

History of SCRABBLE SCHOOL for Children Digital Storybook



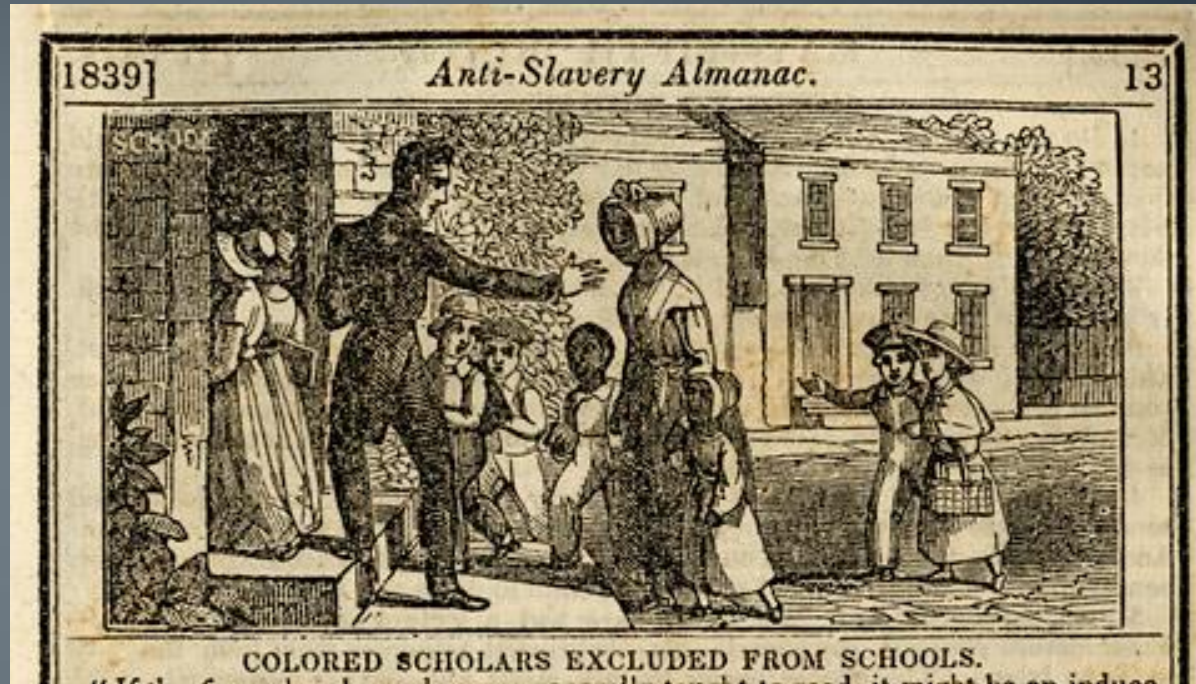
Companion to Lesson One of the Scrabble School Curriculum



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.

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



Year: 1865

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.



SEA-ISLAND SCHOOL, No. 1.—ST. HELENA ISLAND. ESTABLISHED APRIL, 1862.

TEACHERS { MISS LAURA M. TOWNE,
— ELLEN MURRAY,
— MRS. HARRIET W. HUGLES.

Supported by the Pennsylvania Branch.

EDUCATION AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

Pennsylvania Branch of the American Freedman's Union Commission.

PENNSYLVANIA FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION,
No. 711 Sanson Street.

TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

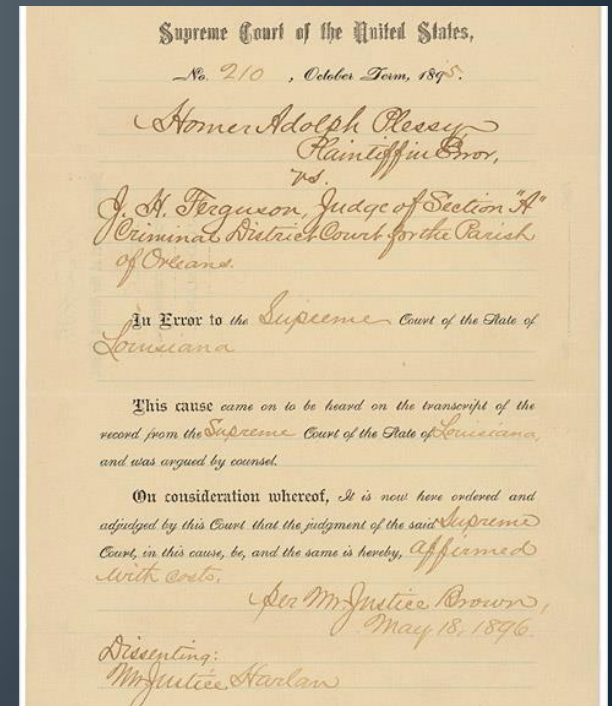
As we enter upon our work for another year, we wish to present a statement of our plans and wants to the people.

