



**PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL WAR TRAILS**

**ROAD**

★ ★ ★ TO ★ ★ ★

**HARRISBURG**

**THE PENNSYLVANIA  
BREADBASKET**



WHERE THE STORIES  
HIT HOME

# THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



The Civil War wasn't fought in the North or the South; it was fought in fields and on farms, in towns and cities, and by sons and fathers. In order to understand the breadth of our struggle, we have to look at this great conflict from all sides, without bias. The National Civil War Museum is an important part of a trip along the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails. It presents the war without angles or agendas and presents it with humanity.

For more information on area attractions and packages visit the Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau online at [www.hersheyharrisburg.org](http://www.hersheyharrisburg.org) or 877-727-8573

**Address:**  
1 Lincoln Circle  
Reservoir Park  
Harrisburg, PA 17103

**Phone:**  
717-260-1861

**Hours:**  
Summer:  
Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: 12 PM - 5 PM

Winter:  
Wed - Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: 12 PM - 5 PM

www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.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](http://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 HARRISBURG



War is a choice, sometimes unavoidable, but always a choice nonetheless. Within this decision is an infinite depth of others. Fight or run? Attack or defend? Press on or surrender?

And it is within these choices, both big and small, that great people are forged, great stories told, great moments defined. It is within these choices that generals decide the fates of their men and weigh lives against possibilities.

After a hard fought victory in Chancellorsville, VA, the Confederate Army found itself battered and although not broken, severely bent. With 13,000 casualties Robert E. Lee was faced with a decision: retire towards Richmond, stay put and encourage Union forces to attack, or invade Pennsylvania and head north into the heart of the Union.

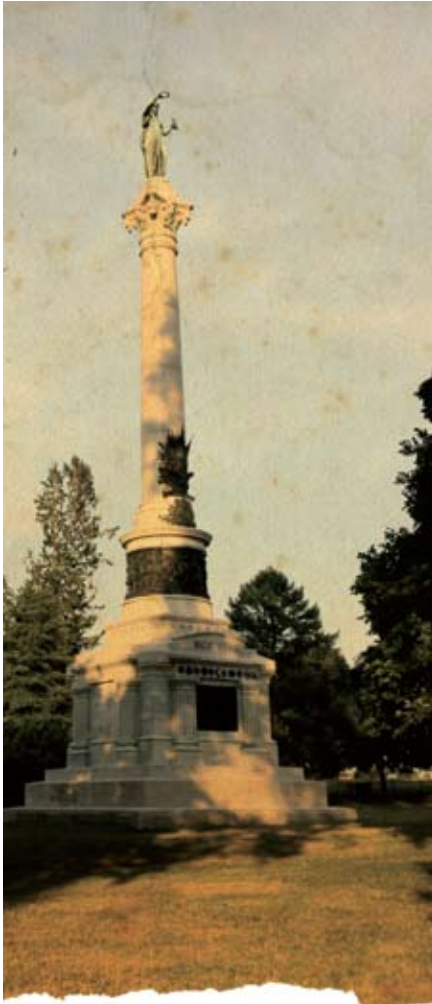
The Road to Harrisburg begins to tell the tale of the choice he made.

## GETTYSBURG | CARLISLE

## CHAMBERSBURG

Cover Photo: Memorial Square, Chambersburg; Inside Cover Photo: The Civil War Museum; Photo left: "Moment of Mercy," Sculptor: Terry Jones, Photographer: Chris Heisey; Photo right: PA Past Players at Harrisburg Cemetery (Courtesy of Jeb Stuart)

# GETTYSBURG



While it should never be the only place, it makes sense that Gettysburg is the first that most people think of when the words “Civil War” enter a conversation. It was here that President Lincoln gave an address that changed history. It was here that General Lee’s Pennsylvania Campaign came to a head, and it was here that many believe the tide began to turn in the Civil War. The beginning of the decline for the Confederate Army is as good a place as any to begin a Civil War Trails tour through Pennsylvania.

Next to the Majestic Theatre is an unassuming old train station. It’s orange, timeless, and quiet. This is where President Lincoln first arrived. His host David Wills met him and they strolled to the Wills’ House on the diamond downtown. You can retrace his steps through the heart of town, or sit on the porch of the Gettysburg Hotel and watch the afternoon drift by across the faces of strangers as they pass the Wills’ house, where Lincoln wrote the final words of his Gettysburg Address.

The rest of downtown has a historic site every few steps. Some lead to shops and small museums, and some continue to tell of the sacrifices that fill the margins of our commonwealth’s story, sacrifices of those

underrepresented in tales and tomes. You can stop by the Jennie Wade House and hear of Gettysburg’s only civilian casualty. Jennie was killed instantly by a bullet that cut through two doors as she made bread for Union soldiers. Or visit the Shriver House, a well-preserved museum that tells the stories of war from the perspective of the family who lived there and shows just how close to home the battle came.

The Gettysburg Museum & Visitor Center is a must. A new building, it has a wealth of information for everyone from the amateur tourist to the lifelong enthusiast. But trying to tell where to go from there is about the same as throwing darts at a board that’s all bulls-eyes. If you can stay the night, wake up early to visit the battlefields. Look out over the misty grounds as the first rays of sun paint long pale strokes across the ambling hills and touch a place outside time, a moment that is eternal.



**GETTYSBURG**  
MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER  
**BATTLEFIELDS**  
**DOWNTOWN**  
**MAIN STREET**

**TRAIN STATION**  
**GETTYSBURG HOTEL**  
**JENNIE WADE**  
**HOUSE**  
**MAJESTIC THEATRE**

Photo left: Monument at Gettysburg; Photo right: Sachs Bridge in Gettysburg



## RENFREW MUSEUM AND MONTEREY PASS

# WAYNESBORO

Heading out of Gettysburg you quickly fall into the back-road scenery of the Pennsylvania countryside on your way to some of the greatest small towns in America. The first one you come across is Waynesboro. As you ease through a town that hugs the Mason-Dixon Line you can feel the slow gait of Pennsylvania's past. The whole place is beautiful in a way you can't restore, but can only preserve. You can picture people sitting on porches and continuing the quiet momentum of commerce as soldiers marched through.

Among those hills is Monterey Pass, where on July 4th, 1863 a nine-mile long wagon train weath-

ered a deluge as thunderstorms lit the night with lightning flashes. It was the Confederate retreat from the Battle of Gettysburg. At the same time the Union Cavalry came across 12-year-old Hetty Zeilinger walking near her home. She not only warned them of the Confederates, but led them through the storm, directing their path so they could come upon the rear and flanks of the enemy. 10,000 soldiers fought there that night and more than 1,500 Confederates were captured, making Hettie not only a farmer's daughter, but one of the heroes of the second largest Civil War action fought in Pennsylvania.

# GREENCASTLE

Named for Greencastle in Northern Ireland, much of the downtown is the same as it was well over a hundred years ago. It was on July 2nd, 1863, day two of the Battle of Gettