

Announcement No. 2

Headquarters, Department of Maryland, May 8, 2007

Brothers,

Brother Robert Moore, the Department Monuments Officer, has alerted us to a very distressing fact. The Fifth Maryland Infantry marker on the battlefield at Antietam is missing one of its three bronze bas-relief disks. Further investigation has revealed two more distressing facts - the disk has been missing for at least 20 years and that the National Park Service does not have any images of the original. I checked with a friend on the Maryland Monuments Commission and they are also aware of the situation. They, too, have no image of the original, so neither authority is willing to replace it until they know how the original looked.

Therefore, I have two directives for the camps:

- if you visited Antietam over 20 years, dig out any photos you may have taken. If a photo includes the Fifth Maryland, please get a copy of the image to Brother Moore. If we can find an adequate image, we can work with the Commission and the Park Service to get this replaced.

- if you are involved in any placement, dedication, rededication of any kind of marker, document the marker. Take photos, measurements, GPS location, etc. so that if something happens, a record exists.

It is our job to honor our ancestors and preserve that memory for future generations, so we need to document our work now.

Yours in fraternity, charity and loyalty,

Steve Hammond
Department Commander