

## Chapter 1 : Freedom's Fortress's profile - Listen to music

*Freedom's Fortress: Escape to Freedom - Empowered by a legal loophole, thousands of enslaved Africans escaped and found refuge at a Union-held fort during the Civil War. Fortress Monroe in Virginia became the site of the first "contraband camp"; a spontaneous community of self-emancipated.*

Escape to Freedom - Empowered by a legal loophole, thousands of enslaved Africans escaped and found refuge at a Union-held fort during the Civil War. Strategically located at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay on a acre peninsula known as Old Point Comfort, Fort Monroe is a place of astounding beauty and inspiration. The northern stretch of the peninsula is largely open, with over three miles of Chesapeake Bay beachfront. At the southern end of the peninsula, an imposing acre stone fort is the focal point of the park. One particularly majestic specimen, known as the Algernourne Oak, is estimated to be nearly years old—Algernourne being the name of the first fort on Old Point Comfort — Fort Monroe after , showing Hampton Roads and the city of Hampton beyond. Designed by French military engineer General Simon Bernard and built between and in response to the War of , Fort Monroe is the largest of the Third System fortifications in the United States. In what would shortly be a twist of fate, a young West Point-trained engineer named Robert E. Lee also lived at and played a role in the construction of the fort from to Virginia joined the Confederacy on June 19, The same day that Virginia ratified secession, three slaves belonging to rebel Colonel Charles K. Mallory—known to us today as Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, and James Townsend—learned that their master planned to send them to North Carolina to support the secession forces. The three slaves fled to Fort Monroe seeking refuge. Major General Benjamin F. Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler, who had arrived at Fort Monroe only two days before, determined that the U. Constitution and the Fugitive Slave Act did not affect another country, which Virginia claimed to be. However, no existing law or policy supported his clever reasoning, which supplied the Union with able-bodied men capable and willing to support the Union. Despite the impact of his decision on slavery, Butler was not an abolitionist; he had voted for Jefferson Davis at the Democratic National Convention. Tellingly, his decision did not challenge the fundamental premise of slavery people as property and neglected a key question: Were these freedom-seekers now free? Constitution , which outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude throughout the United States. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Just over one month after the three slaves found refuge at Fort Monroe, some nine hundred freedom-seekers—men, women, and children—had arrived at the fort. Their liberties were undoubtedly improved over plantation life. However, Butler continued to view the freedom-seekers as slaves and reported on them as such. Living conditions were poor; rations and promised compensation were often withheld. This was the first self-contained black community in the nation, which grew to a population of thousands by The Algernourne Oak in Dr. In , this same oak tree was the site of the first southern reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Algernourne Oak from the Fort Monroe parade ground, Michael Dosmann, The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University Only one mile apart, the Algernourne and Emancipation oaks symbolize nearly years of divergent policy and public opinion related to slavery. In addition to their cultural significance, these trees are also the subject of scientific interest. Both live oak trees grow far north in the geographic range of the species and are thus particularly cold-hardy specimens. In , the Arnold and Morris arboretums completed a joint collecting trip to the Virginia Tidewater region to gather acorns from live oak trees. The Magazine of the Arnold Arboretum. Today, Fort Monroe is being preserved and adaptively used. Live oak trees remain within the fort and, like the fort itself, are powerful and tangible links to our past. Imagine all it has seen in the past years. Visiting the Landscape For the most current information and announcements, visit the Fort Monroe National Monument website.

**Chapter 2 : Freedom's Fortress (U.S. National Park Service)**

*Price: \$ Distinctive unit insignia (DUI) unit crest is a metal heraldic device worn by soldiers in the United States Army on uniforms, collected for shadowboxes ect All US military insignia that we carry have been approved by the Army, and Air Force through the Institute of Heraldry, the Navy through the Natick Testing Laboratories, and the USMC through the USMC Logistic Agency.*

