

20 Years and counting!



Over lunch at a small restaurant in Silver Spring, three classmates reminisced about their Military Road School experiences and came to the conclusion that they probably were not the only ones who may have often wondered whatever happened to some of their childhood friends. The idea of a school reunion was born that day and thereafter progressed from lists of alumni they knew how to reach. Each phone call yielded additional contacts and on October 14, 1995, the dream became a reality when more than 100 former Military Road School students and teacher Norma Johnson gathered at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives to re-connect and share special memories.

The following year, upon learning their beloved school was facing an uncertain future, a small group of alumni met on July 27, 1996, at the St. Luke Baptist Church to discuss a strategy for protecting its historic value and in 1997, the Military Road School Alumni Association was formed. These modest efforts culminated in the Military Road School's placement on the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites on July 23, 1998, and the National Register of Historic Places on July 25, 2003.

The Alumni Association set about sharing the Military Road School's legacy through such activities as offering college scholarships to two students in Ward 4's Coolidge High School in 2001. Upon becoming the Military Road School Preservation Trust on May 23, 2003, this program, subsequently re-named the Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Awards Fund, continued to offer financial assistance to local students for college-related expenses and more than \$25,000 has been awarded over that 15-year period.

The evolution of a mission to preserve and share the educational and cultural legacy of the Military Road School, which began with a vision to simply save a structure and continues with a desire to invest in the lives of youth, can best be expressed through MRSPT's motto: *Building the future on the foundation of the past.*

If you have been a part of this journey, we thank you for your support and encouragement; but if you have never taken out a membership, please seriously consider joining MRSPT in 2017!

2016 Prayer Breakfast

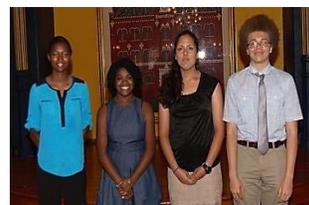


Our annual Prayer Breakfast was held at the St. Luke Baptist Church on March 19th. This year's theme was "*Fervent Prayer*" and several guests were invited to share their personal reflections with attendees. The Owens Sisters of the St. Paul AME Church in Washington, D.C. provided inspirational music and prayers were offered by Pastor Ronald E. Jones (*Pastor of Community at Forcey Bible Church, Silver Spring, MD*), host Pastor, Rev. Aubrey C. Lewis of St. Luke, and Rev. Dr. Melvin D. Wallace (*Helping Hands Community Ministries, Washington D.C.*) Our 2017 Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 18th and **reservations must be made at (202) 241-7276 by March 10th.** *Positively no reservations will be accepted after that date!*

Sharing the Legacy of the Military Road School

- **Rock Creek Civil War Roundtable (RCCWRT)** (2/6/16) ~ Black History Month program
- **Takoma Park Neighborhood Library** (7/11/16) DC Public Library Program

Military Road School Donnessa Lucas Memorial Scholarship Awards Reception



Four of the six 2016 scholarship recipients (*l-r*), Erica Morton, Arica Shepherd, Daniella Butler and William O'Sullivan, were introduced at a reception held on July 19th at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives. Museum Director Kimberly Springle's words of encouragement were enhanced by greetings from The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of DC (AOI) President Bill Brown, Honorary Military Road School alum Karen Gray Houston and Daughters of Union Veteran's President Joan Trafton. MRSPT presented the Museum with a unique canvas photo collage depicting Military Road School events and an Armstrong High School medal awarded to Military Road School alum Lawrence S. Tyson in the 1930's.

Lincoln-Thomas Day Commemoration

On Saturday, September 17th, National Park Service Ranger Kym Elder, Program Manager for the Civil War Defenses of Washington, presided over this year's Lincoln-Thomas Day observance held at the Fort Stevens Battleground.

The keynote speaker for this annual event honoring President Abraham Lincoln and Brightwood patriot Elizabeth Proctor Thomas was Dr. James W. Loewen, Sociologist, Educator and Author, who shared information on Civil War Sundown Towns. Military Road School alum Mrs. Beatrice Liggins and Ms. Edna Smith rendered special musical selections and other program participants included the Anacostia High School J-ROTC Color Guard as well as military Civil War re-enactors and Female Re-Enactors of Distinction (FREED) of the African American Civil War Museum. Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd and National Park Service ROCR Superintendent Tara Morrison offered greetings, and there was also a wreath-laying ceremony.

The event concluded with a tribute marking the Centennial Anniversary of the National Park Service.

2016 MRSPT Partnering Activities

- **Humanities DC Digital Museum**
Lamond-Riggs Library ~ (4/9/16)

MRSPT hosted a nostalgic event at which ordinary collectors were encouraged to bring personal items having relevance to some facet of the area's past history for inclusion in this unique museum. Articles which are documented and digitally photographed can be subsequently viewed by accessing the Museum online.

- **Mapping Segregation in Washington DC**
Petworth Library ~ (4/14/16)

Prior to successfully concluding MRSPT's partnership involving this phase of their extensive research, Prologue DC historians Mara Cherkasky and Sarah Shoenfeld provided updates on this mapping project. Funded in part by the DC Preservation League and Humanities DC, it reflects how real estate developers shaped the racial landscape of Ward 4.

- **43rd Annual Conference on D.C. History** (11/3 - 11/4/16) ~ Military Road School Exhibit on display at the Carnegie Library



- **Restoration of Historic Lightfoot Residence**



In keeping with our mission to preserve and share the Military Road School story, MRSPT was privileged to again partner with the DC Preservation League (DCPL) in support of restoring the 124-year-old Victorian-style house located on Missouri Avenue near the Military Road School building. The residence,

which was purchased by Professor George M. Lightfoot for his family in 1917, remains in their ownership today and has been placed on the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

Professor Lightfoot's granddaughter, who attended the Military Road School shortly before it closed in 1954, has begun the process of restoring the home and MRSPT is pleased to assist DCPL as the non-profit sponsoring organization for the initial phase of this project.

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Like many other non-profit organizations, MRSPT, endeavors to carry out its mission and serve the citizens in our communities through its sponsorship of educational programs with maximum impact at minimal cost. Accordingly, those of you who receive this Newsletter as well as current information about MRSPT's programs and events of interest via email significantly reduce our operating expenses. Electronic recipients also receive communications and information that may not be mailed out. If you would, therefore, like to utilize that form of communication, please send an email to thelasax@mrspt.org. Thanks!



Celebrating The Legacy



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

- I want to become a member/renew my membership. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$15.
- I cannot become/am already a member at this time, but enclosed is my gift of:
 - \$25 \$50 \$75
 - \$100 Other \$ _____
- Check box if donation is for MRSPT Scholarship Fund

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: _____

Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MC

Name: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the Military Road School Preservation Trust and mail to:
Military Road School Preservation Trust
PO Box 56425 · Washington, DC 20040-6425