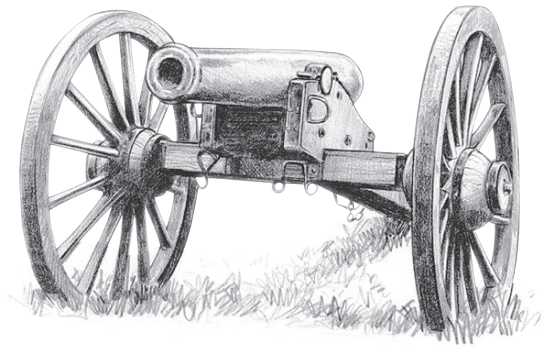


SAVE HISTORIC ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving
Antietam
since 1986



P.O. Box 550 • Sharpsburg, MD 21782 • 301.432.2996 • Contact@shaf.org • www.shaf.org



124th Pennsylvania monument at sunset.

Our Mission

The mission of SHAF is the preservation and protection of historic sites within the Antietam valley that are related to the Battle of Antietam, the Maryland Campaign, or other Civil War activity in the region. We will accomplish our mission through public education, solicitation of funds, promotion of protective easements and advocacy.

SHAF was incorporated in 1986. It is chartered in Maryland as a non-profit corporation and is exempt from federal tax by Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, and I hope 2020 is going well for you. The past year was busy, and we look forward to more success this year. The best news of 2019 is that just before the end of December, the National Park Service finally accepted our donation of the one-acre tract containing part of the North Woods. You may recall SHAF helped purchase this property several years ago, and we demolished the non-historic structures on it. It now belongs to the National Park Service, and it will maintain and preserve it.

The plan formulated by American Battlefield Trust (formerly Civil War Trust) for the Katy Poffenberger property to be transferred to Antietam National Battlefield with the buildings intact has been delayed. The idea was that after the NPS acquisition, the buildings would be removed by a contractor hired by SHAF. This is still the

intent, but on-going negotiations between ABT and the NPS have not yet resolved the issue. We are ready to move forward on the demolition as soon as these issues are resolved, but we currently have no idea when that will occur.

We are pleased to see the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center is restoring the Roulette barn. This is a major work project, and is moving ahead nicely. The HPTC hopes to finish sometime this spring. It also is repointing the stone walls at the National Cemetery and Mumma Cemetery.

Replacement of the old fence along the Hagerstown Pike has been completed with historically accurate six-rail fence, funded by President Trump's salary donation, plus other donations. ►

Continued...

Restoration of the sidewalk leading from Burnside Bridge to the overlook is finally complete. The overlook interpretation plaza there will soon be closed for restoration. Also, the Observation Tower was closed last fall for restoration of the stairs. Plans are for it to be open by summer.

The largest NPS project for 2020 is the rehabilitation and expansion of the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center work is a line item specified in the federal budget. The work consists of two components: construction and exhibit.

The construction phase is budgeted at \$12 million. The Antietam Visitor Center is one of the most significant Mission 66 visitor centers in the National Park Service system. The project received funding because the existing building has no emergency exit and no accessibility. The work to be done includes enlarging and updating the building while maintaining its character-defining features. Various options are being priced to determine the best value. Current planning will have the Visitor Center closing in July 2020 after the annual Salute to Independence. It will be closed for 18 months to two years. A temporary building will provide basic Visitor Center services while work is in progress. There will be no movie or museum in the temporary building.

The Harpers Ferry Design Center is preparing a scope of work for the design work and fabrication of the exhibits in the renovated VC. The Hope paintings (panoramas by Captain James Hope, who was present at the battle) are slated for complete restoration. In the future, the paintings will probably be rotated one at a time in the restored Visitor Center.

The first Saturday in July is well known for the concert and fireworks display at the Antietam Battlefield. Less well known is Sharpsburg's Founder's Day festival, a small gathering featuring talks and tours about Sharpsburg's early history, craft and food vendors, and music. SHAF has had a space there for the past several years so we can spread the message of preserving battlefields. If you are coming to Sharpsburg for the concert, come a bit early and stop by the SHAF tent to say hello. We will also be selling SHAF logo material, and usually some used Civil War books.

The last few years have been a great time for preserving and restoring the Antietam Battlefield. We are hoping for more success in 2020, and look forward to seeing you here in Sharpsburg!

Tom Clemens
President, SHAF

PRINTS FOR SALE!

We have for sale several copies of noted Civil War artist Keith Rocco's prints titled "Islands of Mercy" and "Counterattack – West Woods." Keith is one of the most talented and in-demand Civil War artists, and these prints highlight important aspects of the battle.