The various organizations throughout the country having the education of the Freedmen in charge, have provided schools for 150,000 persons, in care of fourteen hundred teachers. The expense of supporting these schools has been borne by voluntary contributions.

It is frequently asked, Does not 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," from the honored Commissioner

Year: 1896

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



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.



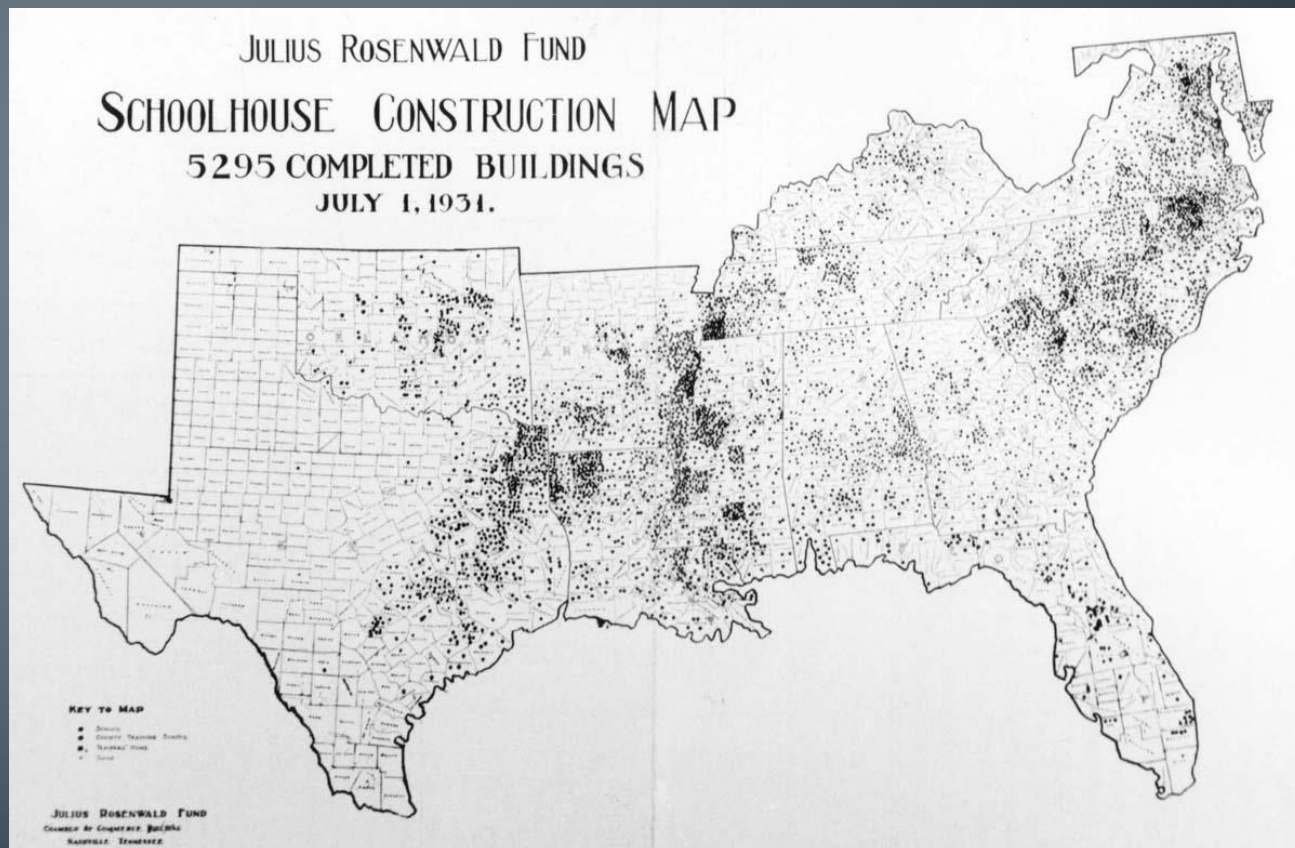
What do you think?

