GETTYSBURG: THREE DAYS OF GLORY STUDY GUIDE

CONFEDERATE AND UNION ORDERS OF BATTLE

ABBREVIATIONS

MILITARY RANK

MG = Major General
BG = Brigadier General
Col = Colonel
Ltc = Lieutenant Colonel
Maj = Major
Cpt = Captain
Lt = Lieutenant
Sgt = Sergeant

CASUALTY DESIGNATION

(w) = wounded
(mw) = mortally wounded
(k) = killed in action
(c) = captured

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

MG George G. Meade, Commanding

GENERAL STAFF: (Selected Members)

Chief of Staff: MG Daniel Butterfield
Chief Quartermaster: BG Rufus Ingalls
Chief of Artillery: BG Henry J. Hunt
Medical Director: Maj Jonathan Letterman
Chief of Engineers: BG Gouverneur K. Warren

I CORPS

MG John F. Reynolds (k)
MG Abner Doubleday
MG John Newton

First Division - BG James S. Wadsworth

1st Brigade - BG Solomon Meredith (w) Col William W. Robinson
2nd Brigade - BG Lysander Cutler

Second Division - BG John C. Robinson

1st Brigade - BG Gabriel R. Paul (w), Col Samuel H. Leonard (w), Col Adrian R. Root (w&c), Col Richard Coulter (w), Col Peter Lyle, Col Richard Coulter
2nd Brigade - BG Henry Baxter

Third Division - MG Abner Doubleday, BG Thomas A. Rowley
1st Brigade - Col Chapman Biddle, BG Thomas A. Rowley, Col Chapman Biddle
2nd Brigade - Col Roy Stone (w), Col Langhorne Wister (w), Col Edmund L. Dana
3rd Brigade - BG George J. Stannard (w), Col Francis V. Randall

Artillery Brigade - Col Charles S. Wainwright

II CORPS

MG **Winfield S. Hancock** (w)
BG John Gibbon
BG William Hays

First Division - BG John C. Caldwell
1st Brigade - Col Edward E. Cross (mw), Col H. Boyd McKeen
2nd Brigade - Col Patrick Kelly
3rd Brigade - BG Samuel K. Zook (mw), Ltc Charles G. Freudenberg (w), Col Richard P. Roberts (k), Ltc John Fraser
4th Brigade - Col John R. Brooke (w)

Second Division - BG John Gibbon (w), BG William Harrow
1st Brigade - BG William Harrow, Col Francis E. Heath
2nd Brigade - BG Alexander S. Webb (w)
3rd Brigade - Col Norman J. Hall

Third Division - BG Alexander Hays
1st Brigade - Col Samuel S. Carroll
2nd Brigade - Col Thomas A. Smyth (w), Ltc Francis E. Pierce
3rd Brigade - Col George L. Willard (k), Col Eliakim Sherrill, Ltc James M. Bull, Col Clinton D. MacDougall (w), Col Eliakim Sherrill (mw)

Artillery Brigade - Cpt John G. Hazard

III CORPS

MG Daniel E. Sickles (w)
MG David B. Birney

First Division - MG David B. Birney, BG J. H. Hobart Ward (w)
1st Brigade - BG Charles K. Graham (w&c), Col Andrew H. Tippin, Col Henry J. Madill
2nd Brigade - BG J. H. Hobart Ward, Col Hiram Berdan
3rd Brigade - Col P. Régis de Trobriand

Second Division - BG Andrew A. Humphreys
1st Brigade - BG Joseph B. Carr (w)
2nd Brigade - Col William R. Brewster
3rd Brigade - Col George C. Burling

Artillery Brigade - Cpt George E. Randolph (w), Cpt A. Judson Clark

V CORPS

MG George Sykes

First Division - BG James Barnes (w)
1st Brigade - Col William S. Tilton
2nd Brigade - Col Jacob B. Sweitzer
3rd Brigade - Col Strong Vincent (mw), Col James C. Rice
                  20th Maine: Col Joshua L. Chamberlain (w)
                  20th Maine: Company G: Capt. Ellis Spear

Second Division - BG Romeyn B. Ayres
   1st Brigade - Col Hannibal Day
   2nd Brigade - Col Sidney Burbank
   3rd Brigade - BG Stephen H. Weed (k), Col Kenner Garrard

