

Introducing the Antietam Institute

Until now, the public, students and scholars of the 1862 Maryland Campaign have not had a resource that focuses solely on education and the scholarship of that important moment in America's history. Interested in offering the public these kinds of educational opportunities, a group of dedicated students of the Maryland Campaign established the Antietam Institute earlier this year.

The Antietam Institute is the leading member-based, educational, and philanthropic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to the education and scholarship of the Maryland Campaign. The Institute seeks to educate the public on the central role of the 1862 Maryland Campaign and Battle of Antietam as a major turning point of the Civil War that directly resulted in the issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Antietam Institute sponsored conferences, symposiums, publications, leadership forums, and other activities are designed to facilitate collaborative learning and knowledge exchange, creating unique opportunities for discovery and to inspire further historical research. The Institute is developing new educational opportunity programs and scholarships for students and teachers. Funding will allow the Institute to support and advance further historical research of the Campaign and provide a repository for the dissemination of historical information related to the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Members will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational activities. The Institute's first Annual Fall Conference will be held on the weekend of October 15 - 17, 2021 and features several presentations, three battlefield excursions, a panel discussion, and keynote address by a prominent authority on the battle and campaign. In addition, our first one-day Annual Spring Symposium will be held on April 23, 2022. It will showcase a variety of presentations and discussion about the campaign. Both events will be informative, interactive, and thought-provoking. Several other educational programs are being considered, such as leadership forums, and possibly in-service programs for teachers.

Another core activity of the Institute is the publication of materials that enhance knowledge and understanding of the Maryland Campaign. This includes the bi-annual publication of the *Antietam Journal: Perspectives on the 1862 Maryland Campaign*, featuring the latest research, interpretation, and stories of the Maryland Campaign, and a variety of other sections, such as book reviews, interesting/unusual areas of the battlefields, stories about relics, and interviews. The first edition of the *Antietam Journal* will hit the street just before the 159th anniversary of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

The Institute will also serve as a publishing house for other research and scholarship. In 2021, the Institute will publish the *The Brigades of Antietam*, with a follow-up volume, *The Artillery Units of Antietam* coming in 2022.

The Antietam Institute will house a Historical Research Center (HRC), an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating in digital form, historical information related to the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Institute members will have direct access to these unique source materials.

The Journal, other publications, and HRC will advance the scholarship of the Maryland Campaign by inspiring historical research, creating unique opportunities of discovery, and by facilitating collaborative learning and knowledge exchange.

In partnership with the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, the Institute provides an academic internship for one of their outstanding undergraduate students. Working with the Institute's staff, the interns will gain invaluable experience in journal editing and formatting, the development and implementation of educational programs, interacting with the Antietam Institute's scholars and audiences, and researching a special topics project.

Each year the Institute will make donations to the battlefield parks, local preservation group and other historical organizations that support the Institute's goals. As a member-based organization, the new Antietam Institute needs the support of individuals interested in the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Membership levels begin as low as \$25 a year and rise to a lifetime membership of only \$1000. Each level has increasing levels of membership incentives.

The Antietam Institute is excited to offer new educational opportunities to the public, students and scholars who wish to learn and participate in the scholarship of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. If you are interested in joining or learning about the Institute, check out our website at antietaminstitute.org or email us at info@antietaminstitute.org.