

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION & FREEDOM MONUMENT

New Nominees Received at Public Hearings and by Email

Mary and Emily Edmonson

Pre-Emancipation

Alexandria (limited ties); born in Montgomery County, MD
1832 – 1853; 1835 – 1895

Mary and Emily Edmonson were born into slavery in Montgomery County, Maryland. In 1848, the sisters and four of their brothers joined a group of 77 slaves attempting to escape out of Washington aboard the schooner *Pearl*, but when the *Pearl* was delayed in rough weather, slaveholders seized the ship. The Edmonsons were bought by slave trading partners from Alexandria and sent to New Orleans to be sold but were returned to Alexandria after a yellow fever epidemic erupted. Their father campaigned for their freedom and enlisted the support of Brooklyn preacher Henry Ward Beecher, whose congregation raised funds to purchase the sisters' freedom. The church paid for the sisters' education in New York, while the sisters worked and participated in anti-slavery rallies and mock slave auctions, designed to bring attention to the abolitionist cause. In 1850, the sisters attended the Fugitive Slave Law Convention to demonstrate against the Fugitive Slave Act. Mary died in 1853 of tuberculosis while attending Oberlin College; Emily continued to work in the abolitionist movement. The sisters' story is included in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*. A monument to the sisters stands in Alexandria.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmonson_sisters,
<http://alextimes.com/2010/05/slavery-and-freedom-embodied/>



Ballard T. Edwards

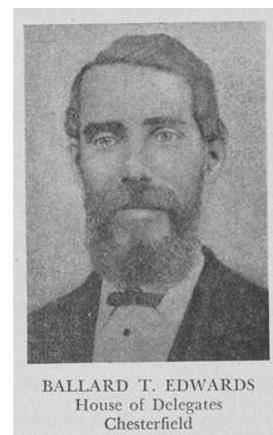
Post-Emancipation

Richmond (Manchester)
1828 – 1881

Ballard Trent Edwards, a bricklayer, plasterer, and contractor, was born free in Manchester (now part of Richmond) in 1828 of mixed-race ancestry. His mother was a teacher, and he opened a school for freedmen in Manchester after the American Civil War. He held office as overseer of the poor in Chesterfield County, and as a magistrate after Manchester became a city in 1874. He represented Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1869 to 1871, where he proposed a measure banning racial discrimination by railroad and steamboat companies. A leader in the First Baptist Church, Manchester (later First Baptist Church of South Richmond), Mr. Edwards was also active in the Masons. He died in 1881.

Sources:

http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/lincoln/african_americans.html,
https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Edwards_Ballard_T_ca_1828-1881



Richard Gustavus Forrester*Post-Emancipation*Richmond
1823 – 1891

Richard Gustavus Forrester was born free to an affluent family and raised in Richmond by his father's Jewish family. At fourteen, his father sent him to be educated in Canada, where he met Narcissa Wilson, also of Richmond. Richard and Narcissa married and eventually had 20 children. In 1850, they returned to Richmond, where Forrester worked as a dairy farmer and contractor. In 1871, he became the first African-American elected to Richmond's City Council, where he served for eleven years. Later he was appointed to the Richmond School Board and helped to establish public schools for African Americans and hire African-American teachers and principals. When he died in 1891, he had 49 grandchildren, each of whom he had opened bank accounts for at the Freedman's Savings and Trust Co.

Source: http://www.richmond.com/special-section/black-history/richard-gustavus-forrester/article_62144000-3217-56ee-81ff-a44ef6cda978.html;
<http://www.eyesofglory.com/fourth-generation/>

**Richard Gill Forrester***Pre/Post-Emancipation*Richmond
1847 – 1909

The son of Richard and Narcissa Forrester, Richard Gill was working as a page at the Capitol when Virginia seceded from the Union. One of his duties was to raise the U.S. and state flags above the Capitol. When he witnessed secessionists lowering and discarding the U.S. flag after the start of the war, he retrieved the flag and hid it under his bed for four years. When Union forces arrived in the city on April 3, 1865, he raised the flag again above the Capitol.