Description[ edit ] Within the acres of Fort Monroe are historic buildings and nearly acres of natural resources, including 8 miles of waterfront, 3. It has a slip marina and shallow water inlet access to Mill Creek, suitable for small watercraft. Over years later, in , Elizabeth City County and the nearby Town of Phoebus agreed to consolidate with the smaller independent city of Hampton , which became one of the larger cities of Hampton Roads. On their initial exploration, they recognized the strategic importance of the site at Old Point Comfort for purposes of coastal defense. They initially built Fort Algernourne " at the location of the present Fort Monroe. It is assumed to have been a triangular stockade, based on the fort at Jamestown. Other small forts known as Fort Henry and Fort Charles were built nearby in Fort Algernourne burned in Its cargo included more than 30 Africans captured from the slave ship Sao Joao Bautista. Traded for work and supplies from the English, they were the first Africans to come ashore on British-occupied land in what would become the United States. Although the Bantu Africans from Angola were considered indentured servants, their arrival is considered to mark the beginning of slavery in America. Another fort, known only as "the fort at Old Point Comfort" was constructed in In , Fort George was built on the site. Its masonry walls were destroyed by a hurricane in , but the wood buildings in the fort were used by a reduced force until at least Throughout the Colonial period, fortifications were manned at the location from time to time. Following the War of , the United States realized the need to protect Hampton Roads and the inland waters from attack by sea. In March , President James Monroe came up with a plan of building a network of coastal defenses. In construction began in earnest [8] on the stone-and-brick fort which would become the safeguard for Chesapeake Bay and the largest stone fort ever built in the United States. It features a moat completely surrounding the inner structures. As a young first lieutenant and engineer in the U. Lee was stationed there from to and played a major role in the final construction of Fort Monroe and its opposite, Fort Calhoun. He resided at Quarters When construction was completed in , Fort Monroe was referred to as the " Gibraltar of Chesapeake Bay. In conjunction with Fort Calhoun later Fort Wool , this was just enough range to cover the main shipping channel into the area. Since Fort Monroe was the site of a series of schools of artillery. The first was the Artillery School of Practice. The school was closed in but was revived during the period It was succeeded by the Artillery School of the U. Army , which existed from , until its redesignation in as The Coast Artillery School. On December 20, , South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. Four months later, on April 12, , troops of that state opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. President Abraham Lincoln had Fort Monroe quickly reinforced so that it would not fall to Confederate forces. It was held by Union forces throughout the Civil War, which launched several sea and land expeditions from there. A few weeks after the Battle of Fort Sumter in , U. Cut the Confederacy off from the rest of the world instead of attacking its army in Virginia. In cooperation with the Navy, troops from Fort Monroe extended Union control along the coasts of the Carolinas as Lincoln ordered a blockade of the southern seaboard from the South Carolina line to the Rio Grande on April 19 and, on April 27, extended it to include the North Carolina and Virginia coasts. The Union dispatched a fleet to Hampton Roads to enforce the blockade. Several land operations against Confederate forces were mounted from the fort, notably the Battle of Big Bethel in June Slaves escape to the fort after Gen. On May 27, , Major General Benjamin Butler made his famous " contraband " decision, or "Fort Monroe Doctrine", determining that escaping male slaves who reached Union lines would be considered contraband and not be returned to bondage. This marked a sudden shift in the war, and what the outcome would mean for every African-American living in the United States. Peake was teaching the children of freedmen to read and write near Fort Monroe. She was the first black teacher hired by the American Missionary Association AMA , a northern missionary group led by black and white ministers from the Congregational , Presbyterian and

Methodist denominations, who strongly supported education of freedmen. Soon she was teaching children during the day and adults at night. The AMA sponsored hundreds of northern teachers and hired local teachers in the south; it founded more than local schools and 11 colleges for freedmen and their children. At the same time, LaMountain, who was vying for position as Chief Aeronaut, had gained the confidence of Butler in using his balloon Atlantic for aerial observations. LaMountain is credited with having made the first successful report from an aerial station that was of practical military intelligence. Lowe eventually assigned regular military balloons to Fort Monroe. While the outcome was inconclusive, the battle marked a change in naval warfare and the end to wooden fighting ships. Later that spring, the continuing presence of the Union Navy based at Fort Monroe enabled federal water transports from Washington, D. For the next 30 days, they laid siege to Richmond. Beginning in Fort Monroe was also used as a transfer point for mail exchange. Mail sent from states in the Confederacy addressed to locations in the Union had to be sent by flag-of-truce and could only pass through at Fort Monroe where the mail was opened, inspected, resealed, marked and sent on. Prisoner of war mail from Union soldiers in Confederate prisons was required to be passed through this point for inspection. Maintaining the control of Hampton Roads at Fort Monroe and Fort Wool was crucial to the naval support Grant required for the successful Union campaign to take Petersburg, which was the key to the fall of the Confederate capital at Richmond. As Petersburg fell, Richmond was evacuated in on the night of April 2â€™3. However, the cause was lost, and Confederate General Robert E. He was briefly confined in an unheated, open casemate until the Union Surgeon John J. Craven recommended more humane care for Mr. Miles approved changes and even moved Mr. Davis to more hospitable quarters. He was held at Fort Monroe for two years. Some historians have speculated that his treatment in captivity was intended to be lethal. The federal government proceeded no further in its prosecution due to the constitutional concerns of U. Ruckman served as the editor of the Journal for four years July to January and published several articles therein afterward. Twentieth century[ edit ] Over time the armament at Fort Monroe was improved, taking advantage of new technologies. In addition, the fort controlled several sub-installations around Hampton Roads, making the area one of the most heavily defended in the United States. Army Coast Artillery Corps. New buildings were constructed for classrooms and barracks the library and school buildings completed in [1]. As part of the schools responsibility the "Coast Artillery Journal" was published under the supervision of the commandant.

