

Sharpsburg Reflects on Battle of Antietam

1862 Inventory Discloses
Loss To Roulette Family



Soldier Reveals Role In
Burning Mumma Farm

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Aug./Sept. 1992



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Our 21st year

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Since June 1971 this magazine has been a gathering place for folks interested in sharing their heritage. The intent of this publication is to portray the story of the people who have helped to give this region a heritage that is worthy of preservation.



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The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

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REFLECTIONS

Cracker Barrel Hands Out Accolades Entering 21st Year

By Frank Woodring

A year ago at this time we were writing our first ever "Reflections" column. Now as we pen this column, we begin our second year as publishers of the *Maryland Cracker Barrel*.

Recently, a friend asked what we enjoyed the most about our role as publishers. As we reflect back on that initial year, we can unequivocally say that it has been the experience of meeting so many wonderful people, for it has been your positive response that has helped to make this effort so rewarding.

We want to take a moment to thank the advertising community for its tremendous support, for without that assistance this venture would be almost impossible.

You the readers have been a tremendous encouragement to us as we have had the opportunity to talk with many of you. We have appreciated your comments.

By the way, if you would like to comment on the content or lack thereof, please don't hesitate to let us know.

To all of those who have written for the magazine, we thank you for sharing your areas of interest.

Finally, to each one that we have interviewed for stories, we give sincere

thanks for your cooperation.

Our nation is indeed going through very turbulent waters, but it is encouraging to know that there are so many individuals out there who form the backbone of this great country that God has so richly blessed.

One afternoon this summer as I was lying under my truck in the process of changing oil, I looked up to see a stranger above me. It turned out to be a *Cracker Barrel* supporter, Bob Ridel from Ithaca, MI, who was visiting in the area.

Gordon Baker from Rockville happened to be eating at Weaver's Restaurant in Hancock this spring and came across the magazine. He commented, "For the life of me, I can't figure out how I missed your magazine - because I'm a history buff." Gordon, we welcome you as one of our new readers.

Zane Shaefer from the Red Byrd Restaurant in Keedysville related the tale of a gentleman who drove to Washington County to buy a *Cracker Barrel*, only to find that it was sold out.

Mrs. J.H. Beachley of South Prospect Street in Hagerstown shared an interesting story that ties in with this

issue. Her great grandfather Joseph Wolfe was a circuit riding preacher from Chewsville.

While he was preaching at the Dunker Church near the time of the Battle of Antietam, his horse was stolen by an unknown soldier.

In closing, we want to thank those who contributed material for this Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg issue: Paul Chiles from the Antietam National Battlefield, Paul Culler, Ann Kretzer, Mrs. Larry Lushbaugh, Wilmer Mumma, Earl Roulette, and Chris/Denise Yeager.

COVER: The site for the town of Sharpsburg was selected in 1763 by Joseph Chapline because of the "Great Spring." Pictured in front of that spring in the circa 1920 photo on the cover are R.W. Grove, Andy Snyder, Baker Wilhelm, Elie Spong, David Gloss, Van Brashears, Frank DeLauney, Bill Brashears, Buddy Boyers, Martin Cramer, and Mat Spong. The photo was loaned by Sharpsburg resident Wilmer Mumma. The spring was selected as the symbol for the Sharpsburg Heritage Festival '92 to depict the perpetual flow from the past to the future. The event will be held September 19-20.

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Civil War Footsteps

Battle of Antietam Impacts Peaceful Farming Community

By Paul Chiles

Fought on September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg as it is known in the South, is important for three reasons:

1 — This engagement stopped the first invasion of the North by the Confederacy. The second invasion is stopped at Gettysburg, PA, in July, 1863. The third major incursion is fa-

made disaster visited upon the peaceful farming community of Sharpsburg. The 126,000 soldiers in the area represented an instant 100-fold increase in the normal population. Even if this had just been a rock concert, it would have had a tremendous impact on the local civilian populace.

The armies came, fought a tre-

draft animals were requisitioned (taken by the military) to replace dead, wounded, or broken down military draft animals.

Well-to-do farmers were impoverished overnight by the battle. In mid-September, different crops were either ripening for harvest or were just being harvested. Many claims for damages were not finally settled until 20 years or more after the battle.

How ordinary people coped with an extraordinary event is the theme of the 6th annual Torchlight Tour. This will be held from 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center.



The tranquility of Sharpsburg was forever shattered when Union and Confederate forces met here on September 17, 1862, on the bloodiest single day in the bloodiest war in American history. This view, circa 1895, is looking west from Cemetery Hill on Main Street.

tally slowed at the Battle of Monocacy, fought near Frederick, MD, in July, 1864.

2 — This was the bloodiest single day in the bloodiest war in American history, totaling 23,410 American casualties. This breaks down to about 3,600 killed outright, almost 18,000 wounded, and 1,800 missing. Over 1 in 4 of those engaged were killed or injured.

3 — The battle yielded the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The war now had a two-fold purpose: to preserve the Union and to free the slaves. Eighteen months into the war, slavery is finally an official issue of the war.

Impact On the Local Population

The Battle of Antietam was a man-

made disaster visited upon the peaceful farming community of Sharpsburg. The 126,000 soldiers in the area represented an instant 100-fold increase in the normal population. Even if this had just been a rock concert, it would have had a tremendous impact on the local civilian populace.

The area was littered with the debris of war: thousands of muskets, packs, cartridge boxes, canteens, and other pieces of military equipment, hundreds of unexploded artillery shells, and hundreds of dead horses.

Wells were drawn down, streams polluted, crops foraged to feed men and horses or trampled in the course of maneuver. Wooden fences were torn down in the course of maneuver or burned up for fire wood. Many farm

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Battle of Antietam 130th Anniversary September 17-20, 1992

Thursday, September 17 -- Guest speaker Dr. James Robertson (noted Civil War author and speaker)

Friday, September 18 -- Guest speaker to be announced

Saturday, September 19 -- Demonstration of Union General McClellan's headquarters; Pry House, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Guided walking tours, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Medical demonstrations, Dunker Church, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Soldier life demonstration at Confederate camp on Bloody Lane, 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Artillery demonstrations, New York Monument at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.
- Musket firing demonstration; see how the Confederates defended Bloody Lane, 12:30 p.m.
- Torchlight Tour, living history program that depicts the impact of the battle on the surrounding civilian community, 7 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20 -- Bicycle Tour; bring your bike and a sack lunch and join park volunteer Nels Tillou for a leisurely ride through history, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Demonstration of Union General McClellan's headquarters; Pry House, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Medical demonstrations, Dunker Church, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Guided walking tours, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Soldier life demonstration at Confederate camp, Bloody Lane, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Guided walking tours, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Artillery demonstrations, New York Monument at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
- Musket firing demonstration; see how the Confederates defended Bloody Lane, 2:00 p.m.

Battle of Antietam Re-enactment 130th Anniversary

Sept. 26, 6 p.m.
Sept. 27, 2 p.m.

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Featuring the

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

By Suanne Woodring

Once the town house of a prominent Sharpsburg family, the four-story brick Federal style house now welcomes guests as a bed and breakfast. The Jacob Rohrbach Inn was named after the Rohrbach brother who lost his life defending this property against some of "Mosby's Raiders." (See related story on page 8.)

Chris and Denise Yeager moved from south Jersey to the Sharpsburg area six years ago with their three children: Monica, 12; Chris, 9; and Tim, 7. They had been searching for just the right property to open as a bed and breakfast and liked what they saw in the small historical town of Sharpsburg. After five years of restoration the Jacob Rohrbach Inn officially opened its doors in June of 1991.

At the present time the Inn offers two spacious air-conditioned guest rooms each with private bath and private entrances. The Yeagers are working on converting the old smoke house located directly behind the main building into a guest room and eventually hope to have a total of four rooms available.

The second floor guest room is located in what was once the ballroom or "courting room". This room has more of a Victorian flavor and is home to Chris' great, great aunt's Paragon treadle sewing machine. It was also in this room that during the renovations the Yeagers found a 1903 newspaper encased in concrete with the editorial "Should Women Be Given the Right to Vote?"

Denise pointed out that the guest suite on the third floor has more of a Colonial look. It is made up of two rooms, one a sitting area with sofa bed and the other room contains a double bed and a single pineapple bed. This suite could sleep up to five persons.

