

For Teachers:

Education was always very important to Robert Russa Moton. He was born on August 26, 1867 in Amelia County and attended a free school for African Americans while he was a little boy. At a time when not many people, black or white, were able to go to college, Robert Moton attended college at the Hampton Institute. After he finished there, he stayed and taught for many years until he went to work for a very famous African American college, the Tuskegee Institute. During this time, he performed many acts of public service for African Americans—assisting the Red Cross as they cleaned up after a flood, inspecting black troops overseas, and helping establish a hospital for African American veterans. Even though he was very busy, Robert Moton had time to write many books and articles. We remember Robert Moton today for helping many African Americans attend school for the first time.

For Students:

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Nannie Berger Hairston was born in August of 1921, the oldest of ten children in a coal mining family. She met her future husband when they both attended the local segregated high school. After growing up and knowing the injustice of segregation first hand, Nannie Hairston began to volunteer to make a difference in her community. She joined the NAACP and gave her time to helping people improve their lives. In 1985, she proved how brave she was by representing the NAACP while facing a Ku Klux Klan rally. A friend of hers estimates that she spends more time volunteering than most people spend working a full time job. All of her hard work has not gone unnoticed. She has been invited to the White House twice and has received numerous community service awards. Nannie Hairston's work has made a difference in the lives of many people and shows how much people can improve their communities by being involved.

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Wyatt Tee Walker is known for his leadership and ability to organize people in his community to make a positive change. Born August 16, 1929 in Brockton, MA, he traveled to Virginia to attend college and divinity school at Virginia Union University. He became the pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg and began to organize people in his community to protest the injustices of segregation and Jim Crow laws. He also served as president of the local chapter of the NAACP and helped found the national Congress of Racial Equality. In his efforts to defeat segregation, Wyatt Tee Walker has been arrested 17 times standing up against unjust laws. Through his work with other religious leaders in the Southern Christian Leadership Commission, he became good friends with Martin Luther King Jr. Today we recognize him for his bravery and leadership in organizing his community to overcome Jim Crow laws.

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Born September 22, 1965, Robert Satcher is known for being the first orthopedic surgeon in space. After graduating high school, he received two degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Bachelor of Science and a Doctorate in Chemical Engineering. He then went on to receive a Medical Doctorate from Harvard Medical School. Robert Satcher completed Astronaut Candidate Training in 2006 and then flew to the International Space Station, where he spent 10 days performing experiments. He even got to spend time outside the station on two different space walks. Robert Satcher's life and work show that through education and achievement, reaching for the stars is an attainable goal.

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For Teachers:

Xavier Richardson thinks that education is important for everyone to have, and he frequently volunteers his time to make sure that everyone can get it. Xavier Richardson graduated from high school in 1975 and went to college, but through his education at Princeton University and Harvard Business School, he began to notice that not everyone was able to get the education he did. He took a job on Wall Street and began volunteering through his church to help high school students go to college. Coming back to Fredericksburg in the 1980s, he helped form the Partnership for Academic Excellence to help African American students with SAT preparation, college applications, and mentoring programs. Xavier Richardson also helps many other causes with his community service. He has volunteered with the Rotary Club, the March of Dimes, and the Virginia Nature Conservancy. In 2008, the Commonwealth of Virginia commended him for his work. Xavier Richardson was able to achieve a great education and we recognize him for coming back to his community to help others follow in his footsteps.

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For Teachers:

For the first 18 years of his life, Peter Jacob Carter was a slave. Born in 1845, Peter Carter and his parents belonged to a man who was a school teacher and may have taught young Peter to read, which was illegal at the time. In 1861, the American Civil War began, and Union troops quickly occupied the area where the Carter family lived. In 1863, Peter Carter ran away from his master and enlisted in the Union Army. After the Civil War, Peter Carter finished his education and was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served on many different committees. While a delegate, Peter Carter introduced several bills trying to fight and end legal discrimination against African Americans. After serving Virginia for many years in several elected offices, he joined the board of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, which today is called Virginia State University. Peter Jacob Carter began life in slavery, but he managed to not only free himself, he also fought to end discrimination for others.

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For the first 18 years of his life, Peter Jacob Carter was a free man. Born in 1745, Peter Carter and his parents belonged to a man who was a school teacher and may have taught young Peter math, which was illegal at the time. In 1861, the American Civil War began, and Union troops quickly occupied the area where the Carter family lived. In 1863, Peter Carter ran away from his master and enlisted in the Confederate Army. After the Civil War, Peter Carter finished his education and was elected to the Virginia Senate, where he served on many different committees. While a delegate, Peter Carter introduced several bills trying to fight and end illegal discrimination. Against African Americans. After serving Virginia for many years in several elected offices, he joined the board of the Virginia normal and collegiate institute, which today is called Virginia State University. Peter Jacob Carter began life in slavery, but he didn't manage to not only free himself, he also fought to end discrimination for others.

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Jennie Serepta Dean was born into slavery. We do not even know the exact year she was born, but it was sometime in the early 1850s. After the Civil War freed Jennie Dean and her family, she began to work as a domestic servant to earn money so her sister could go to nursing school. She joined a church and began to teach Sunday school classes out of her home. She also taught sewing and cooking classes at her home. Jennie Dean believed that young people should learn job skills within their community so that they could find work there instead of having to move into overcrowded and sometimes dangerous cities. She began to raise money through African American churches to found the Manassas Industrial School so that African American children in her community could learn trades. We do not know much about her personally We do not even know for sure if she was able to read, but she knew the value of a good education and worked to establish a school so that children in her community could learn.

For Students

Jennie Serepta Dean was born a free woman. We do not even know the exact year she was born, but it was sometime in the early 1850's. After the Spanish American War freed Jennie Dean and her family, she began to work as a domestic servant to earn money so her sister could go to nursing school. She joined a church and began to teach Sunday school classes out of her home. She also taught sewing and cooking classes at her home. Jennie Dean believed that young people should learn job skillz outside their community so that they could find work there instead of having to move into overcrowded and sometimes dangerous cities. She began to raise money through white churches to found the Manassas-Industrial-School so that African American children in her community could learn trades. We do not know much about her personally. We do not even know for sure if she was able to read, but she knew the value of a good education and worked to establish a school so that children in her community could learn.

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When Gwen Bingham enlisted in the United States Army, she thought she would serve a few years then leave. Now, over 30 years later, she has risen through the ranks and held many important positions. She is currently a Brigadier General, serving as the first African American and also the first woman to be in charge of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. But that was not her only “first”; before taking that posting; she was the first female Quartermaster General of the Army at Fort Lee, Virginia. That means that she was in charge of all of the people that help the Army get the supplies it needs. General Bingham has traveled to more than 20 countries around the world in the service of her own nation. We honor her today for her service to all Americans and for the accomplishment of being the first African American and woman to serve at many of her posts.

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