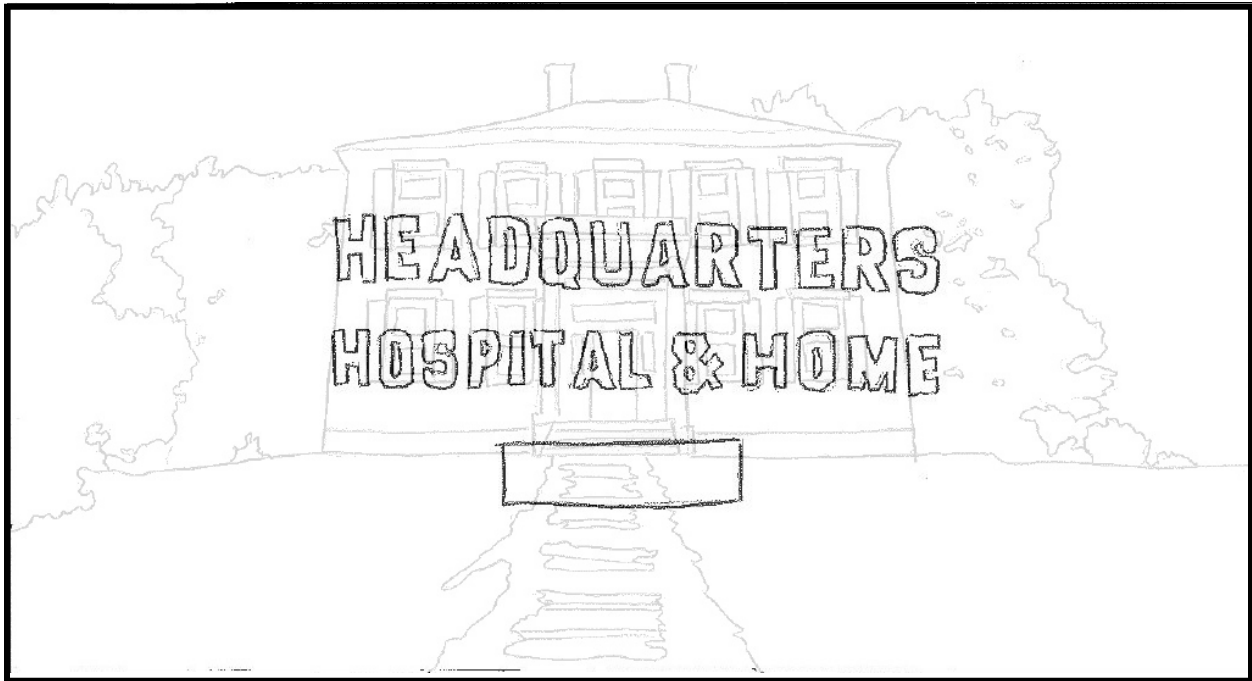


The Pry House: Headquarters, Hospital, and Home

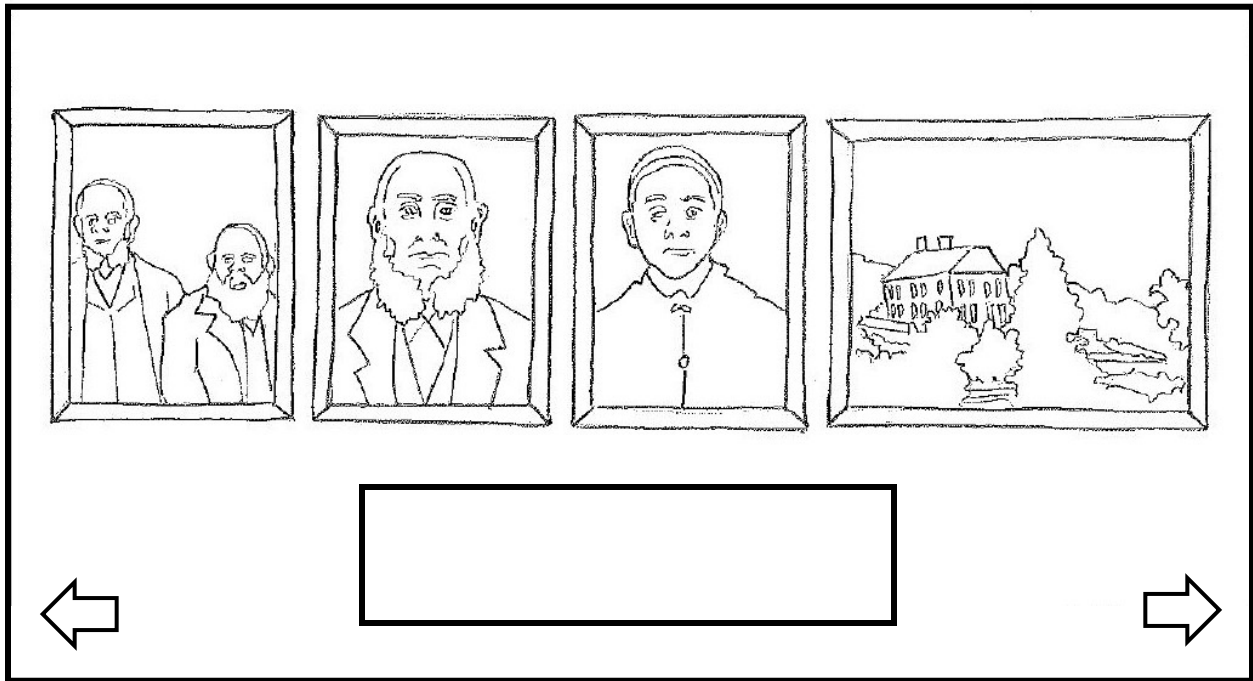


The Home

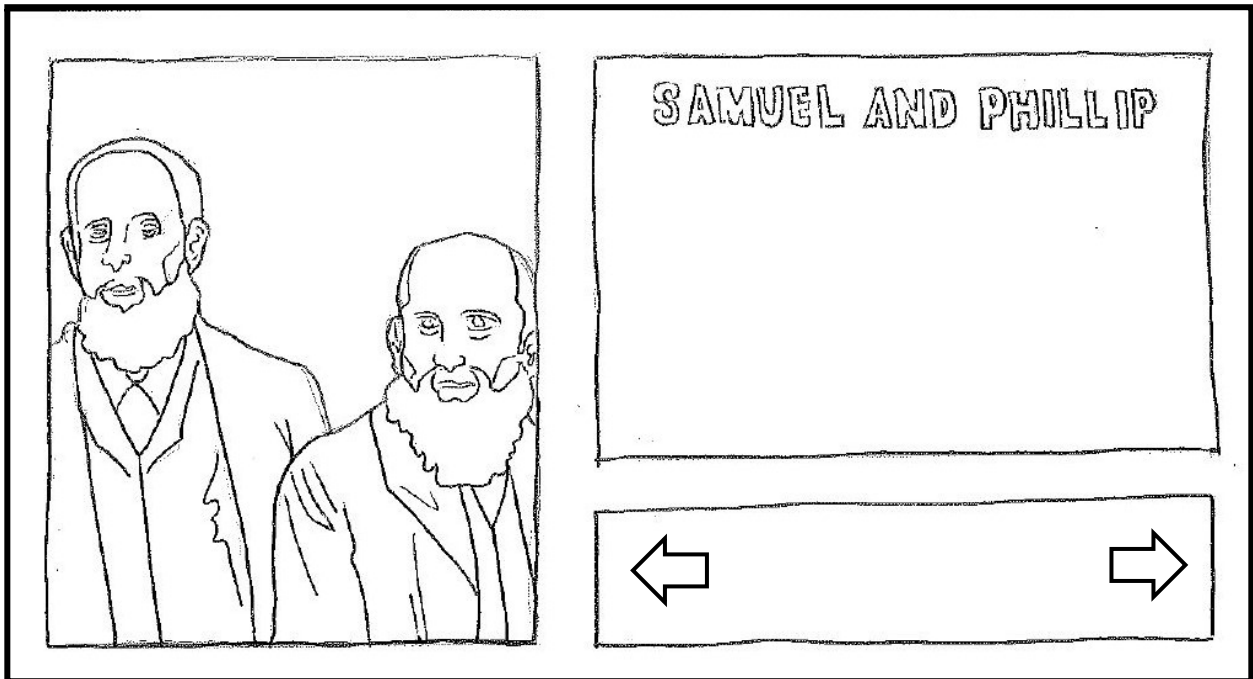


In December 1847, Phillip Pry Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth Ellen Cost, moved into the “Pry House,” a multi-storied brick farmhouse in Keedysville, Maryland. By all appearances, the couple was among the most prosperous in the region.

