

## **Louisiana**

Contraband camps took different forms in different places. For instance, while in Memphis camps were created, often from the ground up, along or in the Mississippi River, in South Carolina many camps existed on the same plantations where blacks had been slaves. Still other camps simply consisted of a number of blacks resident at Union encampments. Especially in the case of newly-built camps, the populations were ever-changing since fugitives arrived daily, men were recruited into service, and women were often sent to work on abandoned farms or plantations. Some of what is known about these makeshift communities comes from official record while important details have been provided through the writings of various people—often associated with religious groups or benevolent organizations—who visited them. The most remarkable of these first-hand accounts is provided by Quaker Levi Coffin, who transitioned from his work on the Underground Railroad directly to fundraising for the contraband. Two other witnesses to camp life were Michigan Quaker and Underground Railroad operative Laura Haviland, and John Eaton, Jr. General Superintendent of Freedmen.

### **Baton Rouge**

There is a photograph available of blacks living at one camp, a two-story wood structure. It is believed that some of the former slaves of Jefferson Davis resided at this camp.<sup>1</sup> Quaker Laura Haviland referred to “a few camps surrounding the city of Baton Rouge.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Carrollton**

This camp is referenced in an article by Jane E. Schultz.<sup>3</sup> This camp was described as large.<sup>4</sup>

### **Goodrich Landing**

Brig. Gen. John P. Hawkins complained that proper care wasn't being taken of the contraband, who were idle in the city and were only being given rations. He stated that he was in support of

---

<sup>1</sup> (See

[http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.com/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/AAW&CISOPTR=107&CISOBX=1&REC=8](http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.com/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/AAW&CISOPTR=107&CISOBX=1&REC=8)) to view the photograph of Davis purported slaves.

<sup>2</sup> Haviland, <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext05/wlwrk10.txt>.

<sup>3</sup> Referenced in *Seldom Thanked, Never Praised, and Scarcely Recognized: Gender and Racism in Civil War Hospitals* Civil War History - Volume 48, Number 3, September 2002, pp. 220-236

<sup>4</sup> Referenced in *The Sounds of Slavery: Discovering African American History through Songs*, by Graham J. White. ([http://books.google.com/books?id=DhIT0z9DX3cC&pg=PA101&lpg=PA101&dq=contraband+camps,+louisiana&source=bl&ots=sQ0Ws8x5Ps&sig=Um3AwzlnUV5ZTDsfA0oPGKgYMv0&hl=en&ei=4H3HSt69JsqX8AbNgqThCA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=DhIT0z9DX3cC&pg=PA101&lpg=PA101&dq=contraband+camps,+louisiana&source=bl&ots=sQ0Ws8x5Ps&sig=Um3AwzlnUV5ZTDsfA0oPGKgYMv0&hl=en&ei=4H3HSt69JsqX8AbNgqThCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8#v=onepage&q=&f=false))

putting them to work cutting wood for steamboats and settling them on Pau Pau [sic] Island. This correspondence is directed to Eaton, superintendent.<sup>5</sup>

**Kenners**

**Paw Paw Island**

**Young's Point**

**Milliken's Bend**

**New Orleans**

➤ **Camp Parapet:** this camp was opened on the former plantation of Victor Fortier. Freedmen founded two churches on this land, Picket Shanny Ross Chapel (1863, named after its first minister, Anthony Ross) and First Zion Baptist Chapel (1864). A cemetery was constructed on the land, two portions of which were later sold to railroad companies.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Simon, Vol. 9, 137.

<sup>66</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrewsbury\\_\(Camp\\_Parapet\)\\_Cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrewsbury_(Camp_Parapet)_Cemetery)