What do I do??
The African American Experience in Morgantown
During the Years of Segregation and After
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>% African American</th>
<th>Cass</th>
<th>% African American in Cass</th>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>14,985</td>
<td>14,668</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>15,705</td>
<td>15,477</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>19,049</td>
<td>18,747</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>24,334</td>
<td>24,040</td>
<td>294</td>
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<td>1,019</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>50,083</td>
<td>47,752</td>
<td>2,331</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>51,252</td>
<td>49,570</td>
<td>1,682</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>6,720</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>60,797</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>55,616</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>104,622</td>
<td>94,264</td>
<td>4,080</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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Earlier African American Schools

1866-WV legislature enacts law providing for establishing of public schools for blacks aged 6-21 but had to maintain average daily attendance of 16 pupils

1867- legislature amends law saying districts had to establish schools in areas with more than 15 black students; no average attendance required

1872-new state constitution legally provided separate schools for blacks and whites; WV became first southern state to establish “equal though separate” schools but schools never equal
1869- 1st organized black school in Monongalia County started in Jones Methodist Episcopal church on Long Alley (Chestnut Street); church got $4/month rent from Morgan District Board of Education; Mary B. Johnson is first teacher for $25/month; all early teachers are white; Capt. Sears is principal in 1872 when advertises for “colored” assistants.
1870- private school for African Americans opens with Anna Hayes, 12-year-old white daughter of Manliff Hayes, who owned a livery stable, as instructor for 15-20 students between ages of 15 and 35; don’t know how long school was open; she was attending school herself that year, said the census, and was strict.

1875- school moves from Jones ME Church to foot of High Street near Deckers Creek to home of George Widders, who got $5/month rental from Morgan District Board of Education.
1878-Belle Jenkins finishes teaching, was during her tenure that school named for Alexander B. Wade, county superintendent of schools from 1875-1880

1882- Alexander Wade becomes teacher at school and moves it to Beechurst Avenue to home owned by Dille family (white)

1895-Allie G. Smith is first African American teacher
Professor Alexander Wade, ca. 1900
African-American Elementary School Where Dr. Alexander L. Wade Taught, built 1894 between St. Paul AME & WVU Field House to right
Board of Education voted in 1929 to close Jerome Park, Beechurst, and Brewer Hill schools and combine them into 1 school on White Avenue. Only Beechurst would move but then moves back.

1931-1935 - 501 White Avenue is listed as White Avenue School, Jas. A. G. Edwards at 477 White Avenue in 1931 and no street address but under 501 in 1935
What happened to Beechurst Elementary School for African Americans?

1931 – 79 Beechurst is vacant

1935 – no entry in city directory; 79 Beechurst is Church of Christ

1937 – again located at 79 Beechurst with Mildred R. Hinshaw as principal

1939 – Goldie Hereford is principal

1941- now WVU Elementary Laboratory School

1942- reconstruction of the old Wade school building accomplished for the College of Education’s venture into supervised elementary teaching.
Jerome Park School at Central and Jerome Sts.-
Completed 4 years of college; 1st teacher at Beechurst High School for $70/month to teach English, algebra, Latin; school teacher employed by Board of Education (June 1917); teacher and principal at Beechurst Colored School (1918); resigned to become coal miner in 1920, assistant proprietor of lunch stand (1930), paper hanger business man (1931-1952).
Arthur Barnett (1891-1974)  
Born in Ohio; Came here from Philippi, where he was teaching in 1980; taught math and science and principal at Beechurst High School (1921); taught at Jerome Park (September 1926); Principal again of Beechurst High School, White Avenue School, and Monongalia High School until ca. 1949-50, teaching social studies and math; retires (?) 1950.
Beechurst High Football Squad in Front of Little Red Schoolhouse, 1926
James A. G. Edwards Home, 501 White Ave. w/ ca. 16 rooms taken over for White Avenue School for Grades 1-12, Dec. 1929-1937?, Edwards family moves next door
African American Schools in Morgantown and Westover
African American Schools Outside Morgantown

Can’t locate Continental & John Y
Schools in red are only ones that did not go to Floyd B. Cox School
Chaplin - 1 room, Grant District, 1921-1939
Cassville (New Hill) - 1 room
Bertha Hill – 1 room (same as Randall??)
Jerome Park – 1 room, Morgan District, at least 1921-1952
Everettville (Laurel Flatt) - Grant District, 1921-1954
Randall – Cass District, 1925-1939
Star City (Brewer Hill) – Cass District, 1925-1939
Continental or Forest Hill – Cass District, 1926-1938
Crown – Grant District, 1927-? (only 1 known teacher, 1927-28)
Brady – Grant District, 1923 -1936
John Y – Grant District, ?-1936
Second Ward – Morgan District, 1939-1954
Chaplin School

