

# Pvt. Henry Dove, Co. "B", 7th Maryland

Private Henry Dove was born in Calhoun County, Alabama, in 1838. Little is known of his early life but by 1862 he was working as a blacksmith in Maryland. Henry enlisted in Company B of the 7th Maryland for three years and was mustered into service in Baltimore on November 29, 1862. It's possible he was a substitute for another recruit. Henry was recorded as 6 feet tall with a dark complexion, grey eyes, and dark hair. At the time of his enlistment the 7th Maryland was guarding the Potomac River near Fort Frederick and would soon move to Maryland Heights above Harper's Ferry for

the winter. Henry was reported as present for duty during December 1862 but after the New Year contracted smallpox and was sent to a hospital in Hagerstown.

Following the Battle of Antietam, Hagerstown had become a major hospital center, with wounded and sick soldiers treated in private homes and public buildings, including the Franklin Hotel, the Hagerstown Male Academy and the Hagerstown Female Seminary. It's not clear where Henry was treated but most hospitals had a separate ward for treating smallpox.

Smallpox was one of many diseases

faced by Civil War soldiers, with over 12,000 reported cases among white Union soldiers (5.5 per thousand men annually). Though smallpox inoculations and vaccinations had existed since the 1700s many Civil War recruits had not been vaccinated or exposed to smallpox. Regulations requiring smallpox vaccinations were often ignored in the rush to organize and train recruits.

Sadly, Henry succumbed to smallpox in Hagerstown on January 25, 1863. He was likely buried in a temporary grave in the city and moved to Antietam National Cemetery following its establishment in 1867, where he now rests.

Below, a Civil War era smallpox vaccination kit.



Above right, the Hagerstown Female Seminary in 1855 where smallpox victims were housed during the Civil War.

Below left, smallpox patients were also housed at Hagerstown's Franklin Hotel located near the town square, in this 1867 view.

Below right, Pvt. Henry Dove's marker at Antietam National Cemetery.