Portrait Wall

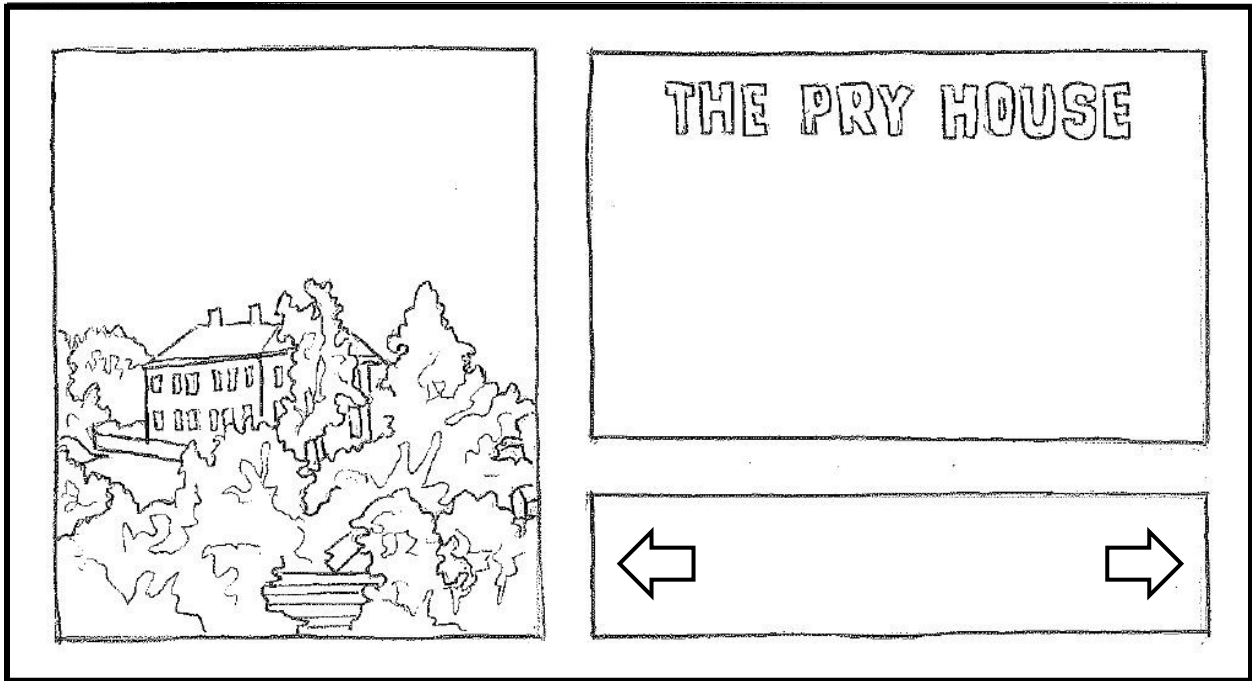


Samuel and Phillip Portrait



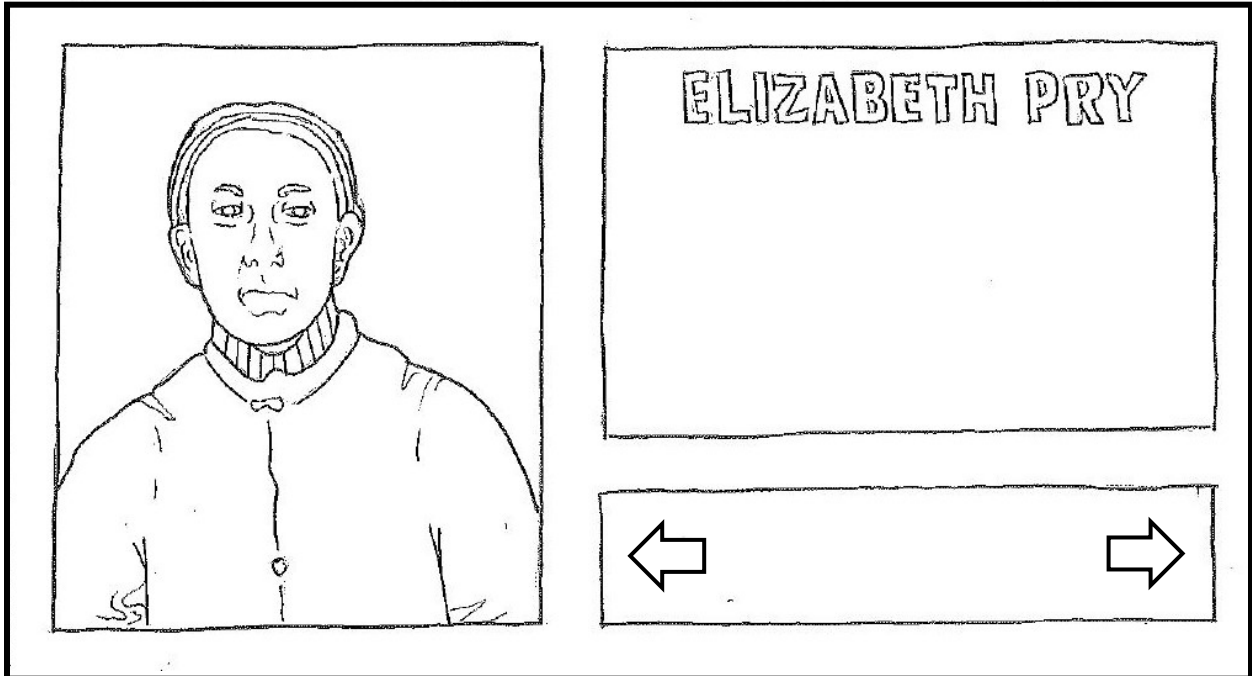
In 1810, the Pry family settled in Maryland. There, Phillip Pry bought 126 acres of farmland in Keedysville. The family made that land their home, where they raised their three children Samuel, Susannah, and Philip Jr.

Pry House



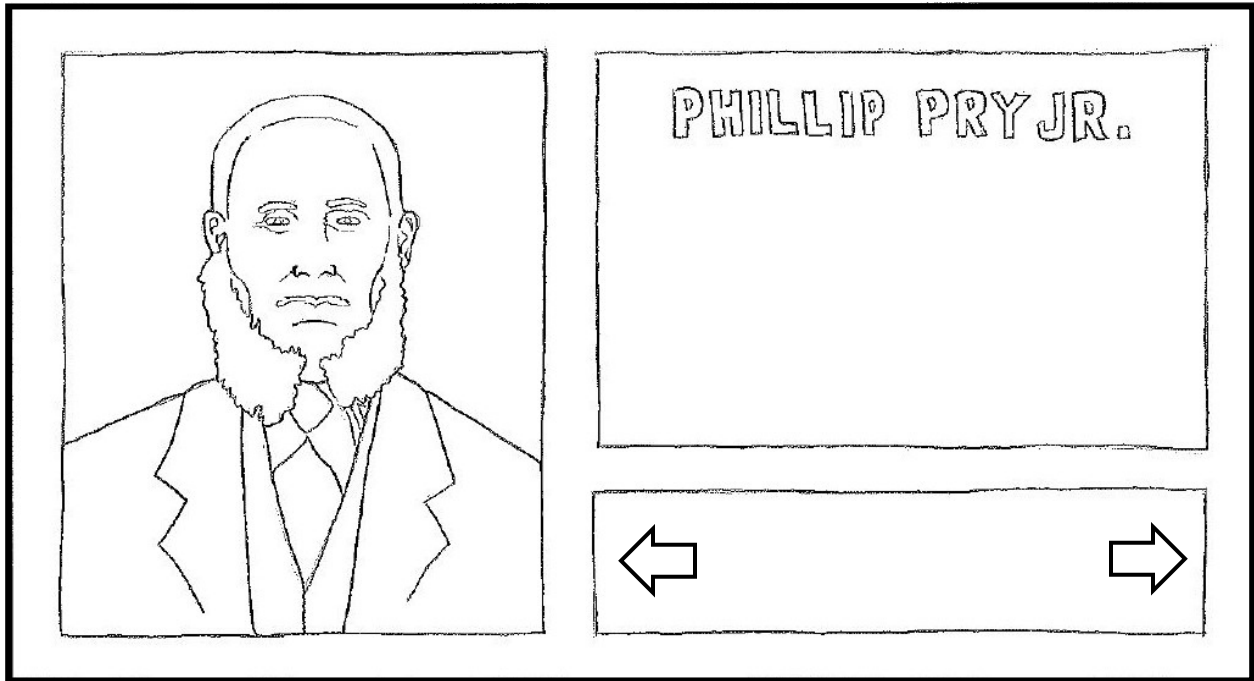
Philip Pry Sr. left his farmland to his sons Samuel and Philip Jr. The brothers finished building the "Pry House" on July 11, 1844.

