



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPSCS Donates 125 Tons of Stones To Help Restore Structures at Antietam National Battlefield

TOWSON, MD (July 7, 2009)---The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services outreach and community improvement efforts reached a milestone today, when the Division of Correction Hagerstown regional maintenance operation officially donated 125 tons of locally-quarried stones to help restore Civil War-era structures at Antietam National Battlefield.

The stones were part of thousands of tons originally quarried on-site and cut by hand when the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown was built – using inmate labor---in the 1930s. The surplus stones have sat dormant in a ground silo on the Roxbury Road prison complex for decades, until DOC Regional Maintenance Supervisor Rick Winebrenner and Antietam National Battlefield Superintendent John Howard realized the stones were a near-perfect match for Civil War-era construction. The stones are being used to rebuild the Poffenberger Farm Swiss bank barn (site of the news conference), and other structures, and will also be used to construct large wayside historical markers at Burnside Bridge and other iconic battlefield locations.

“We are just thrilled to get these stones, and thankful for the great partnership of DOC and DPSCS,” said Antietam Superintendent John Howard.

DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard, noting that Maryland Correctional Enterprises inmates have also planted nearly 5,000 trees on the battlefield, expressed great satisfaction at his department being able to contribute. “We’re so glad to be a part of this restoration effort, and this is exactly the kind of thing DPSCS is trying to do all across the state: using our resources, our inmates, our materials to help with meaningful projects.”

The Poffenberger Farm, just north of the cornfield and “Bloody Lane,” served as Union General “Fighting Joe” Hooker’s field headquarters on the morning of America’s bloodiest single day battle. The large bank barn and an unusual circular stone wall in front of it, built in the 1830s, will both be rebuilt with the prison stones. The Newcomer Farm restoration and other building foundations and wayside markers will use the stones in the near future.

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Original MCI-H stones (foreground), quarried on-site in the 1930s, stand ready to restore the Poffenberger barn and stone wall out front at Antietam National Battlefield.



DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard (right) speaks with Antietam Battlefield Sup't John Howard about possibly expanding the DPSCS-Park Service partnership.



Secretary Maynard is interviewed by the media during the news conference.



The estimated 125 tons of prison-quarried stones sat unused in a ground silo on the Roxbury Road State prison complex for decades.



Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown (above, in a photo of its construction taken in the mid- 1930s) was built with inmate labor using stones quarried on-site. The leftover hand-cut stones are now being used at Antietam National Battlefield to restore Civil War-era structures.
