

The Defenders would like to thank each of the following individuals and organizations for their contributors to the Gabriel Historical Highway Marker project:

A.C.O.R.N. (Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods)	Adam Nathanson (Gift from his wife, Alyssa Murray)
Dr. & Mrs. Haskell Bingham & Family	Shawn O'Hern Patty & Malcolm Parks
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Andreas Doernen	Charlie Schmidt
Ana F. Edwards	Dr. Philip J. & Janet B. Schwarz
Dr. Douglas R. Egerton	Zakia R. Shabazz
Reginald E. Gordon	Barbara A. Slayden
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Henrico County Branch NAACP	Dr. Audrey Smedley Barbara A. Tyler
Susanne Kelly	Greg Wells
Tyla Matteson	Phil Wilayto

The Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality is a group of Richmond-area residents working for the survival of our community through education and social justice activities.

Donations to help with the cost of programs, fliers, brochures and future events are graciously appreciated and may be mailed to the address below.

Defenders for Freedom Justice & Equality
P.O. Box 23202, Richmond, VA 23223

Gabriel


Historical Highway Marker

Seminar, March & Unveiling

Sunday – October 10, 2004
3:30 – 7:30 pm

“BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council hereby acknowledges Gabriel as an American patriot and freedom fighter who reflected a level of consciousness that gives dignity to the sacrifices that he made in the quest for justice and equality and affirms those principles which link all people as one in their common and intrinsic desire to be free.”

 On October 10, 2003, the Defenders announced the start of the Gabriel Historical

Highway Marker project. Precisely one year later, we are here to announce the project complete. Installed just two days ago, and unveiled as a part of this evening's program, the marker is now situated in the area that was once the site of Richmond's slave-trading industry.

While historians generally describe Gabriel's Rebellion as the largest and best-planned attempt at a mass slave uprising in U.S. history, this marker is the conspiracy's first official physical recognition in Richmond, the target of the planned uprising. This marker not only marks where Gabriel died for the cause of freedom, justice and equality, but it also is the first physical acknowledgment of the existence of the "Burial Ground for Negroes", the 18th century cemetery that today lies abandoned beneath a private parking lot. The establishment of this marker is just one step in properly memorializing the Burial Ground and Richmond's entire slave-trading district in Shockoe Bottom.

Dr. Haskell S. Bingham, Dr. Douglas R. Egerton, Elizabeth Cann Kambourian, Dr. Philip Schwarz and Scott Arnold, manager of the Historical Highway Marker Program, Department of Historic Resources graciously assisted the Defenders with this project, especially with research and guidance for the text of the marker. We are grateful for the pride in workmanship of Dan Glenn and his team at VDOT, who prepared and installed the marker so well.

We give special thanks to Reverend Brian Brown and the congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church for acting as fiscal sponsors for this project and allowing the Defenders to use their historic church for its group meetings. We thank Rev. Peter Vaughn (pastor), Susan Costanzo and Al Richardson of Centenary United Methodist Church for graciously opening up their fellowship hall and sanctuary for our program today.

Acknowledgement and thanks also are due to all those who have preceded the Defenders in upholding the memory of Gabriel's life and struggle, and to those who continue to draw upon his legacy for inspiration. Some of those individuals and organizations are

Elegba Folklore Society

Fertile Ground

For The People

Former Richmond 6th District City Councilman Sa'ad El-Amin

Henrico County Supervisor Frank Thornton

Highland Park Civic Association "Gabriel Freedom Park"

Prosser-Turth Division #456, UNIA-ACL

Richmond City Council's Slave Trail Commission

Richmond Free Press

The Richmond Voice

Finally, we thank you for being a part of this day, a part of the legacy of Gabriel.

Keep up the struggle.

October 10, 2004

The statement on the cover of this program was taken from Resolution No. 2002-R222, which was unanimously adopted by Richmond City Council on Oct. 27, 2002. Former 6th District City Councilman Sa'ad El-Amin, who also founded the city's Slave Trail Commission, introduced the resolution.

Slavery In Virginia, Richmond's Role In The U.S. Slave Trade

& Gabriel's Rebellion

Please sign in, enjoy the refreshments, peruse and take information from the literature tables. We also have commemorative postcards and prints for sale, the proceeds of which will benefit the work of the Defenders, as well as support today's program.

4:00 Seminar begins

Reginald E. Gordon – Moderator, Member of Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality

Zakia R. Shabazz – Defender & United Parents Against Lead -- Announcements

Slavery

Dr. Philip Schwarz, professor emeritus of history, Virginia Commonwealth University

"The history and extent of the slave trade in Virginia"

Elvatrice Parker Belsches, author, lecturer
"Slave trading in Shockoe Bottom"

Ana F. Edwards, Defender, artist, two of whose ancestors were sold from auction houses in Shockoe Bottom
"The meaning of Richmond's history to the Black community in the United States."

Burial Grounds

Dr. Michael L. Blakey, professor of anthropology, College of William & Mary; director, study of the African Burial Ground in New York City
"The significance of burial grounds in understanding African-American history"

Elizabeth Cann Kambourian, historian, discovered Burial Ground for Negroes
"History and facts about the Burial Ground for Negroes."

Gabriel's Rebellion

Dr. Douglas R. Egerton, professor of history, Le Moyne College; author, "Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802"
"Gabriel's Rebellion"

Dr. Haskell S. Bingham, descendant of Gabriel; family historian; VP of academic affairs, Virginia State University
"Gabriel's ancestors and descendants"

Phil Wilayto, Defender; reporter/writer who has written about Gabriel, Burial Ground
"Reviving the Spirit of Gabriel's Rebellion"

Closing remarks

6:30 – Please gather for the march behind the "Death Or Liberty" banner, outside, at the corner of 5th and E. Grace Streets.

6:40 – 7:00 March from 5th & E. Grace to the 15th & E. Broad streets

7:00 – 7:30 Unveiling Ceremony

Ana Edwards

Libation -- Elegba Folklore Society

Vice Mayor Delores McQuinn, Richmond City Council & chair of the council's Slave Trail Commission

Dr. M. Catherine Slusser, Director of the Resource Information Division, VA Department of Historic Resources

Unveiling -- Dr. Haskell S. Bingham

Thank you for joining us.