

A Bibliography of the Black Experience in Virginia During the Civil War, 1861-1865

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Introduction

This bibliography attempts to reveal and understand the history of Black Virginians during the Civil War (Apr 12, 1861 - Apr 9, 1865). Despite Virginia having the largest population of enslaved African Americans of any state and a sizeable number of free Blacks living within its borders at the start of the war, the scholarship on the subject has been modest over the past century and a half. Though, within these sources one can discover the very active role Black men, women, and children took in deciding their own fate during the American Civil War. As soldiers, spies, nurses, laborers, and refugees, Black Virginians endured the hardships of war in the hopes it would bring an end to slavery and usher in a new era in the African American experience.

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, in-person research repositories have been greatly affected and much of this research has relied upon online sources. Therefore, this work showcases the substantial digitized online materials available to the public and where possible those resources have been linked. This bibliography is a work in progress and new scholarship and historic works will be added as staff schedules and resources permit. Readers are encouraged to send suggestions of publications to include, and report any broken links herein, to lana.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov.

Books and Journal Articles

Adams, John Quincy. *Narrative of the Life of John Quincy Adams, When in Slavery, and Now as a Freeman*. Harrisburg: Sieg, Printer and Stationer, 1872.
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/adams/adams.html>.

Autobiography of John Quincy Adams, a former slave born in Frederick County. Includes his experience during the Civil War. Access provided by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ash, Stephen V. *The Black Experience in the Civil War South*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2010.

Bah, Char McCargo. *Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom*. Edited by Mumini M. Bah. Charleston: The History Press, 2019.

Beard, Rick. "Fifty Houses of Freedom." *Civil War Times* 55, no. 2 (Apr 2016): 46-53.

Discusses Freedman's Village which was created in 1863 at Arlington to accommodate Black refugees.

Bestebreurtje, Lindsey. "Beyond the Plantation: Freedmen, Social Experimentation, and African American Community Development in Freedman's Village, 1863-1900." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 126, no. 3 (2018): 334-365.

Black Writers and the American Civil War: Black Involvement and Participation in the War Between the States. Edited by Richard A. Long. Secaucus: Blue & Grey Press, 1988.

Bonekemper, Edward H. "Negro Ownership of Real Property in Hampton and Elizabeth City County, Virginia, 1860-1870." *The Journal of Negro History* 55, no. 3 (July 1970): 165-181.

Bouldin, Kristin Leigh. "Is This Freedom? Government Exploitation of Contraband Laborers in Virginia, South Carolina, and Washington, D.C. During the American Civil War." Master's thesis, University of Mississippi, 2014.

Burr, Sherri L. "The Civil War and Jim Crow." In *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia, 1619-1865*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2019.

Brasher, Glenn David. *The Peninsula Campaign and the Necessity of Emancipation: African Americans and the Fight for Freedom*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2012.

Focuses on African American involvement in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign in Virginia.

Brewer, James H. *The Confederate Negro: Virginia's Craftsmen and Military Laborers, 1861-1865*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1969.

Bruce, Henry Clay. *The New Man: Twenty-Nine Years a Slave, Twenty-Nine Years a Free Man*. York: P. Anstadt & Sons, 1895. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/bruce/bruce.html>.

Henry Clay Bruce's autobiography includes recollections of his experiences as a former slave as well as his time in Virginia during the Civil War before leaving in 1864. Access provided by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Chester, Thomas Morris. *Thomas Morris Chester, Black Civil War Correspondent: His Dispatches from the Virginia Front*. Edited by R.J.M. Blackett. New York: Da Capo Press, 1989.

"The Civil War Years." *The Virginia Baptist Register* 50, (2011): 2885-2892.

Discusses the recorded actions and whereabouts of the Black Baptist population in Virginia during the Civil War.

Edelstein, Sari. "Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley (1818-1907)." *Legacy* 29, no. 1 (2012): 148-159.

Legacy profile of former Dinwiddie slave Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, dressmaker for First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln during the Civil War.

Engs, Robert F. *Freedom's First Generation: Black Hampton, Virginia, 1861-1890*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2004.

The Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*. Vol. 17, *Virginia Narratives*. Washington: 1941. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mesn170/>.

A collection of interviews with former slaves from Virginia, many of whom provide their experiences during the Civil War. Access provided by the Library of Congress.

Fen, Sing-Nan. "Notes on the Education of Negroes at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, During the Civil War." *Phylon* 28, no. 2 (2nd Qtr., 1967): 197-207.

Forbes, Ella. *African American Women During the Civil War*. Edited by Graham Russel Hodges. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 1998.

