D-45

HISTORY REPORT

The D.R. Miller Farm

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
SHARPSBURG, MARYLAND

Prepared by:

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Introduction

In 1990, the D.R. Miller farm was donated to the National Park Service by the Conservation Fund, bringing into the park some of the most significant land in the Antietam Battlefield.

The National Park Service now has responsibility for stewardship of the land and buildings on the farm. The farmstead has several mid-late 20th century buildings which are not historic. Remaining cultural elements that are historic include the house, barn foundations, spring and the road traces. The area is also rich in potential for archeological exploration, since the complex once included an earlier house and numerous outbuildings, as well as a turnpike toll house.

The purpose of this report is to provide an introductory history of the property, focusing on the house since it is the only remaining intact pre-Civil War building on the property. It is preliminary to a detailed structural study in an historic structures report.

The history report begins with a discussion of the historical context of the property covering settlement and cultural patterns in the 18th and 19th century development of Washington County. The second part of the report contains a description of the property as it currently appears. Part three relates the history of ownership of the property. This is followed by a section discussing the history of the construction of the house based on documentation discovered during the research effort. Part five offers an explanation of the appearance of the property at the time of the Battle in 1862 and includes alternatives for the Park Service to consider concerning the future treatment of the property. The report concludes with appendices containing copies of documents and maps pertaining to the property and an annotated bibliography.

Part I

Historical Context

The D.R. Miller Farm is located about two miles north of Sharpsburg in the southern part of Washington County, Maryland. The settlement and early history of Washington County is intertwined with the history of Pennsylvania as well as that of Maryland.

Washington County contains 458.47 square miles and is shaped very much like the state of Maryland. The boundaries are the top of South Mountain on the east, the Potomac River on the south, Allegany County, Maryland, to the west and the Mason-Dixon Line or Pennsylvania border on the north. The county is 50 miles long from east to west and only one mile wide at its narrowest point where the Potomac River arches northward near Hancock. Much of the area included within the boundaries of Washington County is the Cumberland Valley. Its eastern edge is the western base of South Mountain and the valley floor continues westward for approximately 30 miles before it is ended by mountain ridges, the eastern edge of the Appalachians.

Washington County was formed as a political entity in 1776 when it was divided from Frederick County. Hagerstown, the largest town in the new county, located in the center of the valley, was established as the county seat. At the time it was created, Washington County included all of Maryland west of South Mountain. It did not receive its present western boundary until 1789 when Allegany County was formed.

In 1732, Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore and proprietor of Maryland, issued a proclamation opening Maryland's frontier to settlement. Shortly thereafter, the first land grant was recorded for what is now Washington County. Most of the land surveys, grants, patents or warrants from the 1730s in Washington County were held by speculators or developers from eastern Maryland who laid claim to large tracts of land with hopes of eventual subdivision and profitable resale. Very few of the first land transactions were made by families who intended to work the land and establish permanent farms. As a result of this land speculation, the major thrust of settlement did not occur until the second half of the eighteenth century, and when it did happen, it was not by people moving west from tidewater Maryland, but rather by settlers from Pennsylvania, most of whom were Germans. These farmers took up lots of 150-300 acres and produced a variety of grains, hay and cattle, unlike tidewater planters who had larger properties with more specialized production.

The more flexible characteristics of general farming introduced from Pennsylvania led to an economy where a small proprietor mixed agricultural structure would eventually become dominant over the plantation system that was already established.

The first settlement in Washington County was at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Conococheague Creek, where Israel Friend established a small community at the present site of Williamsport, about 1730. Jacob Rohrer, a German, had a grist mill in operation on the Antietam Creek by the late 1730s, which means that there must have been enough farms being worked at the time to keep his mill in business. Prior to this settlement, the area was visited occasionally by fur traders.

Towns in Washington County were established as settlement progressed. Hagerstown and Sharpsburg are the oldest, both having been chartered in 1763, although settlements were in existence on both town sites earlier.

From the initial interests of fur trading and subsistence farming there developed more substantial farms. Grain farming was prominent, and as a result many grist and flour mills were established. The mills took advantage of the ample water power to convert grain into more easily marketable meal and flour. The fast-moving Antietam Creek, which drains the eastern half of the lower Cumberland Valley, was particularly suited to driving mill wheels. Milling was so prevalent that on the portion of the Antietam Creek which passes through Washington County, there were 15 grist mills by the last decade of the eighteenth century. Most of these eighteenth-century mills were operated by Germans with such names as Rohrer, Hager, Funk, Newcomer, Orndorff, Stull and Nichodemus.

The prominence of milling was a significant feature of the local economy. It reflects the influence of Pennsylvania in that the lower Cumberland Valley in Maryland developed a general agricultural economy with emphasis on wheat and other small grains, rather than the staple economy focusing on tobacco which developed in eastern Maryland. The long-term dominance of wheat production in the valley is illustrated by records which show that by 1870, Washington County had the highest yield of wheat in bushels per acre in Maryland. The county's average yield per acre in that year was 25-3/4 bushels as compared with a statewide average of 14-1/2 bushels per acre.[1]

Another important industry in the eighteenth century which developed from the emphasis on growing grain was whiskey distilling, a method of transferring bulky grain

into an easily marketable product. The early appearance of mills and distilleries indicates that the Cumberland Valley had developed its economic potential beyond subsistence agriculture and to a level of economic specialization with external trade systems by the mid- and late-eighteenth century.

In addition to agriculture, manufacturing interests also developed early in the valley's history. Deposits of iron ore in the mountains of Washington County made iron production feasible there at an early date. The area had all the ingredients for a successful iron operation in the eighteenth century: vast supplies of wood for making charcoal, limestone for flux, and iron ore. The iron industry in Washington County waned by the early nineteenth century, however, due to depletion of the forests and advances in the iron production processes which made the eighteenth-century methods and equipment obsolete.

Early Housing in Washington County

No known building stock remains from the initial habitation period in Washington County during the 1730s and '40s. However, the records that do exist indicate that nearly all of the earliest buildings were of log construction.

Log construction remained very typical in Washington County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as shown by the vast number of remaining log houses built before 1860. Dwellings built of log range from small cabins to large and pretentious houses. They were almost always covered with clapboards, stucco, or, in the 19th century, with brick casing. Covering the logs in most instances seems to have been the intent upon construction, as suggested by examination of log structures in the area which show little or no weathering on their log walls beneath siding.

Although there are a few references to pre-1760 stone houses in Washington County, stone was used frequently as a building material beginning in the second half of the 18th century with most examples in the lower Cumberland Valley dating between 1780 and 1840. Although stone was selected much more frequently than either brick or frame for house construction, it was by far a rarer choice than log.

Timber frame construction was not often used for houses in the Lower Cumberland Valley or Washington County. Frame construction did not become common in the area until the mid-19th century or later after light weight balloon framing was introduced.

Although brick construction was more prevalent than timber framing in Washington County in the 18th century, there are few examples from before 1800, and most of those are concentrated in towns.

The people of the Cumberland Valley built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19th century, the vast majority of Washington County's buildings are vernacular structures.

Due to the predominance of first and second generation German settlers in Washington County, there are some early buildings which exhibit distinct Germanic influence. These buildings characteristically have a central chimney system and a large kitchen occupying a prominent place in the house. The kitchen is served by a large fireplace along its interior wall. Adjacent to the kitchen, in the typical version of this plan are two smaller rooms separated by a wall running perpendicular to the chimney wall. Each of the two small rooms has a fireplace or stove opening into the central chimney system which served all of the rooms.[2]

By the early 19th century, the use of the traditional Germanic plan had been synthesized with more formal Georgian and Neoclassical stylistic elements that were influencing contemporary architecture. The old continental type was gradually replaced by several hybrid arrangements with end chimneys and more formal facades, but with some traditional elements such as the floor plan often remaining.[3]

Endnotes

[1] J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882) p. 974.

[2] Some of the sources discussing the continental plan are: Robert C. Bucher, "The Continental Log House," Pennsylvania Folklife 12 (Summer 1962): 14-19; Edward A. Chappell, "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley"; Henry Glassie, "A Central Chimney Continental Log House from Cumberland Country," Pennsylvania Folklife 19 (Winter 1968-69): 32-36; G. Edwin Brumbaugh, Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans (Lancaster: Pennsylvania German Society, 1933); and Arthur J. Lawton, "Ground Rules of Folk Architecture," Pennsylvania Folklife 23 (Autumn 1973): 13-19. Most of these sources list additional works and give background about the European origins of this type.

[3] Much of the information in this section was developed in the author's doctoral dissertation entitled, "Building with Stone in the Cumberland Valley: A Study of Regional Environmental, Technical and Cultural Factors in Stone Construction," The George Washington University, 1988.

Part II

Current Physical Description

The property known as the D.R. Miller Farm contains approximately 141 acres and is improved with a two story log house, a frame bank barn, a secondary concrete block barn and numerous frame and concrete block sheds and outbuildings. The farmstead is located approximately two miles north of Sharpsburg, on the Antietam Battlefield. The house and barn are separated by the old Sharpsburg-Hagerstown Pike, a road which has been in its present location at least since the late 18th century. The house is situated on a rise of ground and faces south, overlooking the barn and the other outbuildings. Although the house was altered substantially in the 1860s and again about 1950-1960, there is a large amount of remaining 18th century material surviving intact.



Photograph 1. D.R. Miller Farmstead, southwest view. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

The house is surrounded now by large trees, shrubbery and grass. East of the house is a garden plot and a large concrete block machinery shed. Along the old Hagerstown-Sharpsburg Pike, just south of the driveway is a stone

walled spring located about halfway between the house and the barn.

The buildings and grounds appear to be in good condition.

Farmhouse, Exterior

The D.R. Miller Farmhouse is a two story, four bay log house on a roughly coursed fieldstone foundation. The house is built on a slight slope so that the foundation at the front or south elevation is exposed for almost half a story. The exterior surface is sheathed with asbestos shingle siding. A one-and-a-half story shed roofed addition wing of braced corner post log construction extends to the rear or north. Additional first story shed-roofed work porches along the north wall of the main house and east elevation of the wing have been enclosed, likely in the 1960s.

The fenestration at the front elevation consists of evenly spaced and aligned windows with narrow frames and six over six light sash.



Photograph 2. D.R. Miller House, front elevation, northwest view. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

The main entrance is located in the east bay of the front elevation. The current configuration of the door shows no transom, although one may have been present originally. The door had six low relief panels, the upper four of which have been replaced with glass.

At the front door is a one bay entrance porch, which although partially rebuilt appears to contain parts that suggest initial construction during the 1860s. Now the porch rests on a concrete base and is reached by a flight of concrete steps. Also the original posts and railings have been replaced although the approximate configuration remains the same. A sloped cellar bulkhead projects from the foundation between the first and second bays from the west end.

The east end wall of the main house now has a brick chimney flue, probably constructed in the mid 20th century, extending up the outside of the wall and through the roof peak. Also at this elevation are two pair of six-light casement windows at the first story level. These would appear to date from the 1950s or '60s. At the second story level a mid-19th century six over six light sash remains in place, north of the chimney.



Photograph 3. D.R. Miller House, east elevation, west view. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

The north wall of the main section of the house is for the most part covered with later additions. The north end wall of the rear extension has no openings. Its stone foundation does show a vertical seam where the porch along its east elevation was added.

The west elevation consists of an end wall of the main house and the two story facade of the rear addition. All windows have narrow frames holding six over six sash. A seam in the foundation masonry marks the location of the rear wing add-on. Extending up the center of the gable end wall of the main section is another brick chimney, similar to the one already described. This element would appear to date from the mid-20th century.



