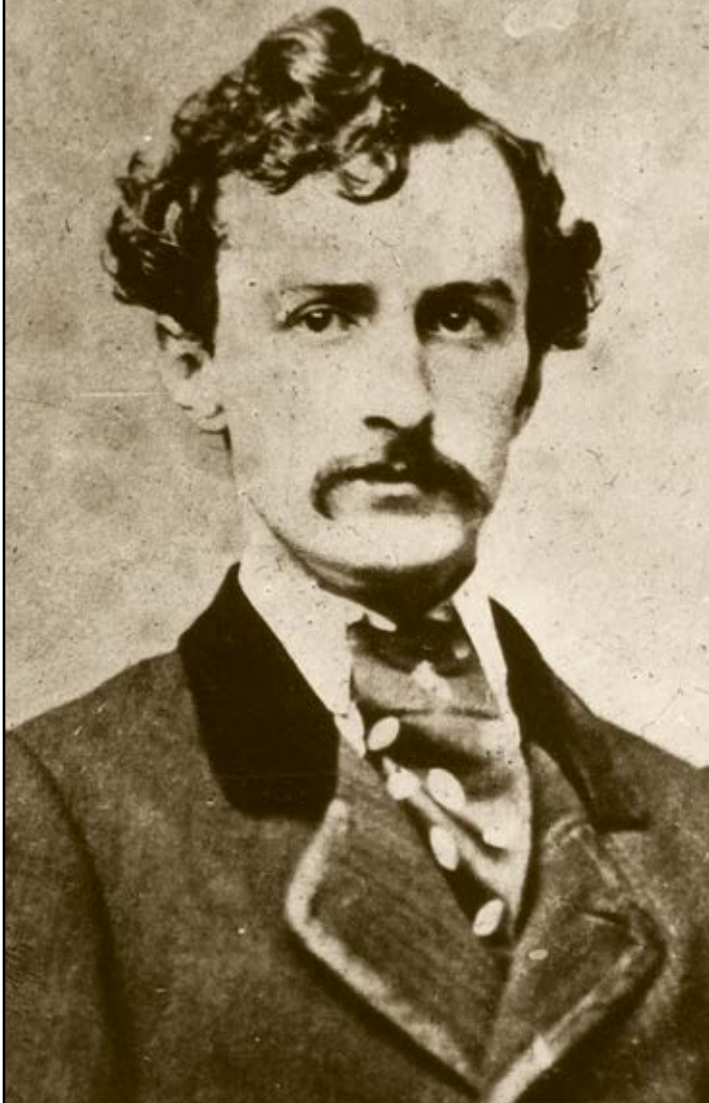


MARYLAND CIVIL WAR TRAILS

JOHN WILKES BOOTH

ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN

WAR ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



John Wilkes Booth; half-length, standing,
from the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

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 trail-blazer 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.



Tim Tadder, www.tadderphotography.com

Beachcombing at Point Lookout State Park.



Follow these signs to more than 1,000 Civil War sites.



ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN



In 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.



Booth limps across the stage after shooting President Lincoln.

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.



ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN



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 Robey, 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 tobacco 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.



War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,

 **\$100,000 REWARD!**

THE MURDERER
Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,
IS STILL AT LARGE.

\$50,000 REWARD
Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

\$25,000 REWARD
Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's Accomplices.

\$25,000 REWARD
Will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL REWARDS will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or concealing the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accessories in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

DESCRIPTIONS.—BOOTH is Five Feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black mustache.

JOHN H. SURRATT is about 5 feet, 9 inches. Hair rather thin and dark; eyes rather light; no beard. Would weigh 145 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clear, with color in his cheeks. Wore light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; cheek bones rather prominent; chin narrow; ears projecting at the top; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Parts his hair on the right side; neck rather long. His lips are firmly set. A thin man.

DAVID C. HAROLD is five feet six inches high, hair dark, eyes dark, eyebrows rather heavy, full face, nose short, hand short and fleshy, feet small, toes high, round bodied, naturally quick and active, slightly closes his eyes when looking at a person.

NOTICE.—In addition to the above, State and other authorities have offered rewards amounting to about one hundred thousand dollars, making an aggregate of about **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

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.



POINT LOOKOUT



More 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.