Third Division - BG Samuel W. Crawford
   1st Brigade - Col William McCandless
   3rd Brigade - Col Joseph W. Fisher

Artillery Brigade - Cpt Augustus P. Martin

**VI CORPS**

MG John Segwick
   First Division - BG Horatio G. Wright
      1st Brigade - BG Alfred T. A. Torbert
      2nd Brigade - BG Joseph J. Bartlett, Col Emory Upton
      3rd Brigade - BG David A. Russell
   Second Division - BG Albion P. Howe
      2nd Brigade - Col Lewis A. Grant
      3rd Brigade - BG Thomas H. Neill
   Third Division - MG John Newton, BG Frank Wheaton
      1st Brigade - BG Alexander Shaler
      2nd Brigade - Col Henry L. Eustis
      3rd Brigade - BG Frank Wheaton, Col David J. Nevin

Artillery Brigade - Col Charles H. Tompkins

**XI CORPS**

MG Oliver O. Howard
MG Carl Schurz
   First Division - BG Francis C. Barlow (w), BG Adelbert Ames
      1st Brigade - Col Leopold von Gilsa
      2nd Brigade - BG Adelbert Ames, Col Andrew L. Harris
   Second Division - BG Adolph von Steinwehr
      1st Brigade - Col Charles R. Coster
      2nd Brigade - Col Orland Smith
   Third Division - MG Carl Schurz, BG Alexander Schimmelfennig, MG Carl Schurz
      1st Brigade - BG Alexander Schimmelfennig, Col George von Amsberg
2nd Brigade - Col Wladimir Krzyzanowski
Artillery Brigade - Maj Thomas W. Osborn

XII CORPS
MG Henry W. Slocum
BG Alpheus S. Williams

First Division - BG Alpheus S. Williams, BG Thomas H. Ruger
1st Brigade - Col Archibald L. McDougall
3rd Brigade - BG Thomas H. Ruger, Col Silas Colgrove

Second Division - BG John W. Geary
1st Brigade - Col Charles Candy
2nd Brigade - Col George A. Cobham, Jr., BG Thomas L. Kane
3rd Brigade - BG George S. Greene (w)

Lockwood’s Brigade - BG Henry H. Lockwood
Artillery Brigade - Lt Edward D. Muhlenberg

CAVALRY CORPS
MG Alfred Pleasonton

First Division - BG John Buford
1st Brigade - Col William Gamble
2nd Brigade - Col Thomas Devin
Reserve Brigade - BG Wesley Merritt

Second Division - BG David McM. Gregg
1st Brigade - Col John B. McIntosh
3rd Brigade - Col John I. Gregg

Third Division - BG Judson Kilpatrick
1st Brigade - BG Elon J. Farnsworth (k), Col Nathaniel P. Richmond
2nd Brigade - BG George A. Custer

Horse Artillery
1st Brigade - Cpt James M. Robertson
2nd Brigade - Cpt John C. Tidball

ARTILLERY RESERVE
BG Robert O. Tyler
Cpt James M. Robertson
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

General Robert E. Lee

GENERAL STAFF: (Selected Members)

- Chief of Staff and Inspector General: Col Robert H. Chilton
- Chief of Artillery: BG William N. Pendleton
- Aide de Camp and Asst. Adjutant General: Maj Walter H. Taylor

FIRST CORPS

LTG James Longstreet
Chief of Staff: Maj Moxley Sorrel (w)
Aide de Camp: Cpt Thomas J. Goree
Spy: Henry Thomas Harrison
Observer: Ltc. Arthur Fremantle (British Army)

McLaws' Division - MG Lafayette McLaws
- Kershaw's Brigade - BG Joseph B. Kershaw
- Barksdale's Brigade - BG William Barksdale (mw), Col Benjamin G. Humphreys
- Semmes' Brigade - BG Paul J. Semmes (mw), Col Goode Bryan
- Wofford's Brigade - BG William T. Wofford
- Cabell's Artillery Battalion - Col Henry C. Cabell, Maj Samuel P. Hamilton

Pickett's Division - MG George E. Pickett
- Garnett's Brigade - BG Richard B. Garnett (k), Maj Charles S. Peyton
- Kemper's Brigade - BG James L. Kemper (w&c), Col Joseph Mayo, Jr
  7th Virginia: Col Waller T. Patton (mw&c), Ltc Charles C. Flowerree
- Armistead's Brigade - BG Lewis A. Armistead (mw&c), Ltc William White (w),
  Maj Joseph R. Cabell, Col William R. Aylett
- Dearing's Artillery Battalion - Maj James Dearing, Maj John P. W. Read (w)

