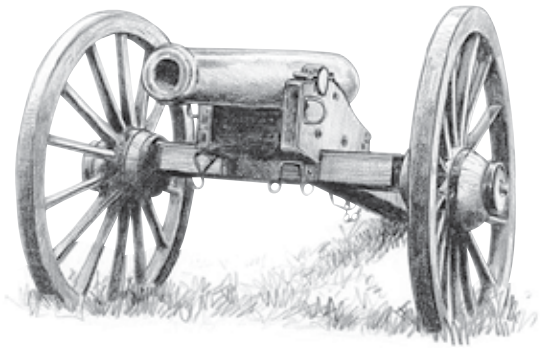


SAVE HISTORIC

Winter 2012



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

Greetings!

Well who would have thought we'd need to set a snow date for a Fall Work Day in October????! The freakish October surprise sure put the kibosh on our planned day to finish the trail to the Ninth NY & Eighth CT monuments, and "rained" on a lot of folks' parades that day. A few dedicated souls came out the next weekend and did a terrific job clearing the way for this new trail.

Many of you have probably heard the news by now, but Susan Trail has been chosen for the Superintendent position at Antietam. You may remember Ms. Trail as the previous Ass't. Superintendent several years ago, and more recently as Superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield. Susan is an old friend (well, not that old) to SHAF and was kind enough to mention us in her press release. She also wrote her doctoral dissertation on the history of the Antietam battlefield so she is more than well-versed in the preservation story. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Susan at the helm, and expect the record of good stewardship set by John Howard to continue with Susan Trail.

There is finally a happy ending in the never-ending story of our attempts to purchase the Cement Mill property at Shepherdstown Ford, see the article in this newsletter. We are also looking at another purchase project, but it is not developed enough yet to discuss. Either or both will make fitting projects to celebrate next year in the Sesquicentennial of the campaign. Speaking of which, plans are underway for the Sesquicentennial commemoration by the NPS next year, and SHAF is planning a day-long seminar with some of our prominent historians presenting the latest in Maryland Campaign history. Watch our website for dates and location.

Many of you recall that in 2010 we lost a good friend and historian, Dr. Joseph L. Harsh's memorial service took place on September 17 last year, and donations from his family and friends have allowed SHAF to sponsor a stipend for any person willing to undertake a research project related to the Maryland Campaign. Our rules and eligibility are found elsewhere in this issue, and we encourage all to consider apply for this stipend. Our purpose, which Joe would heartily approve of, is to advance the scholarly knowledge of the campaign and battle. A panel of SHAF Board of Directors members, the NPS and A Harsh family member will determine the best applicant for each year, and their research will be presented during the anniversary weekend.

The coming year, 2012, promises to be a busy and exciting one. We hope to cross paths with you sometime during the Sesquicentennial, and thank you for your generous support and interest.

Happy New Year!

Tom Clemens
President, SHAF

NEW LOGO MERCHANDISE IS HERE!

**Merchandise
(hats, shirts, etc)
featuring
our new logo are
available visit
www.shaf.org for
more information.**

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.

Cement Mill Property Purchased!

Happy New year! By the time you read this that the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, along with several organizations, will have purchased the Boteler Cement Mill property. Those of you who have been a member for several years may remember that we have long hoped to acquire this tract of land located adjacent to the critical Potomac River ford where Union and Confederate forces struggled on September 19 and 20, 1862. After many frustrating years of negotiations and false starts, we have settled on this tract late in December.

Together the Civil War Trust, Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, Jefferson County Landmarks Commission, and SHAF have pooled resources to buy the ruins of the historic mill and 13 acres surrounding. Some of you may have participated in the SBPA-sponsored river-wading and walking tour of this battlefield in the past few years, and will readily recognize this spot. This property witnessed the last action of the Maryland Campaign of 1862 as Gen. Robert E. Lee's battered Army of Northern Virginia retreated across the Potomac into Virginia. Closely following this retreat were elements of Gen. George McClellan's Army of the Potomac and their bloody clash with Lee's rearguard resulted in the both commanders abandoning any efforts to continue the campaign. Thus this could be considered the deciding conflict of the campaign that was the Confederacy's best chance for victory.

The Boteler Mill had been in existence long before the Civil War providing cement for construction of the nearby C&O Canal and for several government buildings in Washington DC. Many stone ruins remain intact of the property, including the famed lime kilns where soldiers of the 118th Pennsylvania sought shelter from the withering

Confederate musketry raining down from the bluffs above them. The sellers of the property are descendants of the Blunt family who later owned the mill, and it has been in their hands for many years.

