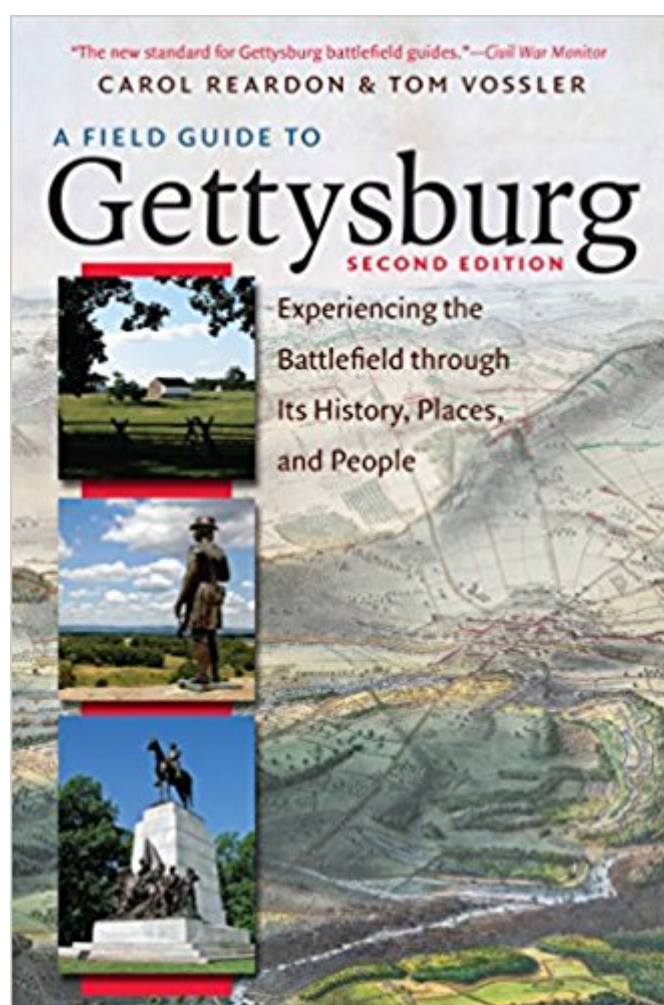


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# A Field Guide To Gettysburg, Second Edition: Experiencing The Battlefield Through Its History, Places, And People



## Synopsis

This second, updated edition of the acclaimed *A Field Guide to Gettysburg* will lead visitors to every important site across the battlefield and also give them ways to envision the action and empathize with the soldiers involved and the local people into whose lives and lands the battle intruded. Both Carol Reardon and Tom Vossler are themselves experienced guides who understand what visitors to Gettysburg are interested in, but they also bring the unique perspectives of a scholar and a former army officer. Divided into three day-long tours, this newly improved and expanded edition offers important historical background and context for the reader while providing answers to six key questions: What happened here? Who fought here? Who commanded here? Who fell here? Who lived here? And what did the participants have to say about it later? With new stops, maps, and illustrations, the second edition of *A Field Guide to Gettysburg* remains the most comprehensive guide to the events and history of this pivotal battle of the Civil War.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very useful resource for making one's way intelligently across the battleground as well as a stirring account of the battle and its varied meanings in the past and present.--McCormick Messenger

Praise for the first edition:"An extremely useful resource for making one's way intelligently across the battleground as well as a stirring account of the battle and its varied meanings in the past and

present. . . . This unique book enables all readers to better comprehend the places, events, and memories that make up the battle of Gettysburg. As such, no matter how limited or extensive one's Civil War library, it deserves a special place on the shelf.--Civil War Monitor  
The authors have gone far beyond [a battlefield guide]. . . . An excellent source for Civil War buffs and anyone interested in the history and locale of Gettysburg.--Library Journal 2013 Best Reference Book  
The most helpful book in understanding the field of battle at Gettysburg. . . . A superb and surprising addition to the library of Gettysburg books, valuable for the novice, the ardent Civil War buff, and the scholar alike.--Civil War Book Review  
The new standard for Gettysburg battlefield guides.--Civil War Monitor

This book is very well designed and appealing to behold; I might even take it with me on my next long-distance move. The cover map is a beautiful design, and it is repeated a couple of the title pages. The paper is glossy and strong like some of the more expensive color illustrated textbooks and other travel guides. Unless somebody is an anti-war extremist, he or she should really like this book. When I live in the south, I frequently visit museums of early American history and sights of major conflicts, which are treasured there more so than in other parts of America, where history is a bit less authentic. So, I'm sure this book will find a lot of interested readers in the southern region. I have visited fewer battlefields than I would have if a book like this was in my library. For example, the book includes many very detailed maps that show not only the progress of the troops, but also who commanded, died, and lived on the spots, with anecdotes about those characters that distinguished themselves. Without such a guide, a field is just a field and only somebody that closely researches the period might imagine what happened and where. This guide invites casual readers to step into history. Civil War reenactors would probably really benefit from details like this. Perhaps it's better than most guides because this is a second edition, which must have had some imperfections polished away. The authors are both guides, so it is written in a style that grabs interest and the intellect. The book is designed to take visitors three-days of exploration to follow from start to finish. I guess most people spend around a week on vacation, so this is probably the length of time somebody could physically spend in one region exploring markers and sights during this stretch. Each of these days matches one of the three days that the Battle of Gettysburg lasted. Carol Reardon is also a Professor of American History at Pennsylvania State University, and Tom Vossler is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army, and former director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute: this combination explains how they manage to have a sensibility to the lives lost and the leaders of the battle, while also researching the details with detachment needed for scholars to gain something as well. There are even photographs of the

current houses and terrains with arrows pointing out what each of the markers was during the Battle. Anybody that has attempted to find something on a guide's outdated map will appreciate the use of these modern-day photographic explanations. The only downside is that the information might blur together because of the repetition of the same sub-headings of sections: "What Happened Here?" and "Who Fought Here?" and the like. While each of the stories is amusing or tragic, four hundred pages of this pattern is a bit weighty on the eyes. It might also be difficult to teach a book like this in a class because the information is pretty scattered rather than being organized based on themes of the clash. This is definitely a vacation guide to be read like popular literature during leisure hours for the purpose of exploring the region. If you can get Reardon and Vossler to be your guides as you explore this book, the trip should be fun for any intellectual Civil War buffs.

Excellent- an excellent read even if you never use it on the battlefield.

Am looking forward to reading up on the battle before visiting this summer.

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