

400TH COMMEMORATION

FIRST AFRICAN LANDING AT OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA IN 1619



BROWNIE MXXII

COVER

The Calm is an allegorical study whose story is left up to the viewer to unfold. In this version of the visual dialogue, *The Calm* depicts two sacred women and one sacred child before the upheaval of their lives, as they are soon forced to leave their homeland for foreign and unfathomably distant shores once as cargo then as unwitting travelers. *The Calm* resonates with a foreboding only witnessed from the point of view of the kinetic energy coined in the phrase, “The calm before the storm” — an impending storm that embodies the prescience of upheaval. The symbol of forces beyond our control thrust upon us that tests the mettle of our existence as human beings. The story of this image beseeches the viewer to imagine the journey after this tableau. The sentry in the foreground is alerted to the turmoil that will soon befall the trio, as they are soon to be forced to leave all they know and understand behind, and rely on the lessons of their lives up to that day, to live on in a world not of their choosing. They will one day be the matriarchs of the continuing drama and story of the hard won successes of the African American people. A story whose nascency was at Fort Monroe.

THE CALM

ARTIST

S. Ross Browne studied Communication Art and Design at Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, VA. Browne is a professional studio artist with more than 25 years experience. With an emphasis on painting, he has exhibited domestically and internationally in over 70 gallery and museum exhibitions and is in many private, public and institutional collections such as the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, The Valentine Museum, The Black History Museum of Richmond VA, and his most recent public art at The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula. He has been featured in various media outlets including MSNBC's *The Griot*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Washingtonian*, *Ebony*, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, *Richmond Free Press*, *The Washington Post*, *The International Review of African American Art*, *Grid Magazine*, WTVR/CBS, *Harlem Interviews*, *Urban Views Magazine*, the Tom Joyner Foundation, *Virginia Currents* of PBS, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Okay Africa.com*, *Baltimore Style* and *Style Weekly of Richmond*, WCVE/PBS *Virginia Currents* and GSN's *Skin Wars Fresh Paint*. His Illustrations have been featured on publications and book covers for St. Martins Press, Pulp Literature and McDonalds of Northern California.

As the former Art Specialist for the VCU Health System he practiced art therapy for and taught art to his various patients with an emphasis on pediatric hematology/oncology, infectious disease, brain injury and elder care, and for various support groups including Living Well for pediatric cancer support and the Richmond Brain Tumor Support Group.

Browne was an instructor for the Resident Associate Program at the The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and has taught art and design for at risk youth for the Fresh Air Fund, Weed and Seed, Project Ready and Art 180. Browne has adjudicated youth competitions for The Miller School of Albemarle, The NAACP ACT-SO Awards, 4th District 2018 Congressional Art Competition, Alliance for Young Artists & Writers: Scholastic Art Awards and the VANHA Statewide Art Competition. He is currently the resident art instructor at the Anna Julia Cooper School in Richmond, VA as part of a Commission for the Arts grant.

400TH

THIS COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AND EVENT BOOKLET WAS CREATED BY FORT MONROE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO HONOR THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST LANDING OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS IN ENGLISH NORTH AMERICA. IT HIGHLIGHTS A YEAR-LONG PROGRAM OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS REMEMBERING THIS PIVOTAL MOMENT IN UNITED STATES AND WORLD HISTORY.



*“My humanity is bound up in yours,
for we can only be human together.”*

DESMOND TUTU

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Terry E. Brown

Greetings,

Welcome to Fort Monroe National Monument (FOMR) and the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the first landing of Africans in an English North American Colony.

Fort Monroe National Monument is one of the most cherished monuments in the United States. It will be here for our children, and for the generations to come afterwards. The national observation of this anniversary is the culmination of the leadership and vision of so many. I am indebted to the support of my staff, the National Park Service, Fort Monroe Authority, the City of Hampton, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Hampton Roads community that have embraced me. Together, we will provide an invaluable opportunity for learning and dialogue among visitors from across the country and around the world. Fort Monroe will serve as the epicenter of education on the introduction of Africans in English North America.

The history surrounding Old Point Comfort has many layers of complicated and multi-racial themes that span the history of the United States as a whole. This site was inhabited by the American Indians well before the arrival of the English in 1607. Africans soon arrived here in 1619 creating a fundamental presence that changed the course of history of this nation.

It is important to underscore the word **COMMEMORATION** because it can easily be confused with **CELEBRATION**. This is not a celebration. There will be moments for that, however, we must respectfully honor, lift up, and embrace this international story and the role that the United States has played. For hundreds of years, slavery was the most profound and vexatious social problem plaguing this nation. The institution of slavery deserves close study because of the disastrous impact it created, if for no other reason. This is our opportunity to officially remember the trials and tribulations as well as the contributions of Africans and African Americans. It is our moment to embrace the West African concept of Sankofa, which teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward.

The history associated with Fort Monroe goes well beyond what we read in history books. For far too long, the history surrounding the experiences of minorities and women have been largely overlooked or disregarded. From time to time, the past needs to be reexamined to ensure that all experiences are included in the unified story of our past. We do not intend to change history or revise it, but rather to insure we emphasis the diversity of perspectives and bring new considerations to the combined historical narrative.

There is a host of events and programs scheduled throughout the coming year to coincide with the opening of the new visitor and education center at Fort Monroe. I encourage you to learn more about what is happening throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia by visiting Hampton, VA 2019 Commemorative Commission website at hamptonva2019.com and Americanevolution2019.com. The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution™, will feature events, programs, and legacy projects that will inspire local, national, and international engagement in the themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity.

As superintendent, it is my goal to make everyone feel welcomed here at Fort Monroe. This is your park and your community. Together, we will create a space that promotes mutual respect and provides an opportunity for continued dialogue. Please join us in commemorating this special anniversary.



Warm Regards,
Terry E. Brown, Superintendent
Fort Monroe National Monument

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Glenn Oder

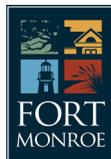
Friends of Fort Monroe,

Highlighted within this commemorative program you will discover a bounty of opportunities to learn about the history of Fort Monroe. From the first arrival of Africans in English North America in 1619, to Fort Monroe becoming “Freedom’s Fortress,” during the American Civil War, this peninsula has been the site of many nationally significant events. Throughout 2019, we invite you to experience the Casemate Museum and explore the largest masonry fort in the United States. In August 2019, we will open the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center that will include exhibits featuring the Virginia Indians, the 1619 arrival story, the 1861 “Contraband Decision,” and the US Army presence at the fort. On behalf of the Fort Monroe Authority and the Fort Monroe Foundation, welcome to Fort Monroe and the 2019 commemorative year.

As you learn more about Fort Monroe, we also invite you to visit our beaches, stop by Oozlefinch Craft Brewery, take a Segway tour from Patriot Tours, or just walk along the seawall. Special events throughout the year include our Music by the Bay Summer Concerts on Thursday evenings, ghost walks in October, holiday events in December, and many other special programs, concerts, and lectures. Visit www.fortmonroe.org to discover more about our special activities and calendar of events.

Finally, our commercial properties have become home to numerous businesses and almost 100% of our historic homes are leased as private residences. All of the homes and buildings at Fort Monroe are available for lease and we are more than happy to expound upon these real estate opportunities if they are of interest to you personally or professionally.

Again, on behalf of all of us at Fort Monroe we welcome you to this historic place. We hope to see you for this 2019 commemorative year.



Sincerely,
G. Glenn Oder, FASLA
Executive Director,
Fort Monroe Authority



What's in a Name?

Established more than a century ago, on August 25, 1916, the National Park Service remains a mystery to millions of Americans despite being more accessible than ever. As a federal agency within the Department of the Interior, *"The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."* Taken together, more than 400 units comprise what has often been referred to as "America's best idea."

