



Save Historic Antietam Foundation

September 2006

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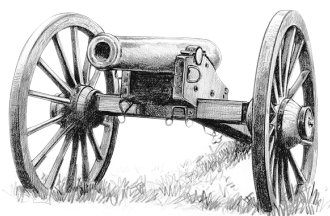
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Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF)

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) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible.



SHAF CELEBRATES *20th* ANNIVERSARY

By Tom Clemens

When I was elected President of SHAF's Board of Directors in 1989 it was a thrill, an honor and a huge responsibility. We were in the midst of advocating for the new General Management Plan (GMP) at Antietam, specifically the restoration of the battlefield option. There was local opposition to the plan, everything from no more land acquisition to those wanting the park to sell various parts of the battlefield. SHAF had purchased a historic house in Sharpsburg, we had mortgage payments, and we'd ultimately lost our suit to stop development of the Grove Farm.

Luckily, through the hard work of our Board and the membership, and some very generous donors, things improved quickly. The GMP passed, and the park's restoration is still progressing nicely. As you know, we've helped in that effort with our semi-annual Work Days. We met Denise Troxell, who bought the house SHAF acquired in Sharpsburg, rehabilitated it and eventually joined our Board. We began a program to mark buildings used as headquarters and/or hospital sites in the Sharpsburg area. These signs are still in place, and serve to remind people of the many structures still extant from the Civil War era. Even more exciting things were happening.

The 40 acre development slated for the Grove Farm was in financial trouble. A downturn in the economy put the site on the auction block. Since the Grove Farm was the issue that started SHAF, we were very interested in this site. The state of Maryland, especially Grant DeHart of the Maryland Environmental Trust guided us through a grant application program, the newly formed Civil War Trust's first President, Rod Heller, funded us with \$100,000, and suddenly we were land owners. We bought the property for \$315,000 and also obtained a grant for \$15,000 from APCWS, now merged with Civil War Trust. With a promise of about 2/3 of the funding in place, SHAF still had to come up with over \$115,000 to save the land. Undaunted, and with faith in our members, we forged ahead. Eventually we sold this property, for a huge loss, and it is now under easement forever. It seems so easy writing about this now, but I recall the constant stress of

worrying if the contributions would cover the monthly mortgage payments. In all those years, we never missed a payment! Thank you.

In the early 1990s a very fortuitous combination of events helped launch the preservation effort at Sharpsburg. The constant stumbling block of money to purchase easements was removed when William Donald Schaefer became Governor of Maryland and James Lighthizer was his Secretary of Transportation. Using a new Federal Highway enhancement program (ISTEA), these two men steered the money to purchase development rights from landowners around the battlefield. This was the greatest success to date, and within a few years the 3,100 acres of the battlefield was surrounded by nearly 5,000 acres of protected land. SHAF played a lead role in identifying the historic sites and approaching many of these land owners. We were really on our way now!

In 1994 we acquired a grant that allowed us to hire Dr. Paula S. Reed as an Executive Director, a big help as we became busier and busier. Paula helped us redesign our newsletter, taking it to the quality product you see today. It was her idea to establish an endowment fund to provide for perpetual funds for preservation. When the grant ran out Paula stayed on as a new board member. Paula's legacy, the newsletter, still features a wide gamut of articles featuring historical architecture, people and events, and updates of SHAF and battlefield projects.

By 1997 we had continued our efforts on a number of fronts. Founding member Dennis Frye, Executive Director of APCWS at that time, staged the 135th anniversary reenactment of Antietam. SHAF was involved with that event, and benefited from the proceeds.

We sold the Grove Farm land, with protective easements in 1999 and were debt-free for the first time in our history. That same year we purchased the 5 acre parcel on the Grove farm previously designated as the new American Legion Hall site. In 2000 one of our founding members, Ann Moylan, passed away, but left a legacy to SHAF for the

continued from page 1

protection of historic sites at Antietam.

