

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES, no. 34— July 2017

Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center



The year 2017 marks Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary— check out

www.fairfax275.com for a calendar of upcoming events this summer, all celebrating the County's historic birthday!

In this month's edition of *Found in the Archives*, Emily (one of the Historic Records Center interns) shares her findings from a collection of school records she processed during the spring, focusing particularly on one teacher, a woman named Lucy B. Webb, whose story can be found in the records.

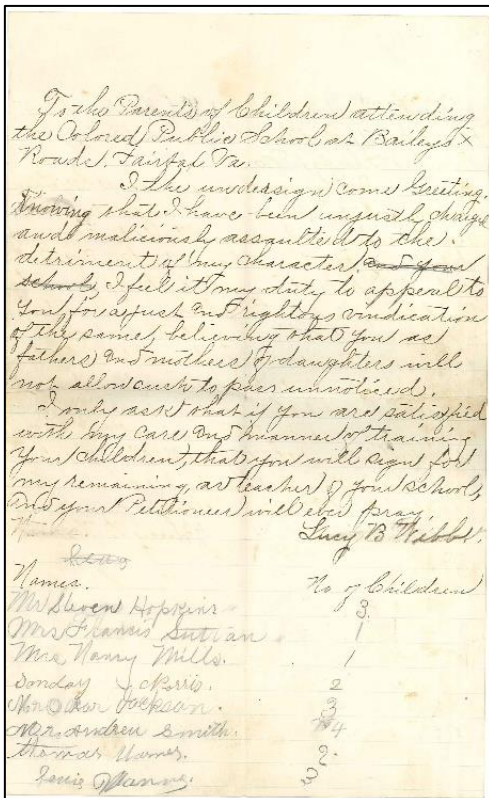
In the school records collection at the Historic Records Center, most ledgers contain financial or demographic information about the schools. In the back of one of the ledger books, however, an undated letter from teacher Lucy Webb to her students' parents was found.

The letter reads:

To the Parents of Children attending the Colored Public School at Baileys [Cross] Roads, Fairfax Va,

I the undersigned come Greeting, knowing that I have been unjustly charged and maliciously assaulted to the detriment of my character, I feel it my duty to appeal to you for a just and [righteous] vindication of the same, believing that you as fathers and mothers of daughters will not allow such to pass unnoticed. I only ask that if you are satisfied with my care and manner of training your children, that you will sign for my remaining, as teacher of your school, and your Petitioner will ever pray,

Lucy B Webb



Lucy B Webb's letter to the parents of her students. Courtesy of Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records Center.

At the bottom of the letter are the signatures of the parents and the number of children they had attending Lucy's school. The signatures indicate their satisfaction with her manner of teaching. The list continues on the back of her letter.

Although this letter is undated, it coincides with the examination of a teacher at the Bailey's Crossroads Colored School by the name of L.B. Webb in 1887, which was found after cross-referencing the letter with other records in the same collection. Lucy passed the examination. According to the record, her teaching was "fair," and she received a grade of 83.25 out of 100. The record also stated that Lucy was a 19-year-old colored woman, which corresponds to the information in the letter, given that Lucy taught at the Bailey's Crossroads Colored School. Webb's first year of teaching was in 1887, and we suspect that teaching was her first job. From the ledger, one also learns that Lucy came from the District of Columbia and had graduated from the public-school system there.