"Counterattack – The West Woods" depicts Gen. Joseph Kershaw's South Carolina brigade driving Gen. John Sedgwick's division from the West Woods.

"Islands of Mercy" depicts the Samuel and Phillip Pry Mill being used as a hospital. This print was commissioned by SHAF Board member Gordon Dammann, and shows the mill, which is still in use as a home, as it looked in 1862 with wounded soldiers being treated there.

Signed by the artist, these are quite collectable and beautiful images. "Islands of Mercy" is \$75 plus shipping. "Counterattack" is \$100 plus shipping. For information, e-mail antietam@verizon.net

ANTIETAM BOOK

September 1862 brought the Civil War to Frederick and Washington County, Maryland, as well as nearby Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown in West Virginia. In one week, more than 5,000 Americans were killed and 20,000 wounded. Temporary hospitals were established in barns, schools, private homes and tents. The wounded often outnumbered the local population.

A new book, "Islands of Mercy," tells the story of suffering of the wounded and the impact on the families obliged to provide what comfort they could offer amid destruction. Included are the locations of these hospitals and stories of doctors, nurses and patients.

John Schildt and Dr. Gordon Dammann wrote the 196-page book, which includes 100 illustrations. Dr. Dammann is founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine; Schildt has written about the area's Civil War history for 50 years.

Copies of the book will be available at the Annual Meeting for \$24.95. For more information call 301-432-0087 or lyricww41@aol.com.

TIPS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR VISIT TO ANTIETAM

WALK THE GROUND AT THE CRACK OF DAWN

Few battlefield experiences are better than Bloody Lane at sunrise. You may be the only one there. If so, that's even better. As you walk the lane where scores of Confederate dead once lay, listen to the crunch, crunch, crunch of gravel in the old roadbed, marvel at a lingering mist, and then close your eyes and imagine the scene here on Sept. 17, 1862. Check out the seldom-visited William Roulette farm nearby and re-trace the route of the Irish Brigade over to Bloody Lane. For the more adventurous, walk the Final Attack Trail to the 16th Connecticut monument in the 40-Acre Cornfield.

RUB A UNION GENERAL'S NOSE

Thomas Meagher ~ the fiery Irishman and one of the great characters of the Civil War ~ is memorialized in bas-relief on the Irish Brigade monument next to the old War Department tower. Tap his schnoz for good luck.

PICTURE THIS

For best photography, sunrise and sunset are the "beauty" hours. At sunrise, my favorite shooting spots are in Bloody Lane and at Rodman Avenue, near the 40-Acre Cornfield. You also can't go wrong shooting the monument nearby for the 100th Pennsylvania ~ the "Roundheads!" ~ with the Joseph Sherrick farmhouse in the background. At sunset, park yourself on Cornfield or Mansfield avenues or at Hagerstown Pike for monument shooting. It can be spectacular.

"ADOPT" A SOLDIER ... and walk in his footsteps. If you don't have an ancestor who fought at Antietam, pick a soldier from a regimental history or another source of information, research his background, and then trace his route over the battlefield. NPS rangers in the Visitor's Center can aid your effort. Two years ago, I followed in the footsteps of Samuel Gould, a 19-year-old private in the 13th Massachusetts, who was killed near the East Woods. "Samuel S. Gould stood within five feet of me when he was mortally wounded," Warren H. Freeman of Gould's Company A wrote to his father. "He had been in the company but four or five days. He was fresh from Harvard College, and I got quite well acquainted with him." Trust me: It will breathe life into your battlefield experience.

EMBRACE OFF-THE-BEATEN PATH SITES

Go where few battlefield tourists go. Walk the Tidball Trail, behind the Joshua Newcomer house, and enjoy an awesome view from the ridge. Visit the seldom-seen Mary Locher cabin and barn foundation ~ fighting raged in this area on

the morning of Sept. 17. When you get across busy Maryland Route 65, check out the 15th Massachusetts monument on the knoll on the other side of the road. Better yet, make the "Wounded Lion" monument your next stop. Best one on the field. Although it's not open to the public, the Susan Hoffman farm, site of a major Union hospital, can be viewed from Keedysville Road. A beloved nurse named Helen Gilson sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" to scores of Union wounded there. "The effect on these wounded soldiers was almost inspiring," an admiring reporter who was there wrote about the singing scene.



16th Connecticut monument in 40-Acre Cornfield.

CHAT UP A LOCAL

You never know what great stories you may hear. Some families have been in the area for generations.

