

1: Villagers to Government



Arlington, Va. Jan-18th-1888

The Honorable,

Wm. C. Endicott,

Secretary of War,

Washington, D.C.

Sir: Having been chosen by the colored renters living on the Arlington reservation as their representative to adjust their relation with the general government, I beg leave to present, for your honorable consideration, the following facts. As the army advanced, during the war, several thousand colored people, men, women, and children, of all ages, and every condition, were quartered on this place by the agents of the government. Many of this number were employed by the United States, a portion of their pay being withheld for the support of the aged and infirm. When buildings were erected, Gen. O. O. Howard entered into contract with each tenant, demanding payment in money for rent of land. After the abolition of the Freedmen's Bureau, they were required to work out rent at Fort Myer which they have continued to do until the present time.

Agents representing the government fully impressed upon the people the idea that in some way they would come to possess a valid claim to a part of Arlington.

When many of them were taken with a colony to Hayti, and returned after the scheme was exposed, and their sufferings made known, they were told, perhaps as an apology that they would remain here.

Many began to plant trees, and make such other improvements as their scanty means would permit. They paid in ready money for their houses, churches, and other buildings, which were all sold to them by the government through its agent. About nine years ago, Lieut. R.P. Strong, then commanding at Fort Myer, gave permission to erect a brick church on the reservation, costing nearly two thousand dollars, and here again, they were made to believe that their stay would be indefinitely prolonged, therefore, several houses were built, and the spirit of improvement again revived. Many of these people have been soldiers, teamsters, workers on fortifications and sufferers by the freedmen's bank swindle.



1: Villagers to Government, cont'd



Although no taxes have been paid on the Arlington land, yet the colored people have been fully taxed upon their general property, and have been no unjust burden upon the community, because the small amount paid for labor enabled others to help in the work of education and care of the helpless. Coming from the shades of the past, these people have proven, in their new condition of self reliance, more thrifty, and less vicious than could be reasonably anticipated; and they have never failed, after the teachings, and traditions of their fathers, to implore Almighty God for help and protection.

There are about one hundred families here, who own their dwellings. Nearly all of these houses are so constructed, and in such condition of decay, as to be useless to take down and move away; besides, contemplated improvements such as the Memorial-Bridge, Mount Vernon Avenue, the Aquaduct, and the Potomac flats, have made the price of land, in this vicinity, beyond the reach of the poor. I know not what may be the purpose of the government, or the pleasure of the Honorable Secretary in the premises, but if it be to take this property wholly for National use, I most respectfully ask that an appropriation be recommended of not less than three hundred and fifty dollars a-piece for each owner of a house, but to be apportioned according to merit, and the various conditions and circumstances by the "Board of Protection", consisting of five of their number which they have chosen to look after their local interests.

Twenty-four years residence at Arlington, with all the elements involved in this case inspire the hope that full and ample justice will be done even to the weakest members of this great Republic.

As many of the farmers desire to prepare their land for spring work, and are in doubt as to another year, I will be glad, as early as possible, to receive a reply to this letter.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

John B. Syphax

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John B. Syphax". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.



2: Cemetery, Army, Gov't



Arlington, Va.,

National Cemetery.

November 12th, 1887.

G.B. Dandy,

Major and Qr. Mr., U.S.A.

Depot Quartermaster.

Sir:

I would respectfully report that for years past some of the colored people who live on the reservation have been in the habit of entering the cemetery during the late hours of the night for the purpose of getting wood for fuel.

On my arrival here, one year ago, I was informed that several hundred young forest trees, from 2 to 6 inches in diameter were cut down and carried away. The remains of these trees can yet be seen.

It has been the custom of these thieves, to use a cross cut saw to cut down trees. By so doing, very little noise is made, in order to avoid detection. It is said, that very few of these squatters buy any fuel, and depend mostly on what they can pick up within the enclosure. It would be necessary for a man to remain on watch all night, to arrest the guilty parties. It has been suggested, that the most effective way of preventing such thefts, is to cause the removal of these people from the reservation.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J.A. Commerford,

Supt. Nat'l. Cemetery.

From Dandy's office, the letter was sent to the Quartermaster General's Office on Nov. 15.



2: Cemetery, Army, Gov't, cont'd



War Department.

Quartermaster General's Office,

Washington, D.C., November 17th, 1887.

