HISTORY OF THE CAMP AT BLOCKHOUSE POINT 18M0542



Headquarters of Brigadier General Alpheus Williams at the Camp at Muddy Branch October 31, 1861

By Don Housley, Vivian Eicke and Glenn Wallace January 2019

Updated January 2019

Blockhouse Point

As stewards of our Parks' and County's cultural resources, archaeologists identify, manage and interpret the below-ground evidence of our past life ways. It is a truism that most of our history is only preserved in archaeological sites. The major means by which human beings have adapted to this planet are left behind only in archaeological sites as their most tangible legacy for the modern world. This is true for major civilizations and, especially, the ancient fishing-hunting-gathering lifestyles, which are among the most remarkable symbiotic success stories with the natural world. Such strategies are all but extinct.

Because of our stream valley Park system preserves a goodly number of their campsites our prehistoric past is recoverable and so deserves management and interpretation. Blockhouse Point is the most intensively used prehistoric landscape of all our Parks to date. This is also true for our military sites. At Blockhouse Point we have the opportunity of uncovering one of the last and best preserved Union camps in the region. One that we can also find archaeological evidence of being burned by Confederate Col. John Mosby.

As a people or County, for that matter, matures its citizens need to know about the character of their place. So that they can join the in the chronology of the peoples who have lived on and used the land. Through archaeology we have the possibility of adding to the character of the people of this County, who we are, where we came from and where we are going. Public education about the value of archaeological sites is the only viable long-term solution to the problem of an endangered cultural record. Archaeology has a great deal to add to our Heritage Tourism.

James Sorensen, PhD.

Chief Archaeologist

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Federal pickets watch Lee's Army crossing the Potomac.

By Alfred Waud

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

Master Plan

Inventory of Cultural Resources

Inventory of Archaeological & Historic Resources

BHPCP is rich in both prehistoric and historic cultural resources. A brief overview is provided below. A more in-depth discussion and chart of these important resources and accounts of the area's history ranging from early Indian cultures through the Civil War are located in the Appendix.

Situated on Montgomery County's primary waterway, Blockhouse Point Conservation Park contains the highest number of archaeological sites of any park in the County. To date, 36 sites have been discovered in the Park, 34 prehistoric and two historical examples.

For now, the prehistory of Blockhouse Point begins with the Late Archaic, Hunting and Gathering Period (300 B.C. to 1000 B.C.). Based on projectile point types from sites #2 and #31, made in the Savannah River style, this Broadblade tradition is based exploitation of riverine environments. An Early Woodland ear (agricultural period) occupation (Kawecki III) is present in the shape of a small, notched Calvert Point (1000 B.C. to A.D. 300). These camps are, probably, dry season short-term varieties occupied in the fall and winter for hunting game or during the anadramous fish runs through March and June.

The earliest historical site in the Park is the Wheller/Didenhover Mill and race on Muddy Branch (18MO390), offered for sale in 1782 and operated down into the early nineteenth century when William Didenhover placed an add for his failing and dying business in the Frederick Town Hearld in 1815. At the time of Civil War, it was owned by William and Sarah Reading.

Known as the Camp at Muddy Branch (18MO542), the blockhouse at Blockhouse Point was built in January and February of 1862 by the officers (Captain James Russell and Lieutenant Samuel Baxter) and men of the Nineteenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

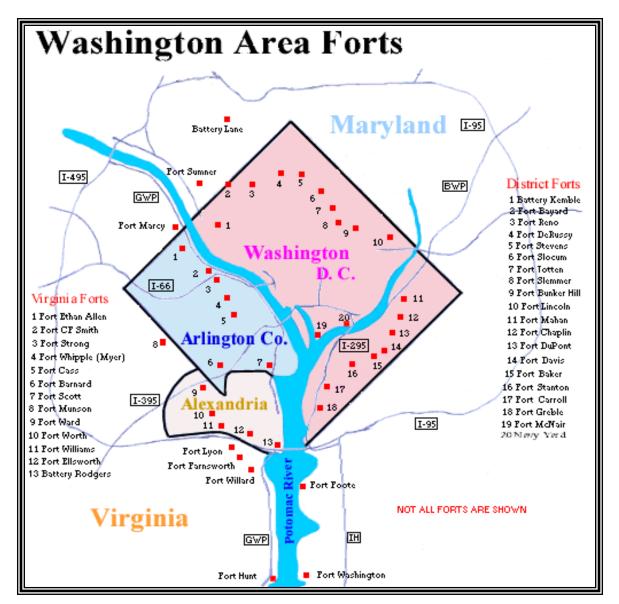
On July 11, 1864, Confederate Colonel John Singleton Mosby of the 1st Virginia Partisan Rangers, which included a number of recruits from Montgomery County, crossed the Potomac River to support General Jubal Early's strike at Washington, D.C. At Blockhouse Point, they found the deserted camp of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, which they burned.

