

"This lane was literally packed with their dead. At one point... thirteen dead bodies lay on a heap, at other places they lay two, three, even five deep. No battle of the late war, so short in duration, presented such a scene of carnage."

Private Edward Spangler
130th Pennsylvania Infantry

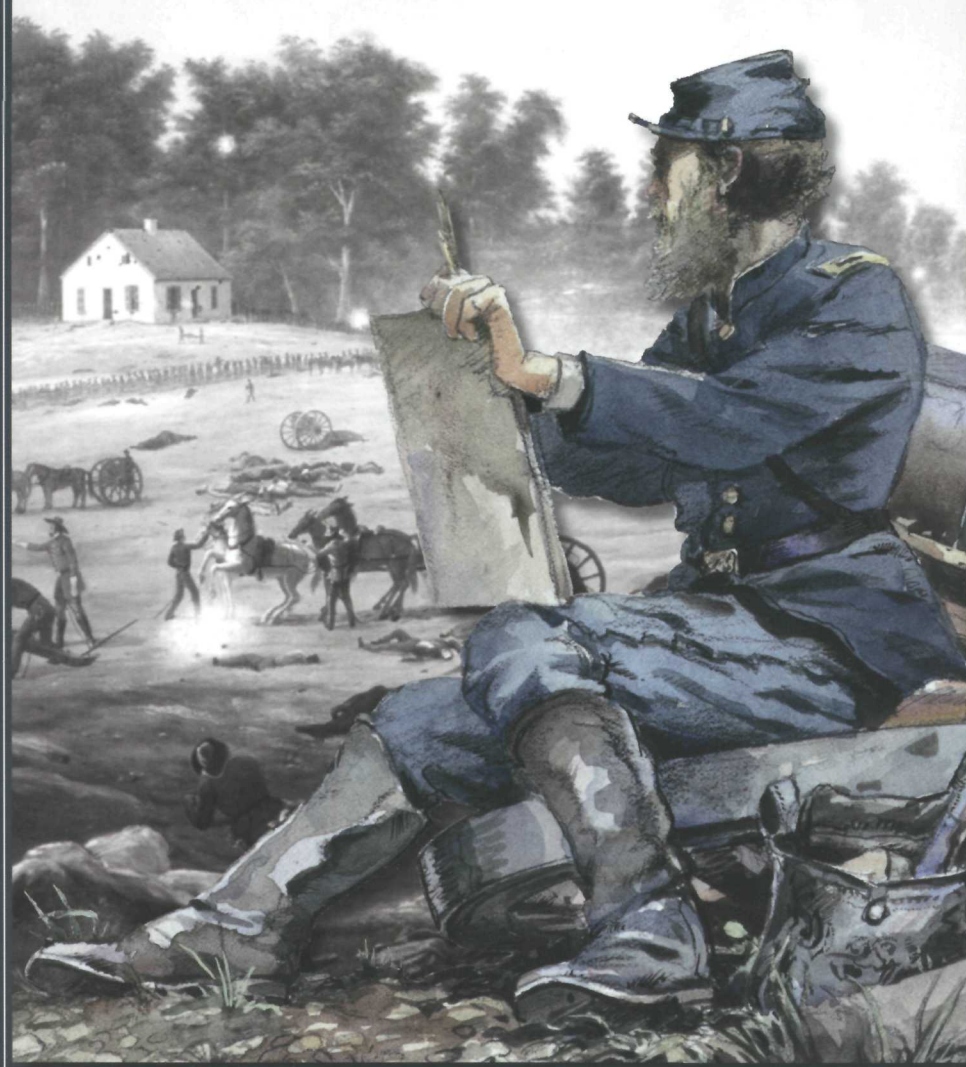


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Witness To Battle



The story of September 17, 1862, as told through the paintings of Captain James Hope



Captain James Hope

James Hope was born in Scotland in 1819. His mother died when he was barely two and at age nine he and his father moved to Canada. Hope's father died a few years later, leaving sixteen year old James to fend for himself. Soon he sought a better life in the United States where he worked as an apprentice wagon maker in Fairhaven, Vermont.

