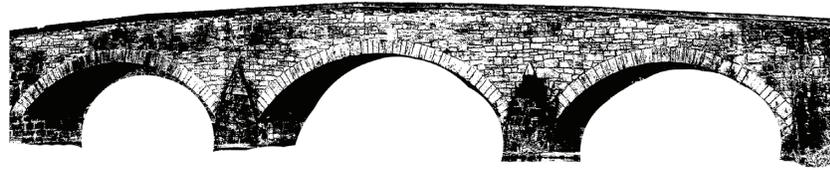


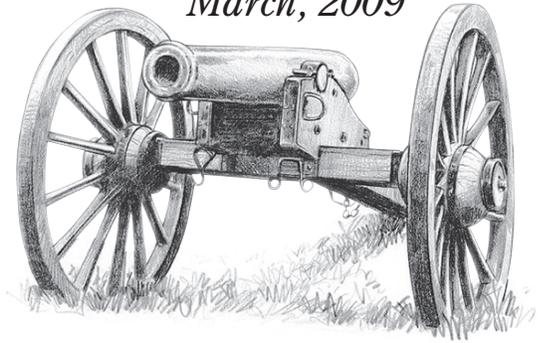
# SAVE HISTORIC



# ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving  
Antietam  
since 1986

March, 2009



P.O. Box 550 • Sharpsburg, MD 21782 • 301.432.2996 • [Contact@shaf.org](mailto:Contact@shaf.org) • [www.shaf.org](http://www.shaf.org)

## *Antietam Battlefield Updates*

There are a number of new and exciting things occurring at Antietam and 2009 looks to be a good year. We've seen some progress over the years for stabilizing and restoring the Newcomer Barn, which is adjacent to Middle Bridge. You may recall that SHAF helped fund some of the restoration work there a few years ago. After a short lull, work will resume this year. Masons have been hired and the foundation work will be completed, including rebuilding the ramp to the upper part of the barn. The barn will be much more attractive and secure soon. It has weathered several very severe wind storms already, so earlier stabilization efforts of the frame were successful.

Our donation last year of \$10,000 for repair and painting the Joseph Poffenberger house have been used by Supt. Howard to leverage an additional \$20,000 so that even more work can be completed. The bids for this project are in, and will be awarded soon. Work is already underway on the foundation of the barn there too, so this farmstead will soon be much more secure. You may recall the Joseph Poffenberger farm, just north of the North Woods, was occupied by the Union First Army Corps, and Gen. Hooker and staff slept in the barn on the night of September 16. This farm has only been in possession of the NPS for a few years and much progress has already been made. Now even more, thanks to you!

The Miller farm, just north of the famous Cornfield is also undergoing restoration work this year. After years of languishing on the capital improvements list of the region, the Miller and Roulette farms will receive a multi-year, phased restoration. This summer removal of the asbestos shingles on the exterior of the Miller house will take place. This farm will also have an interior restoration component, and may eventually be open for visitation.

Work also continues on the restoration of the Mary Locher cabin, just west of the bypass in the West Woods. This project is funded through admission fee money and the Cultural Resources Team is striving to preserve as much of the original material as possible. The post-Civil War barn there was in danger of collapse. It was removed, leaving the original foundation, which will be restored this summer.

Work will begin soon on re-planting a section of the historic East Woods. This woodlot was crucial in the morning fighting and its long-ago clearing made understanding the clash there more difficult. Much of the First and Twelfth Corps' efforts to break through Lawton's and D.H. Hill's troops took place within this woodlot and its re-planting will help recreate the proper terrain setting for those

### *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.

actions. Our Spring Work Day, March 28 will be an opportunity to assist in this project, (see the related story in this issue).

A new Regional Director, Ms. Peggy O'Dell recently visited Antietam and chatted with the staff members. She also attended the December luminary ceremony, which shows her interest and support for Antietam. She has experience working in National Parks and we are optimistic that she will be a valuable addition to the National Capital Region.