The camp at Blockhouse Point is the only example of such a Civil War campsite left undisturbed in the entire Washington Metropolitan area. Still visible on the site are the earth works of the blockhouses, tent structures and hearths. Archaeologically, it has tremendous interpretative interest for the general public in yielding information, not only about little known aspects of the Civil War in Montgomery County, but also about the unrecorded lifeways of the everyday soldiers. At Blockhouse Point, we have an opportunity to add to our scant knowledge of blockhouse and bivouac construction techniques, everyday camplife and guard duties. The blockhouse, itself, was built in the form of a "Greek cross". Here, we can unravel the interaction between armies and civilian populations. Here, we can interweave camps, farms, roads, canals and waterways to uncover the impacts and effects of the War on a local environment and region.

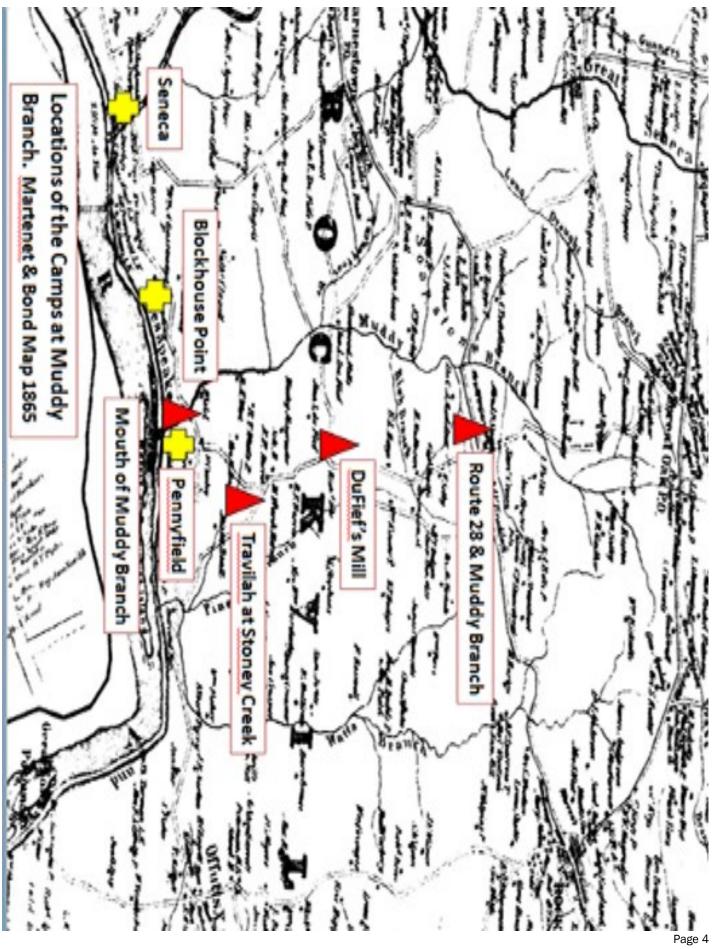
Blockhouse Point remained in the Reading family until sold to Randell and Roselyn Patten in 1947. It was acquired by the Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission in 1970 (See appendix for additional historical information).

The Defenses of Washington

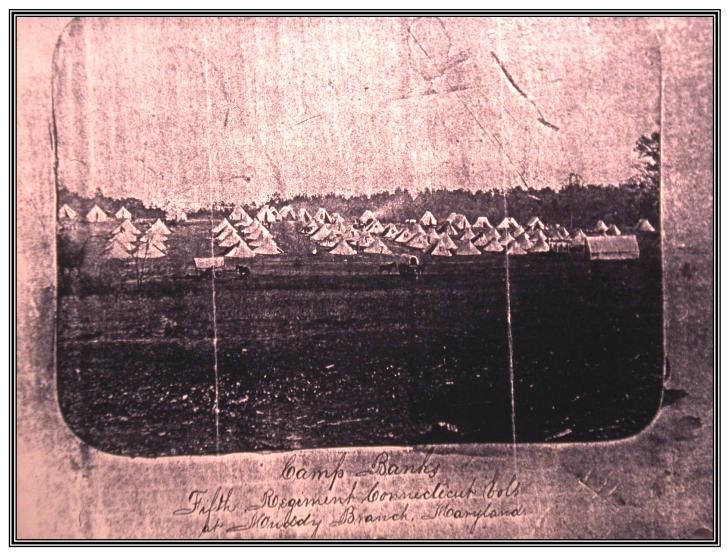
1861 to 1865



After the defeats at 1st Manassas and Ball's Bluff, Washington, DC became the most fortified city, at that time, in the world. Sixty-nine forts ringed the city along with numerous batteries and blockhouses. The above map shows the locations of many of those forts and batteries.



Camp Banks Fifth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers at Muddy Branch, Maryland



This photo was more than likely taken at the same time as the cover photo in October 1861 for Brig. Gen Alpheus Williams. The exact location is not known.