Photograph 4. D.R. Miller House, southeast view with rear addition. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

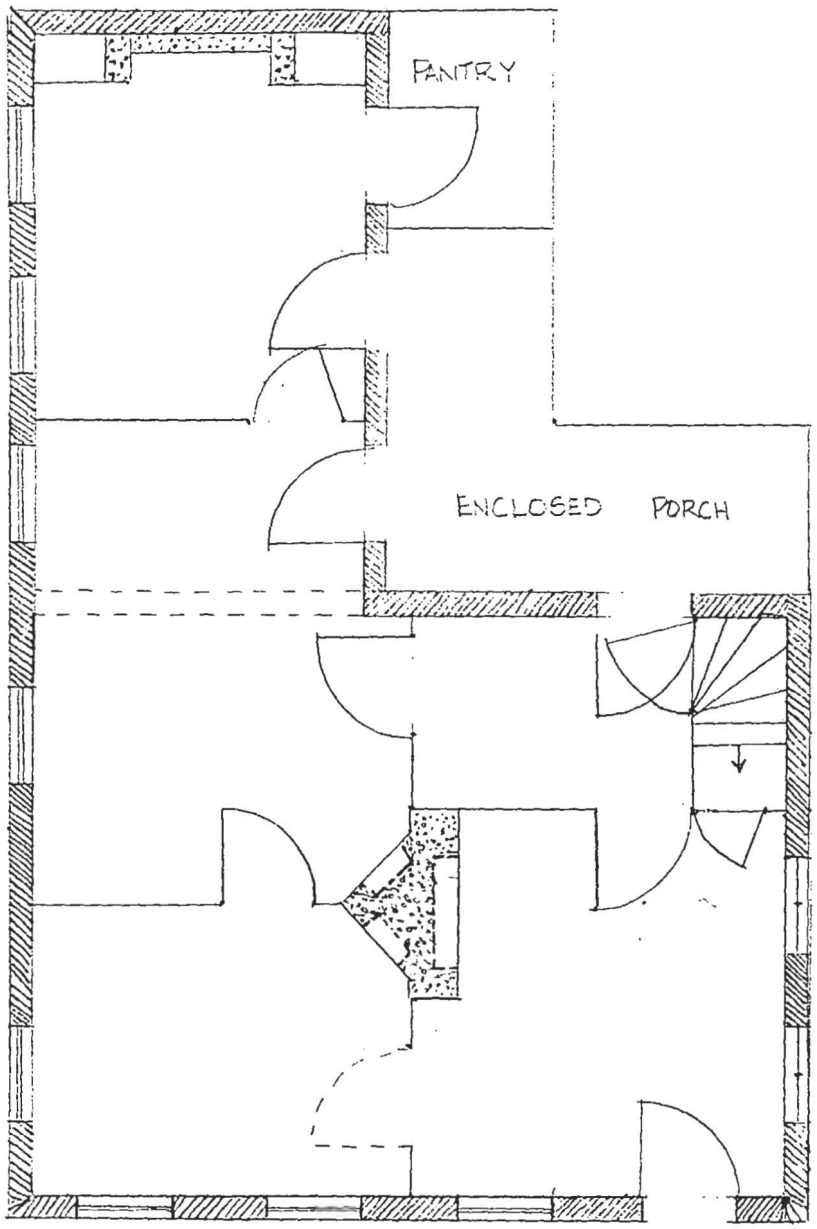
Also at the west side of the building remains the trace of a driveway which once passed along this side of the house. The driveway led to two outbuildings behind the house and is clearly visible in a 1924 photograph of the complex.

Farmhouse, Interior

Much of the first floor plan of the main block of the

Sketch Plan, First Floor
(approximate)

The D.R. Miller Farmhouse
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland



ADDITION

MAIN HOUSE

THE D. R. MILLER FARMHOUSE
ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
SHARPSBURG, MARYLAND

NORTH

SKETCH PLAN, FIRST FLOOR (APPROXIMATE)

NOT TO SCALE

prepared by: Paula S. Reed PhD
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8/91

house is original to its 18th century construction. The front entrance opens into one large room, taking up nearly half the first floor space. Serving as a kitchen, the surface finishes in this room generally date from within the last 30-40 years. The south wall of the room contains the entrance door and a window to its west. Both openings have simply molded architraves with plain corner blocks typical of the 1860-70 period. The front door is operated with a rim-set cast iron factory-made lock inscribed with a patent date of June 4, 1864.

Along the long east wall of the room are cupboards and counter space dating from the mid-20th century. There are also two previously described casement windows. The rear or north wall of the room has a small closet beneath a staircase and a door which opens into the rear stair area. The closet door has two raised, double fielded panels and is hung within a beaded architrave trimmed with a band of large ovalo molding.



Photograph 5. D.R. Miller House - portion of an 18th century interior closet door and architrave, first floor, southeast room. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

The west wall of the room includes a large rectangular projection. Although now walled smooth and covered with

wallpaper, this projection is actually the original kitchen fireplace. A small closet dating from the mid-20th century is located immediately adjacent to the fireplace. South of the projecting fireplace wall is a doorway leading into the southwest room. The floor level in that room has been raised necessitating a step up into the room.

Southwest Room

The southwest room is a bright space with two south facing windows and one to the west. As was the case in the kitchen, the room's finishes date from the mid-20th century. The floor of narrow width pine boards is raised above the original flooring. The main feature of the room is the fireplace which extends diagonally across the northeast corner of the room. The fireplace opening has been covered with brick veneer, and the hearth with wooden flooring, but the original mantelpiece remains in place. This mantel consists of an architrave banded with ovalo molding around the opening. Above the architrave are two side-by-side recessed flat panels set within molded stiles and rails. Above the panels are alternating bands of ogee and ovalo molding projecting outward to form a narrow mantel shelf.



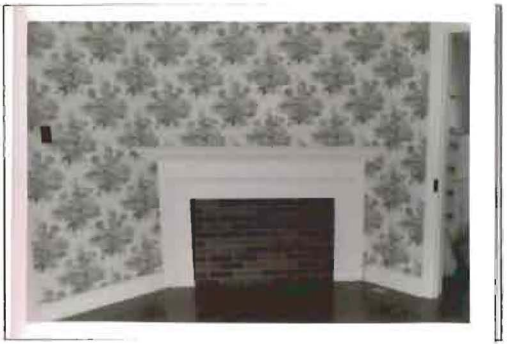
Photograph 6. D.R. Miller House. Former fireplace, southwest room, first story. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

Contrasting with this ca. 1800 mantelpiece is the window trim which consists of simple flat architraves with plain corner blocks, characteristic of the 1860-70 period.

The north wall of this room has a door which opens into the northwest room.

Northwest Room

This room is large because it includes not only the northwest corner of the main house, but a portion of the rear addition as well. A boxed beam extending east to west across the ceiling of the room marks the location of the original north or rear wall of the main block of the house. The room has two west-facing windows, one in the main house, and one in the addition. Again, the most prominent feature of the room is its diagonal fireplace across its southeast corner. The firebox has been covered with brick veneer and the later pine floor covers the entire room, including the hearth. The mantelpiece is original and is a simplified version of the one in the southwest room. Framing the firebox is a band of ovalo molding creating an architrave. Above it is an unadorned frieze area topped with projecting bands of ogee and ovalo moldings creating a narrow mantel shelf. The four panel door in the south wall of this room, leading to the southwest room has a cast iron manufactured rim-set lock inscribed, "R & E Mfg. Co. May 29, 1866."



Photograph 7. D.R. Miller House. Former fireplace, northwest room, first story. Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

There are several other door openings into the northwest room. One enters through the east wall, near the fireplace from a small stair and entrance room at the back of the house. Another door in the east wall enters from the porch of the addition into the portion of the room that has been extended into the addition. A fourth door leads from the northwest room into the addition.

Northeast Room

The final room to make up the original first floor arrangement of the main house is a small stair and entry way in the northeast corner of the house. The room is entered from the exterior through a door in the north wall, approximately opposite the front door. Immediately east of the entrance is an enclosed staircase to the second floor. Directly opposite the entrance is a door leading to the kitchen. A trap door in the floor may be raised to expose stairs leading to the cellar. The trap door arrangement appears to be a 20th century modification as are the doors, trim and finishes in the room.

Rear Wing Addition

The first story of the rear wing of the addition to the house has been altered by the removal of the log wall which originally formed the north elevation of the main house. A newer partition was added separating the northwest room of the main house from the remainder of the addition's first story. The rest of the addition now consists of a large room with a service fireplace at the north end. On either side of the fireplace are built-in cupboards. There are two doors in the east wall, one leading into the now enclosed east porch and the other into a small attached pantry room at the northwest corner of the addition. Along the west wall are two windows. Finishes in this room appear to date from the second quarter of the 20th century and the room appears to have been used most recently as a summer kitchen, or area where canning was done. The room seems to have been built as a kitchen and may have functioned as the primary kitchen after the addition was constructed.

Second Story

The second story of the D.R. Miller Farmhouse has undergone major alterations, changing the floor plan and character defining elements of the interior space. Further analysis of the second floor will require dismantling of later finishes and features to expose any early or original fabric of the building. Two components of the second floor are, however, worthy of note from the present visual observation. One is the staircase to the attic located in

the northeast corner of the house. It is now accessed through the bathroom. The stair construction, however, as it rises to the attic is original to the initial 18th century building. A notable feature is the ogee and ovalo molded band which was never painted just under the attic floor as the stairs turn in the corner.

The other notable feature of the second story is the exposed frame of the addition wing where plaster and lathing was removed possibly due to a fire. There the construction of the wing is revealed to consist of vertical corner posts with diagonal bracing into which are set horizontal logs. There are several other houses with this type of construction in the Sharpsburg vicinity and all of those examined have been found to date from the post Civil War period.[1] The shed roof over the addition has charred rafters exposed after removal of lath and plaster. These second story rooms were finished with plaster and baseboard and were built against the main block of the house.

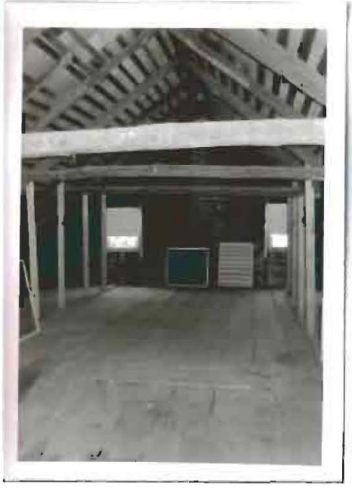
Attic, Main House

The attic retains much of its original 18th century components. Floor boards are attached with hand-wrought rose headed nails and rafters are hewn with joints secured with pegs. In the floor and above it in the roof are patched areas revealing the former location of the central chimney which once rose through the house. (See photograph 8.)

Cellar

The cellar is dirt floored and excavated under slightly more than half the area covered by the house. Significant features of the basement include massive stone piers which supported the central chimney system and puncheon insulation. This insulation was used frequently in 18th century construction in Washington County and consists of large slabs or wood puncheons extending from sill to summer beam. Upon the slabs is a layer of rocks and mud mortar and upon this are joists and floor boards. (See photograph 9.)

The interior of the D.R. Miller House from initial observation shows three or four major periods of construction beginning with initial construction of the main house around 1800. There appears to have been a modification of the house including doors, windows and probably the exterior finishes as well. This renovation was likely the result of damage sustained during the morning phase of the Battle of Antietam. Possibly separate from this post-war renovation was the construction of the rear



Photograph 8.
D.R. Miller House.
Attic showing patch in floor for central chimney. Corresponding patch in the roof is visible at extreme top of photo.
Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91



Photograph 9. D.R. Miller House. Cellar showing stone chimney pier (foreground) and puncheon insulation (top). Photo by Paula Reed. 6/91

wing addition. Finally came the mid-20th century alterations resulting in the present interior configuration of the house.

Statement of Significance

The D.R. Miller Farm complex derives its main significance from its association with the morning phase of the Battle of Antietam which occurred on September 17, 1862. At the opening of the battle, Union General Joe Hooker's First Corps was positioned about a mile north of the junction of the Smoketown Road and the Hagerstown Turnpike. His objective was to gain a moderately raised area of ground just south of that intersection. Also near the intersection was a small white Dunker church, an easy reference point on the landscape. Arrayed against Hooker in the vicinity of the intersection and extending northward along the west side of the Hagerstown Turnpike were Stonewall Jackson's Confederate forces. Confederate artillery was positioned on high ground, Nicodemus Hill, just southwest of Hooker's starting point. Halfway between General Hooker's First Corps and their objective at the Dunker Church area, and directly in his path was David R. Miller's farm ground and buildings. Just south and east of Mr. Miller's house was

his 30-acre cornfield which will be forever known as The Cornfield.

The conflict along the Hagerstown Turnpike began about 6:30 A.M. By 9:30 that morning more than 8,000 soldiers were dead or wounded from both sides. Most of the casualties occurred in the cornfield and along the edge of the turnpike, only a few hundred feet south of David R. Miller's house. Centrally located in the morning phase of the Battle, the Miller Farm through fate is remembered in history.

Yet, by 1862, the Miller Farmhouse was already more than half a century old and the land had been claimed under ownership for nearly a century. The house also represents the cultural history of the lower Cumberland Valley and Washington County which was settled chiefly by prosperous German farmers during the late 18th century. Although altered, the house does retain a substantial number of 18th century Germanic features and elements which could be available for interpretation if the house is restored to its battle-era appearance.

Endnotes

[1] Other houses of this type which have been examined by the author or by Douglass Reed of Preservation Associates, Inc. include the "Wyand House" which once stood along Bloody Lane on the Antietam Battlefield, a log addition to a stone house located at 201 West Main Street in Sharpsburg and a sided log house located in the 100 block of West Chapline Street opposite the Sharpsburg Fire Hall.