The public is often confused by the myriad names used to designate units within the national park system. National parks, monuments, battlefields, historic sites, recreation areas, lake and seashores, trails, rivers and more. What does it all mean? Sites of national historic, natural, and cultural significance to the United States and experiences may be added; however they are not all created in the same way. National parks can be established in two ways, by an act of Congress or presidential proclamation. No matter how a unit is added, all parks enjoy the same level of standing within the national park system. Today more than 20,000 employees, and more than 300,000 volunteers serve to preserve, protect, and interpret these special places covering more than 85 million acres for the enjoyment of everyone.

The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead surrounding them represents the historical and archeological values of our parks.

African Americans in the National Park Service

Early management of the national parks before the establishment of the National Park Service was sparsely and underfunded. To ensure protection of these vast spaces, soldiers from the US Army were often sent to patrol the national parks. In 1903, Captain Charles Young became the first African American to serve as superintendent in a national park, leading roughly 500 Buffalo Soldiers from four all-black regiments to drive poachers and timber thieves out of Sequoia, Yosemite, and General Grant (now part of King's Canyon). Although their primary job was to enforce the law in the parks, they also contributed to future generations' enjoyment of their parks. The Buffalo Soldiers created maps, cut new trails, and kept an eye on early tourists while protecting the resources.

Dubbed "Buffalo Soldiers" by American Indians who thought the dark, curly hair of the African American soldiers of the 10th Cavalry resembled the bison, or American buffalo,

SERVICE [NOUN]:
THE ACTION OF HELPING OR DOING WORK FOR
SOMEONE; A SYSTEM SUPPLYING A PUBLIC NEED

a revered animal in their culture; this nickname soon became associated with all African American regiments that were formed in 1866. Following desegregation of the Armed Forces, these legendary regiments were eventually disbanded, but their legacy lives on.

One of the most iconic symbols of the National Park Service, the ranger flat hat, has its origins as a legacy of the campaign hats worn by those first stewards of park lands, the Buffalo Soldiers. Along with the flat hat, the green and gray uniform park rangers wear today have become a recognizable symbol of the park service.

Today the history of the Buffalo Soldiers is preserved at Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio. This is but one of the many sites that highlight the African American experience throughout the national park system.



Buffalo soldiers of the 25th Infantry, some wearing buffalo robes, Ft. Keogh, Montana
Library of Congress

Top left
National Park Service Logo



The National Park Service Comes to Fort Monroe

Fort Monroe was an active United States Army post on a spit of land known as Old Point Comfort from July 25, 1823 until September 15, 2011. For more than four centuries Old Point Comfort has served as a backdrop for pivotal moments in United States history, including the 1619 landing of the first Africans in English North America, and Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler's "Contraband Decision" in May 1861. To preserve Fort Monroe's "storied history in the defense of our Nation and the struggle for freedom," President Barack Obama established Fort Monroe National Monument with a presidential proclamation on November 1, 2011. The National Park Service directly manages 121 of the 565 acres of Old Point Comfort, alongside partners the Fort Monroe Authority and US Army. On August 24, 2019 the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center will open to provide a space for the public to learn from the past and create a dialogue about our shared future.



President Obama signing proclamation to create Fort Monroe National Monument, November 1, 2011
Obama White House Archives



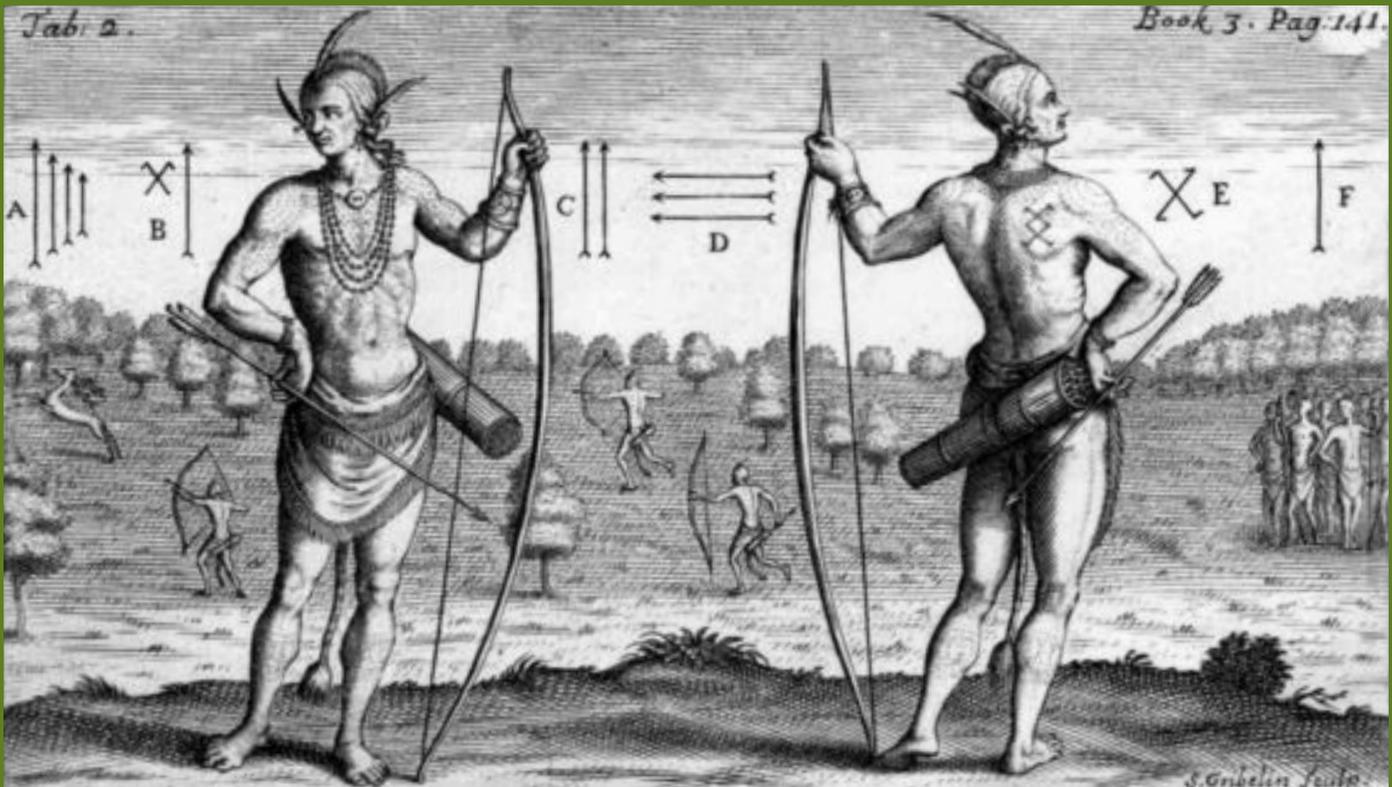
Fort Monroe Superintendent Terry Brown with Hampton University students, 2017
National Park Service

“The value and benefits parks provide to the American people and our international visitors must be woven into our daily thinking and actions. Parks are (or should be) exemplars of the highest standard of environmental quality and must be fully accessible to all.”

ROBERT STANTON, FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1997-2001



Fort Monroe
National Park Service



Sketch of American Indians by English colonist John White, circa 1600
Public Domain

THE KECOUGHTAN

Imagine stepping back thousands of years and visiting the spit of land now known as Old Point Comfort. What did it look like? There is no stone fort, no houses, no lighthouse. Pine trees cover the north end of the spit, and a variety of plant and animal life covers the rest. During the Woodland Period (1200 BCE to 1600 CE) the Powhatan flourished in what is now present day Virginia. The Powhatan were comprised of approximately thirty chiefdoms, one of which, the Kecoughtan, lived near what is today Hampton.

