

The Civil War in Charles County, Maryland

Less than one hour south of Washington D.C., the CHARLES COUNTY region is rich in Civil War history.

The plantation system still flourished in 1861, and southern sympathies were strong.

“Go back in time” says historian Frank Owens, “and tour down the beaten track to areas of Union occupation, areas that over years have gone unchanged. If you close your eyes you can almost smell and hear the crackling of the campfires and hear the daily activities of the Union soldiers. Open your eyes and you can still see the earthworks that were erected during the winter of 1861.”

Under the command of **General Joseph Hooker**, the mission of 16,000 Union forces was to keep Virginia’s shoreline free of Confederate batteries and to counter advancement of Confederates across the Potomac River into Maryland. Between August 1861 and April 1862, General Hooker’s 26 camps stretched from Indian Head to Maryland Point.

One of those 26 sites was **Liverpool Point**, located off of Route 224 in Nanjemoy. Liverpool Point acted as one of the three depots along the line of defense on the Potomac River to counter firing from Confederate field batteries on the opposite Virginia shore.

Union troops were also stationed at the **St. Thomas Manor House** at Chapel Point, which is adjacent to **St. Ignatius Church**.

Camp Stanton was established in October 1863 for the purpose of recruiting and training African American men for the Union Army and was strategically located in the heart of Maryland’s slaveholding region. African Americans were enlisted to form the 7th, 9th, 19th, and 30th Colored Infantry as part of the United States Colored Infantry.

Camp Stanton played a pivotal role in the quest for freedom for men in the lower Chesapeake Bay. There is a historical marker near the town of Benedict and the site is listed on the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Visit the **African American Heritage Society of Charles County** to learn about more than 300 years of the life contributions of African Americans to Southern Maryland’s history, including collections of oral history narratives.

The Port Tobacco Historic District was founded as a port in 1684 and designated as the county’s seat of government in 1727; the town comprised of more than 80 homes, commercial structures, and public buildings by the third quarter of the 18th century.

During the Civil War, Port Tobacco was well known for the pro-southern activities and sympathies of its citizens. In 1864, Mosby’s Rangers captured 20 Union soldiers during a surprise raid at the courthouse. Lincoln’s assassin, **John Wilkes Booth**, was traced to



this location in 1865. Federal troops were garrisoned at the courthouse and it was the field headquarters for the search of the fugitive.

After assassinating President Abraham Lincoln in April 1865, John Wilkes Booth and his accomplice David Herold stopped at **Dr. Samuel A. Mudd’s House**. Unaware of the events that had just occurred, Dr. Mudd set a splint on Booth’s broken leg and let him and Herold rest in his house for several hours. Dr. Mudd was later tried and imprisoned. He and his family have always maintained his innocence.

Samuel Cox, whose sympathy in the southern cause was well known, hid both Booth and Herold on his **Rich Hill** farm after the fugitives were sent there upon being discovered in nearby **Zekiah Swamp** by a neighbor’s servant. Cox then proceeded to arrange for their safe passage to Virginia.

Booth and Herold remained hidden in a pine thicket until April 21, 1865, when Thomas A. Jones – foster brother of Cox and former Chief Signal Agent for the Confederacy – led them to the Potomac River near **Dent’s Meadow** (near Pope’s Creek). Jones placed the men in a small boat and gave them a proper course to carry them across the river to Mathias Point, VA.

celebrate Charles!

The War of 1812 – The British first occupied Benedict in June 1814 before retreating following a skirmish with American volunteers. Over 4,500 British forces landed at Benedict on August 19-20, 1814. From there the invaders marched to Washington, D.C., where they burned the Navy Yard, the Capitol, and the White House. You can find special interest publications on the Civil War and the War of 1812 at the Crain Memorial Welcome Center in Newburg.

Waterfront Dining

Feast on crabs and other succulent seafood at these popular waterfront restaurants near Civil War historic locations. These locations are also dock and dine (boating) locations.

Captain Billy’s Crab House, 11495 Popes Creek Road
www.captbillys.com, 301.932.4323

Gilligan’s Pier Seafood & Steakhouse, 11535 Popes Creek Rd
www.gilliganspier.com, 301.259.4514

Rivers Edge, 7320 Benedict Ave, Benedict
301.274.2828

Ray’s Pier, 18170 Desoto Place, Benedict
301.274.3733

Port Tobacco Restaurant, 7536 Shirley Blvd, Port Tobacco
www.porttobaccorestaurant.com, 301.392.0007

Accessible Location

Any easy drive from major attractions in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia, Charles County is an excellent destination for day trips, overnight stays, group tours, meetings, and reunions.

Distance from:

Washington, D.C. - less than 20 miles • Baltimore, MD - 60 miles
Richmond, VA - 75 miles • Harrisburg, PA - 150 miles

Accommodations

Unpack for a few days in one of our group-friendly hotels, and enjoy day trips to historic sites, attractions, and national monuments. We offer a number of unique settings and opportunities.

Stay & Play

During your stay visit some of Charles County’s attractions:

Regency Furniture Stadium, 11765 St. Linus Dr, Waldorf
www.somdbluecrabs.com, 301.638.9788

This award-winning ballpark is home to the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs and offers a full range of family-friendly features and attractions. Stop by to watch a game, enjoy all-you-can-eat BBQ in the picnic pavilion, and float around in the bumper boats.

Port Tobacco Players, 508 Charles St, La Plata
www.ptplayers.com, 301.932.6819

The Port Tobacco Players are dedicated to providing quality theater to Southern Maryland. Visit the main stage in La Plata or catch them on one of their countless road productions.

