Lesson 2 Primary Documents: Visitors

Document No. 1

Publication: The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Date: September 2, 1863  
Title: “Camp William Penn”  
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This camp is visited daily by large numbers of citizens. It presents a neat and orderly appearance, which will at once attract attention of anyone who may visit it. Within the past few days a large tent has been provided and placed within the enclosure, for the use of persons who may wish to avail themselves of instruction in the branches of an English education. The teachers are persons from a religious society, who take much interest in the colored soldiers.

Document No. 2

Publication: The Age  
Date: February 1, 1864  
Title: “The Negro Camp”  
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Numerous complaints have been made of the uncivilized-like conduct of the hundreds of negroes who daily visit the camp established at Chelton Hills for black volunteers. Their conduct in the cars, going to and from the grounds and while on the grounds, has become unsupportable. Unless they soon change their course the residents in the neighborhood of the camp will take the matter in their own hands and teach a few how to behave themselves. Free fights among the negro women, howling and swearing in the cars, are everyday occurrences.

Document No. 3

Publication: The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Date: February 17, 1864  
Title: “Visits Restricted”  
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

An order has been issued by Col. WAGNER, of Camp William Penn, requiring persons who visit the camp to provide themselves with a pass from the Head-quarters at Twelfth and Chestnut streets. This order has been made necessary by the large number of persons who have been in the habit of visiting this encampment daily.
Document No. 4

**Publication:** The Philadelphia Inquirer  
**Date:** April 8, 1864  
**Title:** “Camp William Penn”  
**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The following order was issued on Wednesday in relation to female visitors at Camp William Penn:

Head-Quarters Camp William Penn, April 6, 1864.

General Orders No. 15 - Female visitors to Camp William Penn will be admitted only between 10:30 and 11:30 A.M. and 3:30 and 4 P.M.

By command of

Lieut.-Col. LOUIS WAGNER  
Com. Post.

Document No. 5

Orders  
General Order No. 31  
Thursday, June 16, 1864  
General Orders, NARA Philadelphia

Head Quarters Camp “William Penn”  
Chelten Hills, Pa.  
June 16, 1864

General Order  
No. 31

The Commanding Officer of this Post, having been creditably informed that women of immoral character have been employed in various capacities in this Camp, it is ordered that all women engaged as cooks for Officers messes or in other capacities will furnish to these Head Quarters satisfactory certificates of respectability before they can be so employed.

Those already engaged will be expected to comply with this order within 48 hours or be excluded from within the limits of the camp.

By order of

Louis Wagner  
Lt. Col. 88 Pa Vols  
Comdg Post
Questions

1. Describe some of the different types of visitors who came to Camp William Penn.

2. How did the camp’s neighbors react to the influx of people in their community?

3. In what ways did the camp’s commander try to restrict the number of visitors to the camp?

4. Why do you think African American women were identified as posing a particular problem to the camp’s white neighbors?

5. Describe how you might feel as a lifetime resident of Cheltenham when Camp William Penn was established.