



Reverend Francis Springer

Chaplain to Slaves and Orphans

As a US Army Chaplain at Fort Smith, Arkansas, Reverend Francis Springer provided relief for thousands of war refugees including former slaves and more than 300 orphans. Springer helped many of those orphans find homes in central Illinois. He received his appointment to the chaplaincy in 1863 from his former Springfield neighbor Abraham Lincoln.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/liho

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