Indian Head Rail Trail
www.CharlesCountyParks.com, 301.932.3470

Located just 18 miles south of our Nation’s Capital, this multi-use trail provides walkers, runners, and cyclist with a 13 mile paved path offering views of mature forests, natural wetlands, and farmlands.

Capital Clubhouse, 3033 Waldorf Market Pl, Waldorf
www.capitalclubhouse.com, 301.932.4348

The ultimate recreation sports complex with an NHL sized ice rink, 200’ x 85’ multi-sport court, rock climbing wall, eight locker rooms, four party rooms, state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, and year ‘round fun!

Charles County Skatepark, 1015 St. Charles Pkwy, White Plains, www.charlescountyparks.com, 301.932.3470

Designed and built by the legendary Wally Hollyday of California Skateparks. Features various bowl areas and exceptional street course with banks, ledges, stairs, rails, hips, pyramids, quarter pipes.

The content of this document is sponsored by the Charles County Office of Tourism, and comes from a variety of public and private information sources. Although effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, the information should always be verified before it is used in any way.

For additional information about any of Charles County’s Civil War sites, special events, or the “Maryland Civil War Trails John Wilkes Booth Escape of an Assassin” brochure, please contact the Crain Memorial Welcome Center.

Crain Memorial Welcome Center

Open DAILY, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
12480 Crain Highway, Newburg | 301.259.2500
Email: WelcomeCenter@CharlesCounty.org

When traveling, be sure to take a break and come inside! Ask for a copy of the many statewide publications including maps, attractions, travel guides, calendars of events, and more. The Center hosts a wide variety of information on hunting and fishing, camping and trails, cultural and historical attractions, as well as information on the civil war and star spangled banner. The travel counselors will assist you with itineraries, meet and greet motor coaches, and make county and state hotel reservations.

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov
www.visitmaryland.org

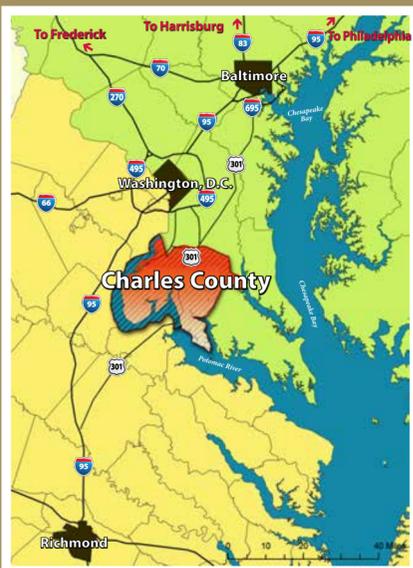


CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF TOURISM
Equal Opportunity County
MD Relay: 711 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258

Mission Statement — The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility. We support and encourage efforts to grow a diverse workplace.

Vision Statement — Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

Americans With Disabilities—The Charles County Government welcomes the participation of individuals with disabilities. We comply fully with the Americans With Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations to encourage involvement. If you require special assistance and would like to participate in our programs, please contact the Charles County Government directly.



Get Connected!

Keyword: “Charles County Government”

Links are also on our website.



The Civil War A Southern Divide

A Travel Guide to the Civil War People & Places

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

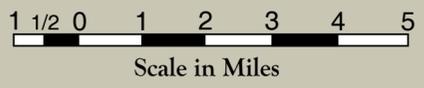


The Civil War in Charles County, Maryland

- 1 Liverpool Point/Mallows Bay Park**
Charles County Park
1440 Wilson Landing Rd, Nanjemoy
Open daily 7am-Dusk (Nov-Feb), 5:30am-Dusk (Mar-Oct). Excellent outdoor recreation opportunities –wildlife viewing areas, small boating access to the Potomac River, kayak launch, fishing, and hiking trail.
- 2 St. Ignatius Church & St. Thomas Manor House**
Historic Marker
8855 Chapel Point Rd, Port Tobacco
Church open daily for services, tours by appt only, 301.934.8254, www.chapelpoint.org
- 3 Camp Stanton**
Historic Marker
MD Rte 231 & Benedict Rd, Benedict
- 4 African American Heritage Society & Museum**
Point of Interest
7485 Crain Hwy, La Plata
Open by appointment only. 301.609.9099
- 5 Port Tobacco Historic District**
Interpretive Signage/Historic Marker
8430 Commerce St, Port Tobacco
- 6 Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House & Museum**
Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Rd, Waldorf
Seasonal hours, 301.274.9358, http://drmudd.org
- 7 Rich Hill +**
Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
Bel Alton Rd (Near Railroad Tracks), Bel Alton
- 8 Pine Thicket**
Interpretive Signage & Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
Bel Alton Rd & Wills Rd (Railroad Tracks), Bel Alton
- 9 Dent's Meadow +**
Historic Marker
Pope's Creek Rd, Newburg
- 10 Village of Bryantown**
Additional Point of Interest/Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
Oliver Shop Rd and Trotter Rd, Bryantown
- 11 St. Mary's Church & Cemetery**
Additional Point of Interest/Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
13715 Notre Dame Pl, Bryantown
- 12 Crossing the Potomac**
Additional Point of Interest/Maryland Civil War Trail Marker – John Wilkes Booth, *Escape of an Assassin*
Pope's Creek Rd, Newburg
- 13 Crain Memorial Welcome Center**
Additional Point of Interest/Interpretive Signage
12480 Crain Hwy, Newburg
Open daily 8:30am-4:30pm, 301.259.2500
- 14 Zekiah Swamp Run**
Additional Point of Interest
Budds Creek Rd & Allen Fresh Rd, Charlotte Hall



1 Featured Site	Golf Course
Point of Interest	Hospital
Visitor Center	



+ Limited or No Public Access Site



Download the **FREE** Maryland Civil War Trails Mobile App.