Union Units at Muddy Branch

Listed below are the units stationed at Muddy Branch from 1861 to 1865

29 Regiments

<u>Summer/Fall 1861</u> 3rd New York Cavalry

34th New York Infantry

12th Massachusetts Inf.

<u>Winter 1861-1862</u>

19th Massachusetts Inf.

28th New York Infantry

46th Pennsylvania Inf. 1st Rhode Island Art.

<u>Summer 1864</u>

8th Illinois Cavalry 6th Michigan Cavalry

16th Pennsylvania Cav.

<u>Fall 1861</u>

2nd Penn. Reserve <u>Williams Brigade</u> 5th Connecticut Infantry 19th New York Infantry

<u>Spring 1862</u> 14th New Hampshire Inf.

<u>Fall 1862</u>

U.S. Cavalry Division

38th Massachusetts Inf.

Fall 1864

1st Delaware Cavalry

<u>Fall 1861</u>

Collis' Penn. Zouaves 2nd Massachusetts Inf. 83rd New York Infantry 3rd Wisconsin Infantry 27th Indiana Infantry 29th Pennsylvania Inf.

Fall 1863/Summer 1864

2nd Massachusetts Cav.

Fall 1864/Spring 1865

1st New Hampshire Cav.

16th New York Cavalry

Brief Time line of Major Units and Events at

Muddy Branch/Blockhouse Point

Approximately 29 Union military units, representing some 13 states, were stationed at Muddy Branch camps during the Civil War. Only the major units and events are included in this time line. All units are infantry unless otherwise indicated. Battles or events in parenthesis are given for reference.

<u>1861</u>

(Battle of First Bull Run, July 1861)

Sept. 20—Oct. 21: 12 Massachusetts (Col. Fletcher Webster)

(Battle of Ball's Bluff, October 1861)

Oct. 26—Dec. 4: 3rd Brigade, Banks' Division (Brig. Gen. Alpheus Williams)

<u>1861-1862</u>

Dec. 4—March 12, 1862: 19th Massachusetts (Col. Edward Hinks)

Jan.—Mid-March 1862, three blockhouses built and occupied: Pennyfield, Blockhouse Point and Seneca.

<u>1862</u>

Sept. 5—8: U.S. Army Cavalry Divisions (Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton)

Sept. 17—Oct. 11: 10th Vermont (Col. A.B. Jewell) units scattered from Edwards Ferry to Muddy Branch

Oct. 20—Nov. 10: 39th Massachusetts (Col. P. Stearns Davis)

Fall—Winter 1862: 11th NY Cavalry (Col. James Swain) detachments picketing from Muddy Branch to Point of Rocks.

<u>1863</u>

Winter/spring: Muddy Branch area picketed by 39th Mass., 10th Vermont, 23rd Maine, 11th NY Cavalry, and14th New Hampshire, but mainly stationed at other locations.

June 23—26: 2nd Mass. Cavalry (Col. Charles Russell Lowell); two battalions to Poolesville to guard from Great Falls to mouth of Monocacy.

(J.E.B. Stuart crossed at Rowser's Ford)

(Skirmish at Muddy Branch, June 29, 1863, seven enlisted men wounded)

(Battle of Gettysburg, July 1—3)

Brief Time Line (cont.)

<u>1863—1864</u>

Sept. 13, 1863—July 26, 1864: 2nd Mass. Cavalry (Major DeWitt Clinton Thompson) battalion at Muddy Branch.

<u>1864</u>

June 22: 8th Illinois Cavalry detachment sent to Muddy Branch.

(Battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864)

July 9: 2nd Mass. Ordered to call in pickets, abandoned camp and retreated to Washington.

(Jubal Early's attack on Washington, D.C., July 10–13, 1864)

July 12: Mosby burned camp at Muddy Branch and blockhouses.

July 26: 8th Illinois Cavalry regiment (Major Waite) relieved Major Thompson's 2nd Mass.

July 26: Skirmish at Muddy Branch.

July 26—Nov. 21: 8th Illinois Cavalry

Sept. 29: Skirmish near Muddy Branch involving 84th New York National Guard.

<u>1864—1865</u>

Nov. 21, 1864—May 1865: 1st New Hampshire Cavalry (Col. John L. Thompson).

(Surrender at Appomattox, April 9, 1865)

(Lincoln's assassination, April 14, 1865)

April 14, 1865: Col. Thompson informed of Lincoln's assassination and told to scout and arrest all suspicious persons.

April 17, 1865: Col. Thompson reported that Mosby's and White's men were being paroled at Edwards Ferry.