Portrait of Elizabeth



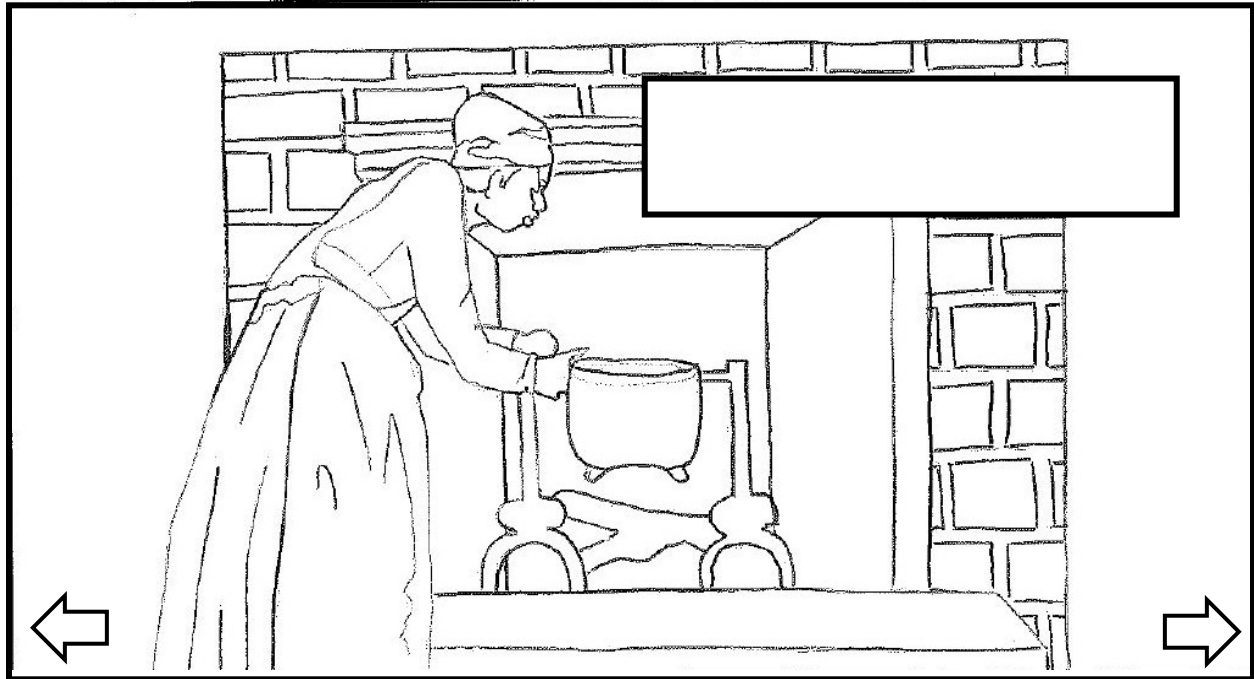
Elizabeth Pry gave birth to six children prior to the Battle of Antietam: Samuel Cost, Alfred Luther, Ellen Elizabeth, Jacob Alexander, Charles Webster, and Annie Deaner. However, Ellen Elizabeth died at two years old. After the Civil War, Elizabeth gave birth to her last child, Mary Elizabeth.

Portrait of Phillip



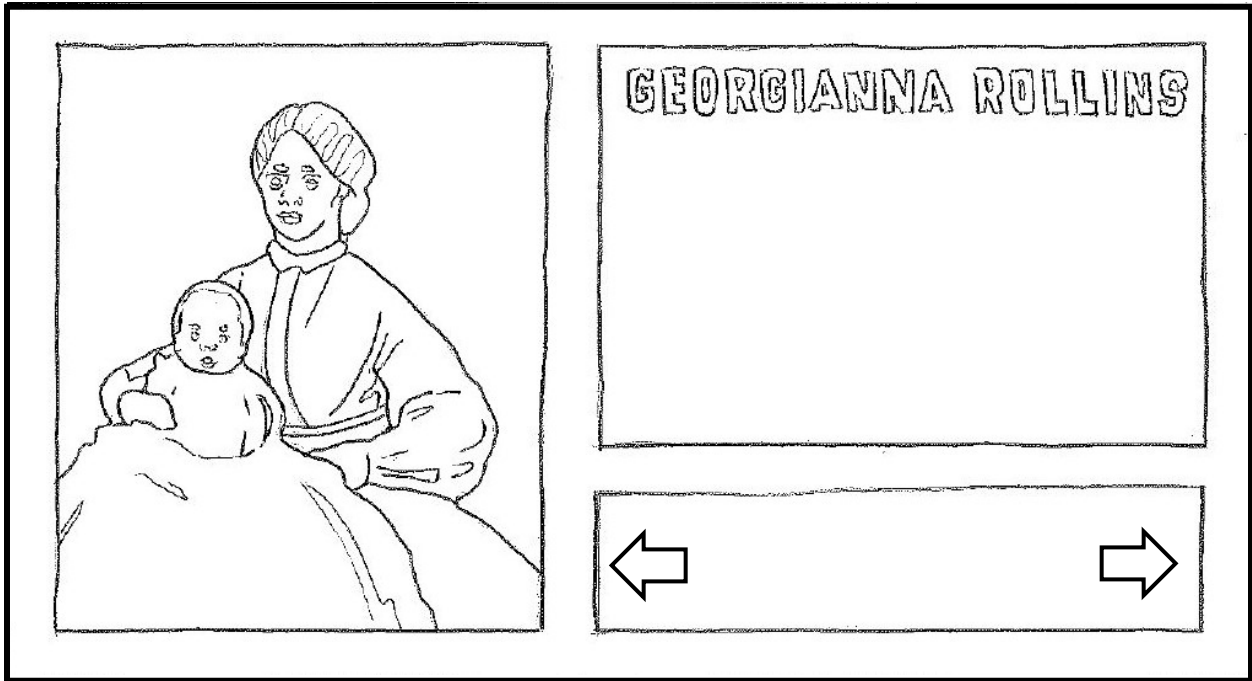
On the left side of the entrance, Phillip carved his name and the date into one of the bricks. Though he didn't know it at the time, his new home would play a key role in the bloodiest day in American history.

Meet the Servants



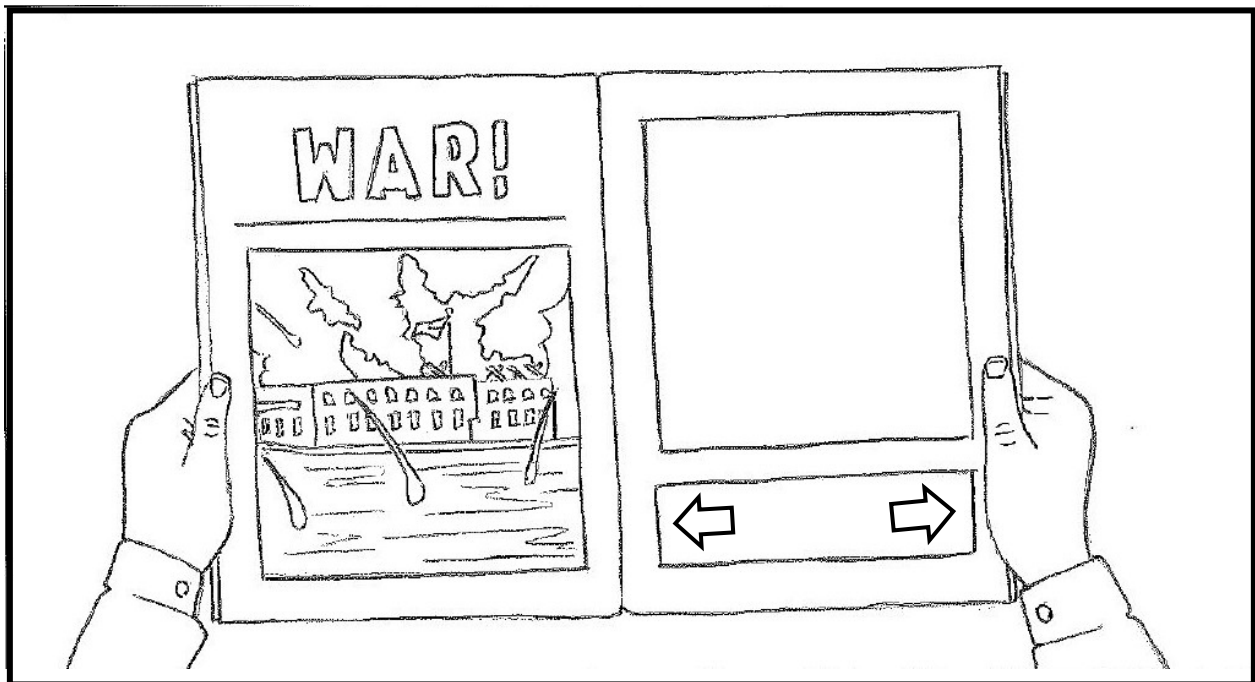
The Pry's employed three free black servants: Georgianna Rollins, Amanda Samper, and William Gitmaker.

