

## Colored Teachers of Loudoun

Notes by Larry Roeder

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**The following report was discovered in the archives of LCPS and presents a list of “colored” teachers and their instructional assignments for the academic year of 1926/27.**

**Editorial note:** The term “colored” was the contemporary word for African-American or black in 1926.

The report indicated that colored schools opened on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, following an institute to be held at Leesburg on October fourth. Segregated Teacher Institutes were used to share thinking on ways of teaching, to develop solutions, sign contracts, listen to news, etc.

### Prize

An interesting note indicated that the Virginia School Supply company contributed a map of the United States to be given to the school having the best report at the League Rally on Saturday, November thirteenth in Leesburg. That particular week was the Sixth American Education Week across the country.

Given that the prize announcement was part of the announcement for “colored” schools and that the memo didn’t say anything about White schools, it is possible that both could compete; but before that conclusion is drawn, more research will be required. That’s especially true since the one newspaper account only spoke of white LCPS and church officials in attendance.

The National Education Association and the American Legion were distressed that 25 percent of World War One draftees were illiterate so in 1919 met on the topic to find ways of rally public support. Their conventions adopted resolutions in support and in 1921 NEA called for an official week, which was held for the first time December 4-10, 1921. The U.S. Office of Education followed in 1922 and the PTA joined forces in 1938. American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving (staff, 2015).

In Leesburg in 1926, the rally was held by the county federation of community leagues on Saturday, November 13. The map was awarded to the Paeonian Springs School. The Arcola league was a close second (staff, 1926).

## Bibliography

staff. (1926, 11 18). Community League Meeting at Leesburg. *Blue Ridge Herald*, p. 1.

staff. (2015). *American Education Week History*. Retrieved from National Educational Association:  
<http://www.nea.org/grants/61038.htm>