Also in 2000 SHAF purchased the site of the famous Signal Tower photographed by Alexander Gardner. The view from this historic hilltop is astounding, and we quickly established a right-of-way to it and then sold the property with easements to an adjacent land owner. We can still visit the property and have taken people up there from time to time. We gained Dana Shoaf as a Board member. He is the editor of *America's Civil War Magazine*, and an able scholar of the war. We also added Dr. Mary Abroe, a Chicago native who is a Civil War scholar, educator, and a huge Antietam fan.

Along the way we received the Sharpsburg Train Station as a grant, held it until a group was able to take over the restoration from us, and it will soon be open for public visitation. We also took title to the Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg. It is a very early (1867) AME church and also one of the few Freedmen's Bureau schools still standing in Maryland. We continue to hold title to that, although we plan to transfer it to a local group soon.

Most recently we have been involved in negotiations to acquire the site of the Cement Mill on the historic Shepherdstown Ford battlefield. Our efforts continue in that line, and we hope for good news soon. We have donated over \$14,000 to stabilize the Newcomer Barn at Middle Bridge, and bought fencing for the NPS restoration efforts.

Along the way in the past twenty years we have bought, and sold, five different parcels of land, helped purchase easements on thousands of acres of land, held numerous Work Days, raised thousands of dollars. Sold clothing, books, and other items to support our efforts, seen various board members come and go, and worked cooperatively with the NPS on a number of projects. We've done it all with no paid staff, other than the grant-funded position for a couple years. We do not have an office, I like to say SHAF lives in our post office box, a couple of computers and the hearts of hundreds of people. We have depended on the talents and energy of our board, and on the generous donations of our members. We've accomplished a lot in twenty years, but there is always more to do. Lord willing, we'll be writing another column in a few years to talk about our silver anniversary, and about how much the Sharpsburg battle and landscape mean to the thousands who annually visit the battlefield and benefit from your caring efforts on our behalf. We hope we can continue to be good stewards of the legacy that has been handed down to us, and to acquire, improve, and restore more of the landscape every day.



Mary Abroe presents SHAF President Tom Clemens with a donation from the Chicago Civil War Round Table in 2001. amry is now a SHAF Board Member.

SHARPSBURG HERITAGE FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16



The annual Sharpsburg Heritage Day festivities take place this year on Saturday, September 16th, from 9:00 - 5:00 on South Mechanic Street just off the town square. The celebration includes a town history display at Town Hall, crafts, demonstrations, music and food available all day. In addition, a self-guided walking tour features churches and stone houses of Sharpsburg. Historical lectures are scheduled throughout the day, and dinner is available at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, followed by a concert of Appalachian and Celtic music.

Following is the day's schedule in detail:

Sharpsburg Heritage Day

*Saturday, September 16, 2006, 9:00 – 5:00, on
S. Mechanic St. south of the square, Sharpsburg, Maryland.*

All Day – Festivities located on the first block of South Mechanic Street Information Table at Square Town History Display at Town Hall Demonstrations, Crafts and Food

- 9:00 2nd Maryland Fife and Drum Concert at Grove House Music Tent - 1 hour
- 9 – 11 Churches and Stone Houses of Sharpsburg Walking Tour - self guided Tolson's Chapel-special lecture by Dr. Dean Herrin at 10:00
- 10:00 Rohrsersville Band at Grove House Music Tent – 1 hour
- 10:30 Lecture at Town Hall – Ted Alexander, "The Opposing Forces at Antietam: A Comparison."
- 11:00 Wildcat Regiment Band Concert at Grove House Music Tent – 1hr.
- 12:00 Battle of the Bands on S. Mechanic Street
- 12:30 Lecture/Recital at Grove House Music Tent – Dr. Wes Hanson, "Rare and Unusual Music of the Civil War Period (stuff you ain't heard before)" – 1 hour
- 1:30 – 3:30 Churches and Stone House Walking Tours resume
Tolson's Chapel-special lecture by Dr. Dean Herrin at 2:30
- 2:00 2nd Maryland Fife and Drum Concert at Grove House Music Tent – 1 hour
- 2:30 Lecture at Town Hall – Marc Howell, "Antietam Iron Works"
- 3:30 Wildcat Regiment Band Concert at Grove House Music Tent – 1 hr.
- 5 – 7 Pig Roast Picnic Dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, kids 12 and under \$4, call Cindy Weaver 301-432-5463. Proceeds benefit the Sisters of Charity Haiti Project and the Manchurian Mission.
- 7:00 Alley walk with the 2nd Maryland Fifes and Drums, meet at Grove House
- 7:30 Jimmy Brown and Friends, "The Roots and Fruits of American Folk Music," a free concert of Anglo-American and African-American music, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Food throughout the day available from the Sharpsburg Lions Club, Christ Reformed UCC Church, Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

