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## *Brown v. Board of Education – Fifty Years* *Selected Published Materials at the Library of Virginia*

In 1954 the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, ruling that segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race had a detrimental effect on African American children, denying them the equal protection under the law guaranteed in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Further, the doctrine of “separate but equal” adopted by some localities had no place in the field of public education. The case was actually a consolidation of five similar cases from Kansas, Delaware, South Carolina, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, helping to make the issue a national rather than strictly southern one. Of particular interest in Virginia are the details of the Virginia Case, *Davis, et al. v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, Virginia, et al.* In May 1951, Spottswood Robinson and Oliver Hill from the Richmond NAACP filed suit on behalf of 117 students requesting that the Virginia state law requiring segregated schools be struck down. Their request was initially rejected, but the ruling was overturned in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Years of massive resistance resulted, and the Prince Edward County public schools were closed for five years.

The Library of Virginia has a wide range of published materials relating to conditions prior to *Brown v. Board of Education*, immediate repercussions to the case, and long term results of the decision. To search for materials in our catalog or to utilize databases such as *America: History and Life*, *JSTOR*, or the *Proquest Historical Washington Post*, use key word phrases such as segregation, desegregation, integration, massive resistance, and the names of the cases and primary figures.

### REFERENCE WORKS

In addition to general encyclopedias such as *World Book* and *Encyclopedia Americana*, excellent synopses of the issues surrounding school desegregation can be found in reference works about the constitution and the Supreme Court.

Jost, Kenneth, ed. *The Supreme Court, A to Z*. 2nd edition. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1998.  
KF8742 A35 S8 1998

Articles on *Brown* and on school desegregation.

Hall, Kermit L., ed. *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992. KF8742 A35 O93 1992

Entries on “*Brown v. Board of Education*,” “Desegregation Remedies,” “Race and Racism.”

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Part II, a 100-page section on the school desegregation issue is entitled “*Brown* and After: The Legal Struggle.”

Levy, Leonard W., and Kenneth L. Karst, eds. *Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*. 2nd edition. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2000. KF4548 E53 2000

Has lengthy articles on “*Brown v. Board of Education*,” “Desegregation,” “Segregation,” and “Separate but Equal Doctrine,” as well as several articles relating to civil rights.

Lewis, Thomas T., and Richard L. Wilson, eds. *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court*. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem Press, 2001.  
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Raffel, Jeffrey A. *Historical Dictionary of School Segregation and Desegregation: The American Experience*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1998. LC212.52 R34 1998

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Urofsky, Melvin I. *The Warren Court: Justices, Rulings, and Legacy*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2001.  
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“The Equal Protection of the Law” section deals extensively with the *Brown* decision and its ramifications.

## LEADING UP TO THE CASE

Bullock, Henry Allen. *A History of Negro Education in the South: From 1619 to the Present*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1967. LC2801 B9

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Henry Ward Powell was an African American teacher in Prince Edward County during the time of the strike against unfair conditions at R. R. Moton High School that led to the suit of *Davis et al. v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, Virginia, et al.*, one of the cases consolidated into the *Brown* decision.

Tushnet, Mark V. *The NAACP's Legal Strategy against Segregated Education, 1925–1950*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1987. KF4155 T87 1987

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## THE CASE

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Berman, Daniel M. *It Is So Ordered: The Supreme Court Rules on School Segregation*. New York: Norton, [1966]. LB3062 B5

Virginia. Commission on Constitutional Government. *The Rational Approach. A Statement* [of Alfred J. Schweppe, dissenting from Report of the Standing Committee on the Bill of Rights of the American Bar Association, 1961 on the desegregation decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Richmond, 1961]. LB3062 .V8 1961

## THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH – MASSIVE RESISTANCE

Bartley, Numan V. *The Rise of Massive Resistance: Race and Politics in the South during the 1950's*. 1969. Louisiana paperback ed. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. F216.2 B37 1999

Burnette, Ann Elizabeth. *A Lost Cause Revisited: Virginia's Massive Resistance, 1954–1962*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms International, 1997. Film 1542

Ely, James W. *The Crisis of Conservative Virginia: The Byrd Organization and the Politics of Massive Resistance*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1976. LC214.22 V8 E48

Gates, Robbins Ladew. *The Making of Massive Resistance: Virginia's Politics of Public School Desegregation, 1954–1956*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, [1964]. LA379 G3

Hershman, James Howard. *A Rumbling in the Museum: The Opponents of Virginia's Massive Resistance*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms International, 1979. LC214.22 V8 H57

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Leidholdt, Alexander. *Standing before the Shouting Mob: Lenoir Chambers and Virginia's Massive Resistance to Public-School Integration*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1997. LC214.22 V8 L45 1997

Modlin, Carolyn Carter. *The Desegregation of Southampton County, Virginia Schools 1954–1970*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI, 1999. Film 1817

Muse, Benjamin. *Virginia's Massive Resistance*. Bloomington, In.: Indiana University Press, [1961]. LA379 M8  
An in-depth presentation of the massive resistance movement. Although there are no footnotes or source lists, many references are worked into the text.