Don Housley, 1/10/2008

Officers Connected to the Camp at Muddy Branch



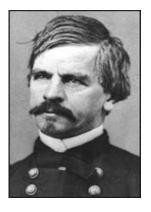
General Charles P. Stone:

Ordered the building of the Blockhouses at Pennyfield, Blockhouse Point, and Seneca Mills in December 1861. Arrested and held without trial because of the defeat at the Battle of Balls Bluff in October, 1861.



Col. Fletcher Webster:

Colonel of the 12th Massachusetts Infantry. First regiment at Muddy Branch, Sept, 1861. Son of Senator Daniel Webster, he would die on Chinn Ridge during the Battle of Second Manassas.



Major General Nathaniel Banks:

General, Division Commander in fall of 1861; headquartered at Darnestown. Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson referred to him as Commissary Banks because Jackson's men found it easy to steal his commissary stores.



Brigadier General Alpheus Williams:

Brigade commander at Muddy Branch, fall 1861. A widowed newspaper editor before the war, he wrote many letters home to his daughter from the Camp at Muddy Branch. He also had several photographs taken of his camp.



Lt. Robert Gould Shaw:

Lt., 2nd Massachusetts Infantry spent time at the Camp at Muddy Branch and called it the "worst camp" he had ever been in. He later lead the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, a black infantry regiment made famous in the movie "Glory".



Major General Alfred Pleasonton:

U.S. Cavalry commander, from Muddy Branch he sent reports on Confederate troop strength before the Battle of Antietam, Sept., 1862.



Captain John A. Tompkins:

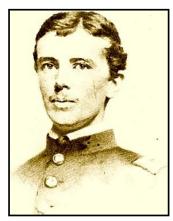
Captain of the 1st Rhode Island Artillery, Battery A, posted to Muddy Branch, winter 1861-62.



Colonel Edward Hinks:

Colonel, 19th Massachusetts Infantry. Built the blockhouses at Whitehouse (Pennyfield), Blockhouse Point, and Seneca Mills during January and February 1862.

Officers Connected to the Camp at Muddy Branch (cont.)



Colonel Charles Russel Lowell:

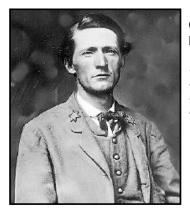
Colonel 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. He was the commander of the Camp at Muddy Branch, but he was stationed in Virginia, 1863-64. He was the brother-in-law of Robert Gould Shaw, and he would die at the Battle of Cedar Creek.



Major DeWitt Clinton Thompson:

Major, 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry, Company A. This unit had been recruited in California, but was attached to the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. Thompson would be the longest serving commander of Muddy Branch, 1863-64.

Harassers of the Camp at Muddy Branch



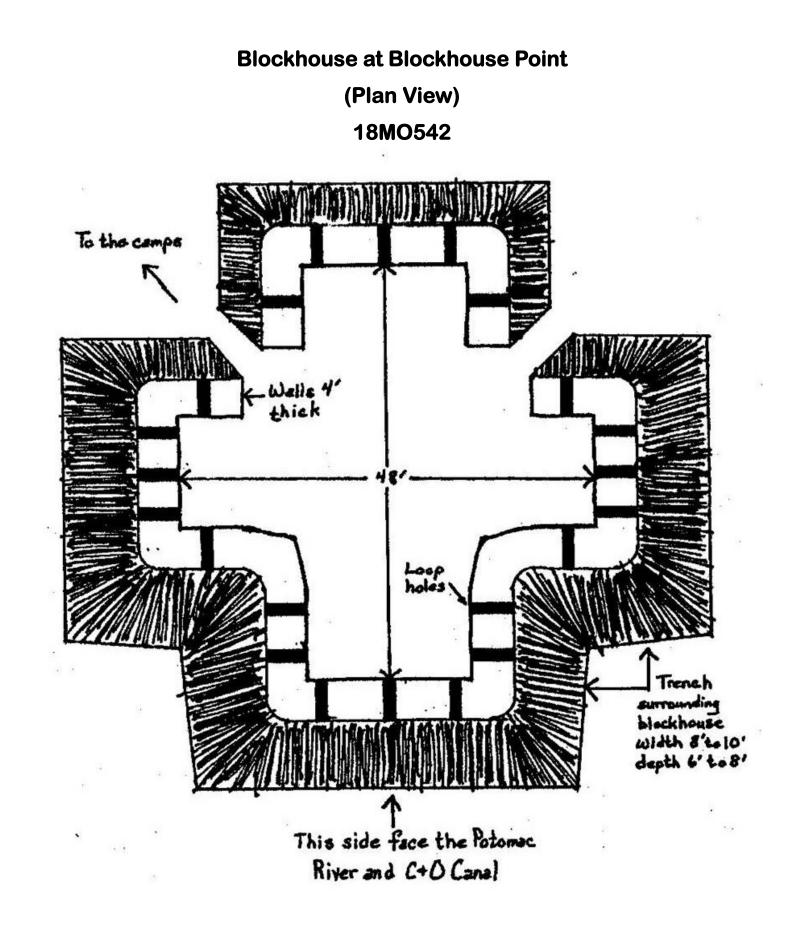
Colonel John Singleton Mosby:

Led 43rd Virginia Cavalry on raids across the Potomac into Maryland. Burned the blockhouse on July 12, 1864.



