STOP 8—CARING FOR THE WOUNDED

In the days that followed the battle, both sides began the ghastly task of caring for the wounded. The Presbyterian Church was the largest makeshift hospital in Shepherdstown, serving the casualties from the Battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Shepherdstown. The town's residents soon became overwhelmed with thousands gravely wounded soldiers. It has been estimated that at one point, as many as 6,000 wounded sought shelter in the area's homes and businesses. Mary Bedinger Mitchell, a Shepherdstown resident, wrote of the days following the Battles of Antietam and Shepherdstown as “the most trying and tempestuous week of the war for Shepherdstown.”

STOP 9—ELMWOOD CEMETERY

The results of the campaign yielded little headway for either army in the broad scope of the war. The intense fighting which had taken place essentially returned both armies to their respective positions, and neither side could claim any significant advantage despite the campaign’s tremendous losses. 114 soldiers who fought in the Maryland Campaign are interred at Elmwood Cemetery. Other notable individuals buried here include Alexander Boteler, owner of the cement mill, and Henry Kyd Douglas, local resident and author of I Rode with Stonewall. In less than ten days, the two armies had sustained nearly 30,000 casualties.

STOP 7—THE CORN EXCHANGE REGIMENT

In the face of A.P. Hill’s rapid advance, a courier reached Colonel Charles Prevost of the 118th relaying the order to retreat. Insulted by the irregular nature of the message, Prevost refused and ordered his regiment to stay put. The inexperienced Pennsylvanians had not yet seen action, and, unbeknownst to them, nearly half of their rifles were defective. The regiment was quickly surrounded and pushed back to the edge of the cliffs above the Potomac. Prevost was seriously injured in an attempt to rally his men. They began to retreat in haste, some of them taking refuge in the kilns of the cement mill. The 118th suffered the worst casualties of the battle.

While many of Porter’s men crossed the river, Hill’s men attacked Union pickets and launched a full assault under heavy artillery fire on the surprised Federals. They immediately began a withdrawal, but the 118th Pennsylvania had crossed a ravine, which separated them from the main body of the army.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Follow the trail around the side of the cement mill ruins to the remains of the 6 kilns further up river on the trail.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Return to your vehicle and turn right on to Trough Road moving toward River Road. Turn left on to River Road and continue 1 mile to South Mill Street. Turn left onto South Mill Street and go 0.2 miles. Turn right on to East Washington Street and go 0.2 miles. The Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church will be on your left. Street parking is available.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Go northwest on West Washington Street toward South Church Street. Go 0.2 miles. Turn left at the second cross street on to West Virginia 480 South/ South Duke Street. Go 0.2 miles to Elmwood Cemetery on the right. Street parking is available.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Follow the trail around the side of the cement mill ruins to the remains of the 6 kilns further up river on the trail.
the war, Jefferson County would become central to the operations and history, the Battle of Antietam. In the midst of this critical period of near South Mountain, MD. The Maryland Campaign then began in realize he could split the Confederate Army by attacking Lee’s force on the information to gain a full advantage, but he did ultimately to capture the Federal arsenal there. McClellan failed to decisively act army, sending General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson to Harpers Ferry provided newly-reappointed Commanding General George McClellan for his men.

LEE’S 1862 MARYLAND CAMPAIGN

Following a successful spring and summer, Confederate General Robert E. Lee led the Army of Northern Virginia into Maryland, the war’s first northern invasion. Though he had won a decisive victory at the Battle of Second Manassas, Lee knew he could not remain in Virginia long. His army needed supplies, and he saw an invasion of the North, which was in a state of disarray politically and militarily, as a way to capitalize on previous successes. Lee convinced Confederate President Jefferson Davis that Richmond would remain safe if he removed his army. Additionally, Lee hoped that leaving Virginia would allow a full harvest in the Shenandoah Valley and secure future supplies for his men.

THE LOST ORDER

On September 9th, a Union soldier found a copy of Order No. 191 from Robert E. Lee in a meadow outside Frederick, MD. “The Lost Order” detailed Lee’s plans for the upcoming campaign and provided newly-reappointed Commanding General George McClellan with a detailed insight into the Lee’s strategy. He had divided his army, sending General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson to Harpers Ferry to capture the Federal arsenal there. McClellan decided to decisively act on the information to gain a full advantage, but he did ultimately realize he could split the Confederate Army by attacking Lee’s force near South Mountain, MD. The Maryland Campaign then began in earnest, ultimately leading to the single bloodiest day in American history, the Battle of Antietam. In the midst of this critical period of the war, Jefferson County would become central to the operations and hopes of both North and South.