

# **"Exhibit C"**



Officers:

Ed Siarkowicz, President  
Tonya Gordon, Vice President  
Theresa Owens, Secretary  
Susan Baird, Treasurer

January 26, 2024

Board of Directors:

Susan Baird  
Robert Creal  
James Fiske  
Ashley Gonzalez  
Tonya Gordon  
Claudia Malo  
Theresa Owen  
Ed Siarkowicz  
Preston Zepp

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your inquiry on the George Washington Carver High School and the Carver Gym. Enclosed in this packet is the extent to which we have information on both. The enclosed article, written by historian Randy Jaye, does an excellent job of outlining the history of both.

Executive Administration:  
Fran Anderson

The historical Carver Gym, dating to 1949, has long been a center for community activities and is an important part of Bunnell's history, community outreach, and impact on local youth and their families.

Special Collections Curator  
Tonya Gordon

I'll be adding you to a contact list that we maintain so that if additional information comes in, you'll be notified and can make arrangements to pick up copies to add to your files.

Museum Curator  
Ed Siarkowicz

Don't hesitate to reach out to us for your future research needs.

Preservation Specialist:  
Preston Zepp

Sincerely,

Governance Committee  
Historians Emeriti:

Fran Anderson  
Gloria Deen  
Prunie Wadsworth-Rogers  
Bill Ryan

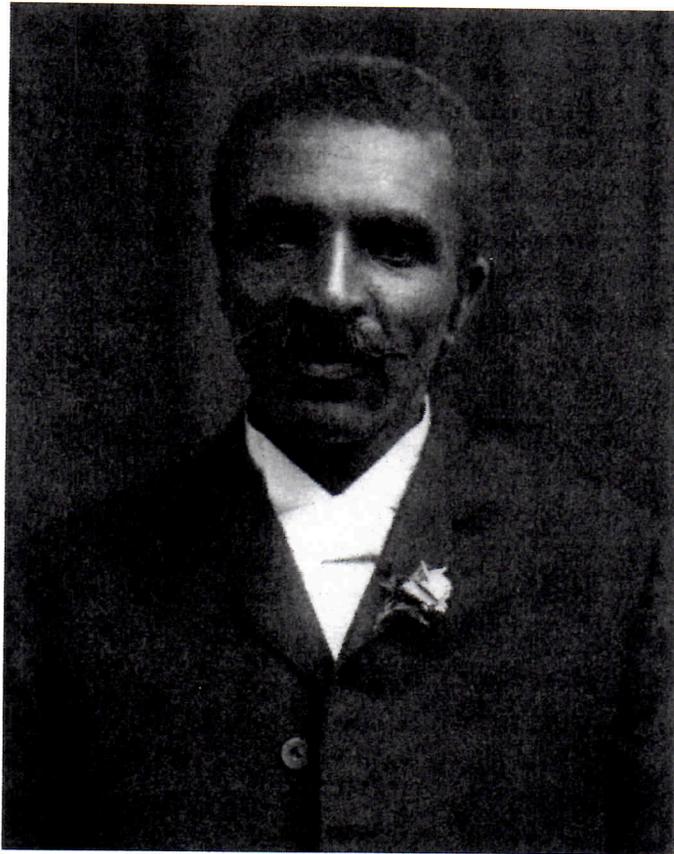
Ed Siarkowicz

President

Board Meetings:  
Fourth Thursday of the  
month on Zoom. Email us  
for the link to join in!

## George Washington Carver High School and “Jim Crow”

By Randy Jaye



*George Washington Carver (circa 1910)*



*George Washington Carver High School, Bunnell, Florida  
(Flagler Tribune - February 27, 1958)*

Prior to the George Washington Carver High School opening in Bunnell, Florida in 1949, Flagler County’s African-American community had no high school to attend. The segregated black “Negro” public schools in Flagler County, prior to 1949, only went through the eighth grade. Although Flagler County had the Bunnell High School (Figure 1), which was in operation from the founding of the county in 1917, it was a segregated ‘White’ public high school and African-Americans were forbidden to attend.

If an African-American child in Flagler County wanted to attend high school, prior to 1949, their best option was to go to Daytona Beach or St. Augustine. However, there was little financial assistance available. The Flagler County African-American children that managed to attend high school outside of the county, prior to 1949, usually stayed with relatives, friends or other African-American families during the school terms.

George Washington Carver High School (Figure 2) operated from 1949 to 1967 as a segregated ‘Negro’ public high school. During this time, Bunnell High School, Flagler County’s segregated ‘White’ public high school, was approximately one mile away but the two schools never “officially” played one another in any team sports. In 1955, the George Washington Carver High School Girls’ basketball team (Figure 3) won a championship playing against other black-only high schools.