Year: 1912



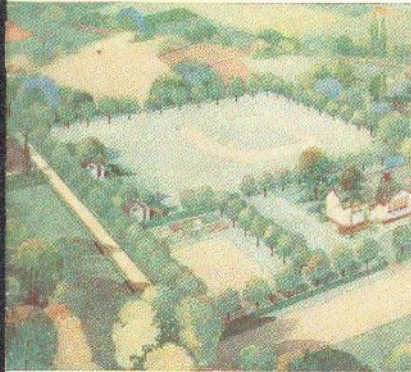
Julius Rosenwald,
president of Sears,
Roebuck and Company,
worked with
Booker T. Washington,
a former slave and
founder of the Tuskegee
Institute, to change this.

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



Community School Plans

Bulletin No. 3



Issued by
THE JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
Nashville, Tennessee
1924

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PLANS



FLOOR PLAN No. 3
THREE TEACHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
35 FEET EAST ON MAIN CHURCH

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

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.

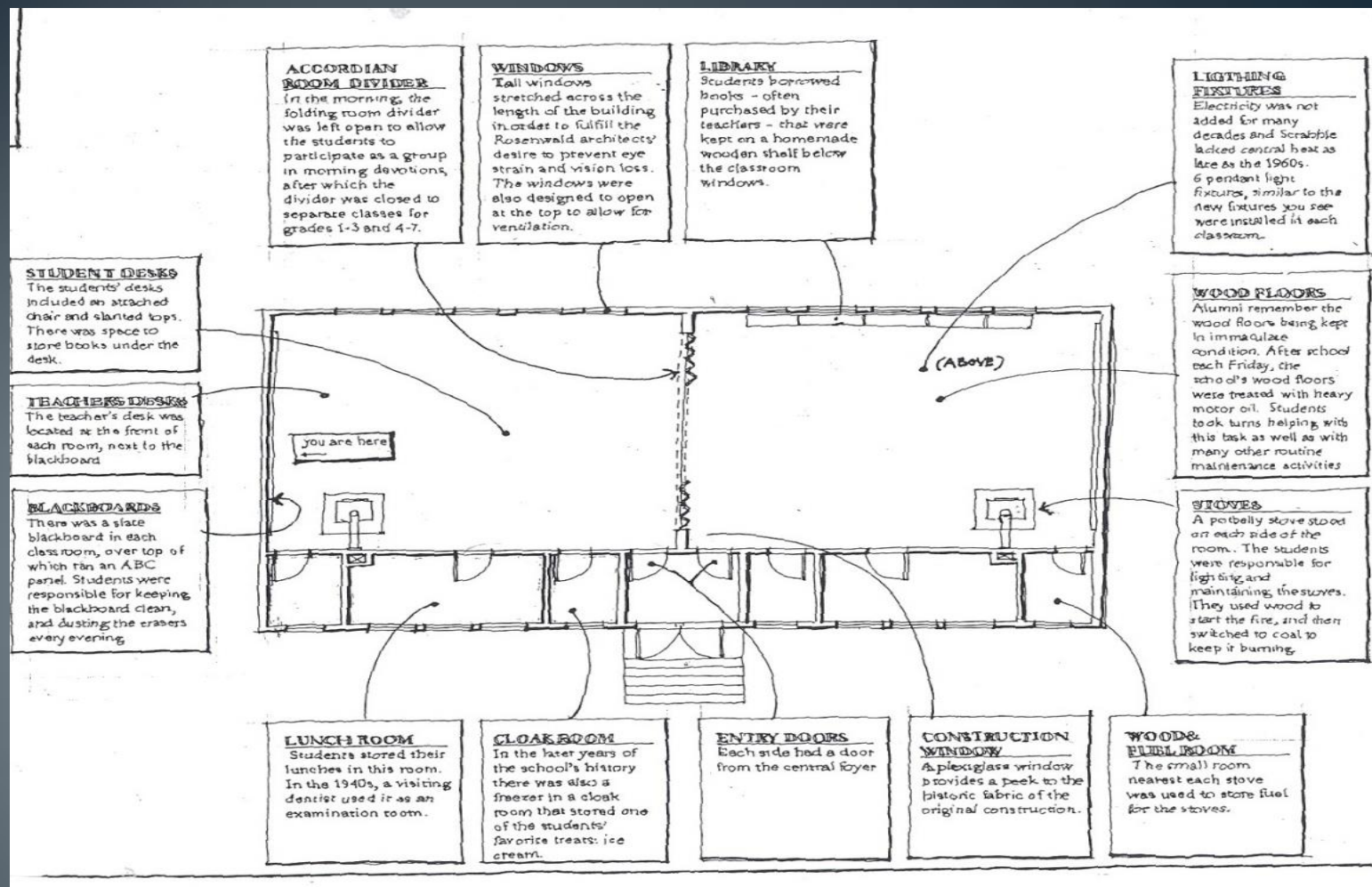


The old school was
in Woodville.