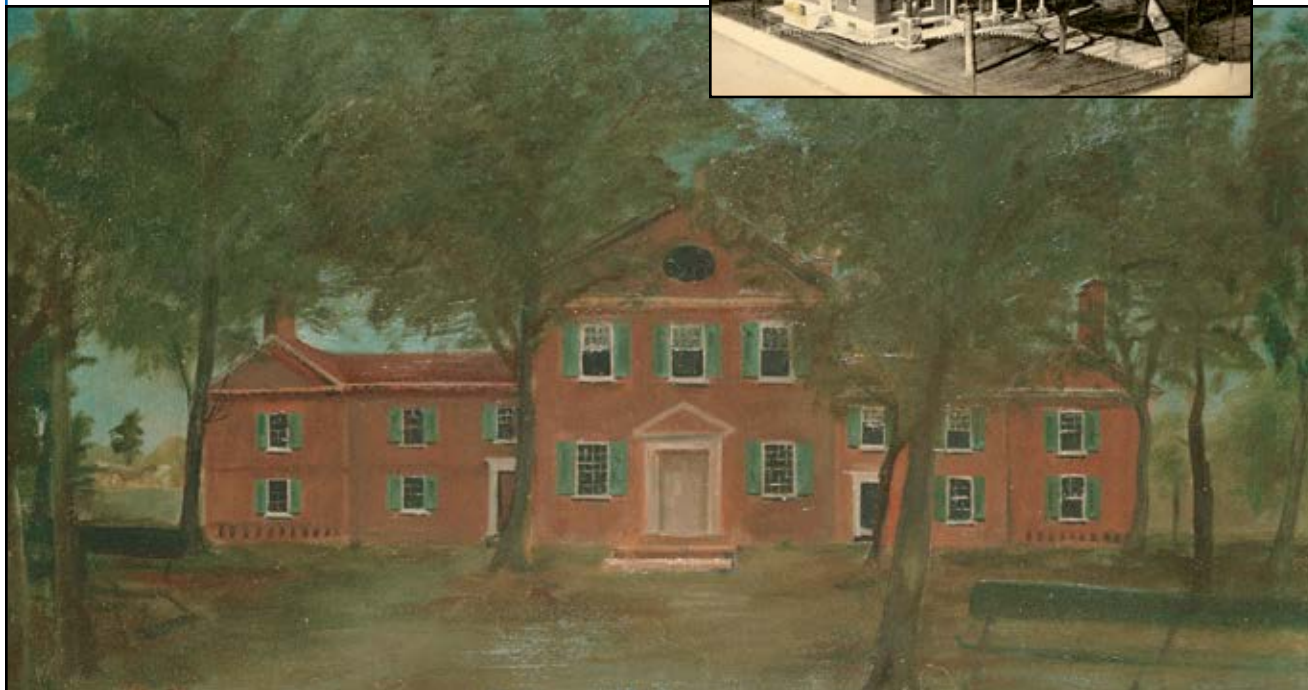


PRESERVING THE UNION



During 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 received no reply.

Talbot County Courthouse, Easton (right)
Caroline County Courthouse (below)





AFRICAN AMERICANS



When 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 or 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—African Americans enlisted, served with honor, and fought in significant engagements.

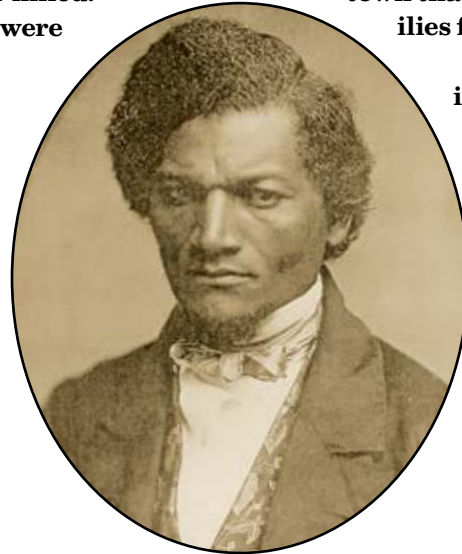
In February 1864, a USCT company encampment at St. Johns College

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

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 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 for his killers.



“Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.”

Frederick Douglass



SPIES & SMUGGLERS



To 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 seceded, Confederate territory would have surrounded Washington, D.C.

Though many Maryland men served in the U.S. Army, thousands of others enlisted in 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.



Rosatta Maria O’Neal Greenhow

That autumn, she was confined in the Old Capitol Prison, on the present site of the U.S.