Respectfully forwarded to the Honorable, the Secretary of War. In Violation of paragraph #138 Army Regulations, amended by General Order #26, Adjutant General's Office, 1883, civilians are residing upon the Military reservation, upon which the Arlington National Cemetery and the Military Post at Fort Myer, Va., are located.

This occupation has continued many years, and since the title of the land passed to the United States by purchase, May 18th, 1883, no steps have been taken for the removal of these occupants, mostly colored people.

In consequence of the complaints now made, it would seem to be proper that they should be ordered to vacate their holdings, giving them sufficient time for moving their property to prevent suffering.

I therefore recommend that the Military Authorities at Fort Myer be directed to serve notice upon all Civilians residing on the reservation, and not employed by the Government, that they must remove therefrom, within 90 days after date of notice.

S.B. Holabird.

Quartermaster General, U.S. Army.

War Department.

November 22nd, 1887.

Approved as recommended by the Quartermaster General.

By order of the Secretary of War.

John Tweedale.

Chief Clerk.



3: Newspaper Article #1



Excerpts from the New York Herald, Thursday Dec. 8, 1887.

Industrious Colored People To Be Evicted to
Satisfy Speculators.

HOMES ON GOVERNMENT LAND.

Fair Rental Value Paid but They Must Go
Nevertheless.

TO APPEAL TO CONGRESS.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

Herald Burkau,
Corner Fifteenth and G Streets, N.W.,
Washington, Dec. 7, 1887. }

An attempt to deprive several hundred colored families of their homes is being made in this vicinity in the interest of several speculative jobs.

It is proposed by these speculators that those poor and helpless colored men, women, and children shall be driven out of their little homes next February in the bleakest part of the winter—homes in which they have lived undisturbed for nearly a quarter of century and which in every case they have paid for.

By some curious trick, which remains to be explained, the War Department had been deluded into issuing an order favoring those speculators and inhumanly evicting these poor and helpless people- all of them honest laboring people- from their little homes.

They are the residents of freedman's village, a settlement opposite Washington, and have been ordered by the Secretary of War, through Major General Schofield, commanding the Department of the Atlantic, to vacate their homes within ninety days.

The news of this order has caused the greatest consternation among a thousand poor negroes who for so long have not only occupied the ground unmolested, but under government protection and sanction.

TRUMPED UP CHARGES

The charges which are made the basis of military interference at this late day are believed to be wholly unfounded. The settlement existed before the cemetery, and for twenty years no one has ever before heard a word of complaint that it was thought had reasonable foundation.

The charge that the settlers are now guilty of desecrating the graves by cutting an occasional stick of timber, is regarded as a mere subterfuge for the basis of the order.

It may be true that as squatters on a government reservation they are subject to the order of the War Department. Nevertheless they bought their houses from the government and yearly have paid rent for the occupation of the ground.

The government cannot deprive them of property it has sold without making them compensation and yet none is proposed...

AN [ILLEGIBLE] MEETING

About two hundred of the villagers assembled in the church this evening to consider what action they should take in response to the secretary's order.

One of the speakers referred to the injustice of branding them all as thieves because one or two unknown members of [the] community had cut



3: Newspaper Article #1, cont'd



down an occasional stick of timber in the national burying ground... he would submit to being driven away from the house had had inhabited for the past quarter of a century, but that he would insist upon begin give a certificate of good standing at the same time...

PROSPERITY WITHOUT PROPRIETORSHIP

A HERALD correspondent visited the place to-day and talked with the poor people.

The village ... contains a population of 350 souls. The houses ... are neatly whitewashed, and their general appearance is indicative of respectability and thrift.

A pretty little brick church stands at the further extremity of the village, in which weekly services are held. The church could not have cost less than \$1,500 or \$1,800, all the expense of which was born by the communicants.

When the HERALD correspondent visited the village to-day the old fashioned bell outside the schoolhouse was calling the children to their afternoon exercises. A glance indoors showed them to be as bright and intelligent a set of youngsters as could be found in any school, white or black in the land... The children were neatly dressed and apparently interested in their lessons...

The complaint on which the Secretary of War based his order comes from the superintendent of the Arlington Cemetery. He complains that the colored people steal wood. He even claims that they cut down trees on the cemetery grounds. This would be impossible if he and his employees did their duty in watching the limited portion of the reservation under their charge.

