

The Role of School Petitions During Segregation

By Dave Prebich and Larry Roeder
The Edwin Washington Society¹

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Introduction:

One of the most important lessons learned by both Black and white students in Loudoun County during segregation was the right to petition. This is expressly set out in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution: "Congress shall make no law...abridging...the right of the people...to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

¹ The Edwin Washington Project is an effort of the Edwin Washington Society (a 501©3) a research partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools. See also *Reclaiming the Past* by *Steven Johnson*, Cooperative Living, May 2021, PP. 12-15.

Loudoun's communities used petitions extensively, e.g., to keep a local school open, ask for repairs or to request transportation. These were critical matters for Blacks because the small schools were community focal points and Black students didn't acquire school transportation until 1937. Closing a school often meant requiring children to walk great distances on sometimes rough terrain, including during inclement weather. A lack of transportation also inhibited Blacks from attending high school, thus preventing entry into college and affluent jobs. In the 1940's Blacks also would petition for consolidated multi-grade schools to improve education, once again asking for proper transportation.

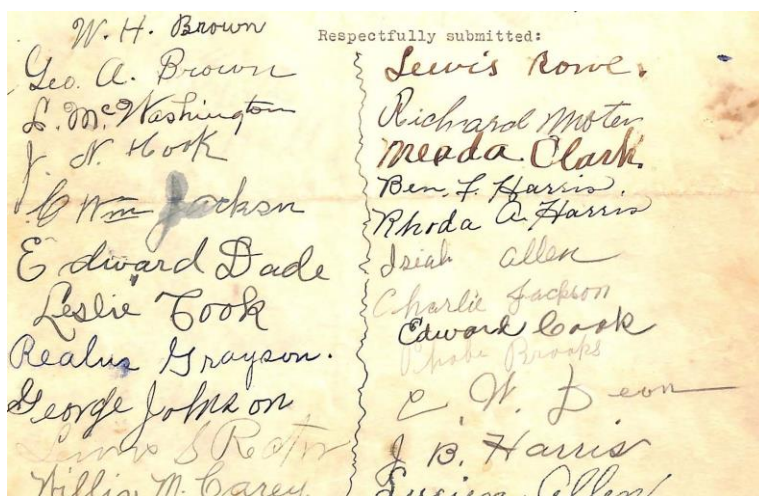


Figure 1 Sample of 1930's Petition asking for a "Colored" High School.

Many other topics were covered, including requests for repairs to roads, changes in teacher assignments or removals, etc. Whites made the same requests but

for Blacks, petitions were important political acts by a repressed minority. The documents were passed around from farm to farm or shared in church so they could be signed. In the truest sense, they were civil rights documents. This was particularly true because the Superintendent of Public Schools didn't want citizens speaking at the School Board meetings unless they paid the poll tax, a harsh requirement for Blacks.

The Edwin Washington Project was lucky to have found so many petitions. They were discovered by school officials rolled up in butcher paper, long forgotten in a box of papers in the Training Center in Leesburg, a 19th century former Black school house. They are part of a larger set of records covering the period of public education from 1870 to 1968, plus how indigents were schooled back to the 1830's. Howard University and Atlanta University also hold in their archives many petition-related-documents regarding Black education in Loudoun.

Drama in the Files

The material can be extremely dramatic. An example relates to the 1926 effort to replace the white Lincoln High School building, considered the best high school in Loudoun.² On Thursday, April 1, 1926, a passerby first noticed a fire in the high school around midnight, followed by the school principal, who found the basement and halls in flames. All the contents were destroyed; but the Purcellville voluntary fire

² EWP: 2.8.B Yr. 1926 The Lincoln-Purcellville Debate of 1926.

department did save a nearby manual training shop.³ Fortunately, the new home economics cottage was not impacted, but the large library, two pianos, laboratory equipment and all the athletic equipment were consumed.⁴ From start to finish, the event took two and a half hours.⁵ The original burn marks can be seen today in the basement.

The petitions on this matter came about because Lincoln Village wanted to replace their school on the same spot; but the village of Purcellville thought they were better suited. They were a transportation hub and had a stronger tax base. In contrast, people in Lincoln thought that business aspects of Purcellville, its moving picture theaters, ready access to liquor, etc., made the town inappropriate for education. Prejudice against Lincoln's Quakers also emerged because some had voted for Eugene Debs, a strong labor rights leader who opposed Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 Presidential election and America's entry into World War One. Despite his statements being constitutionally protected, Debs was jailed under the Federal Espionage Act. We often think of Blacks suffering under Jim Crow at the time, which is the focus on the Edwin Washington Project; but the first amendment protections of speech, press and assembly were also under assault, which threatened everyone and led to the formation of the American

³ Lincoln Correspondent. (1926, April 8). County Correspondence. *Loudoun Times Mirror*, p. 14.