The Kecoughtan travelled to Old Point Comfort to take advantage of the many natural resources in the area. Mill Creek, to the north, offers a wide variety of marine and bird life. An important food source, oysters, were abundant in the Chesapeake Bay. The Kecoughtan worked cooperatively and conducted group hunts throughout the area. This controlled hunting helped preserve the natural resources available for future use.

Archeological excavations within the walls of Fort Monroe have added to the story of the Kecoughtan who once lived here. Stone points and flakes indicate a temporary hunting and fishing camp rather than a permanent settlement. Shards of pottery show an abundance of vessels which were likely used to store food that was collected on Old Point Comfort, and may also have been used to carry water from the Hampton area to compensate for Old Point Comfort's lack of a natural freshwater source.

The Powhatan first made contact with Europeans in the 16th century with the arrival of early Spanish ships. The first English settlers to arrive at Old Point Comfort were led by Captain John Smith in 1607. Following conflict between the American Indians and the English, and the destruction of the village known as Kecoughtan in 1610, their presence all but disappeared from Old Point Comfort.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFRICAN LANDING

On August 25, 1619, the first ship carrying enslaved Africans to English occupied North America landed at Point Comfort (today's Fort Monroe) in Hampton, Virginia. From that perilous landing, their presence has had a profound impact on the cultural manifest of America's past, yet their descendants remain subject to socioeconomic and political disparities today. In 2019 our nation and other countries around the world will collectively come together to commemorate the 400th anniversary of this dreadful but historic event.

The first Africans did not land at Ellis Island, Plymouth Rock, or Jamestown Island, but landed as human cargo that had been captured on the high seas during the transatlantic slave trade. In August 1619, the English privateer ship the *White Lion*, with aid of another privateer the *Treasurer*, attacked the Spanish slave ship *São João Bautista* or *San Juan Bautista* in a fierce battle in the Bay of Campeche in the Gulf of Mexico. The *White Lion* continued on to land at Point Comfort carrying the captured and documented "20 and odd" Africans from the *San Juan Bautista* seeking to trade for provisions. This was the first time a privateer had unknowingly mistaken a slave ship whose primary cargo was Africans for a Spanish treasure ship. These first enslaved Africans brought to Point Comfort were not immigrants, but their landing was one of the most significant events in our country's history. This first generation of enslaved Africans brought to Virginia were captured from the villages of Ndongo, Congo, and Kabasa in the Angola region of Africa and were skilled farmers, herders, blacksmiths, and artisans. They had the perfect skill set needed for the colonies to survive. Along with their culture, language, and beliefs, they also brought many ideas and innovations including food production, crop cultivation, music, and dance. It was their unbridled spirit and labor that helped build Hampton, Point Comfort, and what is today, Fort Monroe and the United States. For generations, Africans and their descendants would toil to survive the evils of slavery. Facing civil unrest, physical attacks, and other atrocities, they endured a long march to become legal citizens of the United States. Those first "20 and odd" Africans who landed at Point Comfort marked the beginning of 246 years of slavery in the United States.

Two of the original Africans who arrived on the *White Lion* in 1619 at Point Comfort were Antoney and Isabella. In January 1625, according to the Virginia census Isabella, Antoney and their son William were living in present day Hampton in the home of Captain William Tucker, the commander of Fort Algernourne at Point Comfort (location of today's Fort Monroe). Their son William is the first documented African child born in English North America. He was baptized on January 4, 1624.

Join us in 2019 and again on August 23–25, 2019 to be a witness to the Commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the first enslaved Africans in English North America — where enslaved Africans stepped off an English privateer, beginning a 400 year odyssey for generations of descendants, and shaped the course of a nation. Come to Old Point Comfort and be a part of history.

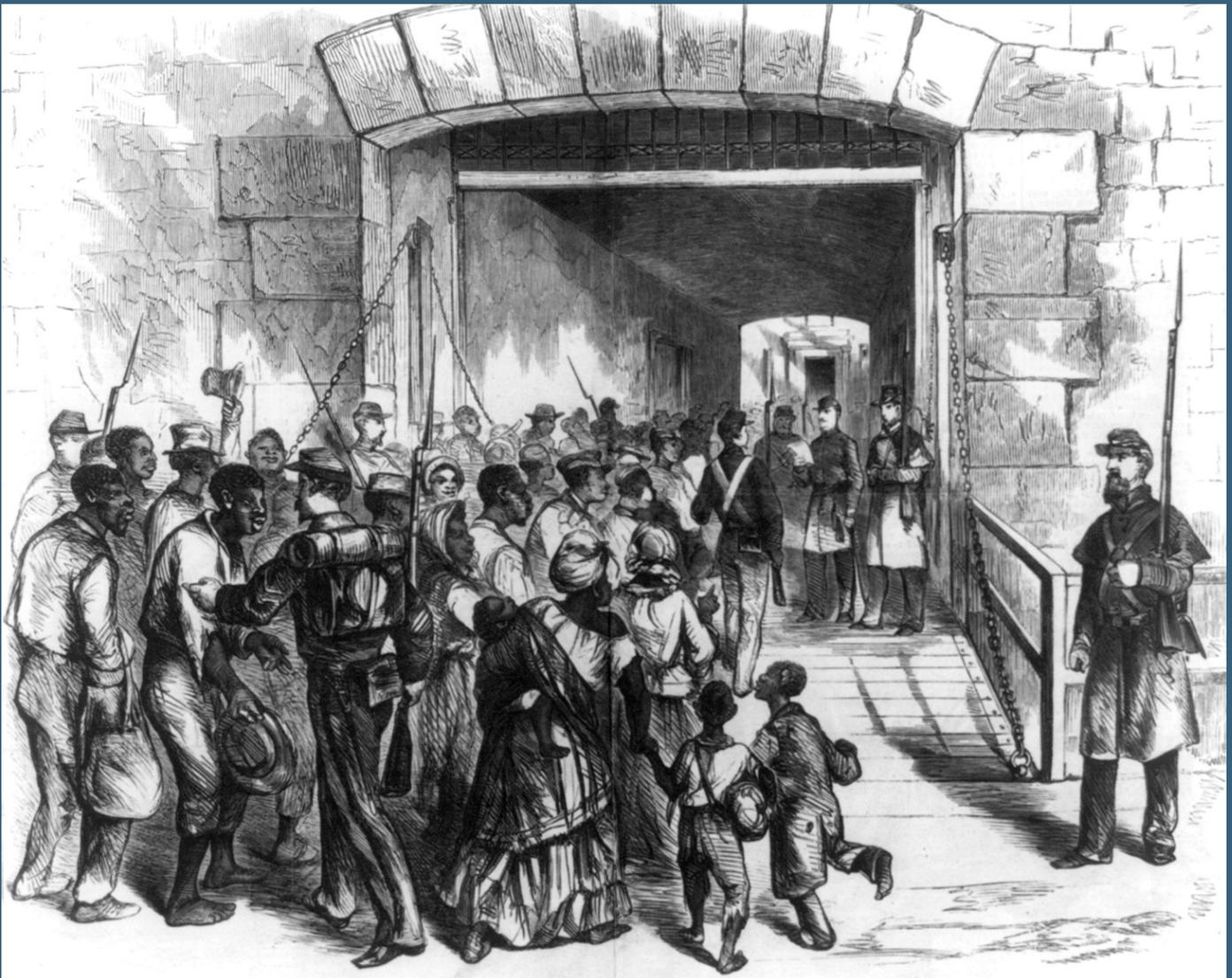


Calvin Pearson, Founder and
President of Project 1619

Calvin Pearson and
Dr. William Wiggins

*“Those who deny freedom to others,
deserve it not for themselves”*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Contrabands arrive at the main gate of Fort Monroe
Casemate Museum Archives