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

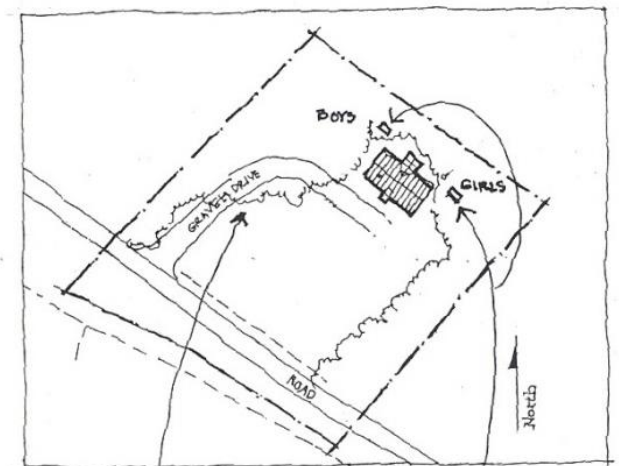
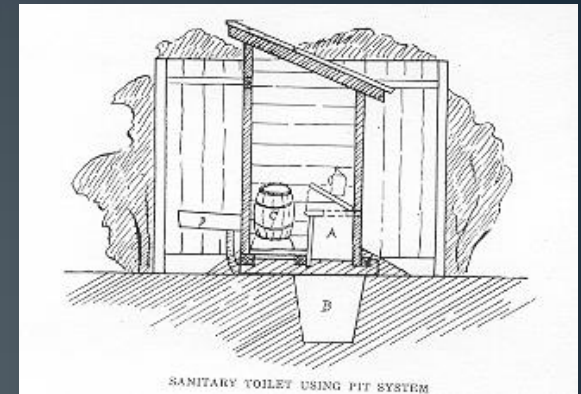


The new Scrabble School, 1921.



The 1st to 3rd graders sat on one side and the 4th-7th on the other. Students kept two woodstoves going—the only source of heat!

Scrabble School
did not have
indoor running
water. Separate
outhouses for
boys and girls
were behind the
school.



DRIVE & PLAYGROUND
Gravel driveway, with a grassy play area on either side. Girls and boys regularly played on different sides of the yard.

OUTHOUSES
With no indoor plumbing, there were two outhouses behind the school, one for boys and one for girls.

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.

Years: 1926 & 1929

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



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.



