

**SKETCH OF THE BATTLES OF  
GETTYSBURG, JULY 1ST, 2D, AND 3D,  
1863: WITH AN  
ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE  
RESPECTIVE ARMIES FOR SOME DAYS  
PREVIOUS THERETO**

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Sketch of the Battles of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863: With an Account of the movements of the respective armies for some days previous thereto by T. Ditterline

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**T. DITTERLINE**

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PHILADELPHIA, Oct 23d, 1863.

GEO. ARNOLD, ESQ.:

MY DEAR SIR:—Your polite favor with the accompanying map of the "Field of Gettysburg" is received, and I have examined the map and compared it with some others of the same locality, and think it much the best. My opinion is shared by several officers who were in the battle. \* \*

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

GEO. W. CHILDS.

SKETCH  
OF THE  
BATTLES OF GETTYSBURG,

July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863:

WITH  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE RESPECTIVE  
ARMIES FOR SOME DAYS PREVIOUS THERETO.

COMPILED FROM THE  
PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF EYE-WITNESSES OF THE SEVERAL  
BATTLES.

ACCOMPANIED BY AN  
EXPLANATORY MAP.

BY T. DITTERLINE.

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NEW YORK:  
C. A. ALVORD, ELECTROTYPED AND PRINTER.

1863.



## SKETCH OF THE

# BATTLES OF GETTYSBURG.

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GETTYSBURG, the county seat of Adams County, Pa., and the scene of one of the most awful and bloody conflicts of modern times, has a beautiful and picturesque location, and is situated in the centre of an extensive basin, in a region delightfully diversified with hills and valleys.

At about the distance of ten miles west of the town rises the bold outline of the South Mountain, running in a direction from northeast to southwest. Half a mile west of the town, and extending southward for miles, in a line parallel with the Blue Ridge, is Oak Ridge, which, to the northward of the town, extends across the roads leading to Carlisle and Harrisburg. This was the position occupied by the rebel corps of Hill and Longstreet during the battles of Thursday and Friday, July 2d and 3d.

Immediately south of the town rises Cemetery Hill, the centre and apex of the Union line. It is destitute of timber, with the exception of a small grove in the rear of the Cemetery, and near the Taneytown road, and, from its elevation, commanded a view of the entire rebel line, from Longstreet's extreme right on the Emmettsburg road to the rebel batteries north, and northeast of the town, extending beyond the Bonaughtown road.

Southeast from Cemetery Hill, and between Rock Creek and the turnpike leading to Baltimore, is Culp's Hill, extending in a southeasterly direction for a distance of nearly a mile, and terminating near McAlister's Mill. This was the position occupied by our right. The whole summit and eastern slope



of this hill, is densely covered with timber. The western slope is partially wooded, with cleared fields intervening.

Beyond Rock Creek, and to the southeast of Culp's Hill, is Wolf Hill, which is very elevated, rocky, and abrupt, and thickly wooded.

Rock Creek, one of the affluents of the Monocacy, is a small stream, flowing in a southerly direction, and, at a point directly east, is about half a mile distant from Gettysburg.

About two miles southwest from Cemetery Hill, Round Top looms up grandly, its pyramidal form towering above all others, densely covered with timber. Rising quickly from its base, and extending northward, is a spur, with its western slope denuded of its forest growth, but covered with rocks and stone; and extending from thence to Cemetery Hill is a clearly defined ridge, terminating in Ziegler's Grove. This ridge, with its outposts, Granite Spur and Round Top, constituted the left of the Union line.

North of the town the country is mostly a rolling plain, with a few hills and patches of timber interspersed.

On Saturday, June 27, 1863, the Union army lay at and in the vicinity of Frederick, Md., and on that day Meade was placed in command.

Early's Division of Ewell's Corps of rebels was then at York. Gordon's Brigade had entered Gettysburg on the afternoon of Friday, June 26th, and remained until early on the ensuing morning, when they marched, in two columns, by way of East Berlin and Abbottstown, to York; the cavalry, under White, having proceeded, by Hanover, to the Junction, and destroyed bridges on the Hanover Branch and Northern Central Railroads, and having thus broken up railroad communication.