Meet the Servants (Cont.)



One of the Pry's servants, Georgianna Rollins, was an African American woman who worked in the house. She was a free woman, not a slave. The Pry's home in Keedysville sat very close to Virginia: slave country. Working so close to Virginia, Rollins was in danger of being kidnapped and sold into slavery. However, Rollins was able to maintain her freedom. She would go on to marry John Thomas Rose, another free black man, have 9 children, and eventually move to Columbus, Ohio after her husband dies in 1920.

War!



The first shots of the Civil War were fired in April 1861. At the time, it was widely believed that the war would only last a few weeks. However, it was soon evident that the war would be

anything but short. The Pry family were Union sympathizers. They led meetings in Keedysville, urging peace negotiations with the South. However, none of the Pry men fought in the war.

Maryland Campaign

By 1862, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, flush with a summer of success, poured across the Potomac River and into the Union-occupied state of Maryland.

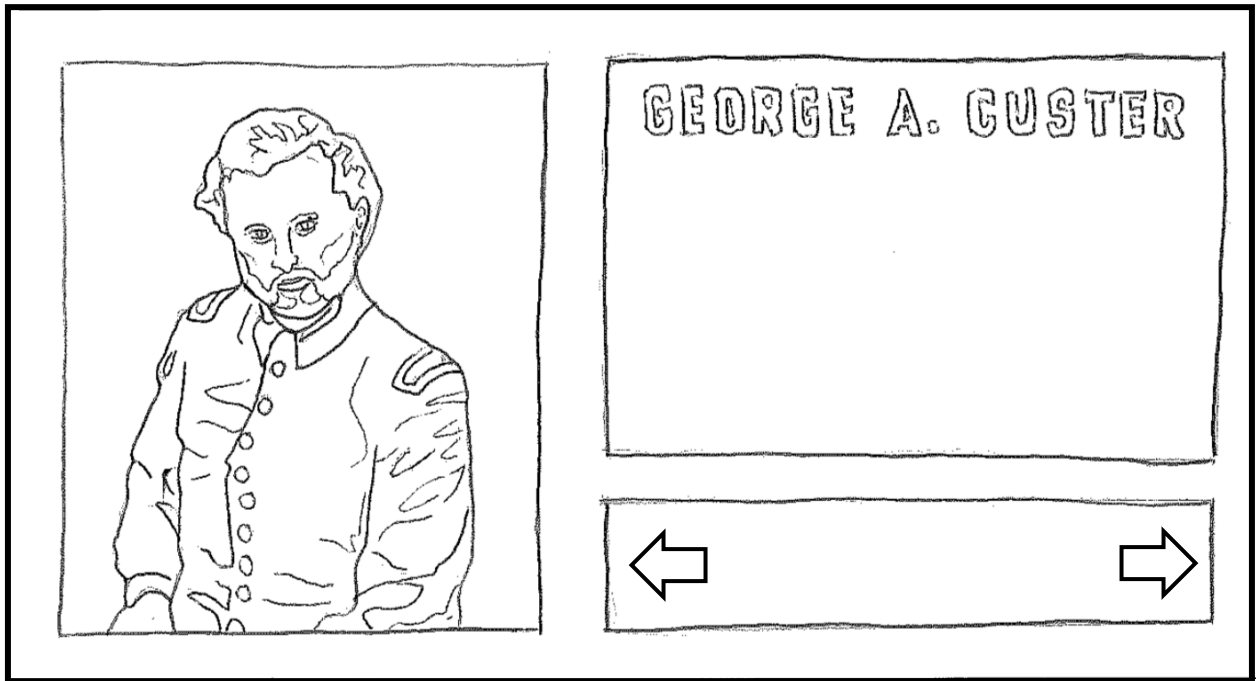
After the Union win at the Battle of South Mountain, the Army of the Potomac began to cross down into this side of the mountain as the community here understood that war was about to descend on their farms and homesteads in earnest. The Union Army pursued the scattered pieces of the Army of Northern Virginia through Boonsboro and Keedysville to the banks of the Antietam Creek, just below us here.

Occupation



The story goes that on September 16, a colonel by the name of Custer arrived at the front door at the Pry House.

Custer Bio



George Armstrong Custer was a member of General George McClellan's staff.

The Headquarters



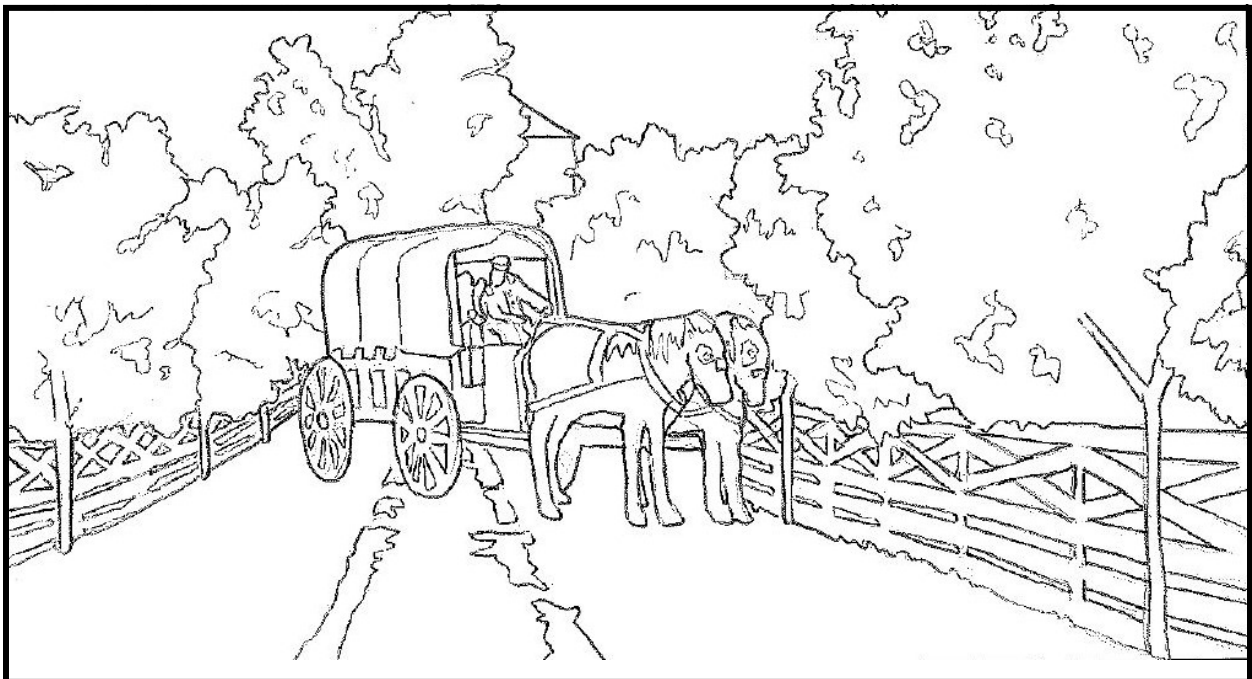
Custer relayed to the family that McClellan intended to use the home and its impressive panoramic view, from South Mountain to the Shenandoah Valley, for his headquarters.

The Headquarters (Cont.)



