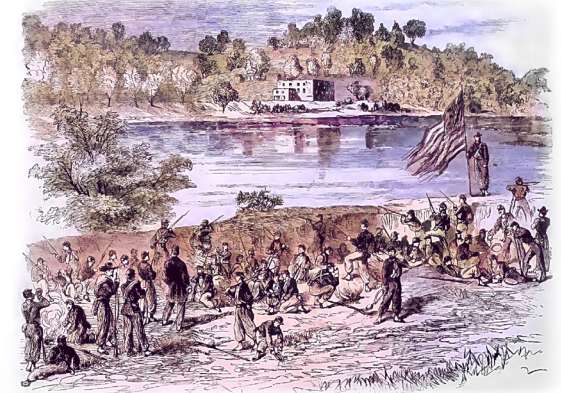


# SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOUR

A 2-hour, 10-mile drive through Civil War history.



*HISTORY WORTH LEARNING!*



*Ford near Shepherdstown on the Potomac-Picket firing across the river. Harper's Weekly, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862*

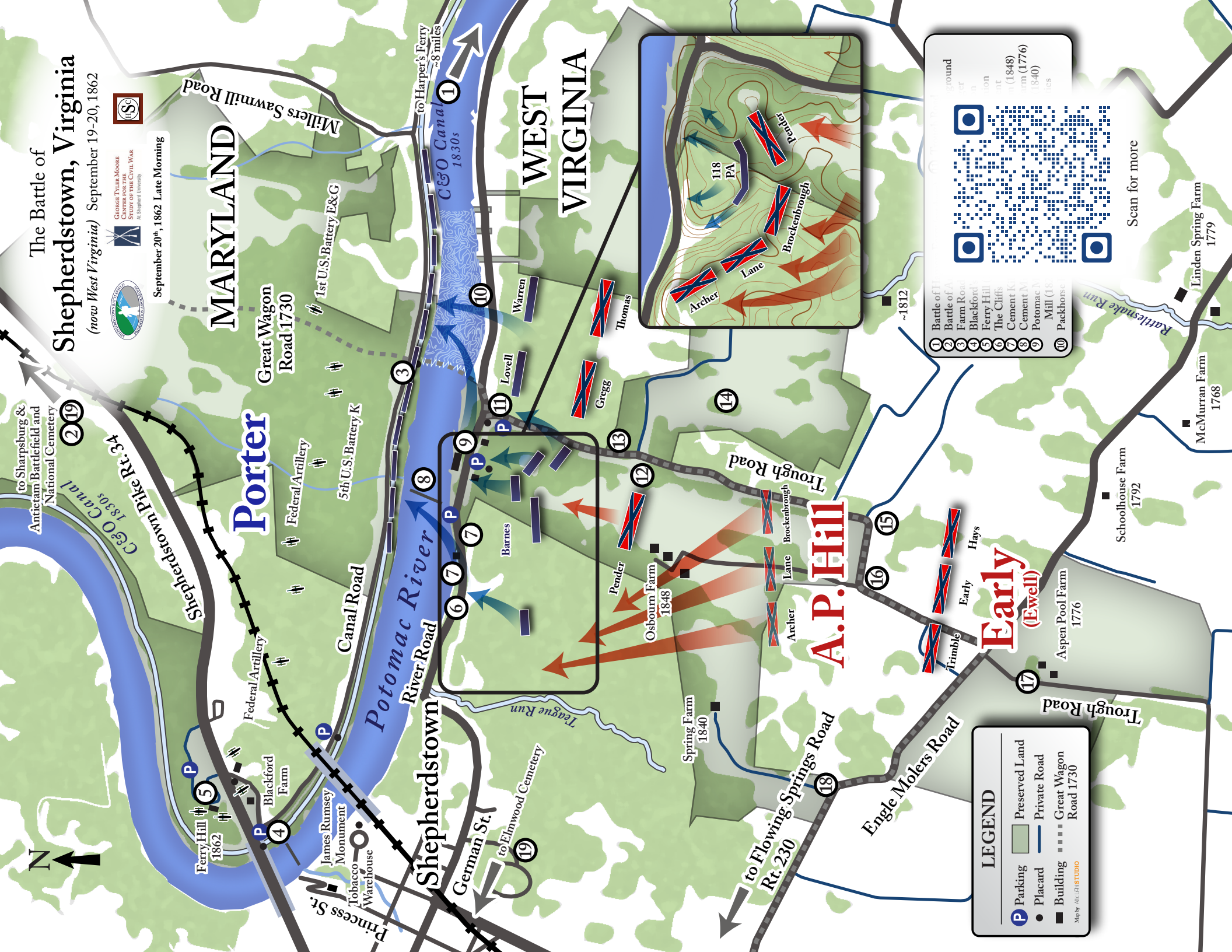
- ① **Battle of Harpers Ferry.** 8 miles downstream on September 14-15, 1862, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson captured the Federal garrison and 13,000 Union troops, then marched to Boteler's Ford and Antietam. Established by George Washington in 1794, it was briefly occupied by abolitionist John Brown in 1859.
- ② **Battle of Antietam.** 4 miles from Shepherdstown. Over 100,000 soldiers were engaged in the largest North American battle to that date. The estimated 23,000 casualties represent the deadliest one-day battle in American military history.
- ③ **Farm Road to Packhorse Ford.** September 18 overnight, the Confederate Army retreated south on the 'Great Wagon Road,' today a farm road, to Packhorse Ford, marked by a C&O Canal plaque. By Friday, September 19 midmorning, the Canal was occupied by Union riflemen, and Union artillery was emplaced at Ferry Hill and on the Maryland ridges.
- ④ **Blackford's Ferry.** The farm on both sides of Canal Road was owned by the Blackford Family, who operated a Ferry until 1851, then sporadically after the bridge was burned in 1861. They owned a farm on Miller's Sawmill Road on the Maryland side of Packhorse Ford.
- ⑤ **Ferry Hill (1812).** Home of Confederate Major Henry Kyd Douglas, interred at Elmwood Cemetery. Union artillery was moved here from Antietam and blasted the Virginia cliffs by the afternoon of September 19.
- ⑥ **The Cliffs.** The cliffs have deep, precise cuts where high-quality limestone was mined. By late morning, September 20, Confederate forces had pushed back the Union soldiers from the ridge above the cliffs towards the Cement Mill, dam and Ford. Union soldiers fell, jumped and climbed from the cliffs above during the retreat. Three Union canteens have been recovered.
- ⑦ **Cement Kilns.** Union soldiers sheltered in the upstream limestone kilns between River Road and the river. Some were killed by friendly fire from a Union artillery battery. Limestone was baked in the kilns, pulverized in the mill, then shipped on the C&O Canal.
- ⑧ **Cement Mill Dam.** The dam remnants still channel water into a mill raceway along the WV shore. Soldiers from the 25 NY, 13 NY and 118 PA ran across the dam to Maryland during their retreat and were shot by Confederate soldiers on the cliffs.
- ⑨ **Potomac Mills / Boteler's Cement Mill (1826 – 1901).** The ruins of a Cement and Grain Mill owned by the Boteler family of Shepherdstown were the center of heavy fighting throughout the battle. Colonel Alexander Boteler was a member of the Confederate Congress and Stonewall Jackson's staff. Union soldiers burned the mill in 1861, and the Boteler family home, Fountain Rock (2 miles away), in 1864.
- ⑩ **Packhorse Ford.** The Ford starts approximately 200 yards downstream from Trough Road and is over 100 yards wide. For over 200 years, the Great Wagon Road crossed the river at the Ford from Sharpsburg and went up Trough Road.
- ⑪ **Trough Road.** The route of the Confederate Army after Antietam and of the pursuing Union forces. This was the center of the Union artillery barrage, Union advance, and the Confederate repulse. Drive carefully!
- ⑫ **'Gypsy' Campground.** This location provided wood, grass and fresh water after crossing the Ford.
- ⑬ **Union Deringer.** Remnants of a pistol were recovered along Trough Road.
- ⑭ **Blown Cannon.** Local lore relates that a damaged Confederate cannon was thrown into a nearby sinkhole. A damaged cannon is mentioned on p. 74 of McGrath, *Shepherdstown: Last Clash of the Antietam Campaign*.
- ⑮ **Furthest Union Advancement.** The Union advanced to this point in the early morning, September 20. Union cannon fire reached here and to the second floor of the Osbourn Farmhouse, where a cannonball is still lodged.
- ⑯ **Osbourn Farm (1848).** Site of heavy fighting and artillery fire late morning September 20 between Pender's Confederate brigade and Lovell's and Barnes' Union brigades. Future plans include visitor parking, interpretive signage, a walking trail and picnic pavilions.
- ⑰ **Aspen Pool Farm (1776).** The Confederate Army marched from Antietam on September 18 up Trough Road, then A.P. Hill used the road and farm to repulse the Union forces from Virginia on September 20.
- ⑱ **Spring Farm (1840).** The left flank of A.P. Hill's soldiers moved across this farm to drive Union soldiers away from Shepherdstown towards the Ford. The farm has a cave with Confederate soldier graffiti.
- ⑲ **The casualties.** Confederate soldiers are interred at the Confederate Soldier Memorial in the Elmwood Cemetery on Rt. 480 in Shepherdstown, WV. Union soldiers are interred at the Antietam National Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

