



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Appomattox Court House  
National Historical Park

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## Appomattox Court House News Release

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### **Archaeological Excavation in the Park at the Coleman Site**

Appomattox, Va. – Archaeologists from the University of South Carolina are partnering with Appomattox Court House NHP and the Northeast Regional Archaeology Program to perform an excavation in the park sponsored by Civil War to Civil Rights funding from the National Park Service. The current excavation is located on the historic Dr. Samuel Coleman property, investigating the potential dwelling site of Hannah Reynolds, an enslaved African American servant of the Coleman family. Reynolds was wounded by a stray artillery shell on the morning of April 9, 1865 near the Coleman House and died three days later after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, a free woman.

Using a suite of remote sensing techniques, archaeologists surveyed the Coleman site in September 2017 to identify potential locations for the ongoing 2018 excavations. Enduring heat and heavy rains, the archaeological team conducted excavations on site over the last two months. The recent heavy rainfall has led to waterlogged clay soils, forcing archaeologists to adapt their sampling strategies and employ a unique wet-screening technique in their search for artifacts.

As the archaeology team enters the last week of the 2018 field season, they are busy analyzing newly uncovered artifacts from the dig. Recovered objects include a range of domestic and architectural objects such as glass beads, machine cut nails, and medicinal bottles from the 19<sup>th</sup> century inhabitants. These archaeological materials provide a glimpse into the lives of the people who occupied the Coleman site as well as evidence from the intense battle that was fought on this property on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Park staff will use the information from the excavation and related research findings to expand the interpretation of park resources and stories to tell a more comprehensive story of the legacy of emancipation as a result of the surrender.

*About Appomattox Court House National Historical Park: On April 9, 1865, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia in the McLean House in the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia signaled the end of the nation's largest war. The stories of Appomattox Court House go far beyond the final significant battles of this nation's Civil War. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/apco](http://www.nps.gov/apco).*

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's more than 400 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice), Twitter [www.twitter.com/natlparkservice](http://www.twitter.com/natlparkservice), and YouTube [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice).*

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