SHAF's Early History

By Dennis Frye, co-founder
and first president of SHAF

*It all began during an interview
with a newspaper reporter.*



Gov. Wm. Donald Schaefer, Tom Clemens, Grant DeHart of Maryland Environmental Trust, Rod Heller of Civil War Trust, and an unidentified representative from APCWS gather as SHAF receives title to 40 acres of the Grove farm in 1991.

“What do you think about the rezoning of the Grove Farm?” asked Tamela Baker, a writer with the *Martinsburg Journal*, in August, 1985.

“What rezoning?” I snapped. “What are you talking about?” I began a rant. “They can’t rezone this site. Don’t they know this is the location of the famous Lincoln-McClellan photograph? Don’t they know this could ‘Gettysburg’ Sharpsburg? Don’t they know . . .”

Tamela then presented me with the facts. The Washington County, Maryland, Commissioners had quietly agreed to the request of local developers, changing the zoning designation of the Grove Farm from rural agricultural to business general.

I translated the jargon in a microsecond—from cornfields into a shopping center.

The implications were disastrous for historic Sharpsburg and the preservation of the Antietam Battlefield. Opening Sharpsburg to commercial development could produce another “Steinwehr Avenue” of Gettysburg, cluttered with fast-food restaurants, neon signs, parking lots, and the smell of grease exhaust. The future of Antietam’s rural character dangled from a string under the guillotine.

Inspired by indignity, and maddened by the madness of my local county government, I conceived a strategy. First, I needed help. I knew I could not be a lone voice. I was well-connected in the national, regional, and local civil war community, and I first called upon two passionate preservationists with the Hagerstown Civil War Round Table — Tom Clemens and John Schildt. We gathered at Tom’s home in Smithsburg in late August 1985, and there we laid out our battle plans.

We agreed we first must raise awareness. To accomplish this, we must generate controversy in the area press. Once stories appear in the papers, on television, and on radio shows, we must flood the newspapers with editorials. This will keep the story alive, and build community support.

Second, we must pressure the politicians. We must make them aware of their mistake and demand that they change their position. To achieve this, we gathered a group of local political activists, including the chairmen of the local Democrat and Republican committees. I recall many meetings where these political adversaries set side by side in agreement with us on preserving the Grove Farm and Antietam.

Third, the community must counter this offense to its heritage. To ensure the community was heard, we circulated a petition throughout Washington County demanding that the Grove Farm zoning be reversed. This was risky. We did not know if the community cared, nor how it would respond. But we knew that thousands of names represented thousands of voters, and the Commissioners could not ignore the voters. The strategy worked — we gathered more than 5,000 names in a month.

Finally, we must go national. We must alert the Civil War and preservation communities to the potential harm of this rezoning. Consequently, during the next few months, the local newspapers were filled with editorials from concerned people across the country, showing the Commissioners that Antietam was a national jewel and not just a local land plat. National newspapers and magazines ran stories on the Grove Farm, clearly defining the wedge between preserving history or commercial development. The ultimate public relations triumph occurred when the National Trust for Historic Preservation included Antietam on its very first Top 11 endangered sites listing.