Hood's Division - MG John Bell Hood (w), BG Evander M. Law
- Law's Brigade - BG Evander M. Law, Col James L. Sheffield
- Robertson's Brigade - BG Jerome B. Robertson (w), Ltc Philip A. Work
- Anderson's Brigade - BG George T. Anderson (w), Ltc William Luffman (w)
- Benning's Brigade - BG Henry L. Benning
- Henry's Artillery Battalion - Maj Mathias W. Henry, Maj John C. Haskell
- Alexander's Artillery Battalion - Col Edward P. Alexander (w)
- Washington (Louisiana) Artillery Battalion - Maj Benjamin F. Eshleman

SECOND CORPS

LTG Richard S. Ewell, Commanding

Early's Division - MG Jubal A. Early
- Hays' Brigade - BG Harry T. Hays
- Smith's Brigade - BG William Smith
Hoke's Brigade - Col Isaac E. Avery (mw), Col Archibald C. Godwin
Gordon's Brigade - BG John B. Gordon
Jones' Artillery Battalion - Lt. Hilary P. Jones
Johnson's Division - MG Edward Johnson
Steuart's Brigade - BG George H. Steuart
Stonewall Brigade - BG James A. Walker
Nicholls' Brigade - Col Jesse M. Williams
Jones' Brigade - BG John M. Jones (w), Lt. Robert H. Dungan
Andrews' Artillery Battalion - Maj Joseph W. Latimer (mw), Cpt Charles I. Raine

Rodes' Division - MG Robert E. Rodes
Daniel's Brigade - BG Junius Daniel
Doles' Brigade - BG George P. Doles
Iverson's Brigade - BG Alfred Iverson, Jr.
Ramseur's Brigade - BG Stephen D. Ramseur
Rodes' (old) Brigade - Col Edward A. O'Neal
Carter's Artillery Battalion - Lt. Thomas H. Carter

Artillery Reserve - Col J. Thompson Brown

THIRD CORPS

LTG Ambrose P. Hill, Commanding

Anderson's Division - MG Richard H. Anderson
Wilcox's Brigade - BG Cadmus M. Wilcox
Mahone's Brigade - BG William Mahone
Wright's Brigade - BG Ambrose R. Wright, Col William Gibson, BG Ambrose R. Wright
Perry's Brigade - Col David Lang
Posey's Brigade - BG Carnot Posey (w), Colonel Nathaniel Harris
Cutt's Artillery Battalion - Maj John Lane

Heth's Division - MG Henry Heth (w), BG James J. Pettigrew (w)
Pettigrew's Brigade - BG James J. Pettigrew, Col James K. Marshall (k), Maj John T. Jones (w)
Heth's (old) Brigade - Col John M. Brockenbrough, Col Robert M. Mayo
Archer's Brigade - BG James J. Archer (w&c), Col Birkett D. Fry (w&c), Lt. Samuel G.
Davis' Brigade - BG Joseph R. Davis (w)
Garnett's Artillery Battalion - Lt. John J. Garnett

Pender's Division - MG William D. Pender (mw), BG James H. Lane, MG Isaac R. Trimble (w&c),
BG James H. Lane

McGowan's Brigade - Col Abner M. Perrin
Lane's Brigade - BG James H. Lane, Col Clark M. Avery
Thomas' Brigade - BG Edward L. Thomas
Scales' Brigade - BG Alfred M. Scales (w), Lt. George T. Gordon, Col William L. J.
Lowrance
Poague's Artillery Battalion - Maj William T. Poague
Artillery Reserve - Col Reuben L. Walker
  McIntosh’s Artillery Battalion Maj David G. McIntosh
  Pegram’s Artillery Battalion - Maj William R. J. Pegram, Cpt Ervin B. Brunson

Cavalry Units

Stuart’s Division - MG J. E. B. Stuart
  Hampton’s Brigade - BG Wade Hampton (w)
  Robertson’s Brigade - BG Beverly H. Robertson
  Fitzhugh Lee’s Brigade - BG Fitzhugh Lee
  Jenkins’ Brigade - BG Albert G. Jenkins (w), Col Milton J. Ferguson
  William H. F. Lee’s Brigade - Col John R. Chambliss, Jr.
  Jones’ Brigade - BG William E. Jones
  Stuart’s Horse Artillery - Maj Robert F. Beckham
  Imboden’s Command - BG John D. Imboden
GETTYSBURG - THE MOVIE

