

#### GABRIEL

ENSLAVED, LITERATE 25-YEAR OLD BLACKSMITH WHO ORCHESTRATED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ATTEMPTED REVOLTS IN THE HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN SLAVERY. THE PLOT, INSPIRED BY INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS, WAS BETRAYED AND SUPPRESSED BEFORE IT COULD BEGIN. THE EXECUTION OF GABRIEL AND MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS STARKLY LAID BARE THE CONTRADICTIONS OF AMERICAN FREEDOM AND AMERICAN SLAVERY.

#### NAT TURNER

LEADER OF THE MOST FAMOUS SLAVE REVOLT IN AMERICAN HISTORY, HE SHATTERED THE MYTH OF THE CONTENTED SLAVE. THE BLOODY SOUTHAMPTON REVOLT OF 1831 AND THE WIDESPREAD REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS THAT FOLLOWED REVEALED DARK TRUTHS ABOUT SLAVERY AND HAUNTED AMERICA UNTIL THE CIVIL WAR.

#### DRED SCOTT

ENSLAVED MAN FROM SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY WHOSE LAWSUIT FOR HIS FREEDOM LED TO THE 1857 SUPREME COURT DECISION, DRED SCOTT V. SANDFORD, DECLARING THAT PERSONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN DESCENT HAD NO RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, HELPING TO TRIGGER THE CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION.



#### WILLIAM HARVEY CARNEY

ESCAPED SLAVE FROM NORFOLK WHO FOUGHT WITH THE 54TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS. FOR HIS HEROISM AT FORT WAGNER IN 1863 HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. CARNEY AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS FOUGHT FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF MANY OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

#### MARY ELIZABETH BOWSER

BORN INTO SLAVERY, SHE GAINED AN EDUCATION AND BECAME A MISSIONARY TO THE AFRICAN REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA. SHE WAS A KEY MEMBER OF A RICHMOND PRO-UNION SPY RING DURING THE CIVIL WAR, INFILTRATING JEFFERSON DAVIS'S HOUSEHOLD. AFTER EMANCIPATION SHE DEDICATED HERSELF TO EDUCATING THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED, LECTURING AND TEACHING IN FREEDMEN'S SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA, FLORIDA AND GEORGIA.

## VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR EMANCIPATION

#### REVEREND WYATT TEE WALKER

AN ARCHITECT OF THE STRATEGIES OF PEACEFUL PROTEST THAT ENDED SEGREGATION. PETERSBURG MINISTER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CHIEF OF STAFF TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

#### JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

BORN TO A FREE WOMAN OF COLOR AND A WHITE PLANTER IN LOUISA COUNTY, HE GAINED AN EDUCATION AND BECAME AN ACTIVE ABOLITIONIST IN OHIO BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. RETURNING TO VIRGINIA TO ASSIST DURING RECONSTRUCTION, HE BECAME VIRGINIA'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS IN 1888, FIRST DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF WHAT IS NOW VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

#### LUCY SIMMS

AFTER SLAVERY SHE MATRICULATED FROM HAMPTON INSTITUTE (NOW HAMPTON UNIVERSITY). DURING SEGREGATION SHE ORGANIZED THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR TEACHERS, ADVOCATED FOR UNIVERSAL EDUCATION AND INCREASED SUPPORT. OVER HER 36-YEAR CAREER SHE TAUGHT THREE GENERATIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS IN THE HARRISONBURG AREA.



