

**Professor Theodore Delaney (Assoc. Prof. History, Washington & Lee)
Oral History Questionnaire
Presented at the 2013 Teaching with Historic Places Workshop
Sweet Briar College**

Background/Biographical Information

- Name (full name, nick names)?
- When were you born, where, to whom?
- Where did you grow up (city, county, neighborhood, etc.)? How would you describe the composition of your neighborhood? (i.e., were there people of significantly different wealth levels? Of different ethnic/racial groups?)
- Provide context or background information about your parents or other family? (What did they do for a living? Were they long-time residents of the area or had they recently moved in?)

Early School Experiences

- What schools did you attend (name of schools, where, when, in what grades)?
- Describe the facilities, equipment, desks, etc. available to students.
- Subjects studied?
- Memorable teachers? Why are they memorable?
- Student body: how large? From your local neighborhood or wider area? How would you describe the composition of the student body? (e.g., were they mostly farmers' children? Roughly equal numbers of boys and girls? From households with similar or varied resources/income?)

Other School-Related Experiences

- How many years did you attend school (through what grade)? Other schools attended (e.g., high school, trade schools, college, etc.)
- What did you do after leaving school (in terms of work and/or family)?
- Did you have other relationships to the school system, for example, becoming a teacher, administrator or parent?
- What was your relationship to the school system at the time of *Brown*? At the time of desegregation?
- Do you remember any significant changes to any of the area schools while you were a student, teacher, administrator, or parent?

Desegregation

- What are your earliest memories about the *Brown* decision and/or desegregation?
- If you were a child at the time, what did you hear at the time from adults (parents, teachers, etc.) about desegregation?
- Was there a lot of talk among students/children about desegregation once they knew it was a possibility? What were some of their sentiments?
- If you were an adult at the time of the *Brown* decision, how did you initially react? Did your view of the decision and of desegregation change over time? If so, how and why?
- How would you describe the years intervening between the *Brown* decision and the implementation of desegregation?
- How would you describe the first years of integration itself in your own experience? Did your experience mirror or differ from the experiences of others you knew (other students, teachers, or administrators)? How?
- Did school administrators and teacher do an adequate job of preparing students and parents for desegregation?
- What were some of the effects of desegregation as you experienced it? Did it change your employment status or prospects for employment? Did you personally change schools? Did the quality of the school change in your opinion (with respect to curriculum, equipment, etc.)? Did integration affect your post-high school opportunities? If so, how? Is there anything else you'd like to add about your experiences with desegregation?