

Press Release

On Saturday, December 2, 2006, from 1 to 4 P.M., the Contraband Historical Society and Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park (CFMNP.org) will co-host a forum entitled:

“From Whence They Came”

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED LOCATION: The event will be held at the Hampton History Museum, 120 Old Hampton Lane (not at the nearby First Baptist Church). **Open to the public. Donations optional.**

The forum will focus on **the legacy, cultural heritage, and contributions of former slaves and freedmen** in Tidewater in the period from 1860, when President Lincoln was elected, through Reconstruction to 1905.

The forum will **highlight the Contrabands, the thousands of people who stood up, left their places of enslavement, and seized their own freedom at Fort Monroe** —“De Freedom Fort,” former slaves called it. Their resourcefulness and hard work were to make Hampton a unique community. The Contrabands got their name when a Union general declared them contraband of war. This first mass freedom incident of the war prefigured Emancipation.

Distinguished panelists:

Dr. Tommy Bogger, historian and author, Norfolk State University

Dr. Robert Engs, historian and author, University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Louis Guy, president, Norfolk Historical Society

Dr. Edward Longacre, author and historian, Langley Air Force Base

Moderator:

Dr. Bill Wiggins, historian and former professor, Hampton University

Contact:

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Book sales and signings by the authors.

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