

# OUR CAMP JOURNAL

**Volume 28, Issue 2**

**"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B**

September 2024

*National Cemeteries Series*

# Antietam National Cemetery

**By Pvt. Jeff Joyce**

The September 17, 1862, Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg was the bloodiest day in American history. Over 23,000 men were killed, wounded or missing. Approximately 4,000 were killed and many others died over the following days. The village of Sharpsburg became a huge hospital and burial ground. Graves for the dead ranged from single burials to long, shallow trenches accommodating hundreds. Wil-

liam Roulette, whose farm stands behind today's Visitor Center, had over 700 soldiers buried on his property. A few of the dead ended up in local cemeteries or were removed by friends and relatives.

In 1864 Maryland State Senator Lewis P. Firey introduced to the Maryland Senate a plan to establish a cemetery for those who had died during the 1862 Maryland Campaign. In March 1864 Maryland purchased 11 ½ acres for \$1,161.75.

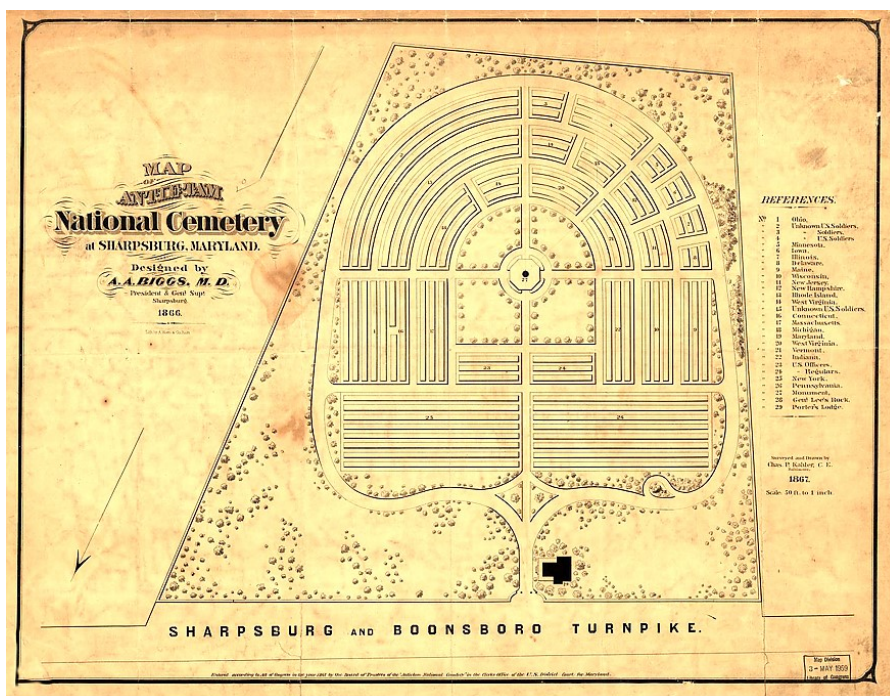
Originally it was planned to include Confederate dead but eventually only Union dead were moved to the cemetery. Approximately 2,800 Confederate dead were moved to local cemeteries in Hagerstown and Frederick, Maryland, and Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Two local men, Aaron Good and Joseph Gill, spent the years after the battle locating grave sites and identifying as many of the dead as possible. The Union dead were moved to the cemetery between October 1866 and

**August 1867.** Eighteen Northern states contributed over \$62,000 (in addition to \$16,000 from Maryland) to complete the cemetery. The cemetery was dedicated on September 17, 1867, the fifth anniversary of the battle, with President Andrew Johnson and many other dignitaries in attendance.

On September 17, 1880, a 44-foot-tall statue of a Union soldier was dedicated in the center of the cemetery. Known as the "Private Soldier Monument", it was popularly called "Old Simon" by residents. The inscription on the monument reads, "Not for themselves, but for their country."