Despite all these efforts, the County Commissioners refused to change the rezoning. SHAF carried the fight into the courts, energized by hundreds of donors who contributed thousands of dollars. We won our case in the circuit court, where the judge concluded the county had violated its own comprehensive plan. Our victory was annulled, however, by Maryland’s highest court—who acknowledged the wrong-doing of the county—but defeated us on an administrative detail—we had not filed our complaint in the prescribed 30 days after the violation.

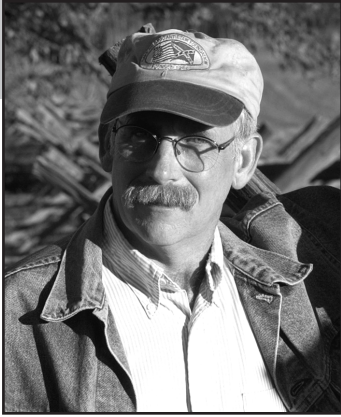
Thus, despite all of our successes, the Grove Farm remained in danger. Then the economy rescued us. With the real estate downturn of the late 1980s, the developers faced economic hardships, opening the door for SHAF to purchase a large segment of the Grove Farm. This was followed by additional acquisitions by the State of Maryland, pursuing an initiative to preserve the rural character of Antietam.

Twenty years after the initial uproar, the Grove Farm stands as a silent sentinel, reminding us all that if enough people care, history and preservation will prevail.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:

THOMAS G. CLEMENS

by Mary Abroe



It is fitting that our board member profile in this twentieth-anniversary issue of the SHAF newsletter focus on Tom Clemens, president since 1989: along with the previously featured Dennis Frye and John Schildt, Tom helped establish

the Save Historic Antietam Foundation in 1986 as a response to threatened commercial development of the historic Grove Farm. Their Maryland roots bind these three founding fathers, as does a passion for history and preservation. Thanks to their foresight and commitment then, an organization was born that has endured for two decades—its goal the safeguarding of a national treasure.

Tom Clemens grew up in northern Baltimore County, near the Pennsylvania border. He attributes his abiding interest in the places where history happened to family trips throughout the area; as he put it recently, “My parents took us to every historical site within a hundred miles or so (and it) must have ‘took’ with me.” Tom holds bachelor’s (1972) and master’s (1984) degrees in history from Salisbury State (Maryland) University, as well as a doctorate of arts in community college education (2002) from George Mason University in northern Virginia. He taught at Salisbury State during the mid-1970s; since the mid-eighties, however, he has been affiliated with Hagerstown Community College—first as assistant professor of history and political science, then associate professor, and presently as full professor. His work at HCC also encompasses the chairmanship of the Faculty Assembly (1992-96), current membership on the Governance Council, and service on a variety of permanent and *ad hoc* committees.

In addition to his long tenure at Hagerstown, Tom has been an adjunct faculty member (history) at both Johns Hopkins University and Penn State. His affiliation with the Elderhostel program also underscores his belief in learning as a way of life. He taught Elderhostel sessions at Bishop Clagget Center in Buckeystown, Maryland during the early 1990s, and he helped organize an Elderhostel through HCC in Hagerstown and Shepherd’s Spring. His involvement in Elderhostel continues today; along similar lines, he also teaches the Oasis Adult learning seminars in Montgomery County, Maryland. Finally, during the mid-1990s Tom team-taught (with Dr. Joseph Harsh) a summer course called “Touring Civil War Battlefields” for George Mason University. Upon Dr. Harsh’s retirement, he has taught the university’s Civil War course and revived the “Touring Battlefields” course, acting as faculty for the latter several times.

In recognition of his professional achievements Tom Clemens has been nominated to receive HCC’s “Outstanding Faculty

Award” twice; he also was nominated for listing in “Who’s Who Among American Teachers” in 1996, 1997, 2004, and 2005. In 1998 he received the First Annual Capt. Ernest W. Peterkin Award from the National Park Service and Patriots of Fort McHenry for his activities in battlefield preservation, education, and living history. During the late 1990s he also attended the Virginia Master Teacher Seminar (1999), and he presented a program entitled “Gettysburg: Using Battlefields as Classrooms” at Celebration of Excellence: The Conference of Mid-Atlantic Community College Faculty (1998).

