



**PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL WAR TRAILS**

ROAD

★ ★ ★ TO ★ ★ ★

GETTYSBURG

**DEFENDING THE
COMMONWEALTH**



WHERE THE STORIES
HIT HOME

GETTYSBURG MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER

Gettysburg is full of history, from the stories of townsfolk that felt the war on their doorstep to the address that helped mend a nation. A perfect place to stop on any journey along the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails is the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. It is an unbiased introduction to the fields where the battle was fought, and where fathers and sons gave their lives for their country.

Address:

1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone:

877-874-2478

Hours:

Apr - May: 8AM - 6PM

June - Aug: 8AM - 7PM

Sept - Oct: 8AM - 6PM

Nov - Mar: 8AM - 5PM

www.gettysburgfoundation.org





Pennsylvania Civil War Trails: Prelude to Gettysburg is a living, breathing discovery of our great struggle. From battlefields and museums to Story Stops and living history artists, this is not merely a deeper look at Lincoln, Lee, and Meade, but a journey to the margins. Here the silent stories are told, the faceless brought to life, the places in between explored. Here the small towns and families who endured our most personal war are the heroes. The experience draws on four related themes:

Defense of the Commonwealth:

The stories of civilian militia who stood on battlefields and defended the Commonwealth at all costs.

Commerce and Daily Life:

The stories of the war's impact on the social landscape and daily life for men and women on the home front.

Women and Children Under Siege:

The remarkable accounts of courageous women and children whose lives were changed forever by the war.

African-Americans & the Quest for Freedom:

The lesser-told stories of African-American contributions during the Civil War from the abolitionists to those who served on the battlefields.

We've developed two roadtrips to guide your journey, "The Road to Harrisburg" and "The Road to Gettysburg." Both feature Pennsylvania's scenic Dutch Country Roads as a natural backdrop to your trip along the Civil War Trails and both bring the story to life with Gateway Signs and Story Stops along the way. Plan your roadtrip today at visitPA.com/CivilWarTrails and follow the signs to see the stories less told.

The experience would not be possible without the cooperation of many, including the Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Team Pennsylvania Foundation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Jump Street Inc., The National Civil War Museum, Preserve America, and the Dutch Country Roads Destination Marketing Organizations of Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, and York counties.



ROAD TO GETTYSBURG



Change is inevitable. Often it happens over years, unnoticed, until the world looks a little different than it did and no one can quite figure out when or why or how it happened.

Sometimes though, change comes fast and hard in a way that leaves scars across our lives, our land, and our history. This rough kind is no less necessary, no less immediate. It also, by its very nature, can be the most dramatic.

The American Civil War tore apart families and torched cities. It was filled with fire and blood, tears and tumult. But it also brought about a new era in the history of our young nation, one where freedom could truly reign and all men were recognized as being created equal.

The Road to Gettysburg begins to tell the story of the cost and sacrifice of our Commonwealth, for the common good.

HARRISBURG | YORK SUSQUEHANNA RIVER TOWNS | HANOVER HANOVER JUNCTION

Cover Photo: PA Past Players (Courtesy of Lancaster Newspapers Inc.); Inside Cover Photo: Cyclorama painting (Courtesy of Gettysburg Foundation); Photo left: Gettysburg Train Station; Photo right: PA Past Players

HARRISBURG

In Harrisburg the railroad was always Robert E. Lee's target and a main reason he pushed that far north. It is estimated that more than 750,000 soldiers passed through Pennsylvania's railroad stations. Of those soldiers, a number were part of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Eleven regiments from Pennsylvania alone fought in the war, but when the Grand Review of the Union Armies took place in Washington on May 23-24, 1865, no African American troops were invited to march. So, on November 14th African American Veterans held a parade, marching down State Street under the honorable eye of Senator Simon Cameron. His residence is now home to the Historical Society of Dauphin County. It is no surprise that Thomas Morris Chester, the only African American reporter to cover the Civil War for a major white newspaper, served as Grand Marshal. The Whitaker Center now stands on the site of his birth.

It is also no surprise that in a town that's always been known to be inviting you still get the feeling walking through downtown that the citizens of Harrisburg are happy to have all visitors, whether just passing through or hanging around for a while. The downtown is

equally perfect for a drive or a long morning walk. Alive with energy and charm, friendly faces greet you at every corner.

After you've explored downtown, stop by The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Easy to find on North Street, next to the Capitol Building, it's home to everything from Civil War exhibits that capture the scope of Pennsylvania's sacrifice to artifacts of the foundations of American industry, connecting the State's heritage to our national experience. Also, just outside of Harrisburg, in Penbrook, is the Lincoln Cemetery. It was the final resting place of Thomas Morris Chester and many along Pennsylvania's Underground Railroad.