Freedman, David. "African-American Schooling in the South Prior to 1861." *The Journal of African American History* 84, no. 1 (Winter, 1999): 1-47.

Includes a biography of Mary Smith Peake, a multiracial Virginian woman, who taught in Hampton during the Civil War until her death in 1862.

Hare, James K., Matthew Gottlieb, and Jennifer Renee Loux. *A Guidebook to Virginia's African American Historical Markers*. Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2019.

Henig, Gerald S. "Glory at Battery Wagner: William H. Carney Became the First Black Soldier to Earn the Medal of Honor." *Civil War Times* 48, no. 3 (June 2009): 36-39.

William H. Carney was born a slave in Norfolk, Virginia before joining the Union Army and earning the Medal of Honor.

Henriques, Peter R. "The Civil War Diary of Anne Frobel, Part II." *Northern Virginia Heritage* 9, no. 2 (June 1987): 13-16.

This article includes excerpts from the diary of Anne Frobel who lived in Wilton Hill, Virginia during the Civil War. The selected excerpts discuss her experiences concerning the changing race relations during the war.

Horst, Samuel L. *Education for Manhood: The Education of Blacks in Virginia During the Civil War*. Lanham: University Press of America, 1987.

Hucles, Michael. "Emancipation's Impact on African-American Education in Norfolk, Virginia, 1862-1880." *OAH Magazine of History* 7, no. 4 (Summer, 1993): 32-35.

Jackson, Debra. "A Black Journalist in Civil War Virginia: Robert Hamilton and the 'Anglo-African'." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 116, no. 1 (2008): 42-72.

Describes Black Journalist Robert Hamilton's travels within eastern Virginia during the Civil War.

Johnson, Thomas L. *Twenty-Eight Years a Slave, or the Story of My Life in Three Continents*. Bournemouth: W. Mate & Sons, Limited, Printers and Publishers, 1909.
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/johnson1/johnson.html>.

Autobiography of Thomas L. Johnson, a former slave from Rock Raymond, Virginia. Includes his experiences during the Civil War. Access provided by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Johnson, Thomas Scott. "Letters from a Civil War Chaplain." *Journal of Presbyterian History* 46, no. 3 (Sept 1968): 219-235.

Letters home from Thomas Scott Johnson which describe the conditions of African Americans at Fort Monroe during the Civil War.

Jordan, Ervin L. "Afro-Virginians' Attitudes on Secession and Civil War, 1861." In *Virginia at War, 1861*, edited by William C. Davis and James I. Robertson Jr., 89-112. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2005.

Jordan, Ervin L. *Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995.

Jordan, Ervin L. "Sleeping with the Enemy: Sex, Black Women, and the Civil War." *The Western Journal of Black Studies* 18, no. 2 (Summer 1994): 55-63.

Joseph Meredith Toner Collection, and African American Pamphlet Collection. *Equal Suffrage: Address from the Colored Citizens of Norfolk, VA., to the People of the United States. Also an Account of the Agitation among the Colored People of Virginia for Equal Rights with an Appendix Concerning the Rights of Colored Witnesses before the State Courts*. New Bedford: E. Anthony & Sons, Printers, 1865. <https://www.loc.gov/item/09032794/>.

Published soon after the war. Access provided by the Library of Congress.

Keckley, Elizabeth. *Behind the Scenes, Or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House*. New York: G.W. Carleton & Co., Publishers, 1868.
https://www.google.com/books/edition/Behind_the_Scenes_Or_Thirty_Years_a_Slav/994bj-8NPtYC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PR7&printsec=frontcover.

Memoir of Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, a former slave from Dinwiddie, Virginia who became the dressmaker for First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. eBook access provided by Google Books.

Krowl, Michelle Ann. "Dixie's Other Daughters: African-American Women in Virginia, 1861-1868." PhD diss., University of California, Berkeley, 1998.

Lamphier, Peg A., and Rosanne Welch. "Bowser, Mary (ca. 1840-unknown)." In *Women in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Document Collection*. ABC-CLIO, 2017.

An encyclopedia entry for Mary Bowser. Thought to have been born in Richmond, Bowser was a spy for the Union during the Civil War as a servant within the household of Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

Latimore, Carey H. "Surviving War and the Underground: Richmond Free Blacks and Criminal Networks during the Civil War." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 117, no. 1 (2009): 2-31.

Latimore, Carey H. *The Role of Southern Free Blacks During the Civil War Era: The Life of Free African Americans in Richmond, Virginia, 1850 to 1876*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 2015.

Lockwood, Lewis Conger. *Mary S. Peake: The Colored Teacher at Fortress Monroe*. Boston: American Tract Society, 1863. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/20744/20744-h/20744-h.htm>.