THE LAND GRABBERS DID IT

There are at least three schemes which are believed to be back of this strange order. There is a project of a great park to be established on the south side of the Potomac on the Arlington estate and this cannot be carried out without evicting the colored people.

This Arlington Park is one part of the project for a memorial bridge over the Potomac, which gained some head way toward the close of the last Congress. The plan is to build the bridge from a point west of the White House to a point near the river entrance to Arlington.

Another project which seems to be connected with this affair is that of building Mount Vernon avenue from Georgetown to the new memorial bridge to Mount Vernon. There is also a large syndicate purchase of real estate, which would be benefited by the contemplated eviction.

There is also a political element in the case. The votes cast by the colored citizens on the Arlington reservation have several times controlled the elections of Alexandria County...



4: Newspaper Article #2



Excerpts from the New York Herald, Thursday Dec. 8, 1887.

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Fair Rental Value Paid but They Must Go Nevertheless.

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The news of this order has caused the greatest consternation among a thousand poor negroes who for so long have not only occupied the ground unmolested, but under government protection and sanction.

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The charges which are made the basis of military interference at this late day are believed to be wholly unfounded. The settlement existed before the cemetery, and for twenty years no one has ever before heard a word of complaint that it was thought had reasonable foundation...

It may be true that as squatters on a

government reservation they are subject to the order of the War Department. Nevertheless they bought their houses from the government and yearly have paid rent for the occupation of the ground...

HOW THE VILLAGE GREW

The freedmen's village grew from the influx of fugitive slaves into Washington, which began in the fall of 1862, and swelled to a flood after the emancipation proclamation. Even before the President's preliminary proclamation of September 1, 1862, the War Department had begun to employ negroes as laborers and teamsters in the camps, corrals and depots about Washington, and the pay rolls of the depot and department quartermasters bore the names of fully ten thousand by the fall of 1863.

These men were paid \$10 per month and one ration per day, and from the monthly pay of each a deduction was made for the support of aged, infirm and young blacks who, for sanitary and disciplinary reasons, were hutted together on a part of the Arlington estate, and governed and supplied by military officers, partly under the commanding general of the Department of Washington and partly under the Quartermaster and Commissary departments.

Upon the establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau the freedmen's village was turned over to General Howard, the chief of that bureau, and was administered as an establishment of that bureau till the bureau itself was discontinued. Since that time the village has had no other connection with the War Department than arises from its presence within the limits of a military reservation...



4: Newspaper Article #2, cont'd



PROSPERITY WITHOUT PROPRIETORSHIP

A HERALD correspondent visited the place today and talked with the poor people.

The village lies along the river front, three-quarters of a mile southeast of Arlington Cemetery. It contains a population of 350 souls. The houses are frame structures of one and two stories in height. With few exceptions they are neatly whitewashed, and their general appearance is indicative of respectability and thrift.

A pretty little brick church stands at the further extremity of the village, in which weekly services are held. The church could not have cost less than \$1,500 or \$1,800, all the expense of which was born by the communicants...

[ILLEGIBLE] RIGHTS

Many of the older people have lived in the village or its immediate vicinity for a quarter of a century. Most of them have seen their children and children's children grow up around them. The quiet little church yard over beyond the hill contains their dead...

It should be remembered that some of the people hold their homes by right of inheritance. In all cases the houses were purchased of the government originally and a ... rent of \$30 a year has been paid by the head of each household in labor... It is not to be wondered therefore that the inhabitants should, as years rolled by, come to regard their title as a fixed and legitimate one.

THEIR OWN IMPROVEMENTS

In this belief they built additions to their homes. They economized from their scanty savings and erected a church wherein they might

worship God after the fashion of elder and more populous communities. They purchased text books and sent their children to school.

All this they did out of the money earned by them during the long spring and summer as laborers in the employ of a brick yard near by...

The officers of the garrison at Fort Myer do not desire the removal of the colored people. Much of the labor about the fort and the quarters of the officers and men is performed by these black laborers, and the settlement for it is easy, since it can be arranged as part of the annual rent paid for their small places. It is one of the conditions of this annual payment that it can be paid in labor at the fort.

The village and the rest of the colored residents are so settled on the reservation as not to be near enough to any of the other occupants to raise annoyance...



5: Newspaper Article #3



Excerpts from the Evening Star, Washington, D.C. on May 17, 1890.