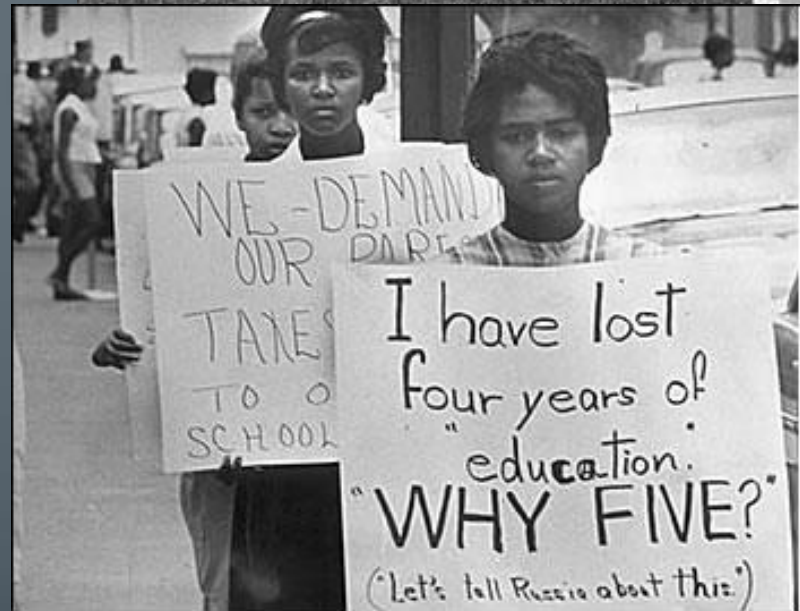
Year: 1954

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



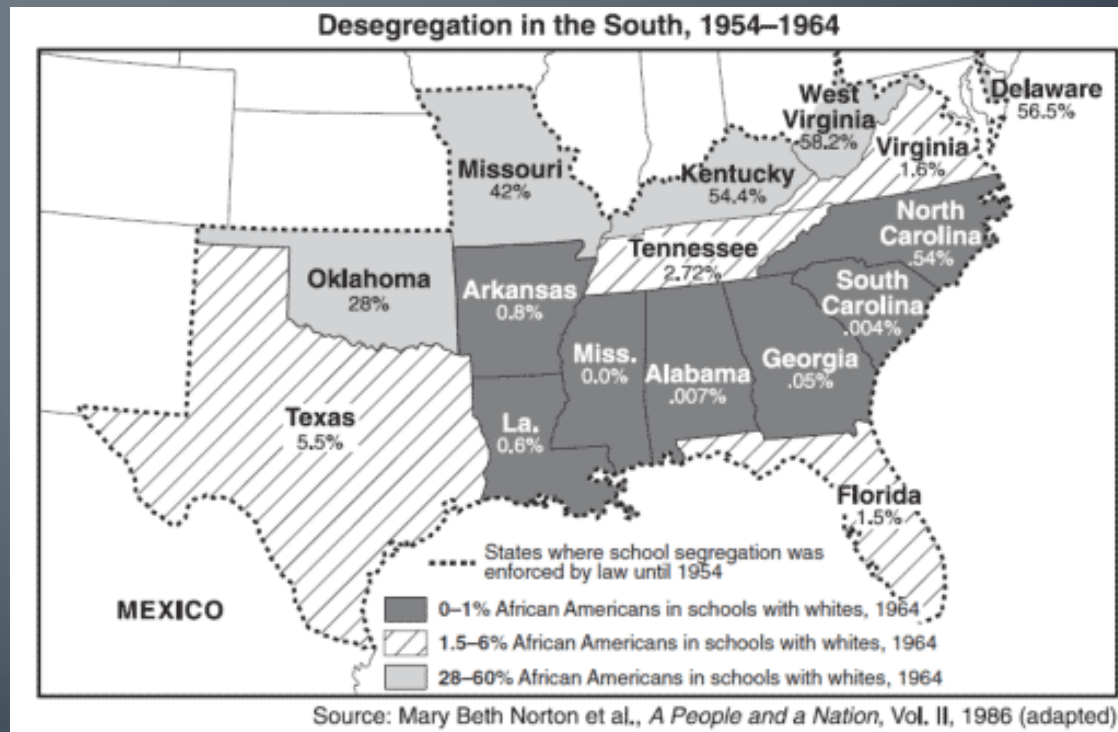
Years: 1956-1958

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



Years: 1954-1967

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



Year: 1967-1968

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



Year: 1968



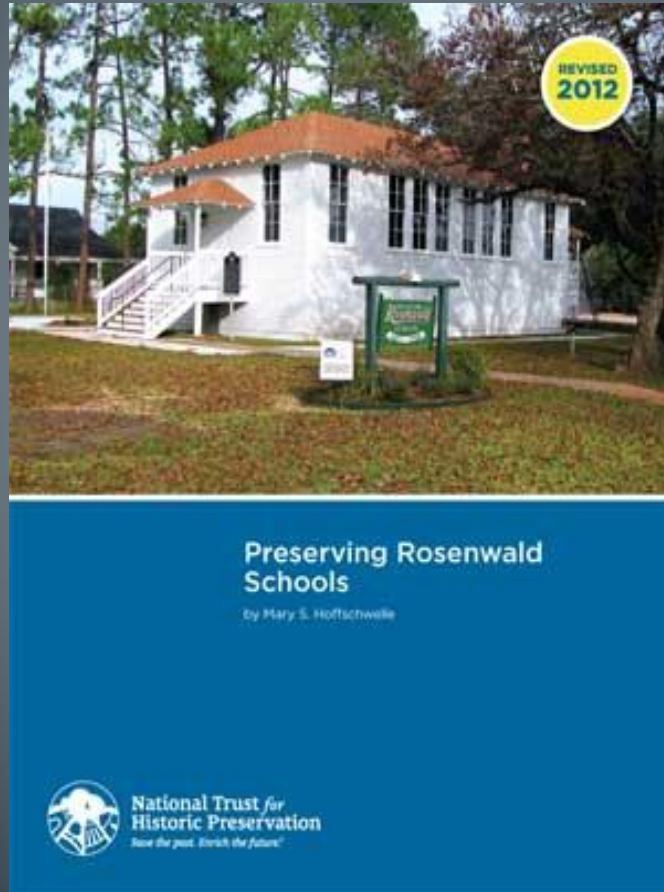
Scrabble School was closed. The grounds became the county dump and the building's original use was forgotten. Many other Rosenwald Schools suffered the same fate.