### Chapter 3 : "Wandering Toes" : Fort Monroe, Virginia - "Freedom's Fortress"

*This is The Freedom's Fortress Podcast. The show that examines concepts that will impact all our lives now and into eternity. This show dives into the schools of politics, religion, and other concepts.*

The wedding was the main event, and initially I was just looking for a place nearby for us to stay. The fort is located in Hampton on the southern tip of the Virginia Peninsula. It is nestled between the Chesapeake Bay and Mill Creek, and is surrounded by a moat. We camped on the far right side on the map I went on two different tours during our weekend stay. The run itself was just so-so, but getting to see the Fort Monroe area on foot was really neat. My run started along the boardwalk, which stretches three miles along the eastern side of the peninsula. They keep their houses and yards in immaculate condition! I enjoyed coastal views and tree-lined streets during my run. It was pretty hot and humid out due to my late start, but the shade from the trees provided a nice reprieve. I also ran by a large marina area, a grandiose hotel now used as a senior center, and a gorgeous church. On Sunday morning Barry and I spent time touring the actual fort, which is the largest stone fort built in the United States. Before all that, it was the point where Captain John Smith landed in The Lincoln Gun, which could fire a lb. It was used to bombard Confederate batteries. Nearly forty years before the Civil War, a young 24 year old Robert E. Their first son, Custis Lee, was born at the fort in He was initially kept in a small room inside the casemate. By the way, a casemate is a chamber in the wall of a fort. The casemate at Fort Monroe was used for all three during its lifetime. Once the casemate began being used as living quarters, cannons were used from the top of the fort. A part of the casemate today is used as a museum for Fort Monroe. As we made our way out of the fort, we walked past the oldest house inside the moat. Leaving through the Main Gate. There is a lot of history in Fort Monroe and this post is already entirely too long, so I will leave it at the tiny sliver I have shared. However, if you would like to read more, you can do so [HERE](#). In the coming years, more facilities and services will be added. Have you ever taken a trip for one purpose, only to find more than you expected? This has happened for us on several of our camping trips, where the main purpose of the trip was an event or race.

### Chapter 4 : Freedom Fortress [Inoperable, Being Reconstituted]

*The star-shaped citadel is the Civil War-era fortress. With such a history behind it, Fort Monroe might seem to deserve a place alongside Plymouth Rock and Gettysburg in the pantheon of America's historic places.*

