

History of SCRABBLE SCHOOL for Children Digital Storybook



Companion to Lesson One of the Scrabble School Curriculum

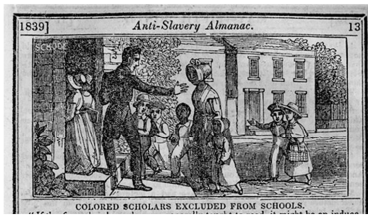
Boys standing outside Scrabble School. (Part of documentation for insurance) ca. 1941.
(Photo, courtesy of the Rappahannock County Historical Society)



SCRABBLE SCHOOL

A Rosenwald School in Rappahannock County

Year: 1831



The Virginia General Assembly passed a law that prohibits African Americans from learning to read or write.

"Turned Away from School," Anti-Slavery Almanac. 1839. (Image retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/2-battleground/detail/almanac.html>)

At the time most African Americans in Virginia were enslaved on farms where they lived and worked.



Plantation. n.d. (Image, Library of Congress, Call Number: LOT 9989 [item] [P&P] ; <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002720468/>)

Year: 1865



ST. HELENA SCHOOL, N. C. LATE BEAUFORT DISTRICT, ESTABLISHED APRIL, 1865.
DRAWN BY THE PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH, 1865.

EDUCATION AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

Pennsylvania Branch of the American Freedmen's Union Commission.

PENNSYLVANIA FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION,
No. 1017 Arch Street, PHILADELPHIA.

TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

As we enter upon our work for another year, we wish to present a statement of our

past and present to the public.

The various organizations throughout the country having the education of the Freed-

men in charge, have provided schools for 15,000 persons, in case of future limited

numbers. The expense of supporting these schools has been borne by voluntary contribu-

tions.

It is frequently asked, how can the Government accomplish this work through the

"Freedmen's Bureau?" The simple answer is, "No." The "Bureau" has no authority to

employ teachers. The representatives of the "Bureau," then, the General Commissioners

After the Civil War,
the 13th Amendment to
the U.S Constitution
outlawed slavery.
The Freedmen's Bureau
helped start schools for
African Americans in
Virginia and elsewhere.

This fundraising handbill shows the Freedmen's School in St. Helena, South Carolina. It was founded in 1862, following the Union occupation of the area. (Retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/2-battleground/detail/freedman.html>)

Year: 1896

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled it was legal to have "separate but equal" facilities for African Americans and whites, including schools.



Pre-Rosenwald School in Prince Edward County, VA. (n.d.) (Photo, Jackson Davis Collection, University of Virginia.); *Plessy v. Ferguson*. 1896. (Supreme Court Document, National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

But schools for African Americans were usually rundown and materials were old and used. They were separate, but NOT equal.

Examples are two schools in Paxville, South Carolina.



What do you think?

"White School" and "Paxville Colored" schools, Paxville, South Carolina (Photos, South Carolina Department of Archives and History)
(Retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/2-battleground/detail/paxville-schools.html#colored>)

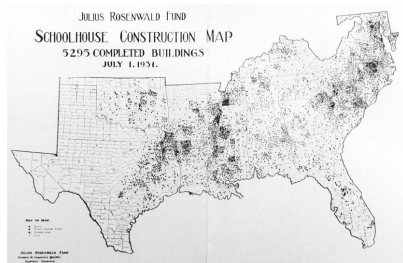
Year: 1912



Julius Rosenwald,
president of Sears,
Roebuck and Company,
worked with
Booker T. Washington,
a former slave and
founder of the Tuskegee
Institute, to change this.

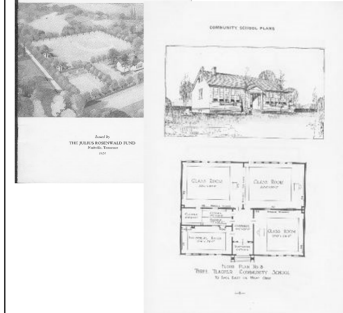
Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Institute, 1915. (Photo, Julius Rosenwald Papers, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago.)

The Rosenwald Fund helped communities throughout the South to build schools for African-American children.



Schoolhouse Construction Map. 1931. (University of Chicago Library)

Community School Plans
Bulletin No. 3



The Fund contributed part of the cost and instructions on how to build the schools. Local governments and communities paid the rest.