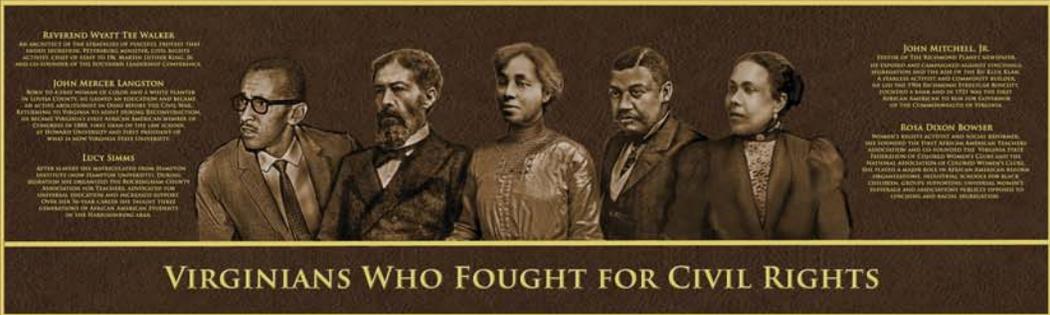
#### JOHN MITCHELL, JR.

EDITOR OF THE RICHMOND PLANET NEWSPAPER, HE EXPOSED AND CAMPAIGNED AGAINST LYNCHINGS, SEGREGATION AND THE RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN. A FEARLESS ACTIVIST AND COMMUNITY BUILDER, HE LED THE 1904 RICHMOND STREETCAR BOYCOTT, FOUNDED A BANK AND IN 1921 WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

#### ROSA DIXON BOWSER

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND SOCIAL REFORMER, SHE FOUNDED THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND CO-FOUNDED THE VIRGINIA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS. SHE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN REFORM ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS FOR BLACK CHILDREN, GROUPS SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND ASSOCIATIONS PUBLICLY OPOSED TO LYNCHING AND RACIAL SEGREGATION.

## VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS



**REVEREND WYATT T. WALKER**  
An architect of the abolition of peonage, Walker first  
acted as a minister, then as a lawyer, and finally as a  
judge. He was the first African American to be  
elected to the Virginia General Assembly.

**JOHN MERCER LANGSTON**  
Born to a free woman of color and a white planter  
in Liberia, Langston was the first African American  
to attend the University of Virginia. He was the  
first African American to be elected to the Virginia  
General Assembly in 1875. He was also the first  
African American to be elected to the U.S. House of  
Representatives in 1891.

**LUCY SIMMS**  
Born in 1825, Simms was the first African American  
woman to attend the University of Virginia. She  
was the first African American woman to be elected  
to the Virginia General Assembly in 1875. She  
was also the first African American woman to be  
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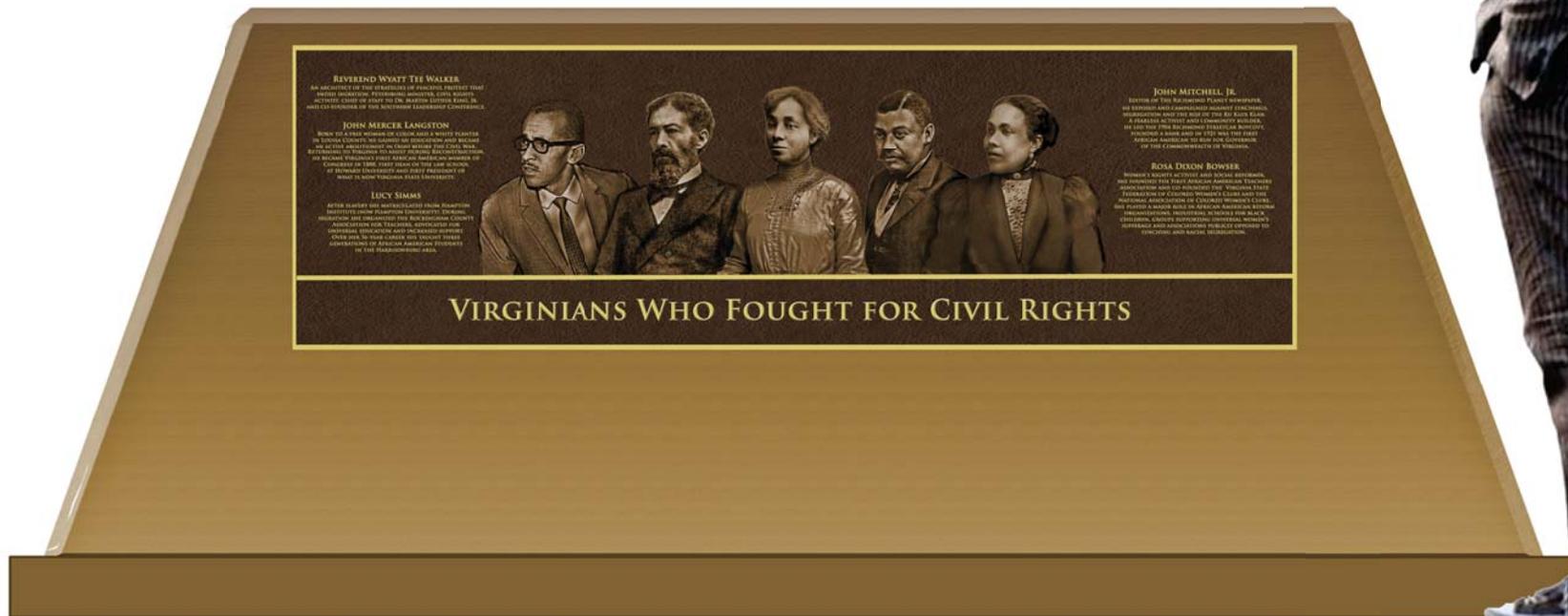


