

SAVE HISTORIC



ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving
Antietam
since 1986

June, 2010



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Late spring in the Sharpsburg area is seeming a lot like summer. Heat and humidity are already making things uncomfortable, but a promise of more temperate weather will make the next week or two a great time to visit the battlefield. Memorial Day weekend began with the 147th iteration of the Sharpsburg Memorial Day parade. Flags and military groups were in abundance, and the cemetery sported a flag on every grave.

A wet spring has everything growing well and many restoration projects at the park are under way. If you haven't seen the Miller farm (it was David Miller's cornfield that became so infamous during the battle) lately it is covered in plastic as technicians remove the asbestos shingles and begin the exterior restoration of the structure (see "Inside Antietam" on page 2). The Joseph Poffenberger farm is looking great: thanks to your generosity the house has been repaired and painted, the barn is nearly complete in its restoration and the corn crib stabilized and repaired. All the park roads will be milled and resurfaced this summer, a temporary nuisance but a long-term improvement. The Newcomer farm house located near Middle Bridge was purchased by the National Park Service a year or two ago. It will open this fall as a visitor contact station for the Heart of the Civil War area and historical tourism in general. It will be staffed by volunteers, and should improve awareness and visitation to Antietam Battlefield.

Our board members are working on a number of things, one of which is a tour and book-signing for the first volume of Ezra Carman's history of the Maryland Campaign of September 1862. Details appear elsewhere in this newsletter, and the book can be purchased through the Western Maryland Interpretive Association, (the bookstore at Antietam Battlefield), Savas-Beatie LLC, or other outlets. We hope to share other good news later in the year.

As always we thank you for your continued support and contributions, and we hope to see you soon in the verdant fields surrounding Sharpsburg.

Tom Clemmons
President

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.

INSIDE *Antietam*

by Mannie Gentile



The D.R. Miller House: under the covers



Photos by Mannie Gentile

The D.R. Miller house prior to the start of the restoration process.

Last November, while driving north from the Visitor Center toward the Cornfield, I was startled to see the historic D.R. Miller house shrouded in a huge blue and white pinstripe tarp. Skeptical that this was a World Series tribute, I pulled in to the yard to investigate. I was greeted by the sight of vehicles from the Park's Cultural Resources Division as well as some friendly, and familiar, park employees waving me in. Moments such as these are why I'm never without my camera.

The Miller House is under those colorful wraps while it undergoes a five to six-year repair and restoration project. Beneath the shroud, the house is surrounded by a latticework of metal scaffolding providing workers access to every level of the exterior, and, using selected windows as upper-story entry points, the interior as well. During my

visit there were five park employees engaged in working on the log exterior, happy to share with me information on both what they were doing as well as an explanation of the material and techniques they were utilizing in the restoration process.

Though a passerby wouldn't know it, the Miller House has been a beehive of activity as it is undergoing a total repair and restoration of the exterior with the old siding removed, rotted logs repaired or replaced and rechinked, window casings restored, and non-historic portions of the building readied for removal. Eventually the log structure will be fully stuccoed over with a pattern of faux bloc scored into the surface just as it had appeared in September of 1862.

David R. Miller's House witnessed the terrible fight on the morning of September 17th 1862. It was Miller's cornfield that was the scene of the



opening three and a half hours of fighting. In that period the ground in and around Miller's field and farmstead would be littered with nearly thirteen thousand casualties, leaving his cornfield forever known to history as The Cornfield.

Immediately following the struggle in the Cornfield the Miller House became an improvised field hospital, receiving wounded and dying men, both Union and Confederate.

This project is a joint effort between the Park's Cultural Resources and Maintenance Divisions. The house should once again see the light of day upon the project's completion in 2014. The Park, in preserving the history of that terrible day will return the Miller House to its 1862 appearance allowing future visitors to gain a better perspective and a clearer understanding of "America's Bloodiest Day".



Travis applies the epoxy into the cavity where rotted wood has been removed.



Removal of the modern siding reveals the original log construction of the house.



The Maintenance Division has been reconstructing the window casings to their 1862 dimensions.



After the logs are repaired they are re-chinked.



Artifacts from more recent habitation.