An eBook of Lewis Conger Lockwood's biography of Mary Smith Peake provided by Project Gutenberg.

Maling, Barbara Lee. "Black Southern Nursing Care Providers in Virginia During the American Civil War, 1861-1865." PhD diss., University of Virginia, 2009.

Maris-Wolf, Ted. "Family Bonds and Civil War." In *Family Bonds: Free Blacks and Re-enslavement Law in Antebellum Virginia, 156-191*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Focuses on African Americans who chose to legally re-enslave themselves, often to maintain family bonds.

Martinez, Jaime Amanda. "The Slave Market in Civil War Virginia." In *Crucible of the Civil War: Virginia from Secession to Commemoration*, edited by Edward L. Ayers, Gary W. Gallagher, and Andrew J. Torget, 106-135. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006.

McDevitt, Theresa. "African American Women and Espionage in the Civil War." *Social Education* 67, no. 5 (Sept. 2003): 254+.

Medford, Edna Greene. "'I Was Always a Union Man': The Dilemma of Free Blacks in Confederate Virginia." *Slavery & Abolition* 15, no. 3 (1994): 1-16.

Murphy, Ric and Timothy Stephens. *Section 27 and Freedman's Village in Arlington National Cemetery: The African American History of America's Most Hallowed Ground*. Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2020.

Includes discussions of African Americans who lived at Arlington during the Civil War.

Newby-Alexander, Cassandra L. *An African American History of the Civil War in Hampton Roads*. Charleston: The History Press, 2010.

Noyalas, Jonathan A. *Slavery and Freedom in the Shenandoah Valley During the Civil War Era*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2021.

Preisser, Thomas M. "The Virginia Decision to Use Negro Soldiers in the Civil War, 1864-1865." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 83, no. 1 (Jan.1975): 98-113.

Proceedings of the National Convention of Colored Men, held in the City of Syracuse, N.Y., October 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1864; with the Bill of Wrongs and Rights; and the Address to the American People. Boston: J.S. Rock and Geo. L. Ruffin, 1864.

<https://omeka.coloredconventions.org/items/show/282>.

The only national convention to occur during the Civil War. Representatives for Virginia were present. Access provided by the Colored Conventions Project.

Race, Slavery and Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory. Edited by James O. Horton and Amanda Kleintop. Richmond: Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, 2011.

A collection of documented lectures published by the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. Includes conversations on the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War.

Randolph, Peter. *From Slave Cabin to the Pulpit: The Autobiography of Rev. Peter Randolph: The Southern Question Illustrated and Sketches of Slave Life*. Boston: James H. Earle, Publisher, 1893. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/randolph/randolph.html>.

Despite having left Virginia before the Civil War, Peter Randolph's autobiography details his experiences during the war including being back in Richmond in the last days of the conflict. Access provided by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Richardson, Joe M. *Christian Reconstruction: The American Missionary Association and Southern Blacks, 1861-1890*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1986.

Includes information on missionary work with Virginian contrabands during the Civil War.

Saillant, John. "African American Women and the United States Military in Civil War Virginia." In *Afro-Virginian History and Culture*, 173-210. New York: Routledge, 2011.

Smith, James L. *Autobiography of James L. Smith, Including, Also, Reminiscences of Slave Life, Recollections of the War, Education of Freedmen, Causes of the Exodus, Etc.* Norwich: Press of the Bulletin Company, 1881. <https://www.loc.gov/item/14015959/>.

Although he left Virginia before the Civil War, James L. Smith was a native of Northumberland County and his autobiography provides his experiences during the war. Access provided by the Library of Congress.

Soodalter, Ron. "Spy Games." *America's Civil War* 31, no. 5 (Nov 2018): 14-16.

Focuses on the lives and spy activities of William A. Jackson and Mary Elizabeth Bowser who both lived as slaves in the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Taylor, Amy Murrell. *Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2018.

Taylor, Kay Ann. "Mary S. Peake and Charlotte L. Forten: Black Teachers During the Civil War and Reconstruction." *The Journal of Negro Education* 74, no. 2 (Spring 2005): 124-137.

Describes Mary Smith Peake's life as well as her role in educating Black children in Hampton during the Civil War until her death in 1862.

Thorp, Daniel B. "Soldiers, Servants, and Very Interested Bystanders: Montgomery County's African American Community during the Civil War." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 126, no. 4 (2018): 378-421.

Tripp, Steven Elliot. "The Many Battles of Lynchburg." In *Yankee Town, Southern City: Race and Class Relations in Civil War Lynchburg*, 85-162. New York: New York University Press, 1997.

This chapter from *Yankee Town, Southern City: Race and Class Relations in Civil War Lynchburg* includes a history of Lynchburg's Black inhabitants during the Civil War.