Hope's interest in art went back to his early childhood. As a boy he had made sketches using charcoal or anything else he could find to draw on shingles, scraps of paper and stones. He saved enough money during his apprenticeship to take an art course at the Seminary in Castleton, Vermont. This led to a job as an art teacher in West Rutland, Vermont. In 1841 he married a local girl and within a few years had four children. Hope became successful as a portraitist, receiving sums of up to \$100 per painting and in 1850 he opened up a studio in Castleton, where he gained further acclaim and success as a landscape artist.

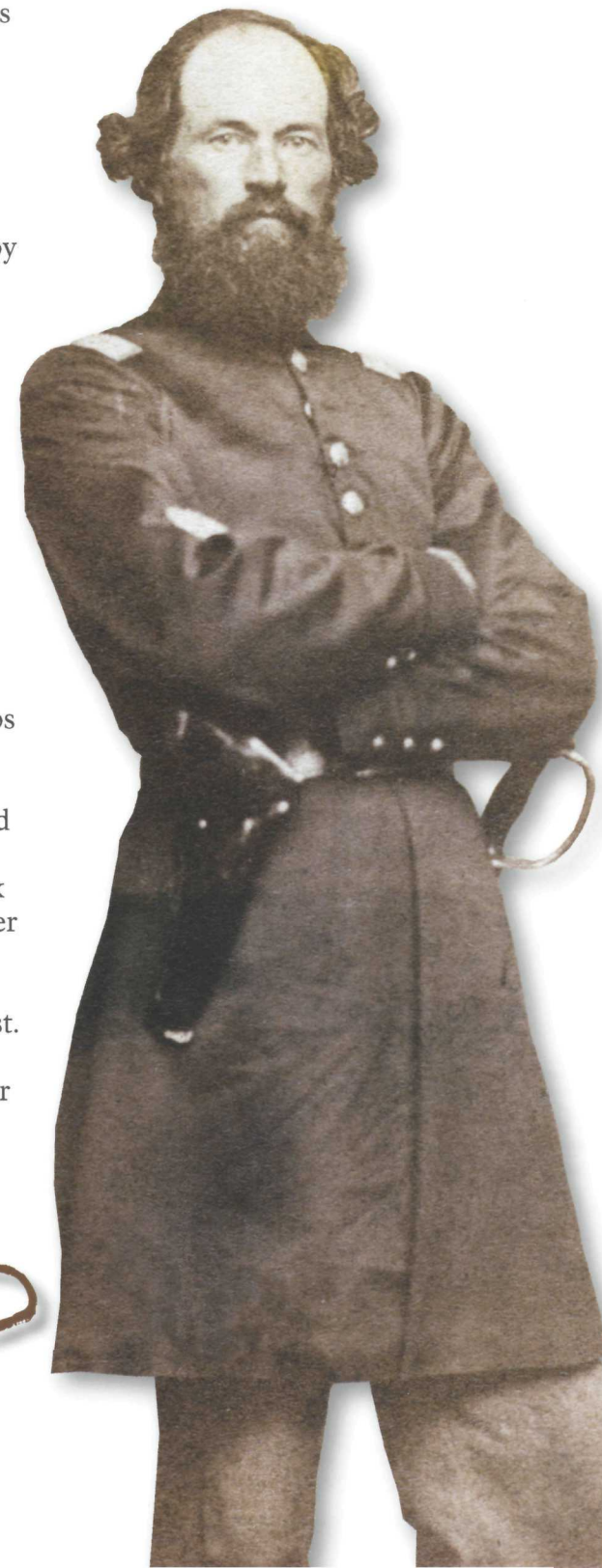
When the Civil War broke out, Hope was one of the first to enlist from the state of Vermont. He was instrumental in raising Company B, 2nd Vermont Infantry, and was appointed its Captain. By the summer of 1862, Hope and his regiment were part of General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac on the Virginia Peninsula. There, Captain Hope's talent for landscape art led to an assignment as a topographical engineer. In this capacity he sketched terrain features, vegetation, roads and waterways which were incorporated into maps for the army staff use. That summer, in the heat and swampy environment of the Virginia Peninsula, Hope contracted malaria and was ill for many months. By September his health was further impaired by dysentery that would plague him for the rest of his tenure in the army. At Antietam, the 2nd Vermont, part of the 6th Corps, was held in reserve. However, during and after the battle Hope made sketches of various parts of the battlefield.

