This chapter is only at its start, and I hope many others will contribute, especially as there has already been some wonderful research by other members of the Black History Committee, as well as other historians in the County on whose shoulders we can build this study. I especially want to recognize Betty L. Morefield, Bronwen C. Sauders and Elaine E. for their efforts Thomson (Morefield, Souders, & Thompson, 2006). This particular draft drew on that research as a beginning to which I added reportage by the Freedmen’s Bureau and the Quaker’s Friends’ Intelligencer, the later which has proven a great resource for anecdotes by instructors who taught African-Americans in Loudoun and the surrounding area.

We have evidence as early as 1820 of African-Americans attending mixed race instruction by Quakers. The earliest official education for African-Americans in Loudoun following the close of the Civil War included private efforts like Willisville where the land was obtained from farmers for the benefit of local “colored youth” to be educated during the week and to pray during the weekend. The actual school house was paid for by the Freedmen’s Bureau, and I suspect the teachers were also paid by Freedmen’s, with help from the local community, which was common.

1820s:

- John Jay Janney of Goose Creek, now Lincoln, recorded that “two mulatto boys and one negro boy” attended his Quaker school (Janney & Janney, 1978, p. 56).
1865:

- William O. Robey opened a school at his home on the corner of Church and North streets in Leesburg (Souders & Souders, 2003).
- Quaker Sarah Steer taught at her home in Waterford.

1867:

- Richard Bailey donated a lot in Leesburg for “school purposes and divine worship.” Trustees were Thomas W. Waters, John B. Harris and Joseph W. Valentine (Circuit Court of Loudoun County (Archives), 1867, pp., 97, 189, 190).
- Hillsboro opened a Freedmen’s Bureau School on land donated by Forest Griffith. Trustees were Calvin Green, Elzey Furr and Stephen Coleman. (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, p. Rolls 12 and 532). (Circuit Court of Loudoun County (Archives), 1867, p. 155)
- Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and Howard University in Washington, DC are chartered. Both will train African-American public school teachers that end up being employed in Loudoun.

1868

- January: Hamilton’s Freedman’s Bureau school “Harmony” had as teacher Lawrence Valentine (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, p. Rolls 13 and 84)
- Freedmen Bureau school opened in Aldie with Benjamin Allen as teacher (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, p. Roll 84).
- Willisville Chapel, ME established. Willisville Freedmen’s Bureau school opened in the fall. Its land was bought by the community; the trustees were: George
Evans, Garner Peters and Benjamin Berry (Scheel, 2002, p. 91). (Circuit Court of Loudoun County, 1868, Oct 13.)


1869:

**The Tate School**

- Philomont/Greggsville Freedmen’s Bureau school lot was donated by Quaker William Tate. Its trustees were three African-American: Samuel Colbert, Robert Webb and Sandy Smith, as well as three white men, Enoch Fenton, William T. Shoemaker and William H. Taylor. The opening teacher was Quaker Caroline Thomas. (Circuit Court of Loudoun County (Archives), p. Liber 342); (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, p. Roll 9).

- We have found one Teacher’s Monthly School Report for April, 1870 for Tate, which indicated it opened July 19,1869 and was due to close June 30th, 1870 (Thomas, 1870).

- Thomas was a Quaker who died February 22, 1896. Interestingly, she might also have been Union Army veteran, serving 100 days as a laundress. It’s a reminder that not all Quaker refused service (Historic Fair Hill Staff, 2014,) If so, she is buried in Section E, Lot 321A of Historic Fair Hill in Philadelphia.

- There is some question as to whether the school lasted very long. Friends’ Intelligencer, Volume 26 referred to Carolyn Thomas having to abandon her school in Leesburg because of the “impossibility of having a School House fit to teach in, and the unwillingness on out parts to risk the health, and probably the life of any teacher under such circumstances. Having no other opening, we were very reluctantly compelled to part with her (Intelligencer Staff, 1869/1870).” Philomont and Leesburg are a
distance from each other, so the discussion must be about separate schools. That needs to be determined.

- According to the Thomas report, each pupil paid 50 cents a month for instruction. The building was owned by the Freedmen and received no support from the local school board. Assistance was instead provided by the Friend’s, Long Island, NY.
- In April 1870, Thomas instructed 25 pupils, 19 males and 6 females. That was down from 31 the prior month. 11 more left in April, but 5 were added, making an average attendance of 16. 10 were always present, 25 were always punctual and 2 were over the age of 16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics Studied</th>
<th>Number who Took Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alphabet</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spell and read easy lessons.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using advanced readers.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studied Geography</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studied Arithmetic</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In higher branches¹</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In writing</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When asked about public sentiment toward Colored Schools, Thomas wrote the number 0, perhaps indicating a negative attitude. Also, none of her pupils were members of a temperance society.

1870:

- A Freedmen’s Bureau school opened at Guilford Station (Oak Grove), principle Reverand R. Woodson. Assistant S.H. Sinkfield (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869, p. Rolls 9 and 575); (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, p. Rolls 20 and 199)

¹ I don’t know if this means High School.
Freedmen Schools in Loudoun

- Snickersville’s Freedmen’s Bureau school was the last building in Loudoun constructed with financial aid from the Freedmen’s Bureau. Its trustees were Alfred Fox, James Fields, J. Presley Robert, John Lewis and Henry Jackson. The land was donated by Mr. Young (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1870, pp. Rolls 10, 57-60 and 1223).
- New public school system established in Richmond and nine schools opened for Black students (Morefield, Souders, & Thompson, 2006).

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Freedmen Schools in Loudoun