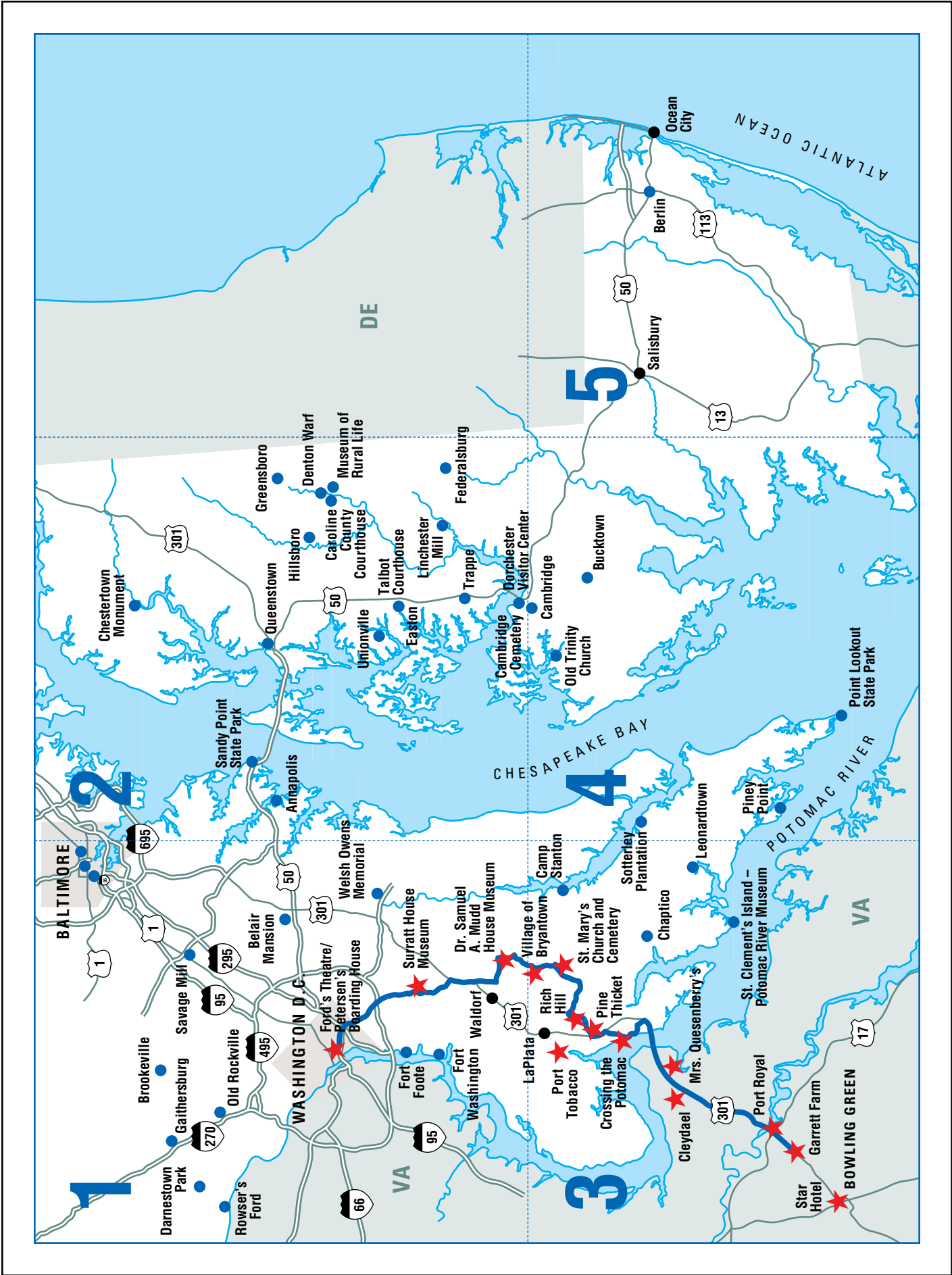
Supreme Court, and then sent to Richmond. She spent time in Europe and wrote her memoirs, *My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington*.

Greenhow sailed in a blockade runner for North Carolina in 1864, but the ship sank off Cape Fear and she drowned. She is buried in Wilmington, 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 Southern 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.



★ ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN ★

- ★ **Ford's Theatre** – John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865.
- ★ **Petersen's Boarding House** – Lincoln died here, across the street from Ford's Theatre.
- ★ **Surratt House Museum** – Mrs. Mary E. Surratt's tavern where the assassination conspirators stored supplies.
- ★ **Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum** – Dr. Mudd set Booth's broken leg on April 15, 1865, and Booth spent the night here.
- ★ **Village of Bryantown** – Mudd claimed that he first learned of Lincoln's assassination here.
- ★ **St. Mary's Church and Cemetery** – This is where Mudd first met Booth on November 13, 1864, and Mudd is buried here.
- ★ **Port Tobacco** – County seat during the war and home to George Adzerodt, another assassination conspirator.
- ★ **Rich Hill** – Booth and accomplice David Herold arrived at the home of Samuel Cox on April 17, 1865, and are taken to a pine thicket to hide.
- ★ **Pine Thicket** – Booth and Herold hid in a nearby pine thicket April 16–20, 1865.
- ★ **Crossing the Potomac** – Booth and Herold crossed the river near here on April 21, 1865.
- ★ **Mrs. Quesenberry's** – Home of the widow Quesenberry, a member of the Confederate Underground, who arranged fresh horses for the two men.
- ★ **Cleydael** – On April 23, 1865, Booth and Herold arrive at the home of Richard Stuart, who is unwilling to shelter them.
- ★ **Port Royal** – Booth and Herold passed through this port town on their way to the Garrett Farm.
- ★ **Star Hotel** – Union patrols captured one of Booth's companions here who led the troops to the Garrett Farm, ending the chase.
- ★ **Garrett Farm** – Herold surrendered to U.S. Army troops here on April 26, 1865, but Booth was shot, pulled from the burning barn, and soon died.

★ WESTERN SHORE SITES ★

- **Greenmount Cemetery (Baltimore)** – John Wilkes Booth and other notable Civil War figures are buried here.
- **B&O Railroad Museum (Baltimore)** – Civil War-era trains and memorabilia are on display here.
- **Maryland Historical Society (Baltimore)** – Civil War artifacts are displayed here.
- **Rowser's Ford** – On the night of June 27–28, 1863, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's 5,000 cavalymen crossed into Maryland here.
- **Darnestown Park** – Part of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry, under Gen. Wade Hampton, captured mules and supplies heading toward Washington, D.C.
- **Gaithersburg** – Gen. J.E.B. Stuart seized new mounts and supplies here on June 28, 1863.
- **Old Rockville** – Stuart occupied the town on June 28, 1863, and found both Confederate sympathizers and loyal Unionists.
- **Brookeville** – On June 29, 1863, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart paroled almost 400 prisoners here.
- **Savage Mill** – Near here, in April 1861, Union troops repaired tracks of the B&O Railroad after Confederate sympathizers destroyed them.
- **Fort Foote** – Built during the Civil War to strengthen fortifications around Washington, D.C.
- **Fort Washington** – Overlooking the Potomac River, this fort was built in 1809. It was manned but never used during the war.
- **Chaptico** – This community was a hotbed of Confederate sympathizers during the war.
- **St. Clement's Island — Potomac River Museum** – The lighthouse survived an 1864 Confederate raid.