⁴ BRH Staff. (1926, April 8). Fire Destroys Lincoln High School Building. *Blue Ridge Herald*, p. 1.

⁵ LTM Staff. (1926, April 11). Lincoln High School Destroyed by Fire. *Loudoun Times Mirror*, p. 1.

Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). To the credit of Loudoun citizens, despite tensions, the conflict was resolved with Lincoln retaining its school, which opened in March 1927, and both sides sitting down over refreshments as the guests of the Quakers.

There was also the gun rights case of 1928 in Waterford.⁶ A series of petitions asked to fire Principal Stewart A. Wessels of the Waterford White school because he brought a pistol to the building, flourished it, and behaved in a way prejudicial to the best interests of education. Other petitions argued that he was within his right to bear arms, that he feared for his life. In fact, many of the statements in favor of Wessels used language like that is used today in Second Amendment debates. In the end Wessels was replaced.

Another good example occurred in 1924 when former Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates John Ryan tried to convince the School Board to keep the Conklin Colored School open.⁷ It had suffered from a decline in attendance; but patrons promised that enough students would be present. Unfortunately, despite the politician's prominence, the Board didn't agree, so the school was closed for a time. This petition is also interesting because we first learned of it not from school records, but instead the archives of the Prosperity Baptist Church on Braddock Road, which borders present-day South Riding – a reminder

⁶ EWP: 2.5B Yr. 1928 The Waterford Gun Incident.

⁷ EWP: 2.5A Yr. 1924 Former Speaker of the House of Delegates John Ryan Supports Conklin Staying.

of the potential treasures lay forgotten in attics and basements.

Yet another dramatic petition occurred during the winter of 1955 at the Willisville Colored School. Wood and coal had been drawn down and the school had no heat. The teacher, Ethel R. Stewart, had to resort to pointing out to the School Board and Superintendent O.L. Emerick that all she had to burn in the stove was dirt.⁸ Fortunately, the coal was finally supplied.

The petition with the largest number of supporters was put to the Board of Supervisors in 1926 to support dental care for students. 785 petitioners, including Emerick, asked the County Board of Supervisors to approve a dental clinic for the school system but the petition was defeated on April 30, 1926, by a vote of four to two, based on the stated objection of one Supervisor who apparently did not wish to raise a levy of one cent for \$100 of property valuation. According to Rector David Campbell Mayers, a petitioner, "it is very much to be regretted the Board gave the impression of antagonism and indifference. We certainly felt that we had been treated like a bunch of suspects - if not criminals - rather than as a group of decent citizens making a courteous petition for the supervisors to do something for a group of people who look to us for help - our little children."⁹

⁸ EWP: 2.5A Yr. 1955 Willisville is out of Coal and just has dirt.

⁹ Mayers, D. Campbell. "Dentist for County Schools Refused." *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, May 6, 1926: 2

It is worth noting that Mayers was an important Loudoun figure, then serving as the 17th Rector of the Emanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg. He became the longest serving Rector in the Church's history and from 1929 to 1940 served as president of the local Parent Teacher Association, someone who often rallied influential newcomer parishioners such as General Billy Mitchell and his wife Elizabeth to help sustain the financially strapped public schools during the Great Depression.¹⁰

Perhaps the most famous and important petition is undated but most likely from the 1930's.¹¹ In It Black citizens across the county called for an accredited high school for Black students. This petition, and actions by the County-Wide League of Black PTAs, the NAACP and others would eventually be the basis for the school system to reluctantly build Douglass High School in 1941 on land purchased by the Black community. Before then, access to high school level course work was extremely limited. An experimental, underfunded high school was run by educational pioneer John C. Walker on the second floor of the Training Center throughout the 1920's, to be followed by a formal but again limited high school program on the same floor in the 1930's led by Edith Harris of Pennsylvania. Both were called Leesburg High School. Before then, Blacks only had access to infrequent lectures called upper branch courses on topic like physiology.

