

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
181 REDCLIFFE RD
BEECH ISLAND, SC 29842
(803) 827-1473

UPCOMING EVENTS
AT REDCLIFFE

The African-American
Experience:

RECONSTRUCTION

Sat, Feb 25 10 am
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC
Seniors, \$1.00 Ages
6-16 and Students

Scandal & Gossip

Sat, Apr 8 5:30 pm
\$9/Adults, \$6.50/SC
Seniors & Ages 6-16

For more information on
these programs please
contact the park.

Park Staff

Park Manager
Joy Raintree

Park Interpreter
Elizabeth Laney

Park Technician
Doug Kratz

Asst. Park Ranger
Theresa Higgs

Think About This!

The **National Park Service** preserves more than 40 Civil War battlefields across the US but until recently had no parks or monuments dedicated to Reconstruction.

In January of 2017 the **first** National Monument to Reconstruction was named in **Beaufort, SC**.

Redcliffe Southern Times

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8

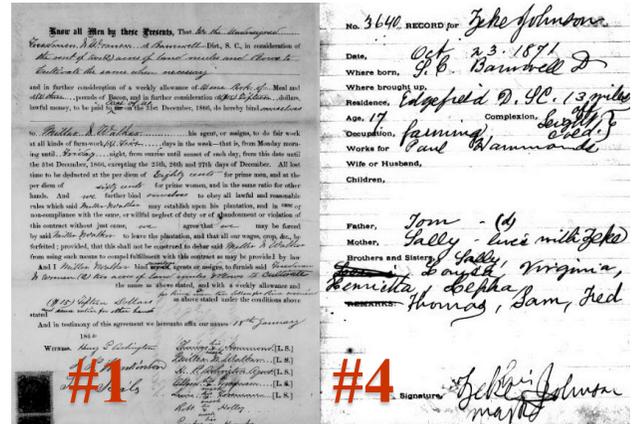
FEBRUARY 2017

African-American life during Reconstruction

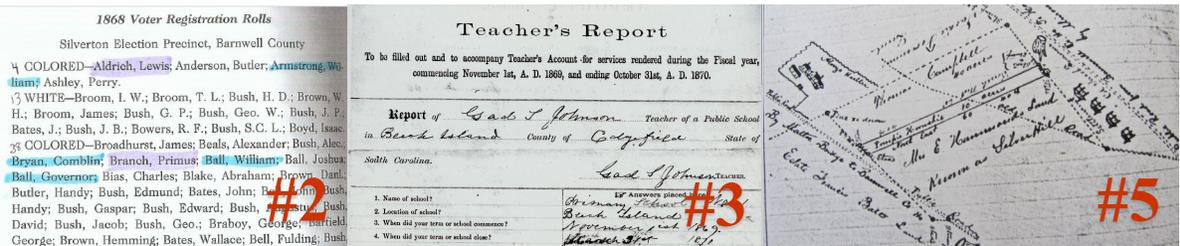
5 incredible documents that illustrate 10 years of new opportunities for African-American families.

During Reconstruction, a turbulent time period of roughly ten years following the Civil War, many African Americans were finally able to pursue opportunities that had been denied to them under slavery. The five documents described here show the range of opportunities available to freedmen and women of the former Hammond plantation community during Reconstruction.

Join us on February 25th at 10 am for stories of bravery, brutality and empowerment during **The African-American Experience: Reconstruction**.



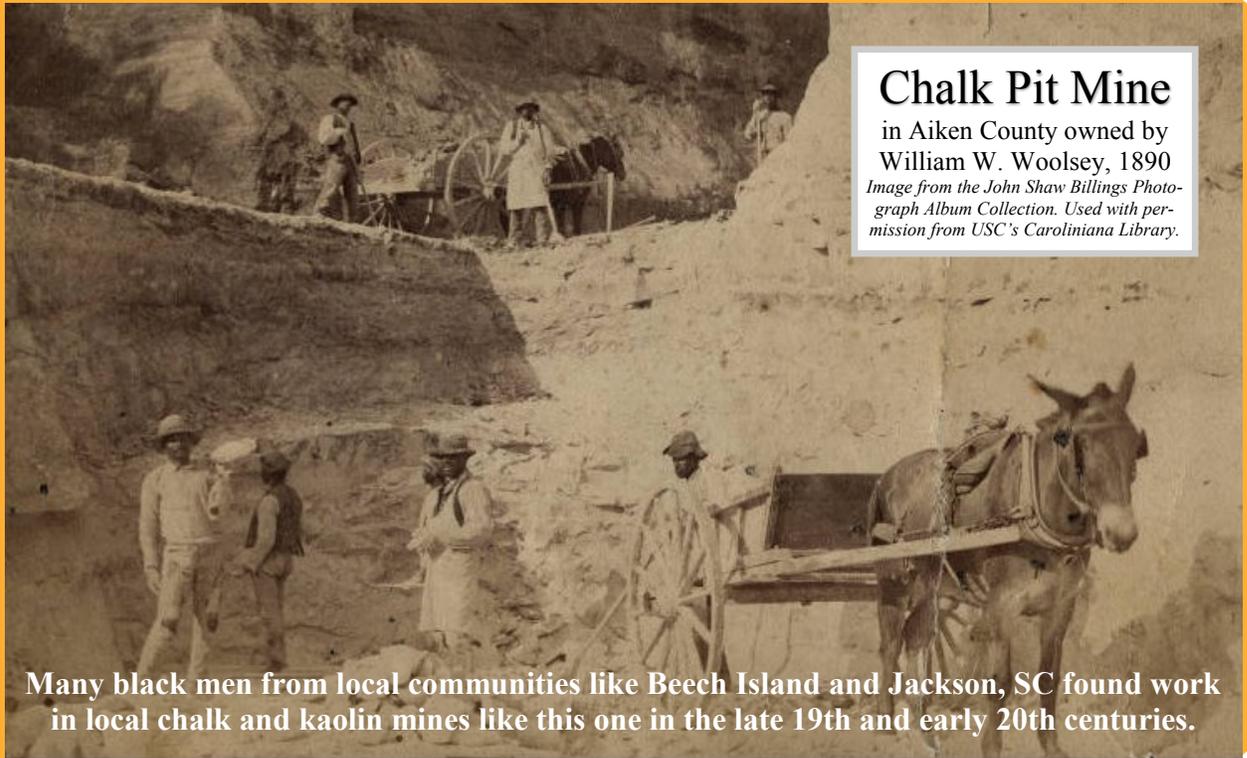
#1. A Labor Contract signed between 44 freedmen and a local landowner, Miller S. Walker, in 1866 shows former Silver Bluff slave families like the Hornsby, Glaze, Roberts and Long families able to determine where their own labor was given. **#2. The 1868 Voter Registration Rolls** for Silverton Township shows 43 men, former slaves at Silver Bluff and Cowden Plantation registered to vote in local elections. **#3. A Teacher's Report for the 1869 - 1870 School Year** shows former Redcliffe slaves like Victorine and Emma Henley attending school for the first time in their lives. **#4. A Freedman's Bank Record** from 1871 shows former Silver Bluff slave Ezekiel "Zeke" Johnson registering for a bank account. **#5. A Deed & Plat** for Aiken County show former Silver Bluff slave Pompey Hornsby purchasing 10 acres of land from the Hammond family for \$120.00 in 1875.



