

WALKING TOURS

**Discover Historic
Hagerstown's**

HIDDEN HISTORY



**Edmund
McIlhenny**



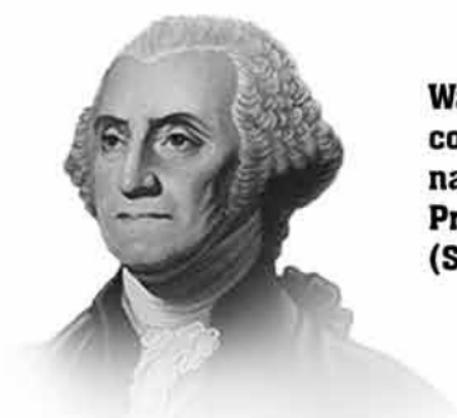
**George
Armstrong
Custer**

**Mary
Titcomb**

Genl Order
No
In accordance with
the instructions of Lt Genl Early
a levy of \$20000. Twenty Thousand Dollars
is made upon the inhabitants
of this city. The space of 3
hours is allowed for the payment

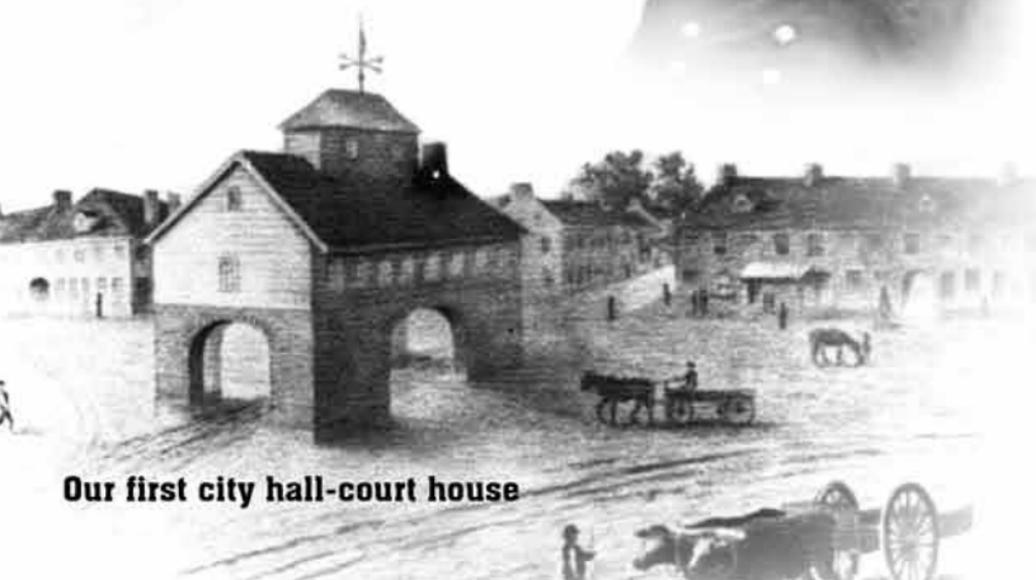
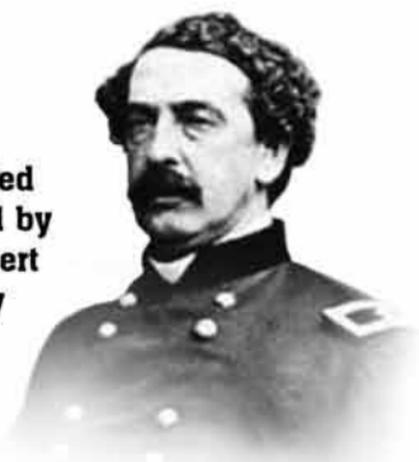
On July 6th, 1864, Confederate Brig. Gen. John McCausland ransomed Hagerstown for \$20,000, under the threat of destruction. The money was raised and the town saved. Seen here is a portion of the ransom note reading, "In accordance with the instructions of Lt. General Early , a levy of \$20,000...Twenty Thousand Dollars is made upon the inhabitants of this city. The space of 3 hours is allowed for the payment of this sum."

