

Separate But Equal?

The Civil Rights Struggle in Virginia



*Made possible by a
grant from Virginia
Dominion Power*

Richmond, Virginia 1865



3239

Also Protected Rights of Freed Slaves

- 13th amendment – December 6, 1865 -abolished slavery in the entire United States.
- 14th amendment – July 9, 1868 - made former slaves citizens of the United States and the state in which they live, forbade the denial of equal rights.
- 15th amendment – February 3, 1870- said that voting rights cannot be denied to a person because of his race. (only applies to males)

Virginia allowed back into Union

- Approve 13th , 14th , 15th Amendments
- New constitution “called Underwood Constitution” ratified
- Created public school. Black and White, but separate.

Separate but Equal Schools

- After the Civil War, public schools were created.
- Schools were to be separate but equal
- Separate schools were started in Louisa County for black and white children

Louisa

COUNTY.

MONTHLY REPORT of the Superintendent of Schools for the Calendar Month ending

Feb 28th

1885.

Number of District.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Schools in operation (counting each grade of one teacher in each graded school as one school.)			No. of these that are graded schools of more than one teacher.		No. of Pupils enrolled.		No. of Pupils in average daily attendance.		No. of different Schools visited.		No. of meetings of School Board held.	No. of White Teachers employed.		No. of Colored Teachers employed.	
		White.	Color'd	Total.	White.	Color'd	White.	Color'd	White.	Color'd	White.	Color'd		Male.	Female	Male.	Female
1 st	<i>Green Spring</i>	9	6	15	0	0	426	520	285	362			1	4	10	0	1
2 nd	<i>Court House</i>	12	11	23	1	1	496	991	347	710			1	8	12	0	3
3 rd	<i>Luckoo</i>	10	13	23	0	1	277	754	203	505	1	1	1	11	12	0	0
4 th	<i>Jackson</i>	10	9	19	0	0	265	376	195	255	2	1	1	7	10	1	1

Reconstruction

- After the war several black officials were elected to local and state offices and blacks voted in large numbers.
- Civil Rights Act of 1875 - states that no citizen can be denied the equal use of public facilities such as inns, restaurants, etc. on the basis of color.
- Election of Rutherford B. Hayes and return to local rule. Reconstruction ends.

Shift in Political Power



- Civil Rights Act of 1875 assures equal rights but is struck down in 1883.
- Whites regaining power in Virginia
- 1888 John Mercer Langston first African-American from Virginia to United States Congress. Lost in 1890 and last one for a century.



Public Free School Purposes—Revenue of 1883.

PAYABLE OUT OF STATE FUNDS.

Warrant No. 4

Issued to W^m S. Bagby for \$24.00

For Services rendered as Teacher of Public white
Free School in Jackson Sch^l District,

Public Free School No. 10

For 3rd Month ending Feb 14th 1884.

Public Free School Purposes—Revenue of 1883.

PAYABLE OUT OF STATE FUNDS.

Warrant No. 7

Issued to Miss Alice Burrows for \$21.00

For Services rendered as Teacher of Public (col) Free
School in Jackson Sch^l District,

