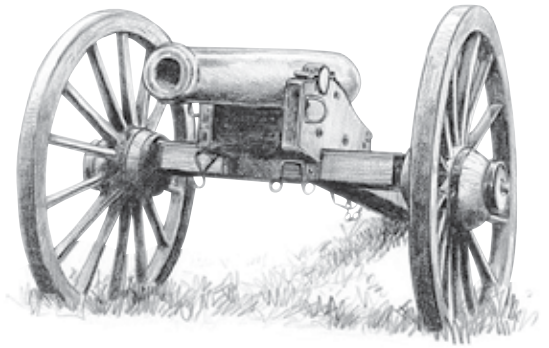


SAVE HISTORIC



ANTIETAM FOUNDATION

preserving
Antietam
since 1986



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

President's Message

Hello friends!

It is now 2025 and as we look forward to a new year of preserving and restoring the Antietam/Sharpsburg battlefield, I thought it proper to review what we did last year.

This past year saw us maintaining the Harpers Ferry Road property, and we are planning for a tour stop there in the not-too-distant future. If you haven't taken in the view from there, please stop by and do so. We have placed a sign there marking it as the position of Richardson's 3rd Company of the Washington (LA) Artillery. Just turn in the grass driveway near the sign.

We had two very successful Work Days where we cut brush and small trees on the Jacob Avey farm along Burnside Bridge Road, and cleared invasive brush in the East Woods. We had great help from the honor society at Boonsboro High School, known as Rho Kappa. (More about this in an article inside.)

We cleaned out the Boyer/War Wounds house in Sharpsburg (there was a story about this house in the 2024 newsletter). Unfortunately, our arrangement with the town of Sharpsburg could not

be consummated. We plan to place protective easements on the property and put it up for sale soon.

The newly refurbished Visitor Center at the battlefield is still having some water problems, but they hope to address this problem sometime this spring. Antietam National Battlefield also welcomed a new Superintendent this year. There is an article about him in this newsletter as well.

Our great partner, the American Battlefield Trust, recently purchased a critical "island" of privately owned land in the heart of the battlefield. (see related story inside.)

Also, as you know, we do not send out reminders for membership/donations, as an all-volunteer organization it is just too much to keep track of all that. Instead, we remind you in this newsletter to send in a donation now and then. We do purge our donor roster every few years, and if we haven't heard from you in 7 years or more, we remove you from our mailing list. We hope this reminder will inspire you to send in a donation, no matter how small, to stay on our mailing and email list.

As always, we are grateful for your support and help in preserving sites related to the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

If you choose to do so, please send your email address to us, there is a link on our website where you can do that.

Best wishes to you in the New Year!

Tom Clemens

President, SHAF

Our Mission

The mission of the 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.

Work Day Updates



Before and after: helping the NPS clean invasive bush honeysuckle from the East Woods. Photos are courtesy of the NPS.

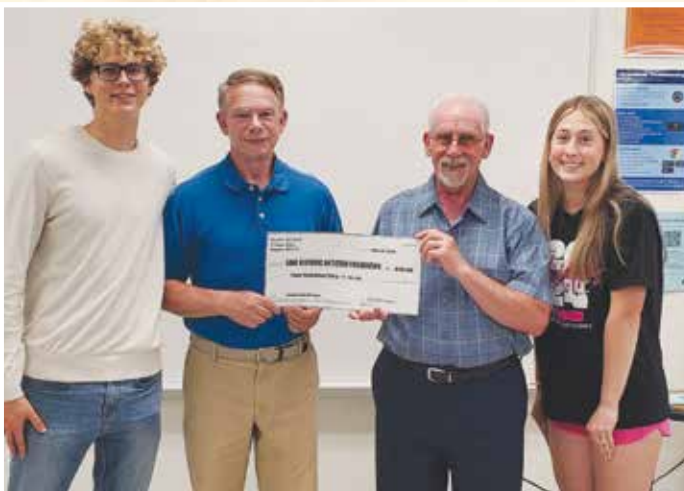
We normally hold two Work Days a year, one in early Spring, and one in Fall. These can be on various parts of Antietam National Battlefield, and sometimes on property owned by us or our great partner, the American Battlefield Trust. With our volunteer help we have cleared acres of brush and undergrowth that should not be there. We have planted trees, like restoring the Piper Orchard, as well. All of our efforts are to make the landscape of the battlefield closer reflect how it would have appeared in 1862. This is a vital and important task because it greatly enhances the casual visitors' experience and promotes better understanding of what happened here. We currently have planned for a Work Day on Saturday, March 1, 2025, depending on the weather. We will post more details on our website and Facebook page as we get near that date. If you want to join us, we will be glad to have your help.

Speaking of Work Days, one of our constant supporters is the Rho Kappa Honor Society at Boonsboro High School. Not only do these high school folks come help us with physical labor,



Volunteers participating in the SHAF spring workday 2024 at the American Battlefield Trust Avey property.

they also take on the task to raise money for us. Last year, these young folks raised and donated \$500 to SHAF. They raise this money through direct donations and partnering with local restaurants to donate 10% of dining tabs to them, which they then donate to us. It is refreshing and encouraging to see young people interested in preserving history, and SHAF is very proud to have their support.