Stage coaches, like the one shown here, regularly passed through Hagerstown on the Baltimore extension of the National Pike in the 1800s. Several stage companies operated out of Hagerstown during this period. The Pike's traffic was daily crowded with hundreds of Conestoga and other types of wagons hauling agricultural and other product from town to town.



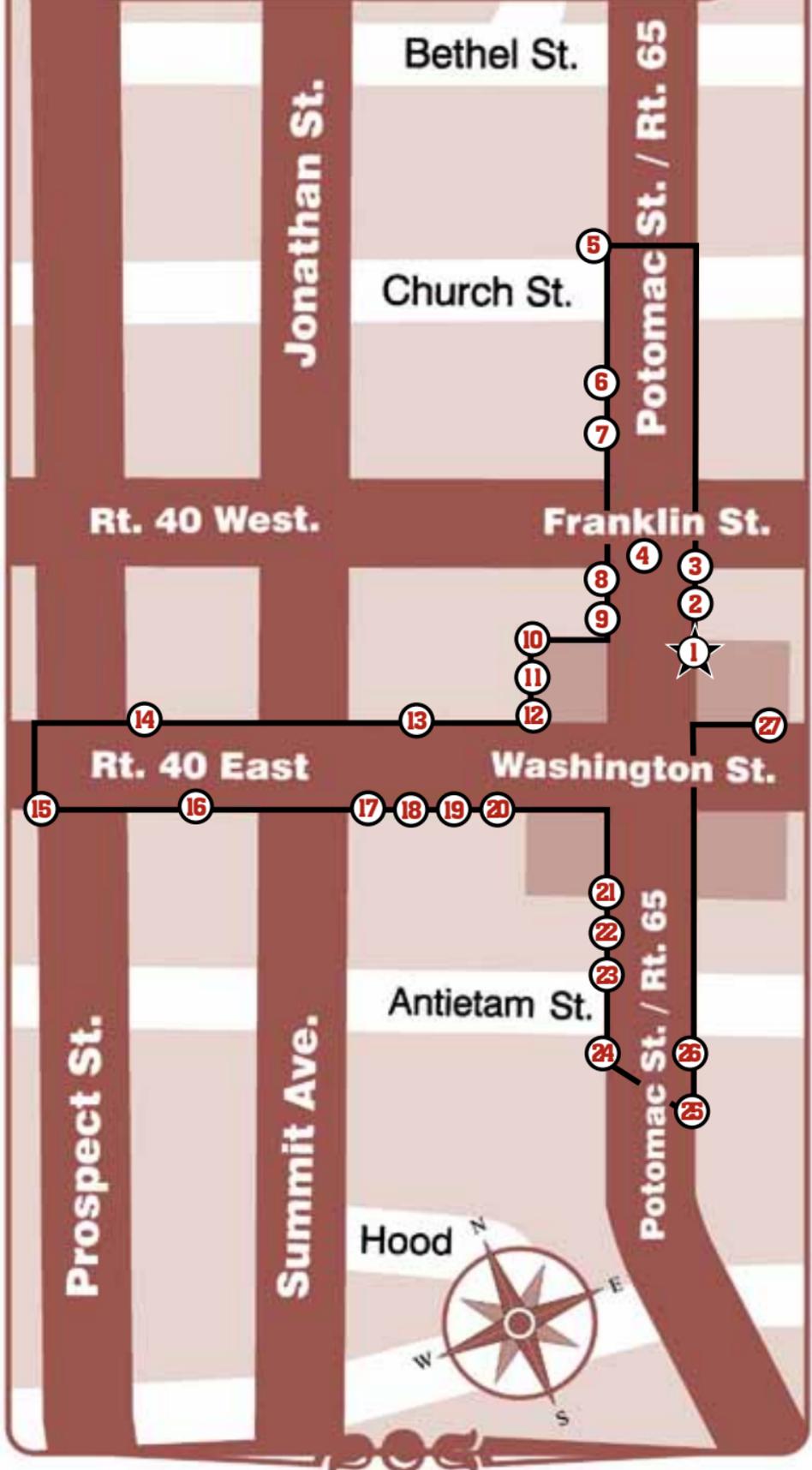
Washington County is the first county in the United States to be named for General and later first President George Washington. (September 6th, 1776)

In the summer of 1861, the Fort Sumter Artillery Battery commanded by Captain Abner Doubleday, arrived by rail in Hagerstown with General Robert Patterson's Federal Army. Doubleday was recieved as a hero.



