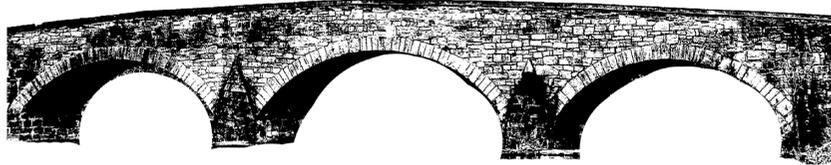


SAVE HISTORIC



ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving
Antietam
since 1986

September 2008



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

President's Letter

As summer winds down and the leaves begin to fall, it must be time for another Antietam anniversary. This year's Sharpsburg Heritage Festival will expand to two days and will again feature several members of SHAF providing free lectures. We hope to meet you there and we'll be happy to spend some time chatting about our favorite historic site.

Another exciting event this season is a tour of the Shepherdstown Battlefield including wading the Potomac River and visiting some of the fighting areas which are on private property. Details can be found on our website, SHAF.org. The proceeds benefit the Shepherdstown battlefield Preservation Association, a most worthy organization.

October will also feature a great chance to get a personal tour of the West Woods attack and the Bloody Lane fight by the author of the best book on the topic. Dr. M.V. Armstrong will speak at a dinner October 10 and then lead tours the next day covering these two critical parts of the battle. Again, details are on SHAF.org and we encourage your attendance. Space is limited, so act quickly.

Long-time members may note that this is a busier season than we have had for some time. That is true, and we're glad we can offer some new and exciting things to do. Our work still goes on, as you can see from our signing over Tolson's Chapel to a new Friends group, replacing the old hospital signs and donation to paint and restore the Poffenberger house. We are grateful, always, for your support, and hopeful that the Antietam Valley and the environs of the battlefield will remain the best preserved battlefield in the country.

Sincerely,
Tom Clemens

The SHAF board of directors is pleased to present our new logo, which graces the cover of this newsletter. We determined last year to incorporate into our logo what is perhaps the single most recognizable Civil War battlefield icon, the lower bridge, today known as Burnside's Bridge. Our new logo says "Antietam" at a glance, and was designed by Eric Olson, a Shepherd University Art and Graphic Design student. SHAF merchandise and promotional literature featuring the Bridge logo will be available in the near future.

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.

Save Historic Antietam Foundation Sponsors Dinner and Tour

Author and historian Marion V. Armstrong will be the featured speaker and tour leader in a SHAF-sponsored event taking place October 10 & 11, 2008. His new book, *Unfurl Those Colors: McClellan, Sumner and the Second Army Corps in the Antietam Campaign*, is receiving critical acclaim and will be the featured topic of event. On Friday night, October 10, at 6:30 p.m., SHAF will host a dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn, followed by a lecture focusing on the early actions of the campaign. On Saturday morning, October 11, Mr. Armstrong will lead a morning walking tour of the Second Corps' attack in the West Woods. After a break for lunch (on your own), he will lead a walking tour of the Second Corps attack at Sunken Road.

This is a special event that is a unique opportunity for personal contact with a nationally-recognized authority on this portion of the battle of Antietam. The cost for the entire program is \$50 for SHAF members - the public is also invited to attend for \$60. Dinner attendance is limited to 45 due to space limitations. Reservations, details on menu, and start times for the walking tours will be posted on SHAF.org, or by calling 301-432-2996.

Mr. Armstrong recently took some time to answer some questions for SHAF.

SHAF: Mr. Armstrong thanks for conducting this tour for SHAF members. Can you start off by telling us a little about your background?

MVA: I'm a native of Maryland, born and raised in Havre de Grace. I graduated from the University of Scranton in 1969, and then served six years on active duty as an infantry officer with tours in Viet Nam and Korea. After that I worked for the Army as a civilian and remained active in the Army Reserve. I have had a life long interest in history, which I indulged with a master's degree in history from Old Dominion University and a doctoral degree from Middle Tennessee State University. After retiring in 1995, my wife and I moved to Tennessee where

I began teaching history as adjunct faculty for various colleges in the Nashville area.

SHAF: What first got you interested in the Battle of Antietam in general and the role of the Second Corps in the campaign in particular?

MVA: I can't remember a time when I was not interested in the Civil War. I was a teenager during the Civil War centennial and my father brought me to the centennial reenactment of the Battle of Antietam in September 1962. That was my first visit to Antietam National Battlefield. Thereafter Antietam was always my favorite Civil War battle.

As I became more knowledgeable about the battle I also became increasingly uncomfortable with the standard interpretations of the role of General Sumner at Antietam. It always seemed to me that there was more to his story. So after completing my master's degree in the early 1990s I decided to see if I could discover the details of his actions and orders at Antietam. That led to the publication of *Disaster in the West Woods*, which is a defense of Sumner as commander of the Second Army Corps at Antietam.