**JOHN MITCHELL, JR.**  
Born in 1845, Mitchell was the first African American  
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66" x 20" relief panel shown to scale on pedestal



**REVEREND WYATT TEE WALKER**  
AN ARCHITECT OF THE STRATEGIES OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE THAT  
WENT ON TO INSPIRE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WALKER  
DIRECTED THE FIRST IN-STATE NAACP CHAPTER AND IN  
ADDITION FOUNDED THE SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

**JOHN MERCER LANGSTON**  
BORN TO A FREE FATHER OF COLOR AND A WHITE MOTHER  
IN LONDON, LANGSTON WAS EDUCATED AND BECAME  
THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO ATTEND HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY. HE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
TO BE Elected TO CONGRESS AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
TO BE Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE. HE WAS THE FIRST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE  
IN 1890.

**LUCY SIMMS**  
AFTER GRADUATING FROM BETHLEHEM COLLEGE  
IN 1892, SIMMS BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
WOMAN TO BE Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE. SHE  
WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO  
BE Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE. SHE WAS THE  
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO BE Elected  
TO THE U.S. SENATE.

**JOHN MITCHELL, JR.**  
BORN IN THE SOUTHWEST TERRITORIES, MITCHELL  
WAS EDUCATED AND EMPLOYED AS A JOURNALIST.  
HE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE  
Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE. HE WAS THE  
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE Elected TO  
THE U.S. SENATE. HE WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN  
AMERICAN TO BE Elected TO THE U.S. SENATE.

**ROSA DEXON BOWSER**  
BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA, BOWSER WAS  
THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO  
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**VIRGINIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**



THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA, ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT FREEDOM THROUGH ACTS OF RESISTANCE, SELF-LIBERATION AND REBELLION. AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR ENSLAVED PEOPLE SOUGHT TO AID UNITED STATES TROOPS AT FORT MONROE. ON JANUARY 1, 1863 THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FREED ENSLAVED PEOPLE ONLY IN AREAS "IN REBELLION" AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IN 1865 THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ABOLISHED SLAVERY EVERYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN 1868 THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT ESTABLISHED THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROMISED EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW FOR ALL. YET THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THAT PROMISE A REALITY CONTINUED FOR OVER A CENTURY.

THE VIRGINIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION DEDICATES THIS MONUMENT TO TEN AFRICAN AMERICAN VIRGINIANS WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT FOR EMANCIPATION AND FREEDOM OF FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSONS AND FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THROUGH THE 20TH CENTURY.



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