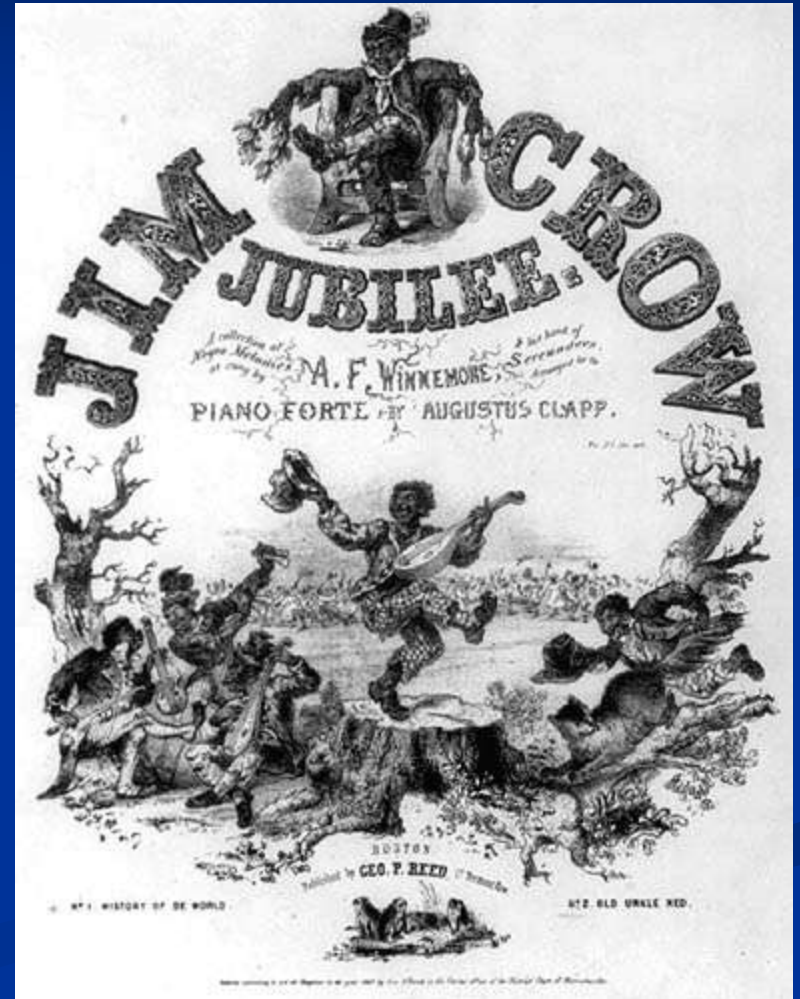
Public Free School No. 6

For 2nd Month ending Jan 24th 1884.

Arrival of Legal Discrimination “Jim Crow Era”

- 1898 Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court decision segregates public transportation.
- Laws written to keep Keep races separate socially.

"Jim Crow" came to personify the legal system of racial oppression and segregation in the United States.