Van Zelm, Antoinette G. "On the Front Lines of Freedom: Black and White Women Shape Emancipation in Virginia, 1861-1890." PhD. diss., College of William & Mary, 1998. <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/etd/1539623923/>.

Ward, Andrew. *The Slaves' War: The Civil War in the Words of Former Slaves*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery: An Autobiography*. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1907. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Up_From_Slavery/xN45ZsUMgKEC?hl=en&gbpv=0.

The autobiography of Booker T. Washington. A portion of the work deals with his early life as a slave in Virginia during the Civil War. eBook access provided by Google Books.

Washington, John. *John Washington's Civil War: A Slave Narrative*. Edited by Crandall Shifflett. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008.

Edited autobiography of former Virginian slave John Washington, including his experiences during the Civil War.

Wills, Brian Steel. *The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2001.

Includes information on the Black experience in southeastern Virginia during the Civil War.

Witmer, Andrew. "Race, Religion, and Rebellion: Black and White Baptists in Albemarle County, Virginia, during the Civil War." In *Crucible of the Civil War: Virginia from Secession to Commemoration*, edited by Edward L. Ayers, Gary W. Gallagher, and Andrew J. Torget, 136-164. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006.

Film/Video

Cornelius, Steven, J. Weldon Norris, and Samuel Perryman. "African-American Spirituals of the Civil War." Panel discussion at the Library of Congress Music Division, Washington, D.C., March 30, 2013. <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-6709/>.

Performances as well as discussion of African Americans music during the Civil War including the songs of Black Union soldiers, contrabands at Fort Monroe, and contrabands who attached themselves to the travelling Union army.

Historic Sites

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Arlington, Virginia - <https://www.nps.gov/arho/index.htm>.

Booker T. Washington National Monument, Franklin County, Virginia - <https://www.nps.gov/bowa/index.htm>.

Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton, Virginia - <https://www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm>.

Newspaper Articles

“Civil War Veteran Succumbs at 106: Pneumonia Takes Vet That Civil War Bullets Missed.” *Cleveland Call and Post* (Cleveland, OH), Nov. 7, 1942.

Obituary of William Jones, a former Virginian Slave, who fought with the Union Army during the Civil War. Access provided through ProQuest with a free Library of Virginia account (Virginia residents).

Colvin, Leonard E. “Hampton historical society plans observance on Black achievements during, beyond Civil War--City was South's first Free Black community organized by runaway slaves during Civil War.” *New Journal and Guide* (Norfolk, VA), July 28, 1999.

Provides a description of Fort Monroe, slaves' journeys to the fort, General Benjamin Butler and the Union's motivations in accepting them, the Grand Contraband Camp, and Slabtown. Access provided through ProQuest with a free Library of Virginia account (Virginia residents).

“The Execution Yesterday.” *Richmond Daily Dispatch* (Richmond, VA), Oct. 22, 1864.
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/the-execution-yesterday-richmond-daily-dispatch-october-22-1864/>.

Describes the hanging of two enslaved Africans in Richmond on October 22nd, 1864. Transcription provided by Encyclopedia Virginia.

Franklin, Lillian. “Aged Woman Tells Tales Of Civil War: Served As Nurse in Richmond Hospital During Epochal Struggle.” *Philadelphia Tribune* (Philadelphia, PA), Aug. 4, 1932.

Details the experiences of Alice C. Seldon who at sixteen was a nurse at the Howard's Grove Hospital in Richmond during the Civil War.

“A LETTER FROM GEN. BULTER.: What to do with the Slaves?” *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, IL), June 5, 1861.

Lewis, Roscoe E. “The Negro In The Civil War: Astute, Intelligent Ex-slaves Served Well As ‘Agents’.” *New Journal and Guide* (Norfolk, VA), Sept. 9, 1961.

“THE NEGRO AND THE CIVIL WAR: Virginia Called ‘Foreign Country,’ It's ‘Contraband’ Slaves Set Free.” *New Journal and Guide* (Norfolk, VA), July 15, 1961.

Provides a detailed account of the first escaped slaves' journey and admission into Fort Monroe.

“News from Fortress Monroe.” *New York Times* (New York City, NY), Jan. 4, 1863.
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/news-from-fortress-monroe-january-4-1863/>.

Description of the celebrations at Fort Monroe after receiving news of the Emancipation Proclamation. Transcription provided by Encyclopedia Virginia.

Reeve, Walter Jr. "Va. Veteran Of Two Wars At 102 Is 4 Times Wed: Son Of White Congressman And Virginia Slave Woman Still Makes Own Living In Waste Paper Business--"Ma" Hid John Brown From Rebels." *Afro-American* (Baltimore, MD), April 14, 1928.