Newly arrived guests will feel right at home with light refreshments always avail-

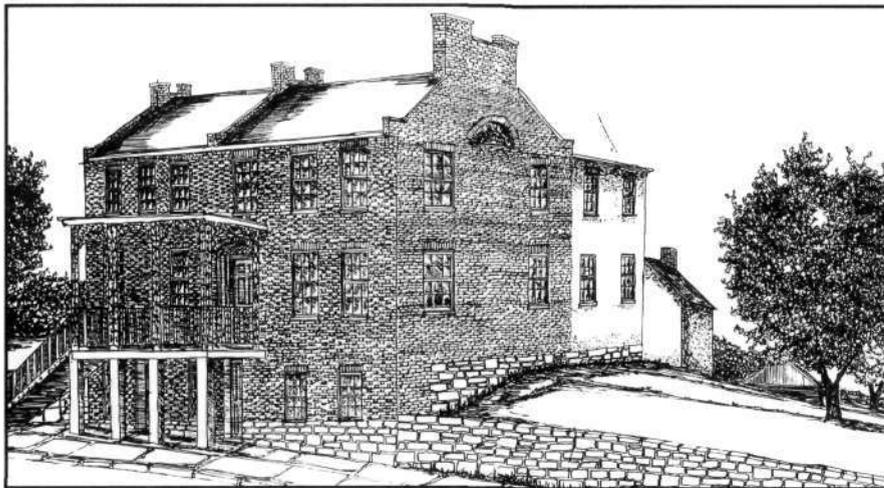


This spacious guest room views the main street of the historic town of Sharpsburg.

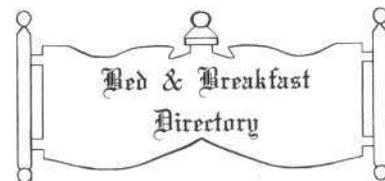
able in the dining room. They are also encouraged to make use of the many books dealing with the life and customs of those by-gone eras from the shelves in the parlor. A country style breakfast is served in the morning. Room rates range from \$65 to \$75 a night.

The Rohrbach family had slaves and the first floor of the house with its large fireplace (which Chris had the dubious honor of getting stuck in while placing some insulation) served as a winter kitchen. The Yeagers have converted this area into the Antietam Mercantile Company, a shop with Civil War memorabilia, local handcrafted items, and Christmas shop.

The Jacob Rohrbach Inn as well as other members of the Inns of the Hagerstown Valley will be hosting their second annual House and Garden tours on Sunday, September 27, from 12-7 p.m. Proceeds from the tour will once again go to the American Cancer Society. For more information about the tour and tickets call the Yeagers at 432-5079 or Ellen Panchula at 824-2292.



The Jacob Rohrbach residence has been restored into a lovely bed and breakfast.



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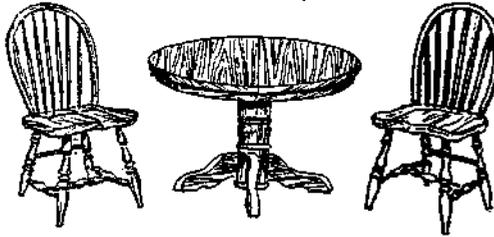
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War Exacts Ultimate Price From Rohrbach Family

By Chris Yeager

On a hot July 4th night in 1864, three Confederate horsemen quietly entered the Town of Sharpsburg and dismounted in the rear of the Rohrbach town house. These men were assigned to "Mosby's Raiders" and were part of a cavalry screen for General Early's raid toward Washington, D.C.

Jacob and Henry Rohrbach had had their fill of war. The battle of Antietam had decimated their farm in 1862 and feeling that they were too old to start anew, they sold the land and moved into the family town house on Main Street. The great brick and stone house had been built by their father in the early 1800's. Every care and amenity was considered in its construction, making it one of the finest houses in the Antietam Valley. Unfortunately, the prominence of the home also made it a prime target to those who considered self-profiteering part of their soldierly duties. By 1864 the War had taken a nasty turn, the Shenandoah Valley was being put to the torch and many Rebels demanded retribution.

The house was in darkness and the pounding on the rear door echoed through the halls like the beating of a bass drum. Henry, grabbing a candle, proceeded down the steps and approached the solid door inquiring as to the identity of those on the other side. It's not known what ploy was used to induce Henry to slide back the bolt, but as he did, the armed raiders forced the door and gained entry into the hallway. They told Henry that they were Mosby's men and wanted the horses in the barn. The key for the padlock was demanded. They would tolerate no actions designed to hamper their plans.



Burnside Bridge, known as the Rohrbach Bridge prior to the Battle of Antietam, is Antietam Battlefield's best-known landmark. General Ambrose Burnside selected Henry Rohrbach's farm as his headquarters for the September 17, 1862, engagement.

Henry told the intruders that his brother Jacob had the key. He was upstairs asleep. If they stayed where they were, he would get it immediately. Growing impatient, the raiders followed Henry up the stairs and on the second floor, entered Jacob's room. A confrontation ensued and one pistol shot rang out.

Jacob was killed instantly. The sound of the gunshot soon had the whole household stirring and the raiders decided to make a hasty retreat, however, not before taking Jacob's silver watch and money purse.

The old house that these events transpired in, still stands. It had remained

in the Rohrbach family for five generations, but fell into a state of disrepair during the Great Depression. In the late 1930's it was finally sold at public auction to a Theodore Hebb. In 1986 Chris and Denise Yeager purchased it from Hebb and began the painstaking job of restoring it to its original grandeur.

Work began in 1987 and in June of 1991 the Jacob Rohrbach Inn officially opened its doors. Presently, work continues on the smoke house located directly behind the main building. Plans call for the house to be used as a meeting room for guests, with the interior resembling an early 1800 tavern.

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AUGUST

August temperatures will be average, while precipitation will be below average.

Weather Watch: It will be fair and warm on the first followed by showers and storms, 2-4, 17-20, and 30,31. There will be an increase in humidity, 5-10, which will also be fair and warm, as will be 14-16 and 24,25. Look for hazy but humid days, 17-20 with a partly cloudy, pleasant period, 26-29.

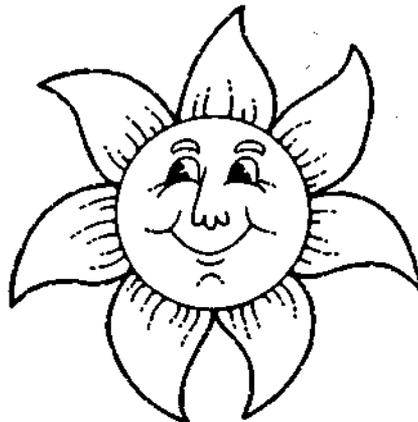
Tornado Watch: Those in the Mid-Atlantic region should be on the lookout for severe weather conditions on or about 2-4, 11-13, 30-31. Be prepared to batten down the hatches.

Full Moon: Often referred to as the Corn Moon, after those golden ears we so enjoy these days, it occurs on the 13th at 6:27 AM DST. Since the Dog Days that began back on July 3rd will officially end on the 11th, this month's full moon might well be thought of as the Dog Moon. Still others know it as the Sturgeon Moon.

Enjoy the heavenly fireworks when the Perseids make their annual appearance from late July through mid-August. Best observed in the early morning hours, these "shooting stars" are actually the result of the Earth's passing through the tail of the comet Swift-Tuttle. They oc-

cur at the rate of about one a minute at the height of the shower.

In the garden keep after those unwanted weeds that only rob precious moisture and nutrients from your vegetables and flowers. Applying a good layer of mulch will help conserve moisture, make the soil cooler, and keep weeds under control. Those with allergies stay away from pollen-producing weeds and grasses.



SEPTEMBER

September's outlook calls for average temperatures but below average precipitation.

Weather Watch: The month opens with storms with continuing showers and warm temperatures, 2-4. More storms but cooler, 5-6, with a fair, mild period, 7-10. Though 11-14 promises partly cloudy,

warmer days, expect showers and storms, 15-18. The next two days turn cooler, with rain giving way to fair mild weather for 21-23. We are in for more showers, but warmer temperatures, 24-26, and while 27-28 will be fair and mild, it is a return to showers, but colder temperatures, 29-30.

Tornado Watch: Look out for severe weather in our area on the 1st and again 16-18.

Full Moon: This month's full moon occurs at 10:27 PM DST on September 11th, and is sometimes called the Fall Moon or Fruit Moon, but since it is the closest to the Autumnal Equinox which is on the 22nd when the sun enters the house of Libra, it is considered this year's Harvest Moon, even though it precedes the arrival of Autumn.

When half of the moon's surface is lighted by reflection of light from the sun, the illumination is only 1/11th as bright as when the moon's full surface is visible.

School is back in session, so be especially watchful when driving through school zones and along highways traveled by school buses.

In the garden, though the first killing frost is not expected until October 1, keep an ear tuned to local forecasts. Harvest fall crops, and then add organic material to the compost pile.

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The Battle for Kennesaw Mountain June 27, 1864

June 1864. The Confederates under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston were being chased through Georgia by Union troops led by Major General William T. Sherman. After an eighty mile pursuit which brought Sherman and his troops to within 20 miles of Atlanta, Johnston's men needed to find a defensible position from which to slow Sherman's march. In the midst of this four month siege, there were few decisive victories for the South. The Battle at Kennesaw Mountain on June 27th was one of these triumphs.

Kennesaw Mountain was a natural citadel, consisting of twin peaks -- Big and Little Kennesaw, rising almost 700 feet. Although an old road and a path led to the top of Big Kennesaw, there was no access up Little Kennesaw. To defend this position, a road would have to be built, so Major General William W. Loring's men began their arduous task.

Tired, yet determined Confederate soldiers maneuvered 12-pounder Napoleons up the face of Little Kennesaw under cover of nightfall. The conditions were less than perfect -- driving rain, pitch darkness, ankle-deep mud, stuck wheels and stalled cannons, each of which weighed well over 2000 pounds. Nine of these cannons were dragged up the face of Little Kennesaw while four additional artillery batteries were established on Big Kennesaw.

These heroic nighttime maneuvers were a tribute to their Confederate commander. Johnston was worshipped by his men, as one of his troops, Sam Watkins, recalled, "I do not believe there was a soldier in his army but would gladly have died for him." If their efforts to secure Kennesaw Mountain were heroic, their efforts in battle a few days later were equally courageous. Thirteen thousand Union men stormed Kennesaw Mountain the morning of June 27th--and failed.

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Nostalgic Moments

Pop Reilly 'Mastered' Battle He Witnessed As A Youngster

By Ann K. Kretzer

Oliver Thomas Reilly was born in Keedysville on March 11, 1857. He was the son of Edward and Maria Reilly and between the age of five and six, saw the Battle of Antietam from the mountain near his home.

He understood little that was going on, but he did see men die; he did see men wounded almost beyond recognition; he did see cavalry swing across the fields, and artillery clear for action.

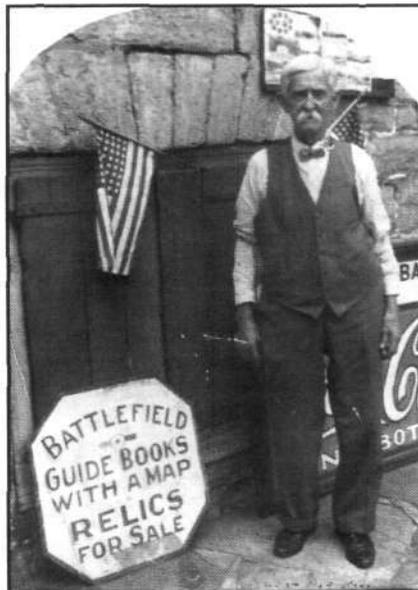
He saw Burnside and McClellan and Jackson, and A.P. Hill, Longstreet, and Miles. They were just men mounted on prancing horses. But as he grew older he learned to know them as the great leaders of the Union and Rebel armies. He learned to know every movement in the battle. He learned to know where every company was engaged, how many were killed, and how men were injured. In short, O.T. or "Pop" Reilly, as we knew him, came to know very much about the Battle of Antietam.

He lived in Sharpsburg from 1877 until his death. He was married to Annie Katherine Spong and had four lovely daughters: Eva, Maude, Martha, and Anna. For more than half a century he served as a battlefield guide and wrote and published the book *The Battle of Antietam*. He had an enviable collection of battlefield and war souvenirs, as well as many antiques, of which he was quite an authority. Even his home was most unusually historic. The old domicile, one of the first built in the town, was once an Indian trading post. Located at 107 E. Main Street, it is presently owned and occupied by Mrs. Zella Bender.

Pop operated a store adjoining his home where he sold antiques, battlefield relics, in fact, anything you wanted. This store was also his headquarters as a battlefield guide. He guided scores of people through Bloody Lane to Burnside Bridge to the National Cemetery and to the high tower. He erected a Dunker Church monument on ground donated by the Poffenbergers, which marked the site of the place used for a hospital following the battle.

Pop Reilly knew everyone for miles around, and they all knew him. For years officers and soldiers who had fought at Antietam returned to "swap yarns" with the "youngster" who had been in the thick of it all. But as the ranks thinned, Pop Reilly reminisced with members of another generation.

He recalled the visit of a soldier who had been a member of one of the Pennsylvania Reserve Regiments. He and his wife and daughter had made their way over the battlefield and upon returning had stopped at a wagon shed in Keedysville. While engaged in conversation with the men about the shed, the veteran remarked that he was the first soldier to have a limb amputated there. He was told the place where the limbs were buried.



O.T. Reilly, a walking history book on the Battle of Antietam, was deeply loyal to his country, having witnessed the conflict that helped to preserve the United States.

Pop Reilly enjoyed telling how Samuel Poffenberger hid his horses, with feet muffled, in his large cellar to keep them from being stolen. He also told how many residents hid their money in excitement, and some forgot where they had placed it.

Many buried treasures are dug up today, such as bullets, pieces of cannon balls, etc. He was proud to be able to give interested persons his lucid explanations, but he was one well at ease and never too busy to impart his information. He was a firm believer in the Union and contended that only "in unity is there strength."

Pop Reilly loved the stars and stripes, and when posing for a picture once remarked, "Let me stand by the flag; I've always been partial to having my picture taken beside one

of them." Grant that we all might have that love for our beautiful emblem, whether we live in the Yankee North, or in the deep, deep South.

He was one of the most widely quoted of country newspaper correspondents. He was a reporter for the *Shepherdstown Register* and the *Boonsboro Times*. A number of his items were copied in metropolitan papers, *The Old Literary Digest*, and flashed on motion picture screens in newsreels throughout the country, when he was at the height of his reportorial career. A unique and colorful column, *Sharpsburg News*, first appeared in the *Shepherdstown Register* on November 8, 1906.

He was particularly interested in the Burnside Bridge, and in almost every weekly letter he made some mention of it. He waged a constant campaign to keep the bridge and battlefield avenues in good repair. He worked for the improvement of the town, yet he clung to tradition and pointed out what was good in the past. His observations sprang from good common sense and always indicated an alert, shrewd, and enterprising mind.

As an unusual correspondent, some of his writings were: "Bird DeLauney butchered three hogs that weighed 1,800 pounds. Not so large, but you ought to have seen the dinner set by Mrs. DeLauney."

"Uncle Finley Smith is troubled with cats in his backyard."

"About all of the school scholars had their arms punctured with a needle and a preventative for diphtheria was put in. Several cases of the disease are at the Antietam Iron Works place now."

"The Ladies of the Lutheran Church will have a festival in Mrs. Jane Miller's basement Thursday."

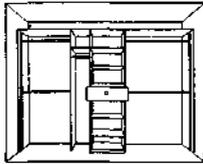
"Jacob McGraw, who is away up in his nineties, says he feels very good except for having cracked bottoms on his feet."

Our beloved grandfather passed away at the home of his daughter Anna C. Highberger at 108 W. Antietam St., after a brief illness, on June 17, 1945.

O.T. "Pop" Reilly was a citizen whose patriotism proved an example well worth the while of following.

(Editor's Note: Ann Kretzer, a life-long resident of Sharpsburg, is the granddaughter of Oliver Thomas Reilly.)

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Window To Yesterday

Roulette, Mumma Families Steeped In Civil War Folklore

By Frank Woodring

Tales from the pages of history have shadowed the life of Sharpsburg resident Earl Roulette since his birth in the county's most revered town back in 1919.

The Battle of Antietam near this tranquil community on September 17, 1862, guaranteed forever that the Roulette name would be remembered by Civil War buffs in every hamlet across the nation.

It so happened that it was through the fields of the Roulette Farm that Union

Union forces."

Prior to their involvement in the battle, members of the 132nd Pennsylvania, according to Frassanito, were startled when some of the beehives in the Roulette yard were overturned and descended upon the unsuspecting soldiers.

Once Rebel sharpshooters were chased from the Roulette Farm, the family's large barn was converted into a hospital with planks becoming operating tables and straw the beds on which the

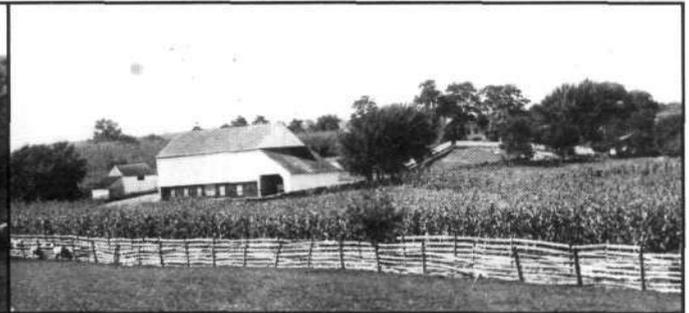
was dumped into the creek.

When the area was retaken, the body was taken back out of the creek and brought back into the house. According to the legend, this sequence of events happened at least twice as the armies fought over possession of that portion of the battlefield. It is unknown as to which side the dead soldier fought.

Meanwhile, in the town of Sharpsburg a shell entered the Judge Smith home (now the Otto residence) on North Me-



The William Roulette home is pictured as it was seen by Union and Confederate troops alike in September of 1862.



The William Roulette farm, barn, and spring house are pictured as they might appear on the Antietam Battlefield in 1992.

troops under General William H. French and General Israel B. Richardson marched en route to an old sunken road lined with Confederate soldiers under the command of General D.H. Hill.