For my doctoral dissertation I wanted to do an operational study that would illustrate how Civil War tactical doctrine—the subject of my master's thesis—was applied and practiced in the field. Since the army corps was the operational unit of the Civil War army, and since I already had a large amount of research on Sumner and Antietam, the Second Army Corps in the Maryland Campaign was the natural choice. I completed the dissertation in 2004 and it was published earlier this year by the University of Alabama Press as *Unfurl Those Colors!*

SHAF: Perhaps the most controversial aspect of your book, "*Unfurl Those Colors*", is your argument that Sumner ordered French to attack the Sunken Road position, which flies in the face of the conventional interpretation

that the separation of the corps was unintentional. In brief, on what do you base your theory?

MVA: First, Sumner's reconnaissance as he arrived on the battlefield brought him to the high ground in the vicinity of the junction of the Smoketown Road and the Mumma farm lane. This was at the point in time when Rhodes's and Anderson's brigades were moving into the Sunken Road, something that was clearly visible from where Sumner was. Sumner had just received instructions from McClellan to continue the attack to the south and west of Sharpsburg, which would necessarily involve seizing the West Woods. He could not accomplish this and leave the Confederate force in the Sunken Road in his rear. His decision was to send Sedgwick's division to the West Woods and have French's handle the forces in the Sunken Road.

Second, after Sedgwick seized the West Woods, Sumner was on the Hagerstown Pike in front of the Dunker Church and sent an order to French to press his attack. The order was carried by Sumner's son and aide, Captain Sam Sumner. Sam did not ride back to the East Woods to find French, which he would have done if French were lost or late, but rode east past Tompkins's battery to the vicinity of the Sunken Road because he knew this is where French would be directing the attack on the Sunken Road. Also, it should be noted that the order was to "press the attack," not "begin the attack," because the attack on the Sunken Road had been previously ordered.

Third, French in his battle report mentions Sam Sumner delivering the order to press the attack. The point in time when Sam arrived was after French had already committed Weber's and Morris's brigades, and based on the order he committed Kimball's brigade to the attack. Sedgwick's attack toward the West Woods and French's attack toward the Sunken Road were simultaneous events that could only have occurred simultaneously if both had been given orders to start at the same time.

SHAF: *What do you think of the new trails at the park, specifically the West Woods trail?*

MVA: I applaud wholeheartedly the effort to give visitors greater access to the battlefield through the development of interpretive trails. This is especially true of the West Woods trail. Not only does it allow greater access to the limits of Sedgwick's advance, it also allows access to the ravine in the West Woods which led Barksdale's brigade to the gap between the 125th Pennsylvania and the 7th Michigan. This is what led to the reverse suffered by Sedgwick's division. How we interpret the battle is based in large measure on what we can see and know of the field itself. There is much more of the battlefield available today than ever before—thanks in no small measure to the efforts of SHAF—and our understanding of the battle is increased exponentially when we are able to walk it and see it as the participants did.

SHAF: *Is there anything in particular that you are looking forward to or wish to accomplish with the upcoming SHAF tour of Second Corps at Antietam?*

MVA: Much of my interpretation of the role of McClellan, Sumner, and the Second Corps at Antietam is dependent on being able to see the battlefield as the participants did. The visual prospective is critical to understanding decisions, orders, movements and outcomes during the battle. SHAF and its members have been key to acquiring and restoring the battlefield. This gives historians an invaluable source for interpreting the battle. On the tour I hope to show the SHAF membership how my access to the battlefield influenced my interpretations. I owe a large debt of gratitude to SHAF for making that resource available.

Be sure to check
our web page
at www.shaf.org
for updates on
upcoming SHAF
workdays.

A Letter from the Superintendent

On behalf of the staff of Antietam National Battlefield, I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to the membership of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation for your most recent donation of \$10,000. As per our discussions these funds will be used to match National Park Service funds to paint the exterior of the Joseph Poffenberger Farm House. With the other work going on at the Poffenberger Farm this project will enable our Cultural Resources Staff to keep moving forward in the preservation of this critical part of the Battlefield Landscape.

SHAF has always been a reliable and dedicated partner in the preservation of Antietam. The memberships past donations have included work on the Newcomer Barn Foundation, restoration of historic fence lines on the Otto Farm and restoration of the historic Piper Lane, all projects which have benefited both the resource and our visitors experience.

Again I offer my most heartfelt thanks as we continue to preserve Antietam and move toward the 150th anniversary of the Battle and the Civil War.