- ★ More than 6000 soldiers were engaged in Virginia at Packhorse Ford on the Potomac River
- ★ Union support from over 40 artillery batteries and soldiers in the dry C&O canal
- ★ A decisive Confederate victory by General A.P. Hill
- ★ An estimated 677 casualties during and immediately after the battle

# The Battle of Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia) September 19-20, 1862

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862 Late Morning

GEORGE TYLER MOORE  
CENTER FOR THE  
STUDY OF THE CIVIL WAR  
AT SHEPHERDSTOWN



**MARYLAND**

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**Porter**

**A.P. HILL**

**Early (Ewell)**

**LEGEND**

- Parking
- Preserved Land
- Placard
- Private Road
- Building
- Great Wagon Road 1730

Map by ANUPLI STUDIO

QR Code

Scan for more

- 1 Battle of Harper's Ferry (1862)
- 2 Farm Road 1730
- 3 Blackford Farm
- 4 Ferry Hill
- 5 The Cliffs
- 6 Cement Mill (1848)
- 7 Potomac
- 8 Mill (1840)
- 9 Packhorse
- 10

**A.P. Hill** Inset Map

118 PA

Archer

Lane

Brockenbrough

Pender

to Sharpshurg & Antietam Battlefield and National Cemetery

to Harper's Ferry - 8 miles

to Flowing Springs Road Rt. 230

to Elmwood Cemetery

Linden Spring Farm 1779

McMurrain Farm 1768

Schoolhouse Farm 1792

Aspen Pool Farm 1776

Spring Farm 1840

Osbourm Farm 1848

James Rumsey Monument

Tobacco Warehouse

Blackford Farm

Ferry Hill 1862

James R. Porter National Cemetery

Great Wagon Road 1730

5th U.S. Battery K

Federal Artillery

Canal Road

1st U.S. Battery E&G

Warren

Lovell

Gregg

Thomas

Archer

Lane

Brockenbrough

Pender