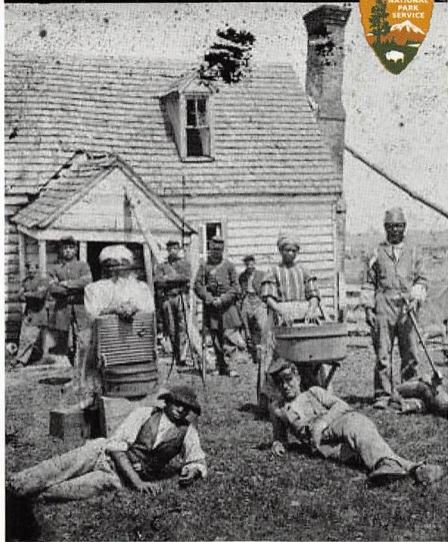


Colonial National Historical Park



Contrabands of War



Contrabands of War

Fact: The U.S. army paid male 'contrabands of war' \$8 per day at Fort Monroe, Va.; women received \$4.

Throughout the war, enslaved Americans fled to the protection of the Union army at Yorktown to gain freedom. In 1862, when President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in areas of rebellion, he excluded federally controlled York County (including Yorktown). These "contrabands of war" were technically not free until the 13th Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1865.