In this lonely country road separating the Roulette and Piper farms more than 5,000 casualties were suffered in nearly four hours of deadly fire that transformed an insignificant road into what every school-age lad now knows as "Bloody Lane."

It was Roulette's great grandfather William Roulette who occupied the farm along with his wife Margaret (31) and their five children on that September day.

Two days earlier Rebel soldiers had been encouraged to leave the property in light of the impending conflict. The 38-year-old Roulette chose to remain although the family did make its way to the basement once the fighting began.

Writer William Frassanito notes that on one occasion Roulette "emerged from the safety of his home to cheer on the

wounded were later laid.

One of those youngsters hiding in the Roulette basement happened to be Earl Roulette's grandfather John Daniel Roulette, who was 11 at the time of the battle.

John Roulette later married Annie Mary Rohrbach, the daughter of Noah Rohrbach and the granddaughter of Henry Rohrbach, who along with his brother Jacob owned the farm near Rohrbach Bridge, better known today as Burnside Bridge.

Seventy-two-year-old Earl Roulette shared one of the battle's legends passed down through the family. Grandpa Joseph Snavely, 12 at the time of the conflict, lived with his family at Snavely's Ford, south of Burnside Bridge.

The tale goes that a wounded soldier was taken into the Snavely house where he died. With troops from the opposite side approaching, a ring, which remains in the Roulette family today, was taken off of the soldier's finger, and the body

chanic Street, landing in a bowl of honey.

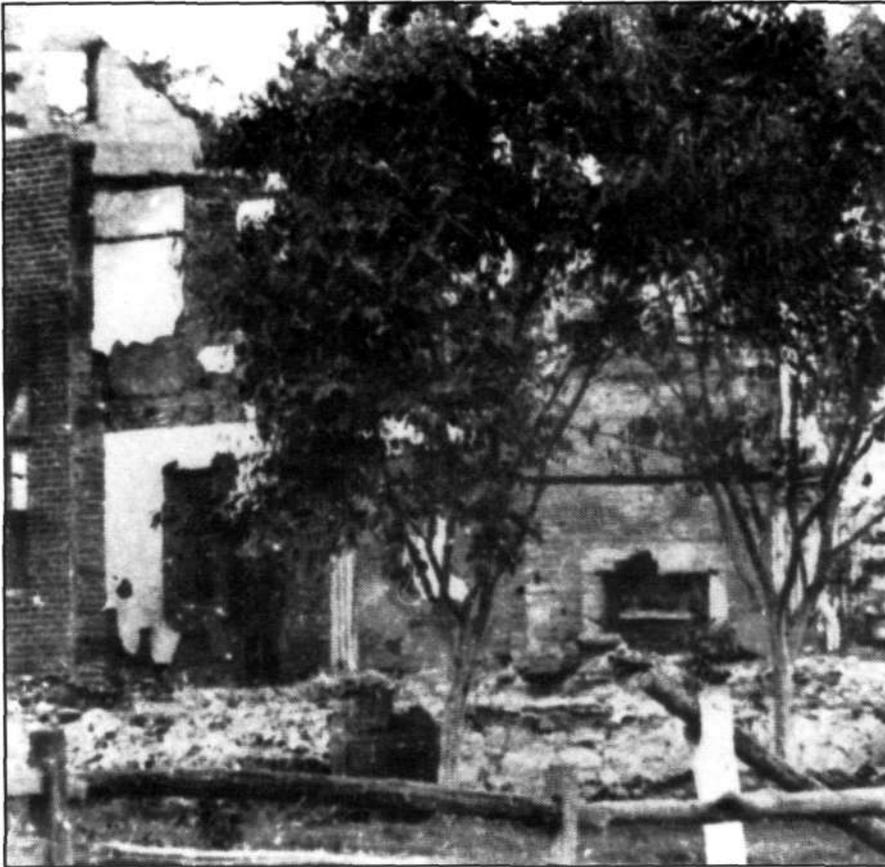
One of those present in the house at the time was young Annie Smith, who years later married Joseph Snavely, the same lad who watched as his family tried to save the young soldier at Snavely's Ford.

Incidentally, the shell that landed in the honey failed to explode. As Earl Roulette laughed, he reflected, "If it had gone off, I wouldn't be here today." It so happened that one of the daughters born to Joseph and Annie Roulette would be the mother of seven children, one of those being Earl Roulette.

Earl noted that five of his brothers and sisters are still living today: Charlotte Davis, who resides in the 201 Main Street home in Sharpsburg where Earl was born; John J., Sharpsburg; Louise DeLauder, Halfway; Charles, Sharpsburg; and Anna Pitzer, Halfway.

Ironically, Earl and his wife Annabelle today live along the Shepherdstown Pike

Continued on page 15



The ruins of the Samuel Mumma farm lie silent following the confrontation of Union and Confederate troops on the hills and fields near Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862. The Mumma property was the only civilian property purposely destroyed during the battle.

Continued from page 14

across from the gentle slope where Confederate General Robert E. Lee set up his headquarters in 1862.

Roulette reiterated that he attempts to be as factual as possible when he

relates the legends passed down through the family, so that his children, Joanne Happ of Winchester and Suzanne Nalley of Sharpsburg, can continue the Roulette legacy revolving around the "bloodiest day of the Civil War."

Mumma Family Suffers Direct Wrath During Battle of Antietam

As the final wisps of smoke disappeared forever from the ravages of the holocaust known as the Battle of Antietam on a quiet September morning in 1862, a white brick springhouse stood as the last vestige of what had once been the Samuel Mumma farm.

One hundred and thirty years later, that springhouse still stands for all to see on the battlefield that claimed the entire Mumma farm - the house, barn, outbuildings, crops, and personal pos-

sessions - the only civilian property purposely destroyed during the battle.

The loss to Mumma was valued at \$10,000, the greatest financial disaster to strike any farmer in the area. The 60-year-old farmer was never reimbursed for the devastation because the government did not reimburse residents for damage exacted at the hands of Confederate troops.

Two days before the battle, Mumma had been warned by the Southern in-



This Union soldier appeared on the Mumma farm following the Battle of Antietam.

vaders to leave the farm in order to insure his family's safety. With firing already in progress, Mumma heeded the advice and took his wife Elizabeth (46) and eight children ranging in age from 11-26 to a church four miles away.

Writer William Frassanito tells the story that on the evening of the 16th, Samuel Mumma, Jr., and a friend returned to the farm to gather some clothing but found that the home had been ransacked.

After the boys left, the oldest son Daniel came back to the colonial-style home and spent the night. Toward morning on the day of the battle, Daniel was frightened out of the house by soldiers at the door and slipped into a stone building that had been used by slaves.

As dawn approached on Wednesday, Sept. 17, Brigadier Gen. Roswell Ripley's regiments controlled the Mumma property. With Union fire heating up, Gen. Ripley became concerned that the brick farmhouse and barn would make an excellent nest for Union sharpshooters.

Frassanito writes that the general called for a squad of soldiers to burn the building to the ground. The task of torching the property fell to a group of volunteers from A Company, Third North Carolina.

That winter the Mumma family, through the generosity of farmer Joseph Sherrick, stayed in what is now the historic Sherrick Farm near Burnside Bridge.

Of staunch German stock, Mumma

Continued on page 16

Actual 1862 Roulette Inventory Reveals Clue

| 1 | | 25 | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>Roulette Near Sharpsburg September 17th 1862</p> <p>The United States To William Mumma, Sr For the following property taken from and damaged done to my Farm in Washington County, Maryland, by the Army.</p> | | <p>Am't Port forward \$129.75</p> | |
| 1 | 1 Jar 8 Hogs at \$10.00 per head. | 1 | 1 Jar 1 Hagen Cows |
| 2 | 6 Hogs at \$7.00 | 2 | 5 Bushel Sweet Potatoes at \$1.25 per Bu. |
| 3 | 13 Hogs at \$3.00 | 3 | 4 Dry Cabbages at 75¢ per Doz. |
| 4 | 12 Hogs at \$5.00 | 4 | 2 Bu. Onions at \$1.50 per Bu. |
| 5 | 3 Calves at \$4.00 | 5 | 1 Bu. Hives with Bees |
| 6 | 3 Barrels Flour at \$6.25 per barrel | 6 | 1 Hagen load of Pumpkins |
| 7 | 155 Bushel Potatoes at \$1.00 per Bu. | 7 | Road through holes and tramping ploughs holes so that they must be ploughed over |
| 8 | 220 Apples at 50¢ | 8 | 1 Pair Saddle Bags |
| 9 | 57½ Cows feed at \$2.50 per Cow | 9 | Rebuilding Stone fencing |
| 10 | 1 Riding Saddle | 10 | 350 lbs. Bacon at 15¢ per lb. |
| 11 | 1 New Hagen Saddle | 11 | 300 lbs. Lard at 10¢ per lb. |
| 12 | 1 Old Hagen Saddle | 12 | 200 lbs. Sugar at 12½¢ per lb. |
| 13 | 4 sets Sleigh Whips at \$4.00 per set. | 13 | 30 lbs. Crushed Sugar at 15¢ per lb. |
| 14 | 1 New Iron Pot | 14 | 5 Sacks Salt at \$2.00 per sack |
| 15 | 3 Blind Poles at \$1.50 each | 15 | 11 Barrels Vinegar at \$7.00 per barrel |
| 16 | Damage to Home & Dam | 16 | 15 lbs. Butter at 20¢ per lb. |
| 17 | Blacksmith & Carpenter Tools | 17 | 8 Gallons Molasses at 75¢ per lb. |
| 18 | 5 Cows feed at \$2.50 per Cow | 18 | 5 Crock Apple Butter at \$1.00 per Crock |
| 19 | 25 Bags at 35¢ each | 19 | 12 Crock Preserves at \$1.25 per Crock |
| 20 | 2 Half Bushel Measures at 50¢ each | 20 | 350 Chickens at 15¢ a piece |
| 21 | 3 Bush. Pot. at 75¢ per piece | 21 | 25 Ducks at 25¢ a piece |
| | \$829.75 | 22 | 1 Hatch |
| | | 23 | 1 Barrel Cucumbers Pickles |
| | | 24 | 8 Turkeys at 50¢ a piece |
| | | 25 | 1 Bushel Dried Apples |
| | | 26 | 1 Bushel Dried Apples |
| | | 27 | 5 Gallons Blackberry Wine at \$2.00 per gal. |
| | | | \$129.75 |