PLOT

OPENING

The film starts with spoken exposition over the image of a map that establishes the location of the battle and how the two armies converged at Gettysburg. Confederate General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia are making an offensive through Pennsylvania to lure the Union Army of the Potomac into a decisive battle that will end the war. The narration states that Confederate President Jefferson Davis has prepared a letter of peace to be delivered to the desk of Abraham Lincoln once the Army of the Potomac has been destroyed somewhere outside of Washington.

Early scenes depict actor-turned-spy Henry Thomas Harrison spotting Union cavalry. Shortly thereafter, Harrison locates a major body of Union infantry and, immediately, crosses the Confederate picket line in order to notify Lieutenant General James "Pete" Longstreet, the senior lieutenant general in the Confederate Army and second-in-command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Major General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry, the “eyes” of Lee’s army, has gone off on raids without keeping in touch with Lee’s army. Meanwhile, U.S. Brig. Gen. John Buford and his cavalry division arrive at Gettysburg. Buford surmises that if Lee’s army is allowed access to the town, the Confederates might easily take a strong defensive position that could destroy the Army of the Potomac. Buford decides to deploy his division along Seminary Ridge in order to obstruct any Confederate advance on Gettysburg from the west. The day ends with Buford writing a letter to Maj. Gen. John Reynolds, commanding officer of the nearby Union I Corps infantry, inquiring if he should hold his position.

Meanwhile, miles from Gettysburg, U.S. Colonel Joshua Chamberlain of the 20th Maine regiment is awakened and informed that his unit will be absorbing 120 recalcitrant members of another Maine regiment, the 2nd Maine. Orders state that it is within his power to have the rebellious men shot, if necessary. Chamberlain wins over all but six (three of whom will later fight in the second day of battle) of the soldiers with an inspirational speech.
FIRST DAY

Back in Gettysburg on July 1, the first day of battle, Buford’s cavalry engages Henry Heth’s division of A. P. Hill’s corps; Heth had intended to lead his troops to Gettysburg to restock the Confederacy’s dwindling shoe supply. Believing the forces at Gettysburg to be local militia, Heth engages Buford without first communicating with General Lee.

Buford repels Heth’s initial attacks, but Heth’s superior numbers begin to tell. General Reynolds and the I Corps arrive to reinforce the position. Meanwhile Lee arrives on the field but is hesitant to commit the whole of Hill’s Third Corps due to a lack of intelligence on the Army of the Potomac’s position, given J.E.B. Stuart’s lack of contact with the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee’s only information on the enemy is what has been relayed to him by General Longstreet from Harrison’s report.

Union forces retake Seminary Ridge, but Reynolds, while leading the Iron Brigade into battle, is killed by a Confederate sharpshooter. Soon after Heth informs Lee that Union forces are being flanked by Lt. General Dick Ewell’s corps advancing on Gettysburg from the north. Recognizing a tactical advantage, Lee gives the order for all forces to attack.

Union forces, out-manned and flanked, begin to retreat, but a decisive Confederate victory is compromised when Ewell fails to follow through with orders to take the crucial strategic location of Cemetery Hill, allowing Union troops to rally in a strong defensive position. Confederate General Isaac Trimble, attached to Ewell’s command, but disgusted by Ewell’s inability to take the high ground of Cemetery Hill, reports to General Lee. Trimble asks to be removed from Ewell’s command, but Lee informs the enraged Trimble that such action would not be necessary.

At the end of the first day, one of Longstreet’s division commanders, Maj. Gen. George Pickett, arrives at Longstreet’s headquarters with his three brigade commanders, Generals James Kemper, Richard B. Garnett and Lewis Armistead. The four meet with Gen. Longstreet and begin exchanging banter around the fireside with British Colonel Arthur Fremantle, who has been traveling with Lee’s army as an observer. Armistead discusses with Longstreet his friendship with Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and his desire to meet with him.

