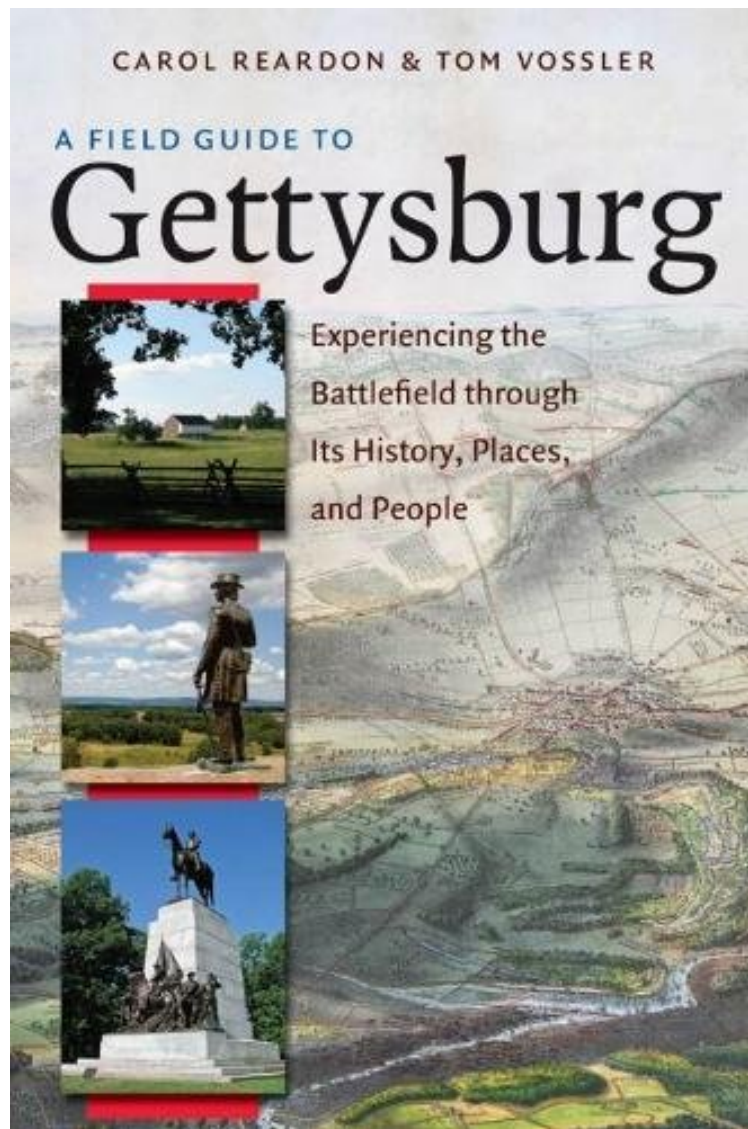


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A Field Guide to Gettysburg: Experiencing the Battlefield through Its History, Places, and People

Carol Reardon, Tom Vossler
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Carol Reardon, Tom Vossler : A Field Guide to Gettysburg: Experiencing the Battlefield through Its History, Places, and People before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Field Guide to Gettysburg: Experiencing the Battlefield through Its History, Places, and People:

30 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Commemorating Gettysburg on Independence DayBy Robin