Rosenwald Fund Community School Plans. 1924. ((Retrieved 8/12/13, from <http://historysouth.org/schoolplans.html>) Available on the Scrabble School website.

Years: 1920-1921

In Rappahannock, the county and individual white residents contributed, but African Americans donated most of the money, plus they built the school themselves. And an African American, Wood Grant, donated the land.



The old school was in Woodville.

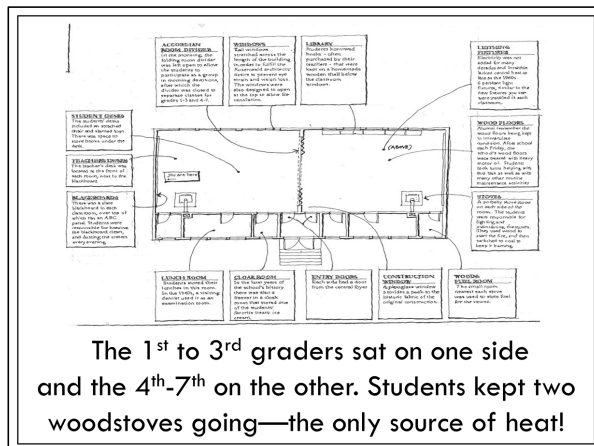
Pre-Rosenwald school in Woodville. n.d. (Photo, Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card Database)

The two-classroom structure was light and airy—an outstanding example of the innovative Rosenwald school design.

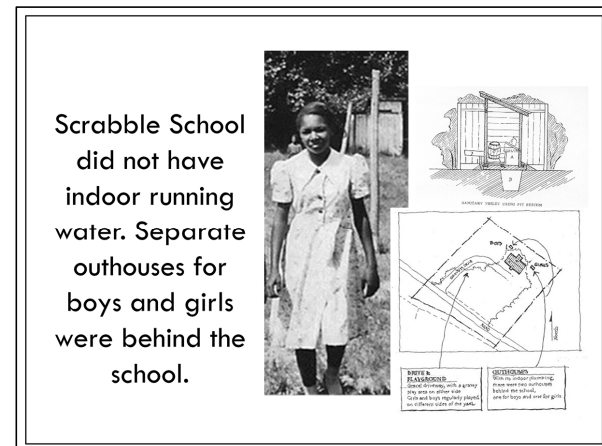


The new Scrabble School, 1921.

Scrabble School, 1921. (Photo, Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card Database)



Blueprint. 2010. (Drawing, Rowen Barton Studio)



Teacher Frances Fay Jordan walking away from the outhouse at Amissville School. ca 1949-51. (Photo, courtesy of Frances Fay (Jordan) Nicholas; Drawing, Rowen Barton Studio, 2010. Tuskegee Design Privy, ca 1920. (Retrieved 8/12/13, from <http://historysouth.org/schoolplans.html>)

Year: 1920s

One in every five schools for African-American children in the South was a Rosenwald School. In Virginia, all but four counties had at least one.



Scrabble students in 1924.

Scrabble students. 1924. (Newspaper clipping, courtesy of Rappahannock Historical Society)

Years: 1926 & 1929

Rappahannock County had four Rosenwald Schools—Scrabble, Washington, Amissville (top), and Flint Hill (bottom).



Amissville School, 1929 (top) and Flint Hill, 1926. (bottom). (Photos, Fisk University Rosenwald School Card File)

Year: 1948

George Washington Carver Regional H.S. was built to serve African-American students from five counties. (There was no high school for African Americans before then.) It was 22 miles from Scrabble.



The school—now the Piedmont Technical Education Center—is located on Route 15 between Culpeper and Orange, (Photo: Leon Reed, Flickr); George Washington Carver was an African-American scientist, botanist, teacher, and inventor whose work revolutionized agriculture in the Southern United States. (Information retrieved 8/9/13, from: <http://www.culpeperschools.org/history/carver/index.htm> & <http://www.georgewashingtoncarver.org/>)

Year: 1954

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that African-American children should be allowed to attend schools that were previously open only to white students.