On the other side of the battlefield, at the center of the Union position south of the town, Hancock congratulates Buford on a hard fight on the first day. Hancock reflects on Reynolds’s death and Armistead’s whereabouts, to which Buford responds that Armistead is serving in Pickett’s division. Hancock states that he would hate to meet Armistead again while still on opposite sides. After a moment of recollection, he again congratulates Buford and instructs him that he should reorganize his cavalry.

SECOND DAY - LITTLE ROUND TOP

On the second day, Lee orders an attack on the Union left flank to be led by two divisions of Longstreet’s First Corps. The primary focus of the attack is to be on the treacherous terrain of Devil’s Den and Little Round Top. John “Sam” Bell Hood, one of Longstreet’s division commanders and a close friend tasked with flanking the Union forces, pleads with Longstreet to allow him to bypass Devil’s Den and Little Round Top in favor of capturing the taller heights of the adjacent Big Round Top. However, Longstreet tells Hood that he has tried to argue much the same plan with Lee and that the commanding general will not accept an attack elsewhere on the field.

Meanwhile, Chamberlain and the 20th Maine are deployed on Little Round Top as the furthestmost left flank of the entire Federal line. When Devil’s Den falls, there is little to protect Chamberlain’s regiment. Chamberlain and the undersized 20th put up a valiant defense, repelling multiple Confederate charges, but his men become short on ammunition. Chamberlain orders a bayonet charge and the Confederate forces retreat in confusion, many being taken prisoner.
Late that afternoon, Longstreet visits a severely wounded Hood in a field hospital. Longstreet informs Hood that they took Devil’s Den, but that they were unable to take Little Round Top. Hood again states that the Rebel attack should have taken Big Round Top.

That evening, in Longstreet’s camp, General Armistead, believing he’s soon to see combat gives a package to Longstreet to be delivered to the wife of General Hancock in the event of Armistead’s death. The package contains his personal Bible.

Robert E. Lee meets with J.E.B. Stuart, who had finally returned that afternoon, but not in time to give Lee an advantage. Lee scolds Stuart, who attempts to resign, but Lee denies him and orders him to never leave Lee’s army blind again.

THIRD DAY - PICKETT’S CHARGE

On the third and final day of combat, General Lee believes that the Federal line is weakest in the center and could be divided in two. Longstreet protests, but Lee, now confident that the Army of Northern Virginia is invincible, places Longstreet in charge of a frontal assault on the Union position on Cemetery Ridge with General Pickett’s division forming the center of the assault which would go on to be known as Pickett’s Charge.

Longstreet, not believing the attack will be successful from the beginning, orders for an extended artillery bombardment. However, the Confederates do not realize that their guns are overshooting the Union defenses, and in the process, the bombardment hardly does any damage to the Union center. When the bombardment ends, Pickett’s forces begin their advance. Immediately they fall under fire of the Union’s long-distance artillery. They make it to the Union line where numbers are further decreased by canister and the Union musket fire.

Armistead, whose brigade was at the rear of Pickett’s forces, sees General Garnett’s horse riding off away from the line, its rider having been killed by an artillery round. This prompts Armistead to thrust his sword through his hat and rally his fellow Virginians to follow him. His rally is enough to penetrate a low stone wall near the Union line (a location now known as the High-water mark of the Confederacy), but his force is too small, and Armistead is mortally wounded. All Confederate forces that broke the line would be killed or captured. General Kemper is wounded and captured, but rescued by Confederate troops.

Thomas Chamberlain, Joshua’s brother, encounters the mortally wounded Armistead, who asks to see his old friend Hancock. Chamberlain informs him that Hancock has been wounded as well. Armistead asks Chamberlain to tell Hancock that he sends his regrets and that he is very sorry. Chamberlain agrees to do this as Armistead begins to expire.

Lee rides out to the remains of the retreating Confederate forces and declares that everything is all his fault. He orders a distraught General Pickett to reform his division to prepare for a possible counter attack, to which Pickett informs Lee that he has no division.