Newspaper article on the life of John Beckhem. Born in Orange County, Beckhem acted as a guide to General Crocker of the Union Army during the Civil War.

Online Articles

The following are a collection of online articles and resources concerning the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War. For convenience they have been organized by topic.

Black Refugees

"Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial" - <https://goo.gl/maps/6XJXKq3U4MFLgweW8>. An immersive street view tour of the Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

"The Forgotten: The Contraband of America and the Road to Freedom" - <https://savingplaces.org/stories/the-forgotten-the-contraband-of-america-and-the-road-to-freedom#.YQmPQC9h2fQ>. Article from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Discusses African American contrabands during the Civil War, including in Virginia.

"Fort Monroe during the Civil War"- <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/fort-monroe-during-the-civil-war/>.

"Freedman's Village" - <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/emancipation.htm>. Educational resource from the National Park Service for the Freedman's Village at Arlington.

"Freedom's Fortress" - https://www.nps.gov/articles/featured_stories_fomr.htm. Educational resource from the National Park Service for Fort Monroe National Monument.

"Living Contraband - Former Slaves in the Nation's Capital During the Civil War" - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/living-contraband-former-slaves-in-the-nation-s-capital-during-the-civil-war.htm>.

Black Soldiers

"Black Men in Navy Blue During the Civil War" - <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/fall/black-sailors-1.html>. Discusses the significant amount Black men, including many from Virginia, who were in the United States Navy during the Civil War.

“A Black Soldier from Charlottesville Writes to Lincoln” - <https://naucenter.as.virginia.edu/black-soldier-charlottesville-writes-lincoln>. Article from the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia discussing a letter written to President Abraham Lincoln from Commissary Sergeant James T. S. Taylor of Charlottesville, Virginia.

“Men of Color to Arms?” - <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/men-color-arms>. Discussion of African Americans in the military during the Civil War.

“Myth of the Black Confederate” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/myth-of-the-black-confederate-2/>. Discussion with Gabriel Reich, a professor of education at Virginia Commonwealth University, on the myth of Black Confederates.

“Research: 240 Blacks from Albemarle County Fought with the Union in the Civil War” - <https://news.virginia.edu/content/research-240-blacks-albemarle-county-fought-union-civil-war>.

“The United States Colored Troops” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/united-states-colored-troops-the/>. Details the experience of Black soldiers within the Union Army, focusing on those recruited from Virginia.

“United States Colored Troops, We Honor Those Who Served, The Shenandoah Valley Men Who Served with the United States Colored Troops” - <https://valleyblackheritage.org/usct--civil-war-sailors.html>. The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project has compiled names of African American men from the Shenandoah Valley who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. A PDF of their book containing the bulk of the information is included within the link.

Biographical Articles

“Bowser, Mary Richards (fl. 1846–1867)” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/bowser-mary-richards-fl-1846-1867/>. Biographical entry for former slave turned Union spy Mary Richards Bowser.

“Elizabeth Keckley” - <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/elizabeth-keckley>. Biographical information on Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, dressmaker to First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln.

“In Service and Servitude” - https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/in-service-and-servitude-american-civil-war-museum/nQISf_5t-uXhIg?hl=en. An online exhibit from the American Civil War Museum exploring the lives of enslaved and free workers at the home of Jefferson Davis.

“James Parks” - <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/parks.htm>. Educational resource from the National Park Service describing the life and Civil War experiences of James Parks, a slave owned by Robert E. Lee.

“Jim Lewis” - <https://www.nps.gov/frsp/learn/historyculture/jim-lewis.htm>. Educational resource from the National Park Service for Jim Lewis, believed to have been a Virginian Slave who was hired out as “Stonewall” Jackson’s personal servant during the Civil War.

“Limber, Jim” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/limber-jim/>. Biographical entry for mixed-race James Henry Brooks or “Jim Limber” who during the Civil War lived in the household of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

“Seizing - and Speaking Out for - Freedom” - <https://acwm.org/blog/seizing-and-speaking-out-freedom/>. Describes the life and Civil War activities of former slave William A. Jackson of Hanover County, Virginia who was hired out as coachman to Jefferson Davis before escaping north.

“Selina Gray” - <https://www.nps.gov/arho/learn/historyculture/gray.htm>. Educational resource from the National Park Service describing the life and Civil War experiences of Selina Gray, a slave of Robert E. Lee.

Black Virginians During the War: General Articles

“Black Dispatches: Black American Contributions to Union Intelligence During the Civil War” - <https://www.cia.gov/static/6f73b7277dc7315abd223891b8fa585d/Black-Dispatches.pdf>.

