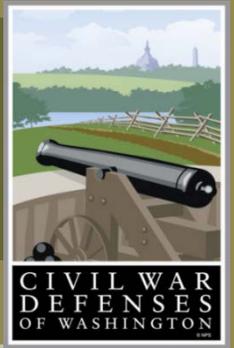




Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER

Fort Marcy Fort Reno Fort Slocum Fort Mahan Fort Davis Battery Carroll Battery Kemble Fort DeRussy Fort Chaplin Fort Bunker Hill
Fort Foote Fort Totten Fort Stanton Fort Greble Fort Bayard Fort Stevens Fort Dupont Fort Ricketts Battleground National Cemetery



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Women In the Civil War

Susie King Taylor African-American Army Nurse

By Ranger Kenya J. Finley

Out of the hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of African-American women to serve with the Union army's "colored" regiments during the war, Susie King Taylor is the only one to have left a published memoir of her experiences. Born Susie Baker, she was enslaved on a plantation in Liberty County, Great Farm on Isle of Wight, off the coast of Georgia in August 8, 1848. When she was seven, she was allowed by her owner to move to Savannah, Georgia to live with her grandmother. It was there that she secretly attended two black schools taught by black women. It was illegal to educate blacks in Georgia at that time and punishment, if caught, would be severe.

In 1862, Baker fled to St. Simons Island off the coast of Georgia. The island was occupied by Union forces during the War. While on St. Simons Island is where she opened a school for African American children and adults. Before leaving the island, she married Sergeant Edward King of the South Carolina Volunteers (later they would be known as the 33rd U.S. Colored Infantry)

In Beaumont, South Carolina, she worked alongside Clara Barton who would later become the founder of the American Red Cross. After the war, she returned to Savannah and established a school for freed children.



Clara Barton Civil War Army Nurse founder American Red Cross

In 1867, she moved back to Liberty County and created

Susie King Taylor continued on page 4



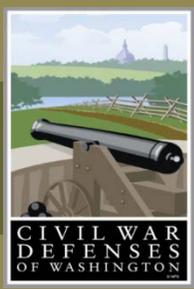
Susie King Taylor

Susie King Taylor (August 8, 1848 and died October 6, 1912) at the age of 64

Civil War Defenses of Washington

NEWSLETTER

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Elizabeth Keckley

Former Enslave. Businesswoman. Civic Activist and Author

By Eric Jean CWDW Volunteer

Elizabeth Keckley born enslaved who became a successful businesswoman, civic activist and author in Washington, DC. Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley was born enslaved on February 1818 in Dinwiddie, Virginia. Her parents were listed as George Pleasant and Agnes Hobbs, but Pleasant, who belonged to another family, paid infrequent visits; Keckley later reported her mother's deathbed confession that her master, Colonel Armistead Burwell, was her real father. She was passed to the ownership of Colonel Barnwell's son, Robert. She was impregnated against her will by a white man, and after giving birth in 1839 to her son, George, she moved with Robert Barnwell's sister to St. Louis. There, she married James Keckley, but the union was short lived. When she found out that he had lied to her about his status of freedom, they separated. By then, she had learned the dressmaking trade and exhibited considerable flair in her creations. Loans from her wealthy dressmaking clientele enabled Keckley to purchase her freedom for \$1,200 in November 1855.

In addition to her sewing skills, Keckley was an excellent networker. By 1860, she had moved to Washington, D.C., and established her own dressmaking business. She was soon styling the Washington's elite, including the wives of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stephen Douglas, Lincoln's former political rival. She had a spare style in contrast to the Victorian norm and was an expert with fit. She also scored the coup client, first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, who was an enthusiastic clotheshorse. Keckley moved into the White House, serving as Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker, personal maid, and confidante.

In her free time, Keckley worked with other African women to form an organization to aid former slaves seeking refuge in the capital. She secured funds from Mary Todd Lincoln as well as from prominent abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and Wendell Phillips. The original name was the Contraband Relief Association but was changed to the Freeman and Soldier's Relief Association of Washington when African Americans were allowed to join the Union Army.

