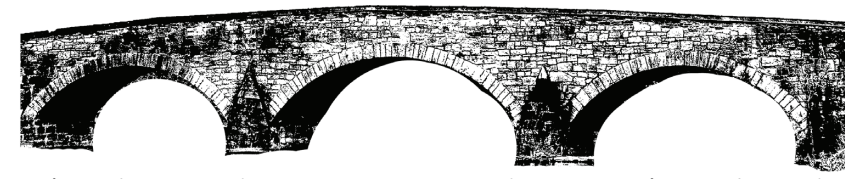


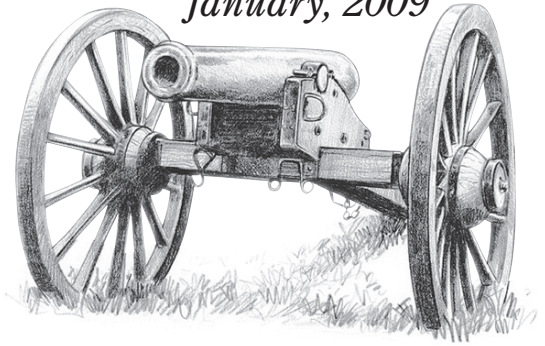
SAVE HISTORIC



ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving
Antietam
since 1986

January, 2009



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

A Letter from Our President

Greetings from SHAF and we wish you the best in 2009. As we close the door on 2008 SHAF members can be proud of our accomplishments. SHAF hosted two Work Days, one in the Spring where we planted over 150 trees as part of a scene restoration project along Antietam Creek. The trees also filter pollution and prevent it from entering the creek, which ultimately helps keep the Chesapeake Bay pollution-free. Our second Work Day, held November 1, cleared about 250 yards of the Piper Lane in the very center of the battlefield. Removing the old fencing, underbrush and trees from this lane will allow a walking trail from the Visitor's Center to connect to the parking lot at the National Cemetery. You may recall this is the trail that will complete the trail system from the north end of the battlefield to the southern end. It is also the project to which you donated \$5,000 to help construct. In other words, SHAF contributed our money and our muscles to make this trail possible!

In addition to the Work Days we sponsored a Wading the Potomac at Boteler's Ford on September 20, the same day and day of the week as the battle of Shepherdstown. Not only did we cross the river, but we had a guided tour of the bluffs where the fighting took place, much of it on private property. This tour was a great experience, one that I strongly recommend to you when we repeat it in 2009.

We also hosted a very successful dinner & seminar in September this year. Dr. Marion V. Armstrong, author of *"Unfurl Those Colors, McClellan, Sumner and the Second Army Corps in the Maryland Campaign"*, joined about 2 dozen members and friends for a sumptuous dinner at the Old Historic South Mountain Inn. After dinner he outlined the campaign up to September 17th. The next day Dr. Armstrong led two walking tours of the battlefield highlighting the role played by the three divisions of the Second Corps in the battle. The weather was cooperative, the tours were great, and the comments we received suggest that everyone enjoyed the seminar.

Also wrapping up our year of 2008, the \$10,000 we donated to refurbish the Joseph Poffenberger house has been rolled into a major restoration of the whole farmstead. The foundation of the barn is being rebuilt, and the upper structure restored and strengthened. The house is being scraped and painted and soon the farm which hosted General Joseph Hooker's First Army Corps, and received the opening shots of the battle will be accurately and faithfully restored.

We continue to work with the owners of the Cement Mill property at Boteler's Ford near Shepherdstown. We remain optimistic about this land eventually becoming part of the National Park Service system. Senator Robert Byrd has introduced preliminary legislation to conduct a study of the site for possible inclusion in the NPS, and it appears likely this bill will pass and be signed by our new president. It will take a while, but we hope this very important site will complete the preservation of the major fighting areas of the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

continued on page 2

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.

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Other changes at the park continue the process of restoration of the 1862 scene. A modern barn structure was removed to expose the foundation of the Mary Locher/Alfred Poffenberger barn. The clean up of fallen trees from summer storms continues, and the large flagpole in the National Cemetery which was bent by the winds from those storms is being replaced as you read this. Yes, the storm was powerful enough that the flagpole, several inches thick, bent in the wind! The barn at the non-historic Cunningham Farm was also damaged and is now repaired, and the Newcomer House at Middle Bridge is now in NPS hands.