- **Leonardtown** – This old port town teemed with spies, intrigue, and blockade runners during the war.
- **Piney Point** – Blockade runners slipped supplies past U.S. ships here.
- **Point Lookout State Park** – In 1862, this popular resort was leased by the U.S. government for construction of a major hospital complex. A Confederate prison camp was established in 1863.
- **Sotterley Plantation** – Owned during the Civil War by well-known Southern sympathizer, Dr. Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe.
- **Camp Stanton** – USCT were recruited and trained here.
- **Welch Owens Memorial** – Memorial to an Anne Arundel County native who was honored posthumously as a hero of the Battle of Stephenson's Depot.
- **Belair Mansion** – Plantation of Southern sympathizer George Cooke Ogle struggled to survive during the war.
- **Banneker-Douglass Museum (Annapolis)** – This institution honors Maryland's African-American heroes, Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass.
- **U.S. Naval Academy Museum (Annapolis)** – The museum, on the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy, contains many Civil War artifacts.
- **State House (Annapolis)** – Maryland General Assembly met here after 1861 and in 1864, passed a new constitution.
- **Sandy Point State Park** – William Evans, a slave here, joined the USCT.

★ EASTERN SHORE SITES ★

- **Chestertown Monument** – Union and Confederate monument to some of the men from Kent County who fought in the war.
- **Queenstown** – Slaves escaped from their owners here to enlist in the U.S. Army.
- **Hillsboro** – The great African-American leader, Frederick Douglass, once called this town home.
- **Greensboro** – Pro-Union residents wrote to President Abraham Lincoln for help on September 13, 1862.
- **Caroline County Courthouse** – Prominent Denton citizens were arrested as suspected Confederate sympathizers.
- **Museum of Rural Life** – Emancipation in Maryland and the new constitution resulted from suspicious circumstances.
- **Denton Wharf** – Prisoners were taken from steamboats here.
- **Unionville** – Slaves and free blacks from here served as USCT, then founded the community after the war.
- **Talbot Courthouse** – Monuments to Eastern Shore's Confederate soldiers and to abolitionist Frederick Douglass are located on courthouse grounds.
- **Linchester Mill** – Two major "stations" on the Underground Railroad were located near here.
- **Federalburg** – This town was a smuggler's center during the war.
- **Trappe** – A former USCT soldier founded an Emancipation Day celebration here that still goes on.
- **Dorchester Visitor Center** – Hundreds of enslaved and free black men from the Eastern Shore enlisted in the United States Colored Troops.
- **Cambridge Cemetery** – Wartime governor Thomas Holliday Hicks is buried here.
- **Old Trinity Church** – Burial place of Anna Ella Carroll, sometimes called an unofficial member of President Lincoln's Cabinet.
- **Bucktown** – Harriet Tubman, escaped slave and Underground Railroad conductor, lived near here.
- **Berlin** – Isaiah Fassett, Maryland's next-to-last surviving Civil War soldier, died here.