Colonel Elijah Veirs White:

Born in Poolesville, MD. Led 35th Virginia Cavalry on raids across the Potomac into Maryland.



History of the Blockhouse at

Blockhouse Point

Three blockhouses were built by the 19th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during January and February 1862. 225 officers and men were engaged in this work. Captain James D. Russell and Lieutenant Samuel Baxter of Company D were in charge of the building of the blockhouse between Muddy Branch Creek and Seneca Creek. These blockhouses were 48 feet each way, in the shape of a Greek cross, the walls were four feet thick, 12 feet high, with loopholes for infantry arms, the roof was made of logs three feet thick and covered with three feet of earth.

All the logs used in the construction had to be felled and squared with common axes, hauled to the different eminences on which the buildings were to be erected and then placed, each log being fitted and pinned with treenails *(wooden pegs)*. These were to protect the lock at Whitehouse *(Pennyfield)*, fords, and the aquaduct at Seneca. Long after the regiment left the vicinity, these blockhouses played a conspicuous part in preventing raids across the river. Prior to actual construction the selected and the surrounding hillsides had to be cleared of trees. Thousands of acres of timber were felled in Montgomery County regardless of the protest of the property owners. A 79th New York Highlander described it this way:

"It was an interesting sight to witness the simultaneous felling of a whole hillside of timber. The choppers would begin at the foot of the hill, the line extending for perhaps a mile, and cut only part way through the tree—then, when all was ready, the bugle would sound a signal, and the last stroke of the axe be given, which brought down the top row; these falling on those below would bring them down, and like the billow on the surface of the ocean, the forest would fall with a crash like mighty thunder. One reporter remarked that the war had done more to clear the county of its primeval timber than two centuries of occupation."

In building the camp, their first work was the procuring of logs from the camps that had been abandoned by General Banks' Division. The men built these up for about 3 feet from the ground, stopping the cracks between the logs with sticks and mud. The soil contained much clay and made good mortar. On top of the logs, then tent was made fast and fire places were built in one side, with a barrel or a box for a chimney. A few, more industrious than others, built their chimney of sticks, log house style, and plastered the inside with mud. In the same way, were the houses of the poor whites and negroes provided with means to, let the smoke escape. Ovens were built out of doors in which to bake bread.

At 12 o'clock each night, a patrol was sent up the canal to the next post, to get the report from above and pass it down, by giving it the sentinel in front of the house, who, in turn, gave it to the mounted patrol when he came up.

On March 12, 1862, the regiment was ordered to join General Sedgwick's Division under the command of General N.J.T. Dana at Harper's Ferry which was on it way to reinforce Generals Banks and Shield in the Shenandoah Valley. The regiment was loaded onto canal boats at Edward's Ferry and were "lazily drawn along by mules...with hills and mountains making on the opposite side a



Left: Log cabin with a tent roof and brick chimney. Boardwalk runs in front of cabin.

Right: Sibley tent at left on a stockade wall and attached to a walled tent.



Period Sketch of Interior of Sibley Tent

background beautiful and picturesque...a scene long to be remembered.

The Sibley tent was invented by Henry Hopkins Sibley, an officer in the U.S. Army before the Civil War. Of a conical design, it was supported by a center post that could telescope down into the supporting tripod making it easier to pack and store. Standing at 12 feet high and 18 feet diameter, it could comfortably accommodate 12 men. Sibley's design did not require guy ropes, was held down by 24 pegs, and had a cowl over the center pole allowing for ventilation and for the escape of smoke no matter the wind direction.

Sibley patented his design in 1856, and was to receive royalties of \$5.00 per tent made. 40,000 tents were made during the war, but Sibley never received a penny in royalties. In 1861, he resigned his commission and became a Brig. General in the Confederate Army.

Replicas of a Winter Camp



These replica huts are located the U.S. Army Heritage Institute at Carlisle, PA. These show the various types of dwellings built by the soldiers during the winter months.



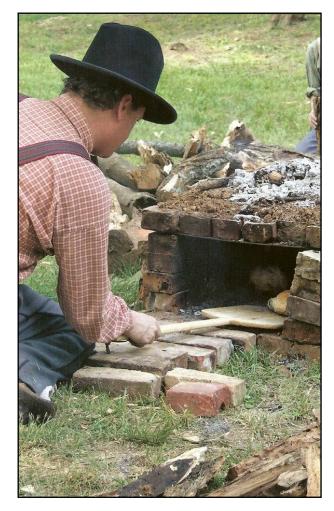
These photos are examples of what the interior of the winter quarters would have looked like for the enlist men and their officers. The photo on the left shows the interior of the enlisted men quarters. This one has bunks for four men. The photo on the right shows the interior of an officer's quarters. Senior officers had private quarters, while junior officer would share quarters with at least one other officer usually of the same rank.