The property is now held by the Jefferson County (WV) Landmarks Commission until such time may come when it can be transferred to the National Park Service as a satellite site of either Harpers Ferry National Historic Park or Antietam National Battlefield. This purchase also secures an important corner of a completely unprotected what was the bloodiest battlefield in the state of West Virginia. Our hope is that the acquisition of the Cement Mill tract will facilitate the purchase of the remaining acreage of this important battlefield, thus allowing the complete story of the Maryland Campaign of 1862 to be told.

SHAF is thrilled to be part of this partnership which has raised the \$339,000 to finalize the sale of this critical site. It has been a long time since we have directly asked our membership for contributions to preserve battlefield land, but the SHAF Board of Directors are confident our membership will rise to this challenge and aid us in raising the \$34,000 which is our portion of the total package. As we approach pay-off date we ask for your help to seal the deal! Contributions can be sent to:

SHAF

P.O. Box 550

Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Or make your payment online at www.shaf.org.

In an effort to reduce printing and postage costs and funnel more funds toward preservation of historic sites, SHAF will be discontinuing hard-copy mailings of our newsletter after 2012. If you receive the newsletter now by mail, please provide us with an email address to which we can deliver the newsletter. Send your email address, along with your name and mailing address to newsletter@shaf.org.

A Scholarship Award in Honor of Dr. Joseph L. Harsh

The Board of Directors of Save Historic Antietam Foundation Inc. voted at their November meeting to establish a stipend for scholars willing to research selected aspects of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, especially the battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg. The award is named in honor of Dr. Joseph L. Harsh, longtime professor at George Mason University, and author of the prize-winning trilogy on the Maryland Campaign. Through the generosity of the family and friends of Dr. Joseph L. Harsh, SHAF is able to provide an annual stipend of up to \$2,500 for those who apply to undertake project beneficial to understanding various aspects of the campaign and battle. The stipend will be offered annually and will be awarded based on a decision by a committee composed of representatives of the SHAF Board of Directors, the Harsh family and Antietam National Battlefield. It is our hope that this funding will allow research on unresolved issues concerning the campaign. If a scholar does not have a topic in mind suggestions can be provided by SHAF.

Applicants need not be enrolled in any school, but must provide evidence of their ability to perform the research required for completion of the project. Because this award honors a great scholar it is imperative that the completed project reflect the highest standards of scholarship and research. Topics must be approved by the stipend committee, and the successful applicant will present his/her finished project at a ceremony in conjunction with the annual anniversary commemoration at Antietam National Battlefield and also produce a written summation

in a format suitable for publication. Applications can be made to SHAF no later than February 15, and the award will be announced by March 1. Research must be completed by September 1. The guidelines and more details are available at the SHAF website, www.shaf.org

Application Procedures & Timeline

1. Applicants must submit a brief statement of a project, a research methodology and relevance of the topic to furthering understanding of the Maryland Campaign of 1862. They will also provide a brief resume' emphasizing their historical and research credentials.
2. In the event that the applicant does not have a topic in mind the SHAF Board of Directors will generate a list of possible topics and make it available for potential applicants.
3. Applications should be submitted by mail to SHAF, P.O. Box 550 Sharpsburg, MD 21782 or emailed through our website, SHAF.org. All applications must be received by February 15, of each year.
4. The stipend committee, made up of three members of the SHAF Board, a representative from the Harsh family, and from the Antietam National Battlefield will choose an awardee annually to receive the stipend, and the committee will also oversee the project. The criteria used to choose an awardee shall be determined by the stipend committee.
5. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply as often as they like.
6. Members of the SHAF Board of Directors are prohibited from applying

Work Day at Antietam

Our annual Spring Work Day will begin at 9:00 on Saturday morning March 17 when we meet in the parking lot of the Visitor's Center. We are uncertain at this time what we'll be doing, but it will involve restoring the 1862 scene for the battlefield.

Our Fall Work day was SNOWED OUT, but a subsequent day saw significant progress on creating the trail from Branch Avenue up to the crest of the ridge along Harpers Ferry road and the site of the 9th New York and 8th Connecticut monuments. Our work will help visitors understand this final climactic attack of the battle and also to see the monument erected by the survivors.

We encourage you to join us for a rewarding day helping to restore a scenic part of the battlefield. Those wishing to participate should bring gloves, wear work clothes and dress appropriate for the weather. In the event of steady rain we will not be working. It will help us if you send a message through our website, SHAF.org or call 301-432-2996 to let us know you plan to attend.

We had several members take us up on or challenge to locate and photograph the graves of commanders from the Battle of Antietam. Brian Richardson is leading by a very large margin, but he was not the only SHAF member to go cemetery stalking. Here are a few photos, with three acceptable formats for the inclusion of SHAF items - or members - in the image.



Brian Richardson, T. J. Jackson
Original Burial, Lexington, VA



Susan Houck, O. O. Howard
Burlington, VT



John Merlino, John T. Mercer
Tarboro, NC

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