After Antietam, rheumatism of the knees added to Hope's other ailments, forcing him to leave the army in December 1862.

Despite ill health, Hope returned home with high aspirations to paint his war experiences. Soon he was hard at work on a number of Civil War scenes including a small version of "Bloody Lane, Battle of Antietam." In 1865 he completed "Army of the Potomac," a 4½ by 10½ foot panorama based on his sketch of the Army of the Potomac at Cumberland Landing during the Peninsula Campaign. This painting received critical acclaim and was even viewed and praised by McClellan himself.

The most successful period of Hope's art career was in the decade following the Civil War. During those years he successfully exhibited both Civil War scenes and pastoral landscapes. He reached the pinnacle of his career when he secured a \$10,000 commission to paint a scene in the popular resort community of Watkins Glen, New York. Hope was so taken by the beauty of this mountain retreat that he moved there and set up shop in 1872.

In September 1888 he attended a veteran's reunion and excursion to Antietam and Gettysburg. He returned to Antietam for another reunion the following year. These trips enabled Hope to sketch more battlefield terrain features and to interview veterans of the battle, enabling Hope to complete his Antietam scenes. These works were completed in time for the massive Grand Army Encampment in Washington, D.C., September 1892. Generally, Hope's work was very well received by the veterans. However, one former participant of the battle had one complaint—Hope did not show enough dead bodies strewn around the field! This exhibition before former comrades in arms was to be his last. Suffering from the many health problems incurred during the war, Hope died at his home in Watkins Glen on October 20, 1892 and was buried with full military honors.