ARLINGTON ESTATE.

Scenes and Sorrows of Freedmen's Village.

THE PRESENT INHABITANTS.

Brief History of the Old Plantation—Confiscation in 1861—Bid in at Tax Sale in 1864—Recovered in 1882—Bought by the Government.

The Beginning of Freedmen's Village

During the progress of the war large numbers of colored people were brought north on boats and quartered on the confiscated Arlington estate. The freedmen's bureau gave them some assistance in erecting homes and Gen. O. O. Howard made contracts with them for the payment of rent of land. Since the bureau which swindled so many of them was abolished they have worked out a nominal rent by sitting on the grass to keep it from growing in the cemetery and by other calisthenics adapted to the climate and season. They had been told or in some way given to understand that they were eventually to acquire title to the lands on which they lived. This was more particularly impressed upon them after a large number had been taken to Hayti on a colonizing scheme and returned with more woes than wars or women have. Many planted trees and otherwise improved their little places that had been divided off in severalty by the government in 1868 and paid cash to the agents of the government for their houses, the contraband camp being by this time broken up. The thirty or more original houses were mostly 24 by 28 feet, one and a half stories in height, and contained eight rooms. They were shingled and had brick chimneys, but were neither ceiled nor plastered. The price paid was from \$35 to \$50 apiece and

usually two or more families purchased one house. After almost a quarter of a century the houses are now quite dilapidated and, owing to the uncertainty of their tenure, there is little inducement to thrift on the part of the people.

A Double Home

Besides the above there are several homes which Mr. Custis had built for his slaves that are still occupied by them or their children, and about a hundred other houses, including two churches, three small stores and one school house, have been from time to time erected. Most of these are clustered together in what is called Freedmen's village to the south of the cemetery proper and near the southern limit of the estate, but some are scattered here and there over the old plantation. It was only about ten years ago that Lieut. R. P. Strong then commanding at Fort Myer, gave the squatters permission to erect in their village a brick church costing about \$2,000, and thus further encouraged to believe that they were to remain permanently considerable other improvements of an humbler nature were also made.

Limits of the Cemetery

Only about two hundred acres were originally enclosed for the cemetery, though the walls are now being extended to the south to include about one hundred and fifty acres more, through which beautiful drives are being laid out, and in 1865 all that portion outside of the walls was transferred to the Freedmen's bureau as abandoned lands and placed in charge of the assistant commissioner of refugees. In 1868 Gen. C. H. Howard, as assistant commissioner of the bureau, had lands surveyed



5: Newspaper Article #3, cont'd



and subdivided for the purpose of renting them to the freedmen. In July, 1872, the Secretary of War declared all that part of the estate outside of the cemetery to be the military reservation of Fort Whipple and \$540 were paid to settlers for the removal of the houses and the loss of crops on the site selected for the new post, now Fort Myer.

No Suffrage

Until 1884 the settlers on these lands were permitted to vote and exercise all the rights of freemen in Alexandria county, but objection to their registration being at that time made the registrars referred the matter to the commonwealth's attorney, Mr. James E. Clements, who... held that as the state of Virginia had...ceded jurisdiction thereon the settlers had no longer the elective franchise or political privileges belong to citizens of the state... the settlers now became generally willing to sell out their claims and move out... The people of Alexandria county were also eager that their front... should not be occupied by what is best described as a crap pasture, the estate having been permitted to run down and present on its low lands a bleached and scrubby waste...

...They toil not, neither do they spin very hard, for the fruits of their labor are not surely theirs and might be confiscated by a grasping government...

Since the purchase of the plantation by the United States government... the schools have been sadly neglected, though before they were supported by the state... They are above the average a moral, law-abiding and industrious people, there being few criminals and, when the commission made its recent report, but one pauper of their number. They are free, happy, and

contented except for the loss of suffrage and the uncertain tenure of their lands...

Here and there about the place white stones bear the names of departed ones while shrubs and fruit trees mark where homes have been. But, though bound by the mystery of affection and the attachment for endearing scenes to the old estate, the golden thread will yield... and with charity to all and malice toward none they will move along when paid for their humble homes...





FREEDMAN'S VILLAGE FAST FACTS

Village Origins

- Located on the Arlington estate in Virginia, which the government confiscated from General Lee's family
- The land was used for a national cemetery, a military fort and a camp for formerly enslaved African Americans
- Permanent housing was built for residents

Life in the Village

- The government provided housing, education, medical care and training in job skills
- The village was overseen by the U.S. Army
- Residents were encouraged to move out when they could support themselves
- Residents were required to work for the government or have another source of support
- Residents voted and held public office

Important Years:

- 1863:** Washington D.C. was a haven for fugitive slaves (contrabands)
- 1863:** The government opened the village with the first 100 settlers
- 1873:** George Washington Custis Lee inherited Arlington House and its 1,100 acres. He sued to remove the Army and the Freedman's Village
- 1882:** The Supreme Court decided in favor of Lee, who sold the land to the government for \$150,000

By the Numbers

- Average of **2** deaths per day. Other camps averaged 3-5 deaths per day
- Rent was **\$3** a month
- Population ranged between **1,000-3,000**
- **100** wooden frame houses, each holding **2-4** families

Problems in the Village

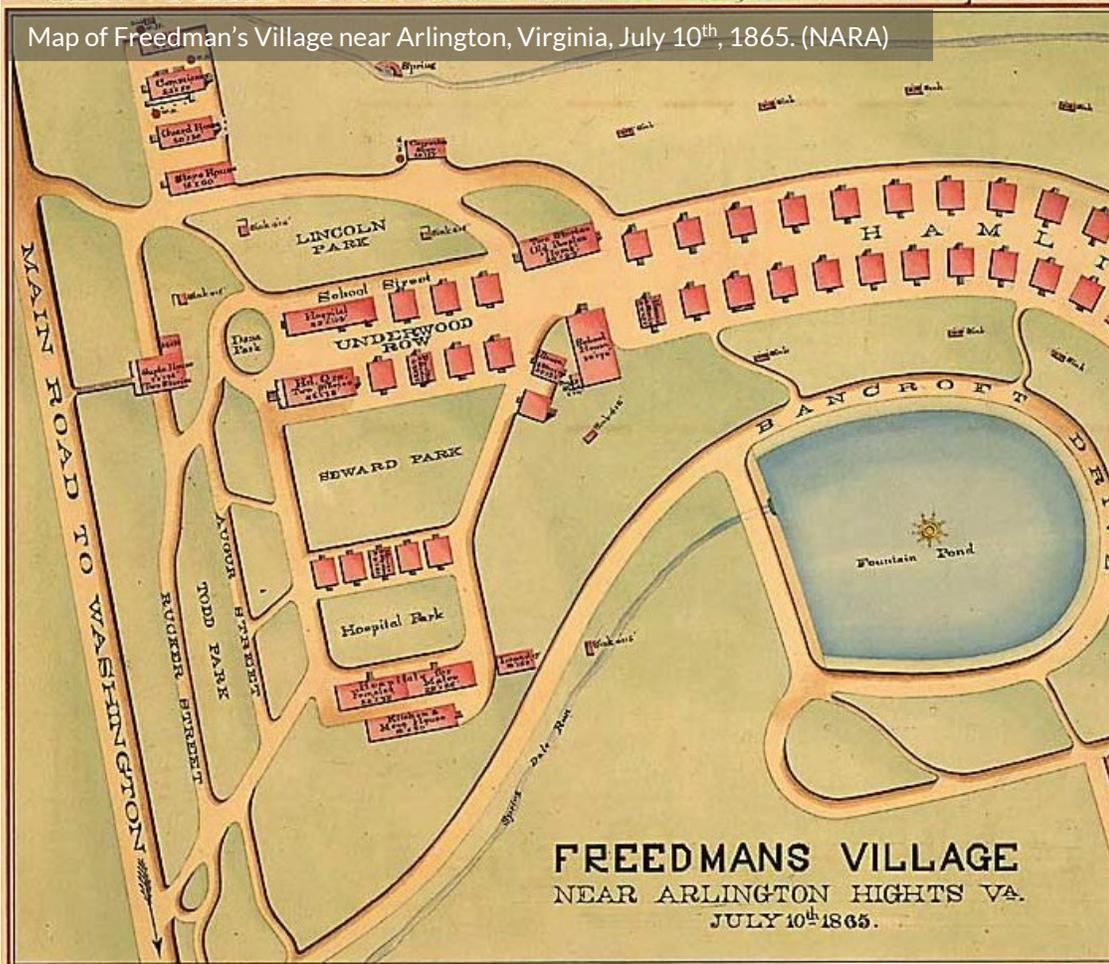
- The village home for the aged wasn't well heated or cleaned
- There were problems with neighbors: reports of stealing and threats
- Finding work could be difficult