Part III

History of Ownership

Until recently, the historic property known as the "D.R. Miller Farm" on the Antietam Battlefield was privately owned, although it was the site of some of the most intense fighting of Antietam and even, perhaps, of the entire Civil War. Throughout most of its history, the farm was held by four families who provided long-term ownership: Myers, Miller, Hoffman and Culler.

The property which became known as the D.R. Miller Farm is part of a tract granted to Joseph Chapline and called by patent "Addition to Loss and Gain." No actual patent date was found for Addition to Loss and Gain, but the tract "Loss and Gain" was patented to Joseph Chapline on August 11, 1765 (Patent Book I, Folio 151). At the time it was patented, "Loss and Gain" contained 1,168½ acres. Joseph Chapline owned vast amounts of land in southern Washington County, totaling approximately 10,000 acres. He established the town of Sharpsburg in 1763, served in the Colonial House of Delegates from 1749-1767 and was one of four partners who developed the Antietam Ironworks at the mouth of the Antietam Creek in 1765.[1]

In his will dated January 27, 1768, Joseph Chapline bequeathed to his son James, the land called Loss and Gain. (Frederick County Wills, Liber A, Folio 332.) At what point "Addition to Loss and Gain" was created is not clear, but it did become the property of James Chapline.

Apparently, James Chapline leased out portions of his landholding. Eventually, he seems to have developed financial difficulties, since by the early 1800s, he began selling parts of his land to satisfy his creditors. Unfortunately the documents recording transactions in the 18th century are incomplete. It is clear, however, that a German by the name of John Myers was occupying some of Chapline's tract called "Addition to Loss and Gain." There is no recorded lease or deed from James Chapline to Myers, only passing references to his residing on the property. The earliest of these references is dated November 15, 1797 (Land Records Liber K, Folio 575), in a deed for 40 acres from James Chapline to Jonas Hogmire. In this transaction, James Chapline, for the sum of £200 sold to Hogmire, "...all that part of Addition to Loss and Gain...bounded as follows...on the first and second line of the part of Addition to Loss and Gain that John Myers now lives on..." This record shows that John Myers was occupying part of the land which came to be known as the D.R. Miller Farm before

1797. Records show that Hogmire previously, in 1796, had purchased another 40-acre lot of Addition to Loss and Gain from Chapline (Liber I, Folio 519).

Then, in 1799, Hogmire sold the land he had bought from Chapline to John Myers who was already in residence there. (Liber L, Folio 678.) This deed, dated April 29, 1799 was for 81-3/8 acres for which John Myers paid £610, 6 shillings and 3 pence. The deed describes the property as "beginning for said part at a bounded white oak, the beginning of the lease from James Chapline to a certain Christopher Cruse for part of said land, it being the part now held and occupied by the same Myers..."

There are no references among Washington County Land Records for Christopher Cruse (also spelled Cruss). However, according to John Philemon Smith in his unpublished manuscript "Reminiscences of Sharpsburg," written in 1912, a Dr. Christopher Cruss occupied the D.R. Miller Farm as early as the 1760s:

> "Dr. Christopher Cruss was a German chemist and emigrated to this country from Germany about the settlement of the town [1763]. He owned a farm of 156 acres lying two miles north of Sharpsburg, now owned by Euromus Hoffman, formerly the David R. Miller Farm. He conceived in his mind the idea of putting up steam mills and had sent to England for machinery to that effect. In order to carry out his project he sold his farm that he owned north of Sharpsburg to John Myers who was at that time a merchant in Baltimore City at the rate of $10.00 per acre. Myers lived on this farm fifty years, dying at the age of ninety years."[1]

John Myers died in 1836, so if, in fact, he occupied the farm for 50 years, he would have settled there in 1786. According to land records already mentioned, Cruss leased the farm from James Chapline; he did not own it. He may have sold or transferred his lease to John Myers, although there is no record of such a transaction.

On November 30, 1812, John Myers acquired more of Addition to Loss and Gain. John Buchanan, Trustee for the sale of James Chapline's land to satisfy his creditors, sold 150 acres to Myers along with several smaller lots at the rate of £12 per acre. John Myers continued to reside on this property until his death in 1836. In his will, Myers directed that the farm on which he resided be rented out by his executors for a term of five years, beginning the first day of April following his death (Will Liber D, Folio 204). John Myers further stipulated:

> "...my daughter Kitty is to have and enjoy the free and entire use and benefit of the mansion house in which I reside...together with the free use of the water from the spring to begin for the part hereby [reserved] for the use of my daughter Kitty as aforesaid for the term aforesaid at the gate near the old house and with the big road northwardly to the barn and with the barn to the stable so as to include it and the upper garden and there with the south garden fence along the back of the old house to the gate the beginning. The tenant whosoever he may be is to deliver to my daughter Kitty yearly and every year during the term of five years two good tons of hay and deliver to her at her home as much firewood as she may want for her own use. The premises herein set apart for my daughter Kitty is to embrace the house, the stable, the smokehouse, the garden, the use of the water in the way that is understood that I enjoyed the same when the farm has been tenanted out. The tenant is also to allow my said daughter, Kitty, pasture for two cows and one horse to use in common with the tenants..."

John Myers made this will on September 23, 1833. In a codicil made July 20, 1836, shortly before his death, he named John Miller (of John) and John Miller (of David) as his executors.

The will provides some useful information about the farm and its improvements in 1833 when the document was written. It shows that there were two dwellings on the property, the "mansion house" and the "old house." It is likely that the mansion house referred to the building now standing on the property and that the "old house" may have been a first period house used by Christopher Cruss and/or John Myers when they first occupied the farm. By the 1830s it had become, apparently, a tenant house. The "big road" mentioned in the will refers to the Hagerstown-Sharpsburg turnpike which passes through the farm. Other improvements included the barn, probably on the site of the present structure, a stable, and two gardens, an "upper" one and the "south" garden. A smokehouse and a spring are also mentioned. The spring is still present along the east edge of the road. It is likely that the arrangement of the buildings and grounds was well established by the 1830s and they were the same as during the Battle in the 1860s and probably into the early 20th century.

As directed in John Myers' will, the executors sold the farm five years after the April following his death. It was purchased by one of the executors through his son. The

notice for public sale of the property was, however, published in the Hagerstown Mail newspaper for five weeks, beginning January 28, 1842. The advertisement reads in part:

> "The subscribers will sell at Public Sale on the premises on Monday the 29th of February next, at the late residence of John Myers, deceased, two miles from Sharpsburg, on the road leading from Hagerstown to the latter place, the farm, late the property of said deceased, containing about 265 Acres of first-rate Limestone Land; about 150 Acres of which are cleared, the balance in thriving timber. The improvements consist of a two story log dwelling house, a swisser barn, an excellent spring of water with a spring house and all other necessary out-houses. Also an orchard of fine Fruit Trees. It is deemed unnecessary to give a fuller description of the property, as persons desirous of purchasing, will doubtless call and view it for themselves..."[3]

According to a deed dated April 24, 1844, David R. Miller became the highest bidder for the farm and purchased it for $53.00 per acre. The deed recorded in Liber OHW2, Folio 280 transfers the property from John Miller of John and John Miller of David, executors, to David R. Miller (who was John Miller of David's son). Immediately, David R. Miller transferred the property back to his father in a deed also dated April 24, 1844 and recorded in Liber OHW2, Folio 282. This pair of transfers simply allowed the property to pass legally from John Miller, the executor, to himself as buyer. John Miller continued to own the farm until his death in 1882, but his son, David R. Miller lived there and came to think of it as his own.

John Miller was the father of ten children, eight of whom were still living when he died in 1882. He, like John Myers, lived a long life and was said to have been the oldest resident of Sharpsburg when he died around the age of 95. (Sources vary as to John Miller's birth and death dates.)[4] John Miller was also known as Col. John Miller and was a veteran of the War of 1812. His parents, David Miller and Catherine Flick emigrated from Rheinpfalz, Germany in the 1760s and settled in the new town of Sharpsburg.[5] David Miller kept the first store in Sharpsburg in 1768, which was later operated by his son, John Miller.[6] John Miller also kept the Post Office, a hotel, acquired several farms near the town, and a grist mill. According to Williams' History of Washington County, "he owned a large number of slaves and entertained on an extensive scale."[7] John Miller resided in the 100 block of

West Main Street in the house where he was born and died.[1]

When Colonel John Miller died in 1882, he left a large amount of real estate, eight living children, an adult grandchild, son of a deceased daughter and no recorded will. The result was a seemingly bitter equity court battle pitting David R. Miller against several of the other surviving heirs. In Equity Court proceedings, Liber 24, Folio 421, Case #3318, John H. Miller and Dora Miller, his wife, Catherine Miller, James A. Buchanan, Frank T. Turner and Frances H. Turner his wife claimed that Col. John Miller, late of Sharpsburg, deceased, died on or about the 27th of March, 1882, intestate, leaving the following surviving children and grandchildren:

> John H. Miller and Dora, his wife
> Catherine Miller
> Frances Turner and Frank Turner, her husband
> Mary Miller
> David R. Miller and Margaret, his wife
> Anna Bell Van Lear (deceased)
> Lafayette Miller
> William Miller
> James A. Buchanan, son of Eleanore Buchanan (deceased)

According to the Court of Equity, these people were tenants in common of eight pieces of real estate which belonged to Col. John Miller. The first listed property "exhibit A," was the 260 acre farm occupied by David R. Miller.

The defendants, David R. Miller and Margaret, his wife, denied:

> "that the said Col. John Miller died intestate, but insist that he had made and executed according to law a last will and testament attested by three witnesses and sufficient to dispose of real estate by which said last will and testament the testator devised to this defendant, David R. Miller, one hundred and fifty acres of the lands referred to and described in 'Exhibit A' [the subject property or D.R. Miller Farm] filed by the complainants as part of their Bill of Complaint, being the part which contains the buildings, but that the said last will and testament was destroyed without the knowledge and consent of the said deceased, so that the same could not be performed for probate, to the Orphans Court for Washington County, and this defendant, David R. Miller further answering says that a part of the said real estate described

> in the said Bill of Complaint, to wit: the one hundred and fifty acres herein before referred to, and being part of the land described in 'Exhibit A,' the testator through a long series of years told this defendant and others, had been purchased for this defendant, that he had said that he had made his will and had devised it to him, and induced this defendant to improve the same by the outlay of large sums of money in refencing the said lands, after the fence had been destroyed during the Battle of Antietam in 1862 and in repairing the buildings, planting an orchard and making other improvements, which were made upon the faith and often repeated assurances that the said land would be and was devised to this defendant..."

The other heirs agreed to the sale of the property and division of the money among them. Since no will was produced, the Trustees directed that the real estate be sold at public sale on Tuesday, November 28, 1882 at 11:00 A.M. Advertisements were placed in the Hagerstown Odd Fellow, The Mail, The News, The Herald and Torch and the Sharpsburg Enterprise. The text of the advertisement for parcel #1, D.R. Miller's Farm read as follows:

> "All that valuable tract of improved land or farm now occupied by David R. Miller as tenant situate in Election District #1 in Washington County, Maryland, on both sides of the turnpike road leading from Sharpsburg to Hagerstown, about 1¼ miles north of Sharpsburg, containing 150-3/8 acres of land more or less, about 15 acres of which are set in good timber, mostly oak and hickory. This land is improved by a two story rough cast house with back building, bank barn, corn crib and other necessary outbuildings, including two tenant houses. There is also an excellent spring of running water and a fine young orchard. This land is of first quality limestone and in good state of cultivation and one of the most desirable in the District..."

It is not clear what happened at this point to the remaining 100 acres of the farm. In the list of John Miller's real estate holdings in the equity court documentation, the first parcel was for the entire 260 acres. D.R. Miller claimed that his father left him 150 acres with the buildings, and apparently it is that portion that was sold at public sale.

The Trustees report in the Equity Court case indicates

that David R. Miller bid $63.00 per acre for the farm. "But," the report continues, "the said David R. Miller after signing the said agreement of sale has notified your Trustees that he will not take the said property and has refused to further comply with the terms of sale and has informed your trustees that he will not pay the said price nor in any way fulfill his obligations as purchaser, whereupon your trustees do not report the said real estate as sold to him, but will endeavor to sell the same wherever they can find a purchaser."