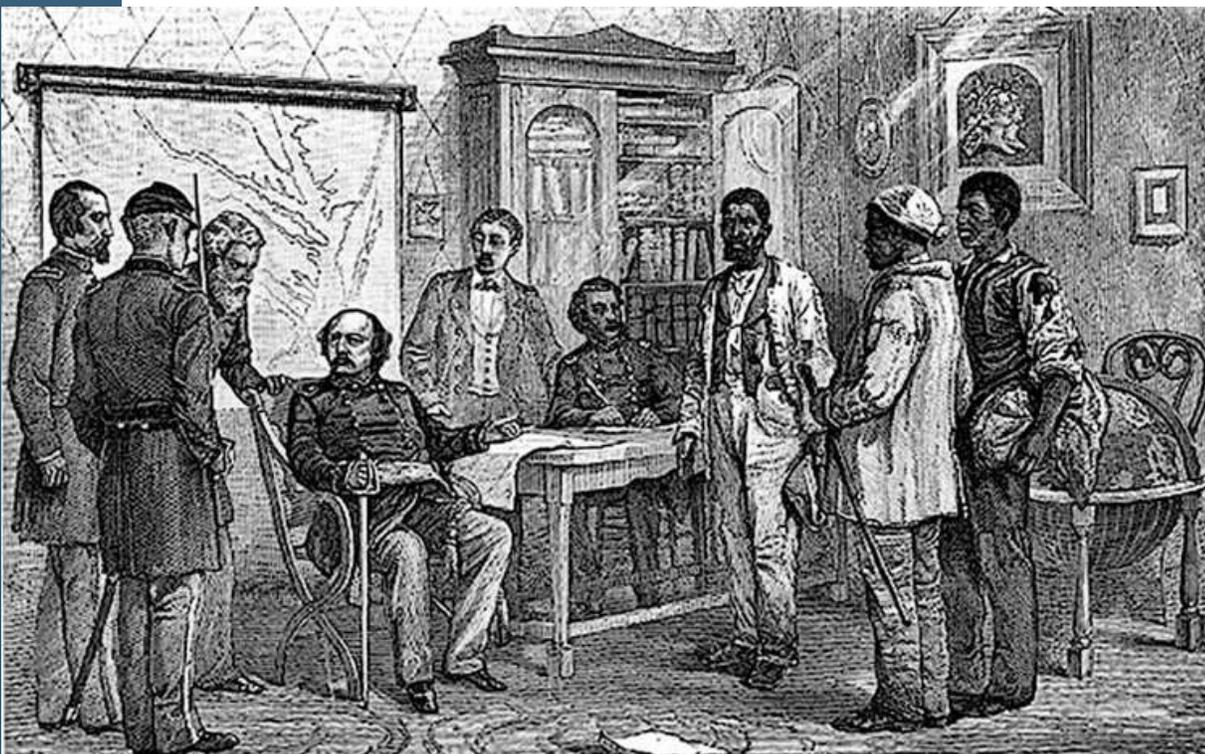
CONTRABAND DECISION OF 1861

The “Contraband Decision” of 1861 is an event that may be little known but would forever change the lives of African Americans and the course of the United States. Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler, who had just recently taken command of Fort Monroe on May 22nd, 1861, was placed in a very difficult position when Virginia ratified their secession from the Union the following day. The safety and protection Fort Monroe offered to Union forces and the strategic importance of Old Point Comfort was immediately placed in jeopardy.

Charles Mallory, a prominent citizen of Hampton and a Virginia militia colonel, sent three of his enslaved men to Sewell’s Point in Norfolk to help in the construction of Confederate gun emplacements. We know the names of the three men today through oral history as Frank Baker, James Townsend, and Shepard Mallory. Having heard they would be sent further south to help construct other gun emplacements, on the evening of May 23rd, 1861, these three courageous men made their way across Hampton Roads in a rowboat to Fort Monroe seeking sanctuary.

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 required any enslaved person caught seeking freedom to be immediately returned to their “owner,” regardless if they were caught in a free state or not. Baker, Townsend, and Mallory were unaware of what would become of them once they reached Fort Monroe, but the proposition of being sent further south away from their friends and families were enough to encourage their risk of escape.

Butler granted an interview with the three men and discovered the purpose of their labor for the enemy. Exercising his skill as a lawyer and the rules of war, he decided to offer them protection as confiscated “contraband” in order to deny the southern forces their labor. The bravery of Baker, Townsend, and Mallory resulting in Butler’s decision would lead to the Confiscation Acts, Emancipation Proclamation, and ultimately the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution forever ending slavery in the United States.



Major General Benjamin Butler meets with Frank Baker, James Townsend and Shepard Mallory inside Quarters 1 Casemate Museum Archives

EMANCIPATION OAK

The Emancipation Oak stands near the entrance of Hampton University in Virginia and is a lasting symbol of self-determination, hope, resiliency, and freedom. During the American Civil War, Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler's "Contraband Decision" ultimately changed the fate of many African Americans creating an opportunity for hope, protection, and freedom at Fort Monroe for tens of thousands of freedom seekers. While universal freedom was still some time away, freedom seekers were able to exercise some of their new found liberties including learning to read and write despite the Commonwealth of Virginia laws prohibiting such actions.

Mary Smith Peake was a woman born to a free black mother and prominent French father. She believed that the only way one could gain higher status was through education. For years she accepted the risks to secretly teach enslaved and free African Americans to read and write, which was prohibited by law. In 1861, Mary was the first teacher hired by the American Missionary Association (AMA) to teach "contrabands" how to read and write under the shade of the Emancipation Oak. Later in 1863, The Butler School was



Emancipation Oak on the grounds of what is now Hampton University
Casemate Museum Archives

constructed next to the oak to provide an enclosed in area for those freedmen to continue learning, while staying out of the elements.

The Emancipation Oak is also the reported location of the first Southern reading of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, which declared "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Today, the Emancipation Oak stands with limbs spanning over a hundred feet in diameter reminding people of the rich heritage that this area holds. Having withstood the test of time this "witness tree" has seen the struggles and triumphs over the entire course of the 400 history of African Americans in the United States."



Mary Peake
Casemate Museum Archives

“Frederick Douglass taught that literacy is the path from slavery to freedom. There are many kinds of slavery and many kinds of freedom, but reading is still the path.”

CARL SAGAN



TIMELINE

FORT MONROE

PRE-1607

Kecoughtan use what is now Old Point Comfort as a hunting and fishing ground

1607

First English arrival at Old Point Comfort

1609

Fort Algernourne constructed; Burned 1612

1619

First landing of Africans in English North America

1632

Fort at Point Comfort constructed; Destroyed by Hurricane 1667

1736

Fort George named; Destroyed by Hurricane 1749

1802

Old Point Comfort Lighthouse constructed

1813

British capture Old Point Comfort Lighthouse during War of 1812

1819

Construction begins on Fort Monroe- the first and largest Third System fort

JULY 25, 1823

First garrison of Fort Monroe reports for duty

1824

Artillery School of Practice established at Fort Monroe

NOVEMBER 1, 1834

Construction of main works of Fort Monroe complete

MAY 24, 1861

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's "Contraband Decision" provides protection for freedom seekers at Fort Monroe



Beginning in the early 1500s, slave ships traveled along Africa's western coast capturing millions of Africans to be forcibly transported to the New World. Ships departed from Europe with manufactured goods sailing to the Angola region in western Africa. These goods were traded for purchased or kidnapped Africans who were then transported across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and Americas. Spanning the course of four centuries, it's estimated that more than 12 million Africans endured the traumatic journey known as the Middle Passage.

THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

EUROPEAN PRIVATEER SHIPS

EUROPEAN SHIPS

OCEAN

SHIPS

EUROPE

AFRICA

ANGOLA
REGION

1861

Harriet Tubman serves as a nurse at the "Contraband" Hospital at Fort Monroe

MAY 6-11, 1862

President Abraham Lincoln stays at Quarters No. 1 planning attack on Norfolk, VA

OCTOBER 1863

First United States Colored Troops regiment arrive at Old Point Comfort

1907

Coast Artillery Command Headquarters established at Fort Monroe

1935

African American Civilian Corps Company 3321 builds Bandstand in Continental Park

JUNE 1, 1951

Casemate Museum opens

DECEMBER 19, 1960

Fort Monroe designated a National Historic Landmark

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Fort Monroe closes as an active US Army post

NOVEMBER 1, 2011

Fort Monroe National Monument is established by President Barack Obama

AUGUST 24, 2019

Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center opens

TIMELINE

NATIONAL

PRE-1607

American Indian presence

1607

First English settlement in North America at Jamestown

1624

Virginia becomes a crown colony of England

1655

Johnson v. Parker argued as the first judicial support given to slavery in Virginia

1699

Capital of Virginia moves from Jamestown to Williamsburg

1705

Virginia Slave Codes of 1705

1780

Richmond becomes the capital of Virginia

1781

Battle of the Capes

1808

The Atlantic slave trade ends

1812-1815

War of 1812

1816

Congress approves funds for the Third System of Fortifications which leads to the creation of 42 coastal forts

1831

Nat Turner Rebellion

MARCH 9, 1841

United States v. Schooner Amistad

MARCH 6, 1857

Dred Scott v. Sandford

AUGUST 1, 1861

Passage of the First Confiscation Act authorizes all Union soldiers to seize Confederate property, including enslaved people

JANUARY 1, 1863

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “all persons held as slaves within any ... designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be ... forever free”

1863

Creation of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) for black soldiers during the American Civil War

APRIL 9, 1865

General Robert E. Lee surrenders to the Union Army at Appomattox Courthouse, VA

DECEMBER 6, 1865

The 13th Amendment to US Constitution ratified abolishing slavery in the United States

JULY 28, 1868

The 14th Amendment to US Constitution ratified granting citizenship to all persons “born or naturalized in the United States” including formerly enslaved people

FEBRUARY 3, 1870

The 15th Amendment to US Constitution ratified granting African American men the right to vote

1886

Cuba becomes the last country involved in the Atlantic Slave Trade to abolish slavery

MAY 18, 1896

Plessy v. Ferguson establishes doctrine of “separate but equal.”

AUGUST 25, 1916

The National Park Service is established

AUGUST 18, 1920

The 19th Amendment is ratified granting women of all races the right to vote

1948

The United States military is integrated

MAY 17, 1954

Brown v. Board of Education desegregates public education

1965

Passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 aims to overcome barriers preventing African Americans from exercising rights granted in the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

First African American President of the United States is elected



Documented Middle Passage Sites in the Continental United States



Atlantic Ocean

Gulf of Mexico

B
Ports where a marker has been placed
and a ceremony has been held

M
Ports where a marker
has been placed

C
Ports where a ceremony
has been held

N
Ports with neither a marker
nor a ceremony

2019

2019 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMS

The National Park Service at Fort Monroe National Monument will host a series of events throughout 2019 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first landing of Africans at Old Point Comfort. Alongside several community partners, these programs will explore the diverse experiences of African Americans, and celebrate the culture that first arrived here in 1619.

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
MORE EVENTS MAY BE ADDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NPS.GOV/FOMR**



The Tucker family with Superintendent Terry E. Brown. The Tucker family bloodline can be traced to the first recorded birth of an African child in English-speaking North America.

FEBRUARY 13

Presentation by Superintendent Terry E. Brown at the Suffolk Public Library

FEBRUARY 22

Let Your Voice Be Heard: Freedom Fighters through History

Performances highlighting the courageous struggle for freedom and equality by African Americans in their own words spanning 400 years. In partnership with the City of Hampton Department of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services.

MARCH 30-31

Garrison Life at Fort Monroe: A Gathering of Steel for the Peninsula Campaign, 1862

Experience the sights and sounds of the American Civil War garrison of Fort Monroe as the forces of the United States and the Army of the Potomac assemble to strike out hoping to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. Events will focus on the civilian, military, and African American experience at Fort Monroe in 1862.

APRIL 18

Gospel Concert

A night of traditional and old Negro Spirituals of the past. Hosted by the Southeastern Virginia Arts Association. Located in the Fort Monroe Theatre.

APRIL 27

Junior Ranger Day and Instameet

Celebrate National Park Week and find your park with a photo scavenger hunt. Kids can earn their Junior Ranger badge through guided exploration.

APRIL 28

Kite Day

Let's go fly a kite! This annual family friendly event encourages everyone to enjoy their parks, public lands, and nature while flying a kite in partnership with the Fort Monroe Authority and Jackite, Inc. A limited supply of kites are available for loan.

MAY 4

Standing on the Shore

Beginning with the arrival of Africans on the shores of Old Point Comfort, this moving and reflective musical



Living Historians at Fort Monroe portray the first three Contrabands, Frank Baker, James Townsend, and Shepard Mallory
National Park Service

work uses drama, poetry, song, and dance to recount 400 years of the African American experience in North America. Presented by Goode Dance Academy at the Fort Monroe Theatre.

MAY 27

Memorial Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony

This annual ceremony in partnership with the Fort Monroe Authority, Colonies RV and Travel Park, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America memorializes the men and women who have fallen in service to the United States and will highlight the honorable service of generations of African Americans. The ceremony will conclude with a retirement of worn, and unserviceable flags in the proper manner.

JUNE 19 *The 1st Annual Juneteenth "Junie" Awards Convention Honoring Protectors of Truth, Justice and Liberty*

Fort Monroe 1619-1861: Enslaved to Freedom: Fort Monroe Theatre will be transformed into the set for a raucous political convention reminiscent of those made famous by 19th century suffragettes and abolitionists replete with signs, balloons and plenty of passion for their candidates and causes.

Continues next page



African Landing Day, 2017
National Park Service



African Landing Day, 2017
National Park Service

**TWO DAY SESSIONS AVAILABLE ON
JUNE 24-25; JULY 9-11; JULY 15-18;
JULY 22-25; JULY 29-AUGUST 2**

Kids in Kayaks

For more information about this program see page 27.

JULY 4

4th of July Flag Ceremony

This annual ceremony in partnership with the Fort Monroe Authority, Casemate Museum, and James Monroe Memorial Foundation observes the 188th anniversary of the 1831 death of President James Monroe. 2019 will honor the legacy and connections of “Freedom’s Fortress,” and explore the efforts to bridge the historical racial divide between communities in Virginia.

RANGER-LED WALKING TOURS

Daily from July 8 to October 27

9AM AND 1PM

Stone Fort Tour

Explore the past of Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe with a focus on the construction of the fort and significant events.

11AM

Black Cultural Tour

New for 2019! This tour highlights the African and African American experiences and history at Old Point Comfort and Fort Monroe.



Park ranger leads a tour at First African Virginia Historical Highway Marker
National Park Service



Veterans Day Ceremony, 2018
National Park Service

CAMPFIRE TALK SERIES

*Fridays at 7PM from June 7 through September 27
(No Campfire Talk July 5, August 23 or August 30)
Located at The Colonies RV and Travel Park,
Shelter #5*

JUNE 7

Introduction to Slavery

Learn about our often complicated past with a primer on the practice of slavery in North America.

JUNE 14

Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass

Native to Maryland and born into captivity, Harriet and Frederick sought freedom on their own terms and dedicated their lives to the fight to ensure freedom for all African Americans.



Park ranger with Fort Monroe's first junior rangers
National Park Service

JUNE 21

The American Civil War Era

An era of complexity and struggle over the questions of slavery that resulted in a civil war that would impact everyone in the United States and bring the country to the brink of destruction and the end of slavery.

JUNE 28

Reconstruction

The era after the American Civil War created new opportunities and hardships for African Americans. Explore the experiences faced in this new United States of America.

