



# Save Historic Antietam Foundation

June 2007

www.shafonline.org

## IN THIS ISSUE:

SHAF WORKDAY

NEW VISTA

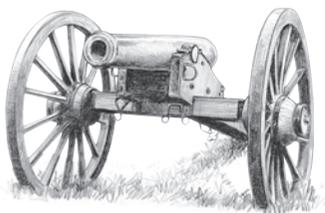
A DIVINE HOSPITAL

NEW MEMBERS LISING

### 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.



## Hello To All SHAF Members

Although we haven't made a lot of headlines lately, we have been busy! The Board of Directors has made a number of decisions about priorities and projects, the results of some of them will be mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are still working towards the purchase of the Cement Mill property and will notify you when we have good news. This purchase will entail a major fund raising effort so please keep us in mind. We will likely seek help from some other organizations too, maybe a match grant which will require your support.

We will soon be updating and moving our website, and hope to have that announcement soon. This new site will enhance our ability respond quickly to electronic messages, for better communication with you. Our plans include eventually being able to receive new memberships, list our sales items and even take donations over the internet, so look for big changes there.

One of the more poignant landmarks of Sharpsburg is the stained glass windows in the Reformed Church on Main St. Donated by members of the 16th Connecticut Regiment in honor of their wounded comrades treated there, the patriotic panoply of flags has become a familiar sight to many of you. SHAF has agreed to donate money to help the congregation restore these beautiful windows to ensure their preservation.

We are looking into another piece of property that was featured in some of Alexander Gardner's photographs. This property lies well outside the NPS boundary, and it might be available for purchase. If we can pick it up reasonably, and sell easements on it, we can preserve the photographic sites for a "then and now" perspective. We then would plan on reselling it, so that, hopefully, we would not spend very much of your money. We'll keep you informed of our progress on this issue too.

We had a successful, but very cold, workday in April and are tentatively looking at more scenic restoration work in November. Due in part to the efforts of SHAF, the long-obscured 11th Connecticut monument has now been cleared and is visible from the Burnside Bridge. A new walking trail leads past the monument and along the eastern bluff opposite the bridge. This trail is open now, and interpretive signage is on the way. Natural Resources Ranger Joe Calzarette is planning for more apple tree planting on the Piper farm, perhaps on the second weekend in November, and if enough members attend, we can continue our brush and tree clearing on the Otto Farm. Interpretive Ranger Keith Snyder plans to place a cannon on the site we've been clearing for the past two years. If you haven't visited Antietam in a while, there have been a lot of exciting improvements, and more on the way! This year is the 145th Anniversary of the battle and Supt. John Howard has implemented some ambitious new projects. We invite you to come take a look, soon!

Best wishes, and as always, our sincere thanks to you all!

*Tom Clemens*

President SHAF

# A New Vista

BY RANGER MANUEL GENTILE

As we all know relic hunting is strictly prohibited at Antietam National Battlefield. As a visitor this is a rule that I always followed and now, as a ranger its something that I help enforce. Imagine my surprise, then, as I found myself, in mid-January, actively seeking out a particular relic on park property.

The relic I was hunting was a view.

Over the course of 2006 plans were implemented to open three new interpretive trails at the park: a Sunken Road trail, West Woods Trail, and the Union Advance Trail. The Union Advance Trail focuses on the Ninth Corps' efforts to get across Antietam Creek and the storming of Burnside Bridge.

This part of the battle has always been interpreted from a Confederate perspective, which is quite logical considering that from the bridge parking lot the view is from the Confederate position. The quarry pits used as rifle pits by the Confederates are at the visitor's feet and a commanding view is provided of both the bridge below and the heights beyond. Those heights beyond are the Union positions and have always generally been merely the visitor's view rather than the visitor's experience. With the new trail a broader and richer story will be available to the visitor. Now a trail will follow the ridge opposite the bridge on the Union side of the creek to reveal a vantage point of the bridge lost for generations.