For those of you who have expressed concern about the "For Sale" sign on the five-acre farmette along the bypass just north of the park entrance, it is not a threat to the battlefield. This property is under scenic easement and although it has a modern house and several newer buildings, no other structures can be built there.

As always, for the most up-to-date information you can always access the official Antietam website. We will also provide updates from time to time highlighting out efforts as they coincide with the NPS.

*SHAF President Tom Clemens & Antietam NBP Superintendent John Howard*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*Battlefield Work Day Scheduled  
for Saturday, March 28, 2009.*

SHAF will continue our efforts at recreating the correct historic scene at Antietam battlefield by aiding the Natural Resources department with their projects. We will be doing one of two things this spring: clearing and restoring the historic Piper Farm Lane, site of the Confederate retreat from the Sunken Road on September 17, 1862; or we will be one of the first groups to begin replanting the historic East Woods in the vicinity of Cornfield Avenue. The other option is to be one of the first groups to begin replanting the historic East Woods. This project is just starting and we'll be working in the vicinity of Cornfield Avenue.

Dress appropriately for the weather, steady rain will cancel our efforts. Rain date is April 11. Bring gloves, water or drinks, and be prepared for brush and wild rose thorns. To gauge relative numbers of helpers please call 301-432-2996 to let you will attend, or send an email through our website, SHAF.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

## *SHAF Loses a Board Member...*

Those of you who have contributed to SHAF in the last few years probably received a letter from Board Member Mark Hudson. For the past several years Mark has taken care of posting contributions, writing acknowledgement letters and maintaining the mailing for our newsletter. It is a tedious and thankless task that he undertook voluntarily and typical of Mark's competency and low-key personality, it was something he did well and without much fanfare. In his professional life Mark was the Executive Director of the Historical Society of Frederick County. In his roughly ten year tenure there he earned high marks by everyone who experienced their programs, events and cultural resources. Pursuing new challenges, Mark is moving on to take the reins of the Vermont Historical Society and we at SHAF are sure they will benefit from his talent as we have for the past several years. Thanks Mark!

## *...and Gains Two New Ones!*

It would not be accurate to say that it takes two people to replace Mark, but SHAF is fortunate that two other dedicated Antietam enthusiasts have stepped up to join the board and help us achieve our goals. Our first new face is Dr. Gordon Dammann, the subject of this issue's member profile. Those familiar with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine may recognize "Gordy" as one of the major driving forces behind the museum's creation and operation. After many years of work in his native state, Gordy is relocating to the Sharpsburg area and we wanted to take advantage of his knowledge, energy and dedication. Welcome aboard Gordy!

Our other addition is David Langbart, who was featured in an earlier member profile. David is a longtime resident of the Washington DC area and is a professional archivist. His knowledge of the Civil War is extensive and he tells us that Antietam is his favorite battlefield. (Ours too!) David has attended a number of our Work Days at the battlefield, proving that he means what he says. I am sure we will benefit from David's guidance and service as well, and we welcome him to our board.

You will hear more about both of these men, and we hope to see all of you at one of our Work Days or other events in the near future.

Be sure to check out  
our web site:  
**[www.shaf.org](http://www.shaf.org)**  
for updates  
and information.



## SHAF Member Profile: GORDON E. DAMMANN *By Mary Abroe*

A longtime member of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Dr. Gordon Dammann also is one of the newest members of SHAF's board of directors. In addition, as the founder, chairman of the board and guiding force of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) in Frederick, Maryland, Gordon—along with his dedicated staff—has been a leader in educating Americans about the Civil War and preserving some of its most telling artifacts. A native of Peoria, Illinois, he traces his interest in Civil War history to a 5'2"-tall nun who taught him sophomore English in high school. As he tells it, "she hated football [and] loved basketball, so when it was time to assign books for the book report, being a football player I received the harsh sentence of Sandburg's *Lincoln*. I read the work and the light bulb went on and [I] have never been the same since." He went on to graduate from Loyola University Chicago (B.S.) and the Loyola University School of Dentistry (D.D.S.) during the mid- to late 1960s; he also was an instructor in Loyola's dental school for the period 1972-74 after service as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1969 to 1971. Since 1971 he has been a private practitioner in Lena, Illinois, where he lives with his wife, Karen.