Antietam National Cemetery was placed under the War Department in 1870 and transferred to the National Park Service in 1933. Today 4,776 Union soldiers are buried at the cemetery, including 1,836 unknowns. More than 200 non-Civil War dead are also buried at the cemetery dating from the Spanish-American War to the Korean War. The cemetery closed to new burials in 1953, but an excep-

**A map of the Antietam National Cemetery with areas designated for states of the fallen.**



(Continued on page 4)

# Upcoming Campaigns

## SEPTEMBER

September 7-8: Civil War Day at Othello Regional Park, 1901-A Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD 21758

Join the 7th Maryland from 9am - 5pm as we commemorate the South Mountain campaign and explore its impact on the surrounding communities. This living history event is FREE and open to all ages.

The full day schedule appears below.



## OCTOBER

October 18-20: 160<sup>th</sup> Battle of Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA - Register at: [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us)  
(Company event) \* (FVB Event)

## NOVEMBER

November 16-17: FVB Annual Meeting & Remembrance Day Parade (Company event)  
\* (FVB Event)



### Civil War Day at Othello Regional Park Schedule

Living history encampment will be open to the public from  
9:00AM to 5:00PM

- 10:30AM - Women in the War presentation
- 11:00AM - Maryland Campaign, Letterman & Medical Developments presentation
- 12:00PM - Black Powder Demo (7th Maryland)
- 1:00PM - Surgeon presentation
- 2:00PM - Impacts of Battle on Local Community
- 2:30PM - The 96th and Crampton's Gap presented
- 3:00PM - Black powder Demo (7th Maryland)

#### Draft menu for September 7th:

**Breakfast:** Hard boiled eggs, possibly bacon biscuits, maybe blueberry muffins

**Lunch:** chicken salad sandwiches (period recipe), pickles, fruits, veggies, cheese

**Dinner:** Beef (Sarah hasn't decided in what form yet), and something that goes well with beef, maybe some pie?

**DEE-LIGHTFUL!**  
DR. SWETT'S Original Root Beer  
Sold in Quantities

**S. G. PARKER CO., Proprietors**  
21 and 23 COLUMBIA STREET  
Between Goddard and Essex Streets. BOSTON

**Dr. NATHAN WEAVER'S**  
CONCENTRATED EXTRACT OF  
**W E A V E R ' S**  
A SURE REMEDY FOR  
Scrofula, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Canker, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas,  
Piles, Liver Complaint, and Cutaneous Affections, generally, Sore  
Eyes of long standing, and all diseases arising  
from an impure state of the Blood.

**WOODBURY'S FACIAL SOAP**  
FOR THE  
SCALP SKIN  
AND  
COMPLEXION  
AT  
DRUGGISTS  
BY MAIL  
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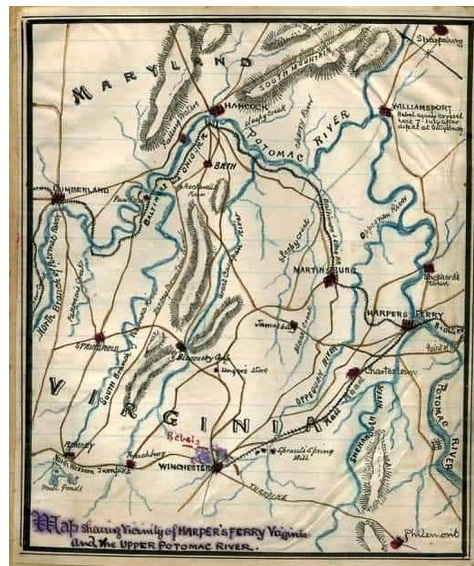
## Pvt. John Shepard, Company "G"

Private John Shepard was born in England about 1836 and before the Civil War immigrated to the United States. By 1862 he was working as a miner in Maryland when he enlisted in Company G of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland on August 21, 1862, in Middletown. John was 5' 8" tall with fair complexion, auburn eyes and brown hair.

He and the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland began training at Camp Harford in Baltimore. Less than a month later the Battle of Antietam (or Sharpsburg) was fought on September 17. Within two days of the battle the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland moved by train to Hagerstown before marching to Williamsport. Its mission was to help guard the fords of the Potomac River. On October 10, 1862, Confederate cavalry commander Major General JEB Stuart crossed the Potomac at McCoy's Ferry to raid Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, before re-

turning to Virginia two days later. The Army of the Potomac finally crossed the river into Virginia in pursuit of the Confederates on October 26.

