

# 2022 MRSPT NEWSLETTER

## *Greetings and Best Wishes for 2023*

The “new normal” that most of us have now come to accept as just “normal” finds many of us still contemplating which of the adjustments we made and protocols we practiced over the past couple of years will remain a permanent part of our everyday lives. As debates continue over such issues as masking and social distancing, MRSPT, like many other organizations, seeks to balance risk versus reward in planning activities--a challenge that we take seriously when considering how to safely and effectively share the Military Road School’s story.

While those of you who previously attended and participated in MRSPT’s events over the years are aware that the majority of them were held in person, we are thankful that some have been able to continue by utilizing virtual platforms; and we very much appreciate all of the support this organization received that made 2022 another year of finishing well!

This Newsletter will share MRSPT’s activities during 2022. It will also acknowledge the loss of four long-time supporters who, throughout the 25 years we have existed, all championed this organization’s mission to collect, preserve and share the Military Road School’s rich history and its renowned reputation for educational excellence. If you would like a glimpse of the elements on which District of Columbia public school students were graded when the Military Road School closed in 1954, an actual report card can be viewed on page 3 of this Newsletter.

One avenue by which we promote educational excellence is through the Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides qualified local students pursuing a college degree with financial awards to assist them with education-related expenses. Because MRSPT does not engage in fundraising, these scholarships are funded entirely through your donations, which are tax deductible. Accordingly, our Board and all award recipients are extremely grateful for your support!

Finally, we shall do our best to stay in touch by informing you of MRSPT’s programs, those in which we participate, and others that may be of interest. You are also encouraged to visit our website, [mrspt.org](http://mrspt.org), periodically for possible updates about our activities as well as for information about contacting us directly.

## **Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Awards**

A virtual Scholarship Reception was held on December 29th for William Morton, Alexander O’Sullivan, and Dennis Tsitsiwu, who each received a scholarship through the Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Fund for the 2022-2023 school year. Supporters, whose contributions have made it possible for MRSPT to offer these scholarships, had an opportunity to meet and encourage the students in their studies. Award recipients also talked about their fields of study, as well as their goals and accomplishments. Once again, we thank you for making these awards possible; and please continue to invest in the futures of other deserving students!

## **Lincoln-Thomas Day September 17<sup>th</sup>**

With the support of the National Park Service, MRSPT celebrated the unlikely but historically significant Civil War-related alliance between a President and an ordinary citizen at the Fort Stevens Battlefield. We were pleased to have the local chapter of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs attend and participate in this 98th Anniversary observance, which was established by the National Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs of America (NFCWCA) to honor President Abraham Lincoln and Brightwood resident Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor Thomas. First observed nationally on September 22, 1924, the 2022 commemorative program’s participants included the **Army JROTC of Calvin Coolidge Senior High School**, the **Montgomery Blair High School Chamber Choir**, **Rev. Aubrey Lewis**, *Pastor, St. Luke Baptist Church*, **Rev. Pawel Sass**, *Pastor, Nativity Catholic Church*, **Civil War Reenactors**, and **Mr. Asa Gordon**, who gave the keynote address. In addition to special greetings from **Ward 4 Council Member Janeese Lewis George**, *NPS Civil War Defenses of Washington Program Manager*, **Kym Elder**, *Temple Sinai, Washington, DC representative* **Matthew Frumin** and *NACWC’s Acting President*, **Dr. Sheryl Lucas Giles**, there was also a wreath-laying ceremony and special acknowledgement of the contributions of both President Lincoln and Mrs. Thomas by MRSPT’s **Peter Kissel**.

Special thanks to those of you who attended and participated in this event, but if you didn’t make it, you can view some of the photos on page 4; and mark your calendar to join us for the 99th Anniversary celebration on **Saturday, September 16, 2023**. We are also looking forward to the 100th Anniversary observance in 2024!

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## Fort Stevens Day July 16th



Board members Peter Kissel and Lisa Leone greeted visitors commemorating the 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens, sponsored by the National Park Service and the Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington.

Having been established in 1864 during the Civil War in a deserted army barracks within the Fort's gaze, the Military Road School enjoys a special connection with Fort Stevens. Eddie O'Connell (pictured with Peter) was among those visiting MRSPT's exhibit table who appreciated learning about the School as well as our mission to preserve its history and share its rich legacy.

## MRSPT's Annual Meeting

Some of you have volunteered to perform many essential tasks as individuals or as members of special committees; and your service is key to the success of MRSPT's operations, programs, and events like those highlighted in this Newsletter. Additionally, your tax-deductible contributions demonstrate the type of investment which is viewed as an indication that you may also wish to assume a more active role in MRSPT. Accordingly, prior to as well as during MRSPT's 2022 Annual Meeting held virtually on October 23rd, all financial supporters were invited to consider serving as an officer. However, because none expressed an interest in doing so, all current officers and Board members consented to continue serving in their positions for 2023.

## Mapping Segregation in Washington DC Updates

Prologue DC historians Mara Cherkasky and Sarah Jane Shoenfeld successfully completed the final portion of their **Mapping Segregation in Washington DC – Ward 4** project for which MRSPT served as the non-profit organization applying for a grant funded by the DC Preservation League. This project involved the research and mapping of all Ward 4 squares west of Rock Creek Park. Almost half of the previously unmappable lots were corrected and mapped, at [mappingsegregationdc.org](http://mappingsegregationdc.org); and they were able to successfully add 950 new lots, for a total of 23,597 covenants mapped overall. In late 2022 they began rebuilding the covenants map because the software used to power the original map no longer had all the necessary functions. The new map will be unveiled in mid-February 2023, along with a new story map on

Washington's early houses of worship. This has been a very extensive venture for both historians over the past several years, and they have won several awards for their excellent work. MRSPT has been privileged to work with Prologue DC throughout that project; and if you have not already done so, please visit their website [www.mappingsegregationdc.org](http://www.mappingsegregationdc.org). A link to it is also accessible at [www.mrspt.org](http://www.mrspt.org) under "About Us."