Replica Bake Ovens

"Civil War Historian" - Vol 2, Issue 4 Sept-Oct 2006, Page 34-35



Heating the bake ovens.



We have records of the men building bake ovens in camp, and were usually located near the cook's tent or hut. These ovens resembled pizza ovens.

Left: Baking bread in the bake oven.

References to Building of Blockhouse by

19th Massachusetts Regiment

from History of the Nineteenth Regiment Massachusetts

Volunteer Infantry

Compiled by Ernest Linden Waitt

The Salem Press Co., Salem, Mass. 1906

Instead of staying all winter in Camp Benton [Poolesville] as had been expected, the regiment was ordered, on December 4, 1861, to Seneca, at a place called Muddy Branch, some miles nearer Washington, where it relieved some of the command of Gen. Banks, whose division was sent to Frederick. (p.43)

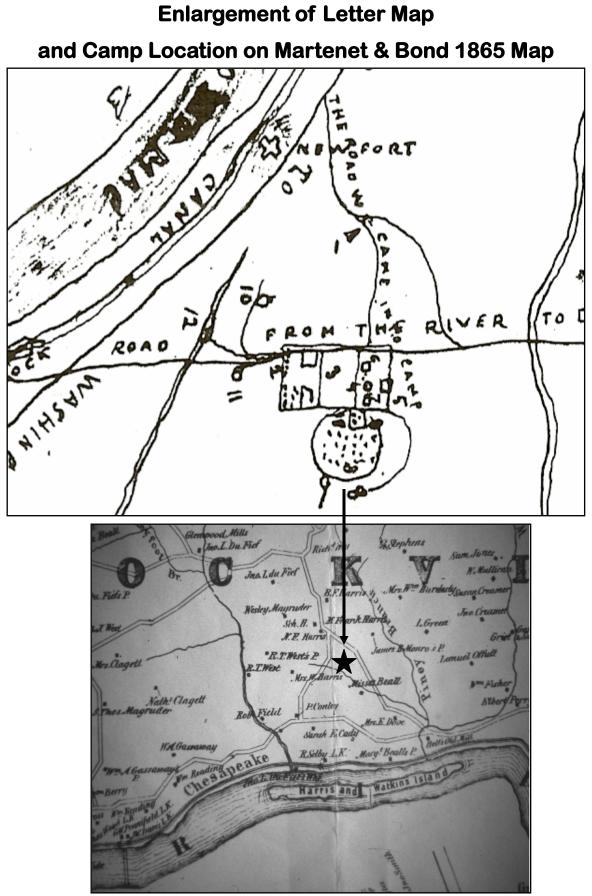
The duties of the regiment in its new camp, were of a nature to preclude the possibility of drill. It had 13 miles of the Potomac, from Great Falls to Seneca Falls to picket, three defensive blockhouses [*Pennyfield, Blockhouse Point, Seneca?*] to build, 48 feet each way, of the shape of a Greek cross, four feet thick, twelve feet high, with loopholes for infantry arms, roofed with logs three feet thick and covered then with three feet of earth. Two hundred and twenty five officers and men of the regiment were engaged in this work. All the logs used in the construction had to be felled and squared with common axes, hauled to different eminences on which the buildings were to be erected, and then placed, each log being fitted and pinned with treenails. These were to protect the ford and lock at Whitehouse [*Pennyfield*] on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Long after the regiment left this vicinity, these blockhouses played a conspicuous part in preventing raids across the river. (pgs. 45-46)

During January and February the officer were very much scattered. Col. Hinks was absent in Massachusetts, and Lieut. Col. Devereux was left in command of the district from Great Falls to Seneca. Adjt. John C. Chadwick was acting Asst. Adj. General at the headquarters of the First Brigade, Corps of Observation; Capt. C.M. Merritt, Company A, was at Rockville as Provost Marshall, with Second Lieut. W.L. Palmer, of Company I, as Deputy Marshall; Capt. J. Scott, of Company C, was at Seneca in charge of building the defensive blockhouses; Capt. James D. Russell, of Company D, at Muddy Branch Lock, building the defensive blockhouses between Muddy Branch and Seneca and Second Lieut. Samuel Baxter was with him. Capt. Edmund Rice, of Company F, had charge of the picket line on the Potomac River at Seneca Lock, while Second Lieut. Dudley C. Mumford was at Lock No. 31 [*Harper's Ferry and Brunswick*], Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. Capt. Weymouth, of Company G, was at Whitehouse Lock [*Pennyfield*]. (pgs. 50-51)

