

Gettysburg

Official Map and Guide

Gettysburg
National Military Park
Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Detail from the painting of Pickett's Charge by Paul Philippoteaux in the Cyclorama Center ©Henry Groskinsky

Three Days in July

On June 3, 1863, a month after his dramatic victory at Chancellorsville, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began marching his Army of Northern Virginia westward from its camps around Fredericksburg, Va. Once through the gaps of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Southerners trudged northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania. They were followed by the Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. Joseph Hooker, but Lee, whose cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart was absent on a brash raid around the Federal forces, had no way of knowing his adversary's whereabouts.

The two armies touched by chance at Gettysburg on June 30. The main battle opened on July 1 with Confederates attacking Union

troops on McPherson Ridge west of town. Though outnumbered, the Federal forces (now commanded by Gen. George G. Meade) held their position until afternoon, when they were finally overpowered and driven back to Cemetery Hill south of town. The Northerners labored long into the night over their defenses while the bulk of Meade's army arrived and took up positions.

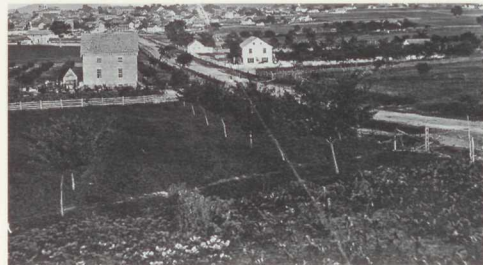
On July 2 the battlelines were drawn up in two sweeping arcs. The main portions of both armies were nearly one mile apart on parallel ridges: Union forces on Cemetery Ridge, Confederate forces on Seminary Ridge to the west. Lee ordered an attack against both Union flanks. James Longstreet's thrust on the Federal left turned the

base of Little Round Top into a shambles, left the Wheatfield strewn with dead and wounded, and overran the Peach Orchard. Farther north, Richard S. Ewell's evening attack on the Federal right at East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, though momentarily successful, could not be exploited to Confederate advantage.

On July 3 Lee's artillery opened a two-hour bombardment of the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill. This for a time engaged the massed guns of both sides in a thundering duel for supremacy, but did little to soften up the Union defensive position. Then, in an attempt to recapture the partial success of the previous day, some 12,000 Confederates advanced across open fields toward

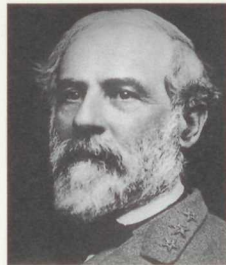
the Federal center in an attack known as "Pickett's Charge." More than 5,000 soldiers became casualties in one hour.

With the repulse of Pickett's Charge, the Battle of Gettysburg was over. The Confederate army that staggered back into Virginia was physically and spiritually exhausted. Never again would Lee attempt an offensive operation of such magnitude. And Meade, though criticized for not pursuing Lee's troops, would forever be remembered as the man who won the battle that has come to be known as the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy."



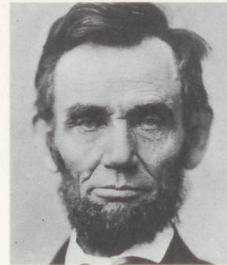
Left: Gettysburg in 1863 as seen from Seminary Ridge. The battle began here along the Chambersburg Pike (right foreground) on July 1.

Right: Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander at Gettysburg.



Far left: Meade's Headquarters in 1863.

Left: George Gordon Meade, Union Commander



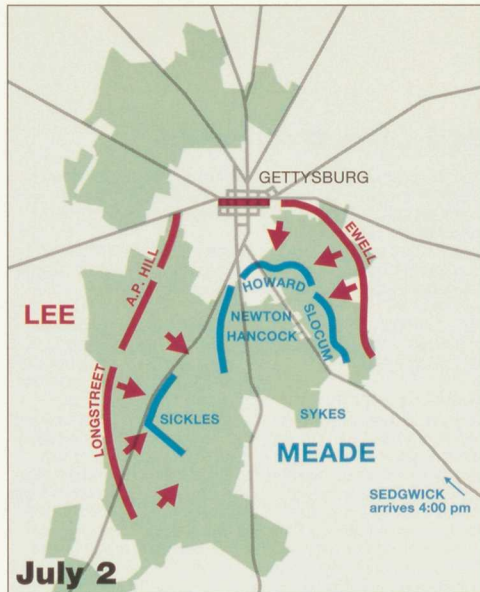
Far left: Abraham Lincoln, November 8, 1863.