JULY 12

Dred Scott Decision

Learn about Dred Scott and his unsuccessful efforts to sue for freedom that culminated in the United States Supreme Court case of *Scott v. Sandford*. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes would state that this decision was the court's "greatest self-inflicted wound."

JULY 19

Racial Diversity in Outdoor Recreation

Is there an "adventure gap" in the United States? Explore the changing faces of outdoor recreation as it becomes more inclusive.

JULY 26

African Americans in the Military

African Americans have roots in the military dating back to the foundation of the United States. The contributions and influences of African Americans far outweigh the credit they have received.

Continues next page



Greg "Two Hawks" and Diane "Lady Hawk" Stephenson of the Meherrin Nation Campfire talk, 2018
National Park Service



Park After Dark: Night Skies at Fort Monroe Campfire talk, 2018
National Park Service



Veterans Day Flag Installation
National Park Service

AUGUST 2

Nat Turner and John Brown: Heroes or Villains?

The facts surrounding Nat Turner and John Brown are as unique as they are controversial. View the events leading up to the American Civil War through their actions and how our view of these men and their actions has changed over time.

AUGUST 9

The Modern Civil Rights Movement: MLK and Malcolm X

Though slavery was abolished in 1865, African Americans continued to endure discrimination, prejudice, and violence in the United States. By the 1950s African Americans mobilized to fight for equal rights under the law in the United States led by leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

AUGUST 16

History of Hampton University

A historically black college established in 1868, Hampton University has withstood the test of time. Early students learned in the shade of the Emancipation Oak, which still stands today as a witness to the beginning of freedom through education.

SEPTEMBER 6

Dr. Mary T. Christian

Dr. Mary T. Christian has provided a lifetime of service to the Hampton community as an educator, a Virginia State Delegate, and a leader. Join us to learn more about Dr. Christian and her role within the local community.

SEPTEMBER 13

A Special Surprise Program

Join us for a kid-friendly surprise!

SEPTEMBER 20

Maggie L. Walker

A prominent businesswoman, entrepreneur, and social advocate in Richmond, Virginia, Maggie Walker's legacy as a community leader endures to this day.

SEPTEMBER 27

Buffalo Soldiers

A nickname given by American Indians to segregated African American Army units established in 1866, these units would serve with honor until the integration of the United States Military following World War II. Park staff from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument will be onsite from Wilberforce, Ohio to share more information about the Buffalo Soldiers through games, historical props, and illustrated talks.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy music on the Parade Ground with your family at 7pm

JULY 13

The Sounds of Africa

JULY 20

The Sounds of Jazz

JULY 27

The Sounds of the Blues

AUGUST 3

The Sounds of Gospel

AUGUST 10

The Sounds of Classical Performers

JULY 17

Music at the Moment by Semilla Cultural

Semilla Cultural is a singing and dancing group that performs with live drums. The group are dedicated to the Afro-Puerto Rican musical genre of bomba. The performers will offer a lively and colorful performance with historical significance.

AUGUST 17

Family Day

Join us for a full day of family fun at the fort! Music, food, games, activities, and more will celebrate the cultural legacy of Africans in the United States.



Kite Day, 2018
National Park Service



Superintendent Brown with
Junior Ranger Program and Park
Ambassador Sgt. Patches, 2018
National Park Service



African Landing Day Dignitaries, 2018
National Park Service below

400TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND

AUGUST 24

Events begin 9:30 am with a commemoration ceremony and dedication of the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center. Stay for the rest of the day and enjoy cultural demonstrations, vendors, children’s activities, and more in Continental Park. Black Cultural Tours will be offered from 12–4pm, and finish the day with an evening concert at 6pm.

AUGUST 25

Healing Day

A day of healing and reconciliation for all people. We will be ringing bells across the nation for 1 minute to honor those who arrived here in 1619.

NOVEMBER 8

Park After Dark: Night Skies at Fort Monroe

A folk song passed through generations, “Follow the Drinking Gourd” helped enslaved people escape to freedom with directions hidden in the lyrics. A ranger program explores the song’s navigational clues followed by a night sky viewing of some of the darkest skies on the Virginia Peninsula.

NOVEMBER 9

Veterans Day

This annual ceremony in partnership with the Fort Monroe Authority, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, and Hampton University honors the men and women who bravely served in the United States military, past and present. 2019 will focus on the significant role of African Americans in the United States military. Immediately following all are invited to participate in an installation of United States flags.

PARTNER EVENTS

JANUARY 12

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

Superintendent Terry E. Brown will be a guest speaker and presenting at the Hampton Public Library.

MAY 4

Escape to Freedom

A daylong family event starting at 11 am with a parade beginning at Continental Park; followed by musical and historical performances on the parade ground, and a concert by celebrated saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist Steve Wilson and his combo.

MAY 18

Hampton Heritage Day

This annual event commemorates the Native American, European, and African cultures that have melded together to shape our community. Visit with NPS staff at their booth.

JUNE 22

Juneteenth Jazz Concert

Hosted by Project 1619 in the Fort Monroe Theatre.

JULY 4

Fourth at the Fort

Thursday, July 4 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. This traditional Fort Monroe event includes live music, food vendors, family-friendly activities and a spectacular fireworks show launched from a platform in Mill Creek. Earlier in the day, visitors have use of the beaches, picnic areas, campground, fishing pier, waterfront restaurants and the craft brewery.

For information about additional events from our partners visit:

HAMPTON, VA 2019 COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION — HamptonVA2019.com and www.AmericanEvolution2019.com
FORT MONROE AUTHORITY — FortMonroe.org/calendar

BLACK CULTURAL TOUR OF FORT MONROE

Several locations on Old Point Comfort highlight the history of African Americans and their contribution to its development. Stops 1 through 5 can be enjoyed as a walking or driving tour; stops 6 through 8 are recommended as a driving tour. Use these stops as a starting point for conversation about the African American experience and how it connects to your own history.

The building marked in red, the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center, will open August 24, 2019 as a joint project between the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service.



Virginia Historical Highway Marker on Fort Monroe near Engineer Wharf
National Park Service

1 ENGINEER WHARF – FIRST AFRICAN ARRIVAL HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER

In August 1619 a ship named *White Lion* arrived here at Old Point Comfort. Among the cargo unloaded at Old Point Comfort were “20 and odd” Africans. This Virginia Historical Highway Marker denotes this first landing of Africans in an English North American Colony. Their arrival, and the languages, culture, and traditions brought with them, would forever change and alter the course of history of the United States.

2 OLD POINT COMFORT LIGHTHOUSE

Built in 1802, this lighthouse is the oldest structure on Old Point Comfort and the second oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. Defenseless in 1813, it was captured by the British and used as an observation tower during the War of 1812. The small house next door was used by lighthouse keepers from 1891 until the light was automated in 1973. A former “contraband” named William Roscoe Davis was the light keeper from 1870 to 1878. He was succeeded by John Jones, another formerly enslaved African American who would serve for 30 years — the longest tenure of any light keeper. Today, the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse is operated by the United States Coast Guard as an active navigational aid.

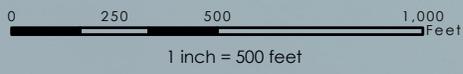
3 EAST GATE

Begun in 1819, the construction of Fort Monroe would continue until 1834. The fort was built by a combination of contractors, military convicts, and enslaved labor. Though the granite boulders were quarried near the Potomac River, enslaved individuals baked the bricks seen throughout the fortification. Their skills would unknowingly contribute to the establishment of a beacon of hope for enslaved individuals and families seeking sanctuary at “Freedom’s Fortress.”

