



“whatever is right and proper”

School Integration in West Virginia

A lesson from West Virginia Archives and History (www.wvculture.org/history)

Name _____ Date _____ Class Period _____

Instructions: Read chapter XI Integration in W. W. Trent's *Mountaineer Education: A History of Education in West Virginia 1885-1957* (available on line at: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/education/trent.html>) and answer the following questions.

1. From the authors introduction that describes his family what would you expect his view of integration to be?; What does he say about his views?

2. What did the author say about the African American teachers he supervised? What reason does he give to justify his description?

3. Who was William H. Saunders and what contribution did he make to education in West Virginia?

4. Who was John W. Davis and what happened at West Virginia State under his leadership?

5. When and where was the first free school for African Americans established in West Virginia?

6. What were the four “firsts” that West Virginia accomplished before any other southern state?

1.

2.

3.

4.

7. What other items did the author proudly add to his description?

8. On what date did Governor William C. Marland announce that West Virginia would follow the Supreme Court ruling on the *Brown v. Board of Education* case? How many days had passed before he made his announcement?

9. How did some people respond to the governor's announcement?

10. What happened on June 9, 1954, when the governor and W. W. Trent went to a meeting of southern governors in Richmond?

11. How were West Virginia's colleges progressing toward integration by November 1954?

12. In 1954-55 how many West Virginia counties had:

___ fully integrated;

___ partially integrated;

___ did not have any African American students

___ delayed action on integration

13. When did the West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia State Teachers' Association for Negro Teachers merge?

14. What does the NAACP stand for? What did this organization do to force Greenbrier County to integrate?

15. What happened at Matoaka High School and other local schools when school started in 1956?

16. Why did some African Americans ask for integration to be delayed in the Eastern Panhandle?

17. By what year was school integration mostly completed?