Left: The only known photograph showing Lincoln (inside white circle) during the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery, November 19, 1863.

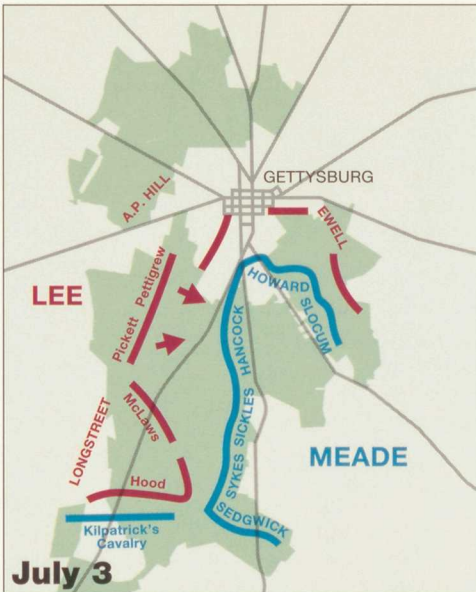
The Battle at a Glance



Elements of the two armies collide west of Gettysburg during the early morning hours. The fighting escalates throughout the day as more Union and Confederate troops reach the field. By 4 p.m. the defending Federal troops are defeated and retreat through Gettysburg where many are captured. The remnants of the Union force rally upon Cemetery and Culp's hills.



The main strength of both armies has arrived on the field by the morning hours. General Lee launches attacks against the Union left and right in an attempt to dislodge Meade's army from its strong position. Longstreet's assault upon the Union left makes good progress but is eventually checked by Federal reinforcements from the center and right. On the Union right, Ewell's Confederate troops are able to seize part of Culp's Hill; elsewhere they are repulsed.



While Ewell renews his efforts to seize Culp's Hill, Lee turns his main attention to the Union center. Following a two-hour artillery bombardment, he sends some 12,000 Confederate infantry to try to break the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge. Despite a courageous effort, the attack (subsequently called "Pickett's Charge") is repulsed with heavy losses. East of Gettysburg, Lee's cavalry is also checked in a large cavalry battle. Crippled by extremely heavy casualties, Lee can no longer continue the battle. On July 4 he begins to withdraw for Virginia.

The Gettysburg Address

When the armies marched away from Gettysburg they left behind a community in shambles and more than 51,000 killed, wounded, and missing soldiers. Wounded and dying were crowded into nearly every building. Most of the dead lay in hastily dug and inadequate graves; some had not been buried at all.

This situation so distressed Pennsylvania's Gov. Andrew Curtin that he commissioned a local attorney, David Wills, to purchase land for a proper burial ground for Union dead. Within four months of the battle, reinterment began on 17 acres that became Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863. The principal speaker, Edward Everett, delivered a well-received two-hour oration rich in historical detail and classical allusion. He was followed by President Abraham Lincoln, who had been asked to make "a few appropriate remarks."