### **Jim Crow Laws – the Guise of “Separate but Equal”**

Following the defeat of the Confederate States of America in the American Civil War (1861-1865), the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted on December 18, 1865, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. Despite the fact that African-Americans were free, blatant racial discrimination<sup>1</sup> in all public places took legal hold in all of the former Confederate States (Alabama,

Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and a few other states<sup>2</sup> in the 1870s and 1880s, through what is commonly known as “Jim Crow” laws. The Civil Rights Act of 1875 prohibited racial discrimination in public accommodations, public transportation and prohibited exclusion from jury service. However, local and state officials and lawsuits enabled the Civil Rights Act of 1875 to be mostly unenforced and ignored. This eventually led to the landmark *Plessy v. Ferguson* U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1896 that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation (“Jim Crow” laws) regarding public facilities as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality. This decision is now widely known as the “separate but equal” legal doctrine.

In the former Confederate states Jim Crow laws required African-Americans to attend segregated public schools, use separate public accommodations including drinking fountains, park benches, railroad cars, waiting rooms in railroad stations (Figure 4), lunch counters, bars, theaters and restaurants (separate entrances and seating areas), hotels (Figure 5) and to sit in the back seats when riding on buses. “Colored” and “White” drinking fountains (Figure 6) were once some of the most visible indicators of racial segregation throughout the South. However, there are no pictures or recollections of any Flagler County residents that remember these times that separate “Colored” and “White” drinking fountains ever existing within Flagler County.

### **“Separate but Equal” was Never Equal**

The segregation of races within the same society is inherently unequal treatment of individuals. Segregated schools were certainly not equal as “white” schools received new schoolbooks while “black” schools received a lot of used (and some new). Schoolteachers were typically paid more in “white” schools. School districts tended to spend more money on “white” school facilities, maintenance, services and student

counseling while the “black” schools were notoriously underfunded. Using Flagler County as an example: there was no high school available for blacks from 1917 to 1949 (32 years), but there was for whites during this entire time.

### ***Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka***

On May 17, 1954, a landmark unanimous (9-0) decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruled that state laws that established racial segregation in public schools were unconstitutional (even if segregated schools were equal in quality). The decision stated that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal,” and that they violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, this decision did not lay out any plans to end segregation in public schools.

In 1955, after many schools requested assistance to desegregate the U.S. Supreme Court decided, in the *Brown II* case, that the task of school desegregation was to be administered by district courts who were ordered to desegregate schools “with all deliberate speed.”

Many segregated school districts found the language of the order “with all deliberate speed” to be ambiguous and were able to delay desegregation for many years. Some of the tactics used to delay desegregation were the closing down of schools, the use of state money to finance private segregated schools and the careful selection and enrollment of a few black children into former white-only schools while most blacks remained in segregated and underfunded black-only schools within those particular school districts.

The *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision certainly was the beginning to the end of racial segregated public schools and was a major victory for Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

## Civil Rights Act of 1964

Many regard the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to be the most important Civil Rights legislation in the history of the United States. It outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also prohibits unequal application of voter registration requirements, and racial segregation in schools, employment and public accommodations. Soon after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, the federal government started to expedite the desegregation of public schools.

In Flagler County, the black-only George Washington Carver High School closed after the 1967 school year (13 years after the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision). Black high school students were integrated with white students at Bunnell High School, which was formally a white-only school. From the 1968 through the 1970 school year Bunnell High School served as the only high school in Flagler County. During the summer of 1970, a fire damaged the Bunnell High School building, which forced its closure.

The George Washington Carver High School (building) re-opened for the 1971 school year and all of Flagler County’s high school students, black and white, attended school here (Figure 7) until the end of the 1974 school year. However, the George Washington Carver High School’s name was changed to Bunnell High School from 1971 through 1974.

In 1974, the Flagler/Palm Coast High School was completed and the George Washington Carver High School building (now named Bunnell High School) was closed, and would not open as a high school ever again.

However, the Flagler County School District was placed under a Federal court order to desegregate its elementary schools, which finally happened in the early 1970s.

## **Gains, and Losses, with Pubic School Integration**

During the struggle for Civil Rights, for every step forward there has been a step, or steps, backwards as well. The integration of public schools was no different as there has been both positive and negative repercussions.

Research indicates many positive results (gains) from integrated schools including: students have more equitable access to resources, are less likely to drop out, an enhancement of leadership skills, encouragement of critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity, and students are more likely to enroll in college.

Some of the negative results (losses) from integrated schools include the termination of many respected, talented and community-oriented black schoolteachers when black-only schools were closed, the decline of black community support and participation in integrated schools and the flight of white families from cities to the suburbs to avoid forced integration.

