Exploring the Battlefield

An absorbing historical experience awaits those who want to tour the battlefield at their own pace. Both a 1-hour walking tour leading to Meade's Headquarters and the High Water Mark and a 2- to 3-hour auto tour covering the entire park start from the visitor center. The text and map that follow describe the auto tour.

- 1. HIGH WATER MARK. Here at the Copse of Trees and The Angle, Pickett's Charge was halted on July 3. This was the climax at Gettysburg.
- 2. PENNSYLVANIA MEMORIAL. On a field noted for its monuments, this one is outstanding. Statues of officers and bronze nameplates call the roll of nearly 35,000 Pennsylvanians who fought here.
- 3. LITTLE ROUND TOP. Longstreet's attack on July 2 foundered on the rocky slopes of this hill. Quick action by Meade's chief engineer, Gen. Gouverneur Warren, saved Little Round Top for the Union army and foiled hopes for early victory.
- 4. DEVIL'S DEN. Longstreet's July 2 attack cleared Union troops from these boulders. Confederate sharp-shooters, one of whose barricades can still be seen, fired on Little Round Top from here.
- 5. THE WHEATFIELD. Diamonds, Maltese crosses, and trefoils on monuments mark this ground as the field of battle of three Union corps defending against Long-street's onslaught.
- 6. THE PEACH ORCHARD. On July 2, General Sickles' Union salient extended from Devil's Den to here, then angled northward on the Emmitsburg Road. Federal batteries from the high ground here bombarded Confederates to the south and west before Longstreet's attack shattered this line.
- 7. PITZER WOODS. After a skirmish at noon on July 2, the Confederates occupied these woods. Four hours later they attacked and smashed Sickles line along the road three-tenths of a mile to the east.
- 8. VIRGINIA MEMORIAL. General Lee watched the gallant charge of July 3 from here. And when it failed, he rode forward to the fields in front of you and rallied his men.
- 9. NORTH CAROLINA MEMORIAL. Along and in front of this ridge, Lee marshalled his forces, among them thousands of North Carolinians, for the supreme effort on July 3.

- 10. McPHERSON RIDGE. Just beyond McPherson's barn, the Battle of Gettysburg began early on 1. y 1. General John F. Reynolds, whose Union infantry held this line, was killed in the woods to the left.
- 11. ETERNAL LIGHT PEACE MEMORIAL. This memorial was dedicated in 1938, 75th anniversary of the battle, to "Peace Eternal in a Nation United." Arrival of General Rodes' Confederate division on this hill at 1 p.m. on July 1 threatened Federal forces west and north of Gettysburg.
- 12. OAK RIDGE. Union troops here held stubbornly against Rodes' advance from Oak Hill to the north on the afternoon of July 1.
- 13. BARLOW KNOLL. When Jubal Early's Confederates smashed Union defenders here on the afternoon of July 1, the Union line north of Gettysburg collapsed.

From Barlow Knoll, take U.S. 15 toward Gettysburg to the point where it curves right. Just past the curve, turn left on Stratton Street. Continue to East Middle Street, then turn left and drive east one block to East Confederate Avenue (Liberty Street). Turn right on East Confederate Avenue and proceed to Culp's Hill.

- 14. CULP'S HILL. At dusk on July 2 Johnson's Confederates unsuccessfully attacked Union troops on Culp's Hill (ahead), advancing over the fields to your left.
- 15. SPANGLER'S SPRING. Though repulsed at Culp's Hill, the Confederates seized this spring and the Union earthworks north of it, only to lose them the next morning.
- 16. CEMETERY HILL. Here Union troops rallied late on July 1. The next evening they repelled a Confederate assault that reached the crest of the hill east of this road.
- 17. NATIONAL CEMETERY. Soldiers' National Monument, commemorating Union dead who fell here, stands on the spot where President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address.

This concludes the auto tour except for the important site at *East Cavalry Battlefield*, 3 miles east of Gettysburg on Pa. 116. Here Union cavalry under Gen. D. M. Gregg intercepted and defeated J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry.

You can help make your visit and the visit of those who come after you safe and enjoyable by observing the following rules: SPEBD LIMIT is 25 m.p.h. (15 m.p.h in crowded areas); PARK only on the and in designated parking areas please do not drive on the grain, DO NOT CLIMB on cannons and monuments; PICNIC only in designated areas; HELP PRESERVE all natural and historical features.