“Free Blacks during the Civil War” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/free-blacks-during-the-civil-war/>.

“How did Slaves Support the Confederacy?” - <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/how-did-slaves-support-confederacy>.

“Road to Freedom Tour Guide” - <https://www.battlefields.org/visit/mobile-apps/road-to-freedom-tour-guide>. In partnership with Civil War Trails, the American Battlefield Trust offers a tour of key sites and figures from the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War.

“Slavery During the Civil War” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/slavery-during-the-civil-war/>.

“Women During the Civil War” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/women-during-the-civil-war/>. Describes the experiences of women, Black and white, in Virginia during the Civil War.

Oral History Collections

Voices Remembering Slavery: Freed People Tell Their Stories - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/voices-remembering-slavery/about-this-collection/>. A collection

of recorded interviews with former slaves, including a number from Virginia. Access provided by the Library of Congress.

Photograph Collections and Individual Photographs

Civil War Glass Negatives and Related Prints - <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cwp/>.
Collection of photographs from the Library of Congress.

Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/gladstone-african-american-photographs/about-this-collection/>.
This collection of photographs primarily dates from the Civil War era and depicts African Americans. Access provided by the Library of Congress.

“Photographs illustrative of operations in construction and transportation, as used to facilitate the movements of the Armies of the Rappahannock, of Virginia, and of the Potomac...” - <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004668756/>. Collection of photographs from the Library of Congress dating from the Civil War. Many depict African Americans hired by the Union working in construction and transportation.

Photographs of African Americans During the Civil War: A List of Images in the Civil War Photograph Collection - https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/081_cwaf5.html. Collection of photographs from the Library of Congress.

The African Church, Richmond, Va., between 1861 and 1865. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2014645905/#>.

Aiken's Landing, Virginia (vicinity). Negro group at Aiken's farm, between 1861 and 1869. Photograph. Library of Congress. <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.01823/>.

Bermuda Hundred, Va. African-American teamsters near the signal tower, 1864. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.02004/>.

African Americans dressed in Union uniforms.

City Point, Va. African American army cook at work, between 1860 and 1865. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.02010/>.

City Point, Va. African Americans unloading vessels at landing, between 1860 and 1865. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cwpb.01748/>.

City Point, Virginia. Negroes working along the wharf, between 1861 and 1869. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.01754/>.

Gibson, James F. *Cumberland Landing, Va. Group of "contrabands" at Foller's house*, May 14, 1862. Photograph. Library of Congress. <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cwpb.01005/>.

Gibson, James F. *Group of contrabands at Allen's farm house near Williamsburg Road, in the vicinity of Yorkville, Virginia, May 1862*, 1862. Photograph. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/490e7650-cd0d-012f-8943-58d385a7b928>.

Hampton, Virginia. Slab-town, December 1864. Photograph, 4 in x 10 in. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018671933/>.

Houghton, G. H. *Family of slaves at the Gaines' house*, 1862. Photograph, 14 cm x 22 cm (5.51 in x 8.66 in). Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/96511694/>.

Photograph of slaves in Hanover County, Virginia during the Civil War.

Negro laborers at Alexandria, near coal wharf, ca. 1860 - ca. 1865. Photograph. Brady National Photographic Art Gallery. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/524820>.

O'Sullivan, Timothy H. *Culpeper, Va. "Contrabands"*, November 1863. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cwpb.00821/>.

O'Sullivan, Timothy H. *Rappahannock River, Va. Fugitive African Americans fording the Rappahannock*, August 1862. Photograph, 4 in x 10 in. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018666225/>.

Richmond, Virginia. Group of Negroes ("Freedmen") by canal, April 1865. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018671686/>.

Russell, Andrew J. *Military railroad operations in northern Virginia: African American laborers twisting rail*, 1862 or 1863. Photograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/97502056/>.

Primary Source Documents

“Autobiography of Richard Slaughter’ (1936)” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/autobiography-of-richard-slaughter-1936/>. Selected interview from the Virginia Writers Project of former slaves including City Point native Richard Slaughter who details his experiences during the Civil War.

“Civil War veteran of Portsmouth, Virginia’ (1937)” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/civil-war-veteran-of-portsmouth-virginia-1937/>. Selected interview from the Virginia Writers Project of former slaves including Southampton County native Albert Jones. During the Civil War Grandy left Virginia and fought in the Union Army.

Davis, Jefferson and James A. Seddon. November 28, 1864. Communication From Secretary of War. Documenting the American South. Academic Affairs Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/impls/wardeptnov28/nov28.html>.