View our campground reviews complete with ratings, WIFI and cell coverage information. Monroe National Monument is a decommissioned military installation located in Hampton, Virginia at old Ft. Comfort which is at the southern tip of the Virginia Peninsula. We took a ninety minute walking tour of the Fort and learned a lot from our visit. Therefore we named that point of land Cape Comfort. While exploring the Chesapeake Bay region, the Colonists named many rivers, towns and geographic locations. During the winter of Fort Algernon accidentally burned and was completely destroyed. Several attempts were made to erect a permanent fortification at Old Point Comfort but they were built inadequately and only maintained when there was an immediate threat to the Colony. Rolfe did not explicitly state where the Africans originated, but recent scholarship suggests that these Africans may have been from the Portuguese colony of Angola in West Central Africa. The Africans that arrived at Old Point Comfort were sold for food and supplies. The masonry fort was destroyed however, on October 19, by a powerful hurricane. With the destruction of Fort George, Old Point Comfort was once again unfortified and the entire Chesapeake Bay was vulnerable to attack. As a result of the British invasion and specifically following the burning of Washington, DC Fort Monroe was constructed as part of a coastal defense strategy developed by the U. As a young lieutenant, Robert E. Lee was stationed at Fort Monroe from and directed the final phase of construction. The largest stone fort ever built in America cost nearly two million dollars to construct, covered 63 acres of land, and took over 15 years to complete. During that time, the fort became the birthplace of the Civil War-era freedom movement when 3 enslaved men escaped the Confederate Army at Sewells Point and fled in a small boat to Fort Monroe. Historical Facts The Fort was also home to Lt. Lee and his wife Mary Custis Lee. During his time at the Fort he was responsible for large engineering projects during the Forts construction. The Lincoln Gun resides at the Fort. It was cast in and was the first fifteen inch Rodman gun. It was the most effective gun made to date. The Algernourne Oak resides behind the first quarters built at the Fort. The Oak is over years old and still thrives. First Africans in Virginia On May 23, , three enslaved Virginians named Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend fled from their master, a Confederate colonel who had put them to work building rebel fortifications, and sought protection at the Union-held citadel. Indeed, it is more than that, for here liberty, as well as slavery, began. A historic place of epic proportions. Repurposing of the Historic Fort Monroe After the Fort was decommissioned in the Fort Monroe Authority was formed for the purpose of utilizing the buildings and repurposing their use. It is now a thriving and beautiful community complete with businesses and all of the creature comforts that one expects in a residential setting. The Lookout Tower The first quarters built on the Fort. It is admirable that the Ft. Monroe Authority has retasked and repurposed the Fort into a beautiful residential setting. If you get near by all means visit this history rich facility.

### Chapter 5 : TRADOC Distinctive Unit Insignia - Pair (FREEDOM'S FORTRESS)

*Freedom's Fortress. likes. The Official Facebook page of The Freedom's Fortress Podcast. This show dives into politics, religion, and other concepts.*

By Freedom Forge Press July 14, - In the spirit of freedom and the fight for individual rights, we thought it an appropriate occasion to announce our latest acquisition, a novel called *The Fortress* by debut author Madeleine Romeyer Dherbey. Her father has seen to it that she grow up, unaware but safe in her tiny village under the cliffs of the Vercors. All around her he has built a fortress whose walls he defends-until the 27th of April, That day he makes a stupid mistake up on the edge of the cliff, and the walls come crashing down. Whom then on, every decision she makes will mean life and death. We asked Madeleine to write a bit about what inspired her to write the novel: Land of revolutions and invasions, France has a deep, almost intimate relationship with the fortress, whether it stands in the way of tyranny or freedom. Two hundred and twenty-seven years ago, the people of Paris rose and stormed the Bastille fortress, a symbol of oppression and corruption, and took the first steps to claiming their God-given right to chart their own destiny. Seventy-two years ago on the same fateful date, Vassieux-en-Vercors was destroyed by the Nazis, sealing the fate of that last of French fortresses, the Vercors libre. To commemorate the occasion, I wanted to reflect on the reason I wrote *The Fortress*. It started when I looked around one day and realized things were no longer making any sense. The change, the hope, the promised land. And then I thought again. It was not me, it was really the world that was changing fast, much too fast for me or anyone to understand. Maybe all of us, safe, successful, and inclined to look the other way, had missed, or rather ignored, what is really happening. And because he was wrong, I kept on writing. Two generations ago we could name our enemy and look him in the face. Two generations ago we knew what it took to stay free. But even then we waited till it was almost too late. The reckoning was painful—“an absolute concept if there are any. We had to be routed first, utterly crushed before we understood what we had lost. When that handful of men came to the Vercors Mountains, they were beyond debating the meaning of life and moral purity. They had nothing left, no friends, no allies, no hope of ever succeeding. Dying an honorable death to redeem the shame of defeat was their last dream, and the Fortress was their last stand. Uncompromising, vigilant, always rational, the indestructible belief that the last spark of light will conquer darkness. Which brings me to my main point. The past, the present, the future, nothing is accidental. We build tomorrow, one individual at a time, one decision at a time. An act for freedom, an act for servitude. An act of resistance, or surrender. Neither Alix nor Marc, the two protagonists, set out to change the world when the war breaks into their lives. They finally find the point beyond which life is no longer worth living, and stop backing up. Whether the world makes any sense—“has it ever? We all find that point, the starting point of our resistance. Agree, stand down, shut up—“or not. How we choose to resist remains our decision, and ours only. Our dream, our fortress, our spark in the darkness.