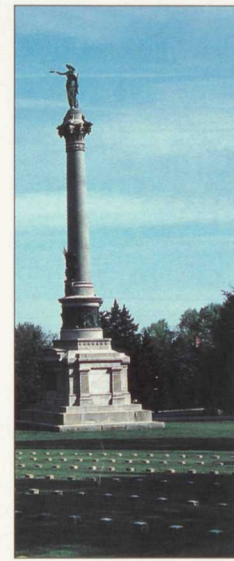
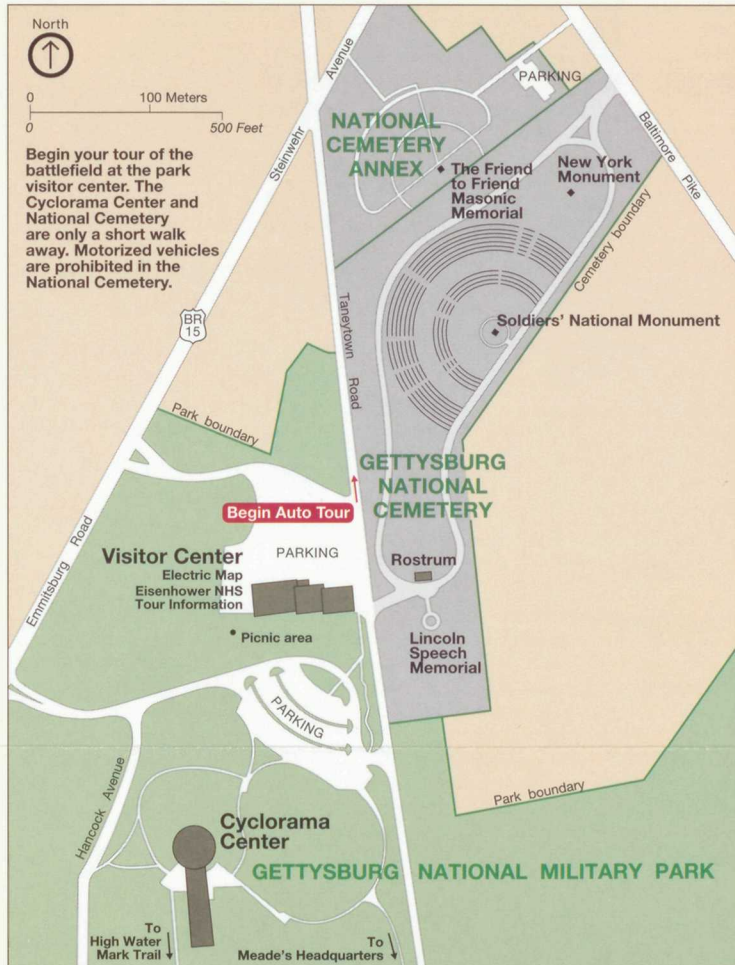
Lincoln's speech, which contains 272 words and took about two minutes to deliver, is considered a masterpiece of the English language. It transformed Gettysburg from a scene of carnage into a symbol, giving meaning to the sacrifice of the dead and inspiration to the living. "I should be glad," Everett

told Lincoln, "if I...came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Contrary to popular belief, Lincoln did not write the speech on the back of an envelope during the trip to Gettysburg, but took great pains in its formulation. He composed the first draft in Washington shortly before November 18 and revised it at the home of David Wills in Gettysburg sometime before the dedication.

The second draft, written in ink on two pages of the same paper used for part of the first draft, reflects Lincoln's first revision of the address and, except for the words "under God," constitutes the text of the speech delivered at the dedication ceremony.

Less than half the Union battle dead finally interred in the national cemetery had been removed from their field graves by the day of the dedication. Within a few years, however, the bodies of more than 3,500 Union soldiers killed in the battle had been reinterred in the cemetery and the landscaping completed. Following the war, the remains of 3,320 Confederate soldiers were removed from the battlefield to cemeteries in the South.



Gettysburg National Cemetery (see map at left) was designed by Washington, D.C., architect William Saunders to reflect an appearance of what he called "simple grandeur." The New York Monument (above) was dedicated in 1893 to honor New York state soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg and buried in the national cemetery. Other United States veterans, from the 1898 War with Spain to the Vietnam conflict, are also buried here. Today the cemetery is the final resting place for more than 6,000 honorably discharged veterans and their dependents.