19th Massachusetts Soldier's Letter About the Camp

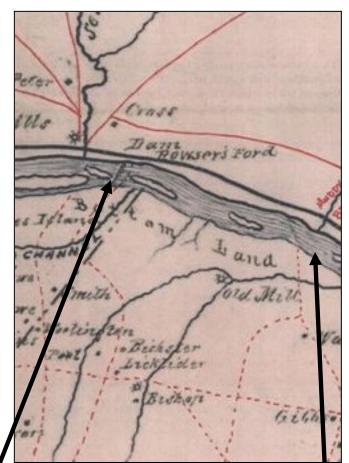
January 15, 1862

Ware UNVLLU Co un Depelled eve /www Concluse ar How he wai & have not heard that document and 20 200 news here of Cher 3 that know why are duecho Qund morreed about it for hear Jrg z on encan Nr olud mall le met and we va (one Errow that ruel 2 Unce Jun marth Ì 24 NON Ra NORTH ~ 9 males to Portavelle O SANESTOWN to Marhington 17 a 20 miles or therebut TO DARNESTOWN BRANOH 1 WEST. VER 6AST Plr Dank A the place where we slopped the ROAD à when us rehibered 1 stre Muchder Re. all when he had of the Mulalin mule to Mashin 8 gnarles ALLA VIR GIA Vale ores Band 12 ASHINGTON Parade GOUTH 5 3 2



Blow up of the map drawn by the 19th Massachusetts soldier and the possible location of his camp on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map.

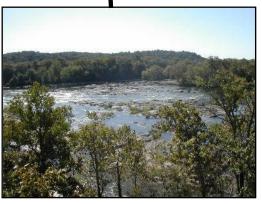
Fords Near the Camp at Muddy Branch



LOC Hoffman map – 1864



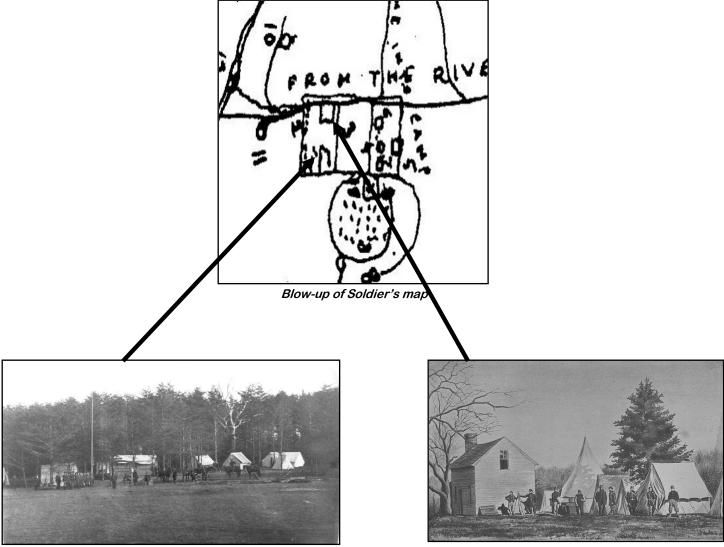
Rowser's Ford (near Violet's Lock)



Ford at Muddy Branch (at the mouth of Muddy Branch)

Four Different References

Below are four different references about the camp of the 19th Mass. Vol. Infantry. One is Gen. Williams' photo, one is a map drawn by a Private with the 19th Mass., one a sketch done for a book on Edgar Newcomb (a private with 19th Mass.), and finally a letter written home by another private with the a5th Conn. Vol. Infantry describing the scene in Gen. Williams' photo.



Gen. Williams' Headquarters

Sketch of Colonel's House

You will see about the centre of the picture a log house covered with a white canvas that is his dwelling and on the left that group of men is the guards saluteing the field " officer of the day and that the one you will see on horse back to the right. . ."

{Letter by Henry Fieldsend, 5th Connecticut}

Burials at the Camps at Muddy Branch

During its tenure at Muddy Branch, the Massachusetts regiments document the deaths of several of their members. In a letter dated November 26, 1861, Pvt. William Hazen Noyes, Co. C, 12 Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, wrote home about the arrival of a father on Thanksgiving Day to take his son's body home. In part: "*Camp near Darnestown . . . We went to our old camp ground at Muddy Branch we also visited the burying ground of the 12th Regt. Mass. Vols. The only ones that have died since we have left home. One was killed & 2 died in the hospital. A piece of board had neatly inscribed the following '12th Mass. Vols, Webster Regiment here lies the bodies of Private [Isaac] Peck [accidently killed 9/23/61] of Co. I of Stoughton, Mass. Private [Oliver] Younger, Co. K, Gloucester, Mass. Private Edward McMahon, Co. E, Randolph, Mass.' The bodies of Younger & McMahon are taken up & sent home. McMahon's father arrived here Thanksgiving day to his son's*

body home which he done Private Isaac Peck still remains buried in cemetery.

