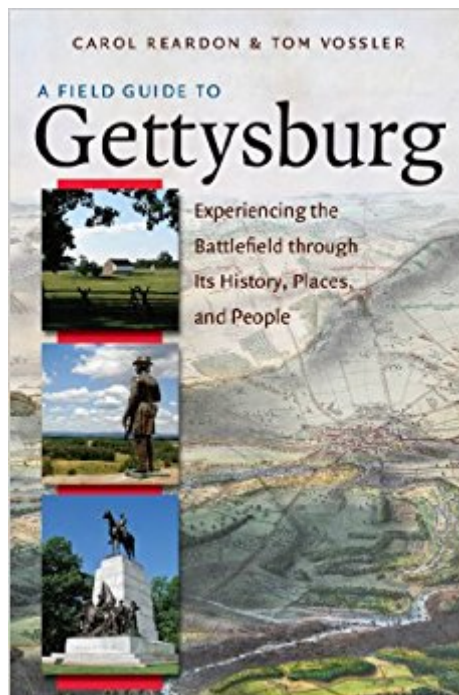




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A Field Guide To Gettysburg: Experiencing The Battlefield Through Its History, Places, And People



Synopsis

In this lively guide to the Gettysburg battlefield, Carol Reardon and Tom Vossler invite readers to participate in a tour of this hallowed ground. Ideal for carrying on trips through the park as well as for the armchair historian, this book includes comprehensive maps and deft descriptions of the action that situate visitors in time and place. Crisp narratives introduce key figures and events, and eye-opening vignettes help readers more fully comprehend the import of what happened and why. A wide variety of contemporary and postwar source materials offer colorful stories and present interesting interpretations that have shaped--or reshaped--our understanding of Gettysburg today. Each stop addresses the following: What happened here? Who fought here? Who commanded here? Who fell here? Who lived here? How did participants remember this event?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1 -- 3, 1863, by reading Carol Reardon's and Tom Vossler's new book, "A Field Guide to Gettysburg: Experiencing the Battlefield through its History, Places, and People". It is "altogether fitting and proper" to think further about Gettysburg and to review the book on Independence Day, 2013. Carol Reardon teaches at Pennsylvania State University and is best-known for her book on Pickett's Charge, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* and for a book on Civil War military thinking, *With a Sword in One Hand and Jomini in the Other: The Problem of Military Thought in the Civil War North* (Steven and Janice Brose Lectures in the Civil War Era). Vossler, a retired Army colonel, is former director of the U.S.

Army Military Institute and a licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg. Reardon's and Vossler's book is arranged as a "field guide" to the battlefield for use for visitors to the park. In many ways, it serves this purpose well. The book is a compact paperback, lightweight and easy to carry, and printed on glossy, sturdy paper. It is organized into 34 "stops" each covering a separate point of interest on the battlefield. The authors provide detailed driving instructions between one stop and the next. They also provide the reader with a precise orientation on the ground, indicating where to stand and where to look to gain an understanding of the military action.

Released for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, *A Field Guide to Gettysburg* written by Carol Reardon and pictures taken by Tom Vossler, offers a unique view into the battle. While other Gettysburg Guides have offered in depth looks into the areas outside of Gettysburg, including the retreat from the field and the cemeteries in the borough, *A Field Guide to Gettysburg* gives an in depth look into the battle itself including many details on the days of combat not going outside the realm of the battle. What Reardon has done is written a narrative split into three parts for the different days of combat including an analysis of the land and the regiments of the field. Carol Reardon is an accomplished historian and teaches at Pennsylvania State University. In the past, she has taught at West Point and the United States Army War College. She also offers many staff tours all over Gettysburg for both groups of civilians and military personnel. Her other works include *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* and *With a Sword in one hand and Jomini in the Other*. Tom Vossler is a combat veteran and is retired from the army as a U.S. Colonel. He is the former director of the United State Army Military Institute and is a licensed battlefield guide. As stated before, there are many guide books to the battlefield of Gettysburg. For the most part, they are needed since most people are lost on the field when they are not well versed in Civil War knowledge. Each guide is different and offers something new to the realm of field guides. One thing which separates this guide from others is the in depth narrative which Reardon has provided and has greatly organized so the guide could be used on the battlefield. As each stop is mentioned, there are seven sections to the area.

There are so many books on the battle of Gettysburg you would practically need an entire library to house them all and more are coming every week. That just goes to show the sway that this beautiful battlefield has on not just those interested in the Civil War but in travelers in general. Most visitors, no matter how well intentioned, are not going to sit down and read Coddington, Sears, Trudeau, or any of the other, very large, books that attempt to cover all three days of battle. A book like Reardon

and Vossler's however may be just what these day trippers are looking for. The book is broken down by day with each day having several chapters. The chapters are broken down further into several driving stops. Each stop contains more than enough information for the casual tourist and yet will provide those more knowledgeable with plenty to consider and learn from. The book does not follow along with the driving guides found at the Visitor Center complex so please don't confuse the two. When following along with the book visitors will make many stops along the battlefield. Accurate driving instructions are included so don't worry if you don't know the road layout. Each stop includes several sections. These include: Orientation, What Happened There, Who Fought Here, Who Commanded Here, Who Fell Here and What Did They Say About it Later. For me the beauty of this book is that readers will get a chance to see and learn about under appreciated portions of the field and lesser known participants (I always check for information on the Florida Brigade and the author's don't disappoint.). Of course there are stops for East Cemetery Hill, Little Round Top and Devil's Den.

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