

## First African American Voters in Washington County, Virginia, October 22, 1867

Slaves, being considered property, and free persons of color, could not vote in Virginia before Reconstruction. Only free white males twenty-one or older with certain property qualifications could exercise what was considered a privilege rather than a right. Even the 1864 wartime constitution of the "Restored Government of Virginia" limited voting to white males although it did call for the emancipation of slaves. After the defeat of the South, Virginia came under military rule, and in 1867, the United States Army held elections on whether a convention should be called to write a new constitution for the Old Dominion. For the first time, African American males could participate. Military officials divided the county into nine districts, registered voters, including African Americans, and held elections in each. White males could not vote who had served the Confederacy unless they had taken an oath of allegiance to the United States.

The military officials kept lists of the black voters which can be found at the Library of Virginia under the heading of "Military Rule Election Records of the Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1867, 1869. Accession 50706, State government records collection."

The following list shows that 498 African American men voted, almost all of whom preferred a new constitution, while whites strongly opposed the measure. Since most blacks could not read or write at the time, the spelling of names depended on the army persons who made the lists. The hand writing is often difficult to read. It is interesting that the African American most involved in Reconstruction and Republican politics in Washington County, Thaddeus Harris, is not listed as voting.

In the following list, the spelling of some names has been changed after comparing them with the names on the Washington County Cohabitation List and the 1870 Census. Many of the men appear in one of these lists but not others which seems to indicate a great deal of movement from place to place by African Americans. The numbers after the names indicate the nine divisions into which the county had been divided for the election: They were not the same as the magisterial districts.

Adams, David (6)	Beal, Campbell, (1)	Boyd, Charles (3)
Allen, Frank (3)	Bean, P. T. (1)	Boyd, J. Points (1)
Allen, James (1)	Beattie, Washington (8)	Boyd, Thomas (1)
Anderson, Edmond (1)	Berryman, Moses (6)	Boyd, Walter (1)
Anderson, Richard (6)	Beverly, Calvin (6)	Boyd, Washington (3)
Anderson, Thomas (1)	Beverly, Calvin (7)	Brady, Thomas (1)
Ashly, Edward (2)	Biars, Bott (2)	Branch, Bollin (1)
Ashly, John (2)	Black, Adam (1)	Branch, J. C. (1)
Ashly, Oscar (2)	Black, David (1)	Branch, Jacob (6)
Austin, James (5)	Black, James (5)	Branch, Madison (8)
Bagley [Bailey], Nelson (1)	Black, Orville (1)	Branch, Robert (7)
Baker, Joseph (1)	Bledsoe, Irvin (5)	Brandy, Charles (6)
Banks, Carter (6)	Blessing, P. H. (1)	Brandy, Daniel (5)
Banks, Mitchell (1)	Boulin, William (3)	Brawdy, Moses (5)
Bates, Moses (1)	Bowers, Alexander (6)	Bright, John (7)