Despite D.R. Miller's refusal to go through with his purchase, he did eventually buy the property. On November 20, 1883, about a year later, the Trustees, Louis E. McComas, Frederick F. McComas and Charles W. Adams conveyed the farm to David R. Miller for $9,473.00 (Liber 85, Folio 91). Whether David R. Miller was bitter over the dispute surrounding his farm, or ready to retire, or saw an opportunity to make a profit, he sold the farm a little over two years later. On March 29, 1886, David R. and Margaret P. Miller conveyed the farm to Euromus Hoffman for $11,673.44 (Liber 88, Folio 697).

In the advertisement for the sale of the property published in November of 1882, there are several key descriptive points. There is mention of a two story rough cast house with back building. "Rough cast" was a 19th century term referring to stucco. Rough casting was frequently applied to log or stone buildings as a refinement. The reference to the "back building" could refer to the addition wing to the rear of the house. The advertisement also refers to two tenant houses. Forty years earlier when the property was advertised for sale, there was one tenant house described as the "old" house. It is not clear whether it was still standing in 1882, but a third house was built on the property in the intervening years.

Euromus Hoffman who purchased the farm from the Millers conveyed an undivided three-fourths interest in it to Mary E. Hoffman, Milly N. Hoffman and Susan M. Hoffman on September 16, 1905 (Liber 122, Folio 443). Previously on July 2, 1896, he conveyed a small portion of the property to the United States of America (Liber 105, Folio 224). Two more conveyances were made to the United States of America by the Hoffmans on July 7, 1909 (Liber 129, Folio 441) and June 9, 1910 (Liber 134, Folio 207). Susan M. Hoffman conveyed her undivided one-fourth interest in the property to Mary E. Hoffman and Milly N. Hoffman on January 5, 1910 (Liber 145, Folio 299). The property then descended to Urilla H. Rohrer as the surviving heir of Euromus H. Hoffman, Mary B. Hoffman and Milly N. Hoffman.

On April 1, 1933, Urilla H. Rohrer and Ima I. Scheller sold the farm to John C. Poffenberger and Emma F. Poffenberger for $9,125.00 (Liber 193, Folio 471). On November 1, 1950, Emma F. Poffenberger, by then a widow, sold the farm containing 145.2 acres (after the previously mentioned out conveyances to the United States of America) to William W. Barr and Lucy D. Barr (Liber 259, Folio 457). William W. and Lucy D. Barr sold the property on September 11, 1952 to Paul M. Culler and Evelyn L. Culler (Liber 271, Folio 303). Paul M. Culler sold the farm to the Conservation Fund on July 3, 1989 (Liber 920, Folio 473) and the Conservation Fund subsequently donated the property to the National Park Service in 1990.

Endnotes

[1] Victorine Mumma Morgan, "Col. Joseph Chapline - 1707-1769," n.p., 1963.

[2] John Philemon Smith, "Reminiscences of Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, July 9, 1763 to the Present Time, January 1st, 1912" n.p., p. 60.

[3] The Hagerstown Mail newspaper, February 4, 1842.

[4] Thomas J.C. Williams, A History of Washington County Maryland, vol. II, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., (1968) p. 1,234 (originally published 1906).

[5] Ibid. p. 1,234.

[6] John Philemon Smith, op. cit., p. 37.

[7] T.J.C. Williams, op. cit., p. 1,234.

[8] Ibid.

D.R. Miller Farm
Chain of Title

Liber 920, Folio 473, July 3, 1989
Grantor: Paul M. Culler
Grantee: Conservation Fund

Liber 271, Folio 303, September 11, 1952
Grantor: William W. Barr and Lucy D. Barr
Grantee: Paul M. Culler and Evelyn L. Culler

Liber 259, Folio 457, November 1, 1950
Grantor: Emma F. Poffenberger, widow of John C. Poffenberger
Grantee: William W. Barr and Lucy D. Barr

Liber 193, Folio 471, April 1, 1933
Grantor: Urilla H. Rohrer and Ima I. Scheller, heirs of Euromus Hoffman
Grantee: John C. Poffenberger and Emma F. Poffenberger
$9,125

Liber 88, Folio 697, March 29, 1886
Grantor: David R. Miller and Margaret P. Miller
Grantee: Euromus H. Hoffman

Liber 85, Folio 91, November 20, 1883
Grantor: Louis E. McComas, Frederick F. McComas and Charles W. Adams, Trustees
Grantee: David R. Miller and Margaret P. Miller
$9,473. Equity Court case #3318

Liber OHW, Folio 282, April 24, 1844
Grantor: David R. Miller
Grantee: John Miller

Liber OHW, Folio 282, April 24, 1844
Grantor: John Miller of John and John Miller of David, Trustees
Grantee: David R. Miller
260 acres, $13,780

Liber Y, Folio 462, November 30, 1812
Grantor: John Buchanan, Trustee
Grantee: John Myers
£12 per acre, 150 acres and several smaller tracts

Liber L, Folio 678, April 29, 1799
Grantor: Jonas Hogmire
Grantee: John Myers
£610, 6 shillings, 3 pence, 81-3/8 acres

Liber K, Folio 575, November 15, 1797
Grantor: James Chapline
Grantee: Jonas Hogmire
40 acres, £200

Liber I, Folio 519, 1796
Grantor: James Chapline
Grantee: Jonas Hogmire

Part IV

Probable Sequence of Construction

This preliminary research effort has uncovered a probable scenario for the construction history of the D.R. Miller Farm. A more thorough examination of the building with some careful dismantling of later features will be necessary to confirm these findings.

It has become clear through observation of the house and information gained from old documents, that the house now standing on the D.R. Miller farm was built near the turn of the 18th century, 1790-1810. The house has several particularly noteworthy features that are associated with 18th century construction in the Mid-Maryland and Cumberland Valley regions. These include the use of puncheon insulation in the cellar ceiling, and the central chimney system which although removed, retains its massive stone base in the cellar and mantlepieces for two of the first floor fireplaces. The mantlepieces have moldings and narrow shelves typical of ca. 1800 construction in the region (see photographs 6 & 7, Part I). The massive central chimney system with openings into three main floor rooms a kitchen (küche), parlor (stube) and back room (kammer) is associated with Germanic building traditions in Pennsylvania, Mid-Maryland and the Valley of Virginia (see floor plan, Part I). In the local region this room arrangement was not used later than about 1810. Another 18th century feature of the house is the use of hand-wrought nails, most readily visible in the attic flooring. Hand-wrought nails were generally not used for flooring after the early 19th century. Also, remaining in the house on the second floor are two raised panel doors dating from the ca. 1800 period. A small closet under the stairs in the kitchen also has a raised panel door with double fielded moldings, also an 18th century characteristic (see photograph 5, Part I).

It would appear that the house was built by John Myers. Records indicate that he acquired title to the land in at least two transactions, one in 1799 and one in 1812. Both transactions make reference to the fact John Myers already occupied the land. Unfortunately, no reliable source could be found indicating when John Myers established a homestead on the farm. Secondary sources indicated that he settled there in the 1780s on property previously held by Christopher Cruss or Cruse. The 1799 deed for part of the property to John Myers does make reference in the boundary description to a lease from James Chapline to Christopher Cruse.

According to these sources it would therefore seem likely that there was occupation of the farm prior to actual sale of the property to John Myers, and it follows that there would have been some sort of dwelling on the property, as well. Further physical examination of the house will be required to determine whether any part of it may have been constructed prior to 1790.

The next bit of descriptive information about the appearance of the farm is found in John Myers' will written on September 23, 1833. In it he refers to the "mansion house" in which he resided at the time as well as "the old house" located somewhere south of the barn. Although the barn has been rebuilt, its location and the foundation appear to date at least to the early 19th century. It is likely that the "old house" was a first generation dwelling on the farm, possibly used by Cruse and John Myers prior to Myers' construction of the present dwelling, the "mansion house" about 1800, after he acquired title to the land. The "old house" then became a secondary dwelling and eventually a tenant house. In his will, John Myers mentions that his farm had been tenanted out at times and directs that it be tenanted out again for a term of five years after his death.

The military map of Antietam made in 1867 and included in The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, shows five buildings in D.R. Miller's farm complex (see Appendix II). Two of those, the present house and the spring house, are on the east side of the Hagerstown Turnpike and three are on the west side. Two of those three may represent the barn and stable and the third may indicate the location of the "old" house. There is now no above-ground evidence of the earlier house.

In 1842 when John Myers' farm was sold as specified in his will, a partial description of it was given in newspaper advertisements. These mention a "two story log house, a Swisser Barn, an excellent spring of water with a Spring House and all other necessary out-houses." The "Swisser" barn was a 19th century term for a barn with a cantilevered forebay and a ramp or bank at the back to allow access to the threshing floor. This type of barn is believed to be of Germanic origin and the early use of the descriptive word "Swisser" would tend to support that belief. The description of the house in this advertisement is very limited saying only that it is a two story log building. There is no indication of what the exterior finish of the building might have been. It is perhaps notable that no mention is made of a "back building" which was a 19th century term for an attached rear wing such as the one now appended to the D.R. Miller Farmhouse.

Two other early documents were reviewed for any information that could be gleaned about the property during John Myers' ownership or occupancy. One was the 1790 Census for Maryland which listed two John Myers of Washington County. Since the Census listed the names by county only with no other location information it could not be determined which, if either, John Myers was the one who resided upon the subject property.

The other document was the 1803-4 Tax Assessment for Washington County. In those years the county was still using Hundreds as political divisions. For the Sharpsburg Hundred there was an entry for John Myers of Jacob who was listed as owning no land, but was taxed for two horses, four head of cattle and miscellaneous hogs and sheep. It is likely that this is not the same John Myers who by 1803 owned at least part of the D.R. Miller Farm. Another listing in the 1803 Assessment was for a John Moyer who was described as owning a "new house" on 180 acres of land called "Loss and Gain." He had five horses and 12 head of cattle. One might question whether John Moyer could be a misspelling of Myers.

The National Archives was checked for claims filed for damages wrought by U.S. Troops during the Civil War. Several claims were filed by David R. Miller for damages incurred in September of 1862, July of 1863 and February, 1864. The initial claim was for $1,237.75, including $669.75 for horses and $388.00 for forage which was submitted under the name of John Miller for David R. Miller (File 115-19), on March 6, 1867. On July 6, 1872, the auditor in the Quartermaster General's office made a payment to D.R. Miller for $995.00 of the requested $1,237.75 (File 113-730).

File F-1499 in the claims material at the National Archives contains numerous documents pertaining to David R. Miller's efforts to get further compensation for damages that occur during the Battle of Antietam. There is, however, almost no mention of damage to buildings. Whether he chose not to apply for damage to his buildings, or whether he could offer no proof that the damage was done by U.S. Troops is not known. There is a possibility that claims for damage to buildings could have been filed by John Miller since he, not David R. actually owned the buildings. Unfortunately the large number of claimants by the name of John Miller (there were 54), and because of the multiple properties that John Miller of Sharpsburg owned at the time of the Battle of Antietam, checking all of these did not promise to be a productive effort given the length of time available for this project.

The documents in file F-1499 relate that David R. Miller applied for an additional $1,822.00 beyond the initial claim of $1,237.75 upon which he received payment for $995.00. He apparently took the matter to Court as well as contacting his Congressman, the Honorable L.E. McComas. Congressman McComas wrote a letter to the Quartermaster General concerning the claim, on behalf of D.R. Miller. The claim which was for 60 tons of clover hay, 90 bushels of clover seed destroyed, one set of blacksmith tools, a cart and gears and chains, was denied. According to the correspondence, dated December 21, 1875, the Quartermaster General was unable to certify that he was convinced the claim was just. It seems the government could find no record of the officer who signed Mr. Miller's voucher for supplies taken for the Army. Efforts were made to contact officers who were present to determine validity of the claim. A letter from Joshua T. Owen, former Colonel of the 69th Pennsylvania volunteers stated that he was not aware of details regarding Mr. Miller's claim, but said "...I know generally that Mr. Miller's Farm constituted a large part of the ground where the Battle of Antietam was fought and that great damage was done to his dwelling house and land..." This was the only reference found in all of David R. Miller's claim documents that mentioned his house.

Although both armies generally tried to avoid targeting private residences, it is safe to assume that given its location, the D.R. Miller farm buildings must have received at least some damage. The interior woodwork in the house dating from the third quarter of the 19th century, specifically the front first story windows and doors and the two locks with 1860s patent dates suggest that there was a post-battle renovation. This renovation may have been necessitated by the Battle damage to the house.

The next bit of documentary evidence pertaining to the appearance of the buildings is the description in the advertisement of sale in 1882, when D.R. Miller purchased the property from his father's estate. Significantly, the house is described as "rough cast" and with a back building. It is known, then, that these features were present in 1882. It is not known, however, when they were applied.