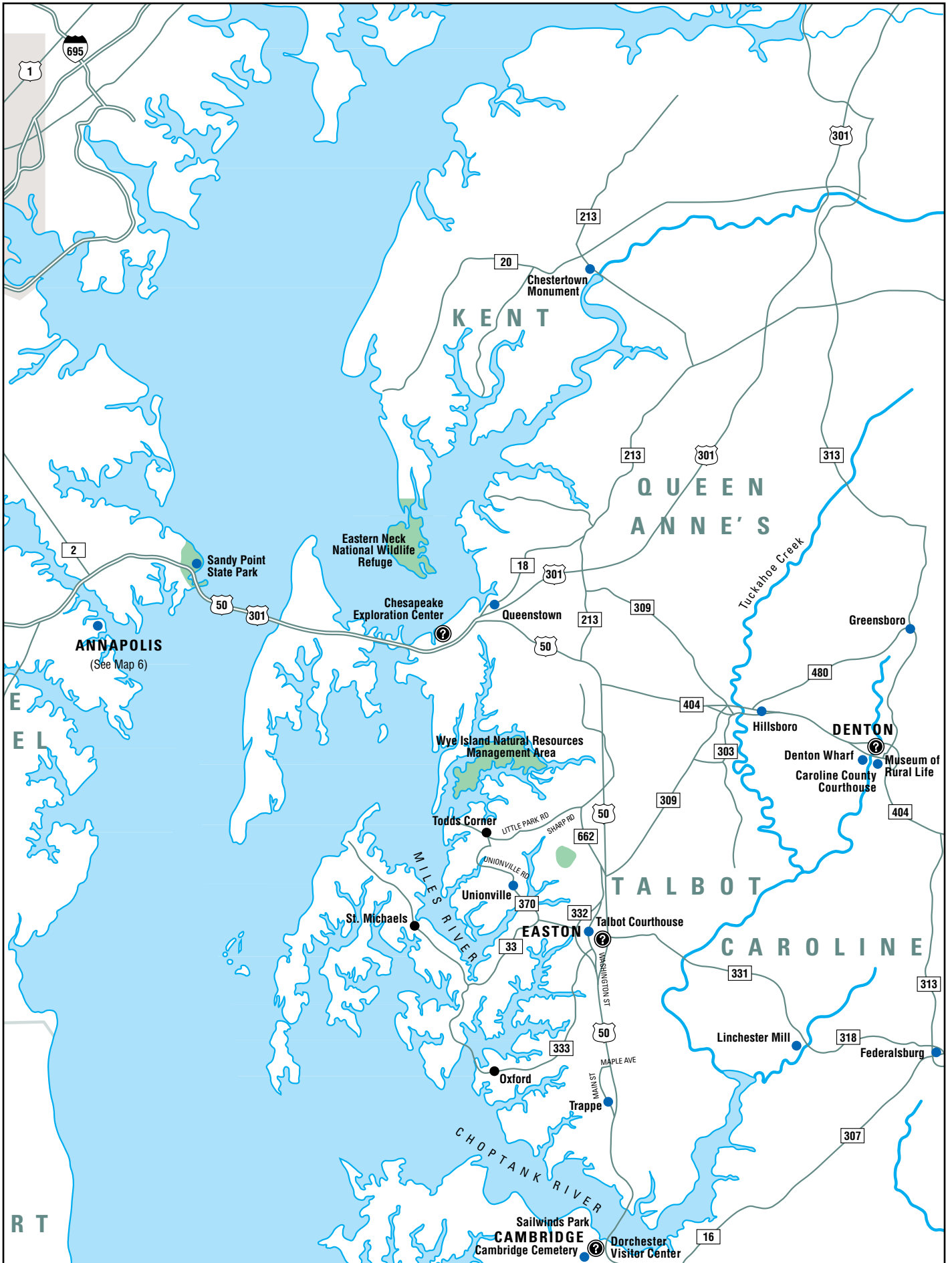
JOHN WILKES BOOTH

ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN
WAR ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

-  Driving Route of Booth's Escape Route
-  Booth's Escape Route Site
-  Limited or No Public Access Site
-  Other Civil War Trails Site
-  National, State or County Park
-  Information or Welcome Center