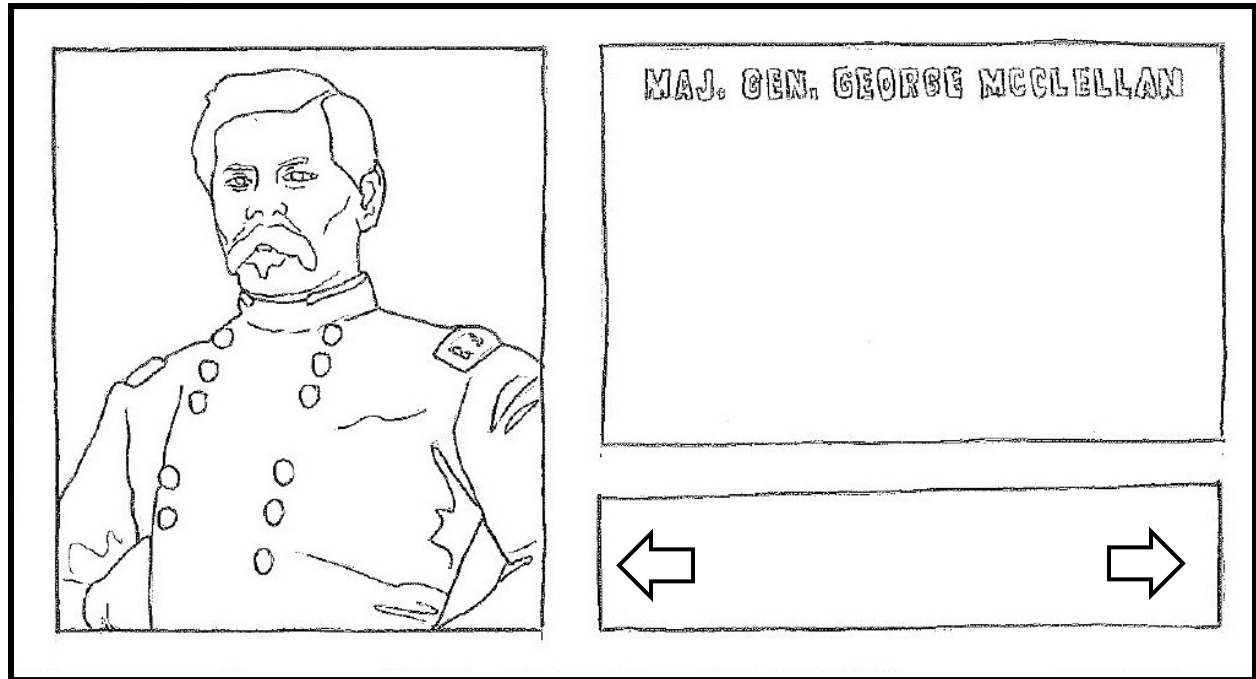
During this time, more soldiers arrived on and around the Pry property.

Evacuation

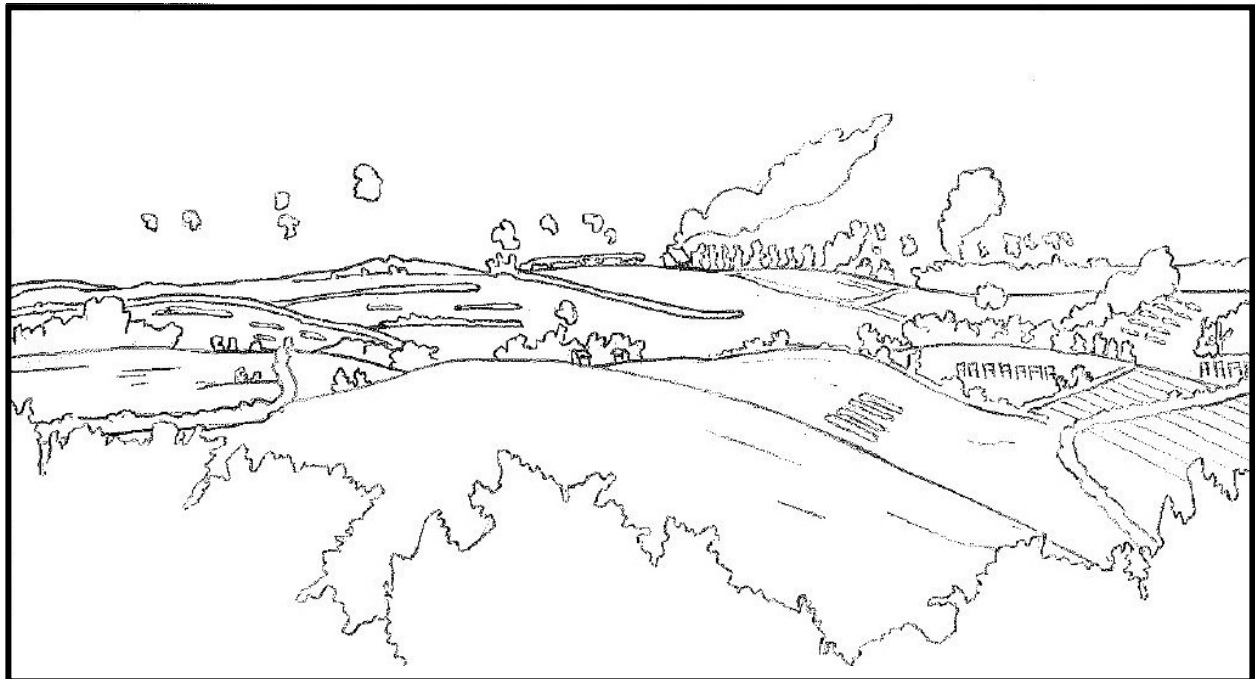


Elizabeth Pry and the children were evacuated from the property on the morning of the battle by ambulance to a home in Keedysville. Phillip stayed in the home in order to protect the property, without much success.

