, 25 September, 1945, p. 4. Mr. Campbell passed away on 23 September, just four months after retiring from Russell, where he had been the chairman of the social science department since 1927. Prior to that, he was superintendent of East Point schools from 1915 to 1920.

On Thursday afternoon, 24 May, after about a week of newspaper and other media announcements, a plane carrying about 50 high ranking officers and other military members landed at Candler Field (Atlanta Airport) to an overwhelming heroes welcome. Four-Star General Courtney H. Hodges - a Perry, Georgia, native - was the highest-ranking member among the returnees, and as such was singled out as the most prominent Guest of Honor. He had commanded the American forces that ultimately joined up with the Soviet army in Germany just weeks before.

Writing in the *Atlanta Constitution*, Herman Hancock stated, “Every military and patriotic organization in Atlanta will participate in the welcome, including the Georgia State Guard, every available band, Boy and Girl Scouts, the American Women’s Voluntary Service (AWVS), Red Cross, ROTC units from schools of Atlanta, Fulton, and DeKalb counties and other nearby cities.”²⁴⁸ As was the case with the *Gone With the Wind* and similar such motorcade celebrations, Mike Benton positioned all the bands in stationary locations all along the parade route, thereby allowing vehicles to ‘pass by’ the bands. The motorcade began at Virginia and Stewart Avenues, wound down Whitehall Street, before concluding at the Georgia Terrace Hotel on Peachtree Street.

The 1945 *Pointer* was dedicated to Russell Principal (and former Band Director) Roy Drukenmiller:

“In spite of hardships brought on by the war and other abnormal situations, Mr. Drukenmiller has very conscientiously carried on. Laboring at times under difficulties that were apparently unnecessary, he has administered Russell ably and impartially.

²⁴⁸ Herman Hancock, “Atlanta Plans Huge Welcome to Georgia’s Hodges Thursday,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 20 May 1945, 5-B.

As a tribute to his influence, his sincere efforts, his interest, and his leadership, we, the staff, dedicate *The Pointer* to our principal, Prof. Roy Drukenmiller.²⁴⁹

Graduation for Russell's 180 graduating seniors was held on 2 June in the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium. Class speakers included Hugh Thompson and Betty Jane Mitchell. Mrs. Ruby White Brown, Russell's Choral Director, conducted the music.

Academic Year: 1945-1946

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Charles E. Taylor

Band Officers: C. W. Cox, Cadet Captain; Earl Sims, 1st Lieutenant; and Lane Hardy, 2nd Lieutenant.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): James Allen; Paul Edward Baumgartner; Galen Clements (Assistant Drum Major '43-'45); William Hilken Coley ('42-'44); Cuva W. Cox, Jr.; Lane Hardy; Garland Holland ('44-'45); Gloria Gertrude McElroy (Drum Majorette); Joel Griffin Patrick, Jr. ('42-'45); Earl Waverly Sims; and June Marie Whitworth ('42-'44).

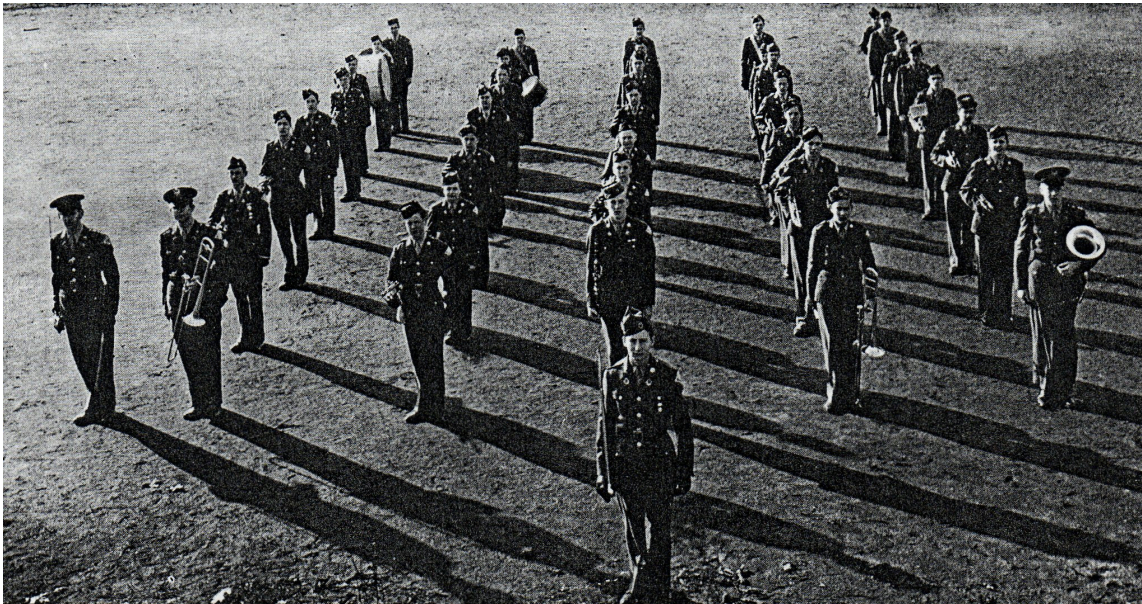
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- On 10 August, the Russell Class of 1945 presented the school with a Bronze Plaque memorializing the names of former Russell students who died in World War II. ROTC won the County Competition.
- Russell violinist Anne Nally was selected to the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Decatur; North Fulton; College Park; West Fulton; Commercial; Gainesville; Fulton.

²⁴⁹ Ann Starr, editor-in-chief, *The Pointer* (Yearbook), 1946, 7.



1945-1946 Russell High Band

Mr. Hoyt Griffin, former Band Director, Glee Club Director, and member of the English Department, came back to Russell after his service in World War II. He retained a position in the English Department, but both music positions at Russell were unavailable. After this 1945-46 school year, Mr. Griffin left Russell High and returned to his boyhood home of Cozad, Nebraska.

The Greater Atlanta United Community and War Fund started their campaign with a downtown Atlanta parade on 25 September. The two-mile parade featured mostly Army, Navy, and Marine military equipment, civic and patriotic organizations, and local High School ROTC units. The 4:15 P.M. parade started at Peachtree and Baker Streets and proceeded down Peachtree to Five Points.

The 1945 Southeastern Fair began on 28 September and remained open through the first full week of October. The Fair featured mid-day and evening grandstand entertainment by the George Hamid Rodeo and Wild West Show.

Bands continued to perform an important function at the Fair. The Georgia State National Guard Band performed on 1 October; the LaGrange Calloway Band of over 60 pieces played two grandstand concerts in the early evening of 3 October; and the City of Atlanta Massed Bands performed a grandstand concert at 2:30 P.M. on 5 October.

The Russell Band performed in the school auditorium on 5 October as part of a National Anthem Memorial Celebration, an event attended by Mr. Jere Wells, superintendent of Fulton County Schools. On Tuesday, 23 October 1945, the Russell Band provided musical entertainment for an Inter-City Civitan Club meeting held at the East Point City Auditorium honoring Wright Bryan, editor for the *Atlanta Journal*. Bryan was a recently released prisoner of war, having been captured in Europe while on assignment for the *Atlanta Journal*.

On Monday, November 12, the Russell High student body paid tribute to the fallen of World Wars I and II. This Armistice Day observance took place during the school day and featured a parade of Russell's ROTC units.

The East Point VFW 7007 organized a large post-war Armistice Parade that included the bands and ROTC organizations from Russell and College Park High Schools. Units from Ft. McPherson also participated in the parade that formed at City Hall and concluded at Hillcrest Cemetery on Connally Drive.

Building on the success of two previous Community Carol Fests involving the Band and Chorus, the 1945 version was held on 20 December at 8:00 P.M. in the Russell Auditorium. According to a newspaper promotion of the event, "several selections

representing various nations will accentuate the timely topic of permanent world peace.”²⁵⁰

A crowd of over 500 was in attendance at the Legion Post (No. 51) 28 January meeting in the Russell auditorium. A number of former students and returning faculty members were recognized and honored. The Russell Band performed music for this significant event.

Georgia’s Choral teachers met in conference at the State Vocal Clinic at Milledgeville, Georgia, on 6 February. Russell’s Glee Club, under the direction of Mrs. Ruby White Brown, was selected as a demonstration group for this prestigious event. Glee Club members, some of whom also played in the band, included: Griffin Patrick, Reynolds Wheeler, Galen Clements, Linton Deck, Howard Nix, Bobby Powell, Billy Smythe, Fred Moye, Betty Hardiman, Ethel Skelton, LeVerne Barge, Adelaide Osborn, Dorothy Warr, Joanne Carroll, and Martha Berry.

The GMEA 5th District Music Festival was held from 6-8 March at the Boys’ High Auditorium. Festival organizers included James Rutan of Tech High, general chairman, and Owen Seitz, instrumental chairman; Russell’s choral director, Ms. Ruby White Brown, coordinated the festival publicity. Major S. E. Mear and Henry Sopkin adjudicated the instrumental groups. Major Mear previously was Chairman of the University of Wisconsin music department and served as a high-ranking officer in the military band command during World War II. Henry Sopkin was serving as conductor of the Atlanta Youth Symphony, which he later led to professional status. Bands and orchestras earning Superior Ratings were: Murphy Junior High, Joe Brown Junior High,

²⁵⁰ E. N. Martin, ed., “Community Carol Fest to be held at Russell High December 20,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 14 December 1945, 1.

O'Keefe Junior High, College Park High, Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys' High, Northside Elementary Orchestra, and West End Band. The Russell Band did not participate.

Atlanta and the nation successfully completed numerous Red Cross drives during the World War II years. The Red Cross was extremely important to service personnel and their families both during and immediately following the War. By early 1946 the Red Cross was still in critical need of supporting local and worldwide activities for millions of soldiers on active duty and those being discharged from service. A Red Cross campaign began on 21 March with a downtown Atlanta parade along the usual parade route. Paul West, former Russell High principal, was the Co-Chair of the Fulton County Campaign; Roy Drukenmiller, Russell principal and former Russell High band director, was campaign coordinator for East Point.

Later in the month, on Monday, 25 March, Booster organizations from Russell's music groups organized an outside fish fry for Russell students, who were displaced from the cafeteria because of DDT spraying in the school kitchen.

Army Day observances ceased in 1942 for the duration of the war. The first post-war opportunity to celebrate Army Day occurred on 6 April 1946. Understandably, parade officials in Atlanta organized the largest Army Day parade in history.

The State Music Festival, initiated in 1937 and discontinued after the 1942 Festival due to the war, resumed during the third week of April 1946 in Milledgeville. While the Russell band participated in the 1940 State event, the only Russell groups performing in 1946 were the Russell High Boys Glee Club (II, Excellent rating), Mixed

Chorus (II, Excellent rating), and several small ensembles, all under the direction of Ms. Ruby White Brown.

Celebrations for the U.S. military took on heightened significance during the immediate post-war years. On 6 April, President Truman led the nation in emotional Army Day Tributes as Americans across the country paid homage to achievements of America's military. Schools marked the occasion with special programs and speeches by prominent military leaders on 4-5 April. The Army Day 1946 Celebration at Russell High began with a Russell Band performance of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. The observance continued with a parade review of the ROTC and Band during school hours in front of the students on the Russell football field, where Lt. Frances H. Deter was guest speaker. Later in the day Atlanta witnessed a massive parade of military units, Army vehicles, and related equipment. The *Atlanta Constitution* reported that bands from Atlanta and Fulton County high schools marched with the military bands from the Atlanta Ordnance Depot, the Georgia State Guard, and the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps.