## Thanks for the Memories.....



From MRSPT'S beginning as the Military Road School Alumni Association in 1997, Mrs. Doris Tracy Taylor, who started her teaching career at the Military Road School in 1952, played a vital and unprecedented role in our accomplishments. Her ultimate decision to retire in early 2022 before succumbing to a brief illness speaks volumes about Mrs. Taylor's devotion as an educator; but the unwavering encouragement she and her husband, Lurdest, gave us and their overwhelming generosity are immeasurable gifts for which we are extremely grateful.



Mrs. Beatrice Liggins, who attended the Military Road School, blessed our organization in many ways; and we are especially grateful for the musical selections she rendered at so many of our events until family obligations and illness eventually prevented her from singing.



Mr. Henry Washington was the last of several siblings who were former Military Road School Students. They were all active supporters of our mission over the years; and each left a memorable legacy of service.



Although Mrs. Ramona Gross did not attend the Military Road School, she faithfully supported our organization from its inception on behalf of her husband, Albert. Besides her generous financial contributions, Mrs. Gross provided essential transportation to our Annual Prayer breakfasts for former Military Road students Mrs. Dorothy Dickerson and Mrs. Mary Lancaster until she experienced physical limitations.

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**Yes, I want to help preserve the  
Military Road School Legacy!**



- Enclosed is my gift of:     \$15  
 \$25     \$50     \$75  
 \$100     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Military Road School Preservation Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the  
Military Road School Preservation Trust  
and mail to:



www.mrspt.org

Military Road School Preservation Trust  
PO Box 56425 . Washington, DC 20040-6425

Phone: 202-241-7276 ~ 202-577-6956

[www.mrspt.org](http://www.mrspt.org)

We believe that education is life, growth, a social process, a continuous reconstruction of experience. We believe that the child learns best through his personal experiences and activities and that he must be thought of as a unit—mind, body, and spirit.

Some of the habits, attitudes, and appreciations, which the school considers important, may be expressed by the child in his daily living in the following ways:

*As an individual:*

- Completes a task begun.
- Uses time and materials wisely.
- Works to the best of his ability.
- Works neatly and accurately.
- Works independently without disturbing others.
- Claims only his own share of attention.
- Shows initiative and thinks for himself.
- Cares for his own property and that of others.
- Acts promptly at all times.
- Obeys rules and regulations.
- Accepts responsibility for his own acts.
- Has a desire and willingness to improve.
- Practices self control.
- Appreciates advantages and opportunities offered by school and home.
- Respects public property.
- Observes safety rules.
- Learns and applies necessary health rules such as:
  - Eating wholesome foods including milk, fruit, and green vegetables.
  - Sleeping ten hours with windows open.
  - Keeping body clean including teeth and nails.
  - Playing out of doors.
  - Being pleasant, cheerful, and helpful to others.
- Protects the health of others.
- Shows confidence in his home and school as working together for his good.
- Appreciates and tries to express beauty in the arts including music and handwork.

*As a member of the group:*

- Works and plays well with others.
- Respects others and considers their contributions.
- Helps to plan.
- Accepts and gives helpful suggestions.
- Makes worthwhile contributions.
- Listens while others are speaking.
- Assumes and carries through his share of work.
- Has a courteous and friendly manner.

Military Road School Report Card (1952)

|   | FIRST REPORT         |                       |                        | SECOND REPORT        |                       |                        |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|   | Outstanding progress | Satisfactory progress | Needs much improvement | Outstanding progress | Satisfactory progress | Needs much improvement |
| <b>Reading:</b>   |                      |                       |                        |                      |                       |                        |
| Understands what he reads                               | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Reads independently                                     | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Reads well to others                                    | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Enjoys reading good books                               | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Shows growth in the use of new words                    | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| <b>English:</b>   |                      |                       |                        |                      |                       |                        |
| Expresses ideas well orally                             | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Speaks clearly and distinctly                           | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Expresses ideas well in writing                         | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Shows originality                                       | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Uses correct forms in writing                           | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Spells correctly  | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| <b>Social Studies: History, Geography, and Science.</b> |                      |                       |                        |                      |                       |                        |
| Contributes intelligently to group discussions          | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Uses reference material wisely                          | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Has fund of accurate information                        | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Bases conclusions on facts                              | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| <b>Arithmetic:</b>                                      |                      |                       |                        |                      |                       |                        |
| Knows number facts                                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Shows reasoning ability                                 | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Works accurately  | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| <b>Handwriting:</b>                                     |                      |                       |                        |                      |                       |                        |
| Writes legibly and with ease                            | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |
| Strives to write well at all times                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      | ✓                    | ✓                     | ✓                      |

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## *Lincoln – Thomas Day ~ Fort Stevens Battlefield*



*Ward 4 DC Council Member Janeese Lewis George*



*Calvin Coolidge H.S. JROTC*



*Keynote Speaker Asa Gordon*



*Montgomery Blair H.S. Chamber Choir*



*NPS Ranger Kym Elder &  
Reenactor Bernie Siler*



*National Association of Colored Women's Clubs*

***See you September 16, 2023!***

*Photos courtesy of A K Cole Photography*