

Rosenwald School Oral History Project

Rosenwald School Oral History Project

2023-2024



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Unit Date

2023-2024

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Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Content Description

This oral history project accompanys and is used extensively for the "A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America" exhibit, which will be on display in the Virginia Museum of History & Culture from May 2024 until April 2025. The exhibit and the oral history project examine the legacy of Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington co-creating schools in the American South to educate Black children otherwise exluded from the public school system due to segregation laws. The oral history project consists of interviews with former pupils of Rosenwald schools in Virginia.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

Segregation

African Americans--History

College of William and Mary--History

Jews, American

Rosenwald schools

Description of Subordinate Components

Armstrong, Nadine Oral History**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/610406**Unit Date** 2024 January 5**Scope and Contents**

Nadine Armstrong attended the Westview Rosenwald School which is no longer standing. Her interview was conducted in the Dunbar school now being restored. Nadine Armstrong discusses her family background, her experience as a former pupil of a Rosenwald school and the efforts to restore the schools. Nadine Armstrong details the typical day and experiences attending a Rosenwald school during segregation.

Keywords

African Americans -- Segregation

African Americans--Education--Virginia
African Americans--History--20th century
Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

Interview

Unit ID cuid502

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610407

Transcript

Unit ID cuid503

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610408

Beach, Patricia Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610410

Unit Date 2024 January 3

Scope and Contents

Patricia Beach is a former pupil of the Cape Charles Elementary School, a former Rosenwald school. Patricia Beach describes her life and experiences living in Cape Charles during segregation. Patricia Beach details a typical day attending a former Rosenwald School.

Keywords

African Americans -- Segregation
African Americans--History--20th century
Historic sites--Conservation and restoration
African Americans--Education--Virginia

Interview

Unit ID cuid504

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610411

Transcript

Unit ID cuid505

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610412

Davis, Dianne Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610388

Unit Date 2024 January 3

Scope and Contents

Dianne Davis is a former pupil of the Cape Charles Elementary School, a former Rosenwald Schools. Dianne Davis recounts her time as a pupil attending Cape Charles Elementary School, a segregated school funded by Julius Rosenwald and created by Booker T. Washington. Dianne discusses the typical day attending a Rosenwald school and her hopes for the restoration of the school.

Keywords

African Americans--Virginia--History--20th century
African Americans -- Segregation
Historic sites--Conservation and restoration
African Americans--Education--Virginia

Interview

Unit ID cuid490

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610389

Transcript

Unit ID cuid491

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610390

Fletcher, Mary Anne Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610400

Unit Date 2023 December 13

Scope and Contents

Mary Anne Fletcher is a former pupil of the Bena Hayes Rosenwald school in Bena, VA. Mary Anne Fletcher describes her experiences attending a former Rosenwald school, a typical day in the classroom and her family background. Mary Anne Fletcher discusses her experiences as a Rosenwald student and her hopes for the restored Woodville school.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

African Americans--History--20th century

African Americans -- Segregation

Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

Interview

Unit ID cuid498

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610401

Transcript

Unit ID cuid499

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610402

Hicks, Delores Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610385

Unit Date 2023 December 19

Scope and Contents

Deloris Hicks is a former pupil of Campbell County and Evington Elementary Schools. Deloris Hicks describes a typical day attending a former Rosenwald school, her family background and community efforts to restore the Rosenwald schools in Virginia. Deloris Hicks recounts her time as a student attending a Rosenwald school during segregation in Virginia.

Keywords

Rosenwald schools

African Americans--Education--Virginia

Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

African Americans--History

Interview

Unit ID cuid488

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610386

Transcript

Unit ID cuid489

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610387

James, Frank Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610391

Unit Date 2023 December 19

Scope and Contents

Frank James is a former pupil of the Campbell County Elementary School. Frank James describes his

experiences attending a Virginia Rosenwald School during segregation. He discusses his family background, the typical day at a school and the community response to the school and the efforts to restore it. Frank James describes his experience attending a Rosenwald School in Virginia.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

African Americans -- Segregation

Rosenwald schools

Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

Interview

Unit ID cuid492

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610392

Transcript

Unit ID cuid493

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610393

Pettigrew, Geraldine Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610394

Unit Date 2023 December 19

Scope and Contents

Geraldine Pettigrew is a former pupil of the Campbell County Elementary School, a former Rosenwald school. Geraldine Pettigrew recounts her experiences attending the Campbell County Elementary School in Rustberg Virginia during segregation. The Rosenwald School were created by Booker T. Washington and funded by Julius Rosenwald. Together they built over 4900 schools across the south to provide an education for black children. Geraldine Pettigrew describes what a typical day was like attending the former Rosenwald School and the community response, and also her thoughts on the future hopes for the site.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

Rosenwald schools

African Americans -- Segregation

African Americans--History--20th century

Interview

Unit ID cuid494

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610395

Transcript

Unit ID cuid495

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610396

Randall, Marion Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610397

Unit Date 2023 December 13

Scope and Contents

Marion Randall is a former pupil of the Bena Hayes School, a Rosenwald school. Marion Randall recalls her experiences attending the Bena Hayes (Rosenwald) school in Bena Virginia. The Rosenwald schools were funded by Julius Rosenwald and designed by Booker T. Washington. Together they created over 4900 schools across the south to aid in the education of Black people during segregation. Marion Randall discusses a typical day attending a Rosenwald school, her family background and the community response. She attended the Bena Hayes school but the school is not longer standing.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

African Americans--History--20th century

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County
Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

Interview

Unit ID cuid496

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610398

Transcript

Unit ID cuid497

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610399

Scales, Michael Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610403

Unit Date 2023 February 13

Scope and Contents

Michael Scales is a former pupil of the Pine Grove School. Michael describes his experiences living in Cumberland County, attending a Rosenwald school and the efforts to restore the building. Michael describes the typical day attending school during segregation.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

African Americans--History--20th century

African Americans -- Segregation

African Americans--Virginia--Cumberland County--History

Historic sites--Conservation and restoration

Interview

Unit ID cuid500

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610404

Transcript

Unit ID cuid501

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610405

Williams, Charles Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610382

Unit Date 2024 January 3

Scope and Contents

Charles Williams is a former pupil of the Cape Charles Elementary School. Charles Williams describes his experiences attending a Rosenwald School. He discusses his family life and his life after leaving school and his hopes for the restored building. Charles Williams details the typical day and experiences attending the Cape Charles Elementary School and the high school in Matchipongo, VA.

Keywords

African Americans--Education--Virginia

Civil rights--United States--History--20th century

African Americans -- Segregation

Interview

Unit ID cuid486

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610383

Transcript

Unit ID cuid487

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/610384