Panoramic view of Freedman's Village, Arlington, Virginia. (LOC, 1864)





Map of Freedman's Village near Arlington, Virginia, July 10th, 1865. (NARA)



Buildings:

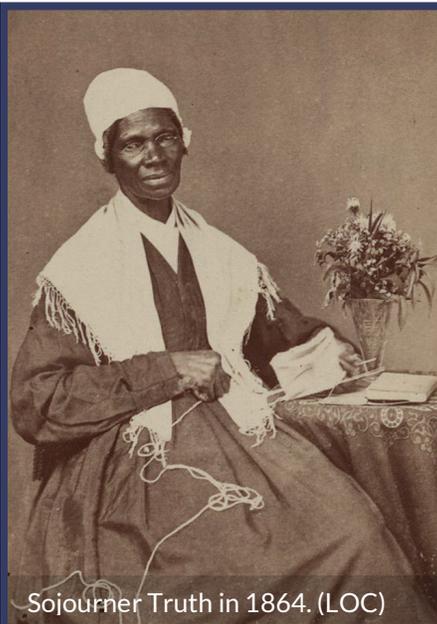
Besides the wooden framed houses, other buildings included:

- a school
- stores
- a hospital
- carpentry
- blacksmith shop
- workshops
- churches
- a home for the aged and infirm

Residents made improvements while living there, including:

- building outhouses
- digging wells
- planting trees
- digging gardens

Sojourner Truth and the Kidnapping Plot



Sojourner Truth in 1864. (LOC)

Sojourner Truth was a well-known American abolitionist and supporter of the rights of African Americans and women. In 1864, she moved to the village to offer counseling and help people exercise their civil rights.

At the time, the law ending slavery in Maryland was being contested in court. Some slave owners kidnapped young boys from the village and took them back to Maryland to work. Their upset mothers made a commotion and were locked in the village guardhouse for disturbing the peace.

Truth helped get the women released. She had been enslaved and never learned to read or write, but she knew their rights and worked with the women to get their sons released. She encouraged them to use the law and fill out warrants. It took time, but the courts ordered the boys to be returned to their families.

Name: _____

Class Period:



RESIDENT EXPERT

1

Villagers to Government

When the villagers learned that the government was going to close the village, they held a meeting to determine what should be done. They chose John B. Syphax to write a letter to the secretary of war. Syphax was the son of Maria Carter Syphax, whose white half-sister, Mary Custis Lee, inherited the Arlington Estate.

READING QUESTIONS

1. What is Syphax's attitude toward Secretary of War Endicott? What words or phrases from the letter support your conclusion?

2. According to Syphax, why did residents of the village believe that they would be able to stay and have some claim to the land?

3. What improvements did the residents make to their homes and the village?

4. If residents are forced to move, what does Syphax ask for in compensation?

5. What is Syphax's opinion about closing the village? Do you agree with him? Why or Why not?

Name: _____

Class Period:



RESIDENT EXPERT (back)

1

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

Now that you have read and discussed different viewpoints about closing the village, what is your opinion? Should the residents of Freedman's Village be removed from Arlington? If so, are they entitled to any compensation? Are there other solutions or compromises that could benefit both the villagers and the government?



Name: _____

Class Period: _____

GOVERNMENT EXPERT

2

Cemetery, Army, Gov't

The decision to close Freedman's Village began with the letter from J.A. Commerford on November 12, 1887. Commerford was the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery. The letter was sent to S.B. Holabird, the quartermaster general of the Army. Holabird then sent a letter to the secretary of war who decided what should be done about the village. The U.S. government had purchased the Arlington land, and regulations for government-owned land differed from those for privately owned land.

READING QUESTIONS

1. What is Commerford's attitude toward the residents of Freedman's Village? What words or phrases from the letter support your conclusion?

2. Commerford accuses the villagers of cutting down trees. Is cutting down the trees really such a big problem? Why or why not?

3. Commerford says that removal of the villagers is the most effective way to prevent theft. Do you agree? Is there another solution they could try?