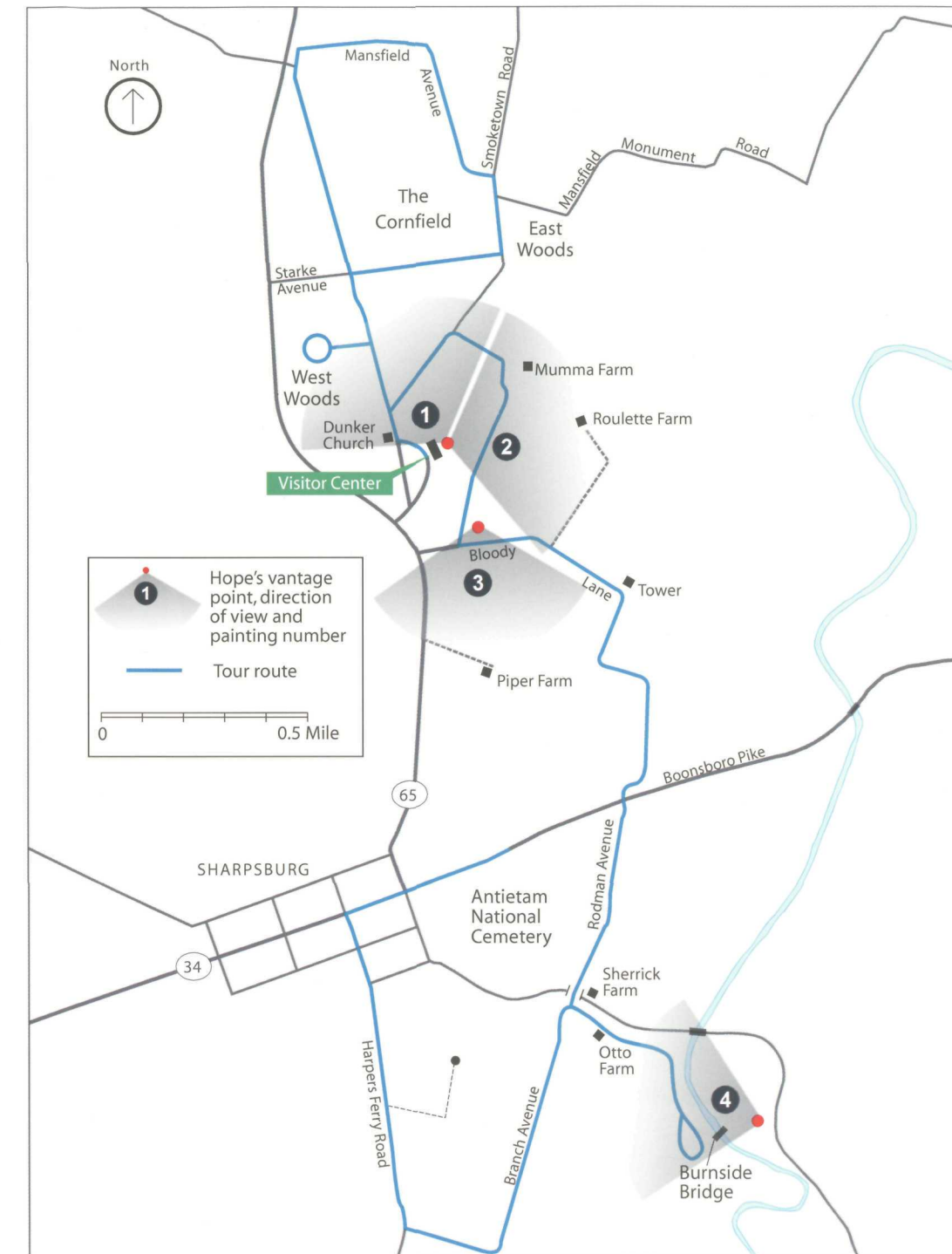
Hope Restored

After Hope's death his gallery remained open into the early decades of the 20th Century. Tragically, a flood in 1935 destroyed much of his work and severely damaged the Antietam panoramas. In 1955, an art collector purchased many of the surviving Hope pieces. The Antietam paintings were stored in an old church in Watkins Glen until they were purchased by the National Park Service in 1979 for the price of \$5,000. This was the first step in the process of bringing the

Hope battle panoramas back to life. Besides flood damage, the panoramas suffered from the ravages of insects and rodents. Indeed, a raccoon had made a home behind one of the paintings, leaving its muddy paw marks all over it. The four Antietam panoramas were then painstakingly restored at a cost of over \$10,000 each. Now Captain Hope's eyewitness view of the Battle of Antietam are available for another generation of Americans.



The remnant above is all that could be preserved of James Hope's dramatic panorama titled, "After the Battle. Bloody Lane-Antietam." A much smaller version of the same view (below) was created by Hope and is now owned by the U.S. Army Center for Military History. Alexander Gardner's photograph (right) of Bloody Lane taken two days after the battle depicts a scene dreadfully similar to Hope's painting.



This map shows the location of Captain Hope's views in the four panoramic paintings that are in this brochure and on display in the park visitor center. Keep in mind that each of these paintings does not represent a moment in time or one event, but a series of events.



Church in New York where the paintings were found.



National Park Service curators recover the paintings.

HOPE'S GLEN ART GALLERY.