Star City exit
New Hill School, Cassville
1921: Everettville teacher Mattie Smith said “the furniture is rough,” “seats too high for the students,” “varnish gone or scratched off’ all chairs “are unsightly”; two blackboards made of canvas; zinc water bucket had no dipper
Second Ward Negro Elementary School was built in 1938-1939 and is a 1-story, plus basement, "T"-shaped brick building in the Art Deco style. Funded by the WPA. It was a school and community center until 1954. The building reopened as a school annex and Instructional Materials Center in the 1960s, but ceased being used as a school in 1993. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.
Second Ward - Across from 501 White at Posten
Charlene’s Education

1st semester of 1st grade at Stumptown (Pursglove) – 2 1-room schools, 1st for Grades 1-3 and 2nd for Grades 4-6,

This school in Cass District was open from 1921 to 1939.
Pursglove (aka Stumptown) Schools
2nd semester of 1st grade through 6th grade at Osage (Floyd B. Cox) School in Cass District, School open 1939-1954

Monongalia County Superintendent of Schools, 1931-1938, 1941-1954
Assistant Superintendent, 1938-1941
Original Location of Floyd B. Cox School; Land Taken for Route 7

Photo taken in late 1950s. Floyd B. Cox School burned after integration.
Road cut through mountain

New location

Scotts Run Settlement House
Staff & Students at Floyd B. Cox School
Left to right: Robert Lucas; Lulu Lucas (Robert’s mother) & Lelia Ross, school cooks; Lizzie Ross (Lelia’s daughter).
African-American Students and Teacher at Osage (FBC) School

L to r: Tommy Wells (deceased), Sammy Dobbs (lived in Jerome Park for long time, shot to death), Wesley Morton, Jimmy Summerville, unidentified, “Snookie” Williams. Teacher must have been someone who came for special project, maybe from Mountaineer Mining Mission; Beulah Cobbs was a teacher; Charlene had the clock.
Students at (FBC) Osage Negro School, ca. 1940

Betty Jean Seals
Robert Church
Doris Williams
Marlene Dews
Jean Seals
Josephine or Ernestine Hill
Charlene
Whitney Hairston
Wilfred Younger
Leroy Messingberg
L to r, John Boyd, ?, Tim Johnson’s brother?, Tim Johnson
School
Children at
(FBC) Osage

Mrs. Richard Smith,
Wife of director of Shack from 1941-52; founder of Mountaineer Mining Mission

West Virginia & Regional History Center
Children Looking at School Books at Floyd B. Cox School

Dolores Stovall, Shirley Robinson’s aunt
1921-22 - Teacher at Chaplin
1922-23 – Teacher at Jerome Park
1923-24 – Teacher at Brady
1924-42 – Teacher/principal at Everettville who lobbied to build Monongalia High School, including correspondence with national NAACP
1935 – Becomes first president of NAACP as group lobbies for new schools for African Americans
Mr. Fox Argues for a New High School

1934-35 School Year Statistics

500 pupils in African American schools
150 high school grades in White Ave. School plus Morgan District primary and intermediate grades
400 pre-school African American children in county, 86% of all African American children (pre-school and school age are under 18)

1930 - were 334 African Americans in metropolitan area (presumably Morgantown, Westover, Sabraton, Star City) and 1997 in suburban and rural
Frank Dale, Sr.
W. VA. WPA BUILDS NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR COLORED STUDENTS

CHARLESTON, W. Va., April 1—(ANP)—Completion of the main unit of the new centralized Negro high school at Westover, a suburb of Morgantown, in Monongalia county, by the Works Progress Administration, provides modern educational facilities for approximately 800 colored children of that county.

Erection of the new school remedies a situation which, in the past, has found Negro school children of the county very poorly housed and with no facilities for training in the industrial arts, domestic sciences or athletics. Floyd R. Cox is superintendent of the Monongalia County schools.
Monongalia High School, grades 7-12
MONONGALIA HIGH SCHOOL

From 1938 to 1954, Monongalia High was the only African American high school in the county. New Deal WPA funds paid for the new school. Dedicated by Eleanor Roosevelt on May 27, 1938, it served black high school students until 1954, when the county integrated its schools. A source of opportunity and pride for the black community, the school forged lasting bonds among alumni.

USA
WORK
PROGRAM
WPA

WPA 1936
Dedication Day: Eleanor Roosevelt visited Dewey Fox at Everettville School.

All the African American schools closed early so students and teachers could attend the dedication.
The Monongalia High School has been erected in Westover, Grant District, by the Works Progress Administration and the Board of Education at a total cost of $67,000.00. It consists of eight class rooms, a small assembly room, a combined gymnasium and auditorium, shower rooms for boys and girls, a women teachers’ rest room, boiler room, and office suite of two rooms, and space for several shop rooms.

The exterior is built of gray sandstone quarried near Uffington, a few miles distant.

The new building meets a need that has been keenly felt for many years. The first high school for Negroes in the county was organized in 1917 on Beechurst Avenue. For this purpose a room was furnished by Mr. John Hunt on the second floor of his ice cream factory. After several moves the high school of one hundred fifty students finds itself in a modern building erected to serve the needs of the entire Negro population of the county, consisting of approximately 2300 people. Most of the population is comprised of miners living in the rural districts of the county. Transportation is provided for practically all of the 150 pupils, who live in various communities in the area.