¹⁰ Emmanuel Episcopal Church. *Historical Timeline*. 2011. <http://www.emmanuelmiddleburg.org/historical-timeline>

¹¹ EWP 2.5.A Yr1930s Loudoun Citizens Call for Accredited High School

More will be said about the petitions by both black and white citizens in coming issues of the Bulletin and all will be posted on our website. But for the present, we invite readers to study the following two charts, both of which are organized by town, school, or group. See also. www.edwinwashingtonproject.org.

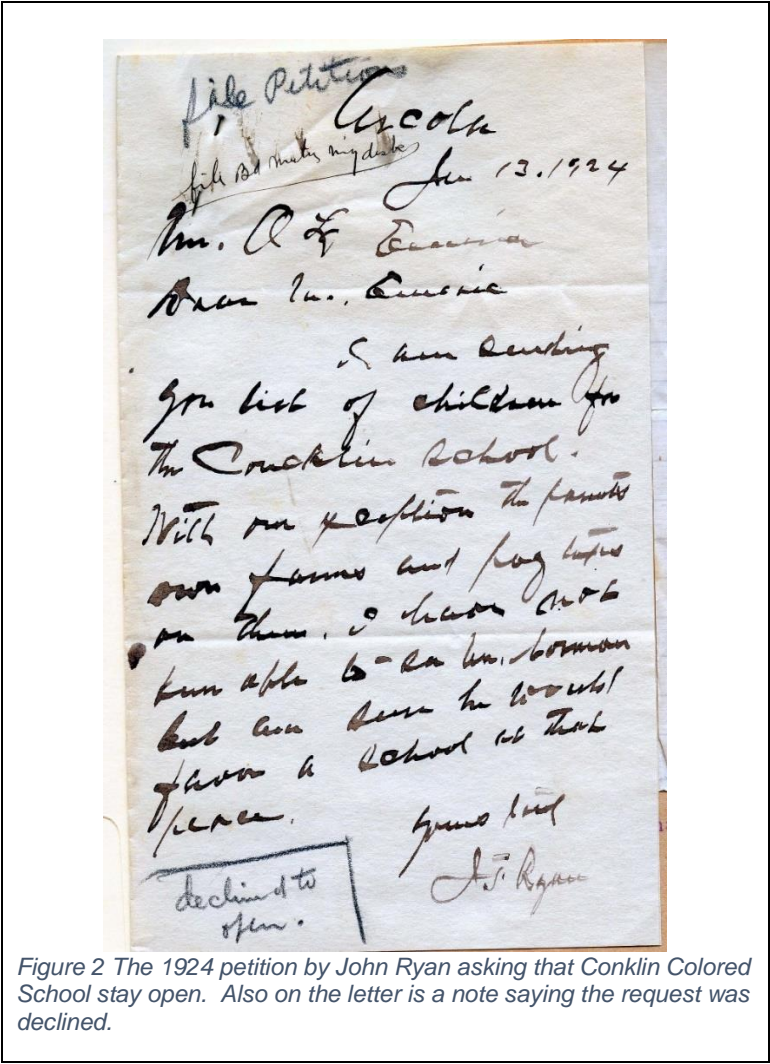
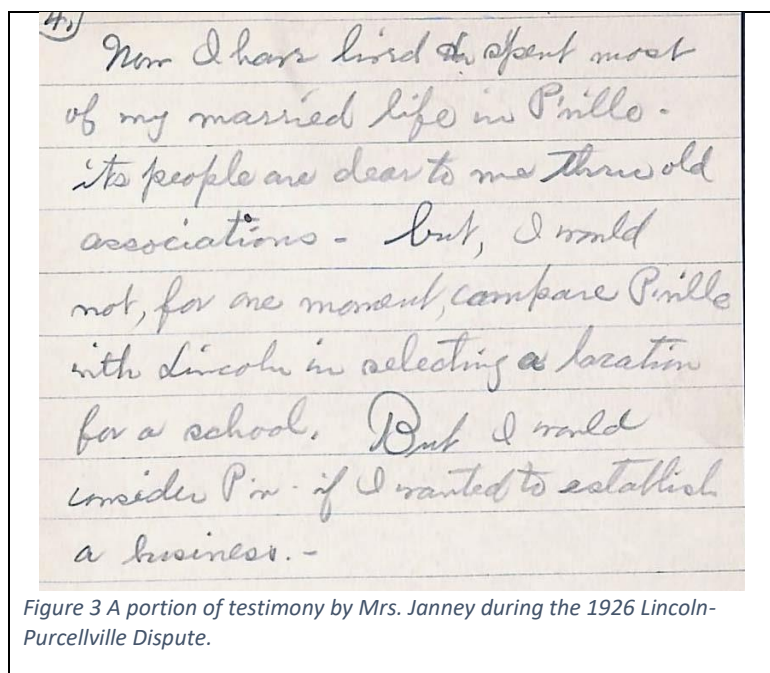


Figure 2 The 1924 petition by John Ryan asking that Conklin Colored School stay open. Also on the letter is a note saying the request was declined.