MCCLELLAN BIO

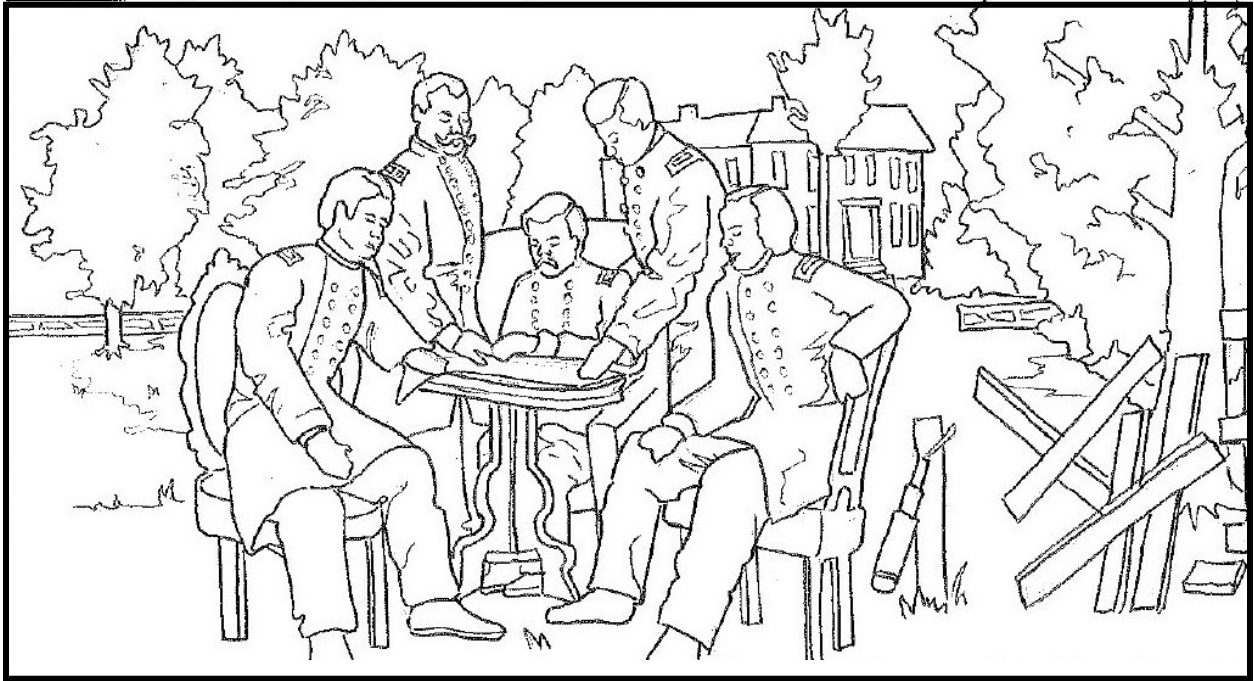


The Battle of Antietam



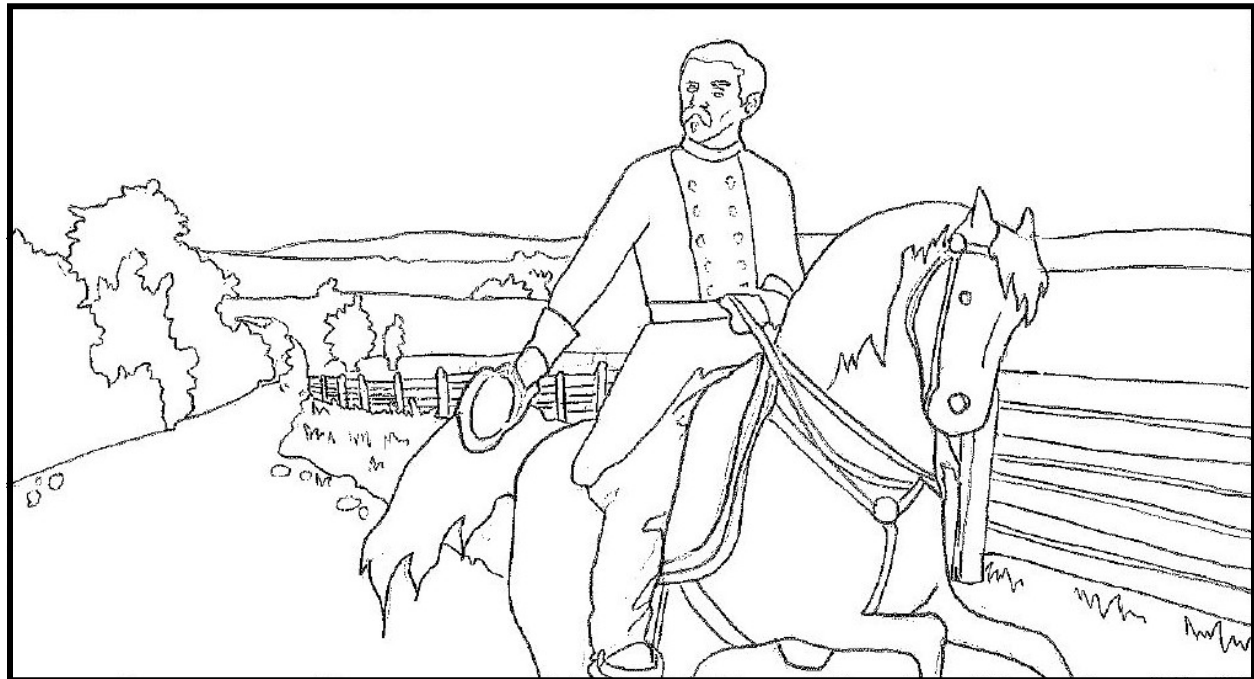
On the morning of September 17, the fighting arrived at the break of dawn. From the Pry House, the sound of musketry and artillery could be distinctly heard, but not seen. The troops that had been stationed here moved west over the Antietam and into the fighting.

The Battle of Antietam (Cont.)



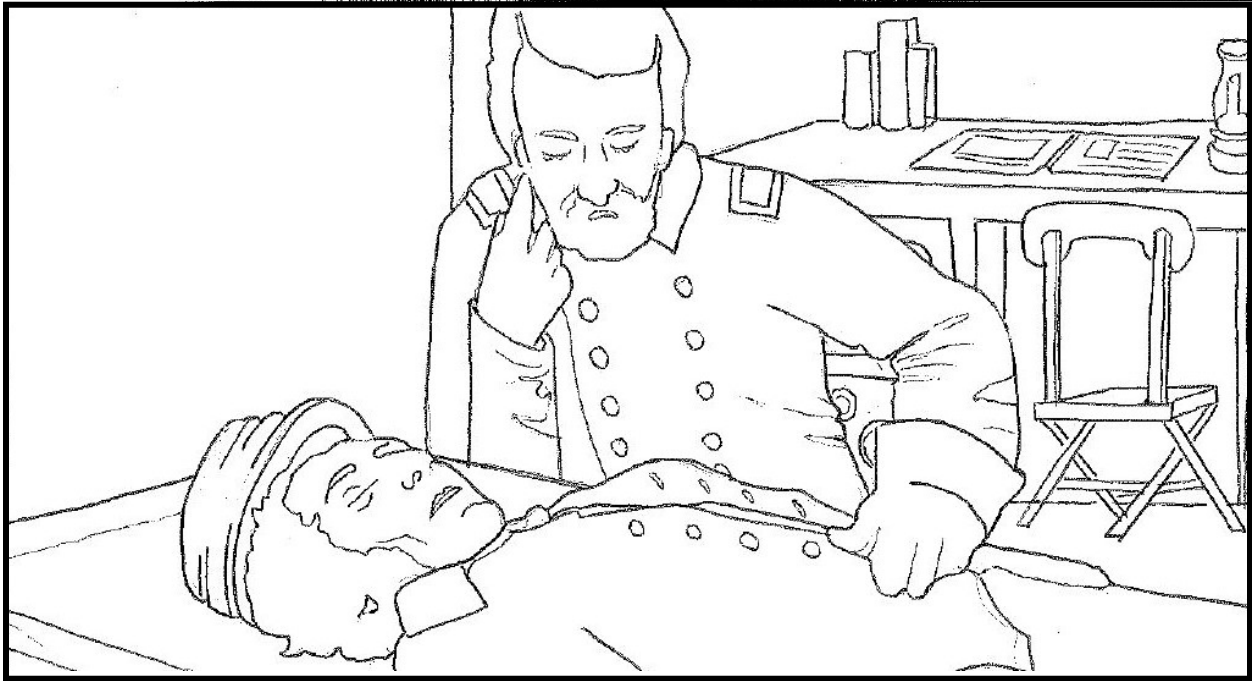
Although initial attacks had been successful, a lack of reinforcements stalled actions across the battlefield by the late afternoon.

The Battle of Antietam (Cont.)



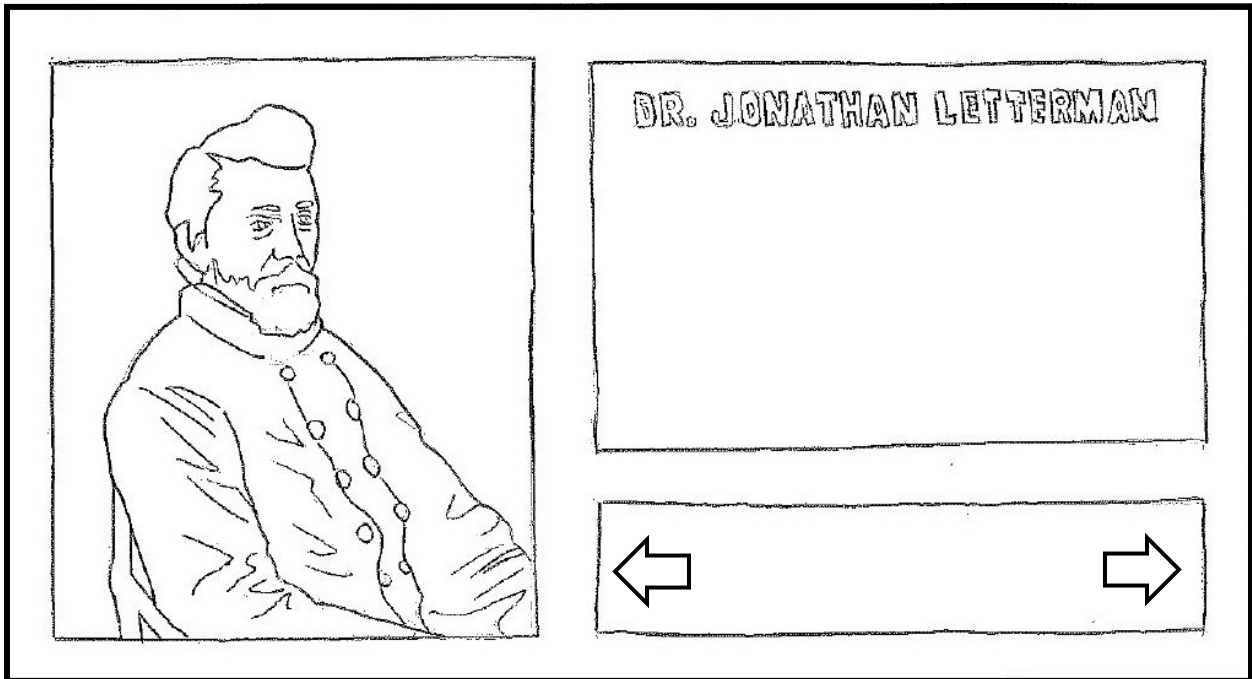
McClellan left to survey the scene and to get his army on the move once more. However, due to perceived conditions on the field, McClellan failed to use his sizable reserve here at Antietam that throughout the day, lay just below the Pry House.

