



After the fire this new school was built in 1921 with an auditorium  
On the second floor

### Early Malone High School History

Malone High School dates back to 1912. Shortly after the town was incorporated, a five room wooden building was constructed and offered nine grades of classes. With the exception of one year of temporary class rooms in 1921 this primary location has never changed. Records indicate the first official principal to be Lela Langston, wife of druggist John Langston. She held the position in 1919 and 1920. After the school term of 1920 and the students were released for summer vacation, Malone school was destroyed by fire. The following school year classes were taught in make shift temporary class rooms in unoccupied homes. Mrs. Langston was assisted by four other teachers. Her assistants consisted of; Ruby Conrad, Clem Nichols, Myrtle Bevis and Bosie Tuttle. These teachers were dedicated public servants with pay barely above volunteer status. Mrs. Langston is also credited with the birth of what would (three decades later) become known as the State recognized Malone Tigers Basketball Team. The newly organized team played four games against Greenwood in 1920



losing three of them. Roy Beall was very instrumental in the 25 years to follow as a non-paid volunteer coach or assistant coach. Bully Hitchcock was the official coach in 1927-28; Rex Toole, 1928-29; G.C. Norman, 1929-1941; perhaps Roy Beall, 1941-1946; Rosie Davis, 1946-47 and then in 1948 Coach Jim Pavey was brought on board to lead the team. His skills can best be described by the three consecutive State Championship Wins.

After the fire in 1920, construction on a new two story school building began immediately. This new high school opened in 1922 offering 12 grades of classes. The new structure was built using brick, perhaps with the concept of somewhat more fire protection. With the opening of the new school came a new principal; L.F. Rutledge, who served from 1922-1924. The first graduating class of Malone was 1922. Only one student (Edith Pender) graduated in this first graduating class of that year. In the second graduating class in 1923, Victor Bevis, Winnie Mickler, Evelyn Chambliss, Vera Williams and Johnny Daniels were graduated. Other early Principals were T.J. Macbeth, Father Bryan, E.C. Merritt, Nurmi Nelson, D.R. Allen, H.C. Harrison, Dalton Hagler, M.E. Stanfill and then in 1941 Mr. R.E. Brunson filled the position and remained 26 years.

By 1926 student population was approximately 400. This was primarily due to a few small pioneer schools closing and students being transferring in. During this era there was no public transportation available. Prior to 1930 most students attended by walking. In 1930 a few private owners built home-made bodies on truck frames and began shuttling students to school. Even after the shuttle buses began running any student living within a mile of school was restricted from riding. It was considered a privilege to attend school in this era. Most families had to make a considerable financial sacrifice to send their children to school. In the late 1930's most of the remaining small nearby schools were closed with more students transferring to Malone. This resulted in the enrollment swelling to 530 and a very large graduating class of 38 students in 1939. This number of graduating students would not be



exceeded until 1967. In 1941 the private owned buses were phased out and the present day county school bus system was put in place.

Malone High School gained State recognition in 1952. Under Coach Jim Pavey's command, the Malone Tigers won their first Class B State Championship. As if to prove it was not an accident he racked up two more in 1953 and 1954. Coach Pavey was transferred and replaced by Homer Deuel after the season in 1954. Coach Deuel led the team to yet another Class B Victory in 1961. To put Coach Deuel's record in perspective; from 1954 to 1964, the Malone Tigers won more Northwest Florida Conference Championships, against all size schools, than any other team. They were victorious in 1957; 1959; 1960; 1961; and 1963. Coach Deuel was promoted to Principal in 1967 where he remained until 1986.



Five students graduated in the class of 1923. They were, left to right;  
Johnny  
Daniels, Winnie Mickler, Evelyn Chambliss, Vera Williams, and  
Victor Bevis.