



[Curiosity] Corner

Treasures from the FCS Archives

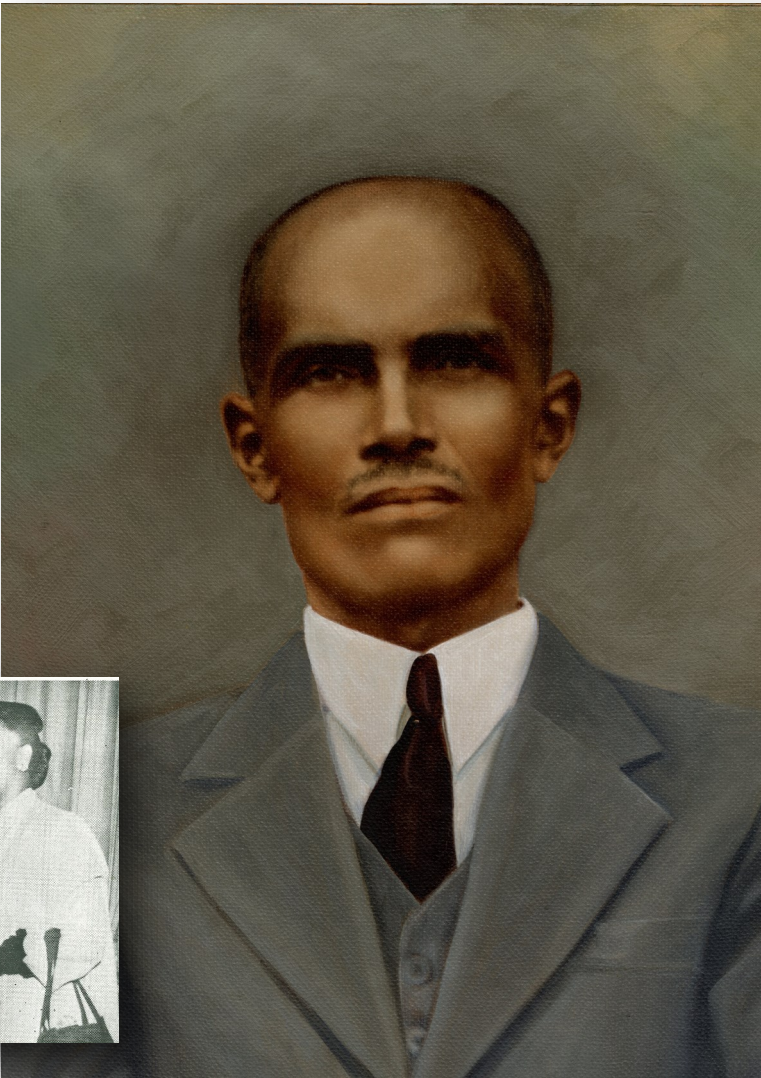
Welcome to *Treasures from the FCS Archives*, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

WHAT’S IN A NAME: LEGACIES IN BLACK EDUCATION

Jefferson Franklin Beavers
(1873-1955)

On September 1, 1956, less than a year after JF Beavers died, Princeton Avenue Elementary School in College Park, Georgia was renamed in his honor. His portrait (right) was dedicated to the school in a ceremony that included two of his daughters, Lillian and Viola (pictured below).

FCS Archives 1956.p.1



One day in the early 1930s, a letter carrier named Jefferson Franklin Beavers took a walk around the town of College Park, Georgia, escorted by his four-year-old son Marcus. Along a stretch of Princeton Avenue, the two stumbled upon an open space of ground—an empty lot—where they both lingered for a while. Then and there, Beavers had a vision that would soon be realized: a school building for Black children in a town that did not have one.

This edition of *Curiosity Corner* celebrates [the history of black education in the South](#) by exploring the legacies established by Black community leaders and pioneers of education—such as J.F. Beavers— whose influence is preserved through the schools that were named after them.

Although few records exist to document the early Black schools that emerged across the South after the Civil War—making it a difficult history to reveal—[Beavers Elementary](#) in Fulton County symbolizes hundreds of other such examples across the region. The efforts to educate generations of Black youth, during the New South era and into the mid-20th century, were largely led by the very communities they were meant to serve.

Curiosity in the Classroom:

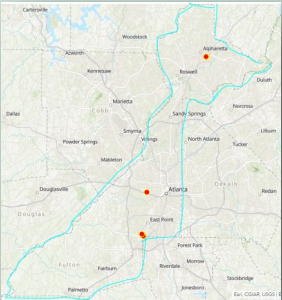
Your School’s Name?!

Curious about the origins of your school’s name? Have students research their school’s beginnings and share your class’ discoveries on this [form](#).

Check out what other schools have posted and see your class’ contribution on this [GIS Map of Fulton County](#).

Research Prompts for Your Students

- How did our school get its name?
- When was the school built? Why?
- What are some traditions at our school?
- Is there something unique or special about our school?
- Are there notable graduates from our school?



After prompting student observations and curiosity, guide students through researching answers to these questions. Submit your class’ research along with images that tell the story of your school.

Lesson Ideas & Links:

Connecting to Standards

[Elementary School Connections](#)[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)[Additional Online Resources](#)



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For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the *FCS Archives*, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org