Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle
A Grant From The
National Endowment for the Humanities
With
Building Bridges And The Gilder Lehrman Institute Of American History
To
Herbert H. Lehman College Through The Leonard Lief Library

In Observance Of The 150th Anniversary Of The Emancipation Proclamation

Session 3
The Loving Story
Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 2:00 P.M.
Leonard Lief Library Fine Arts Classroom
Professor Neil J. O’Connell

The Loving Story, An Augusta Films Production, Directed by Nancy Burski, Produced by Nancy Burski and Elisabeth Haviland James, a Co-Production of HBO Documentary Films, Distributed by Icarus Films.

Special Features: Little known filmed interviews, photographs shot for Life magazine, 1960’s film footage recording everyday life of the couple and their three children.


Genesis 9:18-27 – Noah’s Curse of His Son, Ham.

Miscegenation: (Latin: miscere – to mix, genus – race) also: interracial: by marriage or sexual relations.

Synopsis:
Legally married in Washington, DC, Richard (white) and Mildred (Jeter) (African American and Native American) Loving returned to their native county in Virginia in the Summer of 1958. Woken up about 2:00 A.M. in their bedroom, arrested, and jailed on the charge of violation of the 1924 anti miscegenation Virginia Racial Integrity Act, they decided to accept a plea bargain of a suspended sentence and exile from Virginia for twenty-five years. Uncomfortable with urban life in Washington, they wished to return to the simple rural life of their home county and secretly returned there. In 1963, no longer willing to continue this precarious existence, Mildred contacted Attorney General Robert Kennedy who referred her to the American Civil Liberties Union (A.C.L.U.). Two A.C.L.U. lawyers took the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court which unanimously declared Virginia’s anti miscegenation law unconstitutional in 1967. This decision, then, rendered similar laws in fourteen other states unconstitutional.

Panel: Elisabeth De La Rosa, Anthony Masner, Al-Ameen Rasheed, Joanne Sciarrone