On your way out of town head down the Susquehanna along the Green Belt. Around midday the water reflects all the shades of Pennsylvania's countryside. The river looks not much different than when young men dreaming of a time they'd come to defend the commonwealth stood along its banks and skipped stones towards another side, another day.



**THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM**
**THE STATE MUSEUM OF
PENNSYLVANIA**
LINCOLN CEMETERY

**JOHN HARRIS-
SIMON CAMERON
MANSION**
**CITY
ISLAND**

Photo left: Capitol Building; Photo right: The State Museum of Pennsylvania

LANCASTER



Thaddeus Stevens was one of the most powerful members of the House of Representatives for the thirteen years he served there. He was Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and wrote much of the legislation that paid for the war. He was one of the architects of both the 14th Amendment and the Reconstruction Acts and beyond all that, was devoted to equality. Not for some, for all. He even refused to be buried in soil that wasn't free, coming to final rest in Lancaster, the town he'd called home.

His tombstone stands in the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery at the intersection of Mulberry and Chestnut Streets. You can also see the house he shared with Lydia Hamilton Smith. The descendent of mixed-parents, she managed his home and businesses for 25 years, a fixture of friendship till the end. If you happen to be

downtown on a Tuesday, a Friday, or a Saturday you can stop for lunch at the country's oldest Farmer's Market, Lancaster Central Market.

After taking in the town, drive out to the Lancaster Country Historical Society; located on the pristine grounds of the Louise Tanger Arboretum, it opens a window into local history. Across the grounds from the historical society is the Lancaster estate of President James Buchanan, Wheatland. It is a passionately preserved Federal style mansion restored to the time before Buchanan presided over our country's march to the brink of war.

Heading out of town be careful not to get lost in the sea of rolling green hills of Pennsylvania farmland and don't be surprised if you pass at least one Amish family as they lead their horse and buggy toward an ambling afternoon.

**JAMES BUCHANAN'S
HOUSE**

**LOUISE TANGER
ARBORETUM**

**LANCASTER CO.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**THADDEUS STEVENS'
GRAVE SITE**

**LANCASTER
CENTRAL MARKET**

ARTS HOTEL

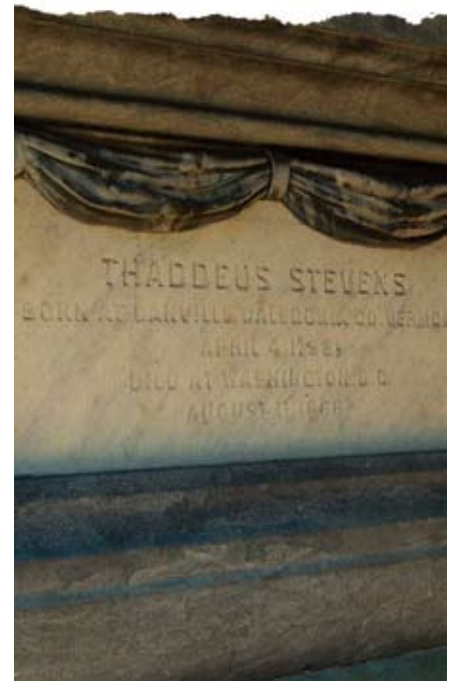


Photo left: Lancaster Central Market; Photo right: Shreiner-Concord Cemetery

COLUMBIA

Mixed among the trees in a meadow where the sound of commerce shakes the wind is Zion Hill Cemetery; here you can find a set of headstones from African American Civil War soldiers. Unassuming and easy to miss even if you drove by it every day, it's real history, the kind that can't be packaged or presented. Not far from there is the National Watch & Clock Museum, with a collection of pieces from the Civil War that connects the past to the present in a literal sense. Between the two, and a good place to stop anytime you're nearby, is the Susquehanna Visitors Center.

Columbia is one of three Susquehanna River Towns, each involved in the war in their own way and each a symbol of the civil resistance that colors the picture of the Civil War in Central Pennsylvania. In June of 1863, as Lee's Army of

Northern Virginia was set to cross into Columbia to capture Lancaster on its way towards Harrisburg, militia from Columbia along with locals, Union soldiers, and African American militiamen burned the bridge. What was once the longest covered bridge in the world was now just a charred reminder, a burden that crippled their economy for a decade, a sacrifice of many left out of the everyday anecdotes concerned with the few.

Before you leave Columbia you have to stop at Prudhomme's Lost Cajun Kitchen. Food flavored with inherited family recipes from the world-famous Cajun connoisseur Paul Prudhomme fills the menu. His nephew has created a place you can't believe is north of Mississippi much less in a town that held strong for the Union Army.