Virginia Makes Segregation Law

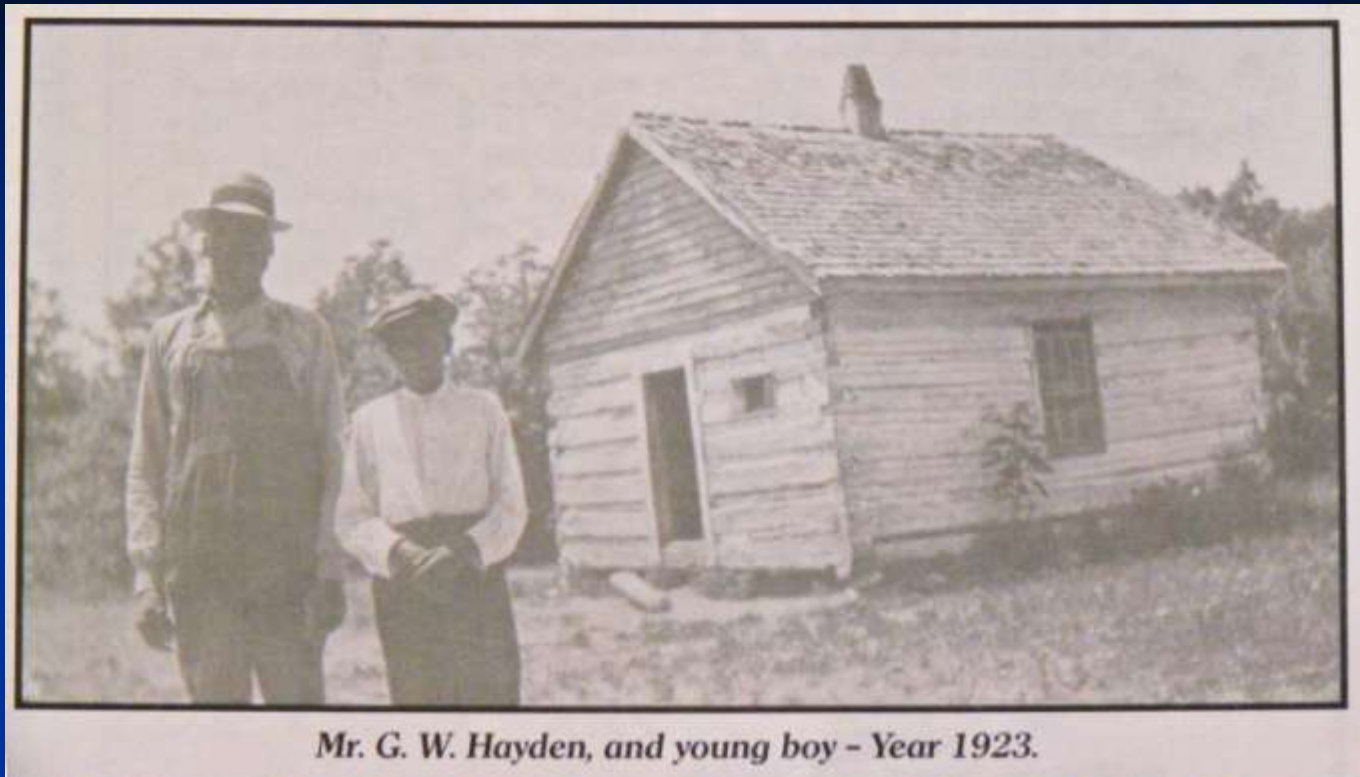
- Growing move to return whites to political power led to:
- A new Virginia State Constitution in 1902.
- Disfranchisement of black voters.
- Literacy Tests- former Confederates exempt.
- Poll tax.

Mt. Garland 1903



Many African-Americans communities raised money to build their own schools.

Willing Workers Club of Mt. Garland in Louisa Co.



Shady Grove, built after the Civil War in Louisa County (near Gum Spring) was still used in 1923. It was replaced by a new Rosenwald School (one of 3 in Louisa County)

Rosenwald , Jeanes and General Education Board

- Julius Rosenwald and over 5,000 schools in the South
- Anna T. Jeanes Supervisors
(Lucille Holt 1st in Louisa Co. in 1921)
- General Education Board
(Jackson Davis Photographs)



Apple Grove School (white) about 1930



Louisa
Training
School
built in
1927.
Photos
taken in
1949.



The Louisa Training School consists of four buildings, three of which are pictured above. The top photograph shows a one-room building that houses a first grade group.

New Louisa High School 1940



- 1. Primary Highway
- 2. Secondary Highway
- 3. Tertiary Highway
- 4. Unimproved Road
- 5. Footpath
- 6. Railway
- 7. Canal
- 8. Stream
- 9. Lake
- 10. Swamp
- 11. Wooded Area
- 12. Cultivated Area
- 13. Pasture
- 14. Forest
- 15. Mountain
- 16. Hill
- 17. Valley
- 18. Town
- 19. Village
- 20. Hamlet
- 21. Farm
- 22. Mill
- 23. School
- 24. Church
- 25. Post Office
- 26. Store
- 27. Tavern
- 28. Hotel
- 29. Station
- 30. Ferry
- 31. Bridge
- 32. Tunnel
- 33. Dam
- 34. Lock
- 35. Weir
- 36. Mill Race
- 37. Canal Lock
- 38. Lock
- 39. Weir
- 40. Mill Race
- 41. Canal Lock
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- 92. Mill Race
- 93. Canal Lock
- 94. Lock
- 95. Weir
- 96. Mill Race
- 97. Canal Lock
- 98. Lock
- 99. Weir
- 100. Mill Race



Negro School Locations



LOUISA COUNTY VIRGINIA
 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HIGHWAYS