In Flagler County, when the George Washington Carver High School closed and all black students were transferred to the former white-only Bunnell High School sports teams were quickly integrated. But, the black community lost their respected high school band (Figure 8), school colors, mascot (tiger), traditional school songs, uniforms and marching routines. Many black high school teachers were terminated and not offered jobs elsewhere in the Flagler County School District. Black community support and participation in the integrated Bunnell High School was far less than it was at the black-only George Washington Carver High School, which distanced some black families from their local educational system.

### **George Washington Carver Community Center**

After the George Washington Carver School buildings closed in 1974, deterioration and vandalism plagued the structures for the next several years. The gymnasium building was used as a community recreation center starting in 1975 so it was minimally maintained. Around 1980, against the wishes of Flagler County’s black community, all the George Washington Carver School buildings (except the gymnasium) were demolished. The razing of the George Washington Carver School buildings was a significant loss to the retention of black history in Flagler County.

In 2010, the Flagler County Commissioners threatened to close the George Washington Carver School gymnasium (which would have most likely led to its demolition). But, a community mobilization effort led to the establishment of the George Washington Community Center facility [which is the former George Washington Carver School gymnasium] and is owned by Flagler County, and the George Washington Carver Foundation (which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which works to raise money and grant funding to support the facility).

The George Washington Community Center (Figures 9 & 10) is located at 201 E Drain St, Bunnell, FL 32110. This facility offers community training (including a GED program), recreation and athletics. Currently, its operational hours are Monday - Friday 9:00am - 7:00pm, and the Open Gym hours are Monday - Friday 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

### **Brief Biography of George Washington Carver**

George Washington Carver was born an African-American slave on a farm near Diamond, Missouri sometime in 1864. Moses and Susan Carver, a white farming family, raised George and his brother James and taught them to read and write.

Carver was frail as a child and could not do farm work, so he was taught to sew, cook, embroider, garden, produce herbal medicines and other domestic duties. He soon developed an interest, and skills, related to increasing garden and plant health with the use of natural pesticides, soil conditioners and fungicides. Local farmers started referring to him as “the plant doctor” as he helped them improve their crop yields.

### **George Washington Carver’s Education**

Carver moved to Neosho, Missouri at age 11 to attend an all-black school where he lived with Andrew and Mariah Watkins, a childless African-American couple, who he helped with household duties. Mariah was a midwife who taught Carver about medicinal herbs. At age 13, Carver moved to Kansas to pursue a better education. He survived by earning money performing domestic duties and was able to graduate from the Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, Kansas in 1880. He then applied to the all-white Highland College in Kansas and was initially accepted, but later rejected when the college’s administration learned he was black. Disappointed and frustrated, Carver did not pursue higher education until the late 1880s.

In the late 1880s, Carver was encouraged by a white family named Milholland to enroll at Simpson College (a Methodist liberal arts college that admitted all qualified students) in Indianola, Iowa. He began studying art and piano in pursuit of a teaching career, but an astute professor, Etta Budd, encouraged him to study botany because of his interests and skills with plants and flowers.

Carver was accepted at the Iowa State Agricultural School (now Iowa State University), and in 1894 became the first African-American to earn a Bachelor of Science degree at the school. Several professors recognized Carver’s talents and

were especially impressed with his research on the fungal infections of soybean plants, and encouraged him to stay at the school and pursue a graduate degree.

In 1896, Carver earned a Master of Agriculture degree at the Iowa State Agricultural School and received a teaching offer from Booker T. Washington<sup>3</sup> at the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. He was instrumental in establishing an agricultural school at the Tuskegee Institute and worked here as an agricultural scientist, teacher and inventor for the rest of his life.

One of Carver’s most important contributions was his idea of crop rotation. He discovered that growing cotton for many years led to the loss of soil nutrients and caused poor crop yields. He advocated the growing of nitrogen-fixing plants such as sweet potatoes, soybeans and peanuts to increase crop yields when the land was reverted to cotton after a few years.

### **“The Peanut Man”**

Contrary to popular belief, Carver did not invent peanut butter as many stories state. However, some of his most notable accomplishments and inventions were peanut-related. He developed over 300 commercial, industrial and food products from peanuts including wood stains, various cosmetics, punches, Worcestershire sauce, cooking oils, paper, milk and soaps. Although some of his peanut-related developments found widespread usages, many others did not.

In 1921, the peanut industry was seeking tariff protection and Carver appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives, Ways and Means Committee, to give testimony regarding the wide range of products that derive from peanuts. He received a standing ovation and convinced the committee to approve tariff protection for peanuts. The label of “The Peanut Man” has been associated with him ever since.