Sincerely,

*J. W. Howard
Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield*

SHAF Replaces Hospital Sign Markers

One of the most successful projects undertaken by SHAF was our marking of extant hospital sites used in the Maryland Campaign. Although we have not marked all of them, many private property owners have allowed us to place signs along the road that inform visitors of the location of the significant hospitals. Our first effort at this, undertaken in the late 1980's was aided by the donation of the signs by Bill Pearson of the Baltimore Civil War Round Table.

The importance of marking these sites is not only to educate the visitor, but also to raise local awareness of the importance of historical properties in the area. If neighbors and local citizens recognize that a house or barn has historical importance they are less likely advocate tearing them down. Awareness helps us save history. Sometimes it is that simple. We place these signs in

cooperation with the property owner, at no cost to them. Most people are very enthusiastic supporters of this project and many positive comments have come in over the years.

After almost 20 years, these signs are beginning to show their age, thus the replacement campaign. The old wooden signs are coming down to be replaced by new light-weight high impact plastic. We've begun with a half dozen signs in the Sharpsburg area, but others will be done in the next year. If any of our members are aware of one of our signs that needs replacing, please go to SHAF.org and let us know.

Thank you.



SHAF MEMBER PROFILE: AUDREY SCANLAN-TELLER

Audrey Scanlan-Teller's fascination with history traces to her New England childhood. Born in Buffalo, New York, she grew up in Amherst, New Hampshire, where she became "hooked by colonial and Revolutionary War history, art, and horses." Audrey professes to a degree of culture shock upon her family's move to northern Virginia (Vienna) when she was a preteen; she also notes, however, that during her years at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she majored in studio art and Irish studies, she tended to surprise her peers with her use of "y'all" and her references to Lee-Jackson-King Day. Her Irish studies major took her to Dublin for two years of undergraduate study, with graduate school at the University of Delaware, where she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in art history, following.

Audrey's focus in her graduate work was on ancient art and the art of medieval Europe; she wrote her doctoral dissertation on a group of twelfth-century high crosses from the southern and western parts of Ireland that had intrigued her on her initial trip to Ireland as a teenager. Upon completing the dissertation and being awarded her doctorate in 2005, she became the Kress Fellow of Medieval Art at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, a position she has held from 2006 to the present. Her principal project at the Walters has been to catalogue the medieval artifacts on exhibit from the museum's permanent collection and enter that information onto its database and Web site.

And what of Audrey's passion for Civil War history, Antietam, and preservation? A move to Middletown, Maryland in 2001 and life within view of Lamb's Knoll on South Mountain appear to have gotten the ball rolling. As she puts it, "While I have had an avid interest in history since childhood, living in Middletown sparked my interest in the American Civil War." Then the 140th anniversary of the battle of Antietam in 2002 provided the occasion (and the Dunker Church the site) for a chance meeting between Audrey and this writer. The following day the sound of cannon fire from the Hagerstown reenactment awakened her at dawn and, startled, she went outside to find the source of the racket! "Since then," she states, "I have been making up for lost time learning about the Civil War." She has been busy doing so: since 2004 she has been reenacting in infantry, Signal Corps and artillery roles, both Union and Confederate "as a good Marylander should." She volunteers at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and she has conducted living history demonstrations at its satellite facility, the Pry House Field Hospital Museum. In addition, she participates in SHAF workdays that are held yearly in the spring and fall.

As for Antietam itself, the battlefield holds a special place in Audrey's heart. Two of her forebears who fought in the Civil War, each a casualty at South Mountain, are interred in Antietam National Cemetery. One of them, Private Parshall Keeney of the 50th Pennsylvania, led her on an interesting chase through family history and government records; his name was garbled in those records, and family history had him buried in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Through her research, Audrey found that he had been buried first at Frederick, Maryland and later at Antietam, but under the misnomer Partial Kennedy. Finally, using information that Audrey had unearthed, the National Park Service petitioned the Veterans' Administration to make a new headstone with the correct spelling of her relative's name; that headstone was installed around Memorial Day last year.

Audrey has spent many hours walking Antietam in an effort to get a feel for what happened there on September 17, 1862. As she points out, "you really can get a sense of the deadly rolling lay of the land because the battlefield is, for the most part, intact, unlike many other Civil War battlefields where so much of the land has been lost to development." When she lived in Virginia she was unaware that she lived on battle-scarred land "because...so many of the battlefields were surrounded if not completely engulfed by houses and shopping malls." As one who is devoted to this irreplaceable treasure, Audrey thanks those who care for it and affirms her own commitment: "I am grateful to the people of Sharpsburg for being watchful stewards of the land. It is the very least I can do to help SHAF care for the battlefield and work to keep as much of it as we can so that future generations can see the ground to learn its stories."

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