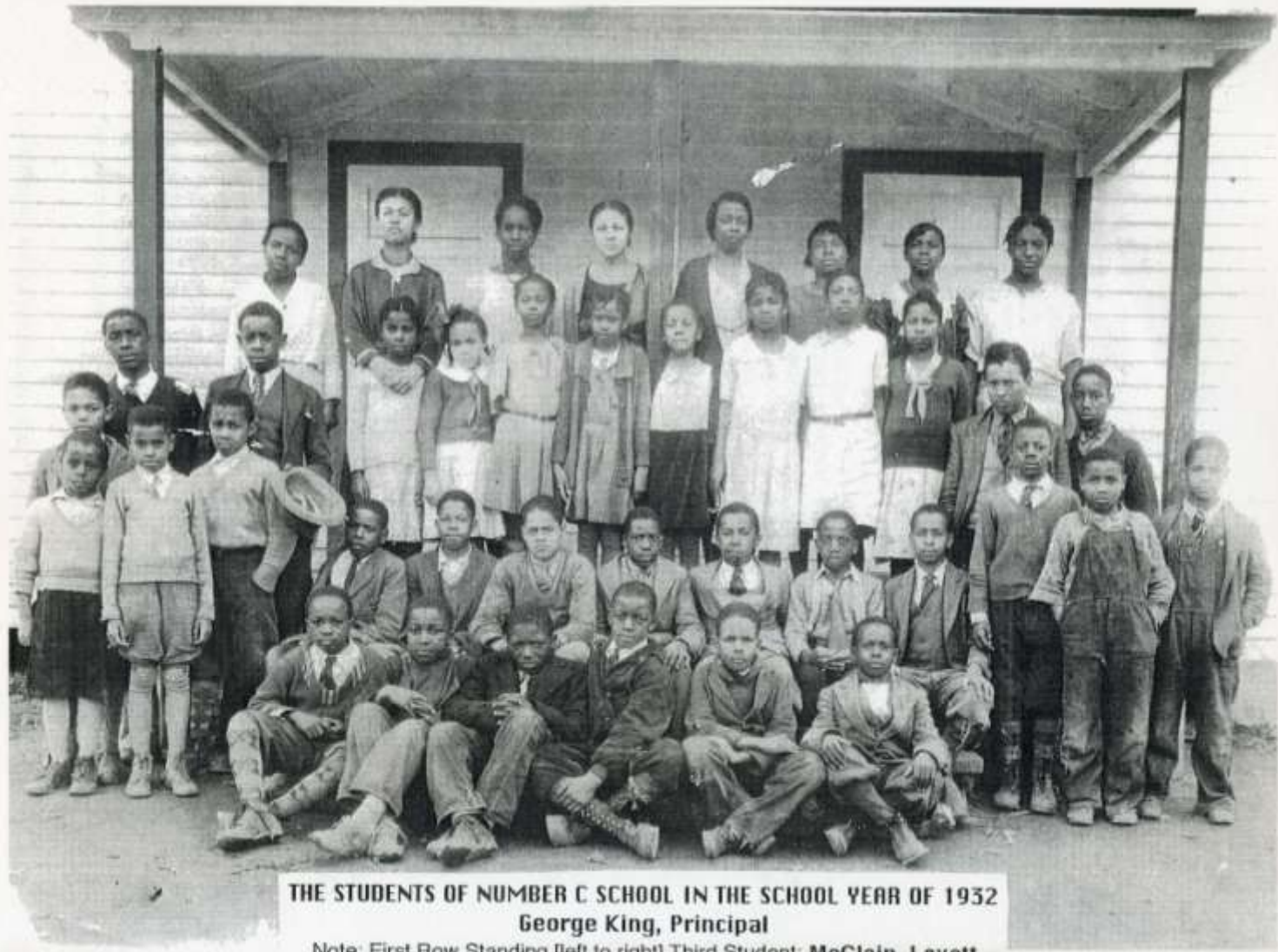
SCALE OF MILES
 0 1 2 3 4 5

PREPARED BY THE
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
 JULY 1, 1934