### **George Washington Carver’s Legacy**

Carver’s celebrity allowed him to promote racial harmony by traveling around the South. He also volunteered to train and help poor farmers on better agricultural technics to increase their crop yields. He traveled to India to discuss nutrition in the developing world with Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi<sup>4</sup>.

From 1898 to 1943, Carver released bulletins for public use, which reported on technical research findings. Additionally, these bulletins included practical applications about cultivation information for farmers, science for teachers and recipes for homemakers.

On January 5, 1943, Carver died at the Tuskegee Institute.

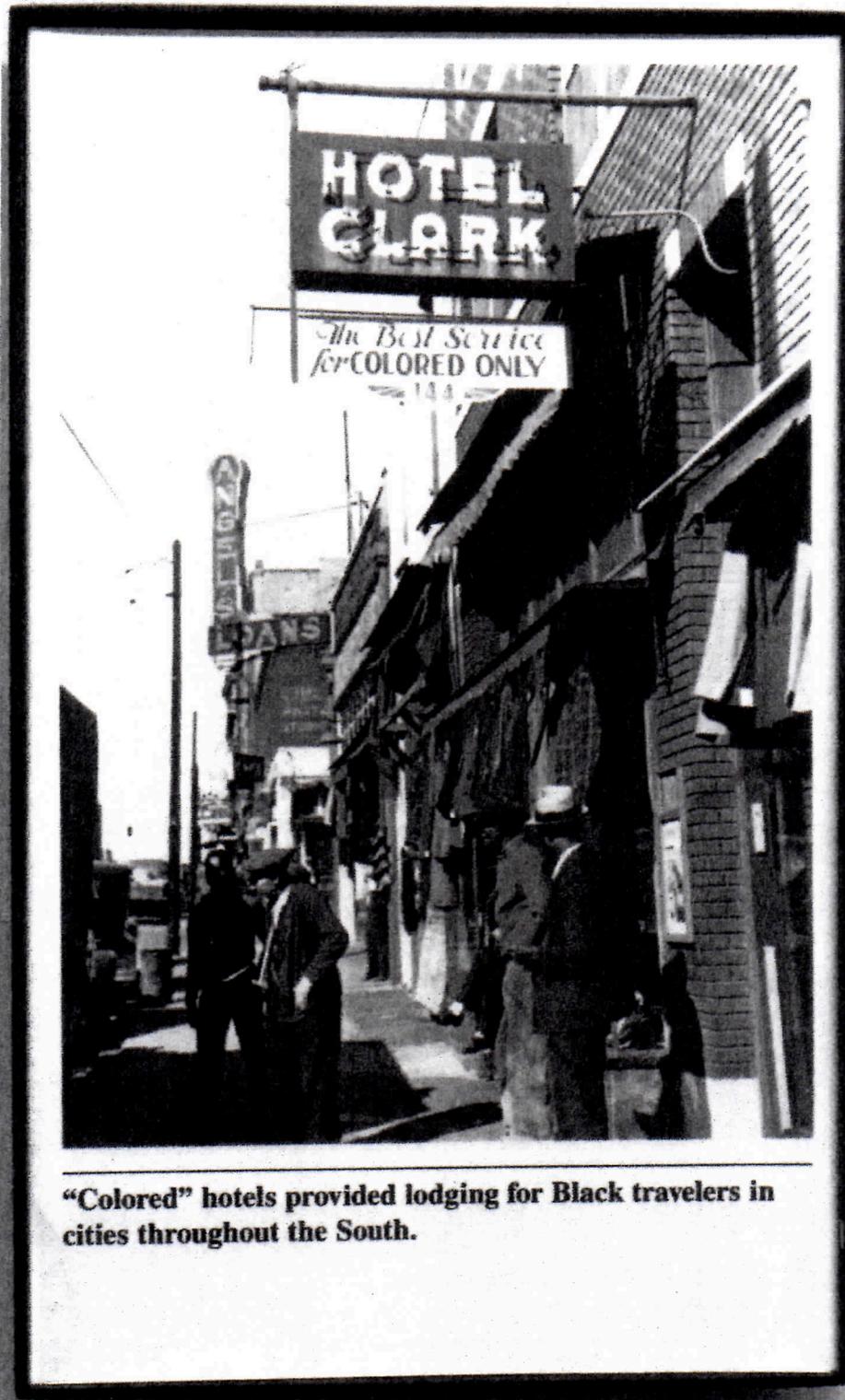
President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation to honor Carver with a National Monument. The George Washington Carver National Monument (Figure 11) is located in Diamond, Missouri.

