

# THE VALENTINE

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## FEBRUARY 2019

### WELCOME TO THE VALENTINE

The mission of the Valentine is to engage, educate, and challenge a diverse audience by collecting, preserving, and interpreting Richmond's history. Use this guide to discover and celebrate African American stories in the Valentine's collection. Look out for the highlights below and see what else you can find at the museum today.

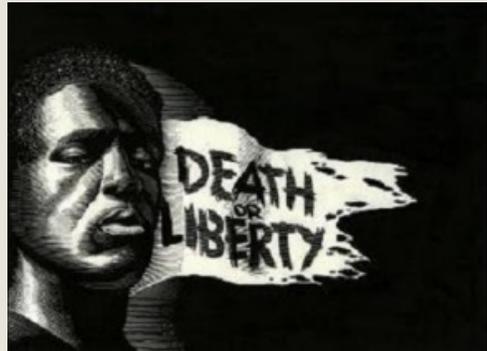
### THIS IS RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

In this exhibition you can find Richmond's story of enslavement and rebellion, as well as the fight for equal rights in the 20th century. Highlighted individuals include politicians, entrepreneurs, and performers. Walk the aisles and open the drawers to find the items listed below.

**Why the Fall Line? Leg Shackles ca. 1825**  
**V.52.160.03 Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Harvie**  
Seventeenth-century Virginia statutes authorized slavery in the colonies. Richmond was an integral player in this economic system from the start. By the 1850s, the slave trade had become the largest form of commerce in Richmond. This system was abolished as a result of Emancipation (1865). How do black people power the city's economy today?

**Who Has a Voice? Gabriel Prosser 1993**  
**Mark Weakley V.94.58.02 Museum Purchase**

Gabriel (1776-1800), enslaved by Thomas Prosser, plotted to seize Richmond and free himself and others under a banner emblazoned with "Death or Liberty." The failure of the American Revolutionary War to free enslaved Africans created an environment ripe for rebellion. On August 30, 1800, a betrayal and heavy rains caused the plot to collapse. Gabriel and his cohorts were publicly hanged in Richmond.



## What Do We Value? Ebenezer Baptist Church Plate 1958

### V.87.95 Gift of Berry's Antiques

This plate commemorates the centennial anniversary of the 1858 dedication of Ebenezer Baptist Church (founded as Third African Baptist Church). Following Emancipation (1865), this Jackson Ward church made educating freedmen a priority. It operated Richmond's first public school for black children, starting in 1866.

## Who Has a Voice? Woolworth's Lunch Counter and Stools ca. 1950

### 501 E. Broad Street V.94.02.01-.07 Museum Purchase

On February 1, 1960, student activists began sit-ins at the segregated lunch counter of F. W. Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina. On February 20, 1960, Virginia Union University students started a similar sit-in at Woolworth's on E. Broad Street in Richmond. By the summer of 1963, more than 100 of Richmond's 400 restaurants and cafés had integrated. Have you ever considered protesting in support of a cause you care about?



## What Do We Produce? Aunt Betsy 1857

### Francis Blackwell V.2010.11.01 Chapman Fund with support from Mrs. Margaret T. Talman

Domestic services, including childcare, was a common duty for enslaved women. "Aunt Betsy" served as a nursemaid for the Wickham family at their home "Hickory Hill" in Hanover County, Virginia. Surviving family papers indicate that Betsy died in the autumn of 1865 as a free woman.

## What Do We Produce? Interior of St. Luke Penny Savings Bank early-20<sup>th</sup> Century

### Browns Graphic Reproduction V.89.252.42 Witherspoon Collection

In 1903, the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank opened in Jackson Ward. Started by Maggie L. Walker (1864-1934), it was one of the country's first black-owned banks. Patrons accessed services denied at white-owned financial institutions while supporting the African-American community.

## Where Do We Live? Voices from Fulton

In 2011, community organizations partnered with the Valentine to capture firsthand accounts of life in Fulton before, during, and after implementation of the 1970s urban renewal plan. Dr. Caroline Morris, assisted by project coordinator Corliss M. Johnson, conducted 18 interviews with 32 current and former neighborhood residents to create the Fulton Oral History Project.

What else can you find in *This is Richmond, Virginia* about black history? Were you surprised by what you saw today or was it familiar to you? Explore our special exhibitions to find more stories of African American history and share your discoveries with us online @thevalentineRVA.

thevalentine.org | 804-649-0711 | 1015 East Clay Street