Members of the Russell High Chorus combined with choral students from College Park High, Fulton High, North Fulton High, and West Fulton High to produce a 500-voice Festival Choir, which sang in concert at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 18 April. Ms. Ruby White Brown of Russell served as one of the guest conductors; the College Park Band, Harold Scott, conductor, provided instrumental accompaniment on selections by Mozart, Bortniansky, Greig, Bach and international folk music.

Russell's ROTC, including both the Corps of Cadets and the Band, continued their high level of excellence in 1946. After an individual inspection in early May, the U.S. War Department recognized the Russell military as "Honor School" for the 1945-

1946 school year. According to the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, this recognition was the eighth such prestigious award in Russell's history.²⁵¹

On 10 May, Russell band officers and their sponsors were presented on ROTC Sponsor Night. Lt. Col. Albert N. Ward, Professor of Military Science and Tactics for Fulton County Schools, reviewed the parade, which took place on the Russell football field. Band officers and their sponsors were as follows: Captain C.W. Cox & Joanna Holmes; 1st Lieutenant Earl Sims & Jane Bedingfield; 2nd Lieutenant Lane Hardy & Martha Berry. The Deland Orchestra provided the musical entertainment for the Officers' Ball held in the school auditorium.

The Russell Band provided the martial music for the annual Fulton County ROTC Competition held 22 May at West Fulton H.S. The Russell ROTC won four of six first place awards over the ROTC units of West Fulton H.S., Fulton H.S., and North Fulton H.S. Russell won in the "Best Drilled Company" and "Best Drilled Colors" categories. The other two awards were won in the individual category captions, with recognitions for Cadet Captain Louis Shurbett, "Best Drilled Officer" and Cadet Private Nelson Holt, "Best Drilled Private."

As graduation approached at schools across the county, senior classes were experiencing the first peacetime commencement season in five years. Like many schools, Russell planned numerous entertainment and special events leading to graduation ceremonies. The senior class play, *This Young Thing*, was presented on Friday, 22 March, in the East Point City Auditorium. Leads for the production included Joanne Carroll, William Lester, and Howard Nix, Jr. The Russell Junior-Senior Prom was held at

²⁵¹ E. N. Martin, ed., "News and Views of Russell High School," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 11 October 1946, 1.

the school auditorium on Friday, 17 May. “The Atlantans” Orchestra provided music for the event. The Baccalaureate service was held at East Point Christian Church on Sunday, 26 May. Two hundred ten seniors graduated at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on Friday night, 31 May, and were treated to a PTA-sponsored reception at the Russell Auditorium following the graduation ceremonies. Seniors Martha Stroberg and Griffin Patrick offered speeches, and Mrs. Ruby White Brown directed the music.

Academic Year: 1946-1947

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Capt. Warren T. Jackson

Band Officers: Billy May, Cadet Captain; Harold Chafin, Cadet Lieutenant; William Chapman, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant; Gene Carter, Cadet Staff Sergeant and Drum Major.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Martha Irene Berry ('46); James William Brisendine ('43-'46); Don Bryant; and Alfred William Thompson.

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- The sub-freshman (8th grade) class was added at the beginning of the school year.
- A Square Dance replaced the traditional Halloween Carnival PTA fundraiser.
- The football team had a 7-1 season.
- For the second year in a row, Russell's Anne Nally was selected to participate in the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra.
- On Tuesday, 18 March 1947, the Russell girls won the *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Athletic Competition against five other area high schools; the Russell boys finished second.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; @ Decatur; North Fulton; College Park; @ West Fulton; Commercial; @ Gainesville; Fulton.



1946-1947 Russell High Band

The school year began with a new band director at the helm. Mr. Charles E. Taylor, band director for the previous three years, stayed on the Russell faculty, but Capt. Warren T. Jackson assumed the band director position.

The East Point American Legion Post No. 51 presentation and dedication of Post Colors was held in the East Point City Auditorium on 23 September. F. M. Johnson, Fifth District Commander, and Clifford Clark, Field Representative of the Department of Georgia were featured speakers, while John R. Williams, Commander, Department of Georgia, presented the colors. The Russell Band provided music for the event.

The 1946 Southeastern Fair was held from 27 September until 6 October. In one of the more unusual and bizarre parades in Atlanta history, the Opening Day Parade featured 62 giant helium balloons of every animal character imaginable. Billed as a “Mardi Gras-themed” parade, six high school bands marched among the balloons, floats, and other units. The Atlanta Police Department estimated that over 100,000 people covered the parade route.

On 29 September, the Russell Band performed as part of a Memorial Service for 40 Russell alumni killed during World War II (see list on page 215). Capt. Jackson also conducted the band in a concert of various musical selections in a November chapel performance. The band performed *Circus Parade*, *The Three Bears*, *Matinee* and *March* by Harold Bennet.

Under the sponsorship of VFW Post 7007, East Point celebrated its largest Armistice Day ever on 11 November 1946. Army units from Ft. McPherson, along with the bands and ROTC units from Russell and College Park High Schools, participated in the parade that staged at City Hall. Starting south on East Point Street, the parade turned to the east on Washington Street before going north through Main Street, west on Connally Drive and concluded at Hillcrest Cemetery. Col. George M. Halloran, commanding officer of Ft. McPherson, dedicated a War Memorial. The bronze plaque read, "Dedicated to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice for Their Country."

The band appeared in a chapel performance on Wednesday, 27 November. A description of the event was listed in the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*:

"Russell ROTC Band, under the baton of Capt. Warren Jackson, presented a program of various musical selections in chapel Wednesday. The highlight of the entertainment was a novelty sketch of *The Three Bears* narrated by Gene Carter. It also featured an introduction of the band members."²⁵²

Atlanta and the nation were shocked by the fire death of 119 people at the downtown Atlanta Winecoff Hotel in the early hours of Saturday 7 December. The Winecoff Hotel opened in 1913 as one of the tallest buildings in Atlanta. Since the

²⁵² E. N. Martin, ed., "News and Views of Russell High School," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 29 November 1946, 1.

exterior was constructed of hardened, flame retardant steel, it was believed that the building was fire proof; however, the fire revealed that the interior was not safe. The hotel had no water sprinkler system. Furthermore, lack of fire exits and extra corridors prevented many upper floor guests from escaping, causing many to jump to their deaths while horrified witnesses looked on.

The death toll for such a fire was the largest in U.S. history. Mrs. Irene Harris Tollett, the librarian at Russell High since the fall of 1943, perished in the fire, along with her sister, who was in town for the evening. Among the hotel guests were forty high school students on a State YMCA of Georgia ("Y" Clubs) sponsored trip to Atlanta for a state youth-in-government legislative program, thirty of whom died.

An obituary for Mrs. Tollett written in the *Russell Wildcat* revealed in part that, "She was true to the high ideals and responsibilities of her profession. Never did she burden her associates with her troubles or fears but lived her life courageously and intelligently."²⁵³ A Russell High memorial tribute was delivered in the December 17 Chapel. To honor the life and service of Mrs. Tollett, the Russell 1947 *Pointer* Yearbook was dedicated to her memory.

To commemorate Pearl Harbor Day, the Hapeville VFW Post 4392 organized a Tri-Cities event held on Saturday, 7 December. The bands and ROTC units of Russell, College Park, and GMA participated. The 2:00 P.M. parade started in East Point and ended in College Park. Both the Russell High and College Park High bands performed for ceremonies held at the College Park Auditorium later that night. Because of the

²⁵³ Mamie Lewis, ed., "Irene Tollett, School Librarian, Victim of Winecoff Hotel Disaster," *Russell Wildcat*, 20 December 1946, 4.

aftermath of the Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta earlier in the day, the ranks of participating groups were greatly reduced.

The ROTC Valentine Dance, originally planned for earlier in the month, was held on 21 February with Raymond Shields and his Orchestra providing the musical entertainment. The Russell High ROTC officers' and NCO clubs sponsored the dance, admission for which was 50 cents.

The Russell ROTC, and the Band in particular, were praised in a February 1947 *Suburban Atlanta Reporter's* article. The paper declared: "Russell High's military is the best in Fulton County and the military band is among the best in the state."²⁵⁴ A few months later, however, West Fulton won the Fulton County title. West Fulton High School hosted the annual Fulton County ROTC Competition and won the "Best Drilled" trophy. Russell won the award for the "Best Color Squad." Cadet Private Lamar D. Chafin was recognized for being the top sophomore at Russell. Cadet Private Douglas Maloney was awarded the American Legion 40 & 8 Medal for distinguished service.

Continuing their long tradition of providing musical entertainment for the Russell PTA, the band performed twice for the 13 February meeting, opening with the selection *Matinet*. Later in the program, the band performed *New Dawn Overture*, *Operatic Mingle*, *The Three Bears* (narrated by band student Gene Carter), and *Slim Trombone*. The *Matinet* selection featured a first-ever routine by the newly formed majorettes squad comprised of Betty White, Joyce Wing, and Martha Phillips. These new majorettes were

²⁵⁴ E. N. Martin, ed., "Military Activities at Russell High To Be Explained at PTA Meeting," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 6 February 1947, 1.

highlighted in a *The Russell Wildcat* photograph with the caption, “Russell’s Military Band and Three Vivacious Drum Majorettes.”²⁵⁵

The GMEA 5th District Instrumental Music Festival was held at Fulton High School on 5-7 March. Adjudicators included J. Harris Mitchell from the University of Georgia and L. Bruce Jones, director of Bands at Louisiana State University.

The Class of 1947 Senior Play was *Ring Around Elizabeth*, a comedy in three acts by Charl Armstrong. Alice Holmes and Harold Johnson were cast in the leading roles. The play was presented on 13-14 March in the East Point City Auditorium with the band performing selections between acts.

In 1947, the traditional Army Day observation was expanded to a weeklong celebration. The week began with a 7 April Atlanta parade in honor of General Dwight Eisenhower, who was in town on an inspection tour. Huge crowds turned out for their first opportunity to thank him for his World War II service. Starting from the airport, crowds lined his motorcade route through downtown Atlanta to Five Points, where he paused briefly. In a manner reminiscent of the *Gone With the Wind* premiere parade, the following bands were stationed at places along the motorcade route: The Georgia Military Academy Band at Five Points; the North Fulton High Band at Broad and Peachtree Streets; the Boys’ High Band at Forsyth and Peachtree Streets; and the Decatur High Band at Peachtree and Baker Streets.

Army Week concluded with a Saturday 12 April Atlanta parade. The Russell High Band and ROTC units participated, as did the bands and ROTC units of Georgia Tech, North Fulton High, Fulton High, Georgia Military Academy, Tech High, Boys’

²⁵⁵ Mamie Lewis, ed., “Military Band Wins Creditable Acclaim” *Russell Wildcat*, 14 March 1947, 1.

High, and College Park High. The 9:45 A.M. parade began at the corner of Peachtree and Baker Streets and continued down Peachtree and Whitehall Streets to Trinity Avenue.

The Russell Band performed their first ever Spring Concert on Friday, 4 April. The concert was open only to band parents and select Russell High faculty with invitations issued by each band member. Selections included: *The Star-Spangled Banner*, *Two Chorales*, *The Cruise's Overture*, *Americans We*, *Seeds of Cadmer*, *The New Dawn*, and *Operatic Mingle*.

The band appeared for the Installation of PTA Officers Meeting held on 15 April. Ms. W. C. Arnold, PTA Eighth District director, installed the new Russell PTA officers in a ceremony held in the auditorium. Cadet Staff Sergeant Gene Carter, Drum Major for the band and President of Russell's Mixed Chorus, led the April Chapel assembly in the singing of *Onward Christian Soldiers*. Jimmy Harris provided the piano accompaniment.