In writing about the evolution of his passion for Civil War-era medicine and preservation, Gordon notes that as a Loyola undergrad in ROTC he did an analysis of the Vicksburg campaign that won him a promotion and would have made Ed Bearss "proud," but dental school suspended his Civil War studies; as he puts it, "history and teeth do not mix." However, during his career in the army dental corps he took courses at Walter Reed and had the chance to walk Bull Run, at which point his wife received her "indoctrination." Moving to Lena in northwestern Illinois and starting his practice gave him the time to research and collect, initially in the field of Civil War cavalry; eventually he "righted his ways and got into [the] medicine of the time." Gordon's collection expanded to over four thousand artifacts that were "scattered throughout the house and office." Then, having started writing and displaying at shows, he had a "stroke" of inspiration in 1988 and decided to establish a museum of Civil War medicine—and "the rest is history."

Dr. Dammann has numerous professional affiliations and he has held offices in several organizations on the state and national level, among them the chairmanship of the State of Illinois Board of Dentistry in 1988-89 and the position of examiner for the Northeast Regional Dental Board from 1988 to 2006. Currently he is a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists as well as peer review chairman of the U.S. Grant Dental Society (since 1985) and president of the Midwest Seminar of Dental Medicine (since 2001); he also acts as consultant to his local Department of

Public Health in the field of dental procedures in nursing homes.

In addition to his professional memberships and awards, Gordon Dammann has a long history of activism in civic and volunteer groups—a commitment recognized when he was named Outstanding Young Man of Stephenson County, Illinois in 1976 and Lena's Outstanding Public Servant in 1985. As a member of the Lena Lions Club, he was local Lion of the Year in 2004 and a Melvin Jones Fellow of Lions International in 2005, while his interest in history led him to found and serve as president of the Lena Area Historical Society. He also notes that he was an Eagle Scout as a teenager—an involvement in scouting that continued when he was a Cub master and troop committeeman for his sons in the late 1970s and early to mid-1980s. And that football player as a teenager became, as a grownup, an Illinois High School Association football official for eighteen years and NCAA official (CCIW conference) for ten years.

As a historian, author and speaker, Gordon Dammann's honors include the Iron Brigade Award of the Milwaukee CWRT (2006) and the Nevins-Freeman Award of the Chicago CWRT (2006). He has addressed audiences at numerous historical societies as well as Civil War round tables, conferences and museums throughout the country, including the Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College, where he was a keynote speaker; the Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and the Smithsonian Institution's Symposium on Civil War Medicine. He also was a visiting lecturer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and University of Illinois Medical School, and currently he is instructor of Civil War history at Highland (Illinois) Community College. Among his publications are the three-volume *Pictorial Encyclopedia of Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment and Images of Civil War Medicine: A Photographic History* (co-author); he also edited a reprint of the memoirs of Dr. Jonathan Letterman, medical director of the Army of the Potomac and Gordon's Civil War alter ego. Currently he serves on the editorial board of *North-South Magazine* and leads tours as a licensed battlefield guide at Antietam while researching a new book on the medical care of members of the Black Hat Brigade.

With SHAF board members John Nelson and John Schildt, Gordon recently completed a hospital tour of Antietam for the NMCWM and National Park Service; he hopes to run the tour from Antietam's Pry House Field Hospital Museum, a satellite facility of the NMCWM. Of his concern for Civil War study and battlefield preservation, he has the following to say: "My first love is the museum, but the battlefield of Antietam and Keedysville are right next to [it]. Anything I can do to preserve those acres for my grandchildren and all others will be my goal as a SHAF member."

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

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*Members,*

In an effort to better apply the funds you provide SHAF, we would like to deliver our newsletter to as many members as possible via email. In addition to saving on printing and postage, we will also be able to put some expanded features in the newsletter, including more and color photos.



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