The practice of rough casting or stuccoing over log or stone construction was done in the 18th and 19th centuries in Washington County as a method of refining and finishing the appearance of a building as well as providing an insulative layer. Most rough casting in Washington County was done during the middle third of the 19th century. Usually the surface was tooled to a smooth finish then stuck with parallel horizontal and vertical lines so that the finished surface resembled stone blocks. The incised lines

were sometimes darkened for accent.

Given the time frame for the rough casting of log houses in the surrounding county, it is quite possible that the house had this type of finish at the time of the Battle. One often published photograph of the Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg, taken by Alexander Gardner on September 21 or 22, 1862, shows the church to have been stuccoed, with much of the stucco blasted away by artillery fire.[1] Further investigation of the house beneath the present siding may reveal additional information about its exterior finish at the time of the battle, and about damage to the house.

The "back building" mentioned in the 1882 sale bill may have been at the time, a recent addition. Its type of construction with horizontal logs set into corner posts tends to be associated with post-1860s construction. Too few examples of this type of construction have been examined in depth to make a solid determination of age for the type.

The ad also mentions two tenant houses, when only one was mentioned in the 1833 Myers will. One tenant house was probably the house that stands along the east side of the old Hagerstown Turnpike about one half mile south of the D.R. Miller Farm and just south of the Cornfield Avenue. This house, a frame structure with a barn and outbuildings appears on the 1877 Atlas for Washington County, but not on the 1867 Military Atlas. The 1877 Atlas designates three houses on the D.R. Miller property. One, marked "residence," is the subject house. Another is the supposed tenant house south of Cornfield Avenue. The third was marked on the map just across the road from the main house and slightly to the north. The Myers will suggests that the tenant house referred to in that document was south of the barn. The 1867 map shows five buildings clustered in the D.R. Miller farmstead. Unfortunately the buildings are shown only as dots, so their type is not depicted.

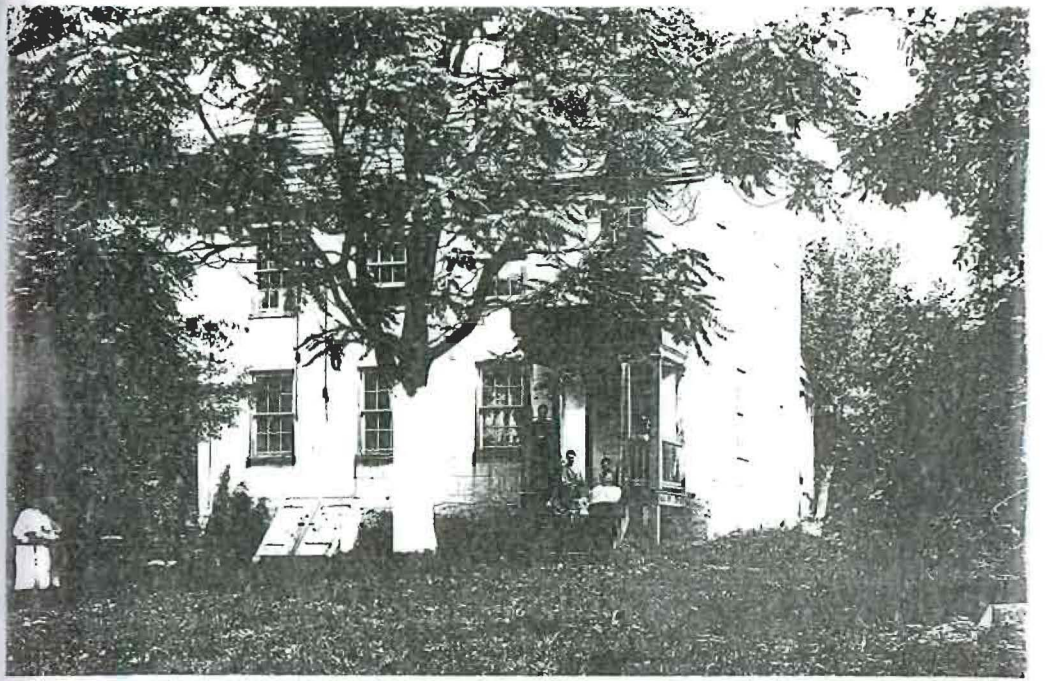
Photographic Documentation

Of course, the best source for documenting historic buildings is old photographs. Unfortunately very few are known to exist of the D.R. Miller Farm buildings. Prior to the Civil War, most photography was limited to studio portraitures, so outdoor scenes with buildings are quite rare before the 1860s.

Known photographic scenes of the D.R. Miller Farm taken shortly after the Battle of Antietam have been thoroughly researched and documented by William A. Frassanito in his book Antietam, the Photographic Legacy of America's

Historic Photograph
ca. 1875
Northwest View
courtesy, Antietam National Battlefield

The D.R. Miller Farmhouse
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland



Bloodiest Day, (1978). While he includes in his book, 12 historic photographs of the Miller Farm, only one captures a building. It is one of Alexander Gardner's views of a Union burial detail on the Miller Farm, pictured on page 145 of Frassanito's book. The picture was taken from a field west of the Hagerstown Pike and south of the farm buildings. At the extreme right edge of the photograph is the east gable end of Mr. Miller's barn. The barn appears on the same site as the present barn, but had a more steeply pitched roof and possibly horizontal siding. A dark horizontal area in the gable may be missing pieces of siding and may have been damage caused by the Battle.

The National Park Service at the Antietam Battlefield has two photographs of the D.R. Miller House. One would appear to date from the 1870s or '80s and the other is dated 1924. Negatives for both photographs had been loaned to the Park Service by Lynn Culler, son of the former owner of the property.

The earlier photograph was taken after the house received its third quarter of the 19th century renovations. It is a view of the front of the house, with the southeast corner. The picture was taken in the summer with trees in full foliage. The leaves obstruct some of the details of the house.

Nearly centered in the yard in front of the house is a mature walnut tree, its base whitewashed to the crotch. The practice of whitewashing tree trunks as insect repellant seems to have been a common one, judging from other 19th century photographs. Two ropes hang from a branch of the walnut tree. Behind the tree stands the house. Four young ladies and a child are seated or standing on the porch and a black servant with a bundle in her hands stands at the extreme left side of the picture. A cellar bulkhead entrance similar to the one now present protrudes from the south foundation wall.

The porch, inspired by the Greek Revival style has a low pitched roof and a wide frieze separated from the architrave by a band of molding. The porch is supported by two pair of large square posts with a rounded taper. The deck is wooden, supported by wooden posts. The underside of the porch is exposed; there is no lattice or grille work to hide this area from view. The porch deck is reached by a flight of five wooden steps and it is enclosed by a plain wooden balustrade.

Part of this ca. 1870 porch remains in place today. The architrave, frieze and part of the cornice remain while the steps, deck, columns and balustrade have been replaced.

There is also a partially visible shed roofed rear porch of similar configuration to the present one.

In the antique photograph, the walls are rough cast and struck with incised lines to create the illusion of rectangular blocks. The distinctness of the lining suggests that the striking may have been darkened to intensify the affect.

The windows have six over six pane sash, and from their size, would probably date from the third quarter of the 19th century. The window sash appear to have been painted white or a light color. Exterior trim consists only of the slightly projecting sills, lintels and jambs. In the photograph the window frames as well as the porch appear to have been painted a dark color. There were also four windows, apparently of the same size on the east end wall. The angle of the camera is too sharp to determine the type of sash, but they are presumed to be six over six. Only one of these windows now remains in the upper north side of the east end wall. None of the visible windows had shutters.

The old photograph shows no exterior chimneys, so the original central one must have been in place. Foliage from the walnut tree unfortunately hides that part of the roof. The roofing material is wooden shingles with side and top bevels. Also called German double-beveled or side lapped shingles they were used almost exclusively for houses in this region in the 18th and 19th centuries. These shingles are placed with even joints and overlap at the top and along the windward side. The photo also shows gutter at the eaves and a downspout at the west end of the front elevation.

The house appears in the ca. 1870 photograph to be in good condition but it does show the affect of weathering, such as paint streaks under the windows, and mottling of the woodwork, porch and cellar doors.

A later photograph of the house is dated 1924 and was taken from across the Hagerstown Pike looking toward the southwest corner of the house. Like the earlier photo, this one was taken in the summer and foliage blocks much of the view. However, it does provide an overview of the house, grounds and outbuildings. First, the picture shows the driveway forking to each side of the house instead of its present course passing only in front of the house. The left or west fork extended up the hill along the west side of the house. The trace of this road can still be seen although trees and bushes have grown up along its side.

Along part of the east side of the driveway from the edge of the turnpike is a dry-laid stone fence, a type of

Historic Photograph
1924
Northeast View
courtesy, Antietam National Battlefield

notation on photograph:

1924 ANTI (P) 07A72 (1924)
D.R. Miller Farm
neg. owned by
J.R. Winters, Fox's Gap
9/4/70
photo by Fred W. Cross

The D.R. Miller Farmhouse
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland

construction very characteristic of the surrounding countryside. A stone spring house with a gabled front appears at the very edge of the photograph. Both the fence and the spring house are now gone.

The front porch appears not to have changed since the earlier photograph except that the base has been enclosed. The rear addition to the house is visible with its west elevation looking much as it does today.

Other significant information from the 1924 photograph is the presence of two gable roofed outbuildings located behind the house. These appear to be one story frame structures, one behind the other, with gable ends facing west. Another gabled carriage shed or garage was located where the present concrete block machinery shed now stands. No other buildings could be observed in this photograph.

After 1924 the present chimneys and asbestos shingle siding were added.

Summary

The present house on the D.R. Miller Farm would appear to date from ca. 1800. It is probably the second house to have been built on the farm. The appearance and location of the earlier house are unknown except that it may have been located south of the present barn.

The present house was constructed of logs as a two story dwelling with a central chimney and traditional Germanic floor plan. Heavy puncheon insulation separated the main living floor from the cellar. Window and door placement probably followed the same arrangement as the present at the front elevation although the original windows may have been smaller with smaller window panes. Nine over six light sash were fairly typical for first floor use at the ca. 1800 period. The log walls would have been weatherboarded.

The house was remodeled within 10-15 years after the Battle of Antietam at which time the window sash and frames were replaced and a Greek Revival porch was added. The walls were finished with rough cast struck to resemble stone blocks. This application may have replaced wood siding or an earlier finish of stucco. It is highly unlikely that the log walls were ever exposed. The date of construction of the rear wing has not been established but it may have been constructed as part of the post-war renovations. The house was renovated again during the second and third quarters of the 20th century.

The present barn is on the foundation of an older barn structure that may have dated from the 18th century. It was replaced with the present structure in the 20th century.

Other features of the site include a stone spring house, stone fencing, a smoke house, garden plots, roadways and an orchard.

Endnotes

[1] William A. Frassanito, Antietam, The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978), p. 261, 263.

Part V

Appearance of the D.R. Miller Farm at the time of the Battle of Antietam

Very little information has been found regarding the appearance of the D.R. Miller farm complex at the time of the Battle of Antietam in September of 1862. Further research efforts in the historic structures report should include an exhaustive study of the house. Specifically, an effort should be made to determine what the exterior finishes and colors were in the 1860s; whether or not the post-war renovations were the first remodeling of the house; what the original window sizes were; and if the rear wing was added before or after the Battle.

This research effort has established the following information about the house and its appearance at the time of the Battle. First, it was constructed during the 1790-1810 period and so was at least 50 years old at the time of the Battle. The house followed Germanic building traditions with a large central chimney serving three principal rooms. This plan type was common in 18th century Washington County where a significant part of the population was made up of first and second generation German immigrants. The original floor plan and the central chimney were in use at the time of the Battle. The puncheon insulation, another 18th century feature, remains in place today and was, of course, present during the Battle. It could have made the D.R. Miller house cellar a safe hiding place during the Battle, if the family had not already evacuated. (Most residents left on September 16th when the armies assembled near Sharpsburg and a confrontation seemed imminent.)

The house roof was covered with German double-beveled, side lapped shingles. Battlefield photographs of other houses show this shingle type to have been typical in the 1860s.

It is also known that at the time of the Battle, the complex included a barn and at least one other house as well as a spring house over the spring and other domestic outbuildings. The secondary house was removed some time after the battle and no above-ground trace remains of it.

Several accounts refer to an orchard and gardens near the house. The 1867 military map is very detailed in its depiction of fence rows and lot divisions (see Appendix II). It can help to establish the location of the garden areas.

The stone wall along the south side of the driveway that appears in the 1924 photograph of the farm house is typical of 18th and 19th century stone fences in this limestone valley. It was almost certainly present at the time of the Battle, as was the stone spring house, a small portion of which can be seen in the same photograph.

