

n the fall of 1864, the popular actor John Wilkes Booth arrived in Southern Maryland, a haven for Confederate sympathizers, with letters of introduction from exiled Confederates in Canada and a scheme to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln. Booth soon gathered recruits to assist him. Whether the Confederate high command in Richmond, Virginia, sanctioned the plan or Booth retaliated on his own for what he perceived as Lincoln's harsh wartime policies is unclear. By April 1865, however, Booth had abandoned the kidnap plot in favor of assassination. On April 14, shortly after 10 P.M., Booth

shot Lincoln in the back of the head while the president watched a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. **Booth fled over the Navy Yard**

Bridge into Southern Maryland. With fellow conspirator David Herold, he stopped about midnight at widow Mary E. Surratt's tavern in the village of Surrattsville. She was then operating a boardinghouse in Washington, D.C., but a tenant at the tavern testified that Booth retrieved rifles, field glasses, and other supplies hidden there as part of the earlier kidnap scheme. The tenant also said that Surratt had been at the tavern as recently as the afternoon of April 14, and had left instructions to have the equipment ready. His

testimony was fatal to Surratt, marking the first time that the federal government had executed and hung a woman.

Booth and Herold did not linger at the tavern, but headed south to the village of T.B. and then into Charles County. Their exact route is uncertain, but their destination was Dr. Samuel A. Mudd's home about three miles north of Bryantown. The doctor and Booth had met previously, and Mudd had introduced the actor to a leading Confederate agent, Thomas Harbin, as well as John Surratt, Jr., a Confederate courier and son of Mary Surratt.

The fugitives arrived at the Mudd farm early in the morning of April 15, seeking help for the broken leg that Booth had sustained in his escape. After setting the leg, Mudd allowed the pair

to rest in an upstairs bedroom. That afternoon, the doctor went into Bryantown, learned that it was occupied by Federal troops, and that the search was on for Lincoln's assassin. Mudd returned home and sent Booth and Herold on their way. The last time he saw them, they were headed in the direction of Zekiah Swamp. Mudd was later sentenced to prison for assisting Booth.

However, the pair did not seek refuge in the swamp. They made a wide arc around Bryantown and were guided to the home of Samuel Cox (near the present-day town of Bel Alton) shortly after midnight on April 16. Cox sent them to a dense pine thicket

> where they hid for several days, receiving food and newspapers from Thomas Jones, a Confederate signal agent, and Franklin Robev. Cox's overseer. On the night of April 20, Jones led the fugitives to the Potomac River where he had hidden a rowboat. He directed them to Mathias Point on the Virginia shore, but for some reason the pair rowed to Nanjemoy Creek in Maryland, where they rested before trying again the next night.

Once in Virginia, Booth and Herold crossed the Rappahannock **River and found shelter at Richard** Garrett's farm. There, early in the morning of April 26, 1865, Federal troops found them hiding in a tobac-

co barn. Herold surrendered as ordered, but Booth refused. To force him out, the barn was set on fire. The soldiers could see Booth through the slats in the barn, and Sgt. Boston Corbett shot him in the back of the neck. Soldiers dragged Booth onto the porch of the nearby farmhouse, where he died a few hours later. Herold was returned to Washington, D.C., where he stood trial and suffered death on the gallows.

Of those who helped Booth escape through Maryland, only Herold, Mrs. Surratt and Dr. Mudd were prosecuted. Cox. Jones. and others associated with the assassin's flight were released after several weeks in jail. Jones wrote a book, J. Wilkes Booth (1893), about his experience.



ore than a century ago, Point Lookout, with its peaceful surroundings and fine bathing beaches was a place of enjoyment for well-to-do Marylanders. Beginning in 1861, however, the Civil War changed this pleasant retreat dramatically. Because water bounds the point on two sides (the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River), it was an ideal site for the federal government to construct a state-of-the-art hospital, earthen-walled fortifications, and the North's largest prisoner-of-war camp.