Other honors include: The George Washington Carver Museum at the Tuskegee Institute (dedicated in 1941), the Liberty ship *SS George Washington Carver* (launched in 1943), the USPS 3 cent postage stamp (Figure 12) (released in 1948), the ballistic missile submarine *USS George Washington Carver* (launched in 1965), the USPS 32 cent postage stamp (released in 1998) and his induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (1990).

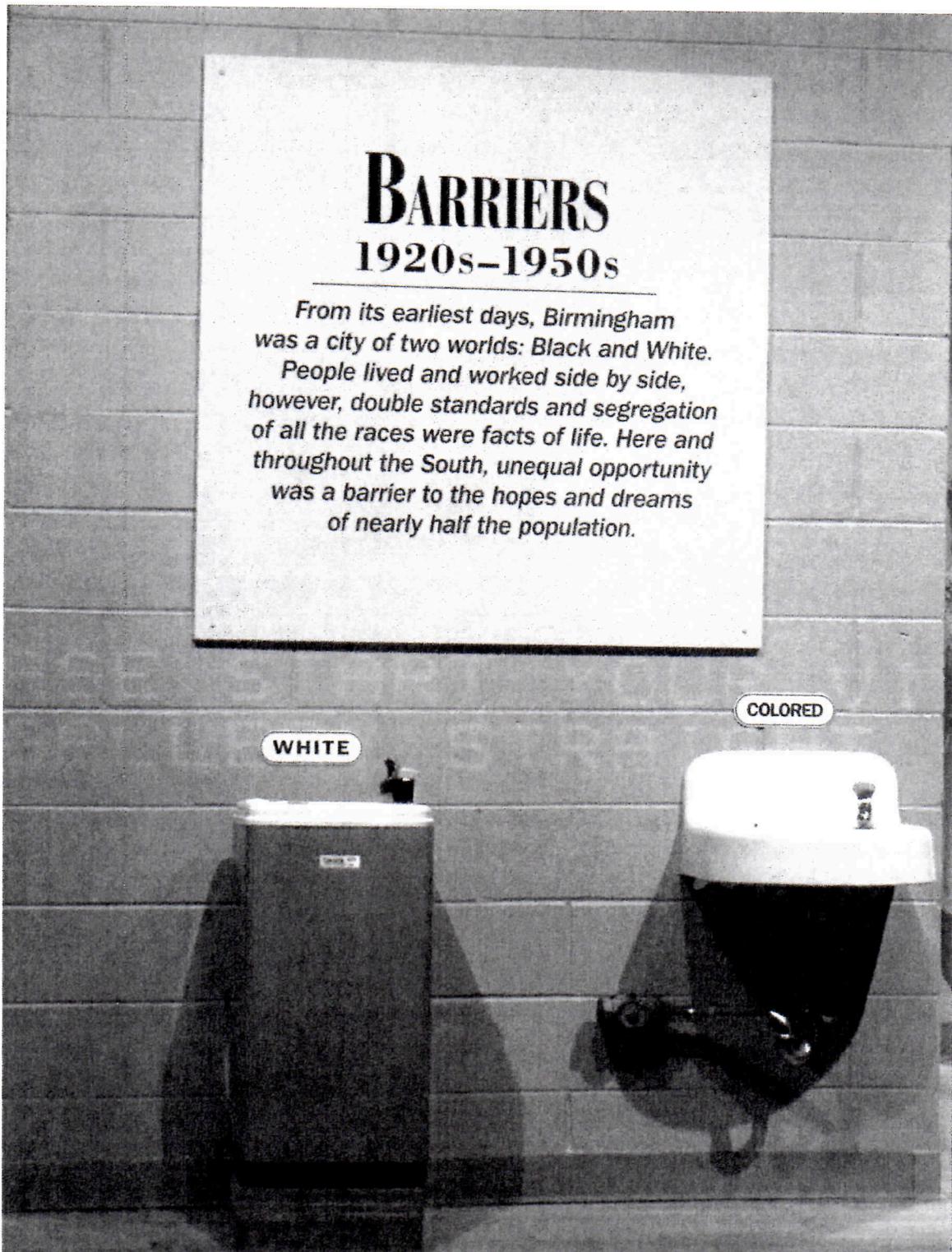
### **About the Author**

Randy Jaye is an independent historian who has written numerous articles for various journals and historical organizations, and has successfully nominated several properties, which have been added onto the National Register of Historic Places. He wrote the book: *Flagler County, Florida: A Centennial History* (published in 2017).