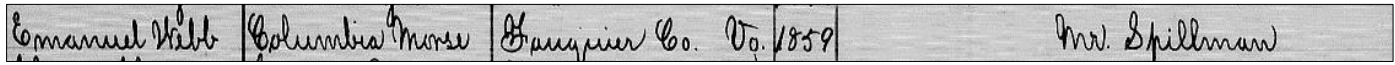
18							19							
Record of Teachers							Examined in 1887.							
Name	Age	Color	Sex	Condition	Grade	Years taught	Residence	P.O.	Where born	Where educated	Where last employed	Graduated	Kind of certificate	Remarks
Byrd, M. E.	22	White	Female	Single	87.50	0	Ash Grove	Va.	Virginia	R. M. Coll. Va.	Fairfax Co.	No	1st Grade	Fair
Byrd, M. E.	36	Colored	Female	Married	80.00	5	Washington	D.C.	Washington	D.C.	Proffers Va.	"	3rd "	Never taught
Catchell, C.	19	White	Female	Single	87.50	2	Baldwin	Pa.	New Hampshire	N. H. Sem. N. H.	Windsor N. H.	"	1st "	Good
Wiley, W.	23	"	Male	Married	70.00	0	Dransville	Pa.	Virginia	Piedmont Sta.	"	"	3rd "	Never taught
Winters, H.	18	"	Female	Single	74.00	"	"	"	"	Pub. Schools D.	"	"	3rd "	Never taught
Wheeler, C. T.	20	"	"	"	93.11	2	Ash Grove	"	New York	Amherst Sta.	Fairfax Co.	Yes	1st "	Good
Wright, L.	30	"	"	"	84.34	3	Dransville	"	Maryland	Blacksburg Va.	"	No	1st "	"
Webb, L. B.	19	Colored	"	"	83.25	0	Washington	D.C.	Washington	Pub. Schools D.C.	"	Yes	2nd "	Fair

Record of the Examination of Fairfax County Teachers, 1887. Includes Lucy Webb (last entry).
 Courtesy of Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records Center.

At the time, teaching certificates were separated into three "grades": first grade certificates signified that the teacher had formal training in education. From the school ledgers, it seems that most white teachers were given this grade. Second grade teaching certificates were similar, signifying that the teacher who held it had some formal training as a teacher. Finally, third grade certificates meant that the teacher had little to no training in teaching. The ledgers indicate that most African American teachers of the time held third grade teaching certificates. However, Lucy taught with a second grade certificate, according to the record of her examination, suggesting that she had received additional training in teaching. Based on her letter, her training and examination must have impacted her ability to teach in Fairfax County.

Fortunately, Lucy's story does not stop at the ledgers or with her appeal for support from her students' parents. While no other records of Lucy could be found at the Historic Records Center (as Lucy lived in the District of Columbia while she taught in Fairfax County), other records outside of the court helped shed light on Lucy's life.

Our intern Emily found that Lucy’s parents, Emanuel Webb and Columbia Moore Webb, were freed slaves from Warrenton, Virginia. Emanuel’s mother was a slave, but his father’s status is unknown. Columbia’s parents were Carter and Virginia Moore, both were both slaves, according to the Freedman’s Bureau.

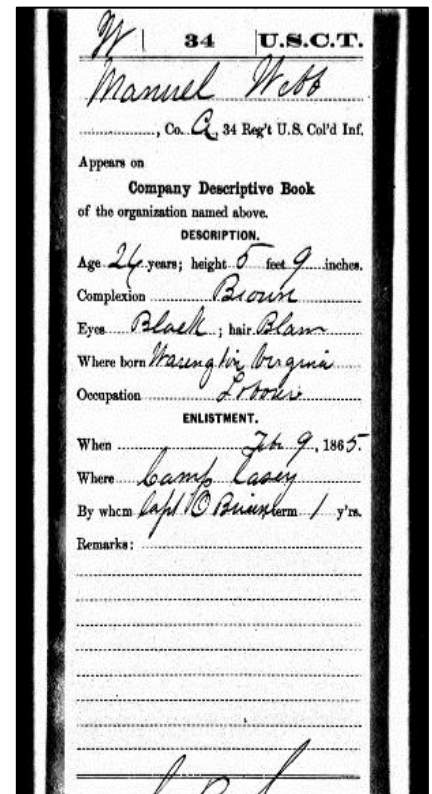


Record of Columbia and Emanuel's marriage from the Freedmen's Bureau.

