

## Ed 300 reading guide

Constance Curry, *Silver Rights*

&

David Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*

book is based on author's relationship (and follow-up interviews with) with Mae Bertha and Matthew Carter and their children, who were first African Americans to desegregate all-white schools in Sunflower County, Mississippi, in mid-1960s

book is based on author's study of African Americans in Hyde County, North Carolina, who protested a school desegregation plan that would close two historically black schools in their rural coastal area in the late 1960s

### Historical actors:

Mae Bertha & Matthew Carter & family

White residents of Sunflower County

### Historical actors:

Black residents of Hyde County

White residents of Hyde County

HEW – US Department of Health,  
Education, and Welfare  
(federal education agency in 1960s)

### Comparative discussion questions:

1) What kind of school desegregation -- if any -- was implemented in each community?  
By whom?

2) How did different people perceive the "freedom of choice" desegregation plans?

3) What were the conditions of black schools in each community?

4) How did activists in each book define their struggle for better education, and what kind of power did they exercise to achieve their goals?

Optional: My "Teaching Brown" essay <http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/brown/>