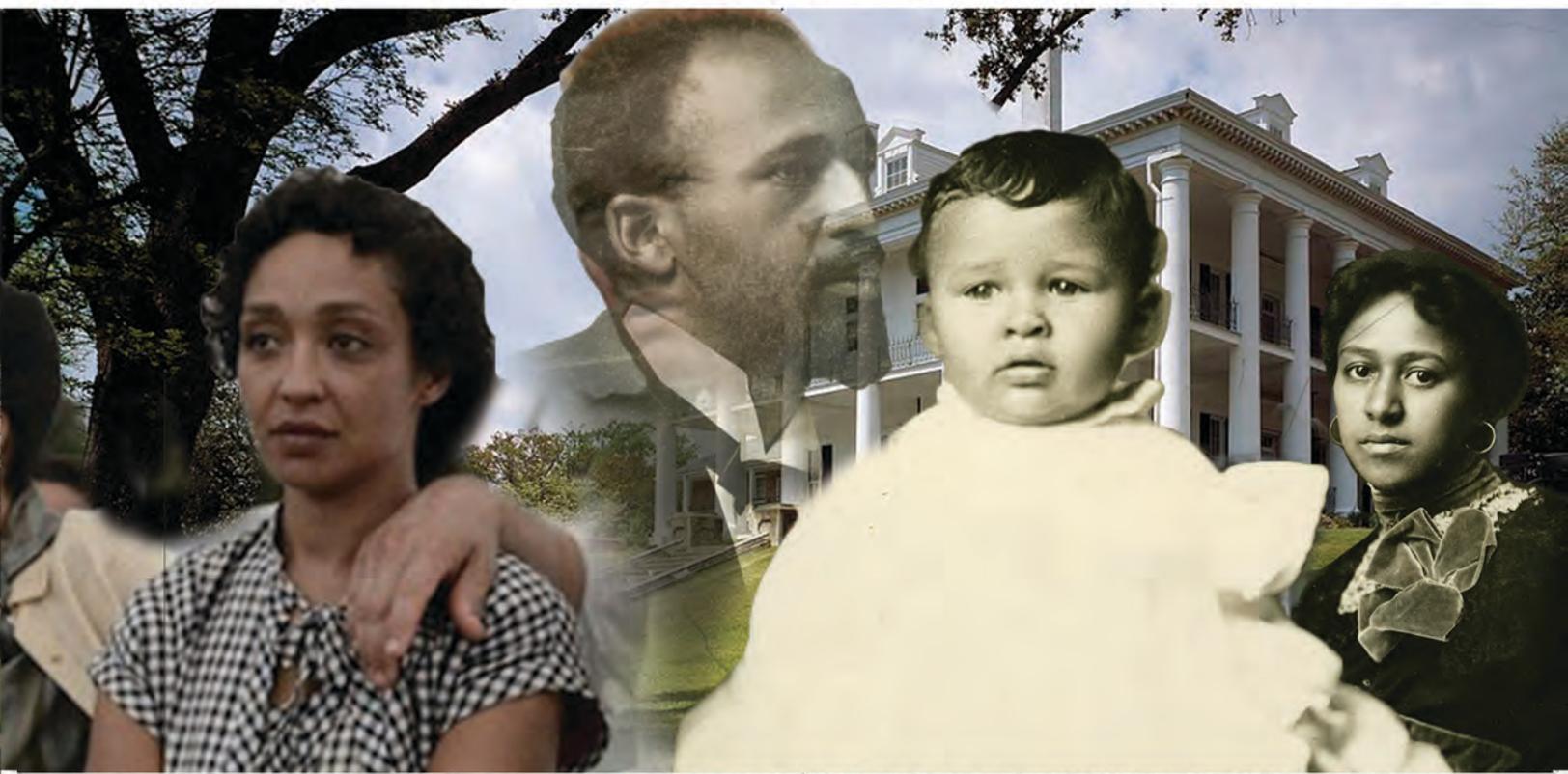


The Child Who Energized Whites to Abolish Slavery

A dozen years before the Emancipation Proclamation, a senator from Massachusetts helped secure freedom for a seven-year-old girl. The reason for his great interest and proud announcement to constituents? The girl looked white.

Along with her liberation came the allowance for freedom to be purchased by her dark-skinned father and brother, and lighter-skinned mother, but they were largely omitted from the storyline, in which reporters favored shocked dismay that in the year 1855, a child such as Mary Mildred Williams (a "white slave") could be found living shackled on a plantation in Virginia.

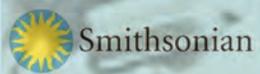


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