

## 2009 Virginia Women in History

### TRANSCRIPTION

Extracts from the testimony of Caroline Cook, Administratrix of Major Cook, to Agent Isaac P. Baldwin, 24 July 1877, Southern Claims Commission, Approved Claims, 1871–1880, Virginia, Record Group 217, National Archives and Records Administration.

My name is Caroline Cook. I am 36 years old and live at Indian Town in King William Co Va. . . . I was born at Indian Town. . . . My sympathies were on the side of the Union from first to last. . . . I was always doing all I could for the union soldiers when here. I used to cook and wash for them all the time were here. I have cooked for them all day long and most of the night many times. Sometimes they would give me a little something. My brother Edward Bradby was Pilot for them about 2 years on the James the Pamunkey, and Mattapony rivers. My Cousin Terrell Bradby was a Pilot on land and water from the time Gen McClellan landed at the White House until the War closed. My Cousin Evans Bradby was a Scout in McClellans Army. . . . I took the unions side and stuck. I now remember about the different battles, but I was always glad when the union army gained the day and I was happy when the rebellion was put down. . . . All the Indian people in this Town were union. there was no white union people near here that I know of or remember. The Confederates threatened to take us all away from here. They took my brother and may cousin and put them in Castle Thunder. They took my cousin Harris Bradby also and a lot of others not my kin. . . . I was the owner of the property when taken. It became mine by the death of my husband who died the first year of the war. He built the fences and purchased the house, and I raised the hogs and the chickens. Our place was situated in Indian Town. It contained about 15 acres. It was all cleared land and enclosed with a rail fence passing clear around it. It was not joined to other farms fences. . . . I am the Widow of Major Cook, who died in 1861, leaving one child an infant who is with me now. The fences and the buildings belonging

## 2009 Virginia Women in History

### TRANSCRIPTION

to him, but not the land. The land in Indian Town all belongs to the State: It is reserved land for the perpetual use of the Pamunkey Indians. My husband and me were both Pamunkey Indians. After my husband died I moved with my child to my fathers house in the same Town. . . After the war I applied for and was appointed Administratrix, of the Estate by the county court of King Wm Co. . . . I was present and saw my hogs and my chickens taken from my fathers place when I was there living and I saw my house surrounded and the fields around it covered with union troops and tents. The hogs and chickens were taken in the day time, and the rails and building any time they wanted it. I complained to some of the officers or men, who told me I would be paid for it. . . . The troops were camped all around and on my place several weeks. When they came, my house and all my fences were standing undisturbed. The property covered in these items was my fence and my house, which were used for fuel by the Army of Gen Dix which came here in May 1863 on a raid with Cavalry, Infantry and Bun Boats. The Gun Boats and Transports landed at White House directly opposite Indian Town, and the cavalry came up from West Point on this side the river and camped all over my place which lies immediately on the Rail Road where it passes through Indian Town. My place was completely covered with troops, and my house, which was unoccupied, was soon torn down and all my fences were gone in a short time and used for cooking their food. . . . the stobbs were large cedar stakes driven in the ground at each point of the fence, two at each joint. When I made out my claim I had never counted the rails, or the stubs. I have since had the panels counted which I have been rebuilt and find there were 300 panels and 600 stakes or stubbs, which were on the place where Gen Dix's Army occupied it. When the Army left there were none. When Gen Dix's Army came I had 4 hogs running out where I lived two of them would weight 100 pounds each on an average, and

## 2009 Virginia Women in History

### TRANSCRIPTION

two about 75 lbs each dressed. I saw all four of these killed near the house. I saw the soldiers skinning two of them.