Peltason, Jack Walter. *Fifty-eight Lonely Men: Southern Federal Judges and School Desegregation*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, [1961]. LB3062 P3

Smith, Robert Collins. *They Closed Their Schools: Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1951–1964*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, [1965]. LA380 P83 S6

Steck, John Charles. *The Prince Edward County, Virginia, Story*. Farmville, Va.: Farmville Herald, 1960. LA380 P83 S7  
The story of Prince Edward County's resistance to school desegregation from the segregationists' point of view.

Sullivan, Neil Vincent. *Bound for Freedom: An Educator's Adventures in Prince Edward County, Virginia*. Boston: Little, Brown, [1965]. LA380 P83 S8

Neil Sullivan served as Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Free School System. This organization was a federally initiated, state-sponsored and privately funded school system that provided free schools in 1963–64 for Prince Edward County students. Utilizing existing facilities (with the permission of the county school board), the system bridged the gap and operated for a year until the public schools were re-opened.

Turpin, William H. *Editorial Leadership in a Time of Crisis: Virginia's Massive Resistance, 1954–1959*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms International, 1982. PN4751 T9 1976

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## OVERVIEWS

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Conway, Ishmail A. *Central Virginia Dreamkeepers: Narratives of African American Teachers that Taught Before, During and After the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Decision*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI, 2002. LC214.22 V8 C66 2000

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Hill, Oliver W. *The Big Bang: Brown v. Board of Education and Beyond. The Autobiography of Oliver W. Hill, Sr.* Winter Park, Fla.: Four-G Publishers, 2000. KF373 H55 H55 2000

*Approaching the Horizon Videorecording: A Look at the Life and Work of Oliver Hill as Seen through the Eyes of Today's Students and Yesterday's Memories*. Writer/director: Jerry Williams; music: Bill Grishaw. Richmond, Va.: Old Dominion Bar Association, 1995. KF373 H64 A64 1995

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Stevenson, Janet. *The School Segregation Cases (Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, and others): The United States Supreme Court Rules on Racially Separate Public Education*. New York: F. Watts, 1973. KF4155 Z9 S74

Wasby, Stephen L. *Desegregation from Brown to Alexander: An Exploration of Supreme Court Strategies*. Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1977. KF4757 W38

Whitman, Mark, ed. *Removing a Badge of Slavery: The Record of Brown v. Board of Education*. Princeton, N.J.: Markus Wiener, 1993. KF4155.R46 1992

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Williams, Juan. *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954–1965*. New York: Penguin Group, 2002. First published 1987 by Viking Penguin. KF4757 W52 2002

Wolters, Raymond. *The Burden of Brown: Thirty Years of School Desegregation*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1984. KF4155 W64 1984

## WEBSITES

**Brown v. Board National Historic Site.** <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/home.htm>

*Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site is located at the former Monroe Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Monroe Elementary School was one of the segregated schools African American plaintiffs in the case were forced to attend after being refused admission to schools for whites in their neighborhoods. Includes links to the opinion and implementation order.

*Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site. *We Shall Overcome, Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement.* <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/ka1.htm>

National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary

A good overview of the civil rights movement is provided in addition to the basic description of the case through links summarizing “The Need for Change,” “The Players,” “The Cost,” and “The Prize.” Also includes a link to the Robert Russa Moton High School of Prince Edward County Historic Site.

**Brown v. Board National Historic Site – Bibliography.** <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/pages/biblio.htm>

This bibliography includes books, primary sources, and graphic resources (photographic and video).

*Then & Now 1954–2004 Longwood University Commemorates Brown v. Board of Education.*

<http://www.longwood.edu/news/bvb/index.htm>

Longwood University, located in Farmville, Virginia, has provided this online summary of Brown focusing on Prince Edward County events. The website includes a summary, a description of what happened in Prince Edward County, a link to Moton museum and related information, as well as an excellent bibliography focusing on Prince Edward County.

VCU Libraries Online Exhibits. *Separate But Not Equal: Race, Education, and Prince Edward County, Virginia.*

<http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/speccoll/pec.html>

Included in this exhibit are images documenting the disparity between black and white county schools, documents analyzing the issues, a selected bibliography of materials, and links to sites on the topic.

Virginia Center for Digital history. *The Ground beneath Our Feet: Massive Resistance.*

<http://www.vahistory.org/massive.resistance/index.html>

Provides images, electronic copies of documents, and multimedia interviews relating to civil rights in U.S. and Virginia history.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. **Brown v. Board of Education: Fifty Years.** <http://www.brownmatters.org/>

Howard University School of Law. *Brown at 50: Fulfilling the Promise.* <http://www.brownat50.org/index.html>