The case was *Brown v. Board of Education*. (Photo, Cass Gilbert /Bettman /Corbis, copyright 2002-2006, National Education Association)

Years: 1956-1958

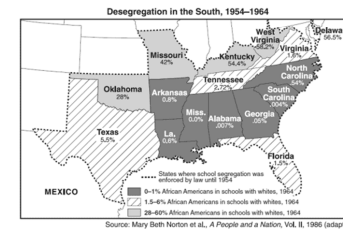
However, Virginia passed "Massive Resistance" laws to stop integration. Many counties closed their schools altogether.



Russa Moton School in Farmville, VA (Photo retrieved 8/8/13, from http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Massive_Resistance); Student protest, Prince Edward County, 1963. (Photo, courtesy *Richmond Times Dispatch*) (Retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://www.vahistorical.org/civilrights/brown.htm#54>)

Years: 1954-1967

Rappahannock County did not close its schools, but neither did it integrate. Scrabble students were still deprived of an equal education.



"Desegregation in the South," Mary Beth Norton, et al., *A People and a Nation*. Vol. II. 1986) (Map retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://www.historytunes.com/images/cartoons/44-1.png>)

Year: 1967-1968

Scrabble School
was integrated
and held classes
for first grade
only.



Peggy Ann Andus & Joanna Aylor during recess, ca 1950s. (Photo, courtesy of Lillian Aylor)

Year: 1968



Scrabble School was closed. The grounds
became the county dump and the building's
original use was forgotten. Many other
Rosenwald Schools suffered the same fate.

Scrabble School, n.d. (Scrabble School Preservation Foundation)

Year: 1990s-2008

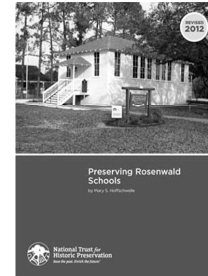
Frank Warner, who attended Scrabble, led community members—many of whom were also alumni—in an effort to save the school.

He was ahead of his time.



Sadly, in 2003 Frank Warner died before his dream was realized. Robert Lander then became President of the Scrabble School Preservation Foundation and oversaw the school's restoration. Frank Warner. n.d. (Photo, courtesy of Dorothy Warner)

Year: 2002



The National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Rosenwald Schools on the “11 Most Endangered Historic Places” list and created a special initiative to help restore the schools.

Years: 2008-2009

Scrabble School was restored!



SSPF brought together the funding to restore the building: individual donations, Rappahannock County, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation (via the National Trust for Historic Preservation), and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Year: 2009



Many Scrabble alumni attended the dedication of the school's new opening as the Rappahannock African-American Heritage Center.

Most of the people in photograph attended Scrabble as children. At the far right is Rappahannock County Supervisor John McCarthy, who supported Scrabble School's mission and oversaw the restoration. "THIS PLACE MATTERS" is a sign the National Trust for Historic Preservation uses when historic buildings are re-opened. (Photos, C. Gibbons, National Trust for Historic Preservation)

Scrabble School
also became the
new location for
the Rappahannock
Senior Center.



Seniors at Scrabble School (Photos, Darcy Canton; collage retrieved 8/8/13, from <http://www.agingtogether.org/>)

Year: 2010

The Scrabble School Preservation Foundation
opened an exhibit about the school's history.



The entire content of the exhibit is available on the Scrabble School website.

Visit!

Come see Scrabble School for yourself.
Schedule a visit for your class or group.



Cub Scout troop; Wakefield Country Day School 1st graders arrive. (Photos, SC Spencer)

The End.



**Scrabble School is located at
111 Scrabble Road; Castleton, VA**
For a virtual exhibit: www.scrabbleschool.org
To schedule a tour, email contact@scrabbleschool.org
or call 540-222-1457

Teachers: We hope you will bring your class on a field trip to Scrabble School. Fridays are the best day.

Online Resources

There are many excellent resources, but the following are sources for this power point:

Educational Broadcasting Corporation. "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow." (2002) Stories, tools & resources for teachers. http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_plessy.html.

Encyclopedia Virginia (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities)
http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Massive_Resistance

Smithsonian Institution. National Museum of American History. "Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education." <http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/4-five/five-communities.html>

University of South Carolina (interactive version of the 1956 Negro Travelers' Green Book)
<http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/greenbook.html>

Virginia Center for Digital History (University of Virginia)
<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/schools/lessonplan.html>

Virginia Historical Society
<http://www.vahistorical.org/civilrights/massiveresistance.htm>

Thank you!

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National Trust for Historic Preservation

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