List of Petitions

The following is the first ever published list of Loudoun County school petitions issued during segregation. Seventy-three supported Black causes and 165 white causes. These were all generated during the administration of Oscar Emerick (1917-1957). There are indications that earlier petitions were also created; but none have survived. We found no records of petitions generated after 1957. Photographs, transcriptions, and analysis of each petition can also be found on the Edwin Washington Project website. The project is also actively

approaching other counties to compare holdings, as well as looking for forgotten Loudoun petitions.

The breakdown of topics for both groups is as follows.

Subject	Black Petitions (Number)	Black Petitions (percent)	White Petitions (Number)	White Petitions (percent)
Total	73		165	
Misc.	19	26%	24	15%
Opening/Reopening or Expanding a School House	16	22%	42	25%
Teachers	15	20%	77	47%
Transportation and Safety	13	18%	22	13%
Conditions of Schools	10	14%	0	0%

Black Petitions

Black petitions dated from 1922 to 1956. Records are in the Edwin Washington Archives Boxes labeled 2.5.A. Access to digital versions or hard copy can be made to the Research Center of the Edwin Washington Society, which will be established at the Douglass HS Building in the Spring of 2023. Go to www.edwinwashingtonproject.org for details.

School, Town, or Group	Issue	Petition File and Date
Ashburn	Ashburn Needs Coal.	2.5.A Yr. 1956 Jan 28.
Bluemont	Bluemont Needs Transport to Rock Hill.	2.5.A Yr. 1934 Oct 3.
Brownsville	School location. Brownsville Competing Petitions re Location	2.5.A Yr. 1922 Dec 6.
Bull Run	Overcrowding. Bull Run Needs Additional Room.	2.5.A Yr. 1954.
Conklin	Conklin Former Speaker of the General Assembly John Ryan Supports Staying Open	2.5.A Yr. 1924 June 13.
Conklin	Reappoint bus driver	2.5.A. Yr. 1954.
Conklin	Replace teacher	2.5.A Yr. 1952 Apr 03.
Conklin	Replace teacher	2.5.A Yr. Unk.
Conklin	Conklin Wants to Stay Open.	2.5.A Yr. 1941 Jan 17.
County-Wide League	Desire to place new Black High school location on Gibbons Lot This became Douglass HS.	2.5.A Yr. 1930s.
County-Wide League	Issues at Douglass HS. County-Wide League made Various Recommendations	2.5.A Yr. 1945 Mar 20.

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County-Wide League	Poor conditions Douglass HS. Repairs needed.	2.5.A Yr. 1951.
County-Wide League	Training Center is declared a fire trap.	2.5.A 1940 Feb 16.
Douglass Elementary School	Toilets needed. NAACP At Douglass Elementary.	2.5.A Yr. 1951 May 9 th .
Douglass High School	Establish an accredited high school.	2.5.A Yr. Unk.
Greggsville	Request for school.	2.5.A Yr. 1929 Oct 4.
Hamilton	Female teacher and school needed.	2.5.A Yr. 1924 May 5.
Howardsville	Transportation from Howardsville to Willisville.	2.5.A Yr. Dec 10 Yr. Unk.
Hughesville	Request to rehire teacher.	2.5.A Yr. 1937 May 21.
Hughesville	Request to Reopen school.	2.5.A Yr. 1927 Oct 24.
Hughesville	Request to Reopen school.	2.5.A Yr. 1928 June 28.
Loudoun Co. Colored Teachers Assn.	Request for Jeanes/Slater supervisor	2.5.A Yr. 1937 Jan 9.
Loudoun Co. Teachers Assn.	Salary increases requested for Black Teachers.	2.5.A Yr. 1926 Mar 6.
Loudoun Co. Teachers Assn.	Salary increases requested for Black Teachers.	2.5.A Yr. 1938 Jan 15.