According to records from the Freedmen’s Bureau, Emanuel and Columbia were married in 1859, by a Mr. Spillman. In total, Columbia gave birth to four children, but only two of them survived past birth. When the Webbs were freed in 1864, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Lucy’s older sister, Sarah, was born.

Shortly after their emancipation, Emanuel, also known as Manuel, enlisted in the Union Army. In February 1865, Emanuel enlisted at Camp Casey in Arlington, where he served in Company A of the 34th Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry. He was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida until 1866.¹

Emanuel returned home to the District of Columbia in January 1866. In June 1867, his marriage to Columbia was legitimized by the Freedmen’s Bureau, and Lucy was born the same year. By 1870, Emanuel was working as a laborer for the “Government Printing Office,” as stated in a bank statement from the Freedmen’s Bureau. There are few records documenting the family until the 1880 U.S. Census, although Emanuel’s name and the family’s address can be found in District of Columbia directories.



Emanuel Webb's Enlistment Record.

¹ Today, Manuel Webb’s name can be seen on the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

1846-50 Record for Emanuel Webb

Date of Application, Sep 3. 25
 Where born, Warrenton Va.
 Where brought up, 1124 St J. av.
 Age, 35 years
 Complexion, Light brown
 Occupation, Laborer
 Works for, Gov. Printing Office
 Wife, Columbia Webb
 Children, Sarah & Lucy

Father, not known
 Mother, Maria Webb
 Brothers, Louis, Charles, Thomas
 Sisters, Julia Webb, Indira

Signature, Emanuel Webb
 marks

Emanuel Webb's Freedmen's Bureau Bank statement, 1870. Emanuel wrote an "X" as his signature, indicating illiteracy.

The Webb family understood the importance of education, although Emanuel and Columbia were illiterate. Emanuel Webb signed his legal documents with an "X", indicating he could not sign his name. Lucy and Sarah attended school regularly until they were 18 years old. Lucy went on to receive some training in education, as evidenced by her second grade teaching certificate.

In 1886, Lucy started teaching in Fairfax County. However, she only taught for two school years. In 1887, her father unexpectedly passed away.

According to his death records, he worked as a "hod" carrier at the time of his death— this means he was probably a construction worker. According to his death certificate, he was working on a building at the corner of 17th street in D.C. when he fell from the building and fractured his neck. He died instantly, which left his wife a widow, and his two daughters fatherless. One

can speculate that the combination of her father's death and the treatment she may have received as a teacher in Fairfax County led to Lucy's return to Washington.

Once home, Lucy taught in Washington, D.C. public schools. Sometime between 1890 and 1900, Lucy moved in with her mother. After her husband's death, Columbia became a laundress to support herself and collected her husband's pension from his military service. According to the 1910 census, she washed "lace curtains, only."

Annexed of Anne	Head	M	B	37	M	5	District of Columbia	sub	Maryland	Maryland	English	Race	Freeville W
—	Wife	F	B	35	M	3	District of Columbia	sub	Maryland	Maryland	English	Race	Freeville W
—	John S.	M	B	1			District of Columbia	sub	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	English	Race	Freeville W
Jennier, John R.	Head	M	Mar	44	M	25	Virginia	Georgia	Georgia	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Wife	F	Mar	45	M	25	Virginia	Georgia	Georgia	English	Race	Freeville W	
Winters, William	Head	M	B	50	M	48	Virginia	unknown	unknown	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Wife	F	B	50	M	48	Virginia	unknown	unknown	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	John	M	B	37	M	22	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Elizabeth	F	B	37	M	22	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Mary	F	B	22	S		Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Robert	M	B	41	S		North Carolina	unknown	unknown	English	Race	Freeville W	
Montgomery, Robert	Head	M	Mar	48	Wd		South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Wife	F	Mar	46	Wd		South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	English	Race	Freeville W	
Webb, Columbia	Head	F	B	67	Wd		Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	English	Race	Freeville W	
—	Lucy	F	B	28	S		D.C.	Virginia	Virginia	English	Race	Freeville W	

Segment of 1910 U.S. Census, including Columbia and Lucy Webb (last entry).

