

SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR THE LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDE EXAM

Category 1: Comprehensive Studies of the Pennsylvania Campaign and the Battle of Gettysburg

Visitors often inform their Licensed Battlefield Guide that they have read one or more of these five major histories of the Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg. Thus, their understanding of the events' major events and controversies may be shaped significantly by the specific arguments advanced by the author(s) with whom they are most familiar and may hold tightly to strong opinions with which you may not agree. Thus, in addition to the vast amount of information each of these books presents, you should also become familiar with the ways in which these authors agree or disagree with each other on such key issues as: the Lee-Longstreet relationship, the Meade-Sickles controversy, Lee's generalship, Meade's generalship, the absence of Stuart's cavalry, the allocation of credit or blame for various events such as Ewell's inaction against Culp's Hill on July 1 or the holding of Little Round Top, and many others. Remember, even if two authors seem to agree on some matter of controversy, they may not base their arguments on the exact same evidence; be alert to how authors who reach the same conclusion may follow different paths to get there.

As you read, be alert to author bias and balance—does an author seem to favor the Union or the Confederacy, or perhaps specific individuals? Does the author give equal consideration to each of the two armies that fought at Gettysburg or not? Does the book give undue attention to specific units or specific commanders disproportionate to their contribution or performance at Gettysburg? Does an author acknowledge points of contention or shape the narrative around a preferred point of view?

E.B. Coddington, *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command*

Glenn Tucker, *High Tide at Gettysburg*

Stephen Sears, *Gettysburg*

Noah Andre Trudeau, *Gettysburg: A Testing of Courage*

Allen C. Guelzo, *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*

Also, do not ignore Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*, and D. Scott Hartwig, *A Killer Angels Companion*

Many visitors will also cite Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and the movie "Gettysburg" based on it) as the source of most of their understanding of the battle. It is especially important for a Licensed Battlefield Guide to make clear that *The Killer Angels* is a work of fiction, and neither Shaara nor the team that produced "Gettysburg" consistently respected historical accuracy or avoided the problems of bias and balance. Hartwig's booklet will make clear where the author and filmmakers took license.

Category 2. Microhistories

Many visitors will express special interests and will request to spend their entire time with a Licensed Battlefield Guide concentrating on a specific day, a single tactical action, or one military specialty rather than tour the entire battlefield. While the comprehensive histories in Section 1 will provide a close reader with a breadth of understanding of the campaign and battle, the works cited below will enhance that reader's depth of knowledge about specific parts of the big picture. Be on the alert for ways in which these specialized studies agree with, reject, or modify arguments made in the broader comprehensive studies in Category 1.

Thomas J. Ryan, *Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign*

Harry Pfanz, *Gettysburg—The First Day*

David G. Martin, *Gettysburg, July 1*

Eric Wittenberg, *"The Devil's to Pay": John Buford at Gettysburg*

Harry Pfanz, *Gettysburg—The Second Day*

Thomas Desjardins, *Stand Firm Ye Boys from Maine*

Garry Adelman and Tim Smith, *Devil's Den*

Harry Pfanz, *Gettysburg: Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill*

Earl J. Hess, *Pickett's Charge—The Last Attack at Gettysburg*

Wayne Motts and James Hessler, *Pickett's Charge*

Kent Masterson Brown, *Retreat from Gettysburg*

George Newton, *Silent Sentinels: A Reference Guide to the Artillery of Gettysburg*

Eric Wittenberg, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*

Gettysburg essays in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Volume 3*.

Volume 27, Parts 1, 2, and 3 of *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, which contain the post-battle reports written by Union and Confederate officers on the, corps, division, brigade, regimental and artillery brigade, battalion and battery level, is the ultimate primary source for microhistory. This source is readily accessible online.

Ben Dixon, *Learning the Battle of Gettysburg, A Guide to the Official Records*

Category 3. Mastering spatial relationships on the battlefield

A Licensed Battlefield Guide simply must master the ability to use the battlefield's terrain to show visitors where specific actions occurred, how they relate to other portions of the field, the distance advancing or retreating troops covered, and the direction they took.

While intensive reading is necessary to obtain one's License, a prospective Licensed Battlefield Guide also must devote significant time on the battlefield itself to understand the physical environment in which the armies operated. In addition to the maps in the books in the previous two categories, the following books should help you master the spatial relations critical to giving an informative tour.

Phil Laino, *Gettysburg Campaign Atlas*, or Bradley Gottfried, *The Maps of Gettysburg*

Carol Reardon and Tom Vossler, *A Field Guide to Gettysburg*

Category 4. Specialized non-tactical topics centering on Gettysburg

Inevitably, visitors will ask questions about issues not directly related to the actions of brigades or the decisions of generals. Thus, to get and then keep a visitor's interest engaged, a Licensed Battlefield Guide often must dig into other integral elements of the broader Gettysburg narrative through human interest stories about local civilians before, during, and after the battle, as well as the political, religious, social and history of the town of Gettysburg. Other visitors may show a greater interest in the care of the wounded, the burial of the dead, the establishment of the Soldiers National Cemetery and the National Battlefield Park, and, of course, President Lincoln and his Address.

Greg Coco, *A Strange and Blighted Land*

William Frassanito, *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*, and *Early Photography at Gettysburg*

Timothy H. Smith, *The Farms of Gettysburg*

Carol Reardon, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory*

Gabor Boritt, ed., *The Gettysburg Nobody Knows*

Margaret Creighton, *Colors of Courage, Gettysburg's Forgotten History*

Gerald R. Bennett, *Days of Uncertainty and Dread: The Ordeal Endured by the Citizens at Gettysburg*.

Jennifer Murray, *On a Great Battlefield*, or Jim Weeks, *Gettysburg: Memory, Market, and an American Shrine*

Fred Hawthorne, *Gettysburg: Stories of Men and Monuments as Told by Battlefield Guides*.

Roy Frampton, *Lincoln and the Human Interest Stories of the Gettysburg National Cemetery*

Martin P. Johnson, *Writing the Gettysburg Address*

Garry Wills, *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*

It is also worth your time to read the standard overviews of the Battle of Gettysburg published by the National Park Service and individual authors to understand what a casual visitor to the battlefield may or may not have had a chance to learn before touring with a Licensed Battlefield Guide.

Category 5: Contextual Reading

A Licensed Battlefield Guide frequently fields very basic questions about the Civil War that require a understanding of the conflict well beyond Gettysburg. Typical questions generally touch on the causes of the war, the fundamentals of military science in the nineteenth century, and the consequences of the war that the nation still struggles to resolve. These works provide a foundation for giving useful historically-sound answers to questions that still stir controversy today.

James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*

James McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades*

Earl J. Hess, *Civil War Infantry Tactics, Training, Combat, and Small-Unit Effectiveness*

David Blight, *Race and Reunion*; or Caroline Janney, *Remembering the Civil War*

John Coski, *The Confederate Battle Flag*

Tony Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic*