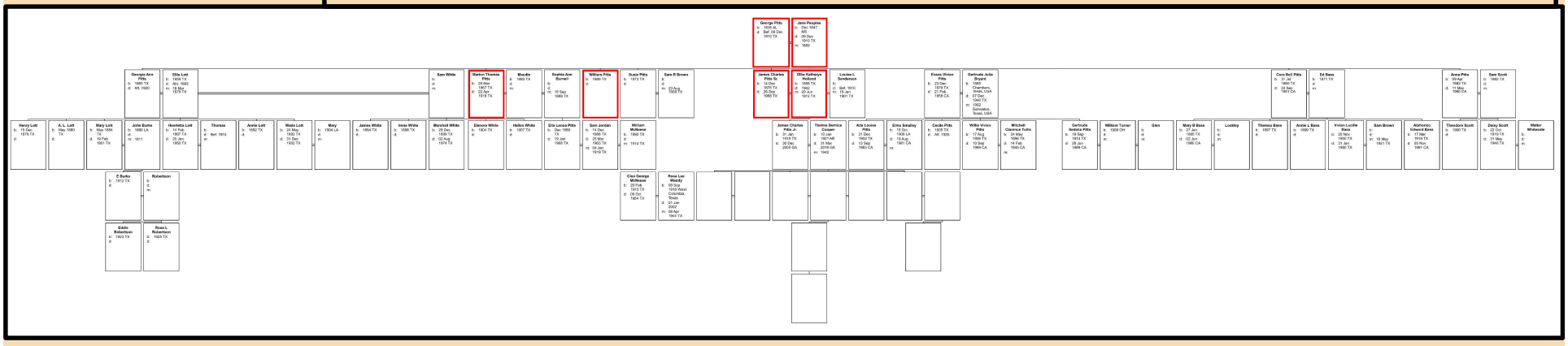
JAMES CHARLES PITTS, SR.

14 Dec 1876 – 26 Sep 1966

- James was an Early African American educator from Conroe.
- He graduated from Prairie View State Normal College.
- James was the first principal of the first black school in Jefferson, Marion County, Texas. It opened in 1904 with 152 students. By 1941 there were 620 students. He retired in 1960 as principal after 54 years of teaching.
- By 1910 he owned his home and farm.
- He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Bruce Masonic Lodge, the Court of Calanthe and the American Woodsman.
- In 1942, the State of Texas recognized him as the leading educator of African American students. He stated that his method of education may seem “old-fogeyish,” but not one of the students who passed through the school’s 41-year history had ever run “afoul of the law”. He would start each school day with a prayer, a song, and a reading from the Bible before continuing with the daily education.