Now on exhibition, at Hope's Glen Art Gallery, Watkins Glen, N. Y., a superb collection of

OVER ONE HUNDRED OIL PAINTINGS, AND SKETCHES,

By J. HOPE, LATE OF 82 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y.,

From various parts of this country and Europe, among which are the prominent scenes in Watkins Glen, his celebrated

RAINBOW FALLS.

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ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

at Cumberland Landing, valued at Twenty-five Thousand Dollars,

Also GEM OF THE FOREST, FOREST GLEN, SYLVAN DELL, SCENE IN NORWAY, SCENE ON THE RHINE, &c., &c.

Now ones are being constantly added. Read the Opinions of the Press.

Advertisement for Hope's New York studio.

1 Artillery Hell

Early morning looking north along the Hagerstown Turnpike

The intensity of artillery fire at Antietam led Colonel Stephen D. Lee, commander of the Confederate cannons shown here, to describe the battle as "Artillery Hell." This painting depicts the earliest part of the battle. The artist's perspective is close to the present-day location of the Visitor Center.

This painting, like the others seen here, does not represent a moment in time or one event, but a series of events. For example, when the Union infantry on the right side of this painting advanced, the Confederate artillery on the left had already retreated.

The Dunker Church, a battlefield landmark then and now, became a focal point for repeated Union attacks.

Confederate infantry defended the high ground around the Church.