The only known battle-era photograph of the farm buildings is one which includes a small portion of the barn. This structure had a steeply pitched roof and may have had horizontal siding.

The National Park Service has several options available in handling the D.R. Miller Farm. These may be divided into three categories: 1) Leave the property as it is; 2) Undertake a partial restoration to the 1860s period; and 3) Restore the property to its appearance in 1862. Regardless of the course of action chosen, the Park Service should continue to maintain the buildings, paying special attention to those maintenance items, which if overlooked can lead to major deterioration that is costly to repair.

The maintenance effort is especially important since the house is not occupied. The buildings should be entered regularly and inspected for leaks, broken windows, insects, rodents and birds which can become trapped inside. A thorough seasonal cleaning is recommended to prevent build-up of dust, cobwebs and debris which attracts insects and rodents. When the house was acquired by the Park, it was very clean and well kept. The Park Service should maintain this condition. On the exterior, gutters should be kept open and free of leaves and sticks to allow water to drain off the house quickly. Vegetation should be kept away from the foundation so that moisture can evaporate.

Should the Park Service elect to keep the property as it is, option #1, the complex will appear as a prosperous late 20th century working farm. Efforts should focus on maintaining a neat and tidy appearance of the buildings and grounds so that the property does not convey the impression of being neglected. One of the unique features of the Antietam Battlefield is that it continues to be surrounded by working farms. It would be entirely appropriate for the Park Service to continue this tradition. An overgrown and abandoned appearance should be avoided.

As another alternative, the Park Service may choose a selective restoration of the scene (Alternative #2), removing some particularly obtrusive non-historic elements, and replacing a few features now gone. Removal of the concrete block machine shed in front of the house might be

considered here, along with replacement of historic walls and fences and the spring house. The driveway could be returned to dirt and stone and the trace of the drive along the west side of the house could be reopened. The 1924 photograph of the house and grounds would be useful in this partial restoration.

A third option is to undertake a complete scene restoration, returning the buildings and site to their 1862 appearance.

In recreating the scene at the time of the Battle, the Park Service will want to depict a well-established, prosperous farm site with fenced garden and orchard areas, large shade trees and the stone fence. The central chimney should be returned, and the building's exterior surface either covered with struck rough cast or lapped wood siding depending upon evidence which may be found in the structural investigation. Evidence of an earlier entrance porch should also be sought, although the present porch retains parts that date to shortly after the time of the Battle. The barn roof could also be raised to its former pitch, height and configuration.

Suggestions for further research

It is recommended that the Park Service undertake an archeological investigation to determine the location and nature of the other house that once was part of the complex. This would not only help to restore the scene to its Battle-era appearance, but would also record an 18th century house site, possibly one dating to the third quarter of the 18th century, making it one of the oldest in the county. Archeological investigation would also help to locate the garden plots, outbuilding sites and privies where many artifacts may be found.

Concurrently, further documentary research may yield additional information. Genealogical research into the Miller family may turn up living descendants of D.R. Miller who may have family photographs, memorabilia and lore pertaining to their occupation of the place. According to the 1877 Atlas of Washington County, David R. Miller was born in 1818. If his father bought the farm for him as he claimed, and he began living on it in 1842 and stayed there until he sold the place in 1886, he would have spent most of his productive life on the farm. According to probate records, D.R. Miller died in 1893. Learning more about David R. Miller and his family will help to enrich the interpretation of the property at the time of the Battle by revealing details of the family's habits, the ways in which

they used and kept their property, and how they were affected by the Battle.

D.R. Miller Farm Time Line

1765	Land Grant, "Loss and Gain" patented to Joseph Chapline.
1768	Joseph Chapline wills "Loss and Gain" to his son, James.
1770±	Christopher Cruse leases land from James Chapline.
1790±	John Myers begins residing on land leased by Cruse.
1796	James Chapline sells Jonas Hogmire 40 acres of "Addition to Loss and Gain."
1797	James Chapline sells Jonas Hogmire another 40 acres of "Addition to Loss and Gain," upon which John Myers resided.
1799	Jonas Hogmire sells 81-3/8 acres of "Addition to Loss and Gain" to John Myers.
1800±	Probable construction date of main house.
1812	John Buchanan, Trustee for sale of James Chapline's land sells 150 acres of "Addition to Loss and Gain" to John Myers.
1823	Public road from Sharpsburg to Hagerstown upgraded, John Myers awarded $50.00 for damages.
1836	John Myers dies. His will states that his daughter, Kitty, may live in the "mansion house" for five years at which time the property was to be sold.
1844	John Myers' farm containing 265 acres purchased by John Miller, father of David R. Miller, apparently for his son for $13,780.00.

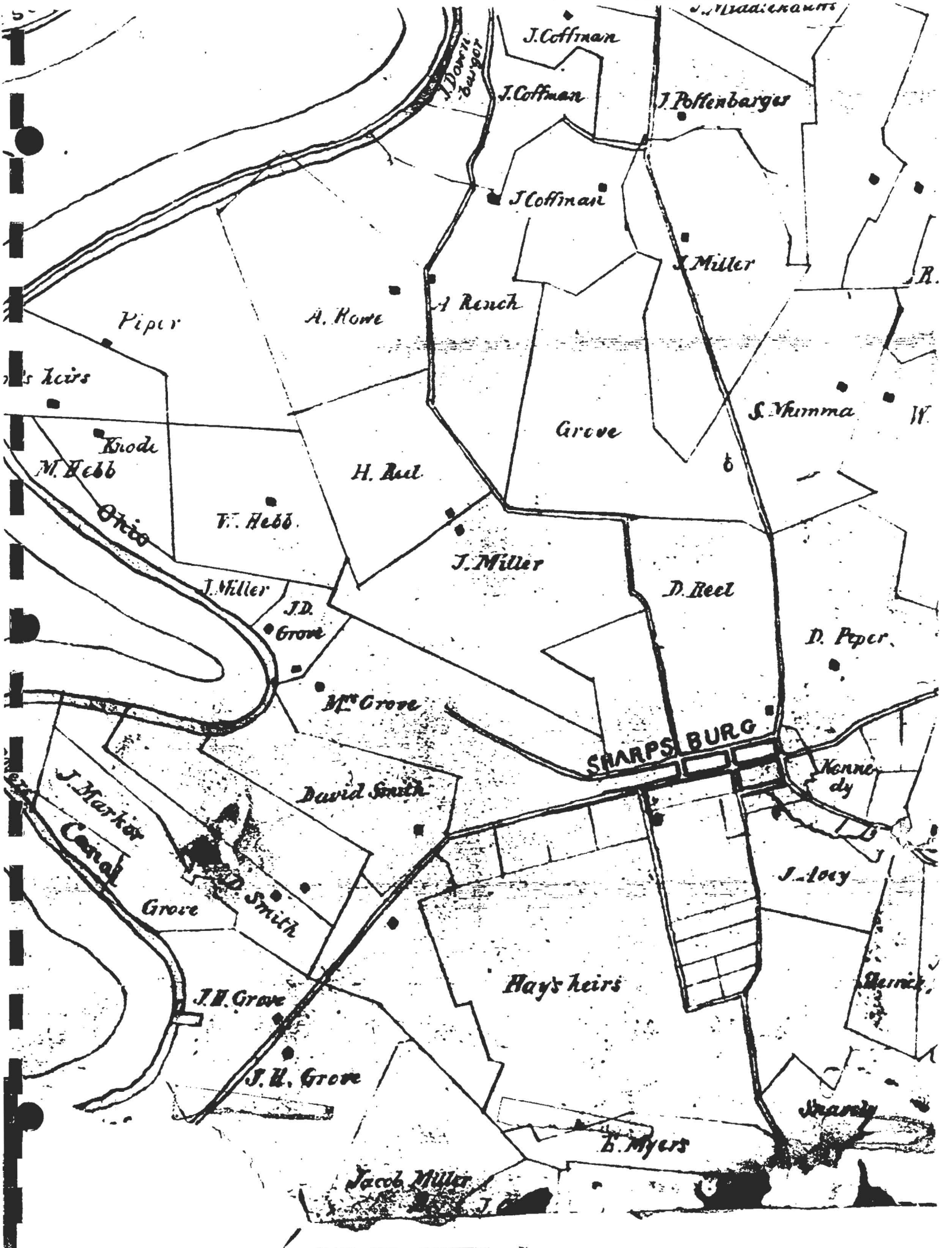
1862	Battle of Antietam, Wednesday, September 17. Farm was scene of major fighting 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
1867	David R. Miller receives $995.00 for damages caused by Union Army. Other claims were denied.
1868±	D.R. Miller house undergoes renovation. New windows, door and front porch were among the alterations. Rear wing possibly added.
1882	John Miller died intestate leaving eight surviving children. Court of equity case follows.
1883	David R. Miller purchases 150 acres of his farm for $9,473.00.
1886	David R. Miller conveys farm to Euromus Hoffman for $11,673.44.
1893	David R. Miller dies intestate.
1933	Hoffman heirs sell the farm to John C. Poffenberger.
1950	Emma F. Poffenberger, widow, sells farm to William W. Barr.
1952	William W. Barr sells farm to Paul M. Culler.
1955±	House is renovated.
1989	Paul M. Culler sells farm to Conservation Fund.
1990	Conservation Fund donates farm to the National Park Service.

Appendix I

Map of part of Washington County, Maryland
Bureau of Topographical Engineers
September, 1862

courtesy, The Western Maryland Room
Washington County Library

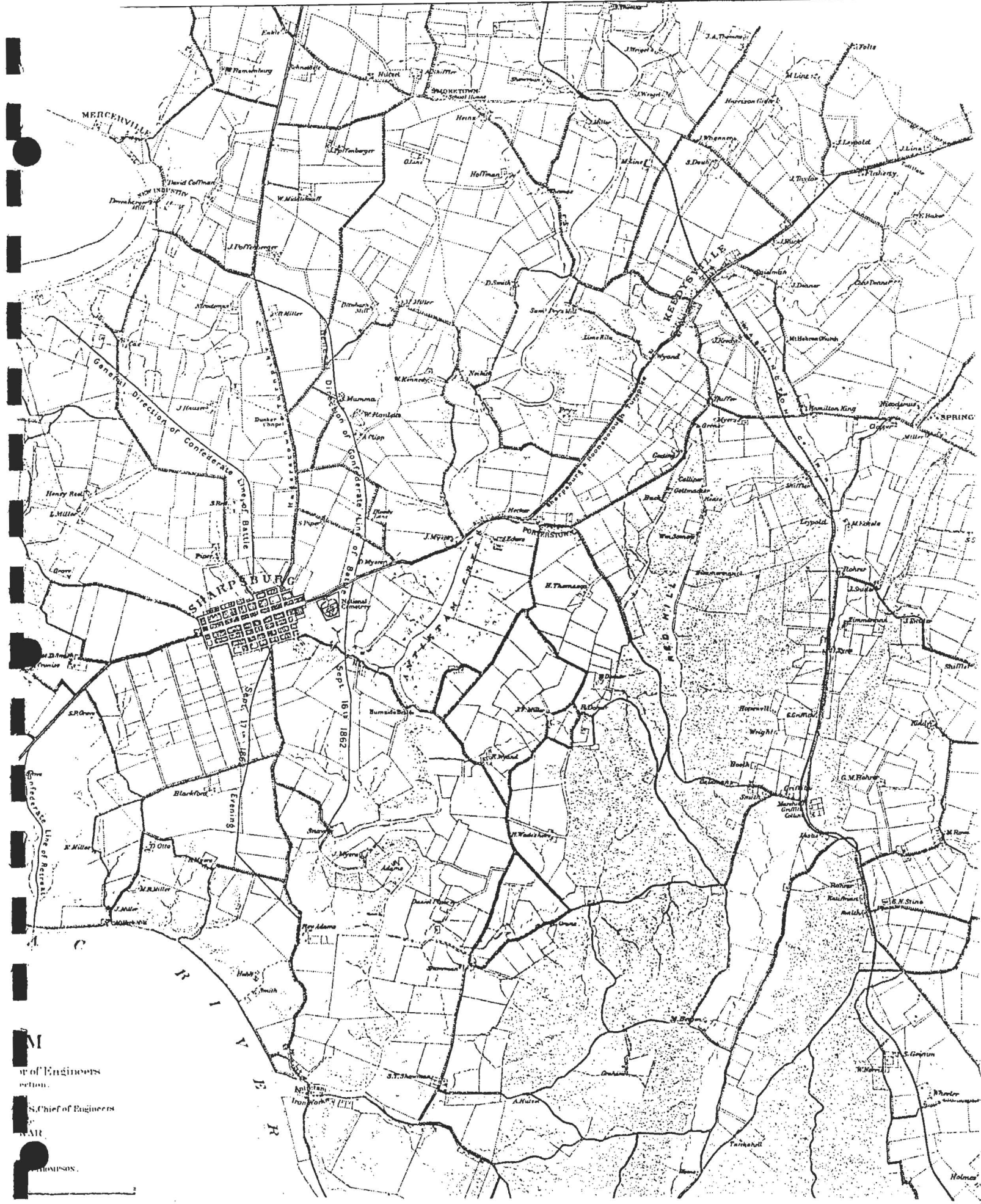
The D.R. Miller Farm
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland


J. Coffman
J. Coffman
J. Poffenbarger
J. Coffman
J. Miller
A. Rowe
J. Rench
Piper
Grove
S. Mumma
Rhodes
M. Hebb
H. Rul
V. Hebb
Ohio
J. Miller
J. Miller
D. Reel
J.D. Grove
D. Piper
Mt. Grove
SHARPSBURG
David Smith
J. Marker
Grove
D. Smith
J. Lacy
Hays heirs
J.H. Grove
J.H. Grove
B. Myers
Jacob Miller

Appendix II

Map of part of Antietam Battlefield
The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War
by Major George B. Davis, et. al.,
NY: Arno Press, 1978
Plate XXIX

The D.R. Miller Farm
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland



M

r of Engineers
ection.