The Hospital



Antietam is considered the bloodiest day in American history. After 12 hours of heavy battle, 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing. Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, set up his medical headquarters in the Pry House, turning both the farmhouse and the barn into field hospitals. Officers are treated on the first floor of the house, while wounded soldiers are seen in the barn next door.

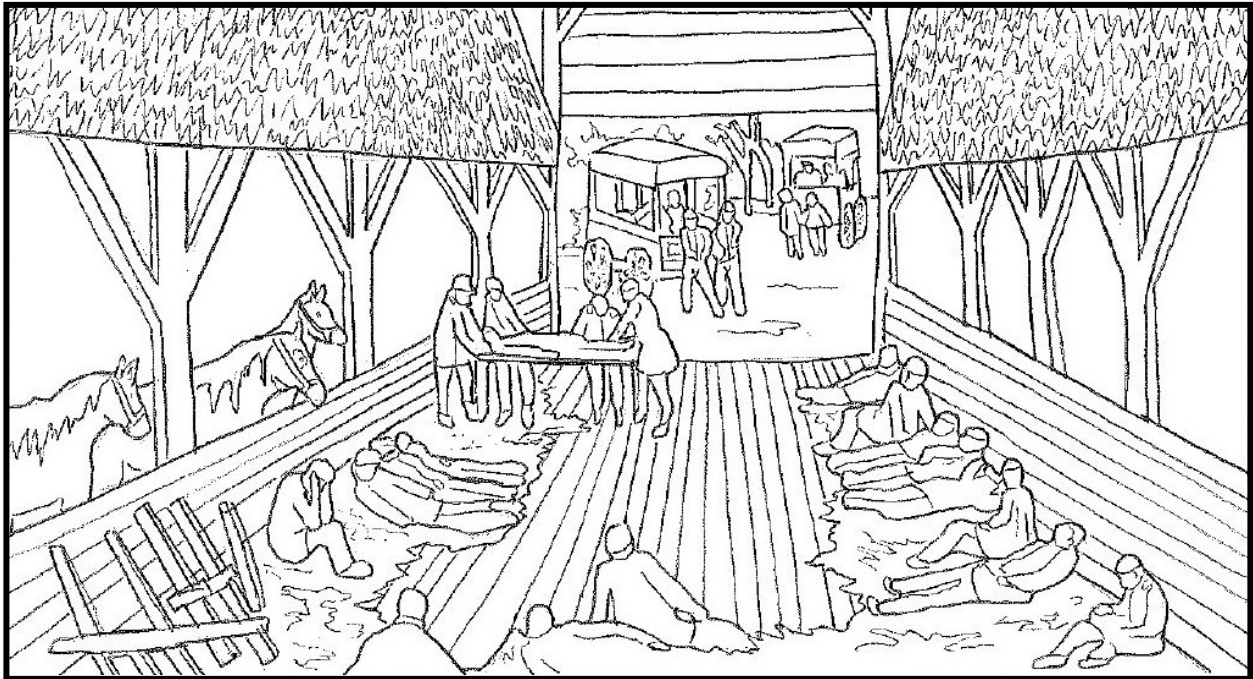
Letterman Bio



At Antietam, Letterman directed the care for close to 10,000 wounded soldiers that had fallen into Union lines. His hospitals were scattered over miles and often times were understaffed and under-supplied. He made due as best he could and directed the wounded to be transported to the rear areas in Keedysville, Boonsboro, and eventually to Middletown and Frederick as fast as

possible. But the struggle here went on for days and weeks after the battle came to a conclusion.

Barn



Several hundred wounded men from the fighting in the Sunken Road were brought here for care. Surgeons operated quickly in the barn, with lanterns lighting the way. Amputation was going to be the usual course, and a pile of arms and legs would have grown outside the barn.

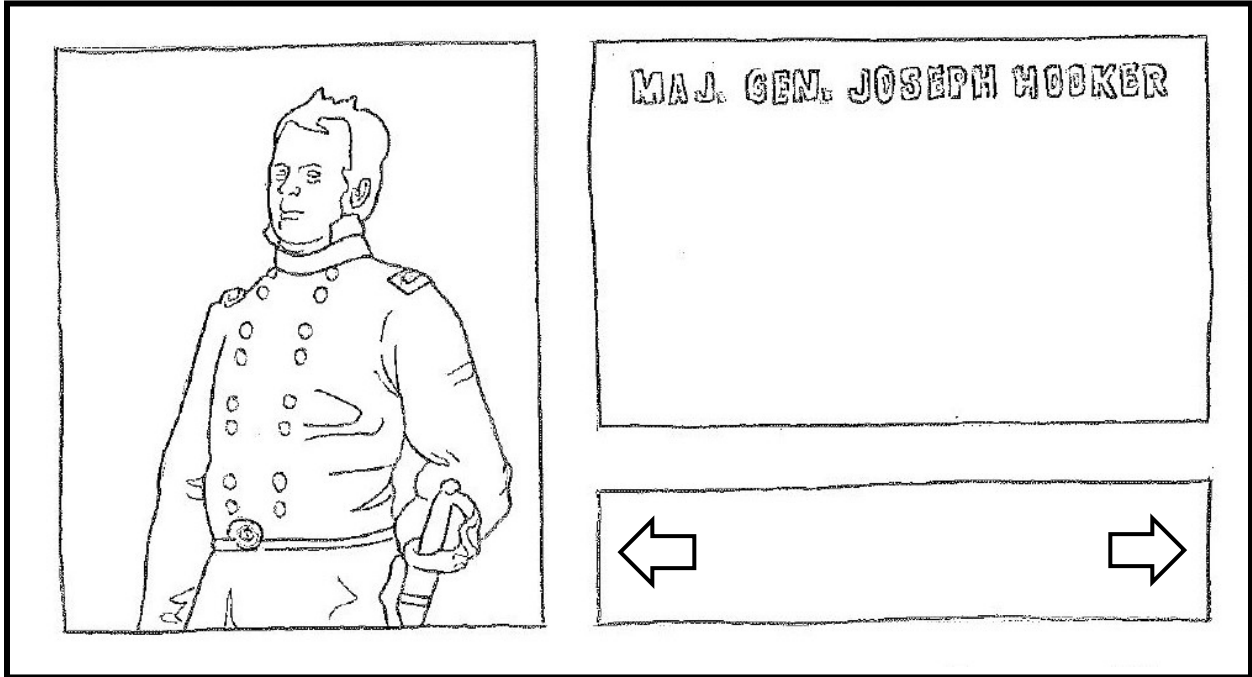
Operating Room



General Joseph Hooker came first in the morning after having been shot in the foot during the fighting in and around the Cornfield. He would be cared for and eventually evacuated from the