Communication between Confederate President Jefferson Davis and James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, concerning the impressment of African Americans in Virginia during the Civil War. Access provided by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Interview of Mr. Charles Grandy’ (1937)” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/interview-of-mr-charles-grandy-1937/>. Selected interview from the Virginia Writers Project of former slaves including Norfolk native Charles Grandy. During the Civil War Grandy left Virginia and fought in the Union Army.

“Interview of Mrs. Fannie Berry’ (February 26, 1937)” - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/interview-of-mrs-fannie-berry-february-26-1937/>. Selected interview from the Virginia Writers Project of former slaves including Fannie Berry of Virginia. Includes her experiences during the Civil War.

Von Groning, Daniel. “The Manumission of Lucy Brooks and Her Children.” Unpublished legal document, 1862. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/the-manumission-of-lucy-brooks-and-her-children-1862/>.

Document dating from 1862 written by slaveholder Daniel Von Groning releasing Lucy Brooks and her children from slavery after receiving \$800 from Albert Brooks, Lucy’s husband.

Primary Source Objects

Civil War envelope showing slave master holding whip as slave attempts to go to Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia, between 1861 and 1865. Envelope, 8 cm x 14 cm (3.15 in x 5.51 in). Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018648182/>.

Envelope, Civil War era, depicting General Benjamin Butler at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, second half of 19th century. Envelope, 3 in x 5.5 in. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. <http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AADB&record=c50c0293-0919-4b26-9b19-0ddb7c37991b>.

Forbes, Edwin. *African American refugees coming into the Union lines near Culpeper Court House, Va., Nov. 8, 1863.* Drawing. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004661825/>.

Forbes, Edwin. *Drawing, Pen and ink, “Waiting for Dinner,” 19th century.* Pen and ink, 5 in x 7 in. Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

<http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AADB&record=03e107e6-1276-45a3-880d-9797fdf7af74>.

Depicts a group of African American women and children in a Virginia slave cabin during the Civil War.

The (Fort) Monroe Doctrine, 1861. Lithograph on wove paper, 23.1 cm x 36.5 cm (9.09 in x 14.37 in). Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a36574/>.

Depicts escaped slaves arriving at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia.

Graham, Henry S., C.B. Graham, and E. Hergesheimer. *Map of Virginia: showing the distribution of its slave population from the census of 1860*, 1861. Map, 47 cm x 67 cm (18.50 in x 26.38 in). Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/1va0000215/>.

Newspaper illustration, Engraving of "The Curfew Bell at Hampton Court House, Va.," second half of the 19th century. Engraving, 6.25 in x 6.625 in. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. <http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AADB&record=0386ebd0-d7bc-48da-a033-da0a997ef516>.

From the "Pictorial History of the War of 1861," depicts soldiers and African Americans at Hampton Court House during the Civil War.

Newspaper illustration, Engraving of "The Freedmen's Village, Hampton, Virginia," second half of 19th century. Engraving, 6.1875 in x 11 in. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. <http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AADB&record=7bf5e14b-2426-4972-be14-0ab5f79a5218>.

Queen, James Fuller and H.L. Stephens. *Journey of a slave from the plantation to the battlefield*, ca. 1863. Chromolithograph. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/98519766/>.

Set of twelve cards dating from the Civil War depicting a fictitious slave's journey from the plantation to the battlefield.

Stampede among the Negroes in Virginia - their arrival at Fortress Monroe, 1861. Print, 40.4 cm x 54.3 cm (15.91 in x 21.38 in). Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/99614015/>.

Stampede of slaves from Hampton to Fortress Monroe, 1895. Photomechanical print. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/92515012/>.

Thompson, Alfred Wordsworth. *Drawing, Pencil, ink, and watercolor wash, "A Family of Virginians leaving their home,"* second half of 19th century. Pencil, ink, and watercolor wash drawing on paper, 9.625 in x 12.625 in. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. <http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AADB&record=242f7ea6-1a02-4c22-b531-d36e982887fe>.

Depicts a Virginian family with African American servants heading south during the Civil War in expectation of Union troops.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Below are resources from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources pertaining to the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War.

National Register Nominations*

The following is a selection of properties in Virginia which have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are associated with the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War. The nominations typically include historic contexts and bibliographies that can be useful for research projects.

*Some of these properties are publicly owned; however, please note that the National Register also includes private properties that are not accessible to the public.

Historic African American Sites in Virginia –

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-register/black-history-month/>. Online catalog of Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places associated with African American history.

Alfred Street Baptist Church - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/100-0049/>. Historic African American church in Alexandria which was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

Beulah Baptist Church - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/100-5015-0002/>. Built in 1863, the Beulah Baptist Church as both a religious and educational site for Alexandria's freedmen community during and after the Civil War.

Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery –

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/100-0121-1085/>.

Fort Monroe - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/114-0002/>. Became a refuge for many fleeing African Americans during the Civil War.

Fourth Baptist Church - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/127-0318/>. Original congregation dates to before the Civil War and continued as an African American church during the conflict in the Confederacy's capital of Richmond, Virginia.

Lomax African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church –

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-1148/>. Established in Freedman's Village in 1863.

Virginia Historical Highway Markers

Below is a selection of Virginia historical highway markers related to the Black experience in Virginia during the Civil War. A searchable collection of Virginia historical highway markers can be found here: <https://vcris.dhr.virginia.gov/HistoricMarkers/Account/Logon>.

Adams-Van Lew House SA-69

Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley (1818-1907) S-85

Emancipation Oak W-98

Escape to Freedom WY-106

First Baptist Church West Main Street Q-16

Freedmen's Cemetery E-109

Freedom's Fortress W-94

Mary Smith Kelsey Peake W-97

McDowell Delaney (1844-1926) OL-12

Peter Jacob Carter WY-11-a

Shiloh Baptist Church E-136

Third Baptist Church E-147

Resources for Further Research

The following are resources which have proved useful to the creation of this bibliography and may provide material for future research.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources - <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/>.

Library of Virginia - <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/>.

Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative - <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/>. Focuses on pre-1865 African American history within the Library of Virginia collection.

Guide for resources on African Americans during the Civil War - <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/civil-war/african-americans.htm>.

African American Church Histories in the Library of Virginia - https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/African_American_Churches.pdf.

Library of Virginia Databases and eBooks - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/az.php>. Virginia residents with a free Library of Virginia account gain access to research databases such as JSTOR, ProQuest, Civil War in Words and Deeds from Gale Primary Sources, and The American Civil War Research Database. ProQuest's Black Newspaper Collection and Black Studies Center have also been useful to researching the Black experience during the Civil War.

Library of Congress - <https://www.loc.gov>.

Civil War Collection - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war/>. Collection items vary in format and include African American subject matter.

The African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship, The Civil War - <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african-american-odyssey/civil-war.html>.

African American Perspectives: Materials Selected from the Rare Book Collection - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/african-american-perspectives-rare-books/>.

Virginia Museum of History & Culture - <https://virginiahistory.org/>.

Guide to African American Manuscripts - <https://virginiahistory.org/research/research-resources/guides-researchers/guide-african-american-manuscripts>.

Index to African American material in the broadside collection - <https://virginiahistory.org/research/research-resources/guides-researchers/index-african-american-material-broadside-collection>.

Index to African American material in the sheet music collection - <https://virginiahistory.org/research/research-resources/guides-researchers/index-african-american-material-sheet-music>.

Linking to our Past - <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/educators/linking-our-past>. Project of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture for the exhibition of African American history.

Virginia Museum of History & Culture Library Catalog - <http://librarycatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/portal.aspx?lang=en-US>.

Virginia Museum of History & Culture Museum Collections Catalog - <http://museumcatalog.virginiahistory.org/final/portal.aspx?lang=en-US>.

Documenting the American South - <https://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html>. A digital publishing initiative sponsored by the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Includes easily accessible and already transcribed primary sources concerning Black Virginians during the Civil War and other southern history subjects.

Encyclopedia Virginia - <https://encyclopediavirginia.org>. Go-to source for brief articles about many aspects of Virginia history.

Virginia Slave Narratives -
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/virginia-slave-narratives/>.

National Archives - <https://www.archives.gov/>.

National Park Service - <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>.

Search For Sailors - <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-sailors.htm#sort=score+desc>.
Contains the records of approximately 18,000 African American sailors who served during the Civil War, including many from Virginia.

New York Public Library - <https://www.nypl.org>. The library research catalog is easily searchable and provides access to databases, articles, prints, and photographs.

Black Virginians in Blue - <http://community.village.virginia.edu/usct/node/1>. Dedicated to telling the largely unknown stories of the 251 Black soldiers and 6 Black sailors from Albemarle County and Charlottesville, Virginia, who served in the Union military during the American Civil War.

Freedom on the Move - <https://freedomonthemove.org/>. Focuses on people who “self-liberated” themselves from slavery.

Sources Specific to Black History:

African American Civil War Memorial Museum - <https://www.aacwmed.org/>.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History - <https://asalh.org/>.

Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia -
<https://www.blackhistorymuseum.org/>.

Virginia African American Cultural Resources Task Force -
<https://www.afrovirginia.org/>.

AfroVirginia Map of African American historic sites in Virginia -
<https://www.afrovirginia.org/places/>.

