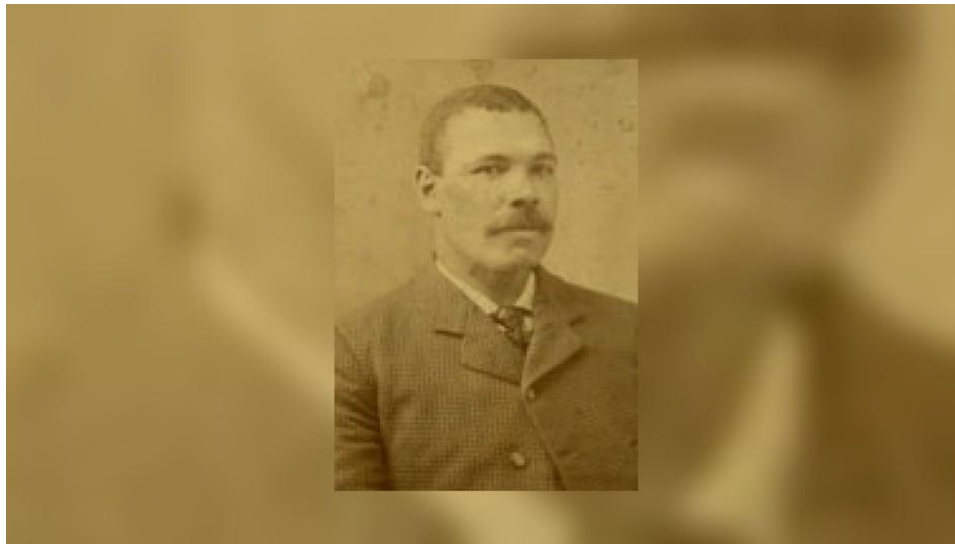


Title: James L. Dunn and School Segregation

Subtitle: Creating Headlines and Images

Duration: 2-4 classes

Best Courses Fit: Civics, Politics, Canada: History, Identity, and Culture, Grade 12, English



Source: <http://www.windsor-communities.com/african-politics-municipal-early.php#a>

Important Background Knowledge

The Common Schools Act of 1850 afforded residents of Upper Canada the right to public education. However, where Black schools already existed, Black students had to continue attending those segregated schools. White residents often used this Act to deliberately exclude Black children from their schools by requesting a separate school for them. In the Windsor area, there were separate, tax-funded schools. These segregated schools were usually underfunded, which resulted in the Black students not being able to have access to quality education in their schools. Black parents fought against segregated schooling through many means.

James Llewellyn Dunn was a well-to-do, respected businessman in Windsor. James wanted his daughter, Jane Ann, to attend the Public Central School. The headmaster refused to allow her to attend the school. James petitioned the trustees of the Windsor Board of Education to allow his daughter to attend the all-white Central Public School. His application was refused. He immediately secured a lawyer. The lawyer for the Board claimed that Jane Ann's skin colour was not the issue, but that

the school was full. Also, since Jane Ann had already attended the previous school year at the coloured school, she should remain there. Further, it was claimed that J.L. Dunn had not made his request in the proper way. The judge ruled in favour of the Windsor Board of Education.

Tasks

1. Read the two articles.
2. Respond to the questions using complete sentences.
3. Complete the extension activities.

Directions: Read the two articles and answer the questions using complete sentences.

Sourcing	Article #1	Article #2
1. Who wrote the article?		
2. When was the article written?		
3. Where was the article written?		
4. What is the purpose of the article?		
5. How might the news article be useful evidence of what life was like for Black people living in the Detroit-Windsor region in the 1880s?		
6. Which article is the most reliable? Why?		

Contextualization	
1. Based on the two articles, what can you infer about racial attitudes in Windsor in the 1880s?	
2. Based on the two articles, what can you infer about James Dunn's feelings towards education?	

Close Reading	
1. Based on the two articles, how did White trustees feel about integrated schooling? Provide evidence from the articles.	

2. According to article #1, what are the reasons that Mr. Dunn wanted to send his daughter to the central school?	
3. Why do you think Detroit media would have reported on this case?	

Windsor Article

WINDSOR'S SCHOOL PRIVILEGES.
rept
The Colored People Ostracized--A
Test Case Promised.

Windsorites who have children attending the public schools are all torn up because J. L. Dunn, a respectable colored man, manager of the Windsor varnish works, has seen fit to send his daughter to the Central school. In the one colored school of the town there are two rooms, in the lower of which about 60 children are taught, while only 12 to 15 attend at the higher room, and the colored children from all parts of the town must attend this school if they want instruction. Mr. Dunn on Monday placed his girl in the central school, as that was the nearest building. The principal ordered her to leave, but the plucky little girl refused to go. At the regular meeting of the school board last evening Trustee McKellar offered a resolution to abolish the higher room in the colored school, and permit the dozen pupils there to go to the central school. It would reduce expenses several hundred dollars, and as some of the other members were talking about retrenchment he thought it would be a wise policy.

Some of the other trustees were shocked at the idea of having their kids sitting beside colored children, and accused Mr. McKellar of trying to curry favor with the colored people. After some talk the resolution was finally referred to the committee on teachers, who will undoubtedly recommend that the transfer be not made. Mr. Dunn will take legal action in the matter, and Trustee McKellar has referred the question of whether a child can be excluded from school on account of color to the minister of education. There are only four colored schools in Ontario; at Windsor, Amherstburg, Dresden and Chatham.

3/11/2017

Source: Alvin D. McCurdy fonds
 Reference Code: F 2076-14-0-3, page 16
 Archives of Ontario

Detroit Article



Source: The Evening News of Detroit, September 6, 1833

[Alvin D. McCurdy fonds](#)

Reference Code: F 2076-14-0-3, page 18

Archives of Ontario

Extension Activities

Based on the background information and articles, write a paragraph about three character traits Mr. Dunn possessed. Your paragraph must include:

- a topic sentence
- 3 character traits
- 3 examples
- 3 explanations
- a conclusion sentence

Why do you think it's important for students to learn about James L. Dunn?

Directions: Create a headline and an image for the article.



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Report
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5/11/24/7