Seeing the Park and the Battlefield

The fighting at Gettysburg is history. Upon these peaceful, tilled Pennsylvania fields, more men fell than in any other battle fought in North America before or since. Many of the Union soldiers who died here are buried in the National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered that poignant statement of purpose—the Gettysburg Address.

Much has been written and said about this, the greatest battle of the Civil War. There are also many

treasured artifacts collected in museums here and across the country. But the most tangible link to those three days in July is still the battlefield itself, parts of which look much the same today as they did in 1863. Fences, hills, rocks, cannon, and even the monuments (which were not here then, of course) provide an opportunity to ponder and try to understand what happened here.

You have probably come to Gettysburg by car. By

following the **Self-Guided Auto Tour** on the other side of this folder, you can easily drive around the battlefield in two to three hours. At most of the numbered stops, markers describe significant action during the three days of battle.

The **Visitor Center and Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War** houses the Electric Map, a large bookstore, licensed battlefield guides, current schedules of ranger-conducted programs, Civil War exhibits,

and information about visiting Eisenhower National Historic Site.

The Electric Map presentation offers, through the use of a large map and colored lights, a narrated orientation to the battle and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. For a fee, a licensed battlefield guide will conduct a two-hour tour of the battlefield in your auto or bus. Individuals or groups may make advance reservations for the Electric Map program, a tour with a licensed

guide, and a visit to Eisenhower National Historic Site by calling 877-438-8929.

The **Cyclorama Center** has exhibits, a free film, and the 360-foot Gettysburg Cyclorama, a spectacular painting by Paul Philippoteaux of Pickett's Charge. The painting, a Registered Historic Object, is displayed with a sound-and-light program inside a large circular auditorium. Individuals or groups may make advance reservations for the Cyclorama

program by calling 877-438-8929.

During summer months, park rangers give walks, talks, and programs at various locations on the battlefield to help you understand the personal impact of past events.

The best way to sense the land and the slower pace of Gettysburg's past is to walk the battlefield as thousands of soldiers once did. The **High Water Mark Trail**, about a mile long, begins at the Cyclo-

rama Center. You will see regimental monuments, the ground defended by Union soldiers in repulsing Pickett's Charge, and General Meade's headquarters.

In addition to this trail, there are short paths leading to Devil's Den and to the Point of Woods near the Virginia Memorial, where General Lee viewed Pickett's Charge. There is also a self-guided tour of the national cemetery.

For a longer hike, inquire about the 9-mile **Billy**

Yank Trail or the 3.5-mile **Johnny Reb Trail**. Both trails are used by the Boy Scouts of America as part of their Heritage Trails Program.

For information about motel accommodations, restaurants, privately owned campgrounds, museums, and other facilities in the community, please check at the visitor center with a representative of the Gettysburg Convention & Visitor Bureau. You can also write them at 35 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, PA 17325,

or check www.gettysburg.com on the Internet.

Gettysburg National Military Park is a unit of the National Park System, one of more than 370 parks that are important examples of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. Address inquiries to Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Information can also be obtained at www.nps.gov/gett on the Internet.

Regulations and Safety Tips

The monuments and cannons were placed by veterans of the battle to mark positions and honor the great sacrifices made here. They are irreplaceable historic objects that have been entrusted to all of us. Please help preserve these monuments and cannon. Do not climb, stand, or hang on them. Respect them.

Use extreme caution driving park roads, especially where they intersect with heavily traveled highways. Obey posted speed limits

and be cautious at blind curves and on one-way roads. Park in designated areas or on the pavement only, not on the grass or shoulders. Bicyclists should keep to the right with the flow of traffic.

Parents or chaperones should closely supervise their children. Running and climbing youngsters often fall and injure themselves.

All historic sites, structures, and exhibits, as well as all plants, animals, and

minerals must be left undisturbed. Relic collecting or the possession of metal detectors within the park is not allowed. Please picnic in designated areas only.

Pets must be leashed and attended at all times. They may not be taken into the National Cemetery, visitor center, or Cyclorama Center.

If you have any questions about park rules or regulations, ask a ranger.

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Touring the Battlefield

