



The bell shown here in front of Bibb Graves Hall is probably the oldest artifact of the university. Cast in 1858 in a foundry in Troy, New York, it traveled by way of the Coosa River to the first home of Jacksonville State University. Former students and teachers remember the location of the bell in the tower of the old Calhoun Building and later on a stand near the entrance of that building when it was remodeled and renamed Hames Hall in 1908. Centennial plans included restoring the bell and placing historical markers where it now stands.

Jacksonville State University owes its beginning to the cultured and concerned citizens who settled in that community before 1883. Several small academies and private schools — the Jacksonville Male Academy, founded in 1836, the Jacksonville Female Academy, founded in 1837, and Calhoun College, organized in the winter of 1869-70 — preceded the establishment of the State Normal School there, pinpointing a future educational center.

The Alabama legislature established the State Normal School at Jacksonville, a two-year college for teacher training, in 1883. With \$2,500 appropriated by the state for teachers' salaries and a small building inherited from Calhoun College, the school began.

A four-year teachers' college was the next step, authorized in 1929. Teaching was becoming a profession. The college survived the depression of the 1930's and grew to become one of the largest teachers' college in the state in the next decade.

Growth in enrollment and the need for a broader scope in education led to the change to Jacksonville State College in 1957. A fifth year leading to the master's degree in education was offered in 1959.

University status came in 1966. Located on more than 300 acres in the rolling foothills of Northeast Alabama, Jacksonville State University, with nine colleges offering many undergraduate and graduate degrees and facilities second to none, proclaims an educational center — potential unlimited.

"Drawing on extensive and painstaking research, Effie Sawyer has shown unusual skill in piecing together a mass of details, including numerous long-forgotten facts, to produce a history of Jacksonville State University that renders homage to the students and educators alike who made possible this highly esteemed educational institution."

Worden Weaver, M.A.
Assistant Professor of History
Jacksonville State University

"The history of an educational institution's influence is like a stone cast upon the sea of time, and the waves roll on and on even to the shores of eternity, limited only by infinity, which is itself limitless."

Loy W. Allison, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Jacksonville State University



EFFIE WHITE SAWYER

Effie White Sawyer was born in Kemper County, Mississippi, where she attended public schools and was valedictorian of her high school class. She was graduated from Massey Business College in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1938. She achieved the rating of Certified Professional Secretary in 1955.

Since 1957, Mrs. Sawyer has been employed as executive secretary to Presidents Houston Cole and Ernest Stone at Jacksonville State University. In evening classes she has completed a B.S. degree from JSU with a major in business and minors in English and economics. She is listed in *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*, is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta, and the Ladiga Chapter of Professional Secretaries International, and serves as vice-chairman of the Jacksonville Housing Authority.

From her vantage point in the president's office — and as a student — she has been a part of the history of Jacksonville State University for more than twenty-five years. Since July, 1981, she has researched and written the first history of the school. *The First Hundred Years*.

The First Hundred Years

The History of

Jacksonville State University

1883 - 1983

The First Hundred Years

*The History of
Jacksonville State University
1883 - 1983*

*By
Effie White Sawyer*

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Dedication

To the unmentioned people of the university and the town of Jacksonville, Alabama, whose contributions and dedication have meant so much.

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Creek Indian Chief Ladiga

Courtesy Kathleen Daugette Carson