Highway No.	Length (Miles)
1	1.2
2	1.5
3	1.8
4	2.1
5	2.4
6	2.7
7	3.0
8	3.3
9	3.6
10	3.9
11	4.2
12	4.5
13	4.8
14	5.1
15	5.4
16	5.7
17	6.0
18	6.3
19	6.6
20	6.9
21	7.2
22	7.5
23	7.8
24	8.1
25	8.4
26	8.7
27	9.0
28	9.3
29	9.6
30	9.9
31	10.2
32	10.5
33	10.8
34	11.1
35	11.4
36	11.7
37	12.0
38	12.3
39	12.6
40	12.9
41	13.2
42	13.5
43	13.8
44	14.1
45	14.4
46	14.7
47	15.0
48	15.3
49	15.6
50	15.9
51	16.2
52	16.5
53	16.8
54	17.1
55	17.4
56	17.7
57	18.0
58	18.3
59	18.6
60	18.9
61	19.2
62	19.5
63	19.8
64	20.1
65	20.4
66	20.7
67	21.0
68	21.3
69	21.6
70	21.9
71	22.2
72	22.5
73	22.8
74	23.1
75	23.4
76	23.7
77	24.0
78	24.3
79	24.6
80	24.9
81	25.2
82	25.5
83	25.8
84	26.1
85	26.4
86	26.7
87	27.0
88	27.3
89	27.6
90	27.9
91	28.2
92	28.5
93	28.8
94	29.1
95	29.4
96	29.7
97	30.0
98	30.3
99	30.6
100	30.9

Highway No.	Length (Miles)
101	31.2
102	31.5
103	31.8
104	32.1
105	32.4
106	32.7
107	33.0
108	33.3
109	33.6
110	33.9
111	34.2
112	34.5
113	34.8
114	35.1
115	35.4
116	35.7
117	36.0
118	36.3
119	36.6
120	36.9
121	37.2
122	37.5
123	37.8
124	38.1
125	38.4
126	38.7
127	39.0
128	39.3
129	39.6
130	39.9
131	40.2
132	40.5
133	40.8
134	41.1
135	41.4
136	41.7
137	42.0
138	42.3
139	42.6
140	42.9
141	43.2
142	43.5
143	43.8
144	44.1
145	44.4
146	44.7
147	45.0
148	45.3
149	45.6
150	45.9
151	46.2
152	46.5
153	46.8
154	47.1
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156	47.7
157	48.0
158	48.3
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164	50.1
165	50.4
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191	58.2
192	58.5
193	58.8
194	59.1
195	59.4
196	59.7
197	60.0
198	60.3
199	60.6
200	60.9

NOTES: FOR INFORMATION AND RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, THE LOCATION OF ALL HIGHWAYS IN THIS COUNTY IS SHOWN ON THIS MAP.



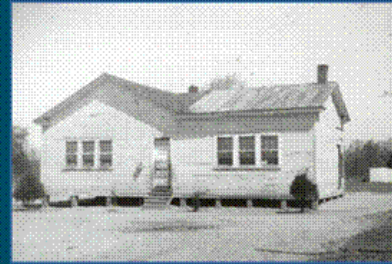
This was the school in Trevilians in 1932

the promise that all citizens would one day be equal gave courage as federal and state authorities battled over the desegregation of Virginia's public schools in the 1950s and 60s.

Those hopes were realized when Louisa County finally ended all segregation in its public school system in 1970.

"I want my children to be educated because I can believe what they tell me. If I go to another person with a letter in my hand, he can tell me what he pleases in that letter and I don't know any better. But if I got children who read and write, they will tell me the contents of that letter and I will know it's all right."

