Distinguished educator and civil rights leader John Warren Davis was born on February 11, 1888.

CSO: SS.8.25, ELA.8.22, ELA.8.28

Investigate the Document: (Norman Family Collection, Box 15, Folder, 61, Ms2014-073)

Document 1
1. When and where was this document initially written?

2. In your own words, what does this document say? What do you think are the essential points in it?

Document 2
3. According to the document, what title did John Warren Davis possess at West Virginia State College?

4. What was the main idea of this correspondence? To whom was Davis writing?

Think Critically: How would you describe mid-twentieth century education in West Virginia? What specific conclusions can be drawn from these two documents about John W. Davis? Do you think archiving correspondence of prominent people provides an opportunity to understand them better? What would you ask John W. Davis if you were given the opportunity to interview him?
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

6-13-53

Dear Ruth and Big Jack,

You know Harvard—
you know how they are done there. It was
thrilling, unique and beautiful on Commencement Day.

I was honored to have been called "Jack
was on duty," but called Jack and me.

The honor I received belongs to you
and all of those who have worked with
me and believed in me. Through the years, you share it with me.

That I could not be there.

I am a great girl.

I begin my return trip to Liberia
at 5 o'clock this afternoon, check in at 7. Check on the S.S. America
left yesterday at 4 o'clock
for Paris and will join us later in Liberia.

Love to you and our friends there.

John W. Davis
My dear Mr. Norman:

I entered the auditorium-gymnasium building of the West Virginia Schools for Colored Deaf and Blind for the first time on Sunday, October 28, 1951. Said building is a credit to your architectural skill and to your understanding of the needs of handicapped children. The building, now referred to, is a credit to you and the State of West Virginia.

I enjoyed your remarks concerning essential features of the building.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Davis
President

Mr. Jna C. Norman, Architect
K of P Building
Charleston, West Virginia