

THE WAR COMES TO A SMALL TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA

When war broke out in 1861, Shippensburg was an ordinary small town in Pennsylvania. By the war's end, its residents had witnessed some of the most extraordinary events of the Civil War. The Shippensburg Civil War Trail brings you face to face with a community experiencing a monumental moment in American history. You will discover:

- The Battle of Shippensburg—among the first shots of the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863.
- The Rebel occupation of Shippensburg in 1863.
- Shippensburg's own General Samuel Sturgis—the hero of Antietam's Burnside's Bridge.
- The 130th Regiment, Co. D—raised in Shippensburg and tested by some of the war's bloodiest battles, including Antietam and Fredericksburg.
- The Shirk Brothers—three African-American brothers who were among the very first black soldiers to enlist and fight with the famed Massachusetts Regiments featured in the film *Glory*.
- Confederate looters—and merchants like the McLeans and the McPhersons who outsmarted the Confederates and saved their livelihoods.
- Regina Agle—waited anxiously at home with three small children while her husband Jacob's cavalry regiment advanced into Georgia.

Come discover the remarkable stories of lives changed forever by the American Civil War.



The Monument at Antietam to the 130th Pennsylvania Regiment that included 101 Shippensburg volunteers serving in Company D under the command of Captain James Kelso.



For more self-guided tours go to visitcumberlandvalley.com, or visit the



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(888) 513.5130

Produced by:

Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau

The Shippensburg Civil War Trail Partners: Shippensburg Historical Society, Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce, Shippensburg University Applied History Program, Shippensburg Borough, Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB), Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails, Shippensburg Civil War Roundtable, March to Destiny Committee

Researched and written by: Jeremy Ammerman, Valerie Baldwin, Dustan Black, James Bollinger, Jeffrey Bryson, Jason Carroll, Charles Evans, Jennifer Frey, Christopher Frisby, Cara Holtry, Jennifer Knepper, Kristi Lees, Heather Lindsay, David Maher, Daniel Mullarkey, Dorothy Picking, Ryan Simons, James Thompson, Kevin Varano for Dr. Steven Burg's Advanced Topics in Public History course at Shippensburg University, Spring 2006

Generous funding provided by: Representative Rob Kauffman, Senator Patricia Vance, the Shippensburg Borough Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB), and the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

For Further Information Contact: Shippensburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 539, Shippensburg, PA 17257; (717) 532.6727.

The Monument at Antietam photograph courtesy of the Antietam National Battlefield.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



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SHIPPENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA IN THE CIVIL WAR



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- 1 Battle of Shippensburg (King & Earl Streets)**
On June 24, 1863, a cavalry battle erupted here on King Street. Around 2:00 pm in the afternoon, as Shippensburg residents watched from the rooftops, Captain William Boyd's 1st N.Y. Cavalry dashed through town with the Confederate cavalry of General Albert G. Jenkins in full pursuit. By 3:00 pm, the Rebels had gained control of Shippensburg.
- 2 The Sherman "Union" House (King & Earl Street)**
On this site once stood the three-story Union House Hotel. In June 1863, as the Rebel army approached, the hotel's proprietors worried that their business would draw the invaders' wrath. They hired painters to whitewash the hotel's sign, and renamed it the "Sherman House." The plan succeeded and the hotel survived the Confederate occupation. The building burned down in 1960.
- 3 General Samuel Sturgis House (20 West King)**
This was the childhood home of Samuel Sturgis who was born in Shippensburg in 1822 and graduated from West Point in 1846. At the Battle of Antietam, it was men under his command who finally took Burnside's Bridge after numerous futile attempts, changing the course of the battle.
- 4 Shippensburg Historical Society (52 West King)**
The Society has a rich collection of artifacts on local Civil War history that it displays throughout the summer months.
- 5 McLean House and Tannery (49 West King)**
This brick house was the home of William and Jane McLean. Their extensive tannery occupied the fields behind the house along the Branch Creek. To protect his leather from Confederate foragers, McLean installed false bottoms on the tanning vats where he hid his finished hides. The Confederates never discovered his valuable stockpile of finished leather. McLean's son, corporal George McLean, died on December 21, 1862, from a gunshot wound sustained at the Battle of Fredericksburg.
- 6 McPherson & Cox Hardware (35 West King)**
This building was also a hardware store at the time of the Civil War. As the Confederate army approached, John and Martha McPherson placed their store's most valuable merchandise in their fireplaces and hid the openings with wallpaper. When the Confederates arrived, they "purchased" most of the store's inventory but never discovered the precious items concealed in the McPhersons' fireplaces.
- 7 J.C. Altick Drugstore (9 West King Street)**
In June 1863, Confederate surgeons plundered drugs and medical supplies from J.C. Altick's apothecary that operated from this storefront, acquiring precious materials that were scarce in the wartime South.

- 8 Confederate Headquarters (1 West King Street)**
On June 24, 1863, General Albert G. Jenkins established his headquarters on this site. General Jenkins initially demanded payment of \$1,800 for the community's safety, but later agreed to have residents provide food and feed to his troops.
- 9 Cumberland Valley Railroad (Earl Street)**
In the 1860s, the Cumberland Valley Railroad ran down Earl Street and provided the main rail link between Harrisburg and Hagerstown, MD. It transported critical ammunition to the Union forces at Antietam in 1862. In June 1863, Captain Boyd's 1st N.Y. Cavalry derailed the CVRR in Shippensburg to delay the Confederate advance up the valley.
- 10 Home of Captain James Kelso (110 East King)**
This building was the home of James Kelso, captain of Company D of the 130th Pennsylvania Volunteers raised in the Shippensburg area. They saw heavy fighting at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. Kelso's home was looted during the Confederate occupation of Shippensburg.
- 11 God's Little Acre (North Prince—Behind Vigilant Hose Co.)**
There are two Shippensburg Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery: Jesse Fry and Richard D. Moore. There are 324 other Civil War veterans at rest in Shippensburg area cemeteries.

- 12 Widow Agle's House (340 East King)**
This small building was constructed as a "widow's cabin" by the family of Jacob Agle who was killed in action in Georgia in 1863. His widow, Regina Waltrick Agle, lived here with her three children until her death in 1898. She received a small federal widow's pension, and also supported her family by taking in sewing.
- 13 Locust Grove Cemetery (111-119 North Queen)**
On this site stood Shippensburg's first African American church and the community's African-American burial ground. Twenty-six black Civil War veterans are buried in this cemetery, including eight men who were born and raised in Shippensburg. A separate brochure on this site is available at the Shippensburg Historical Society.
- 14 Indian Head (Dykeman) Spring (Dykeman Road)**
On June 25, 1863, General Junius Daniel's 2,294 Confederate troops encamped here at this spring-fed pond. Over the next two days, the Confederate force in Shippensburg grew to over 15,700—almost nine times the town's 1,800 residents. The Rebel troops left on June 27, marching to and capturing Carlisle. Mechanicsburg was captured on June 28. From June 28-30, they fought skirmishes at Oyster's Point in Camp Hill and Sporting Hill in Hampden Township, coming within three miles of Harrisburg. The Confederate forces then were recalled to Gettysburg where 37% of the Army of Northern Virginia would be killed, wounded, or declared missing in action.