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Loudoun Training Center	Letter from Annie Wyatt re Transportation Bill.	2.5.A Yr. 1940 Mar 31.I
Lovettsville	Lovettsville List of Black Colored Students	2.5.A Yr. Unk.
Lucketts/Mt. Pleasant	Lucketts and Mt. Pleasant Petition to Reopen School.	2.5.A Yr. 1938 Jun 6.
Middleburg/Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions)	Lucketts and Mt. Pleasant Petition to Reopen School	2.5.A Yr. 1946 Feb 6.
Middleburg/Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions)	Middleburg Letters Re Land Acquisition Committee and Responses.	2.5.A Yr. 1945 Feb 7.
Middleburg/Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions)	Overcrowding at Grant	2.5.A Yr. 1944 Nov 7.
Middleburg/Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions)	Grant PTA Rejects Board Proposal	2.5.A Yr. 1945 Jan 16.

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Middleburg/ Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions))	Middleburg Charles Smith Wants Name Removed from Petition.	2.5.A Yr. 1945 Jan 26.
Middleburg/ Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions))	Retain teachers Carter & Moton.	2.5.A Yr. Unk.
Middleburg/ Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions))	Thank you from parents.	2.5.A Yr. 1945 Jan 15.
Middleburg/ Grant School (see also St. Louis venue petitions))	Transportation/Over crowding. Raby to Emerick on Buses and Need to Expand Middleburg.	2.5.A Yr. 1944 Nov 16.
Nokes	Appoint teacher C.L. Murray	2.5.A Yr. 1947 June 18.
Nokes	Open the school	2.5.A Yr. 1933 May 15.
Numerous schools and parents	Req for Buses to Transport Pupils to Training Center.	2.5.A Yr. 1930s.
Purcellville	Retain R. McWashington	2.5.A Yr. Unk.

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St. Louis (see also Middleburg/ Grant venue petitions)	St. Louis Laura Cook Needs Additional Room and Teacher.	2.5.A Yr. 1931 Feb 9.
St. Louis (see also Middleburg/ Grant venue petitions)	Overcrowding. Raby to Emerick re Need for New Building.	2.5.A Yr. 1944 Dec 5.
St. Louis (see also Middleburg/ Grant venue petitions)	Overcrowding. Enrollment Report and Request to Expand St Louis Colored School.	2.5.A Yr. Unk.
St. Louis (see also Middleburg/ Gran venue petitions t)	St. Louis Does Not Recommend Teacher	2.5.A Yr.1930.
St. Louis (see also Middleburg/ Grant venue petitions)	St. Louis Road Needs Improvement.	2.5.A Yr. 1932 Jan 21.
Waterford	Wants Removal of teacher.	2.5.A Yr. 1932 Jul 6.
Willisville	Wants Urgent Repairs.	2.5.A Yr. 1930 Sep.
Willisville	Out of Coal and just has dirt.	2.5.A Yr. 1955 Jan 11.
Willisville	Second request for Coal.	2.5.A Yr. 1956 Jan 30.
Willisville	Willisville wants additional teacher and expansion.	2.5.A Yr. 1931 Feb 5.

Willisville	Pupil list seventh grade	2.5.A Yr.
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White Petitions

White petitions dated from 1902 to 1955. Records are in the Edwin Washington Archives Boxes labeled 2.5.B.

School, Town, or Group	Issue	Petition File Name/Date
Airmont	Parents petition for better transportation, to keep school open--children would be safer--and keep teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1923 Apr 3.
Airmont	Parents petition to keep school open.	2.5.B Yr. 1926 May.
Airmont	White parent opposes use of school room by "colored "students, even though school was closed.	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Sep 14.
Airmont	Keep school open: Parents petition to keep school open.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Aldie	Parents request bus for students who live on Rte. 632.	2.5.B Yr. 1948 May 8.
Aldie	Teachers threaten walkout if paid less than high school graduate teacher(s).	2.5.B Yr. Unk March 3.