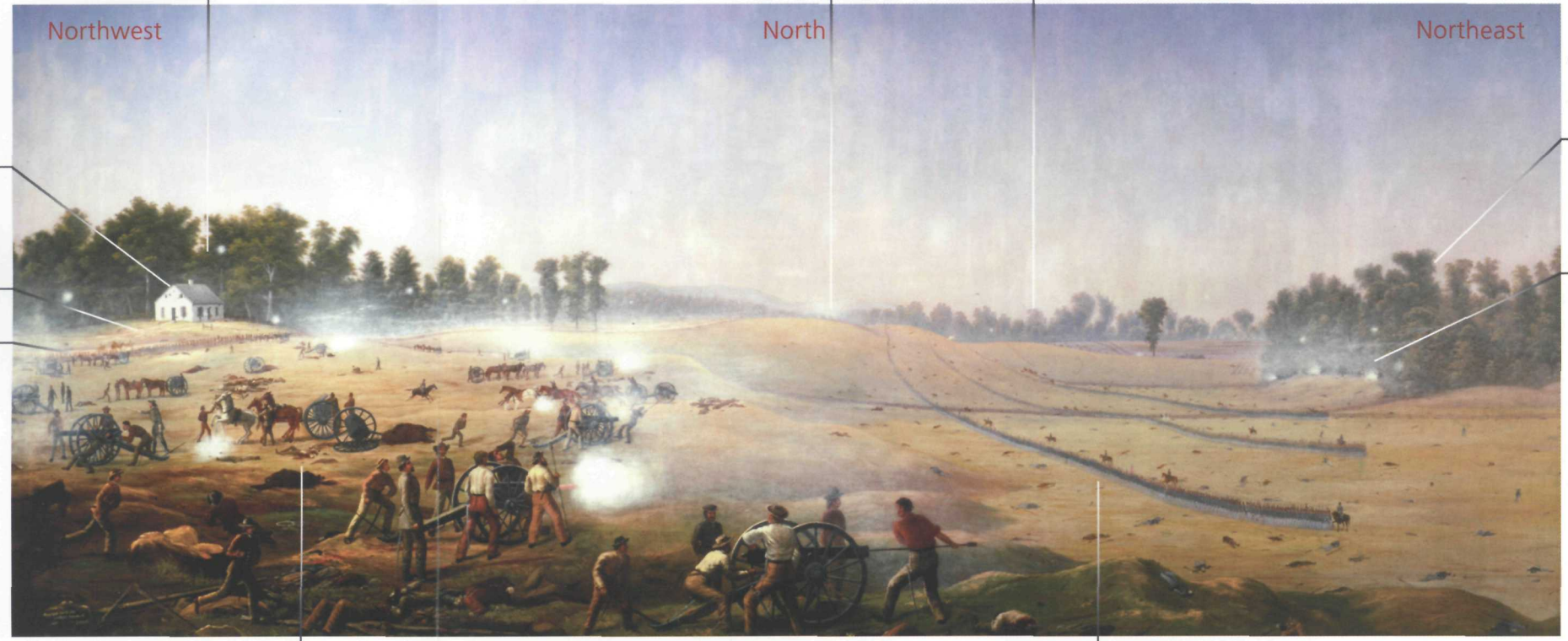
Hagerstown Turnpike

The West Woods provided cover for Confederate troops.

Just beyond this high ground lies the famous Cornfield, scene of the worst fighting that morning.

Earlier that morning, Union troops launched the first attack from the North Woods.

6:00 - 10:00 a.m.



The East Woods provided cover for Union soldiers.

Union artillery fired over the heads of their own infantry.

Confederate artillery batteries were positioned near where the Visitor Center is today. These guns resisted numerous Union advances early that morning, and were instrumental in helping the Army of Northern Virginia hold this vital ground.

Approximately 5,000 men from Sedgwick's Division of Union Gen. Edwin V. Sumner's 2nd Corps advanced toward the West Woods around 9:00 a.m.

Hope's original title: Battle of Antietam—No. 2. Looking West

2 A Fateful Turn

Late morning looking east toward the Roulette Farm

Amid the smoke, noise and confusion on the northern end of the field, Union troops turned south toward an old sunken farm lane. The rolling terrain helped hide the Southern troops until the Northerners were almost on top of them. Suddenly, the Confederates unleashed a withering fire, leading to a desperate three-hour struggle for control of what came to be known as Bloody Lane.

The East Woods are the continuation of the woods seen on the right of the painting above

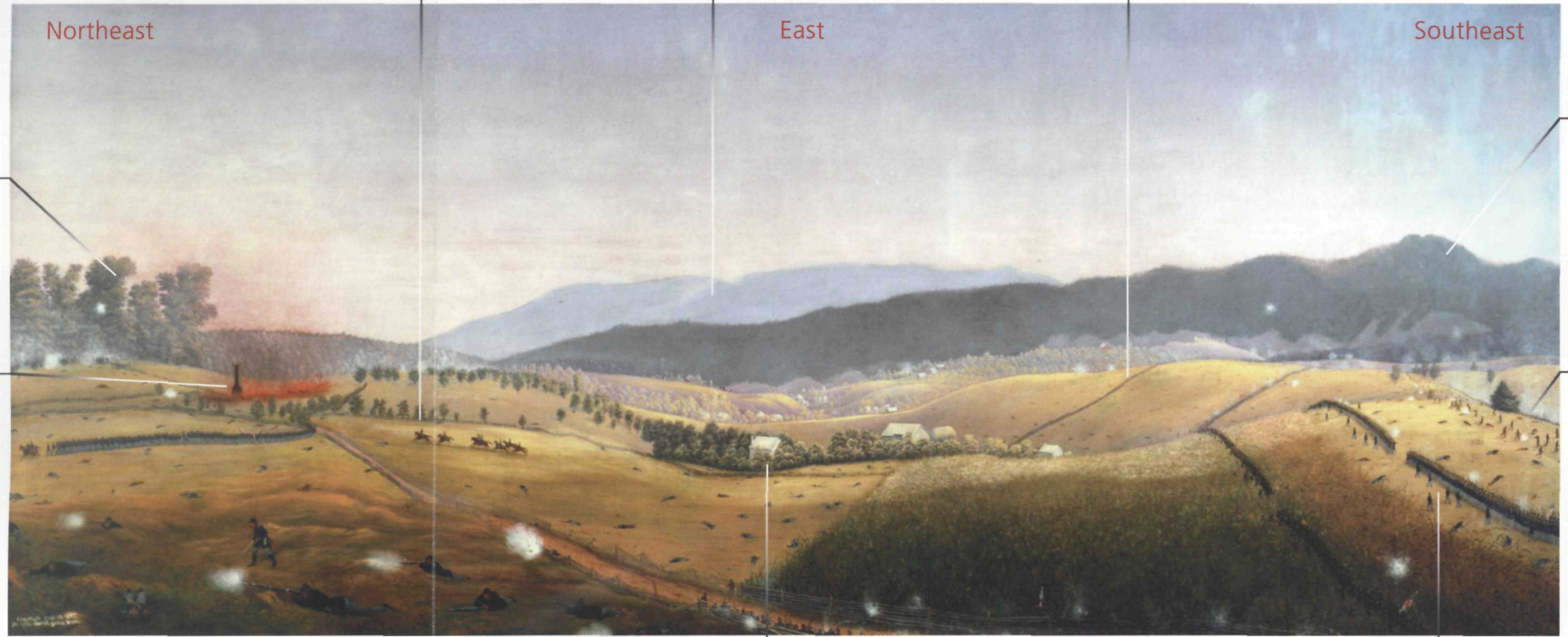
The Mumma Farm buildings were set ablaze by Confederates early in the morning to prevent their use by Union sharpshooters.