Continued from page 15

returned in the spring of 1863 to rebuild his house and barn on the original site.

It was Mumma, who in 1851, deeded land to the German Baptist Brethren to build a small white brick church, now known as the Dunker Church.

On that same September 17 morning, North and South both valiantly fought to hold possession of the high ground around the church, which had been completed in 1853.

Frassinito relates that 11 days after the battle, Sgt. Nathan F. Dykeman of Company H, 107th New York entered the church and found the large pulpit

Bible and proceeded to claim the Bible as a souvenir.

In 1903 veterans of the 107th secured the Bible from Dykeman's sister and returned it to the Dunkers.

Although the church was destroyed in a storm in 1921, bricks and other materials were saved. It was from this material that the building was reconstructed on the original foundation in 1962, 100 years after the battle in which the Dunker Church had served as a field hospital.

In 1906 Samuel Mumma, Jr., the same lad who had ventured back to his home on that September day almost 44

years earlier, was Sharpsburg's postmaster.

On March 19 he received a letter addressed to the Postmaster. The letter was written by James F. Clark of New Bern, NC. It turned out that Clark was one of the volunteers who had torched the Mumma property in 1862.

(Contents of this letter and Mumma's response are found on page 18.)

One of the children born to Samuel Mumma, Jr., was Victor, who happened to be born on the Sherrick Farm and was raised on the Grove Farm, where President Abraham Lincoln visited fol-

Into Nineteenth Century Manner Of Living

| Amt. Paid forward | | \$125.75 |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
| 6 | Jan. 12 th 1/2 lb. Candy, at 20¢ per lb. | 2.40 |
| 6 | " 24 Dry Eggs at 15¢ per doz. | 3.50 |
| 6 | " 6 Jan. Canned Fruit at 50¢ per can. | 3.00 |
| 6 | " 2 doz. Jam blue fruit with jelly, at 25¢. | 7.50 |
| 6 | " 10 lbs. Coffee, at 25¢ per lb. | 2.50 |
| 6 | " 5 lbs. Rice at 10¢ per lb. | .50 |
| 6 | " 1 Doz. Dinner Plates | 2.50 |
| 6 | " 1 Doz. Cups & Saucers | 2.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Doz. Spoons | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 2 Doz. Knives & forks at 2.50 per doz. | 5.00 |
| 6 | " 3 Pepper Boxes & 2 Salt Boxes | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Tin Kettle | 2.50 |
| 6 | " 3 Tin Knives at 75¢ a piece | 2.25 |
| 6 | " 2 Hardwood Knives at 50¢ a piece | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 6 Bread pans at 25¢ a piece | 1.50 |
| 6 | " 1 Doz. D. Plates | 2.00 |
| 6 | " 5 Dripping Pans at 30¢ a piece | 1.50 |
| 6 | " 1 Copper Kettle | 2.50 |
| 6 | " 1 Iron Kettle | 4.00 |
| 6 | " 3 Iron Cook Pots at 75¢ a piece | 1.50 |
| 6 | " 2 Skillets at 50¢ a piece | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Large Iron Kettle | 2.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Tea Kettle | .65 |
| 6 | " 2 Coffee Pots at 75¢ a piece | 1.50 |
| 6 | " 2 Coffee Pots at 50¢ a piece | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 3 Wash Basins at 25¢ a piece | .75 |
| 6 | " 4 Wash Tubs at 75¢ a piece | 3.00 |
| 6 | " 3 Dry Crocks at 9¢ a piece | 2.70 |
| 6 | " 1 Cullender | .25 |
| | | \$1391.37 |

| Amt. Paid forward | | \$1391.37 |
|-------------------------|--|-----------|
| 6 | Jan. 12 th Clothing for family, such as 3 | 107.00 |
| 6 | " 1 pair Night Clothing &c | 5.00 |
| 6 | " 1 pair Towels to pieces by a shirt | 75.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Pair Mare. Bureau clo. | 125.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Small Mare. Bureau clo. | 120.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Large Stone Jar | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 3 Flat Iron Weighing 18 lbs. | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 1 Iron Eating Jug | 1.00 |
| 6 | " 50 lbs. Soap at 7¢ per lb. | 3.50 |
| 6 | " 14 Large Meat Crocks at 25¢ a piece | 1.00 |
| Amt. carried to page 5. | | \$1391.37 |

Sharpsburg residents Earl and Annabelle Roulette graciously consented to allow the *Maryland Cracker Barrel* to publish the 1862 Roulette inventory precipitated by the Battle of Antietam. The inventory list shown here is just one of several that William Roulette compiled and submitted to the government following the "bloodiest day of the Civil War."

lowing the Battle of Antietam.

Victor Mumma continued the family tradition as Sharpsburg postmasters, and in 1926 he received a letter from a North Dakota resident, who had fought at Antietam. (Contents of that letter are found on page 20.)

One of Sharpsburg's most notable historians today is Wilmer Mumma, son of that postmaster who served from 1922-1933. Mumma's historic roots carry to the other side of the family as well. His great grandfather on his mother's side was Captain William McKendree Cronise of Company H of the original Sharpsburg Rifles, First

Maryland Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade of Maryland Volunteers, established about 1859. His great uncle James Wilson was 1st Lieutenant of Company A of the same brigade.

Mumma and his wife Gloria reside along the maple-lined Shepherdstown Pike west of Sharpsburg. Those trees, planted in honor of returning Civil War veterans before the turn of the century, may be responsible in part for the inspiration that helps to make Mumma one of the conveyers of the town's priceless heritage.

Dunker Church

A historical church service will be conducted by local Church of the Brethren congregations.

Sunday
September 13, 1992
2 p.m.

Soldier Details Role In Burning Mumma Farm

(Editor's Note: The letter below was received at the Sharpsburg Post Office on March 19, 1906. The author was one of the Confederate soldiers who burned the Mumma farm on September 17, 1862. The postmaster in 1906 happened to be Samuel Mumma, Jr., who fled the property shortly before it was destroyed. Following the letter is Mumma's response to the soldier from North Carolina. Both letters were loaned by Wilmer Mumma, grandson of Samuel Mumma, Jr.)

Dear Sir:

Please be so kind as to give me the correct name of the man who owned or lived in the brick house that was burned at the battle of Antietam or battle of Sharpsburg being called by both names.

I belonged to the 3rd N.C. Infantry, Col. Wm. L. Derossette, Ripley's Brigade, D.H. Hill's Division.

This house stood immediately in our front as the battle was being commenced and at times was in the enemies lines. General Ripley, to prevent its occupation by sharpshooters, and protect his officers from being picked off, ordered it to be burned.

A volunteer call was made, as to who would go and do it. Five or six privates from Co. A volunteered and I took charge of them, being at that time Sergeant Major of the Regiment.

After firing the house, we all got back to our lines; myself being the only one hurt. Ripley ordered me to carry orders down to his line to 44 and 48 Ga. Regiment to come up and take a rail fence in their front. He was shot soon after I left him.

I carried the orders down to the Ga. troops and being weak from loss of blood, we went off field by an old church and on to our hospital. Then a woman young and beautiful and black haired, helped to bandage my arm. Have often wondered if she was any of family living in house.

Please make all due inquiry as to family and where they went when caught between lines of battle.

I wish to write up the particulars of the event truthfully, and there are some particulars about the family I would like to have.

On the next campaign, Gettysburg, by the command to which I belonged, we assisted to capture Gen. Milroy at Winchester, Va., and I had to lay up for repairs and did not get any further.