The East Point Boatwright-Simpson AMVETS Post No. 13 held a Colors Dedication in the East Point City Auditorium on 24 April. Ray Sawyer, National Commander of AMVETS, was guest speaker. The Russell Band and the First Baptist Church Male Chorus provided musical selections. The band also provided entertainment for a group of Russell Alumni who met at Russell on 11 May to discuss the possibility of building concrete stands for the football field.

The band was particularly busy during early May, participating in a two-day Government ROTC Inspection on May 4-5,²⁵⁶ and later as a part of the annual ROTC Night at the Russell Football Field on 12 May. In addition to a parade and Pass-in-

²⁵⁶Every cadet, band included, was examined on some military subject. They were also graded on appearance, discipline, and drill. Results of this inspection released in September revealed that the Russell H.S. ROTC earned Honor School status.

Review on ROTC Night, ROTC sponsors for the officer corps were introduced and presented. Band Officers and their sponsors were as follows: Captain Billy May & Miss Gwen Johnson; Lieutenant Harold Chafin & Miss Jackie Hutcheson; and 2nd Lieutenant William Chapman & Miss Beverly Hambrick. A post-ceremony Officers' Ball was held at the Ft. McPherson Officers Club. The Bill Clark Orchestra provided the music. Later it was announced that the Russell ROTC Program was once again designated an "Honor School Rating" for the 1946-47 School year.

For four years from May 1939 through May 1942, the Russell Band participated in each of the four *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Greater Atlanta Music Festivals held at Georgia Tech's Grant Field. Lack of resources and security concerns brought an end to such activities during the World War II years. An attempt was made to revive the Festival in May of 1947, but the event was postponed because of renovations to Georgia Tech's Grant Field.

The Russell Band provided musical entertainment for the PTA Officer Installation ceremony held on Thursday, 20 May. The majorettes performed twirling routines to several selections played by the band. Gene Carter narrated to the band's performance of *Jack and the Bean Stalk*. The following week the Russell Band, along with the Glee Club, performed as part of an in-coming 8th grade orientation meeting on Monday, 26 May.

The Russell Prom was held at the school auditorium on 23 May. The Atlantans Orchestra, the same group that performed for the 1946 Prom, provided the music. The following week, Russell graduated 226 students at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 31 May 1947. Student speakers from Russell's Honor Class included Faye Brock, who spoke on "What Price Peace," and T. Jeff Smith, whose address was "Adjustment to this

Changing World.” Graduation music included *Ava Maria* (Schubert-Strickland) by a Russell vocal ensemble and *One World* (O’Hara-Bratton) sung by the senior class. Ms. Ruby White Brown directed the Graduation music, while Daisy Weathers, Russell senior, provided the piano accompaniment.

Academic Year: 1947-1948

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., temporary substitute assisted by Cadet Captain Gene Carter; Robert B. Waggoner.

Band Officers: Gene Carter, Cadet Captain; William Chapman, 1st Lieutenant; Carl Harrison, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

Majorettes: Jerry Long, Captain; Patsy Phillips; Joyce Wing; Anna Malone; and Betty Jo White.

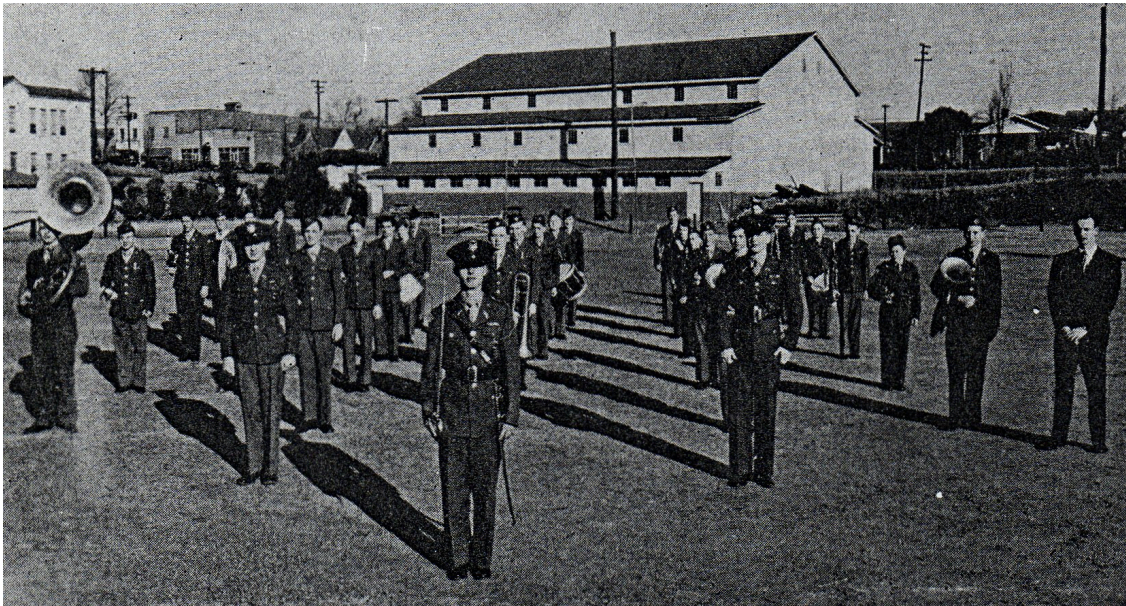
Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Gene Carter (’43-’48; Drum Major ’45-’48); William Chapman (’44-’48); 1st Lieutenant, ’48); William Crockett (’44-’47); James Harris (’44-’48); Carl Harrison (’44-’48; 2nd Lieutenant, ’48); Raymond Head (’46-’48); Dorothy “Jerry” Long (Woodlawn H.S. [Alabama] Drum Majorette Captain ’44-’47, RHS Drum Majorette Captain ’47-’48); John Roberts (’46-’48); Billy Rollins (’46-’48); Roy Stanley (’47-’48); and Howard Winters (’46-’48).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- This was the last football season for Coach R. L. Bowen, who later remained on the Russell faculty. By season’s end, Coach Bowen had compiled a 105-50-2 record, which included two N.G.I.C. championships, during his 20-year Russell coaching career.
- Paul D. West, former Russell principal from 1932-1942, was elected as Superintendent of Fulton County Schools, succeeding Jere A. Wells, who passed away in 1947.
- Russell’s Becky Paradise served as the Pro-Tem of the Atlanta High School Press Association for 1947-1948.
- Russell’s Rifle Team won second place in Georgia and eighth overall in the entire 3rd Army Area. Russell’s Monroe Boyd earned first place with a score of 181.
- Russell added a 7th period to the daily schedule; Study Hall was mandatory.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Bass; North Fulton; @ Rossville; Smith, @ Decatur; @ Gainesville; Fulton.



1947-1948 Russell High Band

Fans of the Russell High football team saw a stadium renovation that added approximately 1,000 seats, bringing the total capacity to 2,500. The beginning of football season also saw the addition of Larry Dodd as the new assistant coach. Dodd, a graduate of the University of Georgia, was also assigned a teaching position in the science department.

The Band Director situation at Russell was transient during 1947-1948. Prior to the start of the new school year, Capt. Warren Jackson left Russell to become principal at North Fulton High School. Roy Drukenmiller, Jr., RHS '44, stepped in temporarily with the help of Cadet Captain Gene Carter to help run the band while a suitable band director replacement could be found. In early December, Robert B. Waggoner assumed the band director position.

Mr. Waggoner was introduced to the Russell High community in the following article:

“The Russell High Band, which has been all of this 1st quarter under the willing leadership of Band Cadet Captain Gene Carter, has a new and full-time director. He is Mr. Robert Waggoner, a young man, who intends to develop the band into something the school will be proud of.

Mr. Waggoner is a student of the University of Georgia and a teacher at the Morris Brandon Elementary School. He says that the band has a fine nucleus, and if all the boys will cooperate, it will develop into a fine organization.

It has been announced that beginning the second semester, he is going to organize a second band, consisting of freshman and sub-freshman boys.”²⁵⁷

The 1947 Southeastern Fair was held from 26 September through 5 October. The oversize helium balloons that were such a hit in the 1946 Opening Day Parade made another appearance in the 1947 Parade. Army, Navy, Marine, and farm machinery equipment were also featured in the parade. Bands from several Fulton County and Atlanta Public Schools were also included in the line of marchers that performed for about 200,000 onlookers, about double the record crowd from the year before. The LaGrange (GA) Band played a feature grandstand concert on the afternoon of 2 October and later did a radio broadcast performance from the Fairgrounds press area.

Majorette baton twirlers made their first appearance as a new unit of the Russell Band. In October, the majorette squad and their new captain, Jerry Long, were introduced in a *Russell Wildcat* article,

“Russell has really been high-stepping at the past football games with such superlative marching and agility of the drum-majorettes. They have made considerable progress under the capable leadership of their new captain, Jerry Long, who came to Russell from Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama, where she was an All-American drum majorette for three and a half years. Last September she led the Alabama Drum and Bugle Corps at the head of a five mile-long parade in San Francisco for the American Legion National

²⁵⁷ Rebecca Paradise, ed., “Russell Band has New Director,” *Russell Wildcat*, 19 December 1947, 1.

convention. Just this summer Jerry won the runner-up position for “Miss Alabama of 1947,” and immediately afterward moved to our fair city.²⁵⁸



From left to right are: Anna Malone, Joyce Wing, Capt. Jerry Long, Betty Jo White, and Patsy Phillips, Russell's High Stepping Majorettes.

At the conclusion of World War II, otherwise normal Armistice Day Parades were transformed into huge events in East Point. Numerous civic, school, patriotic, and active duty units from Ft. McPherson participated in these annual patriotic celebrations. The combined ROTC groups from Russell, including the band, were a vital part of these parades. The 1947 Armistice Day Parade was billed as the biggest ever in East Point's history.²⁵⁹ Poor weather, however, prevented the Russell ROTC units and Band from participating. According to the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, a decision was made early

²⁵⁸ Rebecca Paradise, ed., “Majorettes Make Fine Debut,” *Russell Wildcat*, 17 October 1947, 1.

²⁵⁹ E. N. Martin, ed., “Biggest Armistice Day Parade In East Point History's History Planned,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 16 October 1947, 1.

on parade day to cancel the College Park and Russell ROTC groups, but the weather cleared. The large size of Russell's ROTC units prevented a re-formation of the units in such a short amount of time.²⁶⁰

A compelling human-interest story involving two former Russell students unfolded in late November. According to the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, two members of the University of Georgia Marching Band, in town for the Georgia Tech football game, included Ramsey Buice, (Russell Band, clarinet, '43) and his wife, the former Betty Nally, who was in the UGA Band as a majorette twirler.

Russell's 4th annual Community Christmas Carol Festival occurred on Thursday, December 18th in the Russell High Auditorium. In addition to various choral selections, Richard Stewart narrated Christmas stories from bible scriptures and Mr. Drukenmiller conducted the Community Sing music.

A small instrumental group, comprised of four Russell Band students, was publicized in *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*. The group was led by trombonist/pianist Jerry Godwin and included John Morrow (alto sax), Phil Leatherwood (trumpet), and David Brown (singer). The group's premiere performance, an appearance at a dance following a basketball game on 16 January, was well received. The group also played at the 7 February talent show, an event where the band's Gene Carter was Master of Ceremonies. In the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* 28 February 1948 issue, a writer claimed, "Four Russell High boys whose talents are one of the biggest reasons for the success of the Russell High Band this year have set their musical abilities to work in another way with splendid results."