ZION HILL CEMETERY NATIONAL WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM

BURNED COLUMBIA- WRIGHTSVILLE BRIDGE

PRUDHOMME'S LOST CAJUN KITCHEN



WRIGHTSVILLE



In 1863, as Brig. General John Brown Gordon approached with 1,800 Confederate troops he had a pretty good idea what he was going to see. Before leaving York, a little girl had handed him a bouquet of roses with a note inside. Written in a mysterious woman's hand, it outlined the Union defenses at Wrightsville.

At the time Wrightsville was home to only about 1,300 people, 150 of them free African Americans. Today it is home to America's oldest continuously operating cast-iron products manufacturer, the John Wright Warehouse.

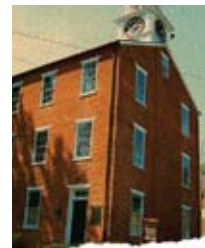
As Union and Confederate troops clashed along the banks of the river, it seemed as though General Gordon would be able to overtake the ill-prepared Northern forces and advance to Columbia on his way to Lancaster. But before

this could happen Colonel Jacob Frick, a thirty-seven year old veteran of the Mexican War, gave the order to burn the bridge.

Driving across the Veterans Memorial Bridge (PA462) on a clear night when the moon sits high casting its shadowy light across the water the words of the York Gazette of 1863 paint the picture in a way one cannot help but to see, "...The moon was bright, and the blue clouds afforded the best contrast possible to see the red glare...The light in the heavens must have been seen for many miles."

THE JOHN WRIGHT STORE & RESTAURANT BURNING OF THE BRIDGE DIORAMA THE HISTORIC WRIGHTSVILLE MUSEUM

MARIETTA



On your way towards Marietta, stop by the Breezyview Overlook at Chickies Rock County Park for an unmatched look at the Susquehanna River. Unmatched unless you want to get

lost in South Central Pennsylvania trying to find the fabled Pinnacle Overlook near Pequea, PA. Breezyview is an easy way to see the river the way only the people who know all those out of the way bluffs off lost roads usually get to.

During the war the women of Marietta formed The Ladies Patriotic Circle, which sent blankets and clothes they had sewn to hospitals as far away as St. Louis. Today it's the perfect place to drive through, a long road past immaculately kept houses, a movie-set picture of an America that hasn't changed and hopefully never will.

MARIETTA'S OLD TOWN HALL

Photo left: The John Wright Store & Restaurant; Photo top-right: National Watch & Clock Museum; Photo bottom-right: Marietta's Old Town Hall

YORK

As you come into town it's easy to notice that all the houses are different, different shapes and sizes, not one the same as the next, a sort of low and cracked skyline that breaks the hard-line symmetry of a dozen other towns this size. Thinking back to the drive east on Rt. 462 you can picture Union soldiers marching through the cornfields from York towards the river, the path now paved and smooth.

The railroad and the Susquehanna River were keys to General Lee's Pennsylvania campaign. In York, African American William Goodridge used his railcars to help freedom seekers, while the river was at the heart of the area's

commerce. And it was the railroad and river that brought the unarmed city of York into the path of General Jubal Early and his 6,000 battle-hardened Confederates.

The people of York could only look on as the Union flag was lowered from the square. Cassandra Small, then 34, wrote in a letter, "Men who don't often weep wept then." The rest of the letter to her cousin paints the picture of York's resistant spirit and patriotic blood. For York, occupation meant they could still be heroes. The Soldiers and Sailors monument stands as a tribute to the more than 14,000 soldiers that were treated together in an army hospital put on Penn Common, including injured and infirmed from the battles in Gettysburg and Hanover.

As you walk around downtown, between the shady trees and breezes, you can feel the history all around you. There's a historic site almost every block, like the William Goodridge House, and a mural marking the store that was once a stop on the Underground Railroad. And on your way out of town, as you pass the fairgrounds on Carlisle Ave., you may be reminded of the fact that history happens. It can't be planned.



YORK HERITAGE TRUST
SOLDIERS & SAILORS
MONUMENT
BONHAM HOUSE

MURAL OF
WILLIAM GOODRIDGE
AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL
MUSEUM