4 BUILDING #1, QUARTERS NO. 1

The oldest building on Old Point Comfort, it was here Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler met with three enslaved men on May 24, 1861 and made his landmark “Contraband Decision.” These three men, known to us through oral tradition as Frank Baker, James

Continues next page





Old Point Comfort Lighthouse and Keeper's House
National Park Service

Townsend, and Shepard Mallory, would become the first of tens of thousands to seek freedom and sanctuary at Fort Monroe. Learn more about this pivotal decision at the Casemate Museum, or by speaking with a ranger.

5

ALGERNOURNE OAK

Named for the first fort built on Old Point Comfort, and genetically linked to the Emancipation Oak at nearby Hampton University, the Algernourne Oak is estimated to be 500 years old. From a time when only the American Indian inhabited this land to the first arrival of Africans in English North America, to the “Contraband Decision” and steps taken toward the ending of slavery through to the present. The Algernourne Oak has stood sentinel as a “witness tree” over the long history that has taken place at Old Point Comfort.

6

SITE OF CONTRABAND CAMP (CORNER OF INGALLS AND PATCH ROAD)

Following the “Contraband Decision” of 1861, tens of thousands of enslaved men, women, and children fled to Fort Monroe seeking freedom leading to the creation of several “contraband” camps in the surrounding area.

The corner of Ingalls and Patch Road was the site of one such camp in 1863. Other larger camps were established in nearby Phoebus and Hampton, and as far as Portsmouth, Yorktown, and Norfolk.

7

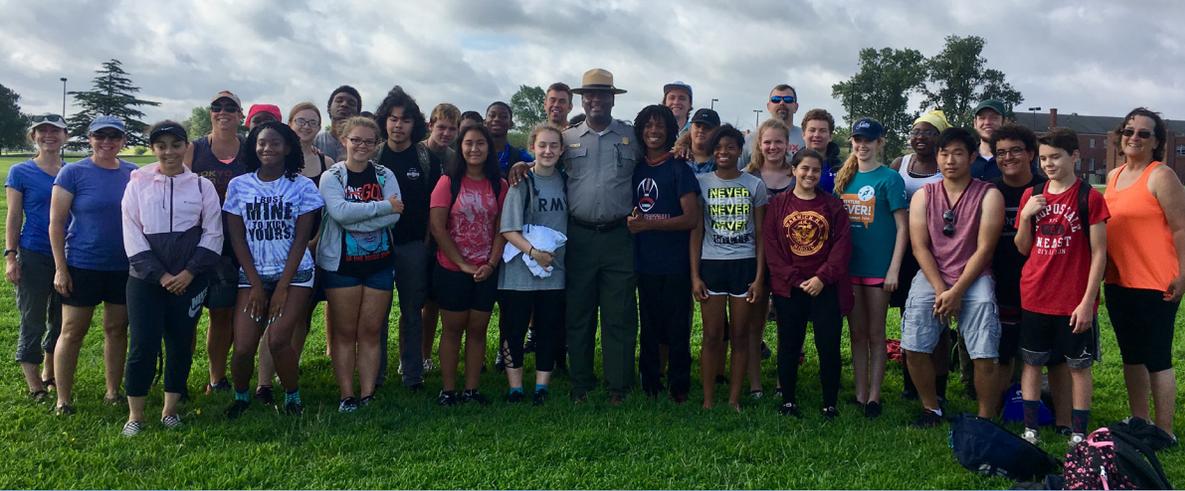
SITE OF “CONTRABAND” HOSPITAL (INGALLS ROAD)

Fort Monroe’s “Contraband” Hospital was constructed on Ingalls Road to treat wounded and sick from the first appearance on the map in 1863. Harriet Tubman would serve here as a nurse and cook for several months.

8

BANDSTAND IN CONTINENTAL PARK

Established in March 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided work and pay for thousands of Americans during the Great Depression. Approximately 150 segregated African American CCC companies completed building projects during this time, creating and improving roads, parks, and recreational areas. The Bandstand was completed in April 1934 and is a testament to their skill and labor. Today the Bandstand continues the legacy of the US Army presence at Fort Monroe hosting military band concerts and weddings.



Superintendent Terry E. Brown with 2018 participants. All photos, National Park Service

2019 KIDS IN KAYAKS

The Kids in Kayaks program began at the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and Baltimore National Heritage Area in 2015. In 2018 Fort Monroe created a new chapter in collaboration with the James River Association (JRA) and National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA.) Kids in Kayaks exposes a diverse group of middle school age students to kayaking while they also learn environmental topics covered in the 8th Grade Virginia Science Standards Of Learning (SOL). This program gives students practical life skills, and encourages them to enjoy their surrounding environment in a responsible manner.

Fort Monroe is eager to host our 2nd annual Kids in Kayaks program in the summer of 2019. The program will grow from 66 students hosted in 2018 to over 200 students in 2019. Nine 2-day sessions will be offered throughout the summer allowing more students to participate in this unique experience. Kids from Norfolk, Hampton, Newport News, York County schools, and the Fort Monroe YMCA are invited to participate in this event with bus transportation being available. A registration link will be opened and distributed in late May/June through the school systems. Be sure to sign up quick as space is limited and likely to fill quickly!

JUNE 24-25 JULY 9-11 JULY 15-18
JULY 22-25 JULY 29-AUGUST 2



50 NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM ASSOCIATED WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The following 50 sites are a selection of units within the national park system that are associated with nationally significant African American history. Several units contain National Historic Landmarks that are specifically designated for their association with African American history. Others are generally associated with nationally significant African American history but may not have an active interpretation program based on that history.

STATE	NAME	LOCATION
ALABAMA	Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument	Birmingham, Alabama
	Freedom Riders National Monument	Anniston, Alabama
	Natchez Trace Parkway	Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee
	Selma-To- Montgomery National Historic Trail	Montgomery, Lowndes and Dallas County, Alabama
	Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site	Tuskegee, Alabama
	Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site	Tuskegee, Alabama
ARIZONA	Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco, California
ARKANSAS	Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site	Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas
CALIFORNIA	Port Chicago Naval Memorial National Monument	Concord Naval Weapons Station, Contra Costa County, California
	Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park	Richmond, Contra Costa, California
	Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	In the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in Tulare and Fresno counties, California
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Frederick Douglass National Historic Site	Washington, DC
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial	Washington, DC
	Lincoln Memorial	Washington, DC
	Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site	Washington, DC

STATE	NAME	LOCATION
FLORIDA	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Gulf Breeze, Florida and Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi
	Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve	Kingsley, Jacksonville, Duval, Plantation County Florida
GEORGIA	Cumberland Island National Seashore	Saint Mary's, Cumberland Island, Georgia
	Fort Pulaski National Monument	Savannah, Georgia
	Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park	Atlanta, Georgia
KANSAS	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> National Historic Site	Topeka, Kansas
	Fort Scott National Historic Site	Fort Scott, Kansas
	Nicodemus National Historic Site	Nicodemus, Kansas
KENTUCKY	Mammoth Cave National Park	Cave City, Kentucky
LOUISIANA	Cane River Creole National Historical Park	Westward from Interstate 49 to the Red River and the City of Natchitoches on the north side and Monette's Ferry to the south; Natchitoches Parish; Natchez, Louisiana
	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve	Six park sites in Lafayette, Thibodaux, Eunice, Marrero, Chalmette, and New Orleans, Louisiana
	New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park	New Orleans, Louisiana
MARYLAND	Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park	Dorchester County, Maryland
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston African American National Historic Site	Boston, Massachusetts
MISSISSIPPI	Gulf Islands National Seashore-Mississippi	Ship Island, Harrison County, Mississippi and Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi
	William Johnson House (Natchez National Historical Park)	Natchez, Mississippi
MISSOURI	George Washington Carver National Monument	2 miles west of Diamond, Missouri

STATE	NAME	LOCATION
NEW YORK	African Burial Ground National Monument	Manhattan, New York
OHIO	Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park	Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio
	Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial	Put-in-Bay, Ohio
PENNSYLVANIA	Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site	Elverson, Pennsylvania
SOUTH CAROLINA	Reconstruction Era National Monument	Beaufort, South Carolina
TENNESSEE	Stones River National Battlefield	Murfreesboro, Tennessee
TEXAS	Amistad National Recreation Area	Del Rio, Texas
	Fort Davis National Historic Site	Fort Davis, Texas
US VIRGIN ISLANDS	Virgin Islands National Park	St. John, Virgin Islands
VIRGINIA	Appomattox Court House National Historical Park	95 miles west of Richmond Appomattox, Virginia
	Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial	George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, Virginia
	Booker T. Washington National Monument	Hardy, Virginia
	Colonial National Historical Park	James City County, and Yorktown, Virginia
	Fort Monroe National Monument	Fort Monroe, Virginia
	Maggie L Walker National Historic Site	Richmond, Virginia
	Petersburg National Battlefield	Petersburg, Virginia
	Richmond National Battlefield Park	Richmond, Virginia
WEST VIRGINIA	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in the states of West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland; Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

"For I am my mother's daughter, and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart."