My brother, now deceased, said he saw the old gentleman, or thought he talked with the owner of the house burned, and he said he hoped the next time they fought, they would get out of his cornfields, as he gathered no corn or crops that year.

Hoping to hear from you with line of particulars, as to where the family went that morning, Wed., Sept. 17, 1862, so far as I can recall. I am

Yours Respectfully & Truly

James F. Clark

Late Sergeant Major

3rd N.C. Reg.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of Mar. 19, asking for some information concerning the burning of the brick house, on Sept. 17, I will say that the house referred to was owned by my father, Samuel Mumma Sr.

The house, a large, brick colonial one, near the Dunker Church, was burned at the Battle of Antietam.

My father was told the family had better get away, so we left on Monday afternoon the 15th, took nothing with us as they were cannonading then, and we were afraid there would be a battle at once. Some clothing was gotten together and the silverware packed in a basket, ready to take but in our haste to get away, all was left behind.

Father and Mother and the younger children left in the two-horse carry-all (the older children walking as there was a large family) going about four miles, and camped in a large church called (the Manor Church), where many others were also congregated.

On Tues. evening a friend and I came back to the house, thinking to get some clothing, but found that everything of value had been taken. I then started for Sharpsburg, and at the ridge on the field above the house, where the line had formed, Gen. D.H. Hill and some other officers had me brought to them and questioned me as to whether I was a member of that family; and then asked me about the different roads to Antietam Creek.

I gave him a correct statement, although I was a Union boy. After we left, my older brother Daniel came back to the house and went to bed.

Towards morning, some officers knocked at the door. Daniel, being young also, was afraid to open door, jumped out back window, left it up, and spent the remainder of the night in an upper room of a stone building that was once used by their slaves. (Slaves had been freed.)

The next day he went to Sharpsburg. That morning the house & barn were burned, but we were told that Gen. Richardson's battery (a Union Gen.) shelled the barn and burnt it.

Our family then went to a friend's house and stayed until spring.

In the spring of '63 we rebuilt our house and had just moved in a few weeks before the army went to Gettysburg.

As they were passing through to Gettysburg an officer approached me and asked me if I knew who had burnt that house. I told him I did not; then he told me that he and eight other men were detailed by Gen. Ripley to burn the house, and that he picked up a chunk of fire from where they had been cooking & put it in an open window on a bed. He told me the color of the quilt and shape of bedstead.

We lost crops, fencing and everything all amounting to 8 or 10 thousand dollars and never were recompensed as the government claimed it was damaged by being right in heat of battle.

As near as I can remember, the hospital you speak of must have been at the home of one Harry Reel, South West of the old Church, who had a daughter with black hair; she is now dead, and the rest of the family have moved West. That was the nearest hospital that I know of.

As to your burning the house, we know that in doing so, you were carrying out orders!

Enclosed find a few souvenir postals of the battle.

Hoping these points will help you in your work, I am

Sincerely

Samuel Mumma Jr.

P.M. Sharpsburg, Md.

J.C.
Cochran

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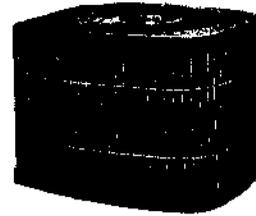
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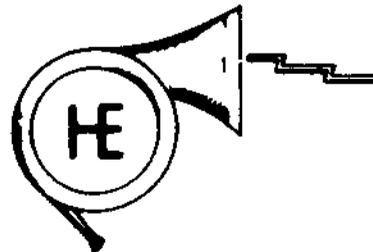
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Nostalgic Moments

Union Veteran Remembers Sharpsburg 64 Years Later

(Editor's Note: The letter above was sent to Victor Mumma, Sharpsburg postmaster, by a Union soldier, who had fought at Antietam. The letter was postmarked 1926. Mumma's son, Wilmer, loaned the material to the Maryland Cracker Barrel.)

Des-Lacs, Ward Co. N. Dak.
Sep. 17 1926

To the Post Master, Sharpsburg,
Maryland

Dear Friend

Will you please answer the following questions

About what is the population of your town

About 1 Mile South of Sharpsburg there were a double poplar tree is it there now

At this tree a Confederate Graveyard was made. The 1st grave was a Sharp-shooter shot off the tree

Are the graves there now

1 Mile South of town, a large straw pile was a hospital

Is there a fine spring in Sharpsburg?

Were the dead removed from the tree?

Our camp after the battle, was 1/2 way to the Potomic

Does the town still show marks of the Battle?

Please answer these questions.

On the morning of the 20 of Sep. 1862, our battle line crossed the stone bridge, and on the West Side of the road there had been a Confederate battery many of their dead were lying there, some Union dead, in a corn field, on East-Side, there were at least 15 dead Battery Horses, Our battle line moved on slowly. I took Canteens and was forward, into town, on the right-side of the Street, was a draw well, I put the bucket in the well, and commenced to draw, when I saw a dead man, lying there, I left the bucket in the well, went out the gate. The door into the hall was open, and in the hall, was 2 dead Confederates. A cannon ball had



This view of the Mumma farm was taken immediately following the invasion of Confederate soldiers onto Washington County soil in September of 1862.

passed through the corner of the house, killed all 3, then I went further South, found a spring, filled my Canteens, found no living person, in the town, I went back North, and went over Battle line, moving South 1 mile South of town, was many wounded, at a large Straw pile. We halted at the Straw pile, Then hurried over to the Potomic, Our 118 Pa, Reg, was coming back, over the River, What

was left of Our Com Exchange Reg, I belonged to Co I 126 Reg, Pa Vol. Col. Elder, 1st Brigade, Gen. E.B. Tyler, I Division, Gen. Humphries, and all commanded by Gen. Geo. B. McClellan I was 20 years old, am to day 84 Years, 5 mo, and 15 days old, We came to N.D. in 1900, my people number 40,

Yours very truly,
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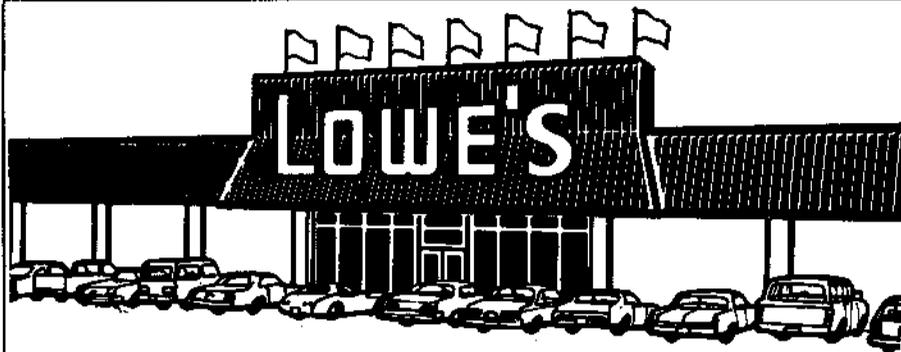
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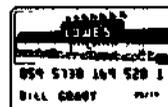
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Country Gentlemen

Culler Family Proves To Be Ideal Caretaker For History's Most Famous Cornfield

By Frank Woodring

Eighty-three-year-old Paul Culler has spent most of the past 40 years roaming the fields of the Miller Farm on the Antietam Battlefield.

Unlike the men from the Union and Confederate armies on that fateful day (September 17, 1862) in American history, Culler has spent almost half of his life transforming the 140-acre farm into a prosperous venture.

It was here in the Miller cornfield that Union General Joseph Hooker's artillery unleashed its dreaded fire on Stonewall Jackson's troops in a battle that lasted three hours. Hooker was reported to

have stated, "Every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before." The carnage witnessed in the Miller cornfield helped to make September 17 the bloodiest day of the Civil War.

Culler reminisced that "we are reminded quite often" of that September day. "I found a bullet in the garden this spring," he recounted. "When we first went down there (Miller Farm), we'd plow and let the soil lay for a few days. After

a rain we'd find 12-20 bullets lying on the soil."

Years ago a man from Harrisburg found his 1,000th bullet on the farm and presented it to the Cullers as a gift.

In addition to a four-inch cannon ball, the most unique find of the Cullers occurred as they were working on the farmhouse. "It was a log house originally. We cut a window in and in the wall were a ramrod, two 1862 newspapers, and a baby's shoe."

Culler bought the Miller Farm in 1952 after the Department of the Army forced

Continued on page 24



History was indelibly etched onto the fields of the Miller Farm when Union and Confederate forces suffered losses totaling 23,110 in what became known as the bloodiest day of the Civil War, September 17, 1862. Dawn of that fateful day saw Union General Joseph Hooker initiate the battle from the North Woods in the upper right

of the above photo. The Cornfield, which witnessed more fighting in three hours than anywhere else on Antietam Battlefield, was located in the foreground, one-half mile south of the North Woods. For the past 40 years Paul Culler has been entrusted with helping to preserve this pristine setting near Sharpsburg.