Our first city hall-court house

WALKING TOURS MAP



**Numbers on Map correspond with the text.*



1 Start Here

Begin Your Tour of Historic Hagerstown here, on North Potomac Street, at the Visitor Welcome Center. After #4, continue North to Zion Church.

2 Major General Robert Patterson led Pennsylvania state volunteers and U. S. Regulars into Maryland through Hagerstown and Washington County in June 1861 to retake the captured U. S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, but arrived too late. The Confederates torched the arsenal buildings, eluded Patterson and successfully joined the main Rebel army for the battle of First Manassas. Patterson's army included the famous Fort Sumter Artillery Battery commanded by Abner Doubleday.



Robert Patterson

3 This sketch of Hagerstown City Hall was made in the summer of 1863 by artist James Taylor. It was used by both sides for storage and treating their wounded as they alternately occupied the town over the war years. Hagerstown's official symbol since the early days as Elizabethtown is the weathervane "Little Heiskell." Donated in 1769 by a tinsmith named Heiskell, it is said to be the outline of a soldier of that period, and was pierced by a bullet from a Confederate sharpshooter sometime during the war. The one you see today is the second. The original, complete with hole, can be seen in the Jonathan Hager House Museum in Hagerstown City Park. The present City Hall dates to 1941.



Our First City Hall

On September 14th 1862, General Robert E. Lee, accompanied General James Longstreet's division to Hagerstown from South Mountain, falsely believing Federal forces were marching into Maryland from Pennsylvania. Later the same day they returned when the Battle of South Mountain began.



Little Heiskell

General Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia marched through Hagerstown in June 1863, on their way eventually to Gettysburg.



Robert E. Lee

Gunsmiths flourished in the Great Hagerstown Valley in the 1700's. Foremost among them was Christian Hawken Sr. of Hagerstown, whose long rifle was a favorite of Kit Carson and the mountain men of the early American West.



Zion Reformed Church



Hager's grave



William Clark Quantrill

(FYI) In June of 1863, Southern sympathizers greeted Generals Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet and George Pickett in the square. The ladies greatly embarrassed Pickett by chiding him about his curly hair. Records of the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, fighting in the streets of Hagerstown, on July 6th, after Gettysburg, confirm that Sgt. Joseph Brown, of Company B, was mortally wounded here in the square as his company prepared to charge the Confederates to the north. The shooter was said to have been the daughter of Dr. James B. McKee. There is no record of what happened to the young lady.

4 On this spot, on July 6th, 1863, in front of Hagerstown City Hall, Captain Ulrich Dahlgren, son of Admiral John Dahlgren, inventor of the Dahlgren Gun, was seriously wounded, leading to the loss of a leg. After the war his widowed mother Madeline, purchased the inn at Turner's Gap, atop South Mt. and built the Dahlgren Chapel in honor of her son and husband. The action occurred on the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg.

5 **Zion Reformed Church**, is one of Hagerstown's earliest houses of worship (1774). The church cemetery holds some of our earliest settlers, including veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Hagerstown's founder, Jonathan Hager is buried here. He was killed by a falling timber in 1775 as he helped construct its interior. Hager settled here in 1739, laid out the town for development and later sold the first lots in 1768. In 1762 he named it Elizabethtown in honor of his wife.

The Quantrill family were members in the 1800s. Thomas Quantrill was Hagerstown's sixth mayor. His son Henry, married a woman from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, moved to Canal-Dover, Ohio, where their son William Clark Quantrill was born. He led a notorious gang of outlaws in the Kansas-Missouri area during the Civil War, that included Frank and Jesse James and the Daltons.