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD ... in Boonsboro, Md. The Boonsborough Museum of History at 113 N. Main Street is open at odd hours ~ sometimes on Sundays and sometimes only by appointment. Few Civil War museums are in its league. Lifelong area resident Doug Bast has a spectacular collection, including some really weird items. My favorite museum piece is an ambrotype of Henry Kyd Douglas, who served under Stonewall Jackson.

AND IN SHEPHERDSTOWN ... there's another battlefield. The Maryland Campaign didn't end in Sharpsburg, Md. On Sept. 19-20, 1862, Union troops ventured across the Potomac, into what was then Virginia (now West Virginia), to keep pressure on Bobby Lee. Instead, the Yankees were whipped. The battlefield is mostly in private hands, but from River Road, you can view the craggy cliffs from which some frenzied 118th Pennsylvania soldiers leaped to their deaths as well as lime kiln ruins that date to the battle.

-John Banks

SHAF MEMBER PROFILE: JOHN BANKS



For many history buffs, John Banks' Civil War blog is a familiar site. Telling the human side and not-so-well-known stories of Antietam (mainly but not exclusively), he reaches through Facebook and his blog students of the war who may not have the

opportunity to walk Civil War fields, as well as those who are able to do so regularly. He recently joined the SHAF board of directors, and we are fortunate to have the benefit of his talent and experience.

John was born in eastern Pennsylvania and grew up in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mount Lebanon, where he became an avid fan of the Pirates, Penguins and Steelers. As has been the case with numerous other subjects of this board member profile, his family vacations included visiting all manner of historic sites, including, but not limited to, Valley Forge and Gettysburg with his siblings and parents. Those trips—and “reading everything I could get my hands on”—fueled John's passion for history. He graduated from West Virginia University in Morgantown with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a minor in history, both of which he has put to excellent use on his subsequent career path. In response to this writer's questions about his professional and work history, here's John in his own words:

“I am the author of two published books on the Civil War: *Connecticut Yankees at Antietam* and *Hidden History of Connecticut Union Soldiers*, which features profiles of soldiers and others. My work has been featured in such notable publications as the *New York Times*, *Civil War Times*, *Civil War Monitor*, *Civil War News*, *America's Civil War*, and *Military Images*. I have a regular column in *Civil War Times* called “Rambling.” I am longtime journalist (the *Dallas Morning News* and ESPN), and I am also secretary-treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography and on the board of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. I am now managing editor for a sports site called Yardbarker. At ESPN.com, I

supervised NFL coverage—including coverage of nine Super Bowls and nine NFL drafts. At the *Dallas Morning News*, I supervised coverage of the Olympics in Atlanta; Lillehammer, Norway; and Nagano, Japan.”

Having moved to Nashville nearly two years ago, John resides there with his wife Carol (whose sense of humor, he notes, has played a big part in indulging his interest in the Civil War). One of his daughters, a University of Alabama graduate, also resides in Nashville, where she works for a company that creates web apps; another daughter recently graduated from Temple University with a business degree. Being headquartered in the middle of Civil War country, John also goes battlefield tramping at every opportunity; since his move to Nashville, he has been to Shiloh, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge (numerous times), Resaca, Fort Pillow, and “all points in between.” These Civil War odysseys then help provide the written material and images for his popular blog: <https://john-banks.blogspot.com/>

In relating why historic preservation generally and preservation at Antietam matter to him, John quotes Spanish philosopher George Santayana: “Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.” For those of us who love Antietam, however, his reference to the words of early-twentieth-century “battlefield tramper” Fred Wilder Cross especially resonate: “There are few places that I have visited or of which I have ever dreamed that have such a hold upon my heart as the picturesque hills and broad valleys of Western Maryland. A most beautiful and romantic country, much of it rich in agricultural resources, its low mountains not too lofty to be ascended with ease, their summits presenting to the traveler most wonderful landscapes, every hill and road and stream abounding in historic associations; there is a lure to this section, which calls me back to it again and again.”

“Civil War battlefields,” John notes, “serve as reminders about how truly awful war is...and of the sacrifices of our ancestors...I could never imagine these places becoming strip malls or housing developments. That's a huge reason why SHAF is so important.”

WORK DAY 2019



2019 Work Day



September 2019 Fall Work Day clearing of Poffenberger tract to restore it to a meadow, as it looked in 1862. From left, Norm Feil (wearing helmet), Jim Rosebrock and Jim Buchanan



Clearing of meadow.

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: JOHN GUINN HANNA, 6TH GEORGIA



Neal Thompson, a collateral descendant of John Guinn Hanna, at a marker for the captain in a cemetery in Rising Fawn, Ga. Hanna's body was not returned to his native soil.