A year after the war began, the federal government leased the Point Lookout Resort for an army hospital. Hammond General Hospital, built like the spokes of a wheel, received its first wounded patients on August 17, 1862. Early in 1863, a small number of prisoners were confined to the hospital grounds. Many of them were Southern Marylanders accused of assisting the Confederacy. Today, most of the hospital site lies underneath the Chesapeake Bay.

Soon after the capture of thousands of **Confederates at the** Battle of Gettysburg, construction began on Camp Hoffman, which was capable of holding 10,000 prisoners of war. As the war progressed and prisoner exchanges ceased, the camp became overcrowded, with more than 20,000 men confined by June 1864. At the height of the war, the lack

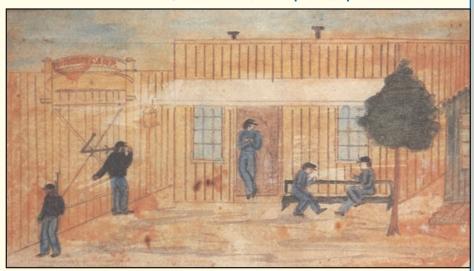
of sanitation contaminated the wells, and some men froze to death in tents, having but one blanket and very little wood for fire. More than 4,000 men died.

The prisoners occupied themselves making trinkets they bartered, since money was scarce. A school was organized to teach the "three Rs," and church services were held in an old building. By the time the war ended, more than 52,000 prisoners had passed through Camp Hoffman's gates. Today, a small section of the prison pen has been reconstructed where it once stood.

Three forts were erected to protect the point and prison from Confederate invasion. The earthen walls of one, Fort Lincoln, remain intact, and the rest of the fort has been reconstructed.

In 1965, a century after the war ended, Maryland's Park Service created the 1,046-acre Point Lookout State Park. The Civil War story is told in the park's Visitor Center exhibits.

Sketch of entrance to the prison camp at Point Lookout.



PRESERVING THE UNION

Booth limps across the stage after shooting President Lincoln.

uring the Civil War, conflict was not confined to the battlefields; governments, as well as families, were divided. The federal government took drastic and controversial steps to keep Maryland in the Union, arresting newspaper editors and even state and local officials suspected of Confederate sympathies. On May 26, 1862, as federal troops surrounded the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton, Deputy U.S. Marshal John S. McPhail and Special Officer John L. Bishop entered the courtroom and arrested Judge Richard Bennett Carmichael. The judge had been an outspoken opponent of the presence of Federal troops at Eastern Shore polling places during local elections in 1861, which he believed intimidated voters. When Carmichael asked by what authority McPhail and Bishop disrupted the proceedings, they replied, "By the authority of the United States." Carmichael resisted, and Bishop clubbed him repeatedly with a revolver butt until he lay bloody and unconscious on the courtroom floor. The 125 men of the 2nd Delaware Infantry Regiment then escorted the judge to a waiting steamer at Wye Landing. Prosecuting attorney Isaac C.W. Powell, a prominent Eastonian who was roughed up when he tried to help Carmichael, was also arrested and transported to Baltimore. During their six-month confinement at Forts McHenry, Lafayette, and Delaware, they were never formally charged. Carmichael twice wrote President Abraham Lincoln in protest but

AFRICAN AMERICANS

hen President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation **Proclamation**, followed in May 1863 by General Order 143 establishing a U.S. Bureau of Colored Troops (USCT), he sealed the fate of the "peculiar institution" of slavery. Although Maryland would not emancipate its 87,000 slaves for almost two more years, Maryland slaves liberated themselves by the thousands to join free African Americans in the **United States Army and Navy.**

Masters jailed slaves to prevent escape recruitment by Union troops; those who fled risked reprisals on family members left behind, and those who were caught were sometimes tortured or killed. Even free Maryland blacks were barred from enlisting until October 3, 1863, when the USCT began recruiting in Maryland. Slaveholders were offered compensation for any slave who enlisted with or without his master's consent. Enlist they did. **Despite inequality in pay** and rations, segregated units, and extra danger on the battlefield-Confederates sometimes massacred, wounded, and captured black troops-"Once let the black man get upon **African Americans** his person the brass letter, U.S., enlisted, served with let him get an eagle on his button, honor, and fought in sigand a musket on his shoulder and

in Annapolis inspired more than 100 slaves to enlist. Most joined the 30th and 39th **Regiments and later served in the Wilder**ness Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg and the Battle of the Crater, and the Capture of Richmond.