S. Chief of Engineers
R.

WAR.

Thompson.

Appendix III

Sharpsburg Election District
1877 Atlas of Washington County, Maryland
by Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
Philadelphia, PA, 1877

The D.R. Miller Farm
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland


SHARPSBURG
DIST No.1
Scale 2 inches to the Mile
SHARPSBURG
Antietam
Potomac
Creek
Church
C. Keedy
J.C. Grove
Col. L.H. Miller
W.m Ramsburg
D. Tucker
J. Berryn
Dunkard Ch.
H.C. Worrall
C. Michael
D. Reel
M. Creasy
S. Beahler
P.R. Bowers
B.F. Graves
S.P. Grove
L.W. Poffenberger
W.H. Blackford
J. Otto
H.H. Myers
J.L. Mayer
J.H. Murray
J. Sherrick
J. Benner
Barnside Bridge
H. Roarback
H.H. Miller
J.L. Myers
H. Stine
Est. of H. Wade
W. Wade
D. & A. Showman
Est. of Rev. J.R. Adams
Est. of Rev. L.L. Mims
Meth. Ch.
ANTIETAM IRON WORKS
J. Barker
J.S. Ott & Co.
Grist Mill
Saw Mill
Foundry
School House
Wm Wade
Est. of J. Wade
J. Crumpton
Jno Snyder
J. Myers
S. Myers
S. Hagerty
E. Eichelberger
Est. of T.S. Fisher
Mrs Eckar
J. Snavely
Sam Keedy
J. Myers
S. Thomas
Col. Miller
J. Bennett
A.F. Newcomer
A. Donar
Mrs Draper
S. Drenner
J. Grund
Mrs Poffenberger
J. Middlekauf
A. Simmonds
Mr. Middlekauf
Wm H. Simmons
D.J. Poffenberger
A. Roach
Heirs of A. Rivers
D.R. Miller
S. Poffenberger
M. Miller
Cem.
S.D. Piper
J.P. Miller
J.L. Myers
J. Ward
Nat. Cem.
Est. of D. Smith
Est. of J. Miller
Est. of J. Keller
Mrs. Douglas
Mrs. Brodie
Mrs. Poffenberger
Mrs. Nicodemus
Mrs. Coffman
Wm P. Poffenberger
Wm P. Ramsburg
Mrs. Ramsburg
Mrs. Middlekauf
Mrs. Coffman
Wm P. Poffenberger
Mrs. Ramsburg
A. Roach
Heirs of A. Rivers
Wm Ramsburg
Col. L.H. Miller
D. Tucker
J. Berryn
Dunkard Ch.
C. Keedy
J.C. Grove
Col. L.H. Miller
C. Michael
D. Reel
M. Creasy
S. Beahler
P.R. Bowers
B.F. Graves
S.P. Grove
L.W. Poffenberger
W.H. Blackford
J. Otto
H.H. Myers
J.L. Mayer
J.H. Murray
J. Sherrick
J. Benner
Barnside Bridge
H. Roarback
H.H. Miller
J.L. Myers
H. Stine
Est. of H. Wade
W. Wade
D. & A. Showman
Est. of Rev. J.R. Adams
Est. of Rev. L.L. Mims
Meth. Ch.
ANTIETAM IRON WORKS
J. Barker
J.S. Ott & Co.
Grist Mill
Saw Mill
Foundry
School House
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Est. of J. Wade
J. Crumpton
Jno Snyder
J. Myers
S. Myers
S. Hagerty
E. Eichelberger
Est. of T.S. Fisher
Mrs Eckar
J. Snavely
Sam Keedy
J. Myers
S. Thomas
Col. Miller
J. Bennett
A.F. Newcomer
A. Donar
Mrs Draper
S. Drenner
J. Grund
Mrs Poffenberger
J. Middlekauf
A. Simmonds
Mr. Middlekauf
Wm H. Simmons
D.J. Poffenberger
A. Roach
Heirs of A. Rivers
D.R. Miller
S. Poffenberger
M. Miller
Cem.
S.D. Piper
J.P. Miller
J.L. Myers
J. Ward
Nat. Cem.
Est. of D. Smith
Est. of J. Miller
Est. of J. Keller
Mrs. Douglas
Mrs. Brodie
Mrs. Poffenberger
Mrs. Nicodemus
Mrs. Coffman
Wm P. Poffenberger
Wm P. Ramsburg
Mrs. Ramsburg

Appendix IV

Sale Bill, real estate of John Myers, deceased
The Hagerstown Mail, February 4, 1842

The D.R. Miller Farm
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland

STEAM SAW-MILL.

The subscriber respectfully informs DEALERS IN LUMBER, and others, the STEAM SAW-MILL, erected by Messrs. Cross & at the foot of Sideling Hill, miles west of Hancock, Md., near the Cumberland road, in full operation, and that he is ed to execute orders, or contracts ARDS AND SCANTLING, at west prices—deliverable at any on the Canal. The timber is Yellow Pine, of a superior quali y east of the mountain. ers addressed to the subscriber, Lamtram House Post Office, Md. receive prompt attention.

SAMUEL T. CROSS, Agent for the Proprietors.

May 28—6m

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

Pursuance of a decree of Washing County Court, sitting as a Court ity—I will sell at public sale, *on day the 13th day of February next*, Ward's Tavern, in Hagerstown, the state of Thomas Grieves, dec'd, g of the following portions, viz: ot with a Two Story

Brick House,

ck Stable and other ements thereon, on alnut street. This proper the residence of Mr. Arthur rson, and is one of the best stands business in the town.

ALSO—The LOT with the frame Dwelling HOUSE and other improvements thereon, in West Franklin street, in said town, in Mr. Wm. Robertson now resides ALSO—The Unimproved LOT in ch street, nearly opposite the last Terms of Sale will be one third the purchase money to be paid on d or upon the ratification of the sale Court, and the residue in three annual payments with interest the day of sale; the purchaser giv his bond with approved security

WILLIAM PRICE, Trustee.

January 7—6w

VALUABLE FARM AT PUBLIC SALE.

The subscriber being desirous of re ving to the western country, will t Public Sale, on *Wednesday the h day of February next*, in front of Court House, in Hagerstown, be the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock, his

Valuable Farm,

ted in Kingsale's Manor, adjoining lands of Benjamin Fitzhugh, John , and others, and being distant Hagerstown five miles, and from msport four miles. Said FARM ins of

174 ACRES

First-Rate Limestone Land,

ty Acres of which are well Tim the balance in a fine state of The improvements on this

HOUSE AND BARN,

are necessary

sale for cash.

Commissioners' Notice.

THE Commissioners of Washington county will attend at their Office, in the Court House, on *Tuesday the 15th day of February next*, for the transaction of business. By order,

S. HERBERT, Cl'k.

January 21—4w

A CHANGE.

The subscriber having purchased the entire DRY GOODS ESTABLISHMENT, heretofore kept by A. T. Spooner, Hagerstown; is now prepared to sell

GOODS,

on very reasonable terms, for cash, in good Bank paper. Thankful for past favors, he hopes by a strict attention to business, and a disposition to please, that he may merit a share of public patronage.

GEORGE GILLMYER.

January 28, 1842.

A VALUABLE FARM AT PUBLIC SALE.

THE subscribers will sell at Public Sale, on the premises, on *Monday the 28th day of February next*, at the late residence of John Myers, deceased, two miles from Sharpsburg, on the road leading from Hagerstown to the latter place, the FARM late the property of said deceased, containing about

265 *Acres of first-rate Limestone Land;*

about 150 Acres of which are cleared, the balance in thriving TIMBER—The improvements consist of a Two Story Log DWELLING HOUSE, a Switzer BARN, an excellent spring of water with a Spring House, and all other necessary out-houses. Also an ORCHARD of fine Fruit Trees. It is deemed unnecessary to give a fuller description of the property, as persons desirous of purchasing, will doubtless call and view it for themselves.

The Terms of Sale will be one third of the purchase money to be paid on the 1st of April next, when possession will be given; and the balance in two equal annual payments, with interest from the 1st of April; the purchaser giving bond or note with approved security; and on the payment of the whole purchase money, a good and sufficient deed will be made by

JOHN MILLER, of J. } Exr's.
JOHN MILLER, }

January 28—5w

PUBLIC SALE.

THE subscriber will offer at Public Sale, on *Saturday the 26th day of February next*, at the Tavern of Leonard Smittzer, on the road from Cavetown to Boonsboro', and about half a mile from Dr. Fahrney, about

94 ACRES OF CHOICE Mountain Land,

lying near the old Hagerstown road leading to Middletown. This land has been divided into Lots of from Fifteen to Eighteen Acres, is well clothed with thriving CHESTNUT TIMBER and is very accessable.

Also a Lot of Land, lying on the road leading from Cavetown to Boonsboro', and about half a mile from Dr. Fahrney's, containing **2 ACRES**, which is improved and is well adapted to a home for a mechanic.

☞ Terms of sale made known on the day of sale. DANIEL WOLF.

CURE YOUR COUGHS!

PEASLEE'S Celebrated Clarified Essence of Horehound Candy, compounded of Extract of Tar and Liquorice, and many ingredients, which by the most experienced physicians of the day, is considered the most effectual and speedy remedy for Coughs, Colds, Consumption and all affections of the lungs and throat, ever discovered; this is daily proved by all who use this invaluable article. A large supply of which has just been received direct from the manufacturer, and is for sale at the Drug Store of

H. P. AUGHINBAUGH,
Late Tughinbaugh & Dunlap's, West Washington street.

☞ Druggists and others dealing in the above article can be supplied at the manufacturer's price, for cash or approved paper.

Hagerstown, January 14, 1842.

Valuable Real Estate FOR SALE.

THE subscribers, Trustees of Thomas Boteler, have for disposal all part of his Lands, will offer at Public Sale, on *Tuesday the 1st day of March next* in Hagerstown, if not before disposed of at Private sale, the following Real Estate, viz:

No. 1, *The Home Farm* containing about **370 ACRES**, lying on the Turnpike leading to Frederick three miles from Hagerstown, and within a Funkstown, in the immediate neighborhood of a number of the best Mills in the county. The farm has been among the most productive in Washington county, and is in excellent order and well improved.

TWO STORY **STONE HOUSE** and Brick Kitchen attached, with a pump of excellent water at the door.

No. 2, *The Mill Property* on the Antietam, near Funkstown, consisting of a merchant and manufacturing GRIST MILL, with 3 pairs of burr stones and 12 ACRES of ground attached, with a Frame Dwelling House, Stable and other out-buildings. The Mill has been thoroughly repaired and is now in good order.

No. 3, *The River Farm,* containing about 200 ACRES of excellent LIMESTONE LAND, about 160 Acres of which are thickly covered with TIMBER. There are an excellent SAW MILL, TENANTS HOUSE, &c. upon the premises. This property will be divided to suit purchasers, if required.

No. 4, A small Tract of Land, containing about 12 ACRES, adjoining the lands of Theobald Eichelberger and Jacob Hoffmeier, lying near Hagerstown upon the Sharpsburg and Williamsport roads. The above tract will be divided

No. 5—116 Acres of Mountain LAND, lying in Frederick county.

Terms made known on the day of sale.

ELIE BEATTY,
CHEW SCHNEBLY,
Jan. 21—6w Trustees.