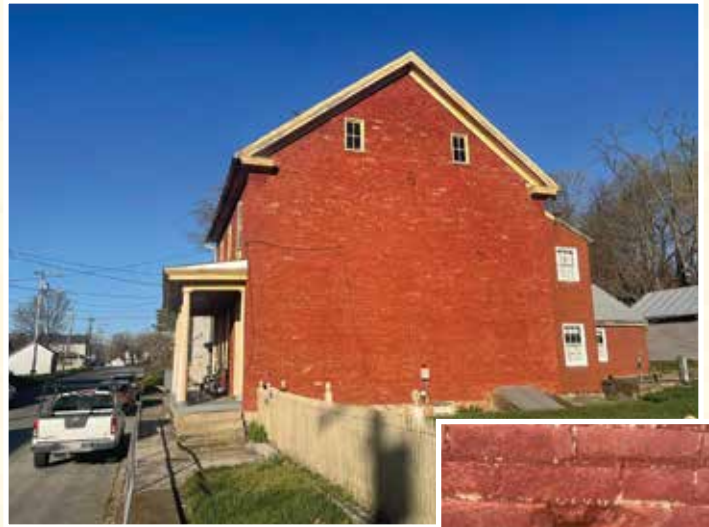
Neilson Parrott, Dennis Frye, Tom Clemmons, and Olivia Gorman

Rho Kappa is an honor society at Boonsboro High School for students who excel in Social Studies. Our goal is to foster an appreciation for history through volunteering. Rho Kappa students have volunteered at the Boonsboro Town Museum and the Rural Heritage Museum and worked on projects with the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute. With the clear impact Rho Kappa has, and the demand for more volunteers, we've also helped start a Jr. Rho Kappa chapter at the Middle School.

Rho Kappa's involvement with Antietam National Battlefield and SHAF is very important to our members. Rho Kappa helps with Park Day in the Spring and the Memorial Illuminations in December. The society assists with specific projects the battlefield may have, such as cleaning the iron fence at the National Cemetery. SHAF offers Rho Kappa another opportunity to give back to the community. We have participated in the fall and spring workdays. We also fundraise for a local historical site and our members have selected SHAF several times, for recipients of the funds. One student said it best with, "I can clearly see we're helping and making a difference." Thank you for allowing us to be a small part of your mission. Rho Kappa looks forward to our continued partnership with SHAF.

SHAF NEWS

The Gloss/Boyer house on Chapline Street in Sharpsburg has been cleaned out and prepared for sale. The town of Sharpsburg and SHAF could not agree on terms to transfer it to the town, and we are working on protective easements to place on the property and house. Balancing the need to protect the historic elements of the structures and property without an undue burdening to the purchaser is a delicate and difficult process. Nevertheless, we hope to have the property listed in early 2025. As promised, we will give our membership notice before we list it for sale to the general public. Price will be guided by, among other things, the strictures of the easements.



"War Wounds" Boyer house on East Chapline Street in Sharpsburg. courtesy of John Banks.



Hershey property. Photo courtesy of Tom Clemens.

One of our founding members in 1985 was Jane Hershey. She was a dedicated and strident advocate for historic preservation in general and Antietam specifically. She owned a small tract on the battlefield bordering the western boundary of the Dunker Church property. We knew Janie, as she was universally known, was not going to do anything harmful with the land, and she preferred leasing it out for farming. Janie passed away last year, and her family have sold the 11-acre tract to the American Battlefield Trust, who will hold it until it can be transferred to the National Park Service.

The SHAF board has discussed aiding ABT by offering to restore this important tract to its war-time appearance. Of course, this land comprises the lower portion of the West Woods. Our plans encompass re-planting hardwood trees in this lot, because that was what was there in 1862. We will likely have the trees planted by a professional company, and we will undertake a special fund drive to pay for that. More information will be forthcoming as we go along. Our goal is to make it look like the wood lot that was there in 1862. We know you will help us in this important project.




This image identifies the Jacob Funk Miller Farm on the southern end of the battlefield which was not only a hospital site but as the sign indicates the headquarters of Major General Ambrose Burnside. Troops of the Union Ninth Corps and long range federal artillery, the so called "guns of position" were positioned on this hills surrounding this farm before, during and after the battle.

One of SHAF's on-going projects is marking the site of Antietam hospitals and general's headquarters. There are over a dozen of these located around the Sharpsburg area, and beyond. This past year, we were proud to add a hospital sign and a headquarters sign on the Jacob F. Miller farm on Churchey Road. This historic farm complex was owned by the brother of David R. Miller, who owned the famous Miller cornfield on the battlefield. Jacob's farm was host to General Ambrose Burnside and was also used as a field hospital. SHAF places these signs only with the property owner's permission and at no cost to the owner. If you know of an eligible site, please let us know.

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P.O. Box 550
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
301-432-2996

shaf.org 

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To learn more about our work or to become a member, please visit our website or email us: contact@shaf.org

Andrew Banasik, New Antietam Superintendent

Andrew Banasik took over as the superintendent at Antietam National Battlefield on May 19, 2024, replacing Susan Trail, who retired in March 2023. Banasik, who hails from Loudoun County, Virginia, earned a bachelor's degree in history from Shepherd College (now Shepherd University) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and a master's degree in environmental science and policy from George Mason University. He has more than 25 years of experience with the National Park Service. Andrew started his park service career as a seasonal ranger at Monocacy National Battlefield in 1997. He also worked at Catoctin Mountain Park and on the National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team before returning to Monocacy as Chief of Resource Management. He became the superintendent at Monocacy in 2020. Antietam National Battlefield's top administrator, "a longtime Civil War history enthusiast" is not afraid to get in the trenches as he helped volunteers and other NPS employees prepare 23,000 luminaries in mid-November for the December 7, 2024 Memorial Illuminations.