Gen. George McClellan, Union commander, made his only visit to the battlefield that day at about 2:00 p.m.

South Mountain was the scene of heavy fighting three days before the battle of Antietam.

Gen. Richardson's Division was the second Union division to attack Bloody Lane.

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



On Red Hill, the Union Army had a signal station.

Confederates took position in Bloody Lane, and held it against repeated attacks for nearly three hours.

In the fields of the Roulette Farm more than 700 soldiers were buried after the battle.

Gen. French's Division, in line of battle, was the first Union division to advance on Bloody Lane.

Hope's original title: Battle of Antietam—No. 3. Looking North

3 Wasted Gallantry

Late afternoon looking south toward Sharpsburg

This painting shows a gallant but futile charge by the 7th Maine Infantry. Several hours after the fighting had ended at Bloody Lane, a Union officer ordered Major Thomas Hyde to advance his men through the Piper cornfield and attack. The men from Maine faced a galling fire from the Confederate infantry and artillery.

Major Hyde, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, said all of the color guard was "shot down but one, who brought off our flag riddled with balls." In 20 minutes, this regiment suffered more than 50 percent casualties, yet the charge did nothing to advance the Union plan of attack. This was not the first or last time in the Civil War that misguided officers squandered the lives of brave men.

South Mountain

After retreating from Bloody Lane, the Confederate infantry and artillery rallied at Piper farm and fired on Maj. Hyde's advancing infantry.

The Piper Farm was the headquarters of Confederate Gen. James Longstreet.

In 1862, Sharpsburg was a small farming community of about 1,300 people.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.



Confederate infantry along the Hagerstown Turnpike fired on the advancing 7th Maine.

Maj. Hyde's 7th Maine Infantry marched across Bloody Lane, through the Piper cornfield and into a deadly crossfire.

Confederate dead lined Bloody Lane.

Hope's original title: Battle of Antietam—No. 1. Looking South

4 A Crucial Delay

Early afternoon looking west across Burnside Bridge

With only a small force, but holding higher ground, Lee's men were able to defend this crucial Antietam crossing for nearly three hours. Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside's men launched a series of attacks to break the bottleneck at the bridge. About 1 p.m., the Confederates, outflanked, outnumbered and running low on ammunition, began to retreat. Union soldiers successfully stormed the bridge, finally crossing Antietam Creek.

This painting shows Union reinforcements crossing the bridge in preparation for the final advance. However, the time taken to cross and resupply the troops provided Lee with the opportunity to bring his final reserves onto the field and turn back Burnside's attack, thus ending the bloody day.