Rhodes and Johnson's Divisions of the same corps were on that day, June 27th, in the vicinity of Carlisle and Harrisburg.

The main body of the rebel army, embracing Longstreet and Hill's Corps, were at and near Chambersburg, where Lee himself also was.

The several corps of the Union army, in their advance northward from Frederick, expecting to find Lee's forces in the

vicinity of Harrisburg and York, were moved on different roads, so as the more readily to procure supplies, and were thus so far separated as not to be within immediate supporting distances of each other. Lee, being apprised of their movements, and conceiving it to be a favorable opportunity to attack the several Union corps in detail, and thus defeat and crush them, instantly changed his plan from the menaced attack on Harrisburg to a combined attack of the whole rebel army on the several Union corps as they came up.

On Sunday, June 28th, Ewell's Corps was withdrawn from Carlisle, Harrisburg, and York, having received orders to fall back on Gettysburg, to which point Longstreet and Hill were also moving by the Chambersburg turnpike.

On the afternoon of the same day the Union troops all moved from Frederick. The First and Eleventh Corps were moved up the west side of the Monocacy, through Mechanics-town to Emmettsburg, where they arrived on Tuesday forenoon, June 30th. The Second and Fifth Corps, forming the centre column of our army, crossed the Monocacy east, three miles above Frederick, and moved through Uniontown to Frizzleburg, near the State line. The Third and Twelfth Corps took the Middleburg road. The Sixth crossed the Monocacy, east of Frederick, and marched to Westminster, where they arrived on the forenoon of the same day (Tuesday), and the Third and Twelfth arrived at Taneytown at the same time.

They were all moving upon these lines, when orders were given for a change of direction—a change for all, except the First and Eleventh. They moved directly upon Gettysburg.

The movements of Lee occasioned this sudden change; he was concentrating at Gettysburg. By the previous movements of the several corps, Longstreet and Hill, who were then moving from Chambersburg upon Gettysburg, would come upon them separately, take them on their flank, and destroy them in detail.

Meade manœuvred so as to defeat Lee's intention. He massed his army at Gettysburg. The First and Eleventh Corps reached the town on Wednesday, July 1st; the former about

10 o'clock A. M., and the latter at 1 o'clock P. M. The Third and Twelfth, in the afternoon of the same day; the Second and Fifth on Thursday morning, and the Sixth on Thursday afternoon.

Buford's cavalry, consisting of two brigades, arrived in Gettysburg about 12 o'clock on Tuesday, June 30th, from Emmetsburg. That morning the rebel skirmishers had advanced by the Chambersburg turnpike to Oak Ridge, which overlooks the town, where they remained for more than an hour, apparently reconnoitring. Shortly before the entry of Buford with his cavalry they left, and fell back three or four miles, having probably observed his approach.

Our cavalry, having ridden some thirty miles during the forenoon, were too much exhausted to pursue them, and encamped for the rest of the day and ensuing night on the west, and in the vicinity of the town.

#### **Battle of Wednesday, July 1st.**

About 9 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday, the first of July, Buford advanced, by the Chambersburg turupike, to meet the enemy.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile west of Oak Ridge, and parallel with it, is a cultivated hill, which, at the time, was covered with fields of grain. Buford placed his batteries on the eastern slope of this hill, near the summit, and formed his line in the rear of his batteries, near the base of the hill. He threw out his pickets a mile or more in advance of his batteries.

At 10 o'clock A. M. the first musket-shot was fired from the rebel side, from a point on the turnpike near which Buford's skirmishers were stationed. This was responded to by three shots from us. After some skirmishing, the musketry firing became rapid; commencing on the turnpike, it gradually extended southward as far as the Hagerstown road, a distance of over a mile. This firing proceeded from a wooded ridge, running parallel with, and about a mile west of, Oak Ridge. Here Pender and Heath's Divisions of Hill's Corps had advanced, as shown on the accompanying map.