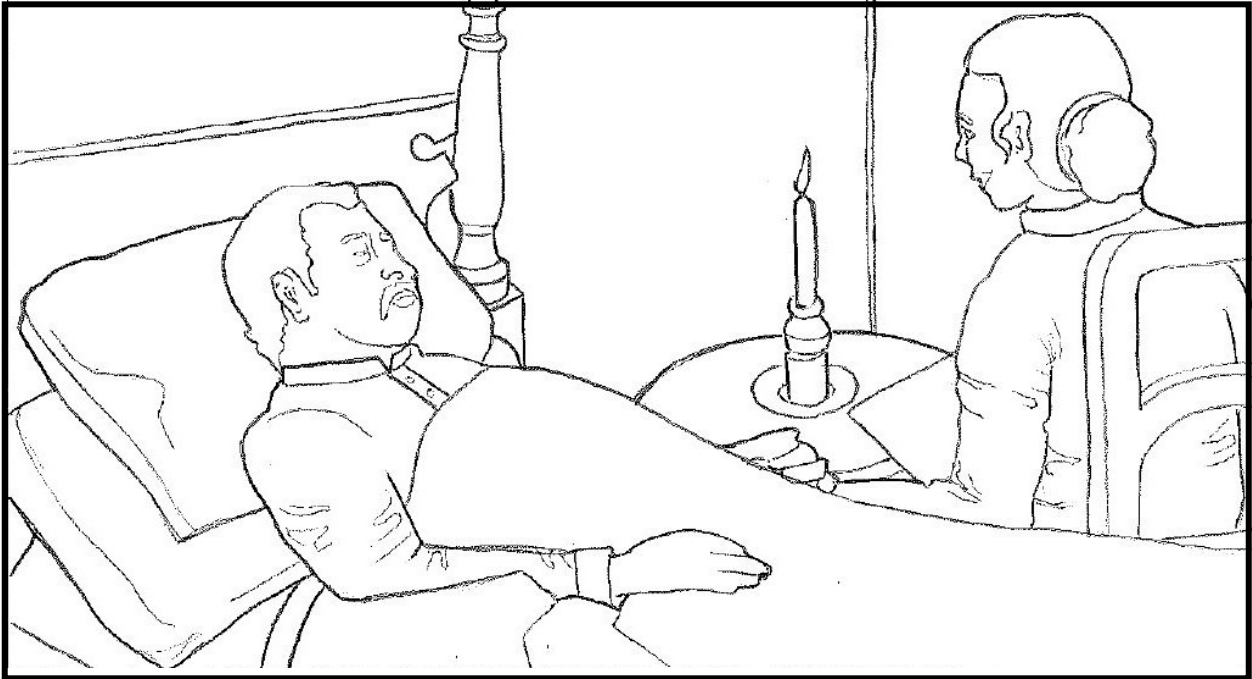
Pry House at some point on September 17. He was first treated in the operating room on the first floor, then to a bedroom upstairs. Warm water dressings were applied to the injury. The next morning, his foot was hot and inflamed. A surgeon used a syringe to wash the wound before dressing it a second time. The third morning, Hooker's foot had improved and was no longer inflamed. He shortly left for Washington, DC.

Hooker Bio



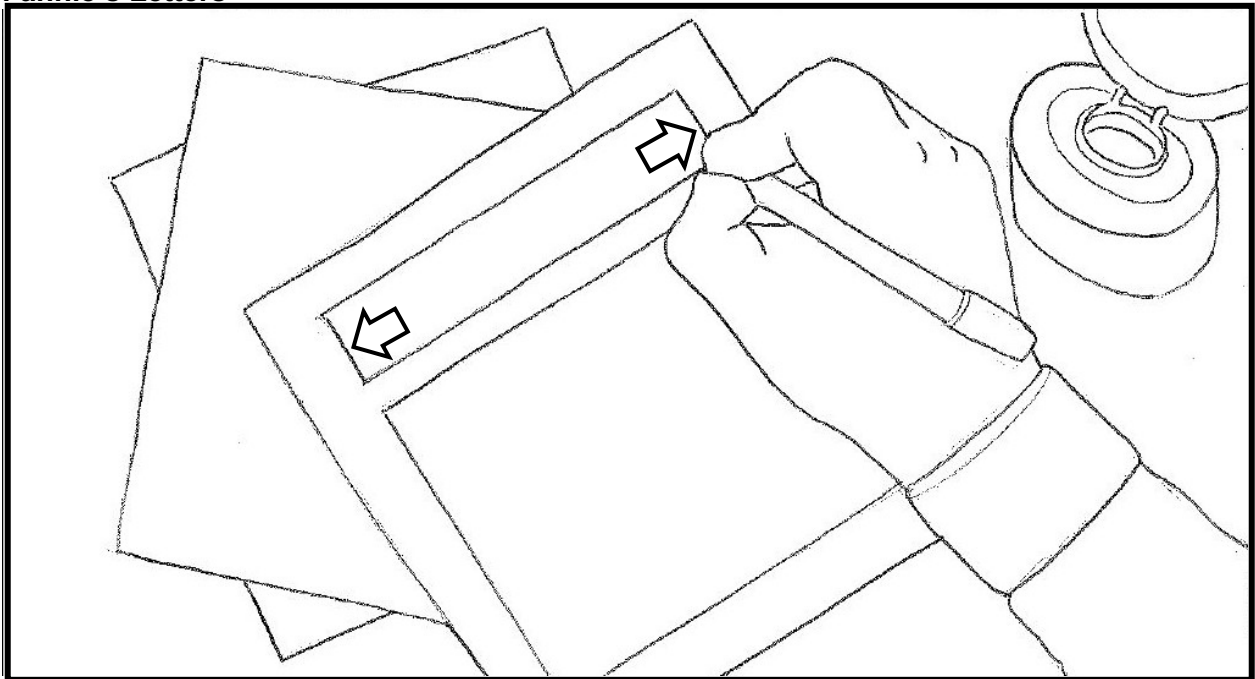
Joseph Hooker was born in Hadley, Massachusetts on November 13, 1814. He graduated from West Point in 1837, at the age of 23. He served in the Mexican war, and he resigned shortly after its conclusion. Come 1861, he found himself called to battle, and was appointed a Brigadier General of volunteers in May 1861, Major General of volunteers in May 1862, and Brigadier General in the Regular Army in September of 1862.

Bedroom



The other high ranking officer brought into the home was Israel Richardson, a division commander in the II Corps whose attacks came at the Sunken Road. He had been struck down by shrapnel from an artillery shell and was brought here and placed in this bedroom. The doctors debated the severity of his condition, but it soon became evident the wound would be fatal. He was taken immediately to the Pry House. As Richardson lay on his death bed, he was visited by his sister, his wife, and his President ... Lincoln himself. Richardson died November 3, 1862.

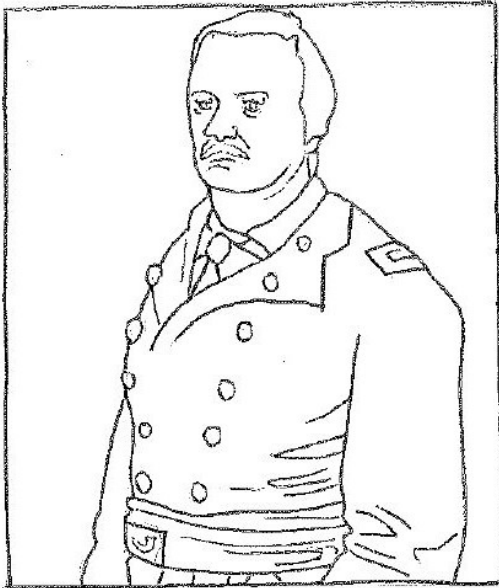
Fannie's Letters



She arrived here at the Pry House in the weeks after the battle to care for her injured husband. She found him very weak and ailing when she arrived, and "very much depressed, not at all like himself and inclined to look on the dark side, more than is good for him." He had begun to

improve and Fannie wrote that: "We hoped and expected to be able to commence our journey home tomorrow (Monday) but Israel does not gain strength as rapidly as the Dr. at first anticipated, and rather than run any risk we shall remain longer." They truly believed that he would recover from his injuries, however, despite his wife's positive attitude, by November, he had sunk and eventually passed away from his injuries here on November 3, 1862.

Richardson Bio



MAJ. GEN. ISRAEL RICHARDSON



Major General Israel Bush Richardson was born in Fairfax, Vermont just after Christmas on December 26 1815. In 1841, he graduated from West Point at the age of 26. After West Point, Richardson served in both the Seminole Wars (1835-1842) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). In 1855, Richardson resigned from his position as Captain of the 3rd infantry and moved to Michigan to take up farming. When the Civil War began, Richardson, also known as "fighting Dick," found himself again called to war. In May of 1861, he enlisted as a Colonel of the 2nd Michigan Infantry. He continued to rise through the ranks and would become a Major General. His brigade, Tyler's Division, was at the first Bull Run and saw action at Yorktown, Seven Pines, and during the Peninsula Campaign.

After the Battle

When the troops finally left, the house was in shambles. All of the Pry family's fences were gone up in smoke as firewood, crops trampled or eaten by the army's horses, livestock slaughtered by the army, and the home and barn left in disarray and covered in blood following the hospital use. Mrs. Pry's furniture was left in pieces.

Conclusion

The years following the battle left the Pry family in financial ruins. In 1873, Philip sold the farm and the family moved to Johnson City, Tennessee. There, the family was able to rebuild itself slowly.