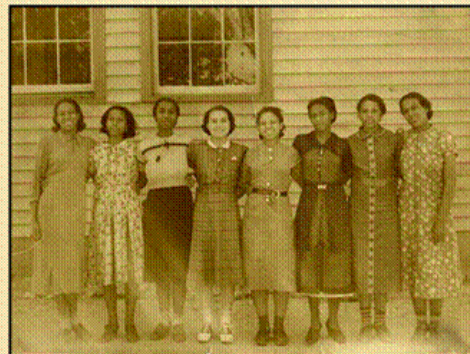
—A Louisiana Freedman



Rising Sun - lower left
Mt. Olivet - upper left
Mechanicsville - center above
Evergreen - upper right
Mt. Garland - lower right



The photos of these schools were taken in 1948 by Paul Everett Behrens and printed in his work *A Survey of Negro Education in Louisa County.*
Used with permission.



A gathering of students from the Louisa Training School.
Photo courtesy of Sarah F. Winston.



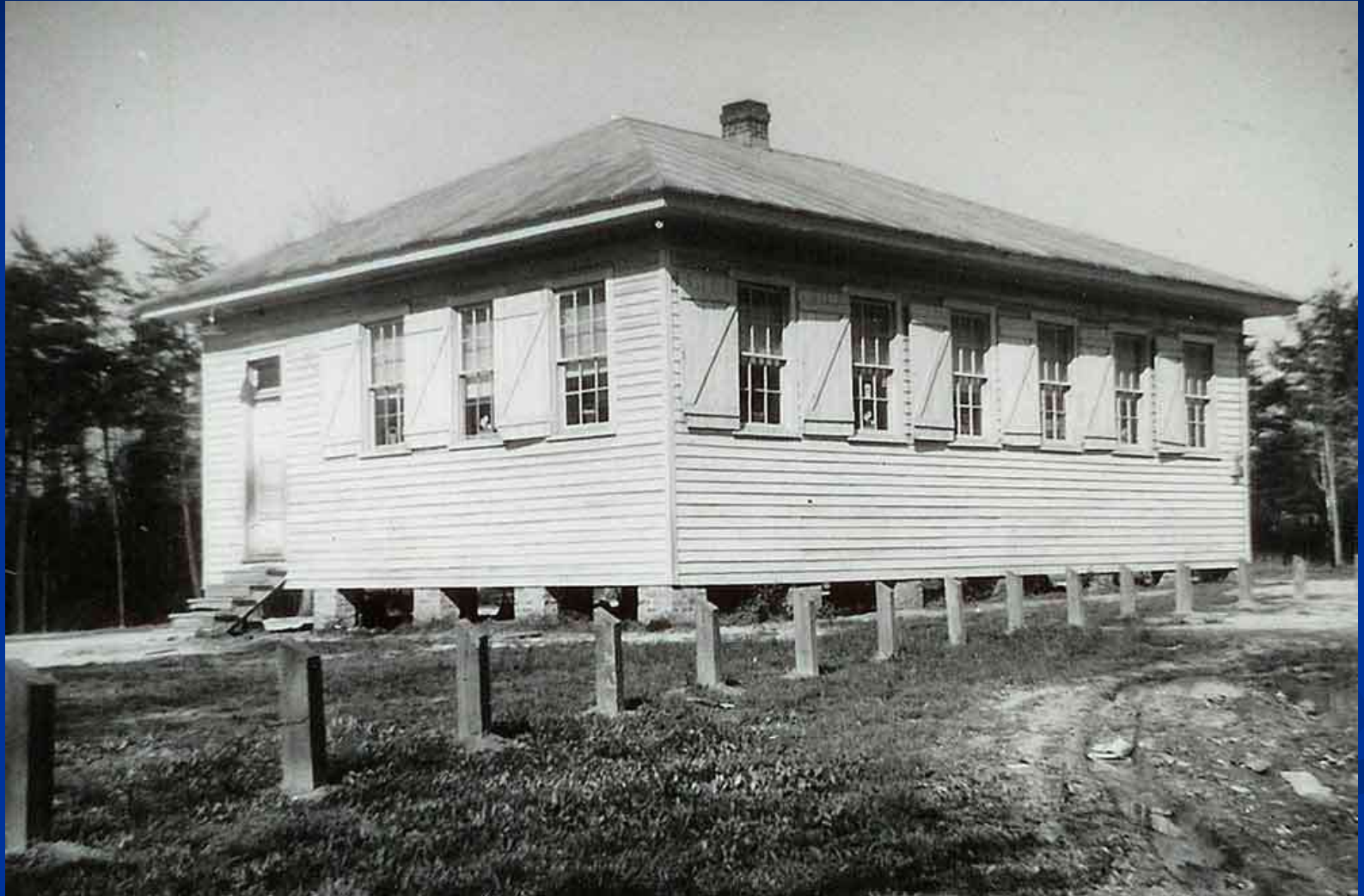
Faculty members of the Louisa Training School in 1948.
Photo courtesy of Mr. William T. Holmes