The church's stone walls and tombstones aided the Confederates in holding off repeated Federal Cavalry charges on July 6th, 1863. The tide of battle turned when Brigadier General Alfred Iverson's Brigade arrived from Gettysburg. At about 5 PM, Gen. Lee arrived with Gen. Longstreet's Corp, observing numerous dead soldiers and horses in the streets of Hagerstown.

Turn around and walk south to John Wesley Methodist Church - 120 North Potomac - 1885

6 John Wesley Methodist Church, current 1885. Francis Asbury, Superintendent of the Methodist Churches in America, visited Hagerstown in 1772.

7 The original **fire station** (1852) served as a hospital during the Civil War. It was altered in 1881. Early on, citizens were required to burn candles in their front windows to help firemen find their way out of town after dark. Gas lights had not been installed at that time. The first recorded bucket brigade began in Hagerstown in 1790.



Fire Station

8 (**City parking deck**) Former site of the Franklin Hotel. Dr. Norman Scott of Hagerstown treated soldiers of both sides during the Civil War. Captain E. J. Penneybacker, of Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer's staff was one of several soldiers who died here.

Continue South down first block of South Potomac to Square

9 The barber shop of William and John A. Wagoner, freed African-Americans, was looted by drunken Union soldiers in 1861. (Northwest corner)

10 Hagerstown was a pro-North town. Following a Maryland Confederate victory over Maryland Federals at Front Royal, Virginia, in 1862, pro-Union citizens sacked the Hagerstown Mail's newspaper office and those business's whose owners had sons in the Rebel army. The Mail's editor, Daniel Dechert, had been imprisoned for his pro-South editorials until he took the Union Oath of Allegiance, which did little to alter his later writings.

11 The Eagle Hotel (now a business site), was owned at one time by the McIlhenny family, whose son, Edmund, invented Tabasco Sauce. Edmund was born on the second floor, fronting on West Washington Street. William Henry Harrison stayed here in April 1841 on his way to be inaugurated our ninth President.

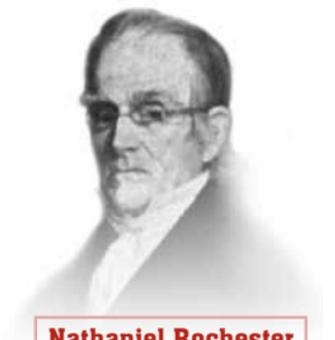
12 When Jonathan Hager laid out Hagerstown, this was lot number 1. One of its first developers in 1781, was Col. Thomas Hart, of North Carolina. Hart's daughter Lucretia, would later marry the great Kentucky Statesman Henry Clay. Hart and Col. Nathaniel Rochester opened a hardware store, our first business. Rochester would later move to upper New York State and found the city named for him.



Gen. John McCausland

(FYI) The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road passed through this general area following the ancient "Warrior's Path" from New York State, down the Shenandoah Valley into Georgia. It existed long before the European immigration began, when German and Irish settlers traveled the road, settling at points along the way, including Hagerstown.

Hagerstown was home to William O. Wilson, an African-American who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for outstanding bravery with Co. I, 9th U. S. Cavalry, in the Sioux Campaigns in 1890. He is buried in nearby Rose Hill Cemetery.



Nathaniel Rochester



The signature of future Supreme Court Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, is on a letter thanking Mrs. Howard Kennedy, of Hagerstown, for her help in his recovery from wounds suffered at the Battle of Antietam. (9/17/62)

Turn West on Washington Street

(FYI) Isaac Shelby, a native of our county, was instrumental in organizing 1,000 "over-the-mountain-men" in 1780 and leading them to victory over the British at King's Mountain, South Carolina. A battle that changed the course of the Revolutionary War. He later became the first Governor of Kentucky.

Both the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Appalachian Trail pass through Washington County.