Union reinforcements crossed Antietam Creek in preparation for the final advance.

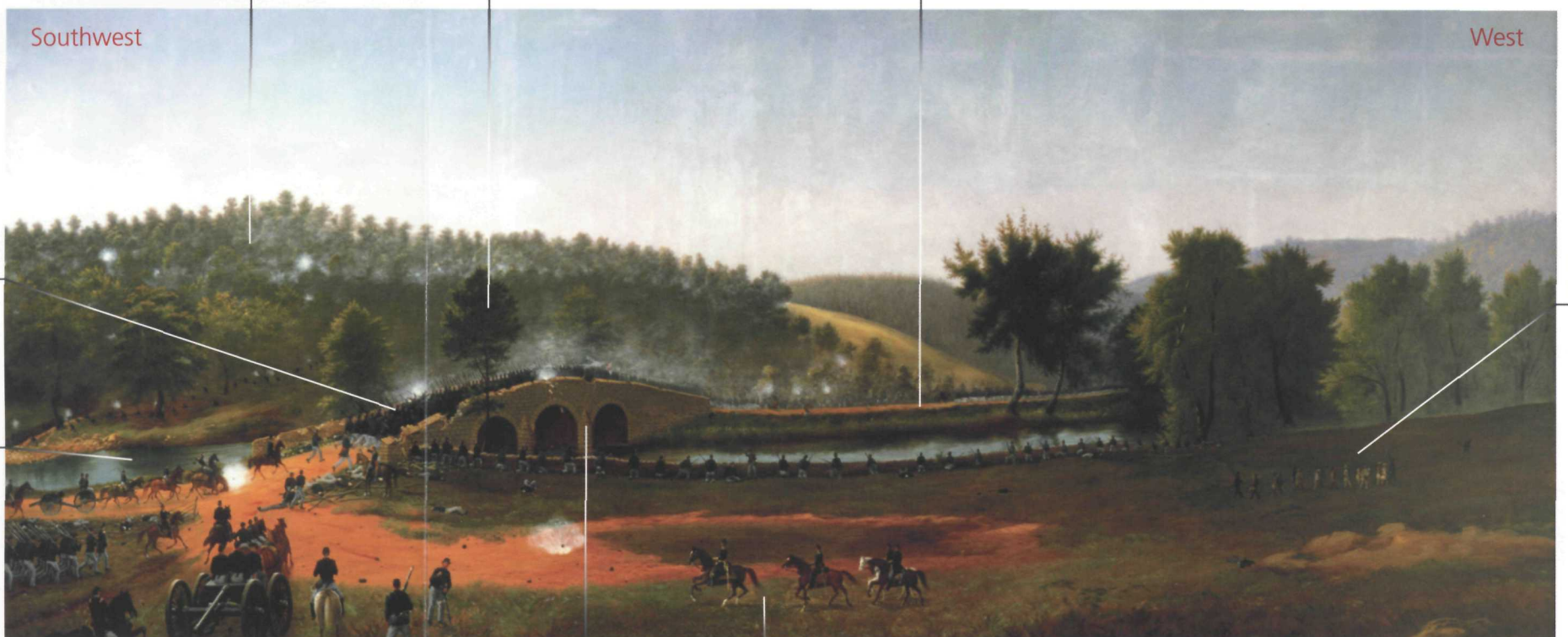
The Northerners named the battle after Antietam Creek. Southerners called it the Battle of Sharpsburg.

Confederate soldiers were positioned on high ground overlooking the bridge.

This remarkable sycamore, called a "witness tree," survived the battle and may still be seen today.

Road to Sharpsburg

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Confederate prisoners were led to the rear.

Burnside Bridge, originally known as Rohrbach Bridge, was built around 1836. It was renamed after Union General Ambrose Burnside, who launched a series of assaults against the bridge.

Union Gen. Burnside and his staff

Hope's original title: Battle of Antietam—The Burnside Bridge