Elizabeth's son served in the Union Army before African Americans were accepted. George Kirkland, who was more than three-quarters white, enlisted as a white in the Union Army in 1861 after the war broke out. He was killed in action



Elizabeth Keckley former slave businesswoman, civic activist and author born February 1818 died May 26, 1907

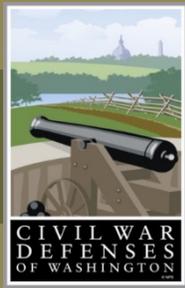


Mary Todd Lincoln born December 13, 1818 and died on July 16, 1882 was the wife of the sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, and was First Lady of the United States from 1861 to 1865.

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on August 10, 1861. After difficulties in establishing her son's racial identity, Keckley gained a pension as his survivor; it was \$8 monthly (later raised to \$12) for the remainder of her life.

Keckley decided to write her memoir in part to salvage the former first lady's reputation after the war. However, the publication of *Behind the Scenes: Or, Thirty Years as a Slave and Four Years in the White House* in 1868 had the opposite effect; feeling betrayed by the revelations in the book, Mrs. Lincoln cut off contact with the woman she once called her closest friend. The once-celebrated dressmaker eventually lost most of her prominent clients and ran out of money. . Keckley led a quiet and secluded life. She told friends that Mrs. Lincoln had contacted her and they became reconciled sometime after her book's publication. She accepted a faculty position at Ohio's Wilberforce University in the Department of Sewing and Domestic Science Arts in 1892, but ill health prevented her from continuing.

On May 26, 1907, Mrs. Keckley died as a resident of the National Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children in Washington, D.C. She was 89 years old. The National Home was located on Euclid St. NW. in Washington, D.C. She was interred a Columbian Harmony Cemetery. Her remains were transferred to National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover, Maryland, in 1960 when Columbian Harmony closed and the land was sold.

A historic plaque installed across the street from the site of the former home commemorates her life. Jennifer Fleischer wrote:

"Perhaps the most poignant illustration of the different fates of these two women is found in their final resting places. While Mary Lincoln lies buried in Springfield in a vault with her husband and sons, Elizabeth Keckley's remains have disappeared. In the 1960s, a developer paved over the Harmony Cemetery in Washington where Lizzy was buried, and when the graves were moved to a new cemetery, her unclaimed remains were placed in an unmarked grave—like those of her mother, slave father, and son."

The Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens July 11–13, 2014

July 11 7:00PM.-9:00PM

A Civil War Historians' Round
Table

Location : To Be Determined

July 12 10:00AM-12:00PM

Commemorative Program

12:30PM-4:00PM

Commemorative Activities

19th Century Crafts and Games

Civil War Re-enactments

Live Time Period Music

Historic Talks and Walks

July 13 2:00PM until 4:00PM

Memorial Program

On the grounds of the
Battleground National Cemetery

Locate: 6625 Georgeia Ave NW

Washington DC

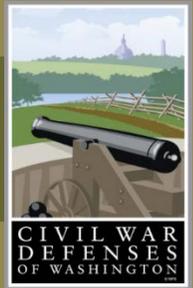
Honoring the 38 Soldiers interred on
the grounds and others who made the
ultimate sacrifice in the Civil War

*If you are interested in volunteering for
the Civil War Defenses of Washington
D.C. please contact Ranger Kenya Finley
by calling 202-426-7723 ext: 101 or by
email kenya_finley@nps.gov.*

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another school. When her husband died in 1866 shortly before the birth of their son, she collected a widow's pension from his service in the Union Army.



MY SCHOOLHOUSE IN SAVANNAH

Susan Baker Taylor
Schoolhouse in Savannah, Georgia

In 1879, she married Russell Taylor and moved to Boston, Massachusetts. He died in 1901, the year before she published her memoir. She dedicated much of her time to the Woman's Relief Corps, a national organization for female Civil War veterans. In 1893, Susie became president of the corps. During the Spanish-American War, she helped furnish packages for wounded men in the hospitals. In 1902, Susie published her memoirs,

becoming the first African-American nurse to write about her experiences in the Civil War. Despite her work during the Civil War and her dedication to political and social reform for African-Americans treatment after the Civil War, Susie King Taylor died in relative obscurity in October 6, 1912 at the age of 64.



The National Home for Destitute Colored Women and Children in 1864 Detail of a view of the Signal Camp of Instruction, Red Hill, Georgetown D.C., Carlisle Military Institute. The site were Elizabeth Keckley died.

Editor: Ranger Kenya J. Finley
Contributors: Ranger Kenya J. Finley
and Eric Jean



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