STOP 8—CARING FOR THE WOUNDED

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

STOP 9—ELMWOOD CEMETERY

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

STOP 7—THE CORN EXCHANGE REGIMENT

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

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

The Battle of Shepherdstown

The Siege of Harpers Ferry

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

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Return to your vehicle and turn left onto North Washington Street. Go 0.2 miles. Turn right on to East Washington Street and go 0.2 miles. The Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church will be on your left. Street parking is available.

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

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: Follow the trail around the side of the cement mill ruins to the remains of the 6 kilns further up river on the trail.
Lee was aware of the Confederate movement, McClellan opted not to pursue Lee's army as it made its way toward Martinsburg. Pendleton, a preacher from Lexington and friend of Lee's, did not expect much harassment from the Federal troops across the Potomac. However, on September 19th, Federal sharpshooters crossed Pack Horse Ford and overran his position. He retreated in a panic in search of Lee. The Federals captured four of Pendleton's 44 artillery pieces, one of which had been captured by Rebels at the Second Battle of Manassas. Despite their success, McClellan passed along an order to General Fitz John Porter to halt the assault and recall his men to the Maryland side of the Potomac. McClellan ordered to not withdraw, forcing Lee's hand. He sent 23,000 men to join Jackson at Antietam. The following morning, on September 20th, Porter ordered two divisions of four of Pendleton's 44 artillery pieces, one of which had been captured by Rebels at the Second Battle of Manassas. Despite their success, McClellan passed along an order to General Fitz John Porter to halt the assault and recall his men to the Maryland side of the Potomac. McClellan ordered to not withdraw, forcing Lee's hand. He sent 23,000 men to join Jackson at Antietam. The following morning, on September 20th, Porter ordered two divisions of four of Pendleton's 44 artillery pieces, one of which had been captured by Rebels at the Second Battle of Manassas. Despite their success, McClellan passed along an order to General Fitz John Porter to halt the assault and recall his men to the Maryland side of the Potomac. McClellan ordered to not withdraw, forcing Lee's hand. He sent 23,000 men to join Jackson at Antietam.