FriedmanI 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. Each of the stops is also accompanied by a precise, highly useful map illustrating the flow of the action -- many battle studies tend to be short on mapping -- with the location of the reader indicated as a point of reference. Each chapter presents its material uniformly, following a fixed set of six questions. Thus the reader learns for each of the sites: 1. what happened here? 2. who fought here? 3. who commanded here? 4. who fell here? 5. who lived here? and 6. what was said later about the action at the site. The authors explore these questions succinctly but with a great deal of detail. Thus, they describe the military action, the commanders on both sides at the particular site, the casualties, with detailed accounting by regiments and brigade of those killed, wounded or missing, the owners of the property on which the action took place, and historians and others discussion of the action in the years following the battle. The discussion also includes many photographs, many of which are rare and contemporaneous with the battle. In the discussion of "who fell here" the authors give short stories of soldiers on both sides of the line who were killed in the combat. After a short introduction to the Gettysburg campaign and to the organization of the armies, the book begins with the first "stop", Cemetery Hill, the pivotal point of the battle. They proceed to present the battle chronologically, with 12 stops for July 1, 14 for July 2, and 7 stops for July 3. The final stop covers the Soldiers' National Cemetery while a short concluding chapter describes the retreat and aftermath of the battle. Reardon and Vossler have written a good, detailed account of Gettysburg. The book reminded me of the heroism of the soldiers on both sides, of the tragedy of the battle, and of the complexity of the military action. For a visit to Gettysburg, the book needs to be used carefully. For most readers, it will be of most use in pointing out the sites to visit together with driving directions, orienting the reader at the site, and briefly summarizing the action. The 400 page text is far too extensive and difficult for the reader to absorb on a single visit to the park. It took me the better part of three days -- the commemoration days of the battle -- to read the book. It would be virtually impossible to do the book justice and absorb the details in the course of an on the ground visit. The book would be valuable to have at the park as an overview and a guide but it is no substitute for a close visit to Gettysburg. On balance, I think the book will have most value to readers who have spent time at Gettysburg and who have at least a basic working knowledge of the battle. I was unable to visit Gettysburg for the 150th anniversary, but Reardon and Vossler helped me commemorate the battle's many iconic moments for the United States. I was pleased to share my thoughts about the book and to think about American freedom and democracy on this Independence Day. Robin Friedman1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AwesomeBy ItsDaveI recently went to Gettysburg and this book was my companion! It was just awesome! Highly recommended from one Gettysburg connoisseur! My only complaint is that you will feel the book making you trek a bit further to cover all points! It's not like the audio tour sold at the museum! You will literally being driving more and feel at times it may be overwhelming. But the scope of the battle, the insight makes you attach an emotional bond. Beware, you may find your nose in the book more than your enjoying the battlefield. Be aware, but come to the battlefield already prepared and educated! That gives you a tremendous advantage! Overall? I love this book!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A must get for any trip to GettysburgBy bookworm_girlI bought this book ahead of my second ever trip to Gettysburg, 10 years after taking my first trip. Unlike 10 years ago when I was only in Gettysburg for 4 days, this time I was in Gettysburg for a whole week. I, as well as my parents, enjoyed this book immensely. I love how each stop on the tour is broken down giving details of what happened, what troops were there, and even including directions at the end of each stop on how to get to the next one. The whole book is detailed very well, and while I was able to glean new information from the book about the battle, the biggest thing I learned from this book is stop 34, East Cavalry Field, which is off the beaten path of the main battlefield. You take Route 30 going east and turn into a residential area to even get to the battlefield, which is owned by the battlefield park (NPS). There are few monuments in the East Cavalry Battlefield, the biggest being to the 1st Michigan Cavalry. I strongly recommend this book to anyone going on their first trip to Gettysburg, you won't waste your money!

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?

[The authors'] easy familiarity with the terrain, the historical facts of the battle, and eye-opening local anecdotes make the guide a valuable companion for first-time visitors, veteran battlefield trampers, as well as armchair explorers.--The Civil War Round Table-District of Columbia Takes the Gettysburg field guide genre to its apex. . . . An excellent work and an important contribution to the field of Civil War study.--Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians 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 new standard for Gettysburg battlefield guides. . . . Terrific for those who want more and do not have a professional tour or staff ride leader to take them around the field.--Civil War Monitor For a useful and informative guide on the list of many people's favorite battle of the war, one cannot go wrong with this latest entry under the heading of battlefield touring. The book is recommended.--The Journal of America's Military Past An attractive presentation--beautiful color photos and handsomely laid-out text--partners with a wealth of information on individuals, troop movements, and skirmishes, amounting to an indispensable guide to a major event in American history.--Booklist A comprehensive overview of one of North America's bloodiest battles.--Jrnl of Southern History This new Field Guide is the best to appear on this subject in recent years. Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.--Choice 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 Anyone planning to visit Gettysburg National Military Park should have this field guide with them.--Army History Allows the reader to reconstruct, interpret, and essentially understand the Battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of those who fought.--H-Net sReardon and Vossler's in-depth knowledge of the battle translates to an informative and even moving battlefield history.--The North Carolina Historical I would wholeheartedly endorse that serious battlefield trampers give Reardon and Vossler's guide a trial run in the field. . . . There's also more than enough material inside the book for satisfactory home reading.--Civil War Books and Authors It's hard to see how anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg could make a better addition to his or her library . . . than with this outstanding new guide.--Civil War Times 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 A Field Guide to Gettysburg is well illustrated. . . . Even if you don't visit the battlefield, this guide will lead you through the events that took place there, step by step, battle by battle. . . . It makes you feel that the tour guide is talking to you, not that you're just reading a book.--Tennessee Libraries Not only describes the tactical fighting, but captures in brief biographies and personal accounts the human tragedy that befell both soldiers and civilians.--Jeffrey D. Wert, author of A Glorious Army: Robert E. Lee's Triumph, 1862-1863 From the Inside Flap 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.