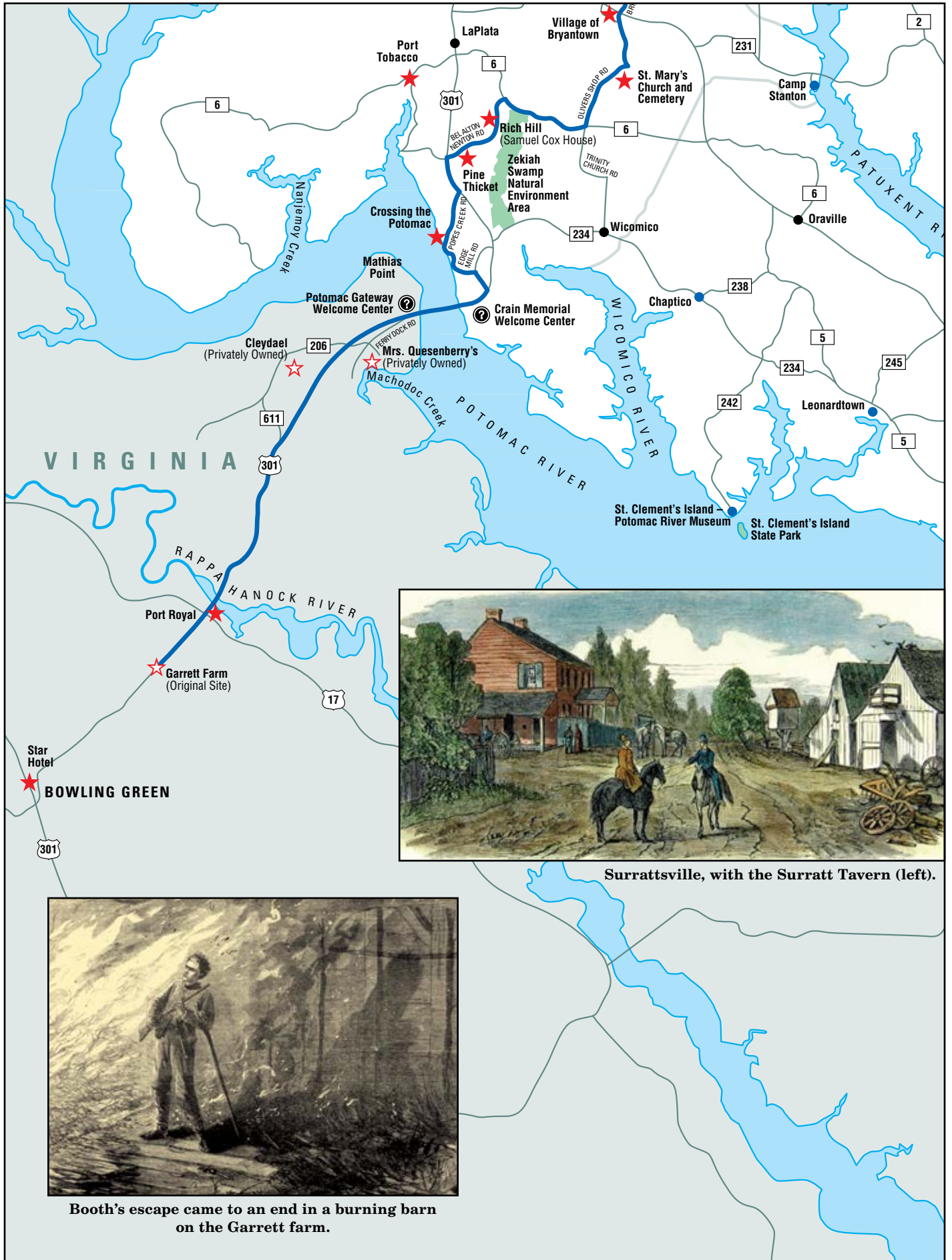


Ford's Theatre with guards posted at entrance and crepe draped from windows.



Joins Map 1

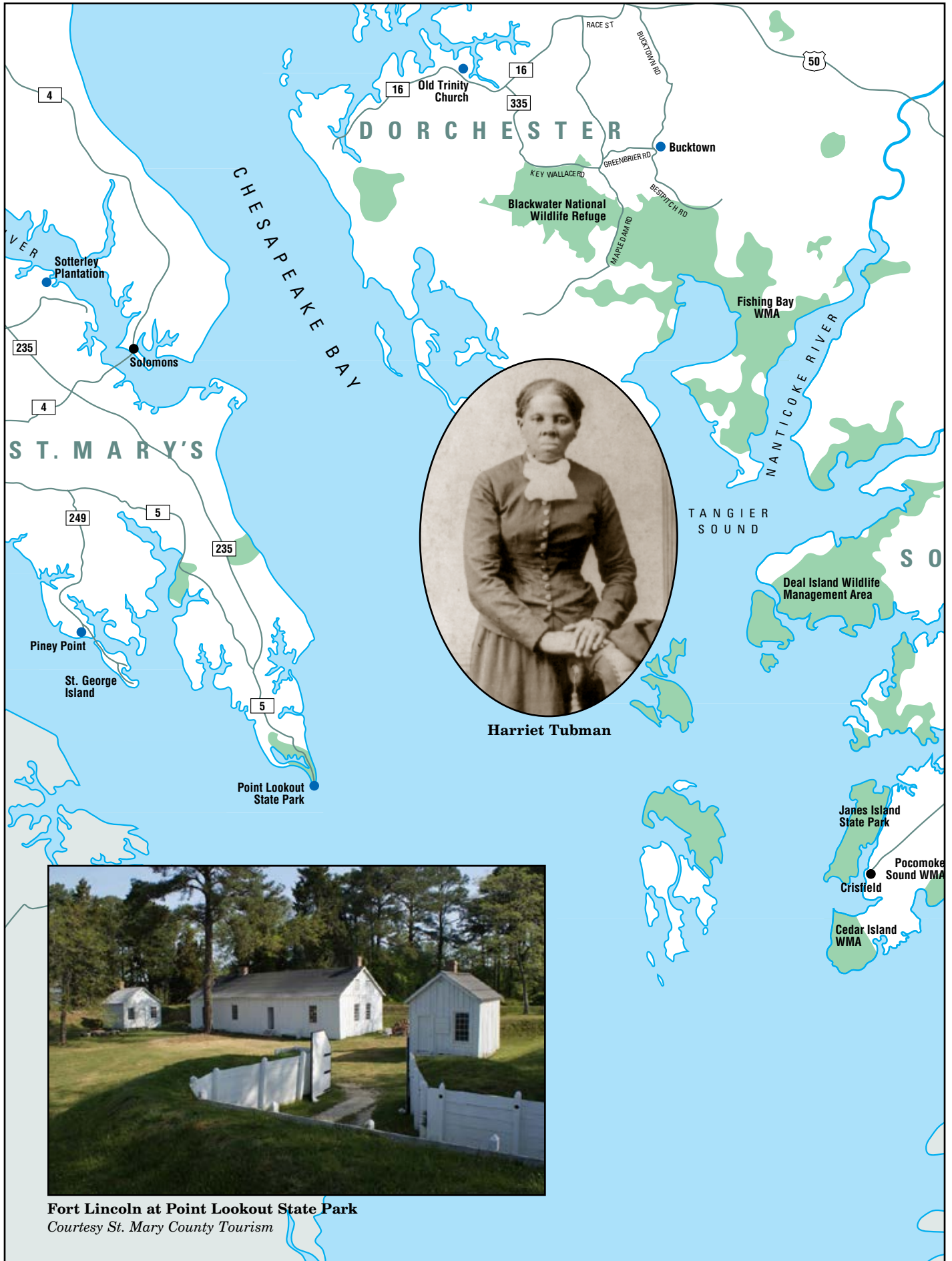
Joins Map 4



Surrattsville, with the Surratt Tavern (left).