With the completion of the athletic field now under construction, the high school will be the first Negro high school in the state to boast of such an accomplishment.
Dedication Exercises
Monongalia High School
Morgantown, West Virginia
Friday, May 27, 1938
10:00 A.M.

Program

SUPT. FLOYD B. COX, Presiding

America

Prayer

Send Out Thy Light”, Gounod

“How Lovely Are the Messengers”, Gounod

Introductory Remarks

Presentation of Building to Monongalia

County Board of Education

Harold F. Kramer

Branch Manager and Engineer Works Progress Administration

Acceptance of Building by Board

Dr. C. H. Ambler, President

Vocal Solo

Brue Jackson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dedication Address

Mrs. Eleanor H. Roosevelt

“Hail! Alma Mater”, Wagner

High School Chorus

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Address

Mr. I. J. K. Wells

West Virginia State Supervisor of Negro Schools

Benediction

Rev. B. F. Newsome

Music under the direction of Pauline Mattingly, County Director of Music

Miss Naomi Duff, accompanist
Early this morning we met the President's train. Then Mrs. Morgenthau and I went with Mr. Floyd Cox, Superintendent of Schools in Monongalia County, to the dedication of the Negro high school near Morgantown. This is the only Negro high school building in this county. They have been hoping for one ever since a high school group first met in a room above an ice cream factory which had been donated for this purpose. With the cooperation of WPA, they finally have an adequate building in which they should do very good work, particularly if the entire community cooperates in the way which their attendance at the ceremonies this morning indicated.
Coleman, Katharine

Taught math & music, 1939-40
Mildred Hinshaw, masters from Pitt, is the new head of the English Dept. at the New Monongalia High School recently dedicated by Mrs. Roosevelt in West Veeay. Swell, Mildred!

*Pittsburgh Courier, Oct. 1, 1938*
Grace Edwards Waters (1902-2001)

White Avenue School/Monongalia High School: 1934-1940 – Social studies
1940-1944 – Math
1952-1953 – Social studies

Second Ward: 1945-1952 – Principal

Morgantown High School: 1954 – at least 1960

Donated her personal library to the WVU Libraries Africana Collection. Smithsonian provides links to WVU Libraries exhibit: *A Devoted Life: Grace Edwards Waters*
Monongalia High, State Football Champions, 1940
CHOIR DIRECTOR

Monongalia High School

Eugene W. Jones
Monongalia High School Choir Starts on Eastern Tour Tomorrow

Here are the members of the Monongalia High School A Capella Choir which will start tomorrow morning on an extended Eastern tour. Directed by Eugene W. Jones, the group will stop at the White House for a 55-minute program before President Roosevelt.
Band Director and Founder

Charles N. Johnson
Majorettes at Monongalia High School
Mary Morgan, later Rev. Mary Morgan
Spring Comes to Morgantown music & dance fundraiser for Monongalia High School athletics; Governor Patteson’s daughter came to crown the queen-1950

Queen Geraldine Drakeford

Vivian Sheeley

Sylvia Edwards

Rose Tate

?????
Pageant at State Basketball Tournament, 1951

L to r:
1st 2 from Kelly Miller, Clarksburg; Charlene;
Linnie Mae, Morgantown;
Next 2 from Parkersburg;
Last 2 ??
Principals of Monongalia High School after Barnett

John W. Edwards – already teaching at Monongalia High
J. Douglas Anderson – from Bluefield- principal, 1951-53; taught at Bluefield State College (1954); BSC public relations director (1955) and WV State College (1958)
William H. Jones – from Clarksburg; acting principal, 1953-54
Grace Edwards Waters – already teaching at Monongalia High
Only 9 African American teachers hired for integrated schools:

- Beulah Clark Cobbs and Beatrice Rush stay at Osage (Floyd B. Cox)
- Mamie Jefferson stayed at Everettville
- Gladys Peyton stayed at Second Ward
- Florence Elkins moved from Monongalia High to Suncrest Junior High
- William H. Jones moved from Monongalia High to Morgantown Junior High – and then back to Clarksburg
- Grace Edwards Waters moved from Monongalia High to Morgantown High
Morgantown Women at a Book Event, ca. 1963

Gladys Peyton – one of few African American teachers carried over to integrated schools
Monongalia High School becomes Westover Junior High, then Westover Elementary School, and is now office space.
Left to right: Ruth Barnett, Lennie Wiley, Annette Chandler Broome; Annette is first known African American woman to get undergraduate degree from WVU; entered in fall 1954 and received BS in Home Economics & Nutrition in 1957; John H. Hunt’s granddaughter
Charlene’s Career and “Retirement”
Union Activities

UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

I AM UNION AND I'M PROUD

LiUNA! Feel the Power
Public Service

American Red Cross

VALLEY Healthcare System

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

West Virginia Human Rights Commission
City Council Clean Up Election of 1991, 1st African American Woman Mayor in WV
Signs Deed for Metropolitan Theatre – From Balcony to Stage
Met’s Next Act Begins
Awards and Honors

The West Virginia State Bar