This exhibit made possible by a partnership between the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Louisa County Historical Society.

1940s NAACP

- NAACP won several legal cases filed asking for more equal schools
- Sensing the pressure, Louisa County began Consolidation of its schools.

Consolidation about 1950



Rising Sun School east of Mineral was a white school

Evergreen School 1949



In 1949 this school listed as the worst school in Louisa County.

Better, but still separate



New black High
School in Louisa
named

A. G. Richardson
opened in 1953

“All that was during Jim Crow.”

- What do they tell you about life under the “Jim Crow” laws?



1954

- What happened this year?
- Brown Vs. Board of Education
- Federal law contradicted Virginia Constitution

What is the Supreme Court?

- Final authority in American Law
- Nine members
- Interpret the constitution
- Decide on most difficult cases

What if you were a judge on the U.S. Supreme Court

What if YOU were asked to judge if segregated schools should end?

Based on what you know of Louisa County as an example, were separate schools for white and black children providing EQUAL education for their students?

Property Value of Negro and White Schools in Louisa County, Virginia

Year	Value of Site and Buildings			Value of Furniture & Fixtures			Total Value of School Property		
	White	Negro	Total	White	Negro	Total	White	Negro	Total
1926-1927	\$150,000	\$81,000	\$168,000	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$18,000	\$165,000	\$21,000	\$186,000
1942-1943	\$275,000	\$40,000	\$315,000	\$45,000	\$10,000	\$55,000	\$320,000	\$50,000	\$370,000
1943-1944	\$275,000	\$40,000	\$315,000	\$45,000	\$10,000	\$55,000	\$320,000	\$50,000	\$370,000
1951-1952	\$359,636	\$233,337	\$592,973	\$6,614	\$8,286	\$14,900	\$415,650	\$244,748	\$660,398

Brown Vs. Board of Education

- What was the result in Virginia?
- Initially was called Massive Resistance

Massive Resistance

- U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. controlled VA politics.
- Promoted Southern Manifesto and coined phrase “Massive Resistance”
- Cut off funds to school systems which integrated.



. . . SOUVENIR PROGRAM . . .

**ALBERTA GUY DESPOT ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

TREVILIANS, VIRGINIA

Dedication Service



Sunday, May 24, 1964

at 4 P.M.

Civil Rights Act 1964

- State with segregated school HAD to integrate those schools.
- Federal funding would be cut off for any segregated school or school program.
- Freedom of Choice plan
- Black students and parents had to apply to attend white school. Would you have applied?

Green in New Kent 1968

- *Charles C. Green v. County School Board of New Kent County, VA*
- Freedom of Choice not integration.
- Full integration required.
- Louisa was fully integrated by 1970.

Summary

- What about school segregation and the effort to integrate do you want to know more about?
- What questions you would like to ask someone who experienced it?
- Samples of oral histories:

<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilrightstv/oral.html>

Credits

Local images selected from the archives of the
Louisa County Historical Society.

A presentation of the
Louisa County Historical Society