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Fields Still Beckon 83-Year-Old Farmer

Continued from page 22

him to abandon his farm along the Keedysville Road where the University of Maryland Research and Experimentation Farm currently rests. "The Army bought it for a radar communication center."

Thus came the most difficult period of Culler's life as he and his wife Evelyn faced a mountain of debt as they attempted to turn the Miller Farm into a dairy operation. "That was rough; it was the hardest part of my life. We ran up so many bills my wife would cry."

Having to buy feed for his herd, Culler purchased much of it on credit from Jay Gower's Feed Mill at Fairplay. "I owed him \$2,000, but he kept carrying me."

Culler was desperate for money to finance his new farm and almost gave it up when Hagerstown attorney Charlie Wagaman, Sr., helped him secure a \$15,000 mortgage from the Nicodemus Bank.

"We had a 20-year mortgage and paid it off in 16 years. I guess we did all right," he noted with a smile.

In 1977 Culler sold his cattle and machinery to his son Lynn. "I've been working with him; it's all his baby."

Leery of the National Park Service from the time he acquired the Miller Farm in '52, Culler made them a promise which he kept. "I sent word that when I was ready to sell, they'd be the first to know. I stuck to that.

"In the fall of 1988, I let them know I was ready to sell. I got to the point where I didn't want too much work, and Lynn was losing interest in farming."

On June 30, 1989, the Miller Farm was sold by Culler to the Conservation Fund backed by the Mellon Foundation,



Semi-retired farmer Paul Culler poses with his wife Evelyn and children Lynn and Donna at his parents' home east of Boonsboro in this 1948 photo.

which turned it over to the Park Service in July of 1990. The agreement allowed the Cullers to farm the ground until 1993 when they must submit a bid to the Park

Service if they wish to continue farming the property.

When Culler sold the farm to the foundation, he saw more than a 30-fold return on his initial investment, not bad for someone who almost lost his opportunity to help preserve this country's heritage.

Today Culler, along with Lynn, daughter-in-law Sandy, and grandson Doug live in a white brick rancher along the Sharpsburg Pike near the intersection of the Keedysville Road just a few miles north of the spot he had called home from 1952 to 1989. (Culler's wife passed away in 1978.)

"I work until noon by myself, six days a week, and in the afternoon I work with Lynn (a part-time mail carrier)." He cares for the gardens at the Miller Farm, where they raise mostly sweet corn and some potatoes, and the garden at his new home. "I still plow corn; with tractor work I can go all day."

He recalls that until 1944 most farming was done with horses. "As I got older, the tractor became more attractive. The old fellows used to say, 'Keep the tractors off the ground; they'll kill it.' It wasn't too long before most of the fellows had 'em."

The Miller Farm has been good to Paul Culler, and he in turn has more than been good to that parcel of American history entrusted to his care for the past 40 years.

(Editor's Note: The newspapers found in the Culler home were copies of the American and Commercial Advertiser, April 21, 1862, and May 22, 1861. The Baltimore newspapers, still legible, sold for two cents.)

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Please join us for all the festivities in town on Sept. 19-20 when the Sharpsburg Lions Club will sponsor the first annual Sharpsburg Heritage Festival.

We have a wonderful selection of traditional crafts people (many will be demonstrating) and walking tours through town. There will be buggy rides (to get you from one place to the other), pony rides for the kids, and fabulous food.

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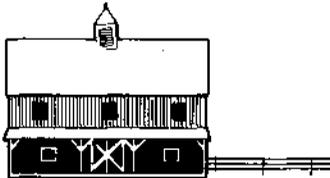
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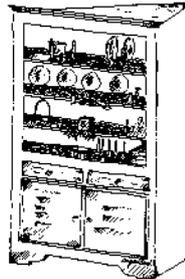


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Country Cupboard

By Suanne Woodring



"Summertime and the living is easy" is a line from a George Gershwin song. Sometimes I think that things are more hectic during the summer than during the school year since I'm trying to catch up on all the backlog from the last nine months. Here are a few of my "easy" summertime favorites.

Summer Salad

Place an assortment of different kinds of lettuce and spinach in a salad bowl. Add a layer of sliced green onions. Next comes a layer of sliced fresh mushrooms.

Place slices of one or two hard boiled eggs on top. Drizzle with mustard dressing (recipe follows). Top off with two or three slices of crumbled, cooked bacon and some grated Parmesan cheese.

Mustard Dressing

Mix together in a blender for about five minutes the following items:

- 1 cup oil
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 or 2 tablespoons prepared mustard (I prefer a Dijon style)
- celery seed

Strawberry Cooler

Place a 1/2 cup boiling water in a blender; add a 3-ounce package of strawberry-flavored gelatin. Blend on high speed about 1 minute till gelatin is dissolved. Scrape down the sides. Add 1 cup crushed ice; blend till ice is melted and mixture is cool.

Break a 10-ounce package of frozen strawberries into chunks, add to mixture and blend for several seconds until frozen chunks are dissolved.

Pour into mixing bowl. Let stand for a couple of minutes. Fold in 1 cup of frozen dessert topping thawed and extra strawberries (if desired). Makes 4 servings.



Creamicle Float

Place two or three scoops of vanilla ice cream in a large glass. Pour chilled orange soda over the ice cream. Serve with a spoon and a straw and enjoy a refreshing hot weather treat.

NeedleNotes

By Susie Salvagni
from Just Stitchin'

Have you seen a beautiful, delicate needleart called Hardanger embroidery? Hardanger is a form of cutwork-after working certain stitches, some of the fibers of the ground fabric are actually cut away.

This fine work originated at the head of the Hardanger fjord in the region of the same name in Norway. Most of the Scandinavian countries have some form of it, and it was brought to this country by immigrants from that region. The revival of Hardanger in this country sprang from the Dakotas and the Minnesota/Wisconsin area where many Scandinavian immigrants had settled.

Though we make many pictures, ornaments, and other purely decorative items now, if you are ever fortunate enough to see old pieces or to witness a Scandinavian heritage festival, you will see many linens and articles of clothing. Like the bulk of needlework through history, the work was beautiful secondarily - the prime purposes were practical ones.

You may see some nice examples of Hardanger in your needlework shop and be put off by the seeming intricacy of it. You may be frightened by having to actually cut your needlework. Don't let these things put you off-anyone who can do any counted work can do Hardanger.

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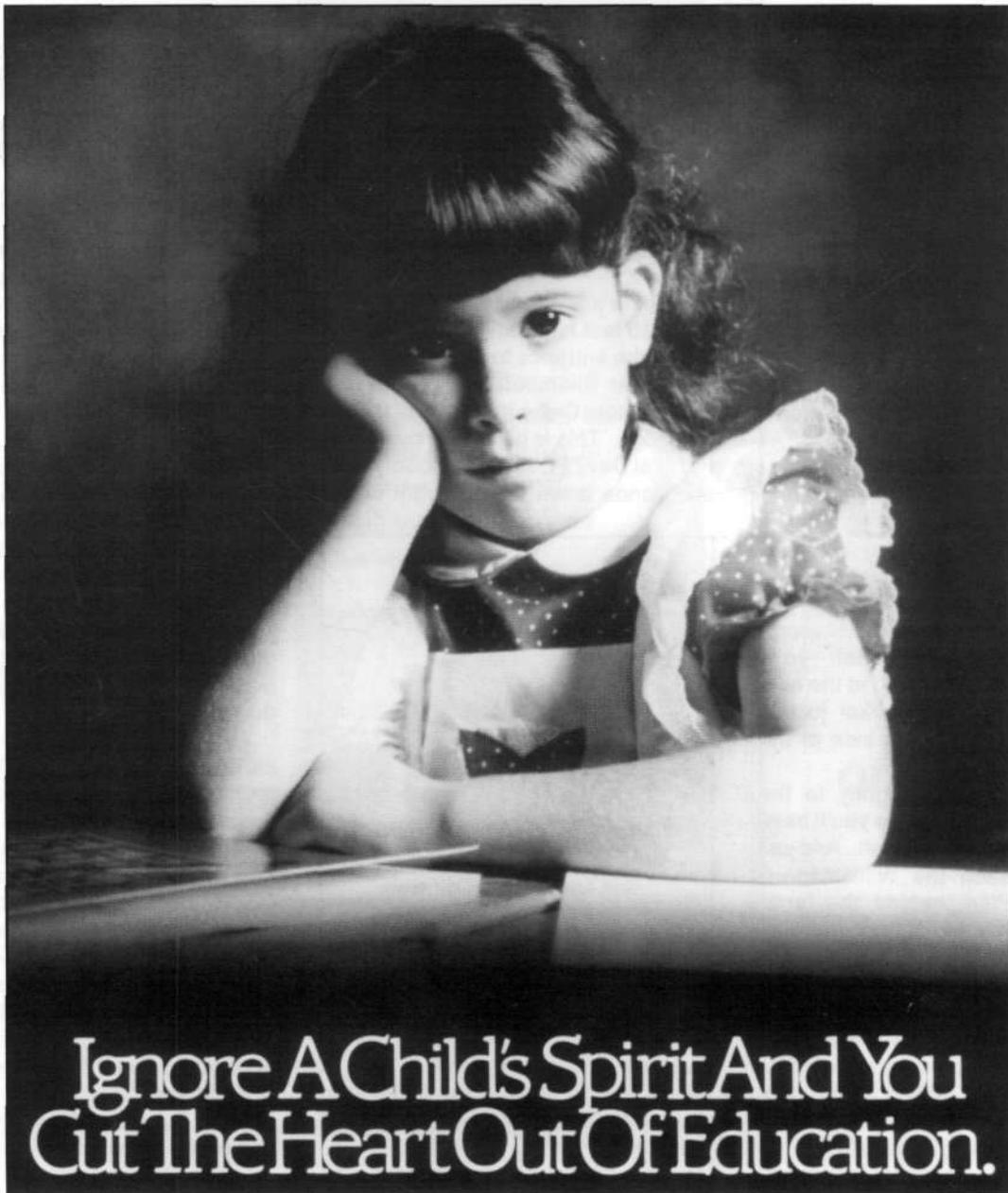
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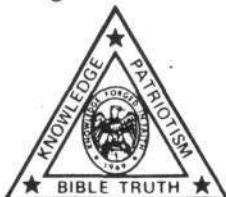
If you look closely, you can see it in the eyes - a certain longing, an unexpressed questioning: What is my life all about? Am I important to anyone? Why do I hurt sometimes?