Left behind on detached duty, the

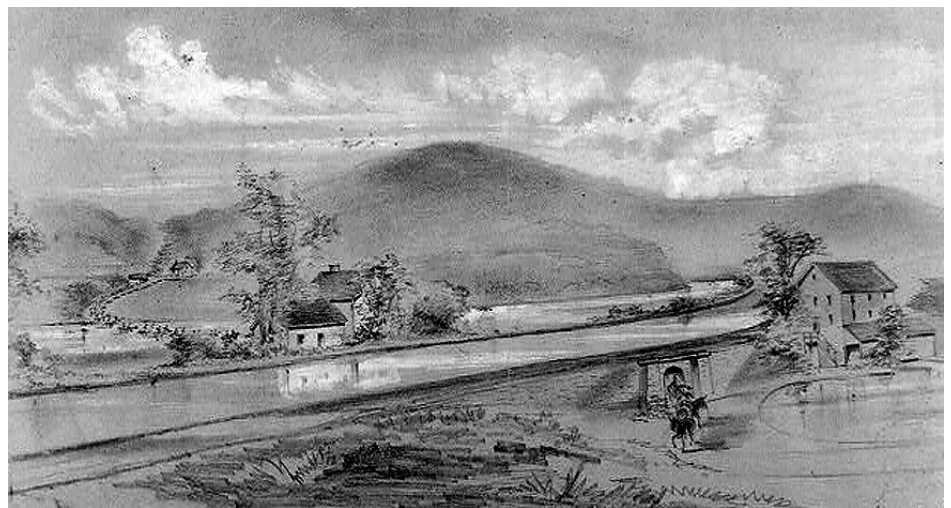


7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was assigned to guard a five-mile stretch of the Potomac west of Williamsport between Dam #5 and McCoy's Ferry, with regimental headquarters at Four Locks. Over the next six weeks while guarding the Potomac the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland apparently focused on target practice, with 1500 rounds expended in November alone.

Sadly, Private John Shepard was accidentally shot and killed on November 26, 1862, possibly during one of the target practices. Buried in Clear Spring (not far from Four Locks), John's remains were moved to Antietam National Cemetery after the war. He rests not far from Private Henry Dove of Company B, who died of smallpox in a Hagerstown hospital on January 25, 1863, while the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was in winter camp on Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry.



Top, a map of the Harpers Ferry and Williamsport area. A historical marker for McCoy's Ferry. A depiction of Stuart Crossing Potomac McCoy's Ferry on October 10, 1862. And the headstone of John Shepard at Antietam National Cemetery.





# Antietam National Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

tion was made in 2000. Keedysville, Maryland, resident Patrick Howard Roy, a Navy Fireman was killed during the attack on the USS Cole, was buried on October 29, 2000.

Two of the Union dead are from the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland. At the time of the Battle of Antietam the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was still training at Camp Harford in Baltimore.

Within two days of the battle the regiment moved to Williamsport, Maryland, to help guard the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. It was during this period that Private John Shepard of Company G was killed by an accidental gunshot on November 26, 1862.



The 44-foot-tall statue of a Union soldier was dedicated in the center of the cemetery. Known as the "Private Soldier Monument", it was popularly called "Old Simon" by residents.

John was born in England and working as a miner when he joined Company G on August 21, 1862. He was initially buried in Clear Springs, Maryland. In December 1862 the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland moved into winter quarters on Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry.