in to the above, State and other authorities have offered rewards mounting to al-king an aggregate of about TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR

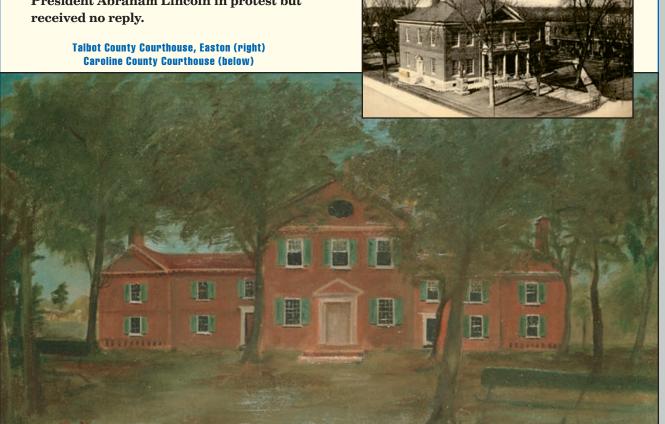
African Americans from Maryland's Eastern Shore also served with distinction; three of whom received the Medal of Honor. In Talbot County, the town of Unionville was founded in 1867 by 18 USCT veterans whose graves are located in the cemetery of St. Stephens A.M.E. Church. In Kent County, more than 400 blacks joined the USCT, and many perished. Surviving veterans established an integrated Charles Sumner Post in Chestertown that served them and their families

SPIES & SMUGGLERS

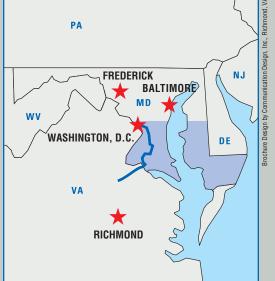
o keep Maryland from seceding when the Civil War began in April 1861, **President Abraham** Lincoln ordered Federal troops to occupy the state. He also suspended the writ of habeas corpus, and jailed suspected Confederate sympathizers, including public officials, newspaper editors, and private citizens. Had Maryland seconded Confederate territory would have surrounded Washington, D.C. **Though many Maryland**

That autumn, she was confined in the Old Capitol Prison, on the present site of the U.S. Supreme Court, and then sent to Richmond. She spent time in Europe and wrote her memoirs, My Imprisonment and the

First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington. Greenhow sailed in a blockade runner for North Carolina in 1864,



JOHN WILKES ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN WAR ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



Cover:

John Wilkes Booth;

half-length, standing,

from the U.S. Nation-

al Archives & Records

Administration

Anne Arundel, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Howard Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Montgom St. Mary's, Talbot and Worcester counties.

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ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN WAR ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY MARYLAND **CIVIL WAR** TRAILS FREE **Mobile App** Download on the App Store

In February 1864, a USCT company encampment at St. Johns College

nificant engagements.

How to Use this Map-Guide

This guide depicts a scenic 90-mile driving tour that follows the route taken by John Wilkes Booth as he attempted escape after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln in April 1865. This guide also offers a collection of sites scattered throughout the southern region of the Chesapeake Bay. Follow the bugle trailblazer signs to waysides that chronicle the day-to-day tale of America's most

infamous villain and explore the Civil War's lesser-known but important sites.

Along the way, explore the landscape while paddling a waterway or while hiking or biking a trail, and experience nature and Civil War heritage up close. Parks, trails, historic sites and museums offer an in depth look of the war on the home front, in the heat of battle and beyond the battlefield. Take a break in nearby Civil War cities and towns for dining, lodging, shopping and attractions.

