



In 1781, Yorktown, Virginia was the site of the culminating battle of the American Revolutionary War. During the Civil War, Yorktown was again subject to siege operations when the Union Army of the Potomac attempted to gain control of the town from its Confederate occupiers. When the Southern forces withdrew from Yorktown in early May 1862, Federal troops transformed the town into a military garrison. "Fort Yorktown," remained federally controlled for the rest of the war.

Thousands of enslaved Americans fled to the protection of the Union garrison at Yorktown. In 1863, Fort Yorktown's commander, General Issac Jones Wistar, established a community for the contraband called "Slabtown." Their experiences there, during and immediately after the Civil War reflect the difficulties and challenges of the newly freed throughout the country.

Speakers

Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander - director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for African Diaspora Studies at Norfolk State University and author of *An African American History of the Civil War in Hampton Roads*.

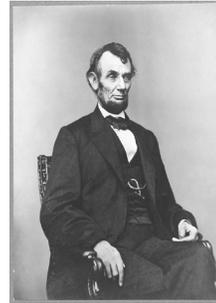
Dr. Glenn David Brasher - An interpreter at Richmond Battlefield for 8 seasons, Glenn Brasher is a history instructor at the University of Alabama and author of *The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation*.

Jerome Bridges - With more than 30 years of historical interpretation experience, Jerome Bridges will depict, through first-person characterization, Abolitionist and African American chaplain of the 6th U.S. Colored Troops, Jeremiah Asher.

...left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

Emancipation Proclamation
January 1, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln excluded enslaved Americans in York County, Virginia from being freed under the provisions of his proclamation. These Americans were not emancipated until the passage of the 13th amendment to the constitution in 1865.



Two Contrabands with Union soldiers, about a mile from Yorktown, 1862.

Dr. Ronald E. Butchart - Distinguished Research Professor and Department Head, University of Georgia; *Schooling the Freed People: Teaching, Learning, and the Struggle for Black Freedom, 1861-1876*.

Dr. Edward G. Longacre - author of over 20 books; including *A Regiment of Slaves, The Fourth United States Colored Infantry, 1863-1865*, a unit which served at Yorktown.

Emmanuel Dabney - A park ranger at Petersburg National Battlefield, Emmanuel Dabney has presented many public programs on African American Civil War history and will speak on the Freedmen's Bureau in Virginia.

Diane Depew - A supervisory park ranger at Colonial National Historical Park who has spent 20 years researching Yorktown's Civil War history with an emphasis on the Union army occupation and African American history of the community.

Symposium Registration Fee - \$15/per person
Box Lunch (optional) - \$10/per person

To register, please send the completed form below, along with a check or money order made out to "Eastern National" to:

Colonial National Historical Park
ATTN: Symposium
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, VA 23690

Questions? E-mail diane_k_depew@nps.gov or call 757-898-2412.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Lunch Selection:

Ham with Cheddar Turkey with Swiss Egg Salad

Sandwiches come on wheat bread and with a side of potato salad, pickle and brownie and beverage. A selection of beverages, including coffee and tea; and snacks will also be available during the day.

The Symposium will be held from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2013 in the fellowship hall of Shiloh Baptist Church, (shilohyorktown.org), adjacent to the Yorktown Battlefield. (Please see more information on Shiloh Baptist Church on the back of this brochure.)

Location: 11053 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, Virginia. (Intersection of Highway 17 and Goosley Road)

Shiloh Baptist Church Homecoming Service

Sunday, July 21, 2013

“Celebrating 150 years of God’s Goodness!”

Join Shiloh Baptist Church in celebrating its rich history looking back with gratitude and moving forward with great expectations.

Worship Service	10:00 am
Lunch	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
March to Shiloh Cemetery	1:30 pm
Slabtown Celebration and Wayside Dedication	2:00 pm

Reverend B. Lemon, Pastor
757-898-4191 www.shilohyorktown.org
11053 George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, Virginia 23690



Shiloh Baptist Church was formed in the “Slabtown,” contraband community at Yorktown in 1863 by free African American preacher, John Cary, and the 6th U.S. Colored Troops chaplain, Jeremiah Asher.

Morning homecoming activities will take place at the church and in the afternoon, ceremonies at the site of Slabtown will reflect on the heritage of its Civil War residents, including those that enlisted in the United States Colored Troops and fought for freedom of enslaved Americans.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Colonial National Historical Park
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Colonial National Historical Park
Yorktown, Virginia

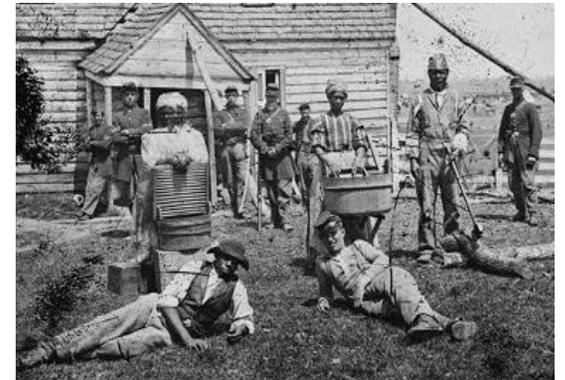
...I thought freedom was better
than anything else...

Contraband Robert D. Ruffin on why he left his owner
for the Union garrison at Yorktown, Virginia.

Contraband, Freedmen and Community

*The African American Experience
in the Union occupied South
during the Civil War*

Symposium
July 20, 2013
Yorktown, Virginia



Contraband and Federal Soldiers at Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown, Virginia during the 1862 Siege of Yorktown and the Peninsula Campaign.