With all of this good news it is easy to be optimistic about events at Antietam, even in the face of difficult economic times. We hope you visit the battlefield in 2009, and we encourage you to attend one of our Work Days.

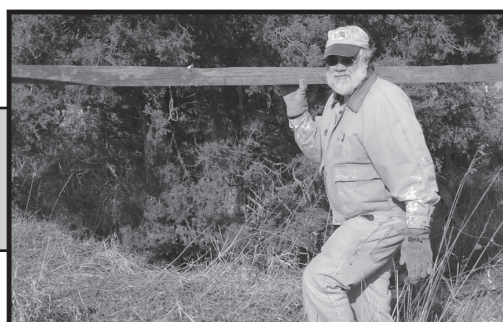
Sincerely,
Tom Clemens
President, SHAF

November 1 Work Day

by Tom Clemens

Over two dozen people turned out for the November Work Day at Antietam Battlefield. Our project for the day was to restore a portion of the Piper Lane which will be incorporated into the new Sunken Road walking trail. The Piper Lane extends from the Hagerstown Pike to the Piper Farm, then over the ridge and down to the lower part of the Sunken Road, which soon intersects the Boonsboro Pike. The lane was used for filming portions of the Antietam Documentary film, and removing a non-historic rail fence was part of our task. After many years of neglect, the lane was overgrown with brush, tangled with wire fence and full of trees downed in the violent storms of June and July.

Quickly dividing into groups we removed and stacked old fence rails, carried wood cut by the Resource Management crews, and cleared wire to facilitate easier access for later work. In addition to the admittedly aging members who usually turn out, Jim Rosebrock arranged for a group of Boy Scouts to join us and provide some much-needed youthful enthusiasm and energy. The weather was also cooperative, a cool but pleasantly sunny day made working outside comfortable. After several hours work we had managed to clear about 300 yards of the lane, and it was tough, tiring work. Many trees had fallen into the lane from the summer storms,; cutting the branches and dragging them out was difficult work. Joe Calzarette, the head of the NR crew, told us we could continue on this project for our Spring work day, so if you weren't able to join us this fall, look for our spring announcement, which will go up on the SHAF.org website in January. And, as always, our sincere thanks goes out to all who attended and helped out.



Perry Jamieson



Ron Dickey



Audrey Scanlon-Teller



Jim Rosebrock



SHAF workers clear a big tree

Potomac River Wading Report

by Tom Clemens

Photos courtesy of Brian Downey



Ford from Maryland side



Crossing the Potomac

Approximately 18 enthusiastic battlefield trampers gathered on Saturday, September 20, the exact same day of the week and date of the Battle of Shepherdstown, to wade the Potomac River at what is variously known as Boteler's, Shepherdstown, or Pack Horse Ford. It was a beautiful sunny, warm afternoon and the river was warm and clear. Our hosts, Ed & Carol Dunleavy and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, drove us to the Maryland side of the ford where we disembarked. After a bit of difficulty finding a clear path to the river we entered the water a bit downstream of the ford.

Tom Clemens had given everyone a short introduction to the opposing forces and their intentions on September 20 1862. Working our way upstream we quickly found the actual ford and bottom of the river was remarkably flat and shallow. It was clear why this was a critical fording point on the river and why it was important for Lee's army to cross their wheeled vehicles here.

Ed Dunleavy, President of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, met us on the (West) Virginia shore and led us upstream to the ruins of Boteler's Cement Mill. After a brief overview of the history of the mill we began to examine the remains of the stacks where

the rocks for the cement were heated. It was in these large chimney-like stacks that several members of the 118th PA Infantry took shelter, and where a short round from a Union gun entered one of the stacks killing some of those taking refuge there. We then followed a path up the bluffs to a larger stack and a view of the river and remnants of the Cement Mill dam to show how the 118th's retreat was so difficult.

Continuing up the bluff we reached the crest and explored the location of Barnes' brigade on the crest of the hill. Although a modern house occupies part of the bluff, the terrain is clearly discernable and the obvious positions of the various Union regiments can be seen. We could see the fields where A.P. Hill's Confederates approached the position, and we could see the ravine which the 118th PA regiment descended. It was a rare and special treat to see this position, which is not available to most people.