²⁶⁰ E. N. Martin, ed., "East Point Parade," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 13 November 1947, 1.

The ROTC Officer's Club sponsored a Valentine's Dance on Thursday evening, 13 February, in the school auditorium. Bob Axtel and the Atlantans Music provided the music.

Waggoner's first performance with the Russell Band occurred during the 25 February Chapel. The short performance included several marches and two instrumental solos, one by William Chapman (trumpet), and the other by Jimmy Harris (clarinet). Mildred Kelly accompanied both solos on piano.

Jerry Godwin's group, carrying the name of the "East Pointers" and containing William Chapman and Grady Roberts as new members, was featured in a the *Russell Wildcat* page one photo. After the group's premiere as part of the February Talent Show, they performed later at the Decatur's Women's Club, Buddy O'Mara's Dancing School, post-Gainesville Basketball game dance, Elk's Club, and East Point Methodist Church Sunday School party.²⁶¹ Additionally, the group performed as part of a 19 March Red Cross Benefit show, a revue that also included a song and tap routine by Jerry Long.

²⁶¹ Rebecca Paradise, ed., "The East Pointers Becoming Popular," *Russell Wildcat*, 12 March 1948, 1.



Pictured above are the East Pointers — they are (left to right): Dave Brown, Phil Leatherwood, Jerry Godwin and John Morrow. In the background are six of the cheerleaders. William Chapman and Grady Roberts who recently joined the orchestra are not pictured.

The GMEA 5th District Music Festival was held in Decatur from 1-3 March. Participants from Russell included: Anne Hemperley, piano (Superior), Jimmy Harris, clarinet (Superior), William Chapman, trumpet (Excellent) Patsy Phillips, twirling, (Superior), and Jerry Long, twirling (Excellent). Captain Warren T. Jackson, the former Russell Band director, served as one of the festival adjudicators. The State Music Festival held in Milledgeville, Georgia, in April included Patsy Phillips in the Baton category, and Jimmy Harris, who was awarded a high Superior (1+) for a clarinet solo.

The Russell Band and ROTC were busy in the spring. Numerous Atlanta-area bands and school organizations participated in the National Safety Week Parade in

Atlanta on Monday afternoon, 28 March. Russell was the first band in the procession that formed at Baker Street and Trinity Avenue and proceeded down Peachtree to Whitehall streets.

The Russell ROTC Federal inspection was held on 1-2 April. The comprehensive review included a 100-question written examination given to the upper classmen. As a result of this inspection, the Russell ROTC won “Honor School Status” for the 1947-48 school year. Lieutenant General Alvan C. Gillem, Jr., Commanding General, Third Army, Ft. McPherson, made the official Department of Army announcement.²⁶² Later in the month, Russell hosted the annual Fulton County ROTC Competition that was won by West Fulton High. Billy Newell was recognized as the top rated sophomore cadet at Russell, and Russell’s Jerry Thorpe was awarded an American Legion ‘40 & 8’ medal for distinguished service. Russell won the “Best Drilled Colors.”

The *Atlanta Constitution* reported that 43 Georgia cities were set to observe Army Day 1948. The 6 April event involved the Georgia National Guard, the organized reserves, the ROTC, and the regular Army. In cities large and small, officials organized elaborate activities, such as parades, banquets, band concerts, and military balls.

The Russell Band performed the Pass-and-Review music for Army Day exercises held at Ft. McPherson. The celebration was highlighted with a Silver Star presentation to Staff Sgt. Albert L. Oddy for his heroism during the War.

The annual Russell Sponsor Night was held on Friday, 7 May. After a parade and Pass-and-Review, sponsors were presented and special recognitions were awarded to select cadets. Gene Carter earned the Senior Efficiency Ribbon for outstanding

²⁶² E. N. Martin, ed., “Army Designates Local High Schools as ‘Honor Schools,’ “*Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 7 October 1948, 6.

contributions to the band. Later in the evening, the officers and sponsors attended a Military Ball with music provided by Bob Avtel and the Atlantans. After the Grand March, Jerry Long was crowned Queen of the Ball.

A short article and photo in the *Atlanta Constitution* featured four ROTC officers and their sponsors taken during Sponsor Night. Featured were Lt. Col. Jack McDuffie with sponsor Myrna Slocum; Col. Johnny Harper with sponsor Jean Shurbutt; Lt. Col. Don Barker with sponsor Nanette Gladin; and Lt. Col. Collier Gladin with sponsor Mildred Kelly. ROTC Band Officer sponsors announced earlier in the year were Laverne Joyner (Captain Gene Carter), Jerry Long (1st Lt. William Chapman), and Mariam Crawford (2nd Lt. Carl Harrison).

The Greater Atlanta Music Festival, postponed during the war years, was finally revived and presented on 15 May 1948 with the Russell Band again in attendance. An 11 May *Atlanta Constitution* article publicizing the upcoming Festival featured the Russell Band. Comments included, "The Russell Band, comprising 36 pieces, is directed by R. B. Waggoner. . . . Officers are Gene Carter, William Chapman, Carl Harrison, and Billy O'Quinn."²⁶³ A complete list of band member names concluded the article:

"Phil Leatherwood, Don Bell, Ben Wallace, Don Cagle, Joe Mack, Gene Pyle, Ralph Harrison, Jimmy Harris, John Marrow, Jim Hornsby, Don Dobbs, Ray McCrary, Ronald Andrews, Billy Starrett, Jerome Sheffield, Ray Head, Richard Crockett, Jerry Godwin, Howard Winters, Roy Hunt, Jackie Drake, Douglas Brown, Mark Kendall, Roberts Grady, Willis Kilgore, Russell Ross, Reggie Clay, James Herron, Jerry Long, Anna Malone, Joyce Wing, and Patsy Phillips."

²⁶³ Ralph McGill, ed., "Russell, Fulton Bands Gear for Festival," *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 May 1948, 16.

Attached to the write-up was a photograph of Russell's four drum majorettes.

The accompanying article insert stated:

“They're high steppers, they're cute, and they're the leaders of the Russell High Band. These four vivacious drum majorettes will strut in the Greater Atlanta Music Festival at Grant Field Saturday night, May 15. They are Patsy Phillips, Capt. Jerry Long, Joyce Wing, and Anna Malone.²⁶⁴

The Festival highlight involved dance performances by thirteen elementary school students from 36 schools. Pat O'Brien, Hollywood actor, made a brief guest appearance and offered a few comments to the near capacity crowd. Don Mitchell, DJ of the *Atlanta Constitution*-owned WCON radio station, served as Master of Ceremonies; Carlton K. Butler, director of the University of Alabama “Million Dollar Band,” guest-conducted the massed band and community singing of *America*. The bands appeared on field in this Festival order: Roosevelt High, West End Elementary, Fulton High, Russell High, O'Keefe High, Hoke Smith High, Murphy High, Decatur High, Georgia Military Academy, Bass High, Joe Brown High, and Henry Grady High.

Special end-of-year senior activities included the play *Mistakes at the Blakes* presented 15-16 April. Graduation for about 202 students occurred on Saturday 29 May. Graduation speakers included Valedictorian Rebecca Anne Paradise, who spoke on the topic of “What's Right with the World?” and Salutatorian James (Jimmy) Wesley Harris, whose topic was “Roads to War or Peace.” A month earlier, Jimmy Harris and Joyce Hutcheson were voted Russell's ‘most intellectual,’ and for such were interviewed on a WBGE radio program, “You're the Tops,” a series featuring the region's best students.

²⁶⁴ Carl Dixon, staff photographer, “Russell, Fulton Bands Gear for Festival,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 11 May 1948, 16.

Donald Barker was awarded the Russell High Faculty Cup for “Outstanding Boy.” Music awards went to: Gene Carter, who won the Ritter Music medal; William Chapman, who was presented the Waggoner Band Medal; and Jerry Long, selected as the winner of the Drum Majorette Award.

Drum Majorette Jerry Long had a very busy summer after graduation. Having been the runner-up in the Miss Alabama Pageant prior to transferring to Russell for her senior year, she participated in and won the Miss Atlanta Pageant held on Wednesday, 11 August 1948, at the Lakewood Fairgrounds. She then participated in the Miss USA Pageant as Miss Atlanta and was selected in the final round of 15. Writing in the *Russell Wildcat*, a reporter exclaimed,

“Jerry’s victory was in the bag when she appeared in a white sequin costume and sang *You Made Me Love You*. She followed this up with a lively tap dance. Jerry not only won honors in Atlanta, but also in New York and New Jersey.”²⁶⁵

In 1950 she married Robert B. Waggoner, Russell’s spring 1948 interim band director.

Academic Year: 1948-1949

Principal: Roy Drukenmiller

Band Director: Harold W. Alenius

Band Officers: Jerry Godwin, Cadet Captain; Phil Leatherwood, Cadet 1st Lieutenant; and Julian Whitaker, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

Majorettes: Martha “Joyce” Wing, Captain; Patsy Phillips, Co-Captain; Jacqueline Hunnicutt; and Myrna Slocum

²⁶⁵ Nanette Gladin, ed., “Mrs. & Miss Atlanta Crowned,” *Russell Wildcat*, 27 September 1948, 1.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Don Bell ('45-'49); Robert Chapman ('45-'49); Donald Dobbs ('46-'49); Jerry Godwin ('45-'49); Band Captain '48-'49); James Hornsby ('45-'49); Jacqueline Hunnicutt (Drum Majorette '48-'49); Phillip Leatherwood ('45-'49); John Morrow ('45-'49); Charles Ross ('47-'49); Benjamin Wallace ('45-'48); Martha Wing (Drum Majorette '47; Co-Captain of Drum Majorettes '48; Captain of Drum Majorettes '49).

Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- Larry S. Dodd, a former Russell student/athlete, took over as head football coach. Later in his career, he would be principal at Russell from 1963-1968.
- The Russell Distributive Education Club, under the direction of Mrs. Gladys Duke, won the Sears-Roebuck trophy for the best DE club in Georgia.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

Hapeville; Bass; North Fulton; Smith; @ West Fulton; Decatur; @ Gainesville; Fulton.



1948-1949 Russell High Band

With Mr. Wagonner's transfer to O'Keefe High School in the Atlanta Public School System, Mr. Harold Alenius was selected as the new band director at Russell High. Prior to his arrival on campus, the Russell Band Director position was part-time. With the onset of the new academic year, Mr. Alenius became the first full-time Russell

High band director and taught a new music appreciation course, along with other instrumental courses.

Mr. Alenius was an accomplished violinist who came to Russell High from the University of Montevallo (AL), where he served as a violin instructor and orchestra director. In addition to his Russell teaching duties, he was a member of the Atlanta Symphony first violin section.

The 1948 Marching Band appeared in new uniforms, which actually were uniforms passed down from the Georgia Tech Band. Donations from area businesses, the school, and even from the band mothers and students themselves (23 students contributed \$5.00 each), made the acquisition possible.²⁶⁶ Majorettes Martha “Joyce” Wing, Captain, and Patsy Phillips, Co-Captain, modeled their new uniforms in an *Atlanta Constitution* photo. Under the by-line of “The Rage of Russell,” the article accompanying the photo revealed:

“Bug-eyed Russell High boys have just one complaint about the new uniforms their majorettes designed and made. They don’t get to view them often enough. Here Patsy Philips and Joyce Wing show off the gold and white creations.”²⁶⁷

The uniforms were first seen at the North Fulton game at Russell. In a *Russell Wildcat* article, a reporter wrote, “The band marched and played at the half and many

²⁶⁶ E. N. Martin, ed., “Russell High School Flashes New Uniforms, Thanks to Contributions, Hard Work,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 30 September 1948, 1.

