



THE EDWIN WASHINGTON PROJECT

26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Virginia 20152

www.edwinwashingtonproject.org 703-8672056

10/17/2017

Dear Don,

Thanks for your support for our project. As we discussed at the Balch some weeks ago, I'd like to request your support again, for more funds and for suggestions on additional donors. In that vein, we discussed the possibility of you making a significant donation, though we didn't discuss an amount. Any amount will be useful; but I am asking you to consider donating \$5,000.

2017 was a very busy year. Thanks to a donor who provided us a high end scanner, we have made significant progress scanning records and anticipate completing that project in 2018. We also began identifying which textbooks were used in "colored" and white schools, briefed many communities in Loudoun and have begun an analysis of the impact of segregated education on African-Americans. In addition, we interviewed many people who either taught or studied in the "colored" schools and have made much progress identifying where the schools were, which is not always clear from the records. This includes doing an expedition in order to find the ruins of the old Bluemont Colored School. That last effort required using a military compass.

If you are still interested in helping us out ours is a 501©(3) effort that accepts donations under the name Edwin Washington Project . Our goal is to document the impact of segregated education on African-Americans in Loudoun; but the name of the non-profit, of which I'm President, is Diversity Fairs of Virginia. The EIN is 47-1765605. The address to send contributions is Edwin Washington Project, 26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Va. 20152.

The basic goal is to identify all of the "colored" schools in Loudoun from 1865 to 1968, who attended them, who instructed in them, what the students learned and to compare white vs black education. At the suggestion of the NAACP, we would like to extend this to other neighboring counties as well, in cooperation with local Black History clubs. We

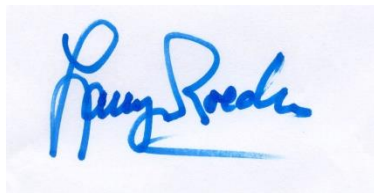
are also consulting with academics on how to use lessons learned from this exercise to argue against segregation in other countries.

2017 was a very busy year. Thanks to a donor who provided us a high end scanner, we have made significant progress scanning school records and anticipate completing that project by mid-2018. We also began identifying which textbooks were used in “colored” and white schools, briefed many communities in Loudoun and have begun an analysis of the impact of segregated education on African-Americans. In addition, we interviewed many people who either taught or studied in the “colored” schools and have made much progress identifying where the schools were, which is not always clear from the records. This includes doing an expedition in order to find the ruins of the old Bluemont Colored School. We had to use an army compass for that exercise.

We need to buy more archival boxes for old records and books. In addition, we are examining all of the old schools, which requires a lot of gas. Records directly related to “colored” schools in Loudoun are in the archives of Swarthmore in Pennsylvania, the Library of Virginia and at Virginia State University. We plan to do each of those trips, operating under US government per diem rules. We also need to continue digital preservation of all of the records so that if a fire ever happened, this history will never be lost. Finally, our plan is invest in software called Past Perfect that will allow anyone remote access to all of our documents.

Your donation will be deeply felt. I hope you will be able to assist us.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Roeder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "L".

Larry Roeder, MS
Principal Investigator