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Aldie	Parents request bus for students.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Aldie	Parents request reappointment of teacher A. Hutchison	2.5.B Yr. Unk .
Aldie	Teachers threaten resignation unless salary policy stated.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Aldie HS	Series of letters pro and con to keep principal W. Tyler.	2.5.B 1926 May 6.
Aldie HS	Patron J. Hall writes to Emerick to keep Aldie HS open.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 May 29.
Aldie HS	Parents request reappointment of teachers Skinner and Elgin.	2.5.B Yr. 1952 Apr 21.
Aldie HS	Ledger entries listing notes on individual patrons. Aldie HS Notes on Tyler Issue circa 1927.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Arcola	Petition from patrons of Arcola school for teacher of handicapped students and an auditorium and kitchen.	2.5.B Yr. 1948 Dec 13.
Arcola	Patrons request auditorium for Arcola School.	2.5.B Yr. 1948 Jun 8.
Arcola	Parent petition in support of	2.5.B Yr. 1955 Jun.

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	reappointing teacher Knight for 1955-56.	
Arcola	Parents thank teacher E. Wilson for her work .	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Arlington	Patron's petition to keep school open due to level of poverty of children.	2.5.B Yr.
Ashburn	Patrons request Principal be replaced.	2.5.B Yr. 1925 Jun.
Ashburn	Patrons request Principal be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1925 Jun.
Ashburn	Train schedule, school hours and disciplinary methods raised.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 Sep 9.
Ashburn	Patrons request that teacher A. Cady be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1935 May.
Bears	Patrons agree to send children to school if open.	2.5.B Yr. 1924 Jul 7.
Bluemont	Parents request a bus from Bluemont to Round Hill.	2.5.B Yr. 1924 Feb 9.
Bolington	Parents request a wagon to transport children to Lovettsville.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Brooklyn	Petitions requesting removal of teacher; school overcrowded; need accessibility to a high school.	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Feb.

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Cannon Chapel	Patrons request that teacher N. Fletcher be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1922.
Carter	Patrons request that teacher M. Hemsley be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1927.
Clarkes Gap	Patrons agree to send children to school if left open.	2.5.B Yr. 1930 Apr 7.
Coleman's	Patrons agree to send children to school if left open.	2.5.B Yr. 1923 Apr 25.
Cool Spring	Parents request that school be opened with teacher and transportation.	2.5.B Yr. 1929.
Daysville	Parents request that the board reconsider closing the school.	2.5.B Yr. 1924.
Douglass HS	Whites oppose proposed location: White citizens petition Emerick and the school board to locate the colored high school in the part of town where Black population lives, not next to Training Center and Union Cemetery	2.5.B Yr. 1940_1941.
Edgegrove	Patrons request that wagon route be changed from Hillsboro to Round Hill.	2.5.B Yr. 1926 Sep 6.

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Emerick	Petition to add a teacher and curriculum above the seventh grade.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 Mar 16.
Emerick	Patrons request that teacher E.D. Turner be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1930 Jan 14.
Evergreen Mills Road	Patrons petition to replace bus driver due to unsafe driving condition.	2.5.B Yr. 1944 Jan 15.
Hillsboro	Patrons request that teacher R. Comphur be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1917 Jun 15.
Hillsboro	Patrons oppose combining bus routes and request two busses to convey children.	2.5.B Yr. 1932 Jun 16.
Hillsboro	Patrons petition for the removal of principal.	2.5.B Yr. 1944 Mar 10.
Hillsboro	Patrons request bus route on Keys Gap-Hillsboro Road.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Leesburg	Patrons request U. Bradfield for teacher position.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Leesburg HS	Patrons request E. Metzger as Latin teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 Apr.
Leithton	Patrons request that teacher be replaced.	2.5.B Yr. 1922 Apr.
Leithton	Patrons petition to have one teacher finish term of another.	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Feb 3.

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Leithton	Patrons oppose consolidation of schools.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Lenah	Patrons petition for D. Hutchison to be retained.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 Apr 26.
Lenah	Patrons oppose board decision to close the school.	2.5.B Yr. 1928 Feb 20.
Lincoln	W. Pearson requests that school be rebuilt at its original site.	2.5.B Yr. 1926 May 11.
Little River	Residents petition for appointment of M. Megeath as teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1933.
Little River	Patrons oppose board decision to close the school.	2.5.B Yr. 1935.
Little River	List of parents and number of pupils.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Loudoun County School Board	Petition requesting appointment of Y. Gum to school board.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Lovettsville	Opposition to selection: Grievance over board's selection of principal and appeal to reverse.	2.5.B Yr. 1918 Sep 3.
Lovettsville	Board reappointment: Request for reappointment of C.	2.5.B Yr. 1918 Sep 3.

