



The Edwin Washington Project

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www.edwinwashingtonproject.org

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Event Topic: "Dirt Don't Burn," A public discussion on the civil rights struggle by African-Americans and their friends for education in Loudoun County between 1865 and 1968, when integration arrived.

Time and venue: Saturday, November 10, 2018. 12:30pm to 4pm, Old Douglass School, 407 E. Market Street, Leesburg.

Open to the General Public: Free admission and parking. High School and College students, as well as anyone who lived in Loudoun before 1968 are especially encouraged to attend.

For news, go to www.edwinwashingtonproject.org or Edwin Washington Project on Facebook.

Background:

- At the request of Loudoun County Schools, the Edwin Washington Project is examining education in the county between 1865 and 1968, focusing on African-Americans, though white schools are also studied in-depth, for comparison.
- The research has also been supported by a unanimous joint resolution of the Virginia House and Senate, thanks to the assistance of Delegate John Bell.
- The project is named after an African-American teenager who demanded schooling just after the Civil War and sees itself as a monument to the great civil rights struggle for equal education. Lessons from this struggle are arguments against the prejudice faced today across the globe by so many because of race, tribe, religion, orientation, etc.
- The event will discuss databases and reports showing who attended schools before 1968, who instructed, the quality of education and the architecture and management of the schools.
- A special highlight will be recently uncovered handwritten petitions by parents asking for school toilets, repairs, buses and other aspects of quality schools.
- A digital map will show the location of all school buildings built before 1968.
- Guests are encouraged to look in their attics for lost pictures and letters. Many of the documents used by the project were lost for decades, then found in an abandoned school house. The project has also used records from Virginia State University, the Friends of the Balch Library, Oatlands House and Gardens, the NAACP, the Douglass Alumni Association, Lovettsville Historical Society, the Prosperity Baptist Church in South Riding, Loudoun County Circuit Court Archives and many other entities.
- The project will go on for several years, so residents are invited to become volunteers. Donations or funds or artifacts are also accepted, as it is incorporated as a 501(c)(3).