Hagerstown's post master would hoist a white flag when the mail was ready for citizens to pickup. Mail that remained too long was taken to a nearby tavern for late collection.

Look up and become aware of the grand architecture of the buildings on either side of this street. You will find a mixture of Federal Style, Classical Revival and Italianate.

The Baltimore extension of the National Road entered the town square from the west and turned southward on its way to Baltimore. This right-angle turn was responsible for Hagerstown's growth being confined to the streets west and south, with little or no development to the east and north.

Hagerstown was ransomed for \$20,000 on July 6th, 1864, by Confederate Cavalry commander General John McCausland, who threatened to torch the town unless paid. He met town councilman Matthew Barber in M. L. Byer's Drug Store(12) to make his demand, which was fulfilled by three local banks.

13 Stop in front of the University Of Maryland Systems Campus

Beltzhoover's Tavern was a popular traveler's stop here in the early days. President George Washington stayed here in 1790 on his way to visit Williamsport. The Washington House Hotel was constructed on the site in 1856 and was one of the elite stops along the National Road for many years. Abolitionist John Brown stayed here in June 1859, using the assumed name "Isaac Smith." He traveled with his two sons to southern Washington County, rented the Kennedy Farm at Samples Manor, gathered his men and conducted his raid on the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Brown was captured, tried and hanged at nearby Charles Town, Virginia (now West Virginia.) Artist James Taylor stayed here in late 1863. He wrote of seeing many bullet holes splattered about the outside walls from the July 6th, 1863 battle.

14 No.160 West Washington Street.

Home of J. Dixon Roman who originated the plan to save Hagerstown from being torched by the Confederates in 1864. A brilliant attorney, he served in Congress.

Continue west, cross street at end of the block (left) to the front of the Presbyterian Church (1873-75)



Mount Prospect

15 Observe the painted wall to your right that depicts former "Mount Prospect," the original home of Nathaniel Rochester. During the Civil War, its owner, Mrs. Howard Kennedy, cared for young Oliver Wendell Holmes as he recuperated from wounds suffered at the Battle of Antietam.

16 (No. 135) A tour of the **Miller House**, home of the Washington County Historical Society, offers visitors a glimpse into the life of a prominent Hagerstown family of the 1820s. Exhibits include a huge doll collection, 200 clocks, Bell family pottery, and Civil War items. It also houses an excellent genealogical library.



Miller House Garden

Cross street to second block of West Washington Street

17 Our first Washington County Courthouse was located in center square. When it proved impractical, the second was constructed on this corner in 1816 and designed by famous architect Benjamin Latrobe. It was destroyed by fire in 1871. The current court house dates from 1873. The clerk's office is where Confederate Gen. McCausland, along with town officials approved payment of the ransom money in 1864.



Our Second Courthouse

18 The Lycium Hall, located approximately where the second bank building is today, (mid-block) was the entertainment center for the community. Many traveling acts drew great crowds during its tenure. It also served as a Civil War hospital.

19 Our first bank, "The Hagers-Town Bank" opened in 1807, and was located opposite the Washington House. It's founder and first president was Nathaniel Rochester.



The Hagers-Town Bank

20 Updegraff Hat Manufacturer Co. (1820s). (Observe sign on top east-side of building) The factory was robbed several times by Confederate soldiers.



Father Abraham Ryan

(FYI) Hiram Percy Maxim, of New England, married Josephine Hamilton, daughter of Maryland Governor William Hamilton, of Hagerstown. Maxim invented the gun silencer and founded ham radio. Both Maxims are buried in Hagerstown's Rose Hill Cemetery.

Father Abraham Ryan, later known as the "Poet Priest of the Confederacy," was born in Hagerstown in 1838, and baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church (1790) one block west of here.

Turn right onto South Potomac, walking south



Maryland Theatre



John Gruber

Printer John Gruber's shop, on South Potomac Street, published the first book edition of our National Anthem in October, 1814

(FYI) In 1812, Henry O. Wagoner was born in Hagerstown. He became the first African American sheriff in the "wild west."