We then proceeded up the Trough (Charlestown) Road towards the Faraway Farm location. We walked up to the house where we could see a shell protruding from the side facing the river, obviously from a Union gun across the river. Although much remodeling has occurred, the farm remains intact and the terrain still illustrates the Confederate movements to the bluffs of the river. It was a pleasant walk and a thought-provoking experience, one that everyone seemed to enjoy.

The next stop was the Dunleavy's home where we enjoyed a very pleasant evening of hamburgers, hot dogs, the appropriate side dishes, all washed down with soft drinks and some adult beverages. It was quite a day, and the circumstances were ideal. Our thanks go to the SBPA folks for hosting and driving everyone, and our donations raised over \$300 for them. It was a wonderful experience, and we can hope that it will be repeated.



Climbing up from the river



Lime kilns along river



Another lime kiln further up the hill



Osborne Farm

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

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EDITH P. MAYER • RONALD S. SEMSEL

SHAF Member Profile:

DAVID A. LANGBART *By Mary Abroe*

As for many of us, David Langbart's interest in Civil War history dates to his childhood. Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in suburban Virginia, he remembers his experience as a five-year-old on an impromptu visit to Manassas with his mother, dad, and sister one summer evening: "There was that big statue of a buff Stonewall Jackson, cannons lined up, and a great sunset! I was hooked for life...." He went on to graduate from Washington's T.C. Williams High School of Remember the Titans fame, which he recalls from his freshman year. (He comments here that "[a]s is usual, the true story is vastly different than the movie.") David earned a history degree from Cornell University and, after receiving a Federal Summer Internship at the National Archives one year, he never left! He also earned a master's degree in history from the University of Maryland in College Park while working at the Archives.

During his tenure at the National Archives, David has worked in several different jobs. He recently completed twenty-two years in the area of archival records appraisal, where he was responsible for a number of agencies—among them the Department of State, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Security Agency. During that period he also dealt with appraisal of the records of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (i.e. the "9/11 Commission"). Currently, in a new phase of David's career as the subject area expert for foreign affairs records in the Textual Archives Services Division, he will have both processing and reference duties of his own in addition to teaching the latest generation of archivists about the records.

Obviously his academic and professional pursuits as an adult have been in the fields of American foreign affairs and intelligence activities, and David notes that his parents promoted and encouraged this interest of his in history, including his passion for the Civil War: they bought books for him and usually took the family on vacations to historic sites that, more often than not, were forts or battlefields. Apparently, however, they became weary of the history trips before he did, and when he was old enough, David's parents "forced" him to get a driver's license. As he puts it: "How many 16 year old boys have that experience?"

Besides SHAF, David belongs to the Civil War Preservation Trust, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association, Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, American Chestnut Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy. Still, the fact that he remembers the exact date of his first Antietam visit—5 November 1966—offers powerful evidence of where his heart lies: "While I like to visit other battlefields, Antietam has been my favorite since that first visit. I think this is because the area around Sharpsburg has retained so much of its integrity and ambiance, thanks in no small part to the work of SHAF. At so many other sites, development has either obliterated the ground or encroached so close to park boundaries as to destroy the ambiance." Members of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation from across the country join David in his determination to safeguard an irreplaceable American treasure.

Support SHAF

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For Immediate Release ...

Thanks to the generous donations from individuals and organizations from across the country, the fundraising effort to restore the 48th Pennsylvania Monument at Antietam National Battlefield is more than halfway to the goal of \$6,800.00. As of December 3, 2008, the amount raised has reached \$4,100.00. Because of local and national press coverage, contributions have arrived from individuals from Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho, California, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Florida. Many of the contributors are descendants of soldiers who served in the 48th Pennsylvania, while several are direct descendants of Brigadier General James Nagle. US Congressman Timothy J. Holden (D-PA) and PA State Representative David J. Argall (R-124th District) have sent in donations, as have several historical societies and other such organizations.

John Hoptak, in partnership with the Western Maryland Interpretative Association, is seeking donations to replace the missing sword from the bronze statue of James Nagle, which is situated atop the 48th PA's monument. Artist and sculptor Michael Kraus has agreed to sculpt the replacement sword as soon as the \$6,800.00 goal has been reached. The Western Maryland Interpretative Association has generously agreed to match all donations on a one-to-one basis.

For more information on this effort, please visit www.amonumentaltask.blogspot.com

There you will learn the progress of this undertaking and information on how you can donate.

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(717) 337-9388 • johnhoptak@hotmail.com

SHAF

Save Historic Antietam Foundation

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