The day, along with the battle, ends with a victorious North and Lee informing Longstreet of plans to fall back into Virginia beginning the next day, feeling that the Union forces would be unlikely to pursue on Independence Day. However, Lee’s hypothesis proves false. The film ends with Chamberlain and his brother, Tom, hugging and in tears knowing that they both survived the battle. The last scene in the film shows three zouaves of the 72nd Pennsylvania with the Union flag against the sunset.
CAST

Tom Berenger as Lieutenant General James Longstreet (CSA)
Jeff Daniels as Colonel Joshua Chamberlain (USA)
Martin Sheen as General Robert E. Lee (CSA)
Kevin Conway as Sergeant Buster Kilrain (USA)
C. Thomas Howell as Lieutenant Thomas Chamberlain (USA)
Richard Jordan as Brigadier General Lewis A. "Lo" Armistead (CSA)
Richard Anderson as Major General George Meade (USA)
Royce D. Applegate as Brigadier General James L. Kemper (CSA)
John Diehl as Private Bucklin (USA)
Maxwell Caulfield as Colonel Strong Vincent (USA)
Joshua D. Maurer as Colonel James Clay Rice (USA)
Patrick Gorman as Major General John Bell Hood (CSA)
Cooper Huckabee as Henry Thomas Harrison
James Lancaster as Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Fremantle (British Army)
Brian Mallon as Major General Winfield Scott Hancock (USA)
Andrew Prine as Brigadier General Richard B. Garnett (CSA)
John Rothman as Major General John F. Reynolds (USA)
Tim Scott as Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell (CSA)
W. Morgan Sheppard as Major General Isaac R. Trimble (CSA) and narrator
Stephen Lang as Major General George Pickett (CSA)
Sam Elliott as Brigadier General John Buford (USA)
Joseph Fuqua as Major General J.E.B. Stuart (CSA)
Bo Brinkman as Lieutenant Colonel Walter H. Taylor (CSA)
Kieran Mulroney as Major Mosley Sorrel (CSA)
Ivan Kane as Captain T.J. Goree (CSA)
James Patrick Stuart as Colonel Edward Porter Alexander (CSA)
Warren Burton as Major General Henry Heth (CSA)
Buck Taylor as Colonel William Gamble (USA)
David Carpenter as Colonel Thomas C. Devin (USA)
Donal Logue as Captain Ellis Spear (USA)
Herb Mitchell as Sergeant Andrew J. Tozier (USA)
Dwier Brown as Captain Brewer (USA)
Ted Turner (cameo appearance) as Colonel Waller T. Patton. During Pickett's charge, Confederate troops must climb a fence in their path. Turner plays the Confederate officer who is shot while leading the charge.
George Lazenby (cameo appearance) has a brief role as General Johnston Pettigrew who helps lead Pickett's charge
Ken Burns (cameo appearance) as an aide to Major General Hancock. Burns can be seen saying, "General, please get down. We cannot spare you," to Hancock, to which Hancock replies with a famous quotation, "There are times when a corps commander's life does not count."
INTERACTIVE GUIDES

The Battle of Gettysburg - US Army
Gettysburg - History Animated

BOOKS

Please see the following links:

Gettysburg, PA
Gettysburg: Three Days of Glory
Top 10 Gettysburg Books: A Civil War Bloggers’ Event
Interesting Books on the Battle of Gettysburg
Battle of Gettysburg Book List
Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War
BATTLEFIELD MAPS

Gettysburg Campaign (through July 3); cavalry movements shown with dashed lines.
Overview map of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863
Overview map of the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863
Overview map of the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln - November 19, 1863

It was delivered by Lincoln during the American Civil War, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg.
Michael Shaara (June 23, 1928 - May 5, 1988) was an American writer of science fiction, sports fiction, and historical fiction. He was born to Italian immigrant parents (the family name was originally spelled Sciarra, which in Italian is pronounced the same way) in Jersey City, New Jersey, graduated from Rutgers University in 1951, and served as a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne division prior to the Korean War.

Before Shaara began selling science fiction stories to fiction magazines in the 1950s, he was an amateur boxer and police officer. He later taught literature at Florida State University while continuing to write fiction. The stress of this and his smoking caused him to have a heart attack at the early age of 36; from which he fully recovered. His novel about the Battle of Gettysburg, The Killer Angels, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1975. Shaara died of another heart attack in 1988.

Shaara’s son, Jeffrey Shaara, is also a popular writer of historical fiction; most notably sequels to his father’s best-known novel. His most famous is the prequel to The Killer Angels, Gods and Generals. Jeffrey was the one to finally get Michael's last book, For Love of the Game, published three years after he died. Today there is a Michael Shaara Award for Excellence in Civil War Fiction, established by Jeffrey Shaara, awarded yearly at Gettysburg College.