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Valley Perspective

County Possesses 'Unknown' Waterfall

By Bob O'Connor

People visit Washington County for many more reasons than to just visit the obvious: Antietam Battlefield, Fort Frederick, and the major attractions. There are some "out of the way" gems that the county has that with a little effort (or in some cases a lot of effort), you too can enjoy.

The mile markers along the Mason-Dixon line are easy to find along State Line Road just north of the Washington County Regional Airport. Turn west off Rt. 11 in State Line and the first mile marker is on the left, just before the road that goes into Citicorp. Continue west and watch your automobile's odometer and at the next mile, there's the next marker just to your left, along the south side of the road.

The road angles slightly to the north, so after another mile you'll have to look a bit farther to your left. And just before you reach the Williamsport-Greencastle Pike, behind the farmhouse, just at the end of their driveway is another one.

Others visible by car are the Crown Stone, the 100th marker, right by the porch of the house where Marsh Pike crosses into Pennsylvania and on Blair's Valley Road, about 50 feet to your right as you cross the PA-MD line driving toward Whitetail Ski Resort.

Other mile markers are in farmers' fields, every mile, and are a lot more difficult to find. Please ask permission

to walk through the fields to view the markers.

There's a beautiful little waterfall, about 15 feet high (which looks like the one at the entrance to Caledonia State Park near Chambersburg, PA) along the Antietam Creek just north of the Rt. 34 bridge. This is best seen by canoe. Put in at Devil's Backbone County Park and canoe down to just south of the

average person, but the view from the top is spectacular. It is a good idea to check in with the visitors center at the National Park across the river before trying this climb. It is well worth the trip, but not for people with heart problems or people who tire easily. It is a very difficult climb.

For the less adventurous, here are some challenges for the summer.

(1) See if you can find the only Michigan historical marker in Washington County. (Hint: it's not at Antietam Battlefield.)

(2) See if you can find the first ("A") geodetic survey marker in the U.S. It's here in Washington County. (Hint: it's downtown.)

(3) How about trying to locate the earliest of the Washington County stone arch bridges. (Hint: it's along the National Pike.)

(4) Do you know where the #87 mile marker on the National Pike is?

(5) See if you can find the Devil's Race Course, described in this magazine recently.

The first person who provides the **Cracker Barrel** with photos of these five items will receive the two 1992 Boonsboro historic buildings from the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau and a year's subscription to the **Maryland Cracker Barrel**.

Bob O'Connor is the director of the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Washington County

With Pride

Beginning in the October/November issue, the **Maryland Cracker Barrel** will feature historic sites from in and around Washington County

Burnside Bridge. Be careful. This is not an easy stretch of the creek, and you need to be an experienced canoeist to try this.

The hike to the top of Maryland Heights (across the Potomac River from Harpers Ferry) is very difficult for the



"Battle of South Mountain, Maryland"

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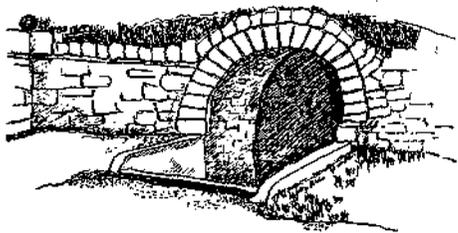
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Sharpsburg Heritage Festival '92

Town Unveils Concept To Share Its Rich Heritage

By Mrs. Larry L. Lushbaugh

Numerous articles have been written about the Battle of Antietam and countless debates have occurred over such topics as overlays, property boundaries, and "woodchucks" (we call the little critters "ground-hogs"). Well, relax readers, this is not related to any of that subject matter.

Many of the families now living in Sharpsburg have a lineage traced back hundreds of years. Some of those families are still living in homes where their ancestors once dwelt.

The first settlers were the Catawba Indians. They established their village around the Great Spring. The townspeople enjoyed the cool, clear water for many years. The town was laid out by Joseph Chapline, and dedicated on July 9, 1763, making Sharpsburg the second oldest town in Washington County. This means the town was 99 years old before her cornfields ran red with brother's blood from the Battle of Antietam.

Recently, a group of energetic people came up with the idea of the Sharpsburg Heritage Festival '92. The purpose of this festival is to share with others the life and history of the people of this quiet rural setting.

The Great Spring was chosen as this year's symbol — the perpetual flow from bygone days continuing into the future. The Festival will be held on September 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the quaint town of Sharpsburg.

You are invited to take a leisurely stroll through history with the popular Walking Tours, featuring many points of interest and guides in period costumes. Experience the reality of community pride. Notice, as you walk, the memorabilia in the windows of the homes and shops.

If you would rather not walk, a horse-drawn carriage will be available. Pony rides will be available for the children. An exhibition of antique and family quilts, coverlets, textiles, and clothing from the area will be held.

Demonstrations of traditional crafts will be provided for your educational benefit. Speakers and local historians will relate facts and "yarns" from "back when." There will be quality crafts, delicious food, and music provided by the Indiana Brass Band (from Indiana, PA) and other musicians. Approval has

been obtained for a special Postal Cancellation Station in the square for both days, along with a Collector's Cache Set.

The townsfolk have been working on a community quilt that will be raffled on Sunday afternoon, September 20. An ecumenical service will be held on Sunday morning. After the service, you may wish to tour some of our beautiful houses of worship in town. Many of the homes and outbuildings are still in the same pristine condition as the day they were built, hundreds of years ago.

The nearby Antietam National Battlefield will be having its special programs and torch-

light tours as part of the annual Anniversary Weekend, and the nearby C&O Canal will be sponsoring a special tour.

Sharpsburg Heritage Festival is sponsored by the Sharpsburg Lions Club in cooperation with the Sharpsburg Heritage Festival Committee and endorsed by the Mayor and Town Council.

The wealth of the people of Sharpsburg comes from the pride and love we hold for the town. We have agreed to share it with all those who are willing to step back in time and walk her streets. Come and find the magic of Sharpsburg and her people.

Sharpsburg Heritage Festival 92

Saturday, September 19

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 9:15 a.m. | Festival Booth Opens | Town Square |
| 9:30 a.m. | Opening Ceremony | Town Square |
| 10:15 a.m. | Dignitaries' Carriage Ride to | Crafts Area |
| 10:00 a.m. | Crafts Festival opens | Little League Field |
| | Food Booths Open | Little League Field |
| | Pony Rides | Little League Field |
| | Textile Exhibit Opens | South Mechanic St. |
| 10:30 a.m. | Carriage Rides Begin | |
| 11:00 a.m. | Walking Tours Begin | Town Square |
| 11:30 a.m. | Speaker | |
| 2:00 p.m. | Speaker | |
| 5:00 p.m. | Festival Closes | |
| | Evening Walking Concert (Tentative) | |

Sunday, September 20

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Festival Booth Opens | Town Square |
| 10:00 a.m. | Ecumenical Service | Little League or Fire Hall Pavilion |
| | Crafts, Food, Music | Little League Field |
| | Textile Exhibit | South Mechanic St. |
| 11:00 a.m. | Walking Tours Begin | Town Square |
| | Music by Indiana Brass Band | |
| 2:00 p.m. | Speaker | |
| 5:00 p.m. | Festival | |
| | Additional Activities Are Being Planned | |

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The D.R. Miller home, seen as it was prior to the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, is located on the Antietam Battlefield. The picture was presented by the NBC Television Network to Paul Culler, who helped to preserve the historic farm for the past 40 years.

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