

HISTORY OF BIRCH FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL

6th Feb, 1961. Birch Freeman High School.
Surulere, a Methodist Secondary School for Boys, opened in full session for the first time this morning, on the premises of the Methodist Primary School, Obele.
On January 30th and 31st the school had assembled to make preparations. Today, fifty-five out of sixty boys meant for a double stream first-year class were present. The staff consisted of Messrs J. O. Dipeolu B.A., M. A. Ojasi, Onayemi Onabolu a part-time teacher of art, together with Mr D. S. O. Soremekun, a First Class Certificated Teacher, as acting principal.
A brief history of the school as given by the Methodist Education Secretary, Mr Roland Hughes, M.A. at the first meeting of its Working Committee (vide Minutes of Sept. 19th, 1960) is as follows:-
In 1958 the Federal Ministry of Education disclosed its intention to build a Secondary

School for Boys on an acquired site in Surulere, and asked if the Methodist Church (Western Nigeria District) would take the responsibility of its management. The offer was accepted. The site, about 4.5 acres then was inspected and government promised that 4.3 acres of swamp adjoining would be acquired and drained. The new addition had been made, bringing the acreage up to 8.8. The Federal Ministry of Education had started to erect buildings on the site with a view to opening the school in January 1961. The Synod Education Committee of January 1960 had received the report with pleasure and appointed Mr M. J. Etuk B.Sc (Vice-principal of the Methodist Boys' High School, Lagos) as the principal-designate. Mr Etuk had since left for the United States of America for further studies. Before Mr Etuk's departure, however, both he and the Education Secretary mutually agreed that a Working Committee be set up and that the permission of the Ministry of Education be sought.

for Mr D.S. O. Soremekun to act as principal in Mr Eke's absence.

Due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances the building intended for the school was not yet ready, and so the school had to find accommodation on the Obale Methodist School premises temporarily.

D. S. O. Soremekun
Ag. Principal.

15th Feb, 1961

Mr Roland Hughes, the Methodist Education Secretary, paid a short visit to the school during the morning session. He discussed with me problems of organisation.

D. S. O. Soremekun
Ag. Principal.