### Chapter 6 : USS Vincennes Association

*Freedom's Fortress: The Library of Congress, , contains a selection of letters, memoranda, photographs, and publications (1, images) documenting a momentous period in the history of the Library of Congress when the institution underwent a myriad of changes that established it as.*

This was an amazing weekend on so many levels, and I traveled down on Thursday to have time to include visiting some historical sites while there. Many sites were on my list and among them was a special trip to Ft. This is the site of the very first camp for escaped slaves during the Civil War. This was the first contraband Camp. She remained there until the end of the Civil War. She described how on route one of the children had become lost but she had to stay on the move. First of all, most of can remember when a woman broke the law of the land in Montgomery Alabama when she refused to sit in the back of the bus any longer. Rosa Parks started a revolution and the Montgomery Bus Boycott started a revolution changing Montgomery and America as well. Most of us need to know how three menslaves of a Col. Mallory of Virginiathese three men, broke the law of the land. They sought asylum at Ft. Monroe a place in Virginia that was still under Union Army control. These three men sought asylum and were granted it by Gen. And these three menFrank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallorybegan a quiet revolution a wave of thousands of slaveswho stood up, and walked to their freedom. This was a wave began that could not be stopped. A recent article in the NY Times describes what happened, how the slave owner sought the return of the slaves and how Gen. Butler gave sanctuary to these three menFrank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallory--three men whose names we need to learn. They were essentially the "Rosa Parks" of their time. Image reflecting the appeal of Frank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallory for sanctuary The significance of this incident should not be overlookedfor this became the beginning of a wave of civil disobedience and it is the enslaved themselves who should be credited for unlocking the chains of bondage themselves. Slaves pouring into Ft. Monroe For me I had the honor to stand where they stood and to enter the same fortress. I could not help but to stare at that gateand appreciate the courage of the three men who dared to enter Ft. Monroe the first time. View In front of the gate leading into Ft. Monroe A recent article in the New York Times discussed the actual incident of the three slaves seeking sanctuary and it deserves to be shared here: Mallory learned that three of his slaves had escaped, he sent a messenger under a flag of truce to Ft. Monroe to have the slaves returned. The exchange is described as follows: Cary got down to business. What do you mean to do with these Negroes? This was, of course a question he had expected. And he had prepared what he thought was a fairly clever answer. An Unsung Revolution There was an incredible underground communications network among the slaves. News was often shared from one plantation to another through this amazing network. The network became critical after Baker, Mallory and Townsend were given sanctuary and declared contrabands of war. As soon as this happened, the underground network became vital and it went into overdrive. A wave had taken over the enslaved communities and they arrived by the hundreds. Newspapers throughout the country began to capture images of slaves walking to freedomwith one goalget to the Union line!! Some came in broken wagons Source: Library of Congress With all of this rich history, visiting this incredible site was a must for me, because some of my ancestors were part of that revolution. That unsung revolution of the enslaved had spread throughout the land. The underground network had led to the establishment of contraband camps in multiple states. Aunt Mary Paralee Young, was among the many who dared to leave and walk to freedom! So to honor my ancestors, visiting the place where the dismantling of slavery began visiting this place was a must! I honor them for their courage.

### Chapter 7 : Fort Monroe - Wikipedia

*Freedom's Fortress: The Library of Congress, Freedom's Fortress: The Library of Congress, , contains a selection of letters, memoranda, photographs, and publications (1, images) documenting a momentous period in the history of the Library of Congress when the institution underwent a myriad of changes that established it as one of America's foremost*

*citadels of.*

**Chapter 8 : Fort Monroe National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)**

*Fort Monroe is known as "Freedom's Fortress" because it is where enslaved men sought refuge in the early stages of the Civil War. Major General Butler, the fort.*

**Chapter 9 : My Ancestor's Name: Visiting Freedom's Fortress - The First Contraband Camp**

*In , the English colonists who later founded Jamestown discovered the point of land that is known today as Old Point Comfort. On April 29, , English colonist George Percy wrote, "rowed over to a point of land where we found a channel and sounded six, eight, ten or twelve fathoms, which put us in good comfort.*