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	Souder as school trustee.	
Lovettsville	Petition to alter bus route from Lovettsville to Taylorstown.	2.5.B Yr. 1934 Sep 11.
Lovettsville	List of pupils.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Lucketts	Request to keep Lucketts HS open for 1937-1938.	2.5.B Yr. 1937.
Lucketts	Petition requesting appointment of D. Gunn as school board trustee.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Lucketts	Parents petition the board for a bus to Lucketts.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Middleburg	Patrons petition to remove principal.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Middleburg	Two petitions requesting acquisition of suitable high school site in Middleburg area.	2.5.B Yr. 1950 Jan 9.
Middleburg	Request for cafeteria: Letter and resolution from PTA to School Board.	2.5.B Yr. 1949 Sep 27.
Middleburg	Letter from C. Smith asking for removal of his and wife's name from earlier petition.	2.5.B Yr. 1945 Jan 26.
Middleburg	Community League letters opposing cuts	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Mar 18.

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	in tax levy or teacher salaries.	
Milltown	Letter from citizen requesting that school be closed due to low attendance.	2.5.B Yr. 1902 Dec 15.
Milltown	Petition from patrons requesting continuation of Milltown School.	2.5.B Yr. Unk (probably 1902)
Mountain	Petition from patrons requesting continuation of Mountain School.	2.5.B Yr. 1921 Sep 29.
Mountville	Citizens petition board to build new two-room schoolhouse.	2.5.B Yr. 1930 Mar 17.
Mountville	Community League petition protesting the reduction of teachers' salaries.	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Apr 14.
Mt. Gilead	Citizens request bus service to Mt. Gilead area.	2.5.B Yr. 1936 Aug 6.
Mt. Gilead	Citizens request extension of bus service.	2.5.B Yr. 1950 Dec 5.
Mt. Pleasant	Citizens petition requesting that school be re-opened or transportation provided to another school.	2.5.B Yr. 1938 Jun 6.
North Fork	Citizens request to keep school open.	2.5.B Yr. 1929.

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Oak Hill	Request for bus route to school.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Oak Hill	Citizens request school stay open.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Paeonian Springs	Two letters requesting retention of teacher H. Ellmore.	2.5.B Yr. 1931 May 26.
Paxson	Three letters requesting that Paxson remain open.	2.5.B Yr. 1930 Mar 17.
Philomont	Request to appoint principal and teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1924 Apr.
Philomont	Request that board keep school open.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Pleasant Valley	Patrons petition to retain teacher Groseclose for coming term.	2.5.B Yr. 1928 Apr 18.
Pleasant Valley	Patrons request a bus route to prevent children from standing in inclement weather.	2.5.B Yr. 1939 Sep 19.
Pleasant Valley	Patrons petition to appoint a second teacher.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Purcellville	Teachers petition for holiday on Good Friday, with promise to make up the day.	2.5.B Yr. 1925 Mar 9.
Purcellville	Response from superintendent to a request for	2.5.B Yr. 1930 May 14.

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	reappointment of principal.	
Purcellville	Patrons petition to appoint E. Norton as principal.	2.5.B Yr. 1935 Apr 28.
Purcellville	Citizens petition for two high schools-- Leesburg and Purcellville.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Red Hill	Letter from citizen wanting to appoint A. Pangle to teach, with petition of attendance commitment.	2.5.B Yr. 1921 Sep 12.
Hamilton	Ministerial union submits resolution against amusements sponsored by county public schools.	2.5.B 1931 May 11.
Round Hill	Citizens requesting that board keep school open.	2.5.B Yr. 1921 Sep.
Round Hill	Patrons petition to have bus pick up children at Wm. Moatz house.	2.5.B Yr. 1945 Aug 11.
Round Hill	Landowner requests that board induce highway commission to repair road and prevent neighbors from crossing her property.	2.5.B Yr. 1949 Nov 15.
Round Hill HS	Patrons petition to appoint A. Purcell as principal.	2.5.B Yr. 1924 Jun 10.