²⁶⁷ Floyd Jillson, “The Rage of Russell,” *Atlanta Constitution* Staff Photo, 3 October 1948, 11-C.

compliments were heard on the uniforms, including compliments from the North Fulton stands.”²⁶⁸

The same *Russell Wildcat* writer reported on some unusual activities of the band for the Smith High game:

“...as usual, the Russell Band was there, but this time with something new. First, there was the forming of letters for the different teams playing. Stopping in front of the Smith stands, they immediately marched to their assigned positions and formed an “S.” After this came the playing of *Success* March. Then, amid the Smith cheers, they turned and marched to the Russell stands, formed an “R” and played “On, Wisconsin.” Second, was that a new bass drum we saw? It is rumored that Major Young was seen painting it that afternoon. For the benefit of those who were not at the game and didn’t see it, the bass drum was painted gold and white with a Wildcat and ‘Russell High School –Wildcats- R. O. T. C. on the head.’”²⁶⁹

Shortly after the uniform donation drive, the band again went to the public for help. The new project involved the solicitation of used instruments. A short article in *Atlanta’s Suburban Report* announced:

“An appeal was made this week for additional musical instruments needed at Russell High School in the campaign to build up the school band. Harold Alenius, the new band director, is now giving music instruction as part of the regular school curriculum at Russell High School and students receive credit for their work in this course. Anyone interested in aiding the band in this way is asked to contact A. D. Torrance, father of one of the band members.”²⁷⁰

The *Russell Wildcat* reported on several transfer students who were new to the band:

²⁶⁸ Nanette Gladin, ed., “Band Shows Off New Uniforms,” *Russell Wildcat*, 25 October 1948, 3.

²⁶⁹ Ibid.

²⁷⁰ E. D. Martin, ed., “Appeal Made for Musical Instruments to Supplement Russell High School Band,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 7 October 1948, 1.

“Russell’s band is growing up! This year, for the first time, we have a bass horn player. His name is Louis Carson and he’s from Greenville, S. C. Not only that, but we have a prospective member coming in later who plays the same instrument. He is Bill Cooper from Athens.

A few weeks ago we were fortunate in having Ronald Hughes, a trumpet player from Rumson, N. J. to join our band. We’re also very proud of two new clarinetists, Bobby Lloyd of Gadsden High, and Albert Whitehurst, of Joe Brown. Three cheers for our band and its capable director, Mr. Alenius!”²⁷¹

The 1948 Southeastern Fair opened with the customary opening day parade, which was estimated to be two miles long, and once again included the popular giant helium balloons that were first introduced two years earlier. The parade began at Peachtree and Baker streets and continued down Whitehall to Trinity Avenue. The Russell Band was among the large number of bands that performed in the opening day of the 1948 Southeastern Fair Parade. Indeed, in his post-parade review, Howell Jones, an *Atlanta Constitution* writer, made a humorous reference the number of bands:

“In fact, the parade had everything. It had new cars, used cars, trucks and bands; tractors and farm machinery and fire trucks and bands; police cars, midget cars, motorcycles and bands; farm wagons, circus wagons, Boy Scouts, and bands.

In all, there were 19 bands headed by the Third Army Band from Ft. McPherson. Almost every high school in Greater Atlanta was represented, and the never-ending music added to the carnival atmosphere. And the kids – both young and old – enjoyed every bit of it.”²⁷²

Mr. Alenius played violin as an accompaniment for the Russell High Mixed Chorus in a performance heard over WABE-FM radio on Thursday, 1 October. Mr.

²⁷¹ Nanette Gladin, ed., “Russell Has New Band Members,” *Russell Wildcat*, 19 November 1948, 3.

²⁷² Howell Jones, “Rollicking Parade Heralds Fair Opening,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 1 October 1948, 1.

Alenius performed *Air on the G String* and the Chorus sang *Gloria in Excelsis* from Mozart's 12th Mass.

East Point's Armistice Day Celebration parade featured an appearance by the Parris Island Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. As reported in the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, the Drum and Bugle Corps "is being brought here to take part in East Point's gigantic Armistice Day Parade next Thursday....The Russell Band, sporting their newly acquired uniforms, will march."²⁷³ Participating also were three local beauty queens: Miss Jerry Long, former Russell Drum Majorette, who was "Miss Atlanta of 1948;" Mrs. Tillis Leach of East Point, "Mrs. Atlanta of 1948;" and Grace Orr, "Miss Atlanta Jr."

The parade started at East Point City Hall and included the Third Army Band and numerous other Third Army military units. In addition to Russell High, the bands of Hapeville High and College Park High also participated. Ceremonies concluded at Hillcrest Cemetery.

A news account of the East Point Armistice observance appeared in the 12 November morning edition of the *Atlanta Constitution*. Drum Majorettes Jackie Hunnicutt, Pat Phillips, and Myrna Slocum were featured in a candid page 1 photo with the following caption:



THREE CHILLY BEAUTIES—Jackie Hunnicutt, Pat Phillips and Myrna Slocum, left to right, were a wee bit chilly as they prepared to lead the Russell High Band in yesterday's Armistice Day parade in East Point. A low of 36 degrees brought out many overcoats, but these three Russell High majorettes braved the wintry chill in abbreviated costumes. The parade was one of several celebrations in the Atlanta area.

"Jackie Hunnicutt, Pat Phillips, and Myrna Slocum, left to right, were a wee bit chilly as they prepared to lead the Russell High Band in yesterday's

²⁷³ E. D. Martin, ed., "Parris Island Marine Drum and Bugle Corps to Parade Here in Armistice Celebration," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 4 November 1948, 1.

Armistice Day parade in East Point. A low of 36 degrees brought out many overcoats, but these three Russell High majorettes braved the wintry chill in abbreviated costumes.”²⁷⁴

The Annual Christmas Community Carol Fest was presented by the Russell Chorus on Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 December. The program, directed by Mrs. Ruby White Brown, chorus director, was sponsored by the Russell PTA and the East Point Music Lovers Club and featured audience participation. Several band selections, directed by Mr. Alenius, were offered at the concert. The Freshman Chorus selection, *Cradle Hymn*, featured Mr. Alenius directing a small ensemble that included Miss Elsie Alenius, violin, Mrs. H.W. Alenius, cello, and John Morrow, clarinet.

Over two hundred Russell students braved the rain and slush to attend an Atlanta Symphony concert held at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium on 16 February. The students were particularly impressed and proud to see Mr. Alenius, the Russell Band Director, playing in the first violin section.²⁷⁵

The February PTA Founders Day meeting featured several important speakers, including Paul D. West, Knox Walker, Douglas McRae, and Ira Dodd. Mr. Alenius and the Russell Band provided music for this special occasion. On March 22, the Georgia Tech Band performed a concert in the Russell Auditorium.

Army Day 1949 in Atlanta featured special guests General Jacob L. Devers, Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, and Sgt. James McKinney, Medal of Honor winner from Georgia. Both were honored at a special Army Day luncheon at the Ansley Hotel. A parade in their honor was held at 2:00 P.M. 6 April. Wartime fighting

²⁷⁴ Hugh Stovall, photo, “Three Chilly Beauties,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 12 November 1948, 1.

²⁷⁵ Nanette Gladin, ed., “Russell Attends Symphony,” *Russell Wildcat*, 4 April 1949, 1.

units from the Third Infantry and the 82nd Airborne, along with the 122nd Infantry Regiment of the Georgia National Guard, joined numerous high school bands and ROTC units from Fulton County, Marist School, Henry Grady, J. C. Murphy, Hoke Smith, Daniel O’Keefe, F. D. Roosevelt, Joe E. Brown, and Decatur Boys High. The 2:00 P.M. parade formed at West Peachtree Place and West Peachtree Street and marched south to Peachtree and Whitehall to Alabama Street.

The GMEA 5th District Music Festival was held at Bass High School on 2-4 March. L. Bruce Jones of Louisiana State University, the instrumental adjudicator in 1948, returned in the same capacity for the 1949 event. Those who earned top “superior” ratings from Russell High included: Clarinet Quartet; Girls Glee Club; Girls Beginners Chorus; Girls Vocal Ensemble; and Boys Vocal Quartet, the last group of which went on to earn a Superior Rating at the State Music Festival held in Milledgeville on 7 April. Russell Drum Majorettes Joyce Wing and Patsy Phillips also earned Superior Ratings at district, and having done so, both were also able to compete later at the State Music Festival. The Russell Band, however, did not attend, creating a situation chronicled by Bill Harrell in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

“Two ‘bandless’ majorettes from Russell High School, Atlanta, spent yesterday afternoon looking for a band to lead because the Russell Band was not entered. The pair, Joyce Wing, of 507 Windburn Dr., East Point, and Pat Phillips, of 2319 Highview Rd., S.W., were assisted in their search for a band by Tom W. Jarrett, of 1510 Stewart Avenue., S.W., who is a member of *The Constitution’s* circulation department. He and Miss Wing are engaged to be married.”²⁷⁶

²⁷⁶ Bill Harrell, “Big Parade Features Milledgeville State Music Festival’s Final Day,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 8 April 1949, 1.

Beginning in 1944, the High School Choral departments from the Tri-Cities performed a special all-star concert. For the spring of 1949, bands from the Tri-Cities joined forces and also performed in the annual concert. Regarding this special concert, the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* announced:

“The vocal and band students of Hapeville High, Russell High, and College Park High will present a Tri-City Concert at the College Park Auditorium on Monday, May 9...The bands will present a varied selection of numbers, including: *Agnus Dei* by Bizet and *Eroica* by Beethoven.”²⁷⁷

The select band members of Hapeville (Merwin T. Crisman, Director), College Park (Harold W. Scott, Director), and Russell performed the following:

Mignonette..... (Baumann)
Trail Blazer..... (Holmes)
Agnus Dei..... (Bizet)
Washington Post(Sousa)
Eroica(Beethoven/arr. Skornica)

The concert concluded with a combined Tri-City Bands and Choruses version of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (Luther/arr. Cailliet).

The annual Russell ROTC Sponsor Night was held at the Russell football field in early May. At the conclusion of the parade and presentations, a dance was held at the Ft. McPherson Officers' Club. Band officers and their sponsors included Captain Jerry Godwin & Judy Cline; 1st Lt. Phil Leatherwood & Nancy Gladin; and 2nd Lt. Julian Whitaker & Jackie Hunnicutt.

The 1949 edition of the Greater Atlanta Music Festival was held on Saturday, 14 May. The Russell Band participated, along with bands that appeared on Grant Field in

²⁷⁷ E. D. Martin, ed., “High School Choruses, Bands Present Concert Monday Night,” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 5 May 1949, 1.

this order: West End Elementary, Fulton High, Hoke Smith High, Roosevelt High, Murphy High, O’Keefe High, Grady High, Decatur High, Bass High, GMA, Russell High, and Hapeville High. Band organizers included Ben Sisk and Owen Seitz.

The festival highlight involved a square dance routine by numerous square dance clubs in the Atlanta area. Ray Smith, a famous “caller” from Dallas, Texas, led the square dance. About 1,800 area elementary school students, dressed in either red, white, or blue, were also involved by forming a large, man-made flag. Col. Carlton K. Butler, director of the massed band the year before, returned to lead the band and audience in a community sing.