In addition to his “full plate” as teacher and battlefield preservationist, Tom is much in demand as a lecturer, writer, and expert commentator. He has been a guest speaker for Civil War round tables throughout the country and a presenter at numerous Civil War and historical conferences, among them Chamberfest (1997, 1998, 2002, 2003), Crossroads in History Seminar/Catoctin Center for Regional Studies (2002), Penn State-Mont Alto’s Civil War Seminar (1999- 2001), and Shepherd College’s Civil War Seminar (1995-2006); he served as assistant director of the latter from 1997 through 2001. Tom’s articles and book reviews have appeared in such publications as *Maryland Historical Magazine*, *Military Collector & Historian*, *Artilleryman*, *Civil War Regiments*, *Columbiad*, the *Washington Times*, and *America’s Civil War*; since 2001 he also has written a regular column, “Reviews in Brief,” for *America’s Civil War*. Among his stints as expert commentator have been television appearances on A & E’s *Civil War Journal*, the History Channel, and Maryland Public Broadcasting as well as documentary film appearances (as on-screen historian) in Greystone Productions’ *The Forgotten Civil War* (“Antietam” episode [1999]) and the NPS film shown in Antietam’s Visitor Center.

For the past twenty-five years, Tom has volunteered his time as tour guide and costumed interpreter for the National Park Service at Antietam and other national and state parks; at present he also assists the Park Service as a member of its Committee on Philanthropy. In addition to his long membership in SHAF, since 1978 Tom has belonged to the Hagerstown Civil War Round Table, an organization that he served both as president and secretary-treasurer. Currently he sits on the board of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association as well. A mutual friend of this writer and Tom Clemens once noted that Tom was the “most principled” individual whom he knew; SHAF, then, receives the benefit of that integrity and of Dr. Clemens’s experience and dedication.



Support SHAF

Order Form and Membership Form

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	SHAF Logo T-Shirt	Size: M L XL	\$15.00	
	SHAF Logo Khaki Hat		\$20.00	
	SHAF Logo Tote Bag		\$30.00	
	5 1/2" x 4 1/4" SHAF notecards		\$30.00	
	Antietam Screensaver (22 pictures with music)	CD-ROM	\$10.00	
	America's Civil War Antietam 140th Special Issue		\$5.00	
	Dollar\$ and Sense of the Battlefield Preservation	Paperback	\$14.95	
	Drums Along the Antietam	Paperback	\$16.95	
	Hail To The Chief	Paperback	\$6.00	
	Long Line of Splendor	Hardcover	\$24.95	
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	Too Afraid To Cry	Hardcover	\$24.95	
	As Grain Falls Before The Reaper	CD-ROM	\$20.00	

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Save Historic Antietam Foundation

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_____ Membership Renewal

City _____ State _____

Levels of Membership:

Zip _____ Telephone _____

_____ Contributor - Up to \$25

Date _____

_____ Defender - \$26 to \$100

_____ Protector - over \$100

\$100,000 Grant Awarded for SBPA Battle of Shepherdstown Land Preservation

On August 21, West Virginia Governor Manchin presented Jefferson County with a \$100,000 grant for the sole purpose of purchasing land within the site of the Battle of Shepherdstown. In 2005, the Shepherdstown Battlefield Protection Association (SBPA) learned of the availability of the grant through West Virginia Delegate John Doyle who initiated the application process. SBPA filed the application on behalf of Jefferson County. The Civil War Preservation Trust agreed to provide the necessary matching funds of \$25,000. SBPA will continue to seek other funding sources.

Save Historic Antietam Foundation
P.O. Box 550
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

*20th
Anniversary*

The date on your address label is the last date that we received a contribution from you. We do not have an annual membership notification, however we do count on your good will. If you have not donated lately, please think about doing so. If we have overlooked a contribution, please let us know and we will update our records. Thank you!