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.



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!



Year: 2009



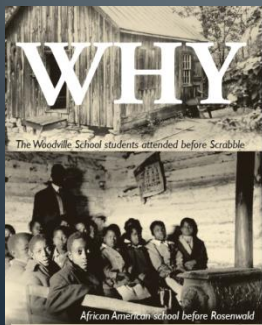
Many Scrabble alumni attended the dedication of the school's new opening as the Rappahannock African-American Heritage Center.

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



Year: 2010

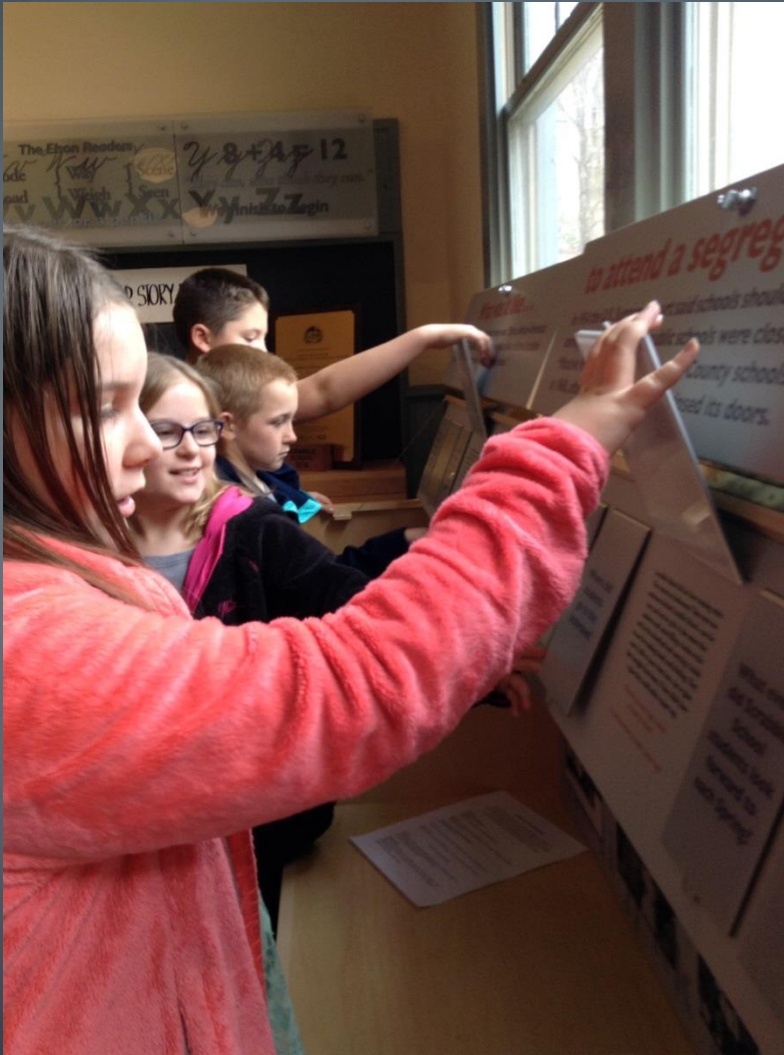
The Scrabble School Preservation Foundation opened an exhibit about the school's history.



WHY SCRABBLE SCHOOL?

Jim Crow laws, enacted between 1876 and 1965, institutionalized segregation and racism and denied African Americans rights we now take for granted. Virginia was one of many states that passed these statutes, among them laws that prevented or hindered educating African-American children. Violating these

YEAR: 2014



**A children's
interactive exhibit
opens.**

Visit!

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



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

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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Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

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Written by

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