(FYI) In 1804 it was a two hour trip east by stage coach to Frederick, MD. Today, only 20 minutes by car.

In 1823 the first Macadamized road in America connected Hagerstown with Boonsboro.

Population in 1827: 3,262, included 38 stores, 13 taverns and 15 schools.

21 Our majestic and beautiful **Maryland Theatre** dates from 1915 and was a gem on the old vaudeville circuit. Among the stars appearing were Will Rogers, Anna Pavlova, John Phillip Sousa, and Lowell Thomas plus an unending array of acrobats, jugglers, choruses and concerts. Today the Theatre is home to the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, and showcases famous artists from all fields including big bands, country, comedy and ballet. A disastrous fire destroyed the front apartments in 1974, but did minimal damage to the Theatre itself. After its reopening in 1976, it flourished for a while until declining attendance closed its doors. In 1980 a concerted effort by local businesses and the public helped raise funds to restore the Maryland. Today it is healthier than ever and remains our brightest jewel.

22 In late 1795, printer John Gruber moved to Hagerstown, opening a business on the ground now in front of the Maryland Theatre. He began publishing the Hagers-Town Town and Country Almanac in 1797. (Today it is the second oldest almanac in active circulation in the nation.) In 1814, Gruber printed *The National Songster*, a collection of patriotic songs. Among them was the first book printing of *The Defense of Fort McHenry*, the poem written by Francis Scott Key as he watched the British bombardment of Fort McHenry. The title was changed later by a professional singer who selected the words "Star Spangled Banner" from the last line of the song's first verse.

23 You are now passing the **First Hose Company**, of Hagerstown, the oldest still active fire company in Hagerstown ca.1815.

Cross Antietam Street to St. John's Church

(FYI) After the Battle of Saratoga (1777) John Whistler settled in Hagerstown and married a local woman. They became the parents of George Washington Whistler, who became the father of the famous painter James McNeill Whistler, famous world-wide for his "Whistler's Mother." So, it might be argued that Whistler's grandmother was from Hagerstown!

24 **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church** (1770), Hagerstown's first church, was established only a few years after the founding of Elizabethtown. Early services were held in un-heated rooms. In 1852 the church entered into an agreement with the First Hose Company to occupy fifteen feet of ground fronting on South Potomac Street until 1870 when remodeling plans were initiated. In 1881 First Hose moved a few doors north to its present location at 31/33 South Potomac Street.



Andrew Jackson

25 The former Presbyterian Church (now the **Independent Church**.) In late 1828 it hosted Andrew Jackson for a Sunday service as he made his way to Washington for his inauguration as our seventh president.



Washington County Free Library

**Cross St. Opposite the Hagerstown Independent Church
Head back to Public Square**

26 Stop at the **Washington County Free Library**, the first county library to be organized in the United States, opened its doors at a different location on August 9th, 1901. The first librarian, Mary L. Titcomb, originated the first book wagon in the nation in 1905.

(FYI) Robert Moxley, of Hagerstown organized a brass band before the Civil War, with relatives and friends. All were slaves at the time. In 1863, a Federal recruiting officer was so impressed that he offered them their freedom for joining the United States Colored Troops as a recruiting band. They did, and went on to become the number one band of the first brigade, serving in the Chesapeake Bay region.

In 1802, famous Indian Chiefs Little Turtle and Cornplanter passed through Hagerstown with 15 Senecas to visit the Great White Father in Washington, who was Thomas Jefferson.

27 Former site of Marshall and Cranwell's Hardware Store on north east corner of public square. Hagerstown artist John Stemple, sketching on the store's roof, was struck and killed by a stray bullet, during hand-to-hand combat below him on July 6th, 1863. Later, on the 13th, when Rebel forces were driven from Hagerstown, the dashing Gen. Custer led a victory parade through the square, eliciting admiring sighs from the ladies.