Source: <http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2015/apr/02/when-freedom-came-part-2/?page=2>, <http://www.eyesofglory.com/fifth-generation/>

**Ethel Bailey Furman***Post-Emancipation*Richmond
1893 – 1976

Daughter of a Richmond building contractor, Ethel Bailey Furman studied architecture in New York City and, on returning to Richmond in 1921, began designing houses locally. She often submitted her plans to local administrators by way of male contractors she worked with, due to discrimination she faced. She designed an estimated two hundred residences and churches in central Virginia, and two churches in Liberia. Her 1962 design for the educational wing of Richmond's Fourth Baptist Church was recognized



on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Church Hill North Historic District extension in 2000. In 1985, a Church Hill park was named in her honor.

Source:

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2010/honoree.asp?bio=5>

George Latimer

Pre-Emancipation

Norfolk

1819 – 1896

In 1842, George Latimer and his wife, Rebecca, escaped slavery in Norfolk and made their way to Boston. On arriving in Boston, Latimer was recognized and word was sent to his master, James Gray, who traveled to Boston and had Latimer arrested. The arrest created a public outcry, and abolitionists purchased Latimer's freedom and petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to pass an act stipulating that "all judges, justices of the peace, and officers of the commonwealth, are forbidden, under heavy penalties, to aid, or act in any manner in the arrest, detention, or delivery of any person claimed as a fugitive slave." Latimer remained involved in the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts.

Source: <https://edison.rutgers.edu/latimer/glatcase.htm>



Vivian Carter Mason

Post-Emancipation

Norfolk; born in Auburn, NY

1900 – 1982

Vivian Carter Mason grew up in Auburn, New York, attended college at the University of Chicago, and returned to New York as a social worker. In 1942, after she was injured in a train wreck, she went to Norfolk, her husband's hometown, to recover. In Norfolk she began to meet with other women in the area to discuss and address racial differences, and eventually formed the Women's Council on Interracial Cooperation in 1945, the first group in the area to hold interracial public meetings. She served as the Council's first president. In 1953, she was elected the third president of the National Council of Negro Women and worked to devise strategies to implement Brown vs. Board of Education. She worked closely with the Norfolk 17. In 1971, she became the first African-American woman to serve on the Norfolk City school board. In 1978, she resigned to start the Urban League of Hampton Roads.

Source: <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=odu/vino00056.xml>



Samuel Tucker

Alexandria; Richmond
1913 – 1990

Post-Emancipation

Samuel Tucker began practicing law at 21, and in 1939, he organized a sit-in at Alexandria Library, recruiting five African-American men to request library cards and, when denied, sit and read in the library until removed by police. Tucker defended the men in court and the charges were dropped, and a separate library was established for African Americans (Tucker refused a library card for the new, separate facility). When the U.S. entered WWII, Tucker served in the 366th Infantry and fought in Italy. After the war Tucker served as a cooperating attorney with the NAACP and became a partner in the Richmond firm of Hill, Tucker and Marsh. He argued and won several civil rights cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, including *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County*, in which he challenged a freedom-of-choice plan that allowed schools to desegregate on a voluntary basis and allowed the use of public funding to send white children to private schools.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Wilbert_Tucker



Plummer Bernard (P.B.) Young

Norfolk; born in Halifax County, NC
1884 – 1962

Post-Emancipation

P.B. Young was born in Halifax County, North Carolina and, as a boy, assisted his father with his newspaper, *The True Reformer*. In 1907, he moved to Norfolk and worked as a reporter for the *Lodge Journal and Guide*, a paper with a circulation of 500 published by the Knights of Gideon. Young wanted to create a newspaper to serve the African-American community, so he purchased the *Lodge Journal and Guide* and renamed it the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*. Over 52 years, Young developed the paper into one of the most prominent African-American newspapers in the country, circulated across the nation, and with the largest circulation of any weekly newspaper in the South. He used his editorial columns to bring attention to problems faced in African-American communities. In 1943, he was appointed to President Franklin Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Commission. He was also a founding member of the Norfolk chapter of the NAACP and was instrumental in persuading the state to give equal pay to African-American educators, among other efforts.

Source:

<http://www.historicforrest.com/HSites/NorfolkVA/calvaryCemetery/plummerBernardYoungSr.html>