AVONDALE FARM FOR SALE.

[illegible] the great West [illegible] miles [illegible] spring. [illegible] Farm [illegible] Hagers[illegible] [illegible] for cash, [illegible]

CURE YOUR COUGHS!

PEASLEE'S Celebrated Clarified Essence of Horehound Candy, compounded of Extract of Tar and Liquorice, and many ingredients, which by the most experienced physicians of the day, is considered the most effectual and speedy remedy for Coughs, Colds, Consumption and all affections of the lungs and throat, ever discovered; this is daily proved by all who use this invaluable article. A large supply of which has just been received direct from the manufacturer, and is for sale at the Drug Store of

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Terms made known on the day of sale.

ELIE BEATTY,
CHEW SCHNEBLY,
Jan. 21—6w Trustees.

AVONDALE FARM FOR SALE.

[illegible] the great West [illegible] miles [illegible] spring. [illegible] Farm [illegible] Hagers[illegible] [illegible] for cash, [illegible]

[illegible]

HENRY SOWERS,
HENRY SOWERS,

January 21—3w

Wister's Balsam of Wild Cherry,

For the cure of Coughs of the Lungs, Coughs, Colds, &c. Just received and for sale, at the Drug Store of

H. P. AUGHINBAUGH,
Nearly opposite the Court House.

January 21, 1842.

DISSOLUTION.

THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, was this day dissolved, by mutual consent.

JOHN SWARTZWELDER,
PETER SWARTZWELDER.

December 31—6w

NOTICE—The Subscriber [illegible]

Appendix V

Account of Sale of Real Estate
of John Myers, deceased
Liber O, Folio 367
Accounts of Sale of Real Estate
Washington County, Maryland

The D.R. Miller Farm
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland

A List of Sale of the goods and chattles of John Miller late of
Dec'd in Cumberland Alleghany County Maryland
1842
March 2nd John W Shadly 1 the entire Stock of
Boots Shoes and hats & Lot
1 Note payable on 9th Dec for $300 00
do 1 do 1st do 8 do 300 00
do 1 do do 12 do 600 00
$1200 00
1 Note sold for Cash 25
$1225 25

A List of Sales of the Real Estate of John Miller late of Washington County dec'd sold by John Miller & John Miller Executors on the 28th day of July 1842.

A Farm in Washington County called & containing about 260 Acres more or less & all rights were sold to David P Miller $10,750 00

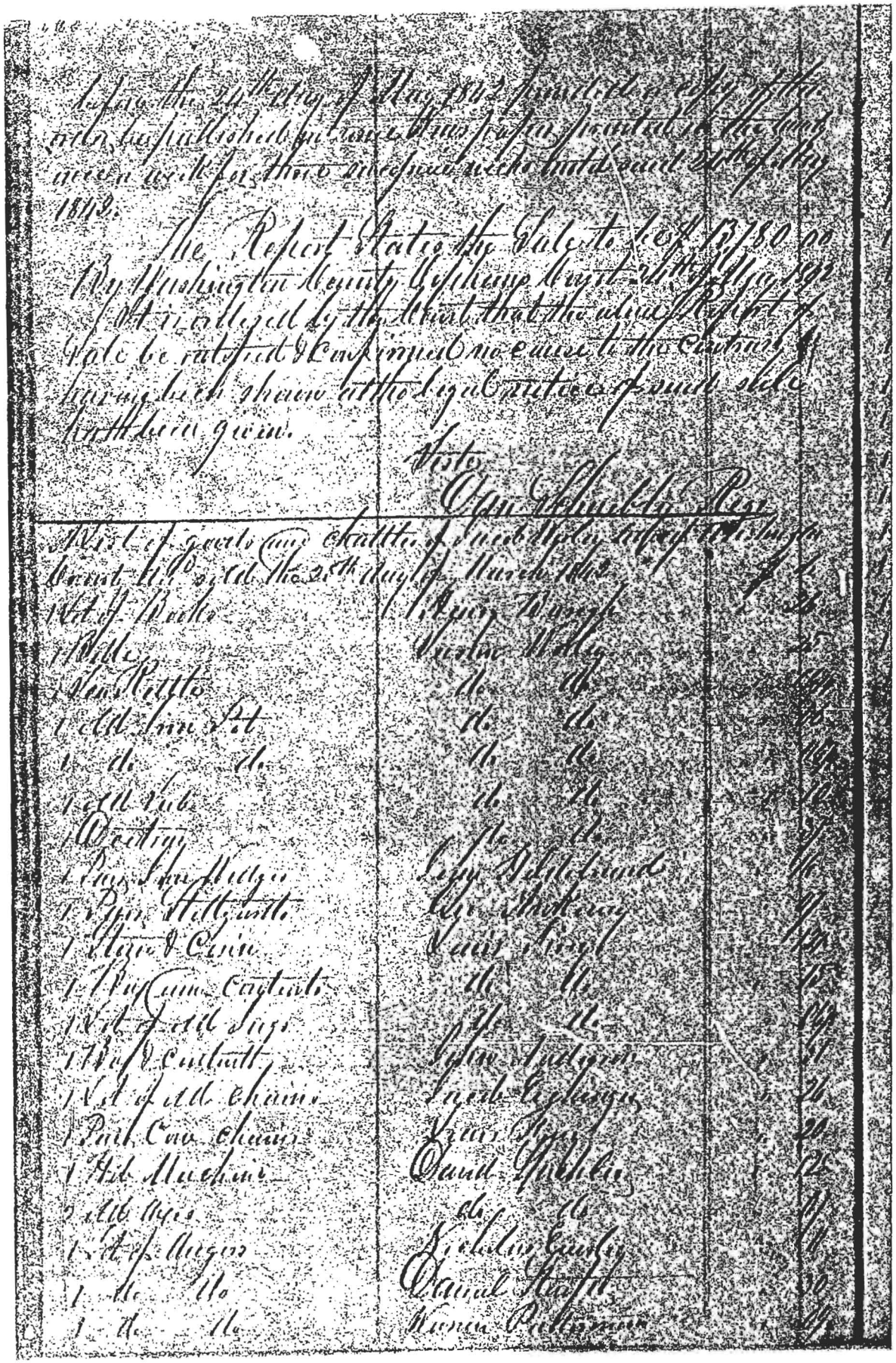
The terms of Sale were as follows one half cash on the 18th of March 1843 & the residue in two equal annual payments from the 18th of March 1842

John Miller Executor
John Miller Executor

Washington County to wit: On this 31st day of July 1842 came John Miller & John Miller Executors of John Miller late of Washington County deceased & made oath in due form of law that the above & foregoing Sale by them returned is just & true according to the best of their knowledge & belief & that the Sale above stated is not fairly made & that no more or other property has come to their knowledge or information

Subscribed & Sworn before me
Jas Stinchcomb Reg

By Washington County Orphans Court 28th July 1842
It is ordered by the Court that the Sale made by John Miller & John Miller Executors of John Miller dec'd be ratified & confirmed unless cause to the contrary be shown on a



Bibliography

Books, manuscripts

Frassanito, William A. Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day, New York: Charles Scribners Sons, New York, 1978.

This book documents the battle of Antietam through photographs taken by Alexander Gardner and James F. Gibson on September 19-22, 1862. The author combines historic photographs with modern views of the same scenes. The book contains 12 views of the Miller Farm, only one of which shows one of the buildings.

Morgan, Victorine Mumma. "Col. Joseph Chapline - 1707-1769." Sharpsburg, Md., 1963.

A history of the Chapline family written by Sharpsburg historian Victorine Mumma Morgan. Includes copies of Chapline's original plat of the town and his will bequeathing the portion of land which became the D.R. Miller farm to his son James.

Reilly, Oliver T. The Battlefield of Antietam, Hagerstown, Md: Hagerstown Bookbinding and Printing Co., 1906.

O.T. Reilly was a Sharpsburg historian of the late 19th and early 20th century who assembled information about the Battle based on accounts of local residents.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

This is one of two general histories of Washington County.

Schildt, John W. Drums Along the Antietam. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1972.

A history of Antietam from the perspective of the local people, as well as the military perspective. Chapter 6, "Rows of Steel" recounts the activity on the Miller Farm, largely quoting Rufus Dawes, Service with the Sixth Wisconsin and their experience in the Miller Cornfield.

Sears, Stephen W. Landscape Turned Red, New Haven: Ticknor and Fields, 1983.

A detailed and compelling account of the Battle of

Antietam. Chapter 6, "To the Dunker Church" relates the activity that took place on the Miller Farm. Detailed maps show the roads, buildings and fields as well as location of military units and their movements.

Smith, John Philemon, "Reminiscences of Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, July 9, 1793 to the Present Time, January 1st, 1912." (unpublished manuscript)

This manuscript is a history of Sharpsburg and its early residents written by a local historian in 1912. It contains information about Col. John Miller father of D.R. Miller and John Myers who built the house on the D.R. Miller farm.

Williams, Thomas J.C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. Vol. II. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 (originally published in Hagerstown, 1906).

This is one of two general histories of Washington County. It contains a brief biographical sketch on Col. John Miller who owned the D.R. Miller farm from 1842 to 1882.

Maps

Bureau of Topographical Engineers, "Part of Washington County, Maryland," September, 1862.

This map was prepared by the army shortly after the Battle of Antietam. It shows roads, property lines, ownership and building complex locations. The source for this map seems to have been Thomas Taggert's 1859 map of Washington County.

Davis, George B., Major, U.S. Army, et al. The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War. New York: Arno Press, 1978.

Plate XXIX pertains to Antietam. It is a very detailed map showing individual buildings, fences, fields, roads and occupants of each property.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Washington County, Maryland. Philadelphia, 1877.

A county atlas with area maps of each election district showing ownership and property location. It also gives some biographical information for leading citizens. For the Sharpsburg District, it lists David R. Miller with 265 acres, his occupation as farmer and that he

was born in Washington County in 1818.

Taggert, Thomas. "A Map of Washington County," 1859.

This is a large map of the entire county showing property outlines and ownership. It served as a base map for later military maps of the Antietam area.

Documents

Record of Claims, Record Group 92, Military Records, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Files 115-19, 113-730, 87-41, L-594, F-1499, M-5 pertain to claims for damages by the Union Army to David R. Miller. Claims are for occurrences in 1862, 1863 and 1864. The claims are for crop damage, livestock and fences. No claims were found for damage to buildings.

U.S. Census, 1790, Heads of Families for Washington County, Maryland.

This records the number of free white males above and below the age of 16, number of females and number of slaves per household with heads of families listed by county.

U.S. Direct Tax 1803-04, Washington County, Maryland.

An assessment listing heads of households by Hundreds in the county. Values of livestock and land were given and occasional mention of buildings.

Washington County Equity Court Record.

Case #3318, Chancery Record Liber 24, Folio 421 pertains to the settlement of John Miller's estate and the division of his property among eight surviving heirs. Among the heirs was David R. Miller who contested the sale of the farm on which he lived because he believed it had been given to him by his father.

Washington County Land Records.

Includes deed references for the subject property which are discussed in detail in the text.

Washington County Probate Records

Contains wills and administration records pertaining to decedents. For the subject property, the will of John Myers and the account of sale of his real estate were useful. (Will Liber D, Folio 204, Accounts of Sale Liber O, Folio 367.

Washington County Road Plat Records, Liber I, Folio 37, November 18, 1823.

In this record, road commissioners authorized the straightening of the public road from Sharpsburg to Hagerstown and awarded damages to affected property owners. Amounts quoted ranged from $22.00 to $150.00. John Myers, owner of the D.R. Miller Farm at the time was awarded $50.00.

Newspapers

American and Commercial Advertiser, Baltimore, Maryland. Vol. CXXVI, no. 20603-no. 20612. Thursday, September 18, 1862-Friday October 3, 1862.

From September 18, 1862 to early October, this Baltimore newspaper carried front page stories relating to the Battle of Antietam. The most detailed story appeared on Thursday, September 25 when most of the front page was devoted to a correspondent's account of the Battle. The reporter repeatedly mentions Joel Poffenburgh's [Poffenberger] farm and the cornfield as being in the heat of battle and that the house was shell-riddled and its gable blown off by artillery. The Joel Poffenberger farm was located just north of the D.R. Miller farm and by most other accounts was a staging area more than a combat site. This information leads to the question of whether the correspondent could actually have been referring to the D.R. Miller Farm rather than the Joel Poffenberger farm.

The Hagerstown Mail, January-February, 1842.

Contains advertisements, run for several weeks for the sale of farm formerly belonging to John Myers.

The Hagerstown Mail, October-November, 1882.

Contains advertisements, run for several weeks for the sale of farm occupied by David R. Miller.