For additional Civil War Trails information, visit www.civilwartrails.org and download the Maryland Civil War Trails app from Apple or Google Play to discover Civil War history and fun things to see and do along the way.



Beachcombing at Point Lookout State Park.

for more than a century. Harriet Tubman, born in Dorchester County, served as a scout for the 2nd South Carolina Volunteers. Other African-American women became nurses and spies. **Two sons of Frederick** Douglass, a Talbot County native, served as commissioned officers. In all, 8,718 Maryland African Americans, both slave and free, joined the USCT. Many others joined the U.S. **Navy. After President** Abraham Lincoln's assassination, USCT were among those dispatched to search the Southern Maryland countryside

men served in the U.S. Army, thousands of others enlisted in Rosatta Maria O'Neal Greenhow **Confederate service. Southern** partisans who stayed home conducted signal corps operations, ran the federal blockade to deliver vital supplies, and engaged in espionage. Southern Maryland was a hotbed of "secesh" intrigue, and many famous Confederate spies had ties to this region.

Perhaps the most famous Confederate spy, Rosatta Maria O'Neal Greenhow, known as "Rebel Rose," was born in Southern Maryland about 1814. An antebellum social leader in Washington, D.C., Greenhow used her connections to elicit critical information from federal officials and military figures. In July 1861, aided by another Marylander, Betty Duvall, Greenhow delivered a coded message detailing Union plans for the First Battle of Manassas to Confederate Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard. Confederate president Jefferson Davis credited Greenhow with the ensuing victory.

In August, federal officials placed her under house arrest, but she continued to spy.

but the shin sank off **Cape Fear and she** drowned. She is buried in Vilmington, N.C. Another Maryland spy,

Olivia Floyd, conducted her espionage activities from Rose Hill, her home in Port Tobacco, using her charm to extract information from Union officers. After the war, she was the guest of honor at a Confederate

veterans' reunion in Kentucky. **Pro-Confederate residents of South**ern Maryland not only gathered military intelligence but also food, supplies, and medicine. Sick and hungry Confederate soldiers who slipped into Southern Maryland got help from sympathizers. According to local tradition, young Catharine Hayden, known as the Angel of Chaptico, provided Confederate soldiers with food and medicine she obtained from her uncle, a physician. She suffered an epileptic seizure on Christmas Day 1872, fell into a fireplace, and died the following day. For years, her family received letters from all over the South from veterans who had learned of her tragic death. She is buried at Christ Church in Chaptico.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

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bullets in his pocket, there is no

power on earth that can deny that he

has earned the right to citizenship."

Frederick Douglass

MARYLAND

CIVIL WAF

TRAILS

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For more information on the Civil War, recreation and traveling in Maryland, please visit: **Howard County Tourism** Maryland Office of **Tourism Development** & Promotion

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for his killers.

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Chesapeake Bay towns turn the clock back to the 1860s.



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WAR ON THE WATER

he Chesapeake Bay was vitally important to both **Union and Confederate** forces during the Civil War because whoever controlled the waterways substantially controlled the war in the region. Although the bay and its tributaries, which were sprinkled with forts and strongholds, offered protection from invaders, they also made excellent military targets. In addition, the combatants' capitals were located on two of the bay's major rivers. The United States capital, Washington, D.C., is on the Potomac River directly across from Alexandria, Virginia, and the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia, was on the James River only 90 miles overland from Washington, D.C.

The Union utilized the bay to transport material and men to ports along the Eastern Seaboard and to the Western Theater. These movements were completed in a grand, public manner that displayed all the power and splendor of an army and navy possessing almost unlimited resources. The Confederates, however, used a clandestine network of spies and sympathizers to smuggle goods and information via the many smaller and well-hidden rivers.









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MARYLAND CIVIL WAR TRAILS

JOHN WILKES



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Throughout the war, the Chesapeake Bay region was the scene of important events such as the Baltimore Riots, the Battle of the Ironclads, and the escape of John Wilkes Booth and David Herold after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.