– Mary McLeod Bethune



1861



TODAY

*“Until we get equality in education,
we won’t have an equal society.”*

EQUALITY
SONIA SOTOMAYOR

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

NELSON MANDELA
LOVE

“You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and try to do something, God is not going to put it in your lap.”

LIBERTY
FANNIE LOU HAMER

“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one. It is necessary to darken his moral and mental vision, and, as far as possible, to annihilate the slavery of reason. He must be able to detect no inconsistencies in slavery, he must be made to feel that slavery is right; and he can be brought to that only when he ceases to be a man.”

SLAVERY
FREDERICK DOUGLASS

“Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.”

FREEDOM
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION

The 400 Years of African-American History Commission, was established by Congress on January 8, 2018, and will plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States to recognize and highlight 400 years of African-American contributions. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the appointment of a 14-member commission to coordinate the commemoration of the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the English colonies in 1619. Support for the commission will be provided by the National Park Service. The new commission members include:

Mr. Terry E. Brown, Superintendent, Fort Monroe National Monument, National Park Service, Virginia

Mr. Lonnie Bunch III, Founding Director, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; former President, Chicago Historical Society; Former Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ron Carson, Founder, Appalachian African-American Cultural Center; Black Lung Program Director, Stone Mountain Health Services, Pennington Gap, Virginia

Ms. Kenya Cox, NAACP Kansas State President; Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, Office of the Governor, Wichita, Kansas

Reverend Nora “Anyanwu” Cox, Minister and Founder, Holy Spirit Healing Ministry; Retired Nurse; Community Advocate and Activist, Wichita, Kansas

Dr. Rex Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; Former Vice President, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Board of Trustees, Fort Monroe Authority, Williamsburg, Virginia

Mr. Ted Ellis, Artist and Cultural Historian; Art Ambassador, National Juneteenth Organization, Friendswood, Texas (formerly of New Orleans, Louisiana)

Mr. Glenn Freeman, President, Omaha Chapter, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, a patriotic, civic organization; retired decorated Air Force Chief Master Sergeant; Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Joseph Green, Jr., Pastor, and Co-Founder Antioch Assembly; Founder/CEO, Josiah Generation Ministries; Founder, The 2019 Movement, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Mr. Hannibal Johnson, Attorney, Author, and Independent Consultant specializing in diversity and inclusion/cultural competence issues and non-profit governance, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mr. Kenneth Johnson, CEO, Johnson, Inc., Richmond-based marketing and communications firm; Board of Trustees, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia

Mr. Bob Kendrick, President, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. George Martin, Managing Partner, McGuireWoods law firm, Richmond office; Member, 2019 Commemoration (VA) Steering Committee, Richmond, Virginia

Dr. Myron Pope, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Central Oklahoma; Adjunct Instructor, Department of African and African-American Studies, The University of Oklahoma; Advisory Board Member, Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools, Edmond, Oklahoma

Please visit nps.gov/orgs/1892/africanamericanhistorycommission.htm for more information about the 400 Years of African American History Commission.

“The contributions of African Americans, Native Americans, and immigrants throughout our nation’s history are undeniable, but the tendency to overlook their gallant efforts is pervasive and persistent.”

“My parents shared not only an improbable love, they shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation. They would give me an African name, Barack, or blessed, believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success.”

BARACK OBAMA

POSSIBILITIES

HAMPTON 2019 COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

The mission of the 2019 Commemorative Commission is to promote the history of the first Africans in the new world and to plan events leading up to a yearlong remembrance-commemoration program in 2019.

The members of this commission include:

Jimmy Gray
Steve D. Bond
Ann Bane
Jimmy Cerracchio
Mr. Raymond Tripp
Valinda Carroll
Billie Einselen
Dr. Colita N Fairfax
Aaron Firth
Mary Fugere
Larry Gibson
Artisia Green
William Harper
Hugh Harrell
Mike Kuhns
Glenn Oder
Robert Shuford
Claude Vann
Dr. William Wiggins
Audrey P. Williams
Rev. Dr. Simeon R Green III
Terry E. Brown
Dr. Vanessa D. Thaxton-Ward
Dionne L. Redding
Ryan P. Taylor-Fontes
Kemi Layeni

AMERICAN EVOLUTION, 2019 COMMEMORATION

First Africans to English North America Committee

The members of this commission include:

The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder, *Honorary Chair*
Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, *Co-Chair*
Ms. Jacquelyn E. Stone, *Co-Chair*

Dr. Belinda C. Anderson
Mr. Terry E. Brown
Mr. Stacy Burrs
Dr. Eric W. Claville
Dr. Tom Davidson
Ms. Audrey P. Davis
The Honorable H. Benson Dendy III
Dr. Colita Fairfax
Ms. Barbara Hamm Lee
Dr. James P. Horn
Professor Ervin L. Jordan, Jr.
Dr. Laurant Lee
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke
The Honorable G. Glenn Oder
Mr. Calvin Pearson
The Honorable Levar M. Stoney
The Honorable Donnie R. Tuck
Ms. Rhonda VanLowe
The Honorable George Wallace
Mr. Bruce Williams

ADVISOR
Mr. Dante Barry

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kathy J. Spangler

JUSTICE

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”

JAMES BALDWIN

SELF-REALIZATION

“Men can starve from a lack of self-realization as much as they can from a lack of bread.”

RICHARD WRIGHT, NATIVE SON

UNDERSTAND

“I am an invisible man.... I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids — and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.”

RALPH ELLISON

RESPONSIBILITY

“You don’t have to be one of those people that accepts things as they are. Every day, take responsibility for changing them right where you are.”

CORY BOOKER

OPPORTUNITY

“If you are fortunate to have opportunity, it is your duty to make sure other people have those opportunities as well.”

KAMALA HARRIS



“There’s something great out there that you don’t know anything about. Why not give it a chance?”

ROBERT TAYLOR, PACIFIC CREST TRAIL &
APPALACHIAN TRAIL THRU-HIKER



400TH

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE STAFF OF FORT MONROE NATIONAL MONUMENT:

AARON FIRTH, RICHARD COX, CHRIS MARTIN, IAN ARMSTRONG,
LAURA D'AMICO, JOHN B. MORRIS, JASON FITZGERALD, AND CLAIRE SWINK

AND TO OUR PARTNERS:

THE FORT MONROE AUTHORITY, CASEMATE MUSEUM, VEOLIA
CITY OF HAMPTON, STATE OF VIRGINIA, US ARMY
COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, NORTHEAST
REGIONAL OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY.

DESIGN BY MELLEEN STREET CREATIVE



*“Who gets remembered depends on who’s
in the room doing the remembering.”*

BETTY REID SOSKIN



Algernourne Oak at Fort Monroe
National Park Service

WHAT DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO YOU?