The *Atlanta Constitution* pre-performance publicity for the event included a photo of the three Russell Band Drum Majorettes. The staff photograph, captioned “High-Steppers,” read: “Polishing up their form for the Greater Atlanta Music Festival are Joyce Hunnicutt, Pat Phyllis, and Joyce Wing of Russell High School.”²⁷⁸ Graham Jackson, a popular Atlanta-based African-American organist of national renown, provided Pre-Festival music. Jackson was said to be a favorite of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Armed Forces Day on 20 May was a large downtown Atlanta event that involved over 5,000 troops. Representing units from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force, the troops were joined by numerous veteran and civic groups, along with many bands and ROTC units from the greater Atlanta area. The 10:00 A.M. parade began at Atlanta’s City Hall and proceeded up Mitchell Street, Whitehall Street, and Peachtree Street.

Senior activities during the spring included the senior class production of *Spring Green*, directed by Mrs. Virginia Parker, which was held on 13 and 14 April in the East

²⁷⁸ Ralph McGill, ed., “High Steppers,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 1 May 1949, 8-C.

Point City Auditorium. Due to the overwhelming senior class interest, two entirely separate groups of seniors were cast on different nights. The Junior-Senior Prom featured a 'King Neptune's Kingdom' theme and was held in the Russell Auditorium. Dan Patrick's orchestra furnished the music. Approximately 220 seniors graduated in a ceremony held at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium at 4:00 P. M. on Saturday 4 June 1949. Helen Marie Tucker and Collins Chew, senior class honors winners, made graduation addresses. John Morrow was awarded the Ritter Music Medal and Donald Stephens won the Roy Drukenmiller Music Medal. The seniors were honored at a post-graduation reception held at the Russell auditorium.

Academic Year: 1949-1950

Principal: L. L. Deck

Band Director: Harold W. Alenius

Band Officers: Major Davis Liggett, Drum Major; Captain Mark Kendall, 1st Lieutenant; Ray McCrary, 1st Lieutenant Douglas Brown; Lillian Turner, Majorette Captain; and Jerry Porter, Co-Captain.

Majorettes: Lillian Turner, Captain; Geraldine Porter, Co-Captain; Barbara Mullins; Alice Flynn; and Frances Howland.

Band Seniors (or Seniors with significant prior Band experience): Davis Liggett (46-50; Drum Major '50).

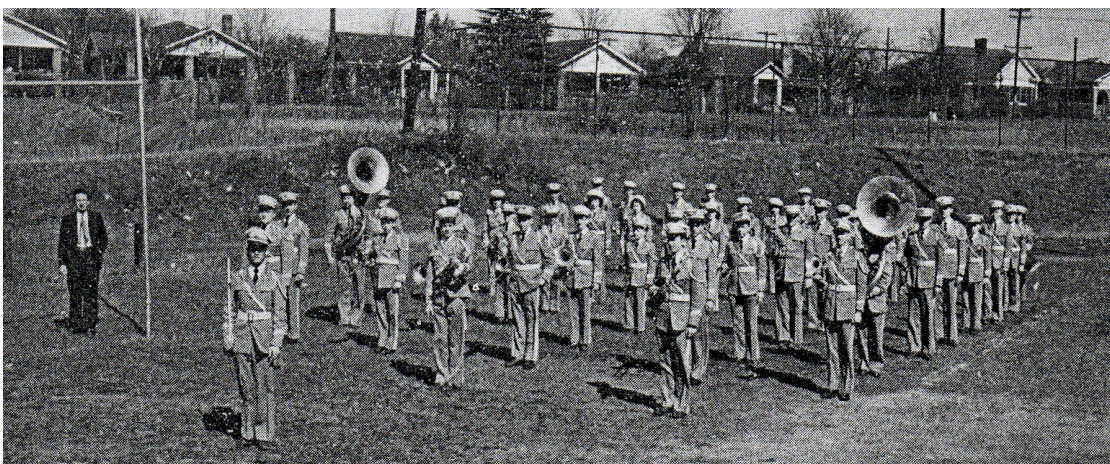
Russell H.S. Highlights of Note:

- While the sub-freshman class was added in the 1946-47 school year making for a 12-year school career, students still had the right to graduate after their 11th grade year. Few students opted to go to school for an extra year, hence the existence of a very small 12th grade class at Russell for the 1949-50 school year, the last year of the 11th grade graduation.
- Mr. Larry Dodd, a former Russell student who played on Russell's 1938-1939 N.G.I.C. Championship football team, was selected as the new football coach, replacing Coach Bowen.
- Two Russell small vocal ensembles performed for the Georgia Education Association Convention in Atlanta on 22-24 March 1950.

- Competing against Fulton, Hapeville, Campbell, and College Park, Russell won the *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored Greater Atlanta Fulton County Track & Field Program, an event that coincidentally was held on the Russell field.

Russell Band appearances likely for the following football season schedule:

@ Hapeville; @ Rome; @ North Fulton; Rossville; @ R. E. Lee; West Fulton; Decatur; Gainesville; and Fulton.



1949-1950 Russell High Band

Except for one year when he was principal of Hapeville High School (1941-42), Mr. Drukenmiller was associated with Russell High either as a chemistry teacher, band director, or principal for over 20 years. Considering that the school was 25 years old in 1949, Mr. Drukenmiller at that point in time was an important part of Russell High for almost the entire history of the school. It was, therefore, a sad day when, prior to the beginning of school, Mr. Drukenmiller stepped down from the Russell principal position on account of his health and took a less demanding job as Mathematics Department Chair at Fulton High School. In a gesture of appreciation, the Russell PTA Board, faculty, and close friends honored Mr. Drukenmiller's dedicated service at Russell during a surprise birthday party, where he was presented a watch.²⁷⁹

²⁷⁹ E. D. Martin, ed., "Roy Drukenmiller Given Watch At Surprise Birthday Party," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 12 January 1950, 4-C.

Mr. L. L. Deck, who served as an officer in World War II, replaced Mr. Drukenmiller. Mr. Deck taught at Russell from 1930-36 and was principal at College Park High School prior to coming to Russell.²⁸⁰ Interestingly, within a few months of beginning his new job at Fulton High School, Mr. Drukenmiller accepted a part-time job as a Fulton County elementary instrumental music supervisor, a position he held for two years before being appointed as a full-time instrumental music supervisor in 1951.

The Russell football field had seen numerous renovations and additions over the years. Prior to the start of football season, boosters, civic clubs, and volunteers worked together to finance the construction of new seats on the West side of the field. This project was completed in time for Russell's first home game versus Rossville on the last Friday night of September.

For the first time in school history, the Russell Band became co-ed. With the addition of eleven female band students for the 1949-50 school year, a *Russell Wildcat* article broke the news with an article entitled, "Russell Band Invaded."²⁸¹ The article also listed the full membership of the band as follows: Oboe: Louise Jones; Flute: Barbara Walton, Billy Moss, Janice Warren; Clarinet: Ronald Andrews, Albert Whitehurst, Billy Starrett, Jack Smith, Geraldine Robertson, Sue Barton, Carolyn Armstrong, Stewart McCord, Joyce Wynn, Edward Murphy, Roy Ellis, Ronnie Huggins, Gene Jones, Rammon Sammons, Niegel Clark, Jimmy Cochran, Betty Robinson; Saxophone: Ray McCrary, Bobby Lloyd, Eugene Morgan, and Jackie McMillian; Cornet: Gene Greer, Charles McCarty, Charles Poteet, Russell Booth, Ralph Harrison, Roy Pledger, Norman

²⁸⁰ E. D. Martin, ed., "L.L. Deck Appointed Russell Principal," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 11 August 1949, 1.

²⁸¹ June Loach, ed., "Russell Band Invaded," *Russell Wildcat*, 4 October, 1949, 1.

Brooks, Mickey Lewis, Kenneth Ross, David Hendley, Don Bryant, and Joel Garrott; French Horn: Betty Huff, Clyde Wheeler, and Stewart Smith; Baritones: Bobby Lewis and Richard Crockett; Trombones: Bobby Harper, Harold Lindsey, Emmet Kohler, Newell Peacock, Melvin Pope, and Richard Nash; Bass Horns: Yardy Williams, Jimmy Badders, and Jerry Wallace; Drums: Douglas Brown, Roy Hunt, Mark Kendall, Beth Gibson, and Barbara Price; Drum Major: Davis Ligget; Majorettes: Lillian Turner, Geraldine Porter, Francis Rowland, Barbara Mullins, Hazel Hartley, and Sue Norvell.

Russell's majorettes were recognized for their contributions to the Russell football games. In an article titled "Here's to the Majorettes, Too," an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* staff journalist credited the majorettes, along with the Russell Cheerleaders, as "dancing, singing, and prancing" the football team to victory.²⁸²

The 1949 annual fall Fair at the Lakewood Fairgrounds was ushered in under a new name of the Great Southeastern Fair, which replaced the previous title of the Southeastern World's Fair. The opening day parade format also contained a new variation. Instead of the usual one-parade event, Fair officials organized two parades: one for those who would normally attend and watch a day parade, and a second parade in the evening for the benefit of those who worked during the day. The afternoon parade began at 3:00 P.M. and contained City of Atlanta officials and bands from the Atlanta Public schools. The night parade was comprised of County officials and bands from Fulton County high schools. Estimates put the total parade crowds at a record high of between 300,000 to 400,000.

²⁸² E. D. Martin, ed., "Cheerleaders Add Color, Spirit to Season's Opening Grid Game," *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 15 September 1949, 10.

In November, Gene Greer and Don Bryant played the trumpet duet, *Whispering Hope*, on WGST radio. Their performance was so well received that they were invited back for numerous follow-up performances for the Saturday afternoon WGST radio showcase.

The Russell Band played between acts of a play given at the East Point City Auditorium on Thursday and Friday, 2-3 March. Also, Douglas Brown, band officer and drummer, played the drums for an event held for the Boy Scouts as they marched to the stage of the Auditorium.

The annual GMEA 5th District Music Festival was held downtown at the Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia (known today as Georgia State University) on 8-10 March. Judges for the event included Carlton Butler of the University of Alabama Band, Glenn Rasmussen of the Georgia Teachers College Band, Robert Harrison from the University of Georgia, and Warren Jackson, principal of North Fulton High, who was a former Russell High band director. Also, Mrs. Robert Waggoner, the former Jerry Long who was a Drum Majorette of the Russell Band and “Miss Atlanta” two years earlier, adjudicated the twirlers.

Band participants included the clarinet quartet of Albert Whitehurst, Ronald Andrews, Billy Starrett, and Jack Smith. Albert Whitehurst also performed with a woodwind trio that included Barbara Whalton, flute, and Louise Jones, oboe. Both groups received a superior rating.

On 9 April 1950, the Kappa Alpha Fraternities of Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia sponsored an “Old South” celebration in downtown Atlanta that included a parade and evening ball. Wishing to revive the Old South for one day, parade

participants dressed and presented themselves in either confederate uniforms or period clothing and rode in horse-drawn carriages. According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, General James Bush, Georgia's last living Confederate soldier, led a procession that included numerous local high school bands. The *Atlanta Constitution* reporter remarked that the event was "one of the longest, liveliest, and loudest parades on record here."²⁸³

The annual Russell ROTC Federal Inspection was held on Thursday, 13 April. Two officers from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, reviewed the entire ROTC unit, including the band and majorettes. Other dignitaries present for the event were General Weems, Commanding General of the Georgia Military District, Mr. Paul D. West, Superintendent of Fulton County Schools, Mr. Floyd G. McRae, and Mr. Knox Walker. The results of this inspection were released on 15 June in the *Atlanta Constitution* and once again the Russell ROTC attained the "Honor Military School" rating.