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Round Hill HS	Teachers petition the board for half-day holiday to attend Apple Blossom Festival.	2.5.B Yr. 1928 Apr 5.
Round Hill HS	Patrons petition for the reappointment of teacher M. Blocker.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Ryan	Patrons petition for appointment of M. Cramm as teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1925 Jun 22.
Silcott Springs	Keep school open: Parents commit to send pupils to Silcott Springs.	2.5.B Yr. 1922 Aug 19.
Sterling	Dissatisfaction with teacher:	2.5.B Yr. 1938 Aug 3.
Sterling	Citizens petition to keep faculty intact.	2.5.B Yr. Unk (probably 1938).
Sycoline	Patrons petition to continue the school throughout the entire school day.	2.5.B Yr. 1930.
Sycoline	Citizens petition for a bus to transfer pupils to Leesburg for 1932-1933.	2.5.B Yr. 1932 Mar 9.
Tankersfield	Petition to reappoint teacher C. Miller to coming term.	2.5.B Yr. 1931.
Taylorstown	Patrons petition for the removal of a teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1926.
Taylorstown	Petition to keep school open because of poor	2.5.B Yr. 1940 Feb 19.

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	road conditions to alternative site.	
Unison-Bloomfield	Petition to reappoint teacher H. Ottley to coming term.	2.5.B Yr. 1917 Jul 21.
Unison-Bloomfield	Petition to rebuild community school to serve a growing agricultural community.	2.5.B Yr. 1944 Unison.
Unison-Bloomfield	Patrons petition to appoint M. Wharton to vacant teacher position.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Unison-Bloomfield	Citizens petition to reappoint teacher M. Abell to coming term.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Unknown	List of Names: List of names annotated "Bd. Meeting Feb 10, 1931" and "file petitions."	2.5.B Yr. 1931 Feb 10.
Unknown	Emerick response to parents about two teachers' appointments. Likely Leesburg High School. See also 2.5.B Yr. 1927 Apr Leesburg HS Teacher Appointment E. Metzger.	2.5.B Yr. 1927 May 6.
Unknown	List of names: List of names assumed to be associated	2.5.B Yr. 1947 Aug 11.

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	with a petition protesting a teacher.	
Unknown	Petition requesting a teacher assignment for W. Smith.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Waterford	Protest of suggestion to send Waterford students to Lovettsville; they preferred Leesburg.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Waterford	Petition for the removal of a teacher.	2.5.B Yr. 1924 Nov.
Waterford	Series of petitions and correspondence surrounding the controversial behavior of principal.	2.5.B Yr. 1928 May - Oct.
Waterford	Appeal by patron committee to keep Waterford HS open.	2.5.B Yr. 1930 Mar.
Waterford	Patrons petition to reverse state board decision to close Waterford HS.	2.5.B Yr. 1937 Mar 9.
Waterford	Patrons protest closing of Waterford HS planned for 1939.	2.5.B Yr. 1938 Mar 7.
Waterford	Citizens petition to request additional faculty due to increasing enrollment at elementary school.	2.5.B Yr. 1949 Jan 24.
Woodburn	Petition and letters from citizens	2.5.B Yr. 1933 May.

	requesting appointment of teacher M. Thomas.	
Woodburn	Citizens protest the closing of Woodburn School.	2.5.B Yr. 1934.
Woodland	Citizens oppose closure of Woodland School.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.
Woodland	Citizens petition to reappoint teacher C. Shumaker.	2.5.B Yr. Unk.

About the Authors

Dave Prebich grew up in Southern California and began his adult career as a middle school math teacher in Los Angeles County. After a few years, he began a career with the Internal Revenue Service.

Since 2016, Dave has been one of the top volunteers with the Edwin Washington Project, with a major focus on petitions and the study of old schoolhouses like the Training Center in Leesburg . He became interested in the EWP upon reading a local newspaper article about the discovery by Loudoun County Public Schools employees of the many important records now under analysis.

Dave is an avid history buff and sees the Edwin Washington Project as a great opportunity to learn about a crucial period in American history As Dave sees it, the project allows us to study and preserve vital records that tell the stories of how fellow

Americans struggled for educational equality and opportunity.

Dave and his wife Cathy have been residents of Loudoun County, Virginia, since 1991. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Larry Roeder is an army veteran, and also served in the U.S. Department of State, retiring as the Policy Advisor on Disaster Management in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, then served as the U.N. Affairs Director at WSPA, a British non-profit focused on the protection of animals. Mr. Roeder primarily worked on international law matters as it related to animal protection, as well as livestock belonging to refugees and IDP's, the internally displaced. He was also a consultant on potential humanitarian investments in Somaliland. In addition, he is also the former Research Chair of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library, as well as Chair for Diversity in the Loudoun County Democratic Committee. He founded the Edwin Washington Project and currently is CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Edwin Washington Society.