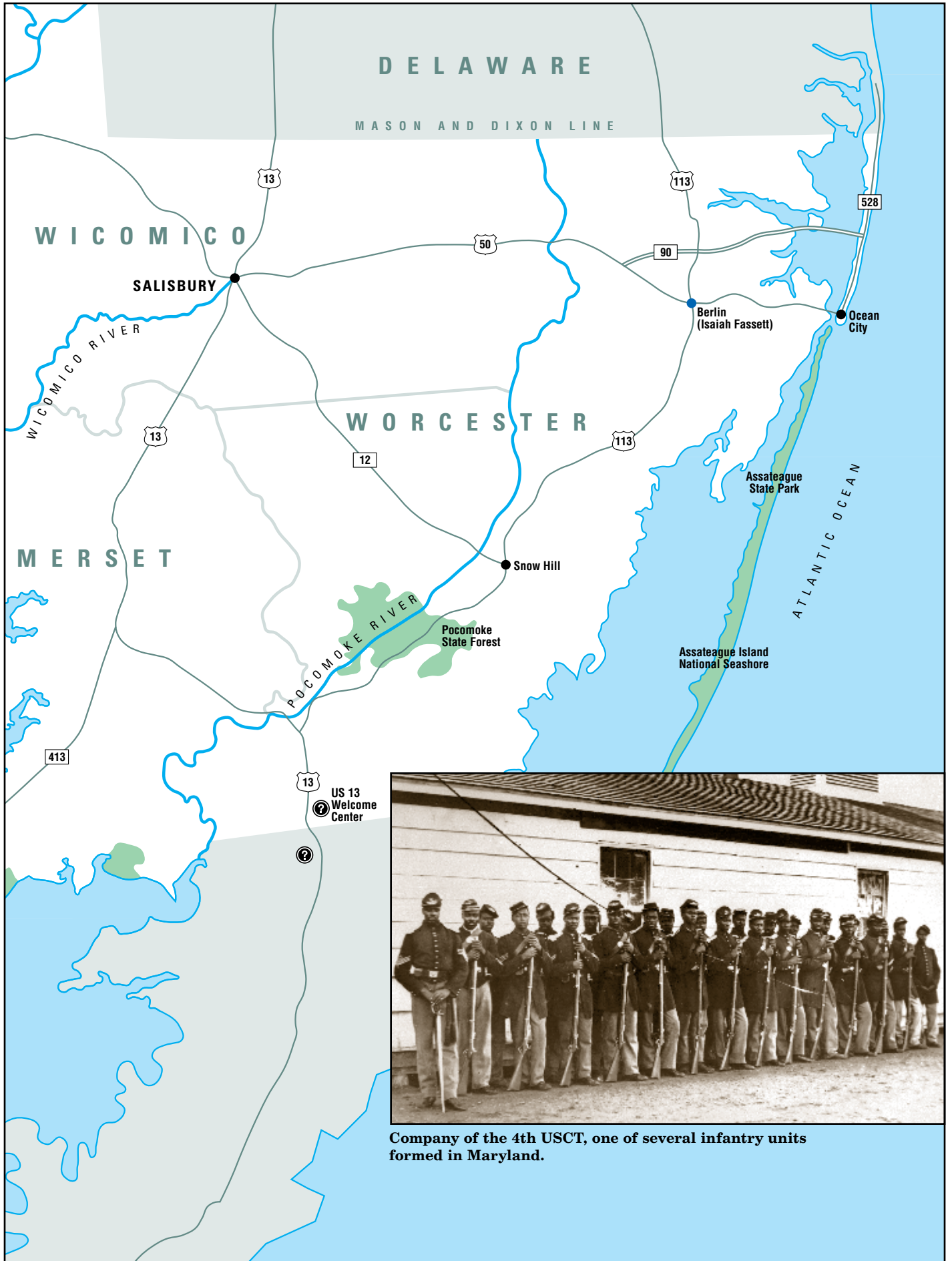
Booth's escape came to an end in a burning barn on the Garrett farm.