HANOVER



HANOVER JUNCTION

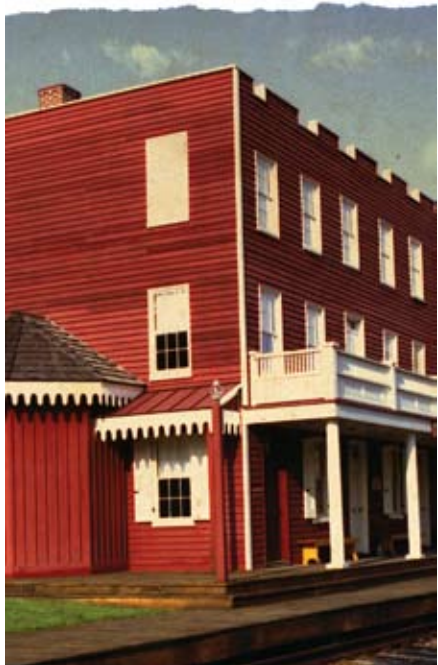
**THE PICKET
MONUMENT**

**BATTLE
WALKING TOUR**

**HANOVER AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

NEAS HOUSE

**HANOVER JUNCTION
TRAIN STATION**



As you walk along the quiet streets of downtown, it's hard to imagine that it was once the site of a Cavalry battle, horses running and war raging along the streets. It's hard to picture the cannons, now perched not far from an old man reading a book and feeding the birds, exploding across the summer sky. It's even difficult to believe that this is the place where George Custer fought his first battle after he had received his first General's star. It is not hard, however, to understand why Hanover's streets became the site of such a battle. It was targeted because of nearby Hanover Junction, where they cut telegraph lines and destroyed bridges and tracks hoping to stall transportation and communication at this important crossroads.

On June 30, 1863, the region turned from pleasant and pastoral to loud and violent. The buildings echoed gunfire, the air heavy with powder and smoke, the warmth of summer mixing with the heat of fire. Local women served as nurses and aides as doctors treated

the wounded where they lay. Dr. P. Gardner reported, "Every desired comfort is furnished in great abundance...supplied by a sympathetic people...a heartier response to the calls of humanity never came from a more generous people..." But the people of Hanover paid not just by choice and courage. Both Confederate and Union troops plundered local merchant Josiah Gitt's farm as they marched along the same road only a day apart.

The Hanover area was the site of more than just loss during the Civil War. Lincoln stopped at Hanover Junction on his way to and from delivering the Gettysburg Address. A speech reported on by Hanover's own Mary Shaw Leader. Legend has it that she walked to Gettysburg to cover the speech. She is also thought to be one of the only to write it down and among the first to acknowledge its greatness when she called it "remarkable." Not without coincidence, it's a word that seems to fit the woman who chose it.

GETTYSBURG

Gettysburg is home to more than the big stories, the ones about which movies are made, books are written, and children are taught. Yes, it is here that President Abraham Lincoln gave an address that would be quoted long after the fields were green again. And yes, it is here that General Robert E. Lee's northern invasion in 1863 was thwarted. But it is also here that stories less told took place, the resolve of heroes less known first tested.

During the three days the battle wore on, the town of Gettysburg was filled with blood and bodies, the screams of the dying and wounded

sending shudders down the spines of townsfolk, an unending ambience to the death and destruction all around. It was also during these three days that ordinary people ended up doing the extraordinary for their fellow man.

Sallie Myers, a local woman of the time, said, "The noise above our heads, the rattling of musketry, the screeching of shells, and the unearthly yells, added to the cries of the children, were enough to shake the stoutest heart." They weren't, however, enough to shake hers. When the call went out for women to help care for the wounded, she went right to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Even though at one point it overwhelmed her and she had to escape to the makeshift steps, later that day she had twelve wounded men brought to her house for care. Soon all the rooms in her house were kept full with the infirmed and while they recovered, she slept on the floor in the upstairs hall.

And Gettysburg is full of stories from people like Sallie Myers, full of places that you won't see in any movie. People like Basil Biggs, an



African American who was hired to inter bodies and later helped to create Lincoln Cemetery, a resting ground for African American Civil War veterans. Places like the Rupp House where a family hid in their cellar as their house was filled with gunfire and rifle smoke, soldiers shooting at each other from porch to porch. People like Abraham Brien, an African American whose land was the site of Pickett's Charge, while he fled Gettysburg to avoid kidnap. And places like the Shriver House and the Jennie Wade House, and all the corners of every battlefield. If you don't stop to look around and find them, you'll be missing the real experience of the American Civil War.

MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER
BATTLEFIELDS
JENNIE WADE
HOUSE
SHRIVER HOUSE
RUPP HOUSE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
MAIN STREET/DOWNTOWN
NATIONAL CEMETERY



Photo top-right: Museum & Visitor Center; Photo bottom-right: Reenactment at Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG



LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MAJESTIC
THEATRE

TRAIN STATION

GETTYSBURG HOTEL

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SHRIVER HOUSE

LINCOLN
CEMETERY

RUPP HOUSE

JENNIE WADE
HOUSE

AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

SOLDIERS'
NATIONAL CEMETERY

GETTYSBURG MUSEUM
& VISITOR CENTER



- Story Stop
- Gateway Sign
- Civil War Trails Road