

WILLISVILLE

1/30/56

MUVED

FROM

P. 7

CONC

4/12/2016

hr

Stillville School
Upperville, Virginia
January 30, 1956

coal

Dept. O. L. Emerick
County School Board
Reeburg, Va.

Dear Mr. Emerick:

Please send some coal up right
away. All we have left is dirt
and that doesn't half burn. Thank
you.

Sincerely yours,
Ethel R. Stewart

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Thanks for talking

2 messages

Larry Roeder <roederaway@gmail.com>
To: fourpmfox@aol.com

Mon, Mar 20, 2017 at 3:32 PM

3/20/2016

Thanks for talking. I was actually in your neck of the wood this morning before you called and stopped by to leave a 1940 era photo you might find interesting.

I believe the photos are now off the facebook page. if not, let me know.

I definitely hope we can develop a healthy relationship with regards to your building.

Warm regards,

Larry Roeder, Principal Investigator, the Edwin Washington Project

Some additional bit of information and a few questions.

I have been developing a catalog of the schools with contemporary and historical photos. The 1940 image is one of the historical ones. The catalog has my snaps in it, but it is not intended for the internet. I'd like to keep the images I took for reference purposes; but I'll put a note on them that they can't be shared without permission -- if that's ok with you. I had shared it with a few historian friends of mine, so after you and I spoke I asked them not to share. They are all responsible folks.

As for the graveyard, there are five groups I know of that research graves in Loudoun.

- 1) The graveyard committee at the Balch Library, led by Mary Fishback. I don't think they inform people of the exact location and might be inactive at present.
- 2) I am also on the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library and have advised them against identifying the precise location of graveyards, for fear of people damaging tombstones or field stones.
- 3) Another group is led by pastor Michelle, a transplant African-American pastor with a deep interest in local history. She sponsors Black History events but I can't and would not wish to speak for her. I do suspect that were she aware of your cemetery, she would want to make the location public. She has also spoken of wanting to develop a DNA database that to link the deceased of all Black cemeteries with living folks here and in other counties. I have nothing to do with that exercise and NOT a supporter for a variety of reasons, including the protection of privacy.
- 4) Recently, I have been approached by people wanting to protect parts of Western Loudoun, especially around Aldie, thinking that the identification of graveyards might slow development. I also spoke recently to the Board of Supervisors in support of protecting your part of Loudoun, meaning Willisville in general. I tend to be on the side of those wanting to slow development, so I'm sympathetic; but I'd never reveal your cemetery without your permission.
- 5) Relatives of the buried have a right to the cemetery, so I've been led to believe, so I suspect you would not be able to prevent access or photography by them; but I'm an historian and retired Diplomat, not a lawyer.

What you told me about white students attending is fascinating. I'll retain that point.

If I understand your description of the structure, while we thought it was a one-room school house, it actually had two rooms. Now one room remains as before but the other has been divided up into bedrooms and a kitchen. That's very interesting, as Oscar Emerick, Superintendent at the time, wanted in 1930 to add a room. Did any blackboards survive.

Do you know where the latrines and well would have been?

The following is snapshot of information we have in our archives on Willisville.

Name Race Built closed Rooms Photos School District Academic Records

Willisville	c	1868[1]	1917, due to fire (Grigsby 2008, 282)	1 room		Mercer	
Willisville	c	1918[2]	1958	1 room, metal roof, frame, weather boarding as of 1924s[3]	yes[4]	Mercer[5]	School 43[6] Term Reports (digital) 1920/21-1957/58 Term Reports (paper) 1920/21-1957/58. Enrollment Report. 1955/56-1957/58[7]

[1] Freedmen's Bureau appropriated \$150 in August 1868 to build school and fund for a year. In October John Carter deed land, which was constructed by George Evans, considered reliable by Lt. Sidney Smith of the Freedmen's. Research by Eugene Scheel "1868: The Freedmen's Bureau builds a school for \$150 "to be used for the education of the colored youth of Willisville and for church purposes on Sabbath Day." This first public school for blacks in southwest Loudoun is complete the next year. The church's successor becomes Willisville Methodist Chapel."

[2] See "Budget for 1930-31" in EWP Archives 8.1 Financial 1928-29 – 1938-39. Superintendent O.L. Emerick complained that the School Board failed to build a room and add a teacher at Willisville where 76 children were in overcrowded conditions.

See 11.2 "Insurance Analysis" blue photo album by Garrett Insurance and Fireman's Fund, October, 1940, which indicated school was built in 1921 with an addition in 1934. 24'x67'.

[3] See EWP Archives 13.2 Dedicated Files Willisville (Colored). See also 11.3 Valuation Schedules (1947-1955

[4] See EWP Archives 11.2 "Insurance Analysis" blue photo album by Garrett Insurance and Fireman's Fund, October, 1940.

[5] See EWP Archives 9.2 Map: Loudoun County, 1923

[6] School Number derives from EWP Archive Folder 1.7 Misc. Civil Rights Records, 1938/39 Socio-Economic Survey of Negro Life in Virginia

[7] See EWP Archives: "Enrollment Reports for 1955/56 – 1964/65" in 13. (Schools are listed alphabetically by year).

Larry Roeder <roederaway@gmail.com>
 Draft To: Peggy Stewart <fourpmfox@aol.com>

Tue, Mar 28, 2017 at 9:30 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

Willisville School
Upperville, Virginia
January 11, 1953

File
Final

Mr. George Hughes
County School Board
Leeburg, Va.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Please send some kindling wood up
right away. we are also low on coal,
mostly all that is left is dirt.

Sincerely yours,
Ethel R. Stewart

Hillsboro?
Wood-
Willisville