Joins Map 3

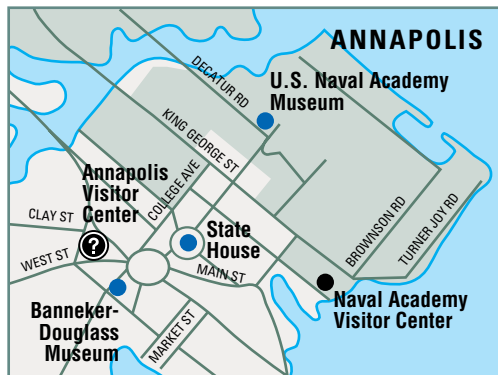
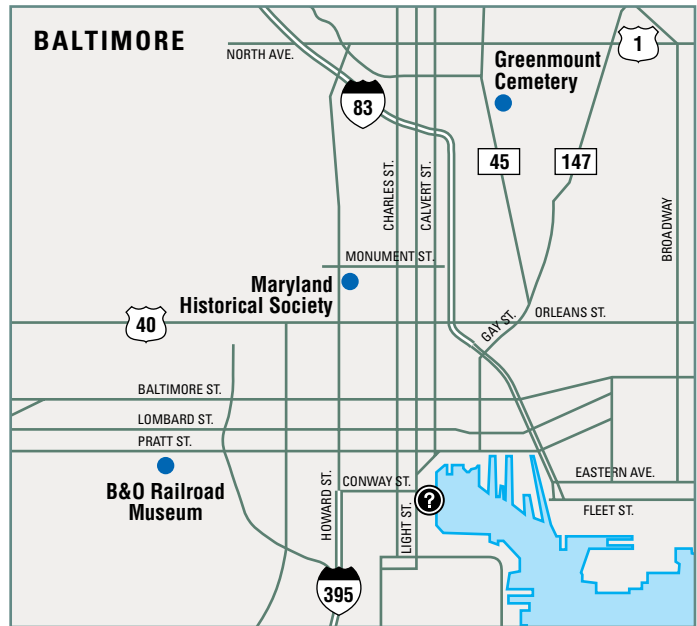
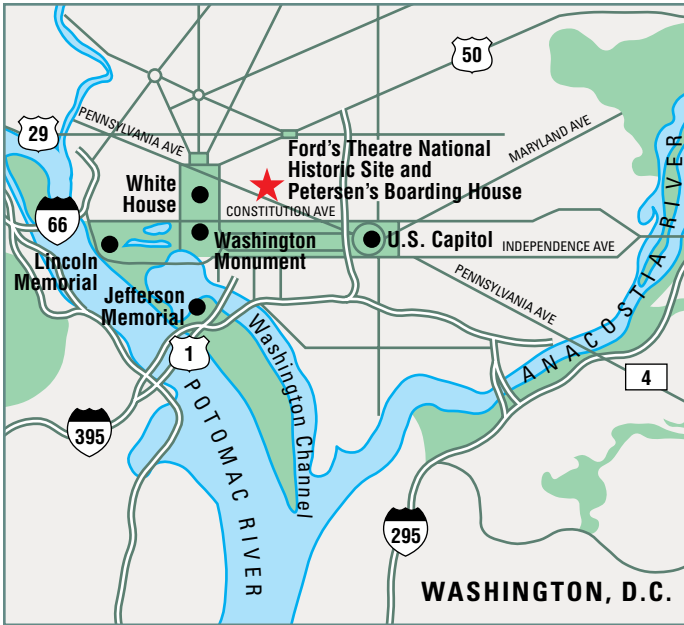
Joins Map 5

Fort Lincoln at Point Lookout State Park
Courtesy St. Mary County Tourism



Joins Map 4

Company of the 4th USCT, one of several infantry units formed in Maryland.





TRAVEL RESOURCES



For more information on the Civil War, recreation and traveling in Maryland, please visit:

Maryland Office of Tourism Development

401 E. Pratt Street
14th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
(877) 333-4455
www.visitmaryland.org



Surratt House Museum

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Convention & Visitors Bureau

26 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
(888) 302-2852
www.visitannapolis.org

Caroline County Office of Tourism

10219 River Landing Road
Denton, MD 21629
(410) 479-0655
www.tourcaroline.com

Charles County Office of Tourism

200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646
(800) 766-3386
www.charlescountymd.gov

Dorchester County Tourism

2 Rose Hill Place
Cambridge, MD 21613
(410) 228-1000
www.tourdorchester.org

Howard County Tourism & Promotion

8267 Main Street
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-1902
www.VisitHowardCounty.com

Kent County Office of Tourism

400 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-0416
www.kentcounty.com

Prince George's County Conference & Visitors Bureau

9200 Basil Court, Suite 101
Largo, MD 20774
(301) 925-8300
www.visitprincegeorges.com

Queen Anne's County Tourism

425 Piney Narrows Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 604-2100
www.visitqueenannes.com

St. Mary's County Tourism

23115 Leonard Hall Drive
Leonardtwn, MD 20650
(301) 475-4200
www.VisitStMarysMd.com

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



Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum

Talbot County Office of Tourism

11 S. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 770-8000
www.tourtalbot.org

Worcester County Tourism

104 West Market Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863
(800) 852-0335
www.visitworcester.org

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum

3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
(301) 645-6870
<http://drmudd.org>

Point Lookout State Park

11175 Point Lookout Road
Scotland, MD 20687
(301) 872-5688
<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/pointlookout.aspx>

Surratt House Museum

9118 Brandywine Road
Clinton, MD 20735
(301) 868-1121
www.surrattmuseum.org

Maryland Civil War Trails Mobile App

play.google.com
www.apple.com

WAR ON THE WATER

The 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. 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.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH

ESCAPE OF AN ASSASSIN
WAR ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



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



**FREE
Mobile App**

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.



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on other Civil War Trails,
call toll-free:**



1-888-248-4597

www.visitmaryland.org

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

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