This was the vantage point I was hunting as I climbed the steep face of that hill along the viewshed recently cut by the park's natural resources department.

From the base of the hill I saw a rock outcropping about half way up. As I climbed toward it, with the bridge behind me, the outcropping revealed itself as a stone quarry, doubtless used during construction of the bridge. Gaining that quarry pit provided a



2007 View - Courtesy of Manuel Gentile



1862 View - Courtesy of Alexander Gardner

nice breather as it is the only flat place on that slope. Flat enough for, say, a tripod?

Even before I turned around I knew what I'd be seeing. This must be the spot from which Alexander Gardner captured this since long-lost view of the bridge.

A little background:

This new trail was the undertaking of interpretive rangers Keith Snyder, Brian Baracz and chief ranger Ed Wenschhof. I asked Keith and Brian if that Gardner view was something they were trying to restore. "Not initially" responded Keith. "We were mostly interested in providing the visitors with a glimpse of the difficult position that the Ninth Corps found itself in."

Brian added "It wasn't until we discovered that quarry pit that we realized we'd come across Gardner's vantage point, from there we looked through the brush, toward the bridge, and there it was".

The "it" was that historic view, long lost, now regained.

Back on the slope of the hill I turned from the quarry pit, camera in hand, toward the bridge, and there before me, this time in full color, was Gardner's historic image of the bridge. A relic retrieved and available to park visitors this April.

Come see for yourself.

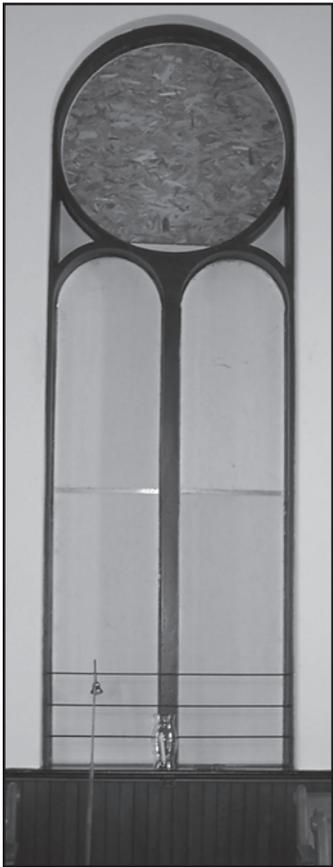


2007 View of Gardener's Photo Site - Courtesy of Manuel Gentile

# A Divine Hospital

BY JOHN SCHILDT

It was Sunday, September 14, 1862. The sky was sunny and bright. The Roulette, Rohrbach and Piper families came to worship in their horse-drawn buggies. They heard a sermon by the Reverend Robert Douglas of nearby Ferry Hill Place. On the same September Sabbath armies were marching, and a battle was raging at Fox's Gap. In the ranks of marching men was a new regiment, the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, largely from Hartford and the surrounding area. Within a week, the congregation and the lads from Connecticut would be linked forever.



16th CT, Photo Courtesy of Harry Smeltzer

Some of the Connecticut troops were issued weapons en route to Antietam Creek. On Wednesday the 17th they crossed the stream at Snavelly's Ford, and were soon in John Otto's 40 acre cornfield when they were struck by Confederate troops under General A. P. Hill. In a matter of minutes 43 of the Connecticut men were killed and 161 wounded. After the battle some of the surviving "nutmeg" boys were brought into Sharpsburg, to the German Reformed Church to recover from their wounds. Pews were removed; straw and blankets were placed on the floor for bedding. In a short time the tranquil life of the congregation was turned upside down, and the floor of the church would be stained with the blood of these Connecticut soldiers.