Private William Livingston: Company D, 22nd New York State Volunteers

By Joseph Stahl

“The Union Army” states that the 22nd New York State Volunteers was a two-year unit that was formed from enlistees from the counties of Washington, Essex, Warren and Saratoga in Northern New York. They were formed in June of 1861 and sent to Washington on June 28th. After they arrived in Washington the regiment was assigned to the Virginia side of the Potomac. The 22nd had its winter quarters in the vicinity of Upton’s Hill in Falls Church until April, 1862 when it moved to Falmouth Virginia.

One of the soldiers that came south with the regiment was Private William Livingston. Private Livingston’s service records show that on June 6, 1861, William responded to President Lincoln’s call for volunteers by enlisting in Company D of the 22nd New York State Volunteers for two years. On the Muster In roll William is described as age 22. The records, as is common with the early months of the war, have his status as “not stated” until January of 1862 when he is listed as “present”.

The regiment saw its first major fighting during the Second Bull Run Campaign. The 22nd was assigned to Brigadier General John P. Hatch’s Brigade. On August 29, 1862 Private Livingston found himself advancing through

some woods toward a railroad cut (actually a fill at this point). The 22nd would report that its losses were 20 killed, 79 wounded and 81 captured or missing in this fight. William was one of the fortunate ones that came through the battle with no reported injury. After the battle the regiment returned to its old camp site on Upton’s Hill. The September/October bimonthly report in his records states that William was “on extra duty Ambulance driver”. William would be with the Ambulance corps for the rest of his service. This means that while he was probably not on the battle line he may still have been under fire while performing his duties.

Among the items that William may have been carrying at this time was an ID disc bought from Thomas P. Jacks the regimental sutler. The ID disc is shown in the two photographs. The first shows the side with his name, unit and hometown of Cambridge NY as is common with Civil War ID discs. The reverse is shown in second photograph. On the reverse is an image of General George McClellan. This style of disc is identified as the McClellan 1B in the recent reference book “Identification Discs of Union Soldiers in the Civil War”, by Larry B. Maier and the author. While it is impossible to know exactly when William bought this tag it is typical of those

bought in the summer or fall of 1862. Therefore William may have been wearing it on those bloody late summer days in 1862.

As a result of his being present in September/October Private Livingston was with his unit for the fight at South Mountain on September 14 and Antietam on September 17, 1862. In these actions the 22nd NY was a part of Col Walter



Phelps, Jr.'s brigade of Brigadier General Rufus King's First Division of the First Corps Army of the Potomac. In the official reports of the Battles the 22nd listed 10 killed and 20 wounded. The regiment was in support of the Brigadier General John Gibbon's Brigade in the fighting in the corn field on the northern end of the battlefield. In Colonel Phelps' official report he states "I deployed column, and in line of battle moved steadily forward some 50 paces in the rear of (Brigadier General John) Gibbon's infantry, who at this time had not engaged the enemy, but were cautiously advancing through the corn-field." With the end of the Battle of Antietam the 22nd returned to Virginia following the Confederates. And in the fall of 1862 the regiment moved to the vicinity of Fredericksburg where it would remain through the spring of 1863.

At the Battle of Fredericksburg the regiment was primarily in support of the Union artillery on the Bowling Green Road south of the city. As such it reported very few casualties. After the battle the regiment returned to its winter camp. In the May Chancellorsville Campaign the regiment was again in reserve and suffered 10 wounded in its withdrawal back across the Rappahannock River according to Colonel Phelps' report. After this the regiment was ordered to Albany where it was mustered out.

William was mustered out on June 19, 1863 at Albany New York. On his muster out roll it notes that Private Livingston was due \$5.45 of his clothing allowance and that he was last paid on February 28, 1863. William never filed for a pension and so his story ends with his return to civilian life. Private Livingston had survived some very severe fighting in his two years of service. One hopes that occasionally he held his ID disc in his hand and thought about those haunting days when he was a young soldier in Blue.

SHAF Sponsored Tour of Phase I of the Maryland Campaign of September, 1862

On Saturday, July 31, 2010, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF) will sponsor a tour of "Phase I" of the Maryland Campaign of September, 1862. The tour will be led by SHAF board members Dennis Frye, National Park Service Chief Historian at Harper's Ferry, and Dr. Thomas Clemens, editor of Ezra Carman's "The Maryland Campaign of September, 1862, Volume I: South Mountain".