Brookins, Wilson (1)	Coal, William (1)	Fields, Nathan (8)
Brooks, Peter (1)	Cogsdal, Richard (1)	Fleming, Coningor (2)
Brown, Charles (6)	Cogsdale, T. (1)	Flint, Major (6)
Brown, Edward (2)	Cole, William (2)	Foster, John (1)
Brown, Henry (6)	Cooly, James (1)	Foster, John (6)
Brown, Henry (7)	Cordon, William (1)	Foster, William (2)
Brown, Markas (9)	Cotton, Wesley (5)	Fraction, Alexander (7)
Brown, Richard (2)	Craft, Arthur (2)	Fraction, James (7)
Brown, Rubin (5)	Crawford, James (7)	Fraction, John (1)
Brown, Simon (2)	Crocket, Reuben (8)	Fraction, Samuel (7)
Brown, Stephen (1)	Crocket, Sampson (7)	Frasier, Mat (6)
Brown, Thomas (2)	Crocket, Squire (8)	Freeman, Alexander (8)
Brown, William (3)	Crump, Charles (1)	Freeman, Jackson (7)
Brownlow, Alexander (5)	Culbertson, Daniel (6)	Freeman, Moses (7)
Brownlow, Joseph (5)	Cummings, William (7)	Fry, John (1)
Burrel, John (1)	Dabney, Wigg (1)	Fugate, William (3)
Burrell, Alex (1)	Daggs, John (2)	Fulkerson, Harry (7)
Burrley, Stewart (1)	David, George (5)	Fullbrite, Henry (9)
Butter, July (6)	Davis, John (1)	Fullen, Baron (6)
Callaway, Jacob (7)	Dean Henry (3)	Fullen, Jasper (6)
Campbell, Arthur (3)	Debaes, Kyer (4)	Fullen, Mark (6)
Campbell, Clouden (7)	Debose, Henry (2)	Fullen, Peter (6)
Debose, Thomas (2)	Debose, James (2)	Fullen, Quinton (5)
Fullen, Washington (6)	Debose, Paris (1)	Fullen, Spotswood (6)
Campbell, Collins (5)	Dilloway, John (2)	Fuqua, Wilson (2)
Campbell, Frank (1)	Dixon, Francis (5)	Gaddy, Anderson (3)
Campbell, Jackson (6)	Dixon, Miles (1)	Gaddy, Ruben (3)
Campbell, Richard (3)	Dixon, Richard (1)	Ganaway, Alexander (7)
Campbell, William (1)	Dunlap, Madison (2)	Ganaway, Henry (8)
Campbell, William (4)	Eddinburgh, ---- (1)	Ganaway, Samuel (7)
Carroll, H. (1)	Eddinburgh, Edward (1)	Gibbs, Martin (1)
Carter, Garland (5)	Eddinburgh, William #1 (1)	Gilliam, Joseph (7)
Carter, George (5)	Eddinburgh, William #2 (1)	Gipson, Charles (3)
Carter, Henry (9)	Edward, Daniel (1)	Girdy, Edmond (2)
Carter, Jack (1)	Edwards, Andy (7)	Goff, John (1)
Carter, Jerry (5)	Edwards, Mitchel (5)	Goff, Moses (8)
Carter, Luis (9)	Elliott, Samuel (8)	Good, Robert (2)
Carter, Samuel (5)	Elliott, Alfred (5)	Gorden, Gilbert (3)
Carter, Thomas (5)	Ellison, Clarence (1)	Hall, Jackson (8)
Clark, Alexander (6)	Ellison, Joseph (1)	Hall, Jacob (1)
Clark, David (1)	English, Berry (3)	Hamilton, Lewis (6)
Clark, Robert (1)	Estill, Alexander (6)	Hammons, Jerry (5)
Clark, Robert (6)	Estill, David (6)	Harder, James G. (4)
Clark, Sanders (4)	Evans, Richard (1)	Hasten, James W. R. (4)
Clay, Alferd (3)	Ewing, Benjamin (1)	Hawkins, ---- (1)
Clay, Henry (3)	Fallergroy, Harrison (7)	Hawkins, Lewis (2)
Clouden, Stephen (7)	Farmer, Albert (8)	Hawkins, Mark (2)