The years passed, wounds, both physical and mental, were healed and the veterans of the 16th CVI wanted to memorialize their comrades, and also remember the "dear and gentle people" in the German Reformed Church. As a result, on Sunday, June 14, 1891, several members of the regiment presented to the church a

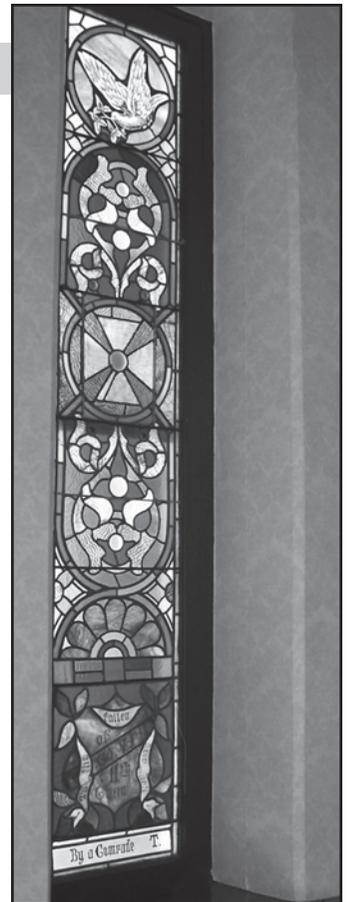
window, twenty-five feet high and ten feet wide. Placed between the towers of the church, the circular portion at the top has a laurel wreath and an eagle, with the words "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." The left panel below contains a stand of colors, implements of war and the badge of the Ninth Army Corps. In the right panel are the regimental flag, above it the dove of peace, and the words "In Memory of the Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers."

The window was made in Utica New York, at the cost of approximately \$400. It was designed by George Whitney of Hartford, CT. An article described the dedication in the June 26, 1891 Hartford Courant the church noted the church as having two smaller windows, one to Company H, 11th Connecticut and one from the Grand Army of the Republic posts in Pennsylvania. The Courant article concludes by saying "The people of Sharpsburg showed much appreciation of the gift and in many ways showed their good will and friendship to the visitors."

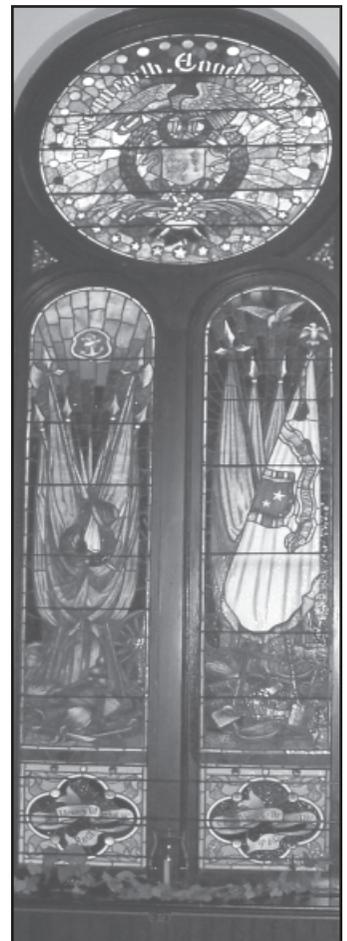
After many years of exposure to the sun and weather the windows are in need of restoration. This project was quite expensive; estimates were near \$10,000. Because these windows represent a special connection between the soldiers who fought at Antietam and the people of Sharpsburg the Board of Directors voted in our April meeting to donate \$2,500 to the restoration project.



