

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 19



Booker T. Washington, Byrd Prillerman and Kelly

Noted educator Byrd Prillerman, one of the founders of West Virginia Colored Institute, was born on October 19, 1859.

CSO: SS.8.25, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Ms84-178)

1. What is Byrd Prillerman praising Governor Glasscock for showing interest in?
2. Prillerman notes that West Virginia was the only southern state to not enact *what* against African Americans?

Think Critically: What was the status of school segregation in **YOUR** county in the Fall of 1954, following *Brown v. Board of Education*? What were the differences between white schools and black schools? Were they truly separate but equal? Can you think of another prominent African American educator besides Prillerman during the early 20th century?

THE WEST VIRGINIA COLORED INSTITUTE
BYRD PRILLERMAN, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

INSTITUTE, WEST VIRGINIA, APRIL 16, 1912.

Governor William E. Glasscock,
Charleston, West Virginia.

My dear Governor:-

I cannot tell you how much I appreciated your visit to this institution yesterday. I am very sure that your most practical address yesterday evening will be productive of much good fruit in the lives of many of the young people who heard you so eagerly. I appreciate the great interest you have in the cause of education in this State, and especially do I appreciate the interest you have shown in the education of my race. I think, also, that neither the colored people nor the white people fully appreciate the unusual racial conditions existing in this State. So far as I have been able to observe, conditions are better here than in any other state in the Union. It is the only southern state in which special legislation has not been enacted against the Negro and it is the only state, north or south, in which special legislation has been enacted in his favor. I especially appreciate what you said in reference to the physical and moral development of the student. In this connection I wish to call your attention to the fact that I think our industrial work here is probably the finest gymnasium ever erected in this State. I would not have you think I underrate Athletics; but I do think that any institution for secondary education that leaves out training of the hand is very deficient. I hope it may be your pleasure to visit this institution early in the fall term, so as to help us start it out right.

Again thanking you for your great interest in us and your

To W. E. G.

4/16/'12.

sympathy for us, I am

Most respectfully yours,

Byrd Prillerman