Hawkins, Washington (2)	Johnston, Henry (1)	Lucas, Alexander (9)
Hayes, Calvin (6)	Johnston, Isaac (2)	Lucas, David (2)
Hays, Henry (5)	Johnston, John (1)	Lucus, Lewis (1)
Hays, William (6)	Johnston, Moses (1)	Mack, Henry (2)
Haywood, Henry (6)	Johnston, Thomas (1)	Mack, William (2)
Henderson, D. (1)	Jones, Alexander (2)	Madison, D. P. (1)
Highly, John (1)	Jones, Charles (6)	Madison, H. C. (1)
Hill, Alexander (9)	Jones, Edward (2)	Madison, William (2)
Hill, Allen (2)	Jones, Ephram (6)	Maho, Jackson, (3)
Hill, Garrett (9)	Jones, George (2)	Martin, Francis (3)
Hill, George B. (9)	Jones, George (9)	Martin, Moses (9)
Hill, Jarritt (1)	Jones, Henry (8)	Martin, William (1)
Hill, Robert (8)	Jones, Jack (1)	McAbe, P. (1)
Hoffman, William (1)	Jones, Jefferson (6)	McClannahan, Richmond (2)
Holman, Wilson (6)	Jones, L. H. (1)	McClannahan, W., Jr. (1)
Hope, Peter (1)	Jones, Owen (1)	McClannahan, W., Sr. (1)
Hughes, William (7)	Jones, Polk (6)	McConky, T. (1)
Hunter, Alfred (6)	Jones, Robert (2)	Meade, Charles (1)
Hunter, John (6)	Jones, Stephen (6)	Meral, Jefferson (3)
Hutchenson, Philip, Jr. (6)	Jordon, Gray (1)	Merchant, Jacob (2)
Hutchinson, Lilborn (5)	Kendrick, Thomas (6)	Michael, William (3)
Hutchinson, Philip (6)	Kindrick, Shelby (2)	Miler, John C. (9)
Jack, Daniel (1)	King, Jerry (2)	Miller, Barney (6)
Jackson, Alford (1)	Kiser, John (4)	Miller, Jessee (1)
Jackson, Andrew (3)	Lace, Fullen (1)	Miller, John A. (3)
Lee, James (2)	Lane, Britton (6)	Mimms, Henry (3)
Mitchell, Moses (1)	Layne, D. (1)	Mitchell, Henry (1)
Jackson, Andrew (6)	Lee, John (6)	Mock, Elias (8)
Jackson, Andrew (8)	Lee, Milton (6)	Mock, Joseph G. (8)
Jackson, Andrews, Jr. (6)	Lee, Reuben (2)	Monoe [?], Robert (2)
Jackson, Edmond (6)	Leftridge, William (3)	Moody, Billy (1)
Jackson, Henry (2)	Lethea, William J. (8)	Moore, Edmond (2)
Jackson, Henry (7)	Lewis, Beverly (5)	Moore, Joseph (1)
Jackson, John (1)	Lewis, Cornelius (2)	More, Stephen (8)
Jackson, Phillip (7)	Lewis, Richard (6)	Mormon, Charles (3)
Jefferson, David (3)	Lilly, Isaac (1)	Morris, David (5)
Jefferson, Henry (5)	Livingston, James (3)	Morris, Isum (1)
Jefferson, Phillip (5)	Lockett, William (5)	Morton, Charles (1)
Jenkins, James (6)	Logan, John (4)	Morton, James (1)
Johnson, Edward (6)	Logan, Joseph (7)	Mosby, Charles (6)
Johnson, Henry (3)	Logan, Mark (5)	Mosby, Jerry (5)
Johnson, Lewis (4)	London, King (6)	Mosely, Enoch (2)
Johnson, Marshal (3)	Lore, Findlay (8)	Murdock, Harrison (6)
Johnson, William (8)	Louis, Boston (3)	Murdock, Howard (6)
Johnston, Cezer (1)	Love, Anderson (2)	Murphy, Daniel (5)
Johnston, Floyd (1)	Love, Andy (2)	Murry, William (8)
Johnston, Henry (1)	Low, Emmett (1)	Newton, Campbell (4)

