

No study of American history is complete without an examination of communities in which the true roots of democracy reach deeply – those that have been integrated for generations. The Internet web site www.pahistoriclamott.com presents the fascinating and detailed story of one of those most important and unique places in American history. Now a recognized National Historic Site, La Mott, PA, named after former resident and noted abolitionist Lucretia Mott, was the site of Camp William Penn — the first federal facility in Pennsylvania that trained soldiers who served the Union Army as members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT).

Totally non-commercial in nature and content, this site was developed and produced by the Historian Laureate of La Mott, PA, Editor-in-Chief Bill Chambrés. Working from an initial donation by Comcast Cablevision, he has personally continued the support of the site over the past six years. The La Mott web site project was created to promote and encourage the study, reporting and collection of information about historic sites, places, persons, cultures, cultural organizations and related subjects, and to make this information available to the general public, schools, universities and historical societies worldwide.

A major addition to the web is the searchable database containing the names of nearly 11,000 members of the USCT comprising eleven regiments of the Union Army. On July 28, 1863 the first regiment of these volunteers entered the gates of Camp William Penn for training. After undergoing training, the USCT marched down Broad Street in Philadelphia on their way to join other Union troops in battle. Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) has been quoted as saying to his about-to-be battle scarred troops, "There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell." While General Sherman never visited Camp William Penn, the battlefield histories of these proud regiments reveal that they were gallant in victory as well as in the brutish hell of losses – several of these men were awarded the Medal of Honor.

These faceless heroes who defended America and freedom have been long forgotten – very few are known even to the African-American community and fewer still are named in America's school texts and history books. The La Mott historical web site will change that by bringing the names of these men and the history of their service to the fingertips of students and historians worldwide.

The Westbrook-RockHill Foundation, which has 501(c)(3) status, has initiated a drive to secure funds to support the ongoing development of the La Mott web site. Your tax deductible donation of funds will be used in its entirety for support of the web site and posting of additional historically significant information about La Mott and Cheltenham Township. Your donation may be designated specifically to support the "Name a Soldier" project that will add the names of every USCT soldier trained at Camp William Penn and their officers to the site or to the General Fund that pays for the hosting of the site. No executive salaries are involved in any aspect of the web site. The officials of Sovereign Bank (8080 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-1407) have graciously agreed to host the account for the Westbrook-RockHill Foundation. Donations should be sent directly to the Foundation at their address.

Bill Chambrés would be pleased to meet or speak with you to discuss the details of future plans for the La Mott web site. To arrange an appointment please call 215-635-7284 or send an E-mail to chambres@earthlink.net.

The Westbrook-RockHill Foundation appreciates your kind consideration of this historic project, as well as your generosity in supporting it.



2007 Westbrook-RockHill Sustaining Donation Campaign

Sufficient funds must be raised through this Sustaining Donation Campaign to list all the names of those gallant men who were trained at Camp William Penn and then went on to make history during the Civil War. Their courage and dedication set a standard of service that has continued in our military to this day.

Our campaign must also generate funds to cover the costs of continued research, site maintenance and programming of information for this nationally acclaimed site.

We ask that you assist us with your donation to our 2007 drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Amount you have enclosed: \$ _____

Please apply my gift as designated:

_____ "Regimental Names" Fund

_____ General Fund

(Contributions or gifts to the Westbrook-RockHill Foundation are deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.)

Your contribution should be mailed to:

Westbrook-RockHill Foundation
c/o Sovereign Bank
8080 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1407

We invite you to visit the Historic La Mott web site to see your contributions at work:

www.pahistoriclamott.com