The tour will begin at 8:30 AM at the parking lot of the Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor's Center in Frederick Maryland, where the guides will cover the action up to the discovery of General Robert E. Lee's "Lost Order" by Union forces. Then the tour will proceed to Harper's Ferry, covering the fighting and siege operations and capture of that place, as well as the escape of Union cavalry.

Lunch will be served at The Anvil Restaurant in Harper's Ferry. Choices of a wrap, cheeseburger, or Reuben sandwich, each with French fries and drink.

From there, participants will travel to and discuss the importance of the sites of the Battles for South Mountain, including Burkittsville, Gathland, and Crampton's, Fox's, and Turner's Gaps.

This is a "caravan" tour. Car pooling is strongly encouraged. Participation is limited to 30 individuals. Fees, including lunch, are \$30 for SHAF members. Non-member fee is \$50, which will include a one year membership to SHAF. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and member rates for SHAF sponsored events. Also, copies of Dr. Clemens' edition of Ezra Carman's "The Maryland Campaign of September, 1862, Volume I: South Mountain" will be made available at a \$5 discount the day of the tour.

A firm number of participants is required by July 21, 2010. Make your reservations by sending an email with the names of those who will attend to tours@shaf.org. You will receive instructions on where to send payment.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to tour the sites of the Maryland Campaign of September, 1862 with recognized experts Dr. Thomas Clemens and Dennis Frye.

SHAF Profile: TRACEY MCINTIRE

by Mary Abroe

Tracey McIntire, who kicked off her membership in SHAF by helping plant saplings in the East Woods during last fall's work day, sent the following biographical essay: Tracey McIntire was born in Concord, Massachusetts and grew up surrounded by history. Her early love of the Revolutionary War led to an interest in other periods of American history, especially the Civil War. This interest increased after she moved to Maryland and visited the many Civil War sites in the area. She was especially inspired by a visit to Antietam, where her great-great-granduncle fought with the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. She has since discovered three other ancestors who fought for the Union.

Tracey graduated from Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire with a bachelor's degree in English and has worked in public relations for several nonprofits, including the Humane Society of the United States and the National Parks Conservation Association. Since November 2009 she has worked for the Civil War Preservation Trust, a true dream job for her.

Tracey is passionate about battlefield preservation, not just because of where she works, but also because she has been personally touched by these places that allow us to connect to the people of the past in ways that we otherwise would not. Battlefields are "time machines," and in walking in the footsteps of her ancestors Tracey has learned so much, not only about who she is but also about who we all are as Americans.

Tracey is an active Civil War re-enactor/living historian with the 4th Maryland Light Artillery, a member of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. She is also a volunteer docent with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

When asked if there was anything that she wished to add in the way of personal interests and/or hobbies, Tracey noted that she is an avid camper and hiker. And she offered one final note: "I feel very lucky to be part of both SHAF and CWPT!"

A General Gets His Sword

by John Hoptak



Brigadier General Nagle gazes off as sculptor Michael Krause and Fundraiser John Hoptak examine his soon to be replaced sword.

After a nation-wide fundraising effort and thanks to the generous contributions of many individuals and organizations, the 48th Pennsylvania Monument at Antietam National Battlefield has been restored. A bronze sword, long missing from the statue of Brigadier General James Nagle, has been replaced with a new one, beautifully and meticulously sculpted by Mike Kraus. The sword is an exact replica of the one presented to Nagle upon his return from the Mexican-American War by the people of his native Pottsville, and which he carried throughout the Civil War. At Antietam, Nagle commanded a brigade in Sturgis's division of the Ninth Army Corps. His soldiers helped to carry the Burnside Bridge and later helped repulse A.P. Hill's Confederate division. It was at Antietam where Nagle received his commission to brigadier general.

A rededication ceremony will take place at the monument on Saturday, May 29, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. Among those attending will be Superintendent John Howard, artist/sculptor Mike Kraus, the Reverend John Schildt, as well as many of the donors whose contributions helped make the restoration of the monument possible.