Other Burials at Muddy Branch

https://archive.org/stream/massachusettssol21931mass/ massachusettssol21931mass_djvu.txt

Pvt. James Kelly; resident of Boston; boiler maker; age 19; enlisted September 16, 1861; mustered in September 16, 1861 died of disease, December 24, 1861, at Camp near Muddy Branch, Md.

Pvt. John Kelly; resident of Boston; laborer; age 35; enlisted July 25, 1861; mustered in August 28, 1861; died of disease, December 13, 1861, Muddy Branch, Md.

Pvt. Benjamin F. Potter; resident of Boston; carpenter; age 31; enlisted July 25, 1861; mustered in August 28, 1861; died of disease, January 1, 1862, near Muddy Branch, Md.

Pvt. Rufus A. Peck, Co. I, while killing beef, was struck by a falling beam (September 23, 1861). He lived about half an hour after the accident. This was the first death in the regiment. He was buried at three p.m. on September 24, 1861. (Webster Regiment, page 30).



Meet Pvt Oliver Younger (1839—1861), Co. K,12th Massachusettes Volunteer Infantry, from Gloucester, Mass.

Description Regimental Cemetery

Dr. A.B. Weymouth wrote in his book, "Memorial Sketch of Lt. Edgar M. Newcomb of the Nineteenth Massachusetts Volunteers," talks about the regimental cemetery.

40

Just in front of our lines, on the crest of the undulating swells that diversify the face of this section, at the foot of a cluster of spruce trees, that shade it from the glow of the hot noon-time, is an enclosure, and within its rustic fence lately lay the remains of Oliver Younger, Jr., 12th Mass. Vols. The ground is still occupied by another member of the same regiment. Their bodies rested side by side. Yesterday was most delightful, almost a summer's day, and as I stood at the color-line, looking in that direction, the little burial ground in the midst of the camp suggested the following:

YONDER IS HEAVEN.

Under the shadow of a clump of spruces, A rustic paling doth the spot enclose. Where, worn and weary with life's various uses, Two tired soldiers in their rest repose.

The moss-grown branches, to the skies upreaching Their weird bare arms all desolate and gray, Seem ever to the soul this lesson teaching : "Yonder is heaven; yonder, too, the way."

Yonder is found no panoply of battle, No brilliant trappings and no gleaming steel, No war of cannon and no muskets' rattle, No tramp of horsemen and no rumbling wheel.

Yonder is heard no watcher's sad entreating, There is no sob, or tear, or mourner's cry; On yonder plains no gallant heart is beating, Longing to live, yet praying still to die.

Yonder is Peace! The setting sunlight glancing Athwart the slabs with gold and crimson ray, Inscribed thereon, in words of light entrancing: "Yonder is Heaven—This is but the way."

The new camp was situated near Muddy Branch, in the vicinity of Seneca, Md., and not far from the Potomac. In the following letters interesting particulars are given. It will be noticed that our gallant soldier refuses to accept "defensive armor."

> CAMP NEAR MUDDY BRANCH, DEC. 15, 1861.

DEAR BROTHER:

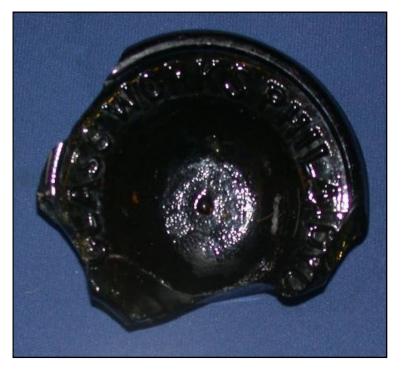
Since last Sunday I have received letters from yourself, Father, Mother, Stanley and Gilbert Webber. While I thank you for your

"Memorial Sketch of Lt. Edgar M. Newcomb of the Nineteenth Massachusetts Volunteers," by Dr. A.B. Weymounth—Times at Muddy Branch, page 40

Artifacts found at Blockhouse Point







Upper Left: Patent Medicine Bottle Lower Left: Ink Well Upper Right: Whiskey Bottle Bottom Lower Right: Louse Comb





Personal Items (cont.)











Upper Left: Remains of a Pocket Knife Upper Right: One Cent Piece Lower Left: Partial Pipe Bowl Middle: Partial Pipe Bowl Middle Right: Partial Pipe Stem Center Bottom: Water Filter



Uniform and Equipment Items















Upper Left: U.S. Belt Buckle Upper Right: Eagle Coat Button Middle Left: Knapsack Hook Center: Bridle Rosette Middle Right: Harness Buckle Lower Left: Wagon Chain Lower Right: Nails

Fire Arms Items







Upper Left: Unfired Minie Ball Upper Center: Squashed Minie Ball Upper Right: Spent cartridge shell possibly .22 cal. Lower Left: Smith & Wesson .32 caliber long Rim fire cartridge (live round) Lower Center: Spent Percussion Cap Lower Right: Buckshot for Buck and Ball Round.





Notes