Nobleton, Charles (2)  
 Nobleton, Robert (2)  
 Nolds, Joseph (5)  
 Noles, H. (1)  
 Nusum, James K. (9)  
 Overton, Thomas (5)  
 Page, Edward (1)  
 Page, Henry (2)  
 Palmer, G. W. (1)  
 Parrot, Robert (1)  
 Paterson, Stephen F. (6)  
 Peircon [?], Ballard (2)  
 Peircon [?], George (2)  
 Peircon [?], Albert (2)  
 Perry, Jubiter (1)  
 Phillips, Charles (6)  
 Phillips, P. (1)  
 Poindexter, Robert (5)  
 Polk, Granville (6)  
 Pool, Simeon (5)  
 Pope, Eldridge, (1)  
 Pope, Giles (6)  
 Powel, Albert (8)  
 Powers, Harry (1)  
 Price, Spencer (3)  
 Primus, Joseph (6)  
 Profet, Andrew (2)  
 Pugh, Sezer (6)  
 Smith, Givens (6)  
 Watson, Wilson (2)  
 Radicok, Noah (9)  
 Ramsy, John (1)  
 Readman, Milton (1)  
 Rebbels, John (1)  
 Redix, James (6)  
 Redix, John (6)  
 Redix, William (6)  
 Reece, Isaac (3)  
 Reed, David (3)  
 Rickets, Joseph (2)  
 Riddle, William (1)  
 Right, Lewis (3)  
 Ritchards, George (5)  
 Rody, James (6)  
 Rody, John (6)  
 Rogers, William (6)  
 Rollins, J. A. (1)  
 Ross, Isaac, Jr. (2)  
 Ross, Isaac, Sr. (2)  
 Ross, John (2)  
 Ross, Lewis (8)  
 Ruffin, Calvin (1)  
 Russell, Isaac (1)  
 Samuel, Augustus (6)  
 Saul, Joseph (1)  
 Saul, Lace (1)  
 Scott, Allen (2)  
 Scott, Benjamin (8)  
 Scott, George (2)  
 Scott, Moses (6)  
 Seals, Dred (6)  
 Seals, George (6)  
 Sharp, Francis (9)  
 Sheffee, Washington (6)  
 Shelton, Dabny (1)  
 Simons, Hamlet Doubtful (2)  
 Simons, John (2)  
 Simons, Romulus (2)  
 Singleton, Peter (1)  
 Slaton, James (6)  
 Smith, Amos (6)  
 Smith, Anderson (7)  
 Smith, Andrew (6)  
 Smith, Daniel (1)  
 Smith, David (5)  
 Smith, Edward (6)  
 Smith, Gilbert (5)  
 Smith, James (4)  
 Smith, Jessee (2)  
 Smith, Peter (1)  
 Smith, Sampson (5)  
 Smyth, William (5)  
 Staunton, Beverly (6)  
 Stratton, Aaron (1)  
 Taylor, Abraham (1)  
 Taylor, Edmond (9)  
 Taylor, Edward (1)  
 Taylor, Edward, (1)  
 Taylor, Jacob (1)  
 Taylor, James, Sr. (1)  
 Taylor, Lilburn (1)  
 Telfare, Charles (7)  
 Thomas, Hamilton (2)  
 Thomas, Henry (2)  
 Thomas, William (2)  
 Thomas, William (3)  
 Thompson, Andrew (2)  
 Trent, Claborn (7)  
 Trent, James, (7)  
 Trigg, Frank (1)  
 Trigg, John (8)  
 Trigg, Kendrick (6)  
 Trigg, Orville (1)  
 Turk, James, Jr. (1)  
 Turk, James, Sr. (1)  
 Turner, Henry (8)  
 Turner, James (7)  
 Turner, James (8)  
 Turner, Joseph (1)  
 Turner, Shelby (6)  
 Walker, [Edmund?] (1)  
 Walker, Allen (1)  
 Walker, Allen (2)  
 Wallace, James (1)  
 Washington, Andrew (3)  
 Washington, George (6)  
 Washington, Isaac (2)  
 Waterford, Andrew (1)  
 Waterford, Charles (6)  
 Waterford, Charles (6)  
 Watkins, Allen (1)  
 Watson, Albert (2)  
 Watson, Francis (5)  
 Watson, Thomas (1)  
 Waugh, G. H. (1)  
 Webb, Austin (3)  
 Weeks, Daniel (7)  
 Weeks, G. W. (2)  
 Weeks, Howard (6)  
 Weeks, Peter (6)  
 Werks, Taylor (1)  
 White, Alexander (8)  
 White, Griffin (2)  
 White, Joseph (5)  
 White, Parlor (6)  
 White, Samuel (1)  
 Wiley, Thomas (6)  
 Willaby, John (6)  
 Willaughby, William (2)  
 Williams, George (2)  
 Williams, James (1)

Williams, John (7)  
Williams, Lee (6)  
Williams, Samuel (8)  
Willis, David (3)  
Willoughby, Henry (1)  
Willoughby, Thomas (5)  
Wills, Austin (6)  
Willson, Henry (8)  
Willson, John (8)  
Wilson, Henry (1)

Wilson, James (3)  
Winkfield, A. (7)  
Wood, Frank (3)  
Wood, Phil (1)  
Woods, Bartly (1)  
Woods, Boston (3)  
Woods, C. (1)  
Woods, Charles (2)  
Woods, John (1)  
Woods, Joseph (1)

Woodson, James (6)  
Woodson, John (5)  
Works, Aaron (9)  
Wright, Green (1)  
Wright, Overton (8)  
Wyatt, Gibbons (6)  
Yancy, Richard (1)  
Young, Edmond (5)  
Young, Lewis (1)  
Young, Milton (5)