J. Dixon Roman

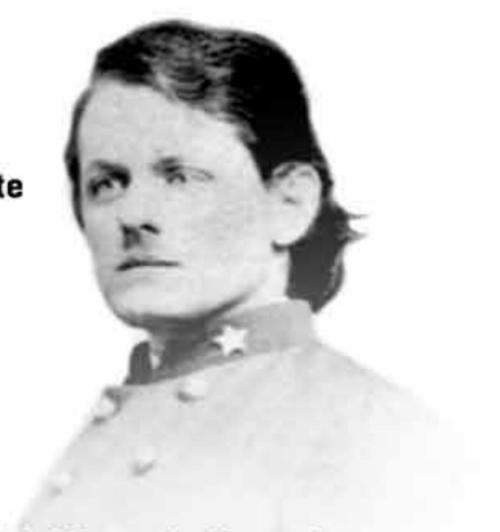
**Thanks for taking the tour of
Historic Downtown Hagerstown**

**Come back soon, there is always more to
see and do in Hagerstown
and Washington County.**

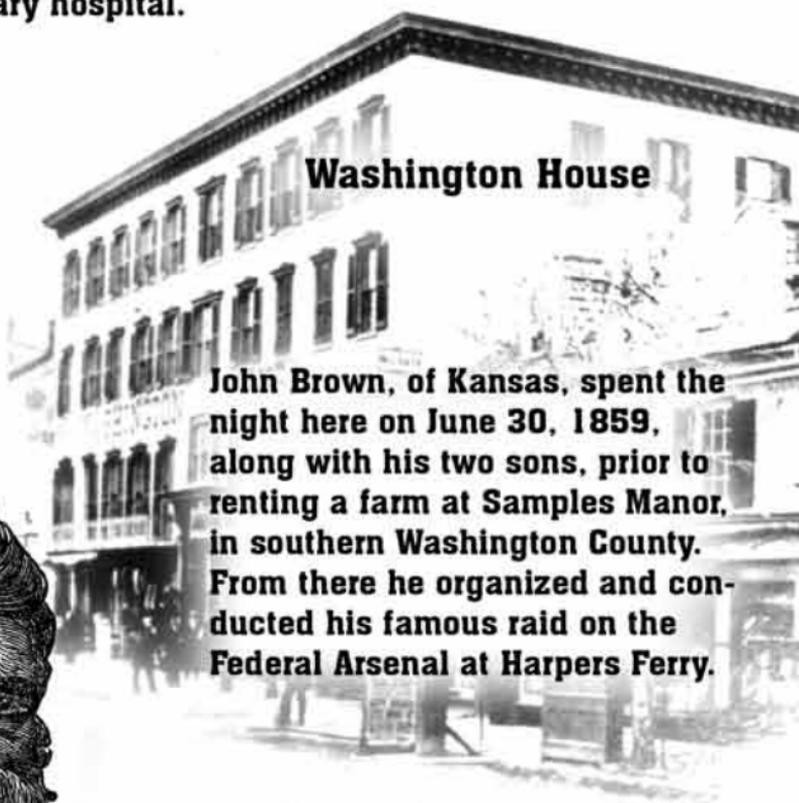
Colonel Henry Kyd Douglas served on the staff of Confederate General (Stonewall) Jackson. After the war he worked as a lawyer in Hagerstown.



Youthful Lucretia Hart, of Hagerstown, married famous Kentucky Congressman Henry Clay. The Harts were among the earliest residents of Hagerstown.



Key-Mar College, the Hagerstown Female Seminary, closed during the Civil War and was converted into a military hospital.



Washington House

John Brown, of Kansas, spent the night here on June 30, 1859, along with his two sons, prior to renting a farm at Samples Manor, in southern Washington County. From there he organized and conducted his famous raid on the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry.



Isaac Smith & Sons

Brown, a wanted man, signed in at Washington House as Isaac Smith. Shown here is his signature from the hotel's register book which can be seen in the Western Maryland Room of the Washington County Free Library, in Hagerstown

Dr. Norman Scott

Hager House

**Washington County Association of
Museums & Historical Sites**

**Sponsored by
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**Second
Court House**

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