The annual ROTC Sponsors' Night ceremony was held on Friday, 28 April, on the Russell football field. With the Russell Band leading the way, the ROTC held a parade prior to the presentation of the sponsors. Following the on-field ceremony, a dance was held at the Ft. McPherson Officer's Club. Officers and their sponsors, who were selected in December, were: Major Davis Liggett and Hazel Wharton; Capt. Mark Kendall and Sue Barton; 1st Lt. Ray McCrary and Janice Godby; and, 1st Lt. Douglas Brown and June Loach.

The annual Tri-City Concert featuring the combined select members of the Hapeville (M. T. Crisman, director), College Park (Harold W. Scott, director), and Russell Bands and Choruses took place at the Hapeville Recreation Center on 1 May.

²⁸³ Ralph McGill, ed., "Rebel-Yelling Grays Seize City, State in Mock Rites," *Atlanta Constitution*, 19 April 1950, 1.

After the band, chorus, and audience members performed the Star-Spangled Banner jointly, the all-select band performed the following:

<i>Fortuna Overture</i>	Zamecnik
<i>Selections from "Lohengrin"</i>	Wagner
<i>Selections from "The Student Prince"</i>	Romberg
<i>Our Director</i>	Bigelow
<i>Military Escort</i>	Bennett

The 7th Annual Greater Atlanta Music Festival was held on Saturday, 13 May. The Russell Band was a participant in each of the six previous Festivals, and would appear again in what ultimately would be the last of the *Atlanta Constitution*-sponsored festivals. In a major departure from previous years when the event was held at Georgia Tech's Grant Field, the 1950 Festival was produced at three separate locations: Grady and Cheney Stadiums for the white students, and Herndon Stadium for the African-American students, who were allowed to participate for the first time. Bands participating at Grady Stadium included West Fulton, O'Keefe, Murphy, Bass, Grady and Georgia Military Academy. Joining Russell at Cheney Stadium were West End Elementary, Fulton, College Park, Hapeville, Roosevelt, Smith, and Brown. Herndon Stadium hosted Washington, Howard, and Hudson High of Macon.

School Safety Patrol Trips to Washington, D.C., were initiated in 1938 in Fulton County Schools.²⁸⁴ The trips typically started at Atlanta's Terminal train station, where boys and girls were segregated and transported on separate coaches. The weekend long trip involved many activities and visits to Washington, D.C., sites of interest. The highlight of this annual national convention of Safety Patrols generally included a huge

²⁸⁴ Milton, Edwin, ed., *History of Hapeville, GA*, Alpharetta, GA: W. H. Wolfe, publishing, 1991, 213.

Saturday parade in downtown D. C. For this reason, many bands accompanied a number of Safety Patrol delegations from various school systems. The Russell Band was selected to travel to Washington, D. C., for such an occasion in the late spring.

Prior to the Safety Patrol trip, the Atlanta and Fulton County student patrolmen paraded in downtown Atlanta as a way to publicize their cause and practice for the real thing in Washington, D. C. The local parade took place on Tuesday, 11 April 1950, at 3:00 P.M. and started at Peachtree and Baker Streets. The parade route proceeded down Peachtree and Whitehall to Trinity Avenue. Over 2,000 young students marched to the music provided by the Russell Band, along with the bands of Bass High School and the Carter Negro Vocational School.

The Washington, D. C., trip, originally scheduled for the second week in May, was postponed for about three weeks due to a railroad strike. When the Russell Band and Safety Patrols finally departed for Washington, D.C., on 1 June, a writer for the *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* announced:

“Members of the Russell High School safety patrol and band are at last going to get their well-earned trip to Washington D.C. The Russell group was among more than 1,000 Fulton students scheduled to leave Atlanta Thursday June 1. The trip, originally scheduled for May 11, was called off when firemen on the Southern Railroad struck, and an agreement between the union and railroad officials could not be reached. More than 1,000 Fulton students were affected by the strike.

Harold Alenius, director of the band, said the school's musicians would parade and play between games in a Washington Senators vs. St. Louis Browns doubleheader, which will help make up for the parade they missed at the regular convention time. Davis Liggett, 18-year-old drum major of the Russell Band, will be flown to Washington Friday in time to lead his band at the ballgame. Davis was scheduled to deliver the valedictory address of his graduating class Thursday

night and the flight was arranged through Fulton County police chief G. Neal Ellis so he could keep both engagements.”²⁸⁵

The Russell Band performed once again in Washington, D. C., just prior to returning to Atlanta. Writing in the *Atlanta Constitution*, Frank Majors remarked:

“A somewhat dazed Washington got one final thrill from the departing visitors when the Russell High School Band staged an impromptu concert in the mammoth Union Station. The throng of students, rejuvenated by an afternoon of capering about Washington’s famed national zoo, stamped, whistled and broke into song when the band played *Dixie*. Spectators grinned and took off their hats.”²⁸⁶

The Saturday, 20 May, dedication of the new home of the East Point American Legion Post No. 51 was cause for a huge celebration. A large parade of civic and American Legion units, including the Legion of Honor Drum & Bugle Corps and the bands of Russell High, College Park High, and Yaarab Shrine Temple, started a full day of festivities. The parade began at the Church Street-Spring Avenue-North Main Street intersection and proceeded down Main Street to Washington Avenue before concluding at the building on East Washington Street.

²⁸⁵ E. D. Martin, ed., “Russell Safety Patrol, Band on Belated Trip to Washington,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 1 June 1950, 1.

²⁸⁶ Frank Majors, “School Patrol Back, Agog Over Washington,” *Atlanta Constitution*, 5 June 1950, 4.



Russell Band marching at the American Legion
Post No. 51 Dedication Parade

The Legion Post No. 51 dedication coincided with a large Armed Forces Day celebration held in downtown Atlanta. Bands from the Third Army and from high schools in the greater Atlanta area participated in the parade, along with over 5,000 active troops. The parade began at Atlanta's City Hall and moved down Hunter Street, up Whitehall and Peachtree Streets, and continued out West Peachtree to North Avenue before concluding at Tech's Grant Field. Throughout the day, B-29s, B-26s, F-47s, and F-80s flew low fly-overs in the downtown area.

The entire senior class was involved with the production of "Senior Extravaganza" presented on Friday, May 19 in the East Point Auditorium. Dot Resse, a

Russell student, wrote the play. Russell's Junior-Senior Prom was held at the school auditorium on Friday 26 May. The prom theme was "Dreamers Holiday;" the Eugene Frazer Orchestra provided the music.

Graduation for South Fulton High Schools in 1950 was very unusual. Less than 100 students total graduated from the combined Tri-City schools due to the addition of the 12th grade, for which students had the option of attending. Graduation for Russell's 48 graduates was held on 1 June in the East Point City Auditorium. Jean Eberhart and the Russell Band's own Davis Liggett delivered the class speeches, while Ms. Ruby White Brown, assisted by Miss Jacqueline Brownlee, directed the music.

Volume One, 1923-1950, ends here.

CODA

Russell High School *Alma Mater*

Bravely, bravely stands old Russell
Waving gold and white
Emblems of true Sons and Daughters
Loyalty and Right!

Every memr'y we shall cherish
Hold them sacred too;
Let us sing our praises gladly
O'er and o'er anew!

Chorus

Russell, Russell, Dear old Russell,
We shall ever be
Proud to claim our Alma Mater,
Russell, Hail to Thee!

In 2001, Tom Brokaw wrote his famous book, *The Greatest Generation*. In many ways, Brokaw was describing many of those in this *Volume I* who grew up and came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War. This was a generation defined by their commitment to duty, civic pride and service. This *Volume I* is an attempt to pay tribute and gratitude to the students from the greatest generation who gave

succeeding generations of Russell students the band and other traditions that we enjoyed during our subsequent time at Russell.

Rather than being a basic compilation of various events, an interpretation emerges from these pages of events inspired by a united love for Russell High and the East Point area among the band students, as well as the general student population. This concept is clearly demonstrated by the students' enthusiastic support of duty, civic pride events and service. To this point, senior directories in most of the *Pointer* yearbooks within the time frame of this *Volume 1* chronicle an overwhelming number of students highly involved in a large number of organizations during their Russell High careers. For many students, band participation was just one of a large number of other Russell extra-curricular activities.

Civic Pride and World War II Service at Russell High School

For practically all of its 60-year history, Russell High School was the pride of the area it represented, whether early on in the Tri-City area, or later in East Point only as other communities developed schools (ironically, the present Tri-Cities High School again represents much of the total area of the original Russell High School district). Likewise, the Russell High family was proud of the school and of its community, as evidenced by the large amount of student involvement in the school organizations, and by involvement and service of those groups in community affairs.

Community involvement and civic service at Russell High were actually a reflection of the same attitude in the community as a whole. This philosophy was pervasive in page after page of various local newspapers viewed for this research project.

Growing up in East Point, students could see adults involved in a number of community groups, such as:

Garden Clubs; Pilot's Club; Masons; South Fulton Shrine Club; Elks; East Point Women's Club; College Park Women's Club; VFW; VFW-sponsored March of Dimes Drive; American Legion; Optimist Club; Kiwanis Club; Lions Club; Rotary Club; Tri-Cities Red Cross Campaigns; Inter-City Civitan Club; Service Club of Mary E. LaRoca Grove Supreme Forest Woodman Circle, Phi Delta Kappa fraternity, to name but a few.

The example set by Russell High School during World War II was particularly impressive. The call to action and overwhelming response of the faculty, staff and students during those years of need are well documented. For instance, equipment and rifles stored at the Russell ROTC Armory during the duration were guarded 24 hours a day by teachers and ROTC students.²⁸⁷

Various War Loan Drives were held within Russell High School. According to an *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter* article, faculty member Mr. E. W. Greene, of the Diversified Co-operative Training Course, directed the sale of Bonds and Stamps each week in 1943. Additional participation in War Bonds and defense stamp sales were memorialized in other news articles, such as:

“Russell Teachers and Students raised \$53,548.45 during the Fourth War Loan Drive, exceeding all other high schools in the county.”²⁸⁸

“Since Russell and the East Point community performed very well on a series of War Loan Drives, the Navy dedicated a new liberty ship with the name of “East Point Victory.” An article publicizing the announcement indicated, “The honor was awarded the City because of its excellent record in war bond

²⁸⁷ Gunnin, Ora Jean Porter. “Russell High School 1924-1988,” typed manuscript, March 1992, 1.

²⁸⁸ E. N. Martin, ed. “Russell High School Chalks Up Another Marker for Victory” *Atlanta's Suburban Reporter*, 18 February 1944, 1.

campaigns. Only one other city in Georgia was named in the group of ships to be launched.”²⁸⁹

Russell High also served as a repository for the metal recycling effort. In the fall of 1942, the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* initiated these drives and provided cash incentives for pupils bringing in the most scrap. At Russell High, Mr. James Breitman, an electricity and drawing teacher who first came to Russell in 1940, supervised a collection area that was established on the Jefferson Avenue side of campus. Within weeks, Russell students and staff collected tons of material and deposited to the collection area, which was given the name ‘Jap Graveyard.’

Russell High, along with a majority of all high schools in Georgia, established a High School Victory Corps that was administered statewide by O. C. Aderhold, a then-professor of vocational education and future president of the University of Georgia. According to Aderhold, the purpose of the Victory Corps involved a voluntary effort to mobilize high school students for more effective preparation for participation in wartime service. Specific program activities included physical fitness programs, guidance, wartime citizenship, and pre-flight aeronautics in select high schools.