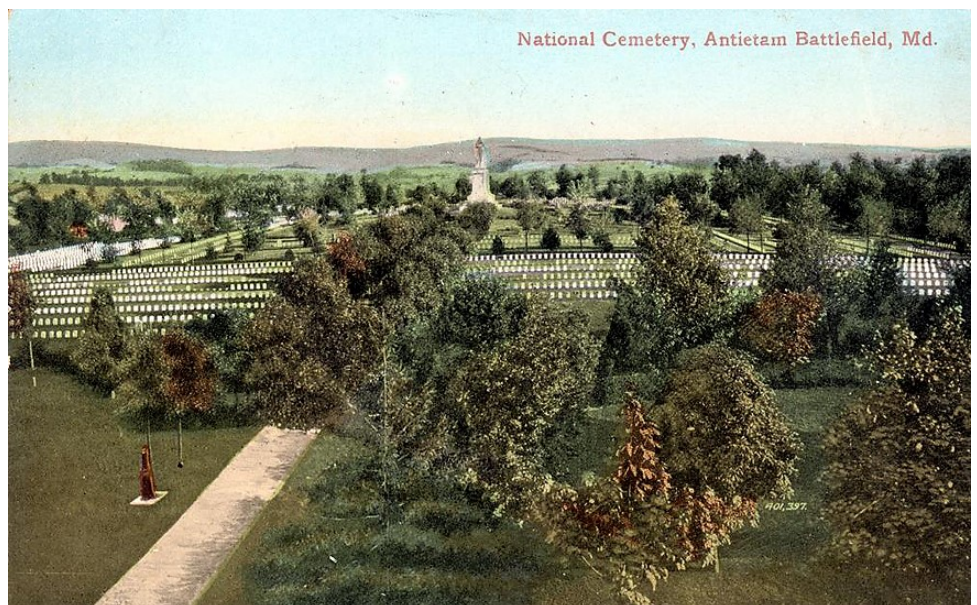
While in winter quarters Private Henry Dove of Company B contracted smallpox and died in a Hagerstown hospital on January 25, 1863. Henry was born in Alabama and working as a blacksmith when he joined Company B on November 29, 1862.

Henry was buried in Hagerstown and he and John Shepard were re-interred in Antietam National Cemetery after the war.

Below, a picture postcard of the Antietam National Cemetery. Date unknown.



The headstone of Pvt. Henry Dove of 7<sup>th</sup> Md., Co. "B" who contracted smallpox and died in a Hagerstown hospital on January 25, 1863.





# OUR CAMP JOURNAL



*Civil War Re-enactors;  
America's Living Historians.*

## Familiar Hints for Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field

### IV. OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS AND COOLNESS OF TEMPER.

These are indispensable to make the good, or successful soldier. A thousand Colonels to a regiment are not provided for by regulations. Obey the one you are allowed. Better obey an officer of less experience, who is cool and courageous, than try to dictate to those who are responsible for the regiment.

Your safety is in your courage. The shock of battle is soon over. The cowards who break and run, suffer most. If abused, or maltreated, remember there

is a just and proper remedy. Don't try to execute the law yourselves. It doesn't pay. Manfully ask your rights, but obey orders. But soldiers who do their duty, seldom complain. Grumblers exist; always have; always will. But don't you grumble.

Bear toil and labor patiently.

You will be rewarded.



### SONG OF THE STARS.

E PLURIBUS UNUM— "*Many in One*"

A NATIONAL SONG.

BY THOMAS S. DONOHO.

**"E PLURIBUS UNUM!"**

The world, with delight,

Looks up to the starry blue banner  
of night,

In its many-blent glory rejoicing to  
see

**AMERICA'S** motto—  
the pride of the Free!

**"E PLURIBUS UNUM!"**

Our standard for ever!

Woe, woe to the heart that would  
dare to disserve!

Shine, Liberty's Stars! your domin-  
ion increase—

A guide in the battle, a blessing in  
peace!

**"E PLURIBUS UNUM!"**

And thus be, at last,

From land unto land our broad  
banner cast,

Till its Stars, like the stars of the  
sky, be unfurled,

In beauty and glory, embracing the  
world!

From Godey's Lady's Book, Vol. 42,  
January, 1851



### Flashback - 2010

From left, Mike Lafferty, Bill Hart, Patrick Ellis (standing), Patrick Morton (seated), Stephen Blumberg and the late Ron Riotto, read the hot-off-the press after action report in the Gettysburg Times newspaper at the 147th Gettysburg Anniversary held July 2nd-5th, 2010.