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.


Articles on Brown and on school desegregation.


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


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.


In addition to general entries, this volume has a “Davis v. County School Board” entry, relating specifically to the Prince Edward County case.


“The Equal Protection of the Law” section deals extensively with the Brown decision and its ramifications.
LEADING UP TO THE CASE


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.


THE CASE


THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH – MASSIVE RESISTANCE


An in-depth presentation of the massive resistance movement. Although there are no footnotes or source lists, many references are worked into the text.


The story of Prince Edward County's resistance to school desegregation from the segregationists' point of view.

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.


OVERVIEWS


*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


**WEBSITES**


*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.*


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.


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


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.


http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/specoll/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.


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.


Gail Tatum
Reference Section
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