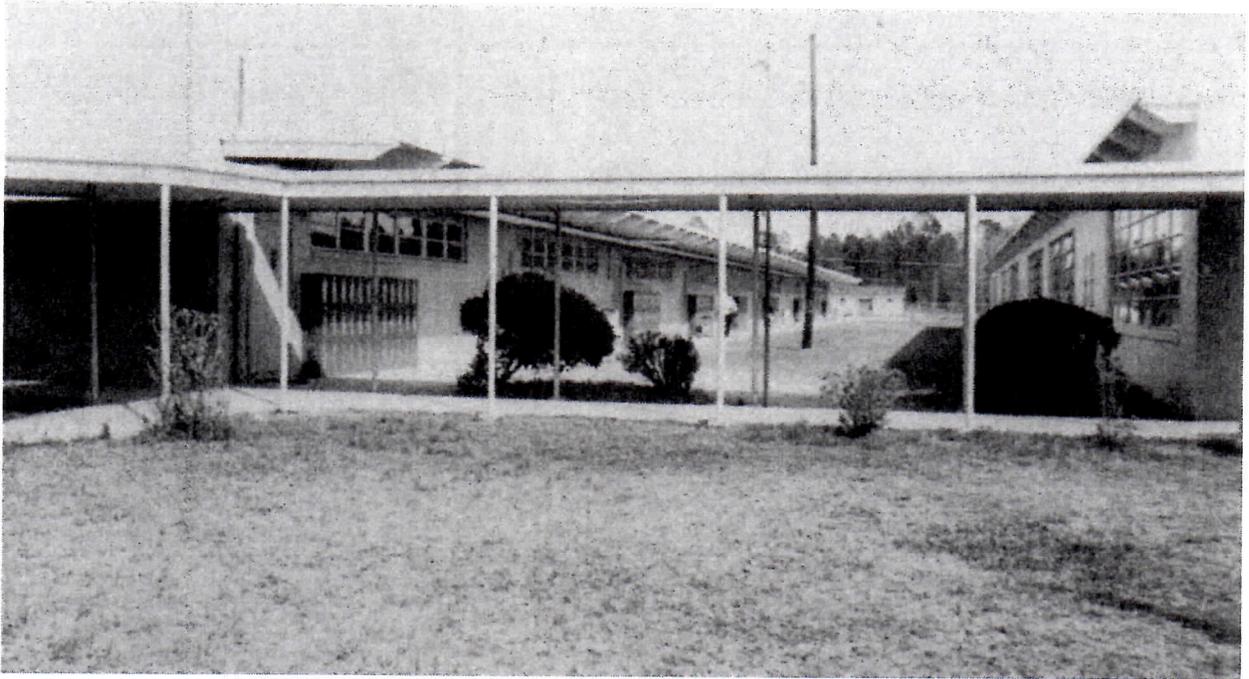
He earned both a Master degree and a Bachelor degree at the California State University. A career in business systems consulting provides him with extensive travel opportunities all around the United States and to various foreign countries where he has been fortunate to meet many fascinating people. During these travels, he always makes the time to visit, document and photograph local historic, interesting and scenic sites. Currently, he lives in Flagler Beach, Florida and can be contacted at the following email address: [randyjaye@gmail.com](mailto:randyjaye@gmail.com)



*Figure 5 – “Colored” hotels provided lodging for Black travelers in cities throughout the South during the “Jim Crow” era. Exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. Photographed by Randy Jaye (February 2019).*



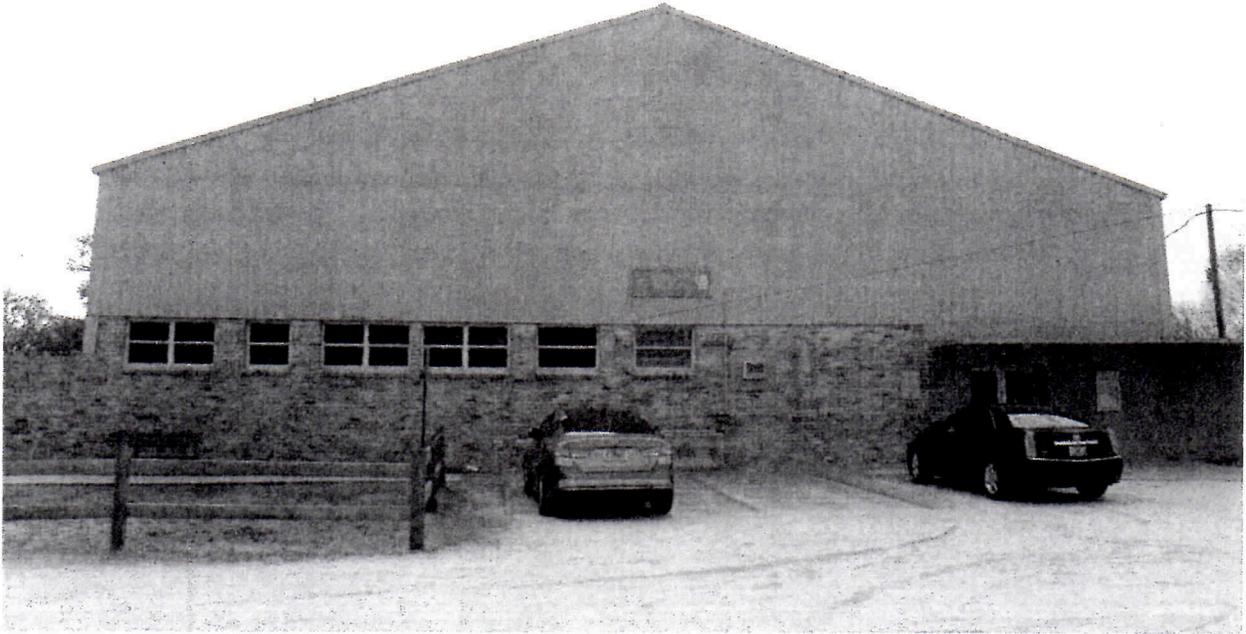
*Figure 6 – “White” and “Colored” public drinking fountains. Exhibit at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. Photographed by Randy Jaye (February 2019).*