People of Silver Bluff - Abram Hammonds, 1806-1876

One of 147 individuals of African descent enslaved at Silver Bluff Plantation when the Hammond family acquired the property in 1831, **Abram Hammonds** was a 25-year-old man with a wife named Eleanor and a son named Charles. Hammond papers indicate that Abram was one of several skilled sawyers and rough carpenters at Silver Bluff Plantation. His value as a piece of property was \$700.00.

Emancipated at age 59, Abram continued living near Silver Bluff Plantation and was known as both Abram Hammonds and Abram Blake. In 1876, at about 70 years old, Abram became involved in one of the most violent altercations during Reconstruction in South Carolina—the **ELLENTON RIOTS**. Seeing the abuses being heaped upon African-American families by local white Democrats Abram went to the local black youth and told them **"You ought to stand up. See how these 'ere people are killing all our race... You ought to stand up about it and help."** Abram was murdered the following day - one of several unarmed African Americans who were killed during the violence of the Ellenton Riots.



Chalk Pit Mine

in Aiken County owned by William W. Woolsey, 1890

Image from the John Shaw Billings Photograph Album Collection. Used with permission from USC's Caroliniana Library.

Many black men from local communities like Beech Island and Jackson, SC found work in local chalk and kaolin mines like this one in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Document of the Month: 1866 Labor Contract

Know all Men by these Presents, That *Mr. the Undersigned*...
 Freedmen, & Women... of *Barnwell* Dist., S. C., in consideration of
 the rent of *two (2) acres of land, mules and plows* to
 Cultivate the same when necessary
 and in further consideration of a weekly allowance of *Wasa* Peck of *Meal* and
 of *three*... pounds of Bacon, and in further consideration of *(\$15) Fifteen*... dollars,
 lawful money, to be paid to *me* ^{each of us} on the 31st December, 1866, do hereby bind ourselves
 to *Miller & Walker*... his agent, or assigns, to do fair work
 at all kinds of farm-work *(3) Five*... days in the week—that is, from Monday morn-
 ing until *Friday*... night, from sunrise until sunset of each day, from this date until
 the 31st December, 1866, excepting the 25th, 26th and 27th days of December. All lost
 time to be deducted at the per diem of *Eighty cents* for prime men, and at the
 per diem of *sixty cents* for prime women, and in the same ratio for other
 hands. And *we* further bind ourselves to obey all lawful and reasonable
 rules which said *Miller Walker* may establish upon his plantation, and in case of

It wasn't **40 acres & a mule** but each person signed on to rent 2 acres of land along with mules and a plow.

Each freedman expected to receive **1 peck of cornmeal** and **3 pounds of bacon** a week and **\$15 per person** at the end of the year.

The contract specifies a **five day work week**, with workers working from sunrise to sunset each day.

A man could be deducted **.80 cents** and a woman **.60 cents** per day if they missed any work time.

This contract between **44 freedmen and women** in Silverton Township, near the former Silver Bluff Plantation, and a local landowner Miller Walker was signed on January 18, 1866 - just a month after the 13th Amendment was ratified! Former enslaved families like the Hornsby, Robert, Glaze, Hammond and Lark family, among others, for the first time in their lives were able to determine what their own labor was worth and who would have that labor. This labor contract comes from the **Freedman Bureau Records for Barnwell County**. Redcliffe Plantation SHS would like to thank Raquel Abraham, a Glaze family descendant, for sharing the document.