While exploring a Missionary Ridge neighborhood in Chattanooga, Tenn., recently, I met Neal Thompson, a gregarious, semi-retired attorney with a gift for storytelling. The 70-year-old Tennessee native has deep Southern roots: Ancestors in the 5th Tennessee survived the Federal assault on the southern end of Missionary Ridge on Nov. 25, 1863, a little more than a mile from his house.

John Guinn Hanna, another of Thompson's Confederate ancestors, wasn't as fortunate. The 27-year-old captain in Company B of the 6th Georgia ~ the "Lookout Dragoons" ~ was killed at Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862. At about 8:30 that morning, the 6th Georgia was in the northeast corner of David R. Miller's cornfield when two Ohio regiments closed unobserved within 30 yards of their line. According to a post-war history:

It was but a moment before the Captain [Hanna] of the 6th Georgia approached Lieutenant Colonel [James] Newton and reported that they were being flanked and instantly both the Captain and Newton were killed by the first volley of the 66th Ohio.

Hanna and his wife Virginia had a 2-year-old son named William, who died less than two months after John was killed in Maryland. Although Captain Hanna has a marker

in a family cemetery in Rising Fawn, Ga., his remains were not returned to his native soil. He may be buried in the Confederate section of Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown, Md., or Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown, W.Va. Hanna has no known grave site.



Captain John Guinn Hanna of the 6th Georgia was killed at Antietam.

ANNUAL MEETING 2019

Our annual membership meeting in May was great! We had a turnout of about 50 people. The meeting included a walk to the Poffenberger tract, where during our Work Days, we cleared some of the non-historic trees from the property. We had sales of SHAF logo hats, shirts and tote bags, and a good selection of Civil War books. In the afternoon, Dr. Paula Reed, SHAF secretary, led a wonderful architectural tour of several original buildings on the battlefield.

HARSH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

After the untimely death of noted Civil War scholar Dr. Joseph L. Harsh in 2010, SHAF established an award for scholarship related to the Maryland Campaign of 1862. Over the years we have had some very worthy projects presented, and this year is no exception. Antietam Battlefield Guide and seasonal Park Ranger Matthew Borders was awarded the Harsh Scholarship for 2019 for his paper on the fall extension of the Maryland Campaign as McClellan moved the Union Army into Virginia. Matt will present a talk on his project at our annual membership meeting in April. His paper is available on the SHAF website, as will some of the other award-winning papers. Congratulations to Matt, and to all our Harsh Scholars.

ANTIETAM MINI-SERIES

Have you seen the introductory film at the Antietam National Battlefield? If so, then you have seen the work of Brad Graham, director and producer of several historically accurate battle reenactment films. Brad has also authored several books, including one on some of the more intriguing aspects of the Maryland Campaign. Brad is working on turning his Antietam film into a four-part mini-series, with much more background of the campaign and some very impressive visual effects. When he is finished and markets this series, he plans to donate a portion of the proceeds to SHAF because he is dedicated to helping us preserve the battlefield and sites related to the Maryland Campaign. We will keep you informed of progress in bringing this series to the public. Thanks, Brad!

In the kitchen of his house on Missionary Ridge, Thompson showed me photographs of his ancestors. His late father, who loved history, compiled information on Hanna ~ a signed copy of a request for clothing for his men, copies of regimental returns and other documentation.

On June 27, 1862, Hanna was wounded at the Battle of Gaines' Mill, near Richmond, where he recuperated in a hospital. Weeks before he died, Hanna wrote a letter to his father back in Rising Fawn, requesting a horse that was "fast as hell" to replace another that was shot and killed under him.

No word if he got the horse.

Thankfully, the copy of the original image above of Hanna, looking resplendent in his officer's uniform, survives. And Neal Thompson proudly shares it with us.

~ John Banks

Our Annual Meeting Date is
SATURDAY APRIL 25
10 A.M.

at the Mumma Barn on Antietam Battlefield. We will have updates on our latest projects, financial review, elections for the board and a presentation by our Harsh Award recipient. Members and non-members are welcome.

Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/shafpage/ for
updates on time and any schedule
changes.

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become a member, please visit our
website or email us: contact@shaf.org

It is critical for tax purposes
Thanks for your support!

SPRING WORK DAY SET

Our Spring Work Day is Saturday, March 21 at 9 a.m. at the Poffenberger tract opposite the Visitor Center. We hope to finish removing all the non-historic vegetation. We'll have a chipper to grind it all up into wood chips. The property is looking much more like it did in 1862, and this is, we hope, the final push.

**Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/shafpage/ for updates on location and schedule changes.**