*Figure 7 – View of the Bunnell High School campus (formerly the George Washington Carver High School campus) – circa 1971. (These buildings are no longer extant). Source: Flagler County Historical Society.*



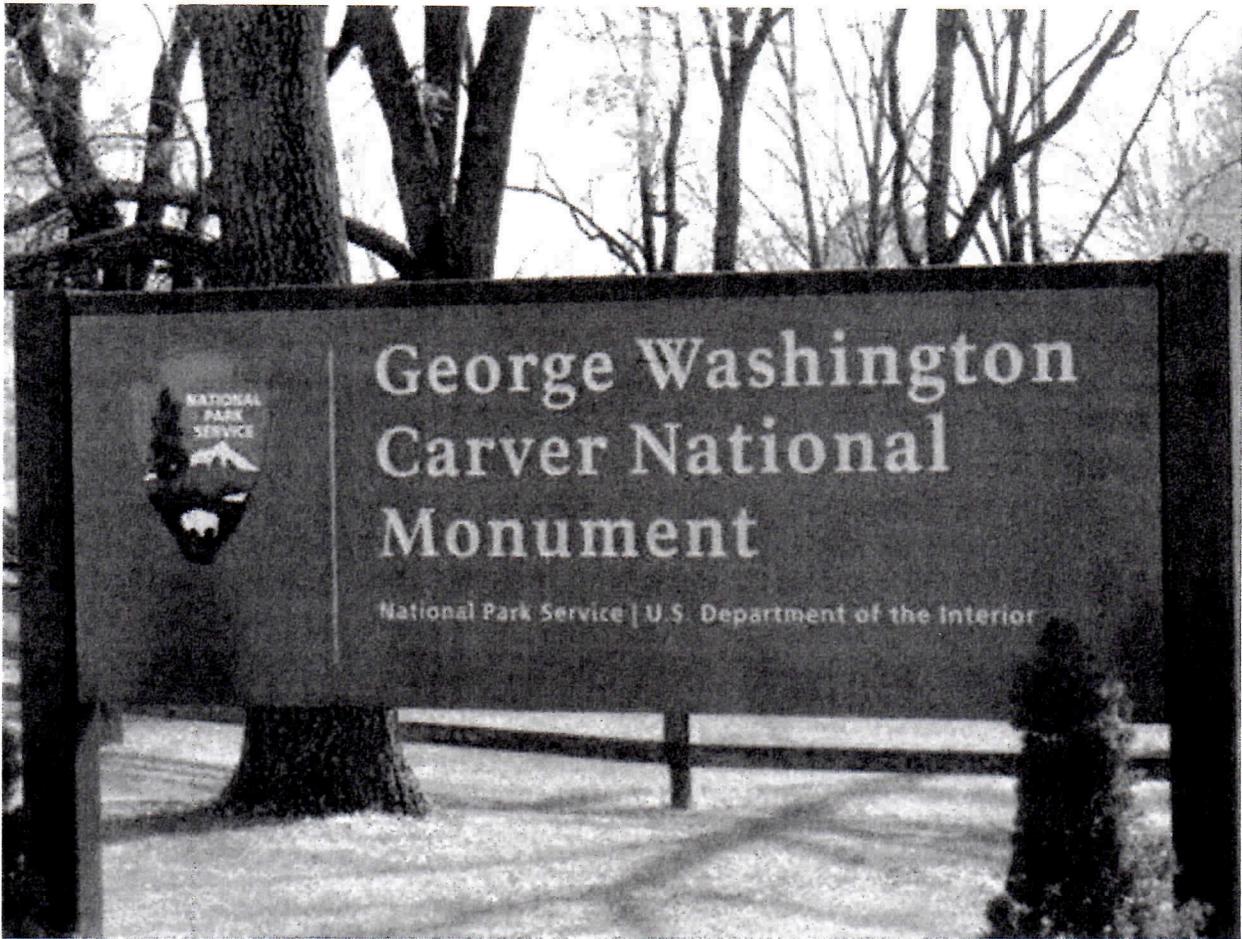
*Figure 8 – The George Washington Carver High School Marching Band. (The building behind the band members is no longer extant). Exhibit at the G.W. Carver Center in Bunnell, Florida. Photographed by Randy Jaye (January 2019).*



