

FANNIE BERRY



My name is Fannie Berry, and I was born into slavery in the year 1845. I was owned by a man named George Abbott in the county of Appomattox. As a slave, I witnessed a lot of awful things; many people I knew were ripped apart from their families and sold. My own mother was separated from her sister, who she never saw again. When the war started, I just thought it would be more trouble, but then I started hearing rumors that Lincoln might free the slaves. You would think that I would have been happy when the Union army came to Appomattox on April 8, but when one of those soldiers approached me to ask if I had seen the Confederates anywhere, I was too afraid to tell the truth. I was scared my master might find out what I said and hurt me. The next day, during the battle around the village, I saw something I never thought I would ever see in my life, African American soldiers fighting for the Union army! I was so proud. They must have scared the Confederate troops, because not long after they showed up on the battlefield, the Confederate army surrendered. The Union army brought something else with them when they showed up at Appomattox: The Emancipation Proclamation, freedom for the slaves! FREE! My people were overjoyed! We sang songs! We laughed. We cried. But still, we were also really unsure. We were free now, but where would we go now? We had never been able to go to school, vote, or even get legally married. Would that change for us now? How would we make money? Would Americans respect us and consider us fellow countrymen?

Questions:

1. What were some hard things Fannie Berry experienced living as an enslaved person?
2. What were some things Berry saw during the battle of Appomattox Court House?
3. What did the Union army bring for Fannie Berry?
4. What are some things that Berry worries about that might be the **same** as a Union or Confederate soldier?
5. What are some things that Berry worries about that might be **different** from a Union or Confederate soldier?