4. In Holabird's letter he barely mentions Commerford's original concern. Why do you think that is?

5. What are the opinions of the cemetery, army, and government about closing the village? Do you agree with them? Why or Why not?

Name: _____

Class Period:



GOVERNMENT EXPERT (back)

2

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

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Name: _____

Class Period: _____

PUBLIC OPINION A

3

Newspaper Article #1:

The New York Herald sent a reporter to observe the village and speak to residents as part of his research for the article. Published on December 8, 1887, the article is a contemporary view of the situation. The article is not an objective presentation of facts: the author has a decided viewpoint. Your excerpt includes sections of the article that focus on possible reasons the closure is happening.

READING QUESTIONS

1. What is Burkau's attitude toward the residents of Freedman's Village? What words or phrases from the letter support your conclusion?

2. What evidence does the article give that residents are possibly being treated unfairly?

3. Burkau suggests that the superintendent of Arlington Cemetery isn't doing his job well. Do you agree with Burkau? Why or why not?

4. The article suggests 3 other reasons that people may want to close the village. What are these reasons?

5. What are the writer's opinions about closing the village? Do you agree with him? Why or Why not?

Name: _____

Class Period:



PUBLIC OPINION A (back)

3

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

Now that you have read and discussed different viewpoints about closing the village, what is your opinion? Should the residents of Freedman's Village be removed from Arlington? If so, are they entitled to any compensation? Are there other solutions or compromises that could benefit both the villagers and the government?



Name: _____

Class Period: _____

VILLAGE HISTORY A

4

Newspaper Article #2:

The New York Herald sent a reporter to observe the village and speak to residents as part of his research for the article. Published on December 8, 1887, the article is a contemporary view of the situation. The article is not an objective presentation of facts: the author has a decided viewpoint. Your excerpt includes sections of the article that focus on the history of the village.

READING QUESTIONS

1. What is Burkau's attitude toward the residents of Freedman's Village? What words or phrases from the letter support your conclusion?

2. What evidence does the article give that residents are possibly being treated unfairly?

3. When did the village begin? Why was it needed at the time?

4. What improvements have the residents made to the village?

5. What are the writer's opinions about closing the village? Do you agree with him? Why or Why not?

Name: _____

Class Period:



VILLAGE HISTORY A (back)

4

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

Now that you have read and discussed different viewpoints about closing the village, what is your opinion? Should the residents of Freedman's Village be removed from Arlington? If so, are they entitled to any compensation? Are there other solutions or compromises that could benefit both the villagers and the government?



Name: _____

Class Period: _____

PUBLIC OPINION B

5

Newspaper Article #3:

This Washington D.C. Evening Star article was published almost 3 years after the village was initially ordered to close. While written a couple of years later, the article is still a contemporary view of the situation. The article is not an objective presentation of facts: the author has a decided viewpoint. Your excerpt includes sections that focus on the village's history and possible reasons for the closure.

READING QUESTIONS

1. What is the writer's attitude toward the residents of Freedman's Village? What words or phrases from the letter support your conclusion?

2. What evidence does the article give that residents are possibly being treated unfairly?

3. What evidence does the article give that residents don't deserve to be compensated?

4. The article suggests other reasons that people may want to close the village. What are these reasons?

5. What are the writer's opinions about closing the village? Do you agree with him? Why or Why not?



Name: _____

Class Period:

PUBLIC OPINION B (back)

5

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

Now that you have read and discussed different viewpoints about closing the village, what is your opinion? Should the residents of Freedman's Village be removed from Arlington? If so, are they entitled to any compensation? Are there other solutions or compromises that could benefit both the villagers and the government?



Name: _____

Class Period: _____

VILLAGE HISTORY B

6

Freedman's Village Fast Facts

In addition to 3 primary source images (2 contemporary drawings and 1 photograph of a resident), this page contains additional background information about the history of the village.

READING QUESTIONS

1. When did the village begin? Why was it needed at the time?

2. Is there evidence that the village is still needed in 1887?

3. What happened to make the future of the village uncertain?

4. What advantages were available to newly freed Blacks who came to live in the village?

5. In what ways could the village be considered a disappointment?

6. Do you think the village should be closed or remain open? Use information from this resource to support your opinion.

Name: _____

Class Period:



VILLAGE HISTORY B (back)

6

Reasons to Continue Freedman's Village	Reasons to Close Freedman's Village

REFLECTION QUESTION

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