



MEDIA ADVISORY

*“Shepherdstown Remembers Antietam” to be shown on September 17
Local history groups co-sponsor event to mark 161st anniversary of the Battle of Antietam*

The bloodiest day in American military history took place on September 17, 1862 in Maryland just across the river from Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

To mark the Battle of Antietam’s anniversary, on Sunday, September 17 at 3:00 pm, the Shepherdstown Opera House will host the first theater screening of “*Shepherdstown Remembers Antietam*,” an original film written and produced by local history researcher Jim Surkamp. The film describes the Battle’s impact through the eyes of Shepherdstown-area residents of the time, many of whom mobilized to aid wounded and hungry soldiers. A short Q&A will follow the film. Admission will be free.

For 30-plus years, Surkamp has collected and organized photographs and written recollections from local figures such as Mary Bedinger Mitchell, Nettie Lee, and Henry L. Snyder. His dedication to local history earned him Historic Shepherdstown’s 2023 *Preserving Historic Legacies* Award.

This showing of *Shepherdstown Remembers Antietam* is co-sponsored by three Shepherdstown-based non-profit organizations devoted to historic preservation, research and education:

- [Historic Shepherdstown & Museum](#)
- [Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association](#)
- [Shepherd University’s George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War](#)

Immediately before the film’s screening, Surkamp will lead a walking tour, starting at the Entler Hotel and ending at the Opera House, for invited guests of the co-sponsoring organizations.

“How many towns have their own historian-filmmaker?” remarked Harriet Pearson, co-owner of the Shepherdstown Opera House. “We’re pleased that the renovated Opera House can showcase Jim Surkamp’s work with the co-sponsorship of Historic Shepherdstown & Museum, the George Tyler Moore Center at Shepherd University, and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association.”

WHO: Jim Surkamp, Local history researcher

Stephanie Unger, Board Member, Historic Shepherdstown and 8th Grade Civics & WV History Teacher

Dr. Mike Nickerson, President, Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association

Professor James Broomall, Director, George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University

WHEN: Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm (doors open at 2:30 pm; reserved seats released at 2:50 pm)

WHERE: Shepherdstown Opera House, 131 West German Street, Shepherdstown WV 25443

MORE INFORMATION:

- Seating for the September 17 screening is limited to 100 people. Reserve seats at OperaHouseLive.com
- Later that same week, the Shepherdstown Opera House will continue its support of local remembrances of the Battle of Antietam by hosting a special lecture organized by Shepherd University's George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of Civil War:
 - When: Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 pm
 - What: Historian and filmmaker Steven Cowie will present from his book [*When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called It Home*](#)
 - Where: Shepherdstown Opera House 131 West German St., Shepherdstown, WV
 - Who: [George Tyler Moore Center for the History of the Civil War at Shepherd University](#)
 - Free admission. No tickets required. For more information, email gtmcweb@shepherd.edu

BACKGROUND:

[Shepherdstown Opera House:](#) Built in 1910 as a vaudeville theater, the Shepherdstown Opera House is an intimate and welcoming venue for live music, film, lectures, and gatherings in the historic district of West Virginia's oldest town. An extensive repair and renovation project is underway and has enabled the Opera House to reopen for select events and rentals with more to come. More information at OperaHouseLive.com

[Historic Shepherdstown Commission & Museum:](#) An active, non-profit, membership organization dedicated to preserving Shepherdstown's architectural character, and building public understanding of Shepherdstown's distinctive history.

[Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association:](#) The SBPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the site of the noted Civil War battle at Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

[George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War:](#) Established in 1993 at Shepherd University, the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War (GTMC) promotes the study of the Civil War era through the integration of scholarship, undergraduate education, and public engagement.

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