

A Guide to the Comparison of Private versus Public Education in Rockingham County, Virginia Oral Histories, 1992 SdArch 0012

Comparison of private versus public education in Rockingham County, Virginia oral histories
1992



Title Statement

A Guide to the Comparison of Private versus Public Education in Rockingham County, Virginia Oral Histories, 1992 SdArch 0012

Author: JMU Libraries catalog staff

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



1999

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-17 07:02:07 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SdArch 0012

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/600

Unit Date

1992

Language

English

Abstract

The Comparison of Private versus Public Education in Rockingham County, Virginia, Oral Histories, 1992 is comprised of background paper, audio recordings and transcripts, associated with two interviews with individuals discussing their experiences with education in the Shenandoah Valley, from the 1920s-1970s.

source

Smith, Andrea

Extent

0.2 cubic feet 3 folders, 3 audiocassettes, 3 cds

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Access to oral histories is governed by agreements with the narrators. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Donated by Andrea Smith, December 12, 1992.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Comparison of Private versus Public Education in Rockingham County, Virginia, Oral Histories, 1992, SdArch 0012, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Andrea Smith, an undergraduate student at James Madison University, conducted these interviews in fulfillment of a JMU student internship, during the Fall of 1992.

Scope and Content

Comparison of Private versus Public Education in Rockingham County, Virginia, Oral Histories, 1992 is comprised of background paper, audio recordings and transcripts, associated with two interviews with individuals discussing their experiences with education in the Shenandoah Valley from the 1920s-1070s.

Keywords

Schools -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
Rural schools -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
Private schools -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
Home schooling -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History -- 20th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History -- 18th century
Education, Elementary -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Education, Elementary -- Curricula -- History
Education, Secondary -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Education -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
oral histories (literary works)
Smith, Andrea

Arrangement

Items are arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Project Description and Background Paper

Unit ID 12-1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18524

Unit Date December 9, 1992

Mixed Materials [1000898333] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This monograph provides a short history of education in the state of Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, and in particular, Rockingham County, Va. Compares and contrasts the types of education available for affluent and less affluent families, in the form of private and public education. Reviews how private education began through tutoring and academies and quotes from the writings of Major R. Grattan (d. 1849), of Rockingham County. Briefly records the history of public education, beginning with Thomas Jefferson and including the efforts of Henry Ruffner who first proposed a state-wide public school system based on districts (1845; similar plan adopted in 1870). Mentions education of Afro-Americans and segregation. Records school figures (buildings, numbers of students), various rules of attendance and typical curricula for the five districts of Rockingham County beginning in the 1870s through the 1950s. Compares education in urban and rural settings with mention of types of school buildings (including the use of one-room schools), and changes towards consolidation. Accompanies interviews of two ladies and their reminiscences of educational opportunities growing up during the 1920s, one as a member of a prominent family and the other who later became a school teacher and supervisor in the Rockingham County school system. The project summary, based on the interviews, determined that while private education was viewed as being more favorable than public education, they were in many ways comparable.

Margaret Grattan Weaver interviewed by Andrea Smith

Unit ID 12-2

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18525

Unit Date October 23, 1992

Mixed Materials SA0012-SET-001 (network storage)

Creator Weaver, Margaret Grattan, 1905-2001

Creator Smith, Andrea

Conditions Governing Access

Audio and transcript are open for research.

Use Restrictions

Copyright interests have been transferred to Carrier Library.

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Grattan Weaver, member of a prominent Rockingham County, Va. family. Discusses education issues in general and the history of local private education in particular, especially in reference to her own family, beginning with her great grandfather, Major Robert Grattan (founder of Hood College, Md.). Mentions the old schoolhouse located behind the main house on the farm and the system of private tutoring. Talks about various local preparatory and finishing schools, military academies and colleges (Stribling Spring School, McGaheysville; one at Mossy Creek and Harrisonburg; West Central Academy, Mt. Clinton; Augusta Military Academy; Shenandoah Institute, Dayton; Woodberry Forest; Stuart Hall, Staunton; Hollins College; Harrisonburg High School and National Park College (where Mrs. Weaver went to school); Hampton Institute; Wellesley College (Mass.); VMI and the University of Va. Talks about school experiences and various curricula common to the day; compares and contrasts private and public education. Other references are made to family history (incl. the Roller family), various farms, the education of former slaves and the Civil War. Recorded at Mrs. Margaret Grattan Weaver's home, Inglewood Farm, Rockingham County, Va., on Oct. 23, 1992.

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18526

Unit Date October 23, 1992

Mixed Materials [1000898333] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Dorothy Swank interviewed by Andrea Smith

Unit ID 12-3

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18529

Unit Date October 28, 1992

Mixed Materials SA0012-SET-001 (network storage)

Creator Swank, Dorothy Virginia, 1910-2000

Creator Smith, Andrea

Access Restrictions

Audio and transcript are open for research.

Use Restrictions

Copyright interests have been transferred to Carrier Library.

Scope and Contents

Records the reminiscences of Dorothy Swank, retired elementary school teacher for the Rockingham County (Va.) school system. Talks about her educational background and experiences over a span of forty-four years of teaching including: teacher training (through the State Normal school now known as James Madison University); certification; experiences teaching in one-room schools such as Little North Mountain and Mt. Pleasant, teaching at a combined elementary-high school at Bridgewater, and Broadway elementary school; discipline problems; and experiences as an elementary school supervisor. Mentions conditions in one-room schools and their gradual phase out (last one in Rockingham County closed in 1962); recreation opportunities for students; teacher salaries and Depression-era problems; curricula; numbers of students in classrooms; compulsory attendance and consolidation of high schools (1951). Mentions contributions in the area of special education and providing education for learning disabled students; her interest in the Friendship Industries sheltered workshop in Harrisonburg; development of kindergarten programs; use of TV in schools; and art education. Remembers former students and their accomplishments to date. In general provides a perspective on public education in Rockingham County, Va. from the 1920s through early 1970s. Recorded at Ms. Dorothy Swank's home, Singers Glen, Rockingham County, Va., on Oct. 28, 1992

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/18530

Unit Date October 28, 1992

Mixed Materials [1000898333] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)