In announcing the Russell chapter of the Victory Corps, Principal Drukenmiller cited various goals, such as promoting better health, higher scholastic standards, and better conduct of students during wartime.²⁹⁰ Over time Russell students participated in training involving Air Raid Warden, Firewatcher (or other civil defense activity), USO volunteer, Red Cross Service, Scale Model Airplane building, Health Service

²⁸⁹ _____. “Liberty Ship to be Named City of East Point,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 19 January 1945, 1.

²⁹⁰ Louise Reese, ed., “High School Victory Corps Planned at Russell,” *Russell Wildcat*, 25 November 1942, 3.

participation, farm aid, or other part-time employment to meet manpower shortages.²⁹¹

Students were also eligible to earn and wear the Victory Corps Insignia. Ms. Flora Bailey, Russell Lunchroom manager, encouraged proper nutrition and health by periodically offering Russell students ‘Victory Lunches,’ which contained meat loaf, tomato sauce, mashed potatoes, corn sticks, turnip greens, and milk.

A Red Cross presence was very active within Russell High. In 1943, *Atlanta’s Suburban’s Reporter* noted:

“Russell High School has a very active Red Cross organization under the leadership of Mrs. P. H. Fitzgerald of the English Department and Elizabeth Holt as president. The organization has sponsored a great many projects...for the benefit of the present Red Cross drive in East Point.”²⁹²

“Russell High donation of \$1,000.00 for the East Point Red Cross Drive represented 100% participation of both students and faculty, making Russell the leader among the City High Schools.”²⁹³

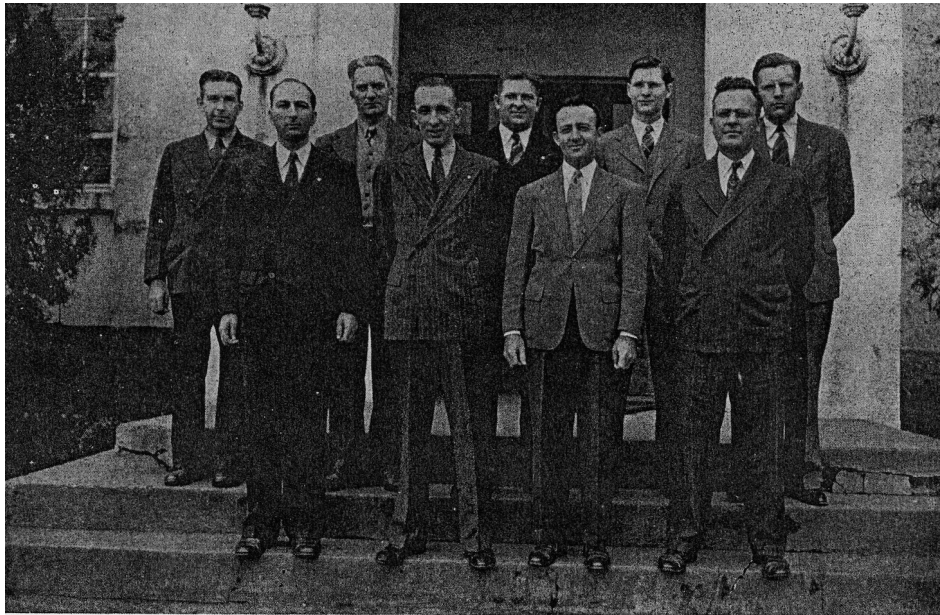
“After the 1947 Red Cross Drive, Drukenmiller (Principal, Russell High School) expressed his gratitude yet again, stating, ‘The citizens of East Point again displayed their fine spirit of public service and cooperation by surpassing their quota in the 1947 Red Cross Fund Campaign.’”²⁹⁴

²⁹¹ _____. “Victory Corps Program is Introduced to Russell Students,” *Russell Wildcat*, 25 January 1943, 1.

²⁹² E. N. Martin, ed., “Russell Has Active Red Cross Organization,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 26 March 1943, 1.

²⁹³ _____. “East Point Raises over \$6,000.00 in Red Cross Drive,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 31 March 1944, 1.

²⁹⁴ E. N. Martin, ed. “Red Cross Drive Again Surpasses Quota in East Point,” *Atlanta’s Suburban Reporter*, 17 April 1947, 1.



FACULTY MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II

Front row, left to right:

GEORGE CARROLL, *Army*
 FRED GUFFIN, JR., *Marines*
 HOYT GRIFFIN, *Army*
 U. J. LOCKLEAR, *Army*

Second row, left to right:

HENRY BILLINGHURST, *Army*
 C. V. MADDOX, *Army*
 CECIL JACKSON, *Army*
 DOUGLAS PURDIE, *Navy*
 JAMES BRIETZMAN, *Army*

*Not in picture
 BERNARD B. FULLER,

A large percentage of Russell's male faculty answered the call to duty during World War II. A number of them returned to teaching positions at Russell after the war. According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, a total of 56 Fulton County School System staff members served in either the armed forces or the Red Cross.²⁹⁵ The nine Russell faculty members listed above were among a group of 30 who were able to attend a special recognition luncheon held at the Henry Grady Hotel on 27 January 1946. In his presentation, Superintendent Jere Wells said, "We are happy and proud that all of the 56 are either back or will come back." Russell's Mr. Cecil Jackson represented the veterans and spoke on their behalf.

²⁹⁵ Ralph McGill, ed. "School System Honors Veterans Home from War," *Atlanta Constitution*, 27 January 1946, 15-C.

A significant number of former Russell students served in the war. Exact numbers are difficult to come by, but the number was probably in the hundreds. A Bronze Plaque, presented by the Class of 1945, lists those Russell students who gave the ultimate sacrifice.²⁹⁶

In Memoriam

*We pay reverent tribute to those from our midst who gave to their country
the last full measure of devotion in World War II.*

Bronze Plaque Presented by the Class of 1945

Lt. Frank P. Baker
New Guinea August 20 1943

Capt. Young Ben Barber
Italy August 10 1944

Lt. Henry W. Belcher, Jr.
England August 1 1944

G.M. 2/c Jack R. Boatwright, USN
sw Pacific November 13, 1942

Ph.M. 2/c Daniel B. Rhodes
Okinawa May 12 1943

Pfc Henry A. Sneed, Jr.
England December 10 1943

S/sgt. Gerald M. Simpson
Japan March 28 1943

S/sgt. Edward W. Simpson
US July 23 1943

Sgt. Horace H. Smith
Bismarck Bay July 26 1944

A M 3/c Royal D. Stokely
Brazil December 9 1943

Cadet Frank A. Smith, Jr RCAF
Canada September 19 1941

Sgt. Robert M. Thompson
Belgium January 4 1945

Pvt. Billy T. Towns
Normandy, June 6 1945

Pvt. Robert D. Waters
Italy May 14 1945

Ass't Engineer Carl J. Wynn
Cape May N.J June 24 1942

F 1/c Clayton E. Grigsby
Mediterranean October 9 1943

²⁹⁶ The Bronze Plaque currently resides at the Fulton County Teaching Museum South.

Sgt. Harry O. Brown
Italy May 2 1944

Ens William R. Brock
Saipan January 9 1945

Lt. Raymond Christian, Jr
Germany April 11 1945

S/sgt Lawrence H. Brown
Normandy June 16 1944

Capt. Luther L. Carroll
Italy September 19 1944

Pfc James C. Conklin
Sicily July 11 1943

Cpl. William W. Lee
Bataan February 27 1943

Lt. Daniel P. Pace, Jr
Austria April 23 1944

Pfc Winefield F. Purdy
France December 12 1944

Pfc William N. McKee, Jr
Belgium January 7 1943

Pvt. Leslie C. Perry
Italy February 17 1944

Pfc Louis H. Rigsby
Holland September 23 1944

Reminiscences of the World War II years were memorialized in Ora Jean Gunnin's article, "1942 Russell Graduate Recalls Student Days," and serves as a tribute to those students who attended Russell during World War II. Mrs. Gunnin, the former Ora Jean Porter, was editor of the *Russell Wildcat* during her junior and senior years. She is married to former East Point city councilman Olen Gunnin, also a Russell graduate, who was the Russell High Booster Club president when this message to students first appeared in the 1960s. Her article, reprinted in the *Southside Sun*, is as follows:

"If there was one thing an alumnus of Russell could say to the present day students that could give them an insight into what the future will bring, it would be hard to put the exact words into meaning to let one know just how much you will cherish the days you are now enjoying. When I think back over the years and remember the many memories that make Russell dear to me, I wish I could tell them all."

"The years preceding World War II were a time of change and uncertainty, just as the time now seems to be in an upheaval of what tomorrow will bring-whether it be a trip to the moon or a world conflict such as we have never seen. But the parallel is the same, students are trying to achieve goals to

prepare them for life, yet not knowing just what skills they need. Education is not something handed to one on a silver platter, it is the result of hard work and effort on the part of an individual, not just what one is made to do in the classroom. The memory of many classmates leaving school to join the armed services is still sad, even though they were doing a fine duty. But many who did not finish their education then, have since had to work very hard to obtain a higher education and many have expressed the thought, "if only I had known then what I know now, how important school was, but we knew it all, or so we thought!"

"When World War II began and American people went through such a trying and unhappy time, education suffered its loss too. But those who tried did obtain the best they could. School spirit was high when I was at Russell and it stood second to none in our estimation. We were always glad to speak highly of Russell. Constructive criticism can be good, but a fellow who says we have no school spirit and does nothing cannot expect miracles. Even today I can remember many long hours spent to make a *Wildcat* possible, or to make a club progress, or to have some student participate in a community activity that would bring credit to Russell."

Then, as now it was a cooperative effort, the teacher worked with us and we with them. Sports were important and those who participated actively in them, but not to the exclusion of academic work, and those who were not active participants did their share to boost the interest in attendance at sporting events. The alumni of today feel I am sure as I do that what was said of Russell in those years, was being said of us - that we made Russell what it was."²⁹⁷

²⁹⁷ Ora Jean Gunnin, "1942 Russell Grad Recalls Student Days," reprinted in *Southside Side*, 1 June, 1975, 4B.

William Fry, Russell High Band, '71

Dr. William Enrico Fry, a 1971 graduate of Russell High School, is researching and documenting the 60-year history of the Russell Band. In 2011, Fry retired after 36 years of service to music education and is writing the Russell Band History as his first retirement project.

After his graduation from Russell, where he was a band student of Dr. William Prescott, Fry graduated from Columbus State University (GA) in 1975 and received the Masters of Music Education from Georgia State University in 1981. He obtained the Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of North Carolina/Greensboro in 1991.

Prior to his recent retirement from a music position with the Muscogee County School District (Columbus, GA), Fry held band director positions at Columbus State University and Susquehanna University (PA). From 1975 to 1987, Fry was coordinator of all instrumental music activities at Redan High School, Stone Mountain, Georgia, and held an assistant conductor position with the Yaarab (Atlanta) Shrine Band.

Fry has appeared as a feature conductor at the Georgia Music Educators State Convention, Florida State University "Tri-State" Conductors Symposium, CBDNA/NBA Southeastern Regional, and the Carolina Conductors Symposium. He has authored several articles on conducting and is a noted authority on the band music of Don Gillis.

Fry has three grown children and resides with his wife, Anne, in Columbus, Georgia, where he is an on-call part-time member of the saxophone section of the Columbus Cavaliers Jazz Band and has been conductor of the Columbus Community Orchestra for 16 years. He is also a saxophonist with "DNR," an all-doctor rock band that plays volunteer benefit performances throughout the Columbus area. Additionally, Fry holds a part-time music position at Columbus Tech College.