To supplement their incomes, Lucy and her mother hosted lodgers in their home. Around 1914, Lucy and Columbia moved a couple of times, finally settling in a home on T Street. This was the home in which Lucy and Columbia would spend the rest of their lives. They continued to host lodgers and Lucy sponsored wards.

Around 1920, Lucy adopted a daughter named Sarah, who was six years old. Sarah was born in the District of Columbia. Her birth mother came from the Philippines and her father was from D.C. In March of the same

year, Lucy married Abraham Hawkins, a plumber. Lucy's first marriage, therefore, was at the age of 50. We cannot be certain, but Abraham could have been born into slavery, as he was born in Virginia around the year 1860. Abraham adopted Lucy's daughter and helped care for Lucy's aging mother Columbia, who was 80 years old at Abraham and Lucy's marriage.

Columbia passed away in 1926 of arteriosclerosis. Lucy passed away on February 2, 1930, having suffered a stroke two week prior, in January.

Based on what is known about her life and the sentiments Lucy expressed in her appeal for support, it appears that Lucy was a forward thinker for her time. Not only did she recognize the value of education, but she understood the potential consequences that could follow if she ignored the maltreatment to which she was subjected while teaching in Fairfax County. She refused to stand by as her character was maligned, and she wanted the parents of her her students -- especially her female students -- to know that what was happening to her was wrong, and to persuade them to support her so that the same would not happen to their own children. Lucy stood up for herself, which made her an excellent example to those around her and to those who hear her story today.

HEALTH DEPT. D.C.
PERMIT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1930 FEB 5 PM 12 51
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CLASS. NO. 111 1742-01
NO. OF RECORD 325784

FILL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THOSE USING THIS BLANK AND SPACE FOR REMARKS MAY BE FOUND ON THE OTHER SIDE

1. PLACE OF DEATH: No. 1208 - Sea Street, N.W. Section.

Name of Hospital _____ Duration of residence therein _____

2. FULL NAME Lucy W. Hawkins

(a) Residence, No. 1208 - Sea Street N.W. (If nonresident, give city or town and State)

Length of residence in D. C. 53 yrs. max. mo. 00 da. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mo. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX: F. 4. COLOR OR RACE: Cobred 5. STATUS: Married (Married, Widowed, or Divorced) (Write in words)

6. If married, widowed, or divorced, REASON: (or WIFE of)

7. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year)

8. AGE: Years 53 Months _____ Days _____ If less than 1 day, hr. or min.

9. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED: (a) Trade, profession, or private kind of work: House wife (b) General occupation, industry, or service in which engaged (as employee)

(c) Name of employer _____

10. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) U. S. (State or country)

11. NAME OF FATHER: Manuel Webb (in full) State or country Va

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: Columbia A. Moore (in full) State or country Va

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER: Va (City or town)

14. Above information furnished by A. W. Hawkins Address 1208 - Sea St. N.W.

15. Relation of informant to decedent Husband

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Feb 2, 1930

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Jan 30, 1930, to Feb 2, 1930 that I last saw her alive on Feb 1, 1930 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 12:50 p.m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: Cerebral hemorrhage (duration) yrs. mo. da. 17

CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) Exhaustion (duration) yrs. mo. da. _____

18. Where was disease contracted (If not at place of death) _____

DID AN OPERATION NO precede death? Date of operation _____

Was there an autopsy? NO

What laboratory test completed and results? None

(Signed) J. E. Taylor (Address) 1625 - 38th St. N.W.

* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state INJURY AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) WHETHER ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space)

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL: Stammy DATE 8-5 10-30

20. UNDERTAKER: J. N. Johnson Address 1702 - 12th St. N.W.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Form 7 H. D. C. (1928)

Lucy Webb's death certificate, 1930

For more information on these and other records held at the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center, please call 703-246-4168 or email historicalrecords@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/historical_records.htm