*Figure 9 – The George Washington Carver Community Center in Bunnell, Florida – exterior view. Photographed by Randy Jaye (January 2019).*



*Figure 10 – The George Washington Carver Community Center in Bunnell, Florida – interior view. Photographed by Randy Jaye (January 2019).*



*Figure 11 - George Washington Carver National Monument, Diamond, Missouri*  
*Source: National Park Service.*



*Figure 12 – Dr. George Washington Carver – 3 cent United States Postage Stamp (released in 1948). Source: United States Postal Service.*

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> **Racial discrimination** is prejudice, biased or abusive behavior towards members of another race.

<sup>2</sup> From 1877 to 1954 segregation in public schools was mandatory in all of the former states of the Confederacy and the states of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland. It was optional in the states of New Mexico, Kansas and Wyoming.

<sup>3</sup> **Booker Taliaferro Washington** (c. 1856-1915) was born into slavery and became a dominant leader in the African-American community. He was an educator, author, orator and advisor to several presidents of the United States.

<sup>4</sup> **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** (1896-1948) was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and advocate for nonviolent resistance. He led a successful campaign for India’s independence from Great Britain, which inspired civil rights and freedom movements around the world.

## Bibliography

- Bids Up For Carver School Construction. *Flagler Tribune*. April 25, 1957.
- Carver High School to Close in September. *Flagler Tribune*. March 2, 1967.
- Carver School Band in Orange Blossom Classic. *Flagler Tribune*. December 7, 1961.
- Chiles, Nick. 5 Special Things Black People Lost When Schools Were Integrated After Brown v. Board of Education Decision. *Atlanta Black Star*. November 25, 2014, <https://atlantablackstar.com/2014/11/25/5-special-things-black-people-lost-when-schools-were-integrated-after-brown-v-board-of-education-decision/>
- Emanuel, Eli. Personal Interview. September 18, 2019.
- George Washington Carver Community Center. Website Homepage. <http://gwcарvercenter.com/carver/home?page=1>
- Giddens, Frank Rev. Personal Interview. July 20, 2019.
- Holland, Mary Ketus Deen. *Bunnell High School 1917-1967, Bunnell, Flagler County, Florida*. Flagler County Historical Society, 1992.
- How Race and Deception Are Cleaving the Fate of Bunnell's Carver Gym. *FlaglerLive*. June 22, 2010, <https://flaglerlive.com/6734/bunnell-carver-gym/>
- Hoye, Megan. A tale of two high schools. *Palm Coast Observer*. February 23, 2013, <https://www.palmcoastobserver.com/article/tale-two-high-schools>
- Petition Board to Re-Open Carver High. *Flagler Tribune*. August 24, 1967.
- Plans for Carver Gym Approved by State Board. *Flagler Tribune*. April 23, 1964.
- Revels, Barbara. Why the Carver Center matters. *Palm Coast Observer*. May 2, 2017, <https://www.palmcoastobserver.com/article/why-the-carver-center-matters>
- Saving Carver Gym: Breakthrough In Sight, Barbara Revels Battles One Last Obstacle. *FlaglerLive*. February 17, 2011, <https://flaglerlive.com/18061/carver-gym-revels/>
- School Board to Proceed on Carver Gym. *Flagler Tribune*. April 8, 1965.
- School Board Votes Not to Open Carver. *Flagler Tribune*. August 31, 1967.
- School Segregation and Integration*. Library of Congress – Civil Rights History Project. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-rights-history-project/articles-and-essays/school-segregation-and-integration/>, Accessed July 28, 2019.
- The Benefits of Socioeconomically and Racially Integrated Schools and Classrooms*. The Century Foundation. April 29, 2019. <https://tcf.org/content/facts/the-benefits-of-socioeconomically-and-racially-integrated-schools-and-classrooms/?session=1>
- Woodward, C. Vann. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1974.