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Camp Stanton Marker Fig. 1

Inscription. "Nearby stood Camp Stanton, a Civil War-era recruiting and training post for African American Union soldiers. Named for Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, the camp was established in August 1863. Although black soldiers had served in the nation's armed forces since the Revolutionary War, they were barred from the U.S. Army during the Civil War until President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. The 7th Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT), organized in Baltimore, trained here. The 9th, 19th, and 30th Regiments were organized and trained at Camp Stanton. All of the units saw hard combat in Virginia during the last campaigns of the war."



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Marker Fig. 2

Erected by Maryland Civil War Trails. The marker was located near 38° 30.263' N, 76° 40.907' W. Marker was in Benedict, Maryland, in Charles County. Marker could be reached from Wilmott Drive, on the left when traveling south. Follow Prince Frederick Road (MD Rte. 231) to Benedict (½ mile west of Patuxent River Bridge). Turn south on Benedict Avenue-Mill Creek Road and follow the Maryland Civil War Trails signage about ¾ mile to the end of Wilmott Drive and the parking lot for the Benedict Marina and Restaurant. The marker on the left is adjacent to the Marina boardwalk on the bank of the Patuxent River.

Excerpts From [Maryland History by the Object](#)

February 11, 2021, by Patricia Samford

In October of 1863, two young men enslaved on the Southern Maryland farm of George Peterson made a bold move towards fighting for their own freedom and that of four million individuals enslaved in the United States. William H. Coates, aged 18, and William B. Jones, aged 19, enlisted at Camp Stanton in Charles County for a three year term with the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Located along the Patuxent River at Benedict, Camp Stanton was established in 1863 as a recruiting station and training camp for the U. S. Colored Infantry. The enlistment of Black men into the Union Army came to be viewed as critical to the success of the war.

Coates was enlisted in Company I of the 7th Regiment of the U. S. Colored Troops and Jones in Company H of the same regiment; one of four regiments (also the 9th, 19th, and 30th Regiments) trained at Camp Stanton between October 1863 and March of the following year (Eshelman et al. 2009:13-17). Although many recruits died from diseases and exposure at the camp during the harsh winter of 1863, both Coates and Jones survived training. They left Camp Stanton in March of 1864 and served with their regiments in Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida before spending the final days of the war near Petersburg, Richmond, and Appomattox during the siege operations that took place there between August of 1864 and April of 1865. After Lee surrendered, the 7th Regiment was sent to Texas, where they patrolled along the Rio Grande River until October of 1866.



Figure 3. Escaped enslaved man named Gordon in USCT uniform. By Harper & Brothers, New York – Library of Congress, Public Domain,.

In Maryland, 8,718 men enlisted in the USCT, enrolling in locations throughout the state. Training the newly enlisted troops was a critical step in making the men battle-ready. At places like Camp Stanton, the troops received instruction in handling arms and drills. Archaeological excavations conducted at Camp Stanton (18CH305) in 2012 revealed traces of four 6 by 8-foot tent structures aligned in a grid pattern that probably corresponded to streets within the camp (Cochran et al. 2016). Archaeological traces indicated that these tents were heated – an important wintertime consideration in this exposed, windswept location along the Patuxent River.



Figure 4. Archaeologists cleaning a burned area of soil at Camp Stanton. Photo courtesy of the Charles County Archaeological Society of Maryland.

<https://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com/2012/04/archaeology-at-camp-stanton.html>

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Upcoming Events

Maxwell Hall Open House schedule 2023 (Free)

First Sunday of each month, May through September

1:00pm-4:00pm

All are invited to join us at Maxwell Hall for an open house at the park. Outside of special events, this is a great opportunity to explore the house and outbuildings at Maxwell Hall, and learn a little bit about the history of this part of Southern Maryland, the house and grounds at Maxwell Hall, its residents, and revolutionary-era America in general.

This event will take place at Maxwell Hall, located at:

17388 Teagues Point Road

Hughesville, MD 20637

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