"PA GAR, Photo Courtesy of Harry Smeltzer



11th CT, Photo Courtesy of Harry Smeltzer



16th CT, Photo Courtesy of Rev. Delancey Callett

# SHAF Workday

APRIL 7

## WORK DAY AT ANTIETAM

The weather was far from inviting, cold and windy, but a few intrepid souls turned out to work with the NPS Natural Resources staff to work on scenic restoration projects on April 7, 2007. The main focus was to expose the front face of the small hill where the monument for the 11th Connecticut is located. The regiment, commanded by Col. Henry Kingsbury, attacked toward Antietam Creek from this hill in open order and was the only force which attempted to wade the creek. Now, due to our combined efforts, this monument is now visible from the bridge, and of course vice versa. Despite the difficult circumstances, we accomplished a great deal that day, and the Natural Resources staff was very grateful for our help. After clearing much of this hillside, we moved up the hill along the Otto Lane and cut a large patch of locust trees. This was a continuance of our previous work in that area, and we now have it cleared enough to place a



*SHAF volunteer clearing area below the 11th CT monument. Photo courtesy of Deb Coben, NPS.*

cannon there for interpretive purposes. Again, there was much satisfaction gained in seeing the fruits of our labors. Joe Calzarette, chief of the Natural Resources division, stated that he plans for a Work Day in November to replant another portion of the Piper Orchard, a project that we worked on a couple of years ago. The date is tentatively set for the second Saturday in November. More on this event will appear in our next newsletter.

## New Members

WILLIAM B. BAKER

STUART BASS

DOUGLAS G. BAST

JOHN BENEDICT

C. PHILIPP BRUNDRETT

MARY & DOUGLAS BURNHAM

BEVERLY B. BYRON

ALAN COHEN

STEVEN J. COLLINS

MARK COSTIN

JOHN H. CRERAR

FLOYD DIHEL

THOMAS & RITA DUNN

VERNON & NANCY DUTTON

PAUL EILBES

ALAN FERRANTO

GEORGE FRANKS

GEOFFREY G. GORSUCH

DALE GRANATA

JANE L. HERSHEY

ROBERT HINES

KIRK HINMAN

BILL & SYLVIA HUNSBERGER

BRUCE W. KRAMER

BRUCE & MARSHA KROHN

DAVID LANGBART

TODD A. LANSKI

AMY LINDENBERGER

GEORGE MAHAARAY

ERIC MARTIN

CYNTHIA MASON

GREG & DIANE MERTZ

SHERRI MILLER

LIZ. VANNER, JOE & DAVID O'CONNOR

KRIS, ANN & DOUGLAS OURSLER

BRENT PALOCHONSKI

JANET PEASE

THOMAS L. PLIMPTON

PAULA REED

JOSEPH B. ROBERTS III

THOMAS M. ROWE

GEOFFREY C. RYDER

MIKE SALTUS

RUI & JO ANN SANTOS

NORMAN SCHAEFER

ROBERT E. SCHMIERER

## Support SHAF Order Form and Membership Form

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	SHAF Logo Golf Shirt	Size: M L XL	\$20.00
	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
	Mount Airy: The Grove Farmstead	Paperback	\$7.00
	Too Afraid To Cry	Hardcover	\$24.95
	As Grain Falls Before The Reaper	CD-ROM	\$20.00

\*Add \$.75 for shipping and handling for the notecards.  
 Add \$2.00 for shipping and handling, per clothing or book item  
 Add \$4.00 for shipping and handling of art prints  
 Free shipping on orders over \$75.00

**Sub Total**     \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**S & H**             \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total**             \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT SEND CASH. *Make checks payable to:* SHAF, P.O. Box 550, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Please check one:*     Endowment Fund

Address \_\_\_\_\_  Membership Renewal

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Levels of Membership:**  
 Contributor - Up to \$25  
 Defender - \$26 to \$100  
 Protector - over \$100

# Coming Soon...New Web Presence for SHAF

SHAF board members and our volunteer webmaster have been working hard these past months on the design of a new website for our organization. The days ahead will see a new web presence for SHAF, one that will serve as a dynamic center for information on foundation activities and events, news items concerning those areas associated with the 1862 Maryland Campaign, historical items and articles, membership and fundraising information, even SHAF merchandise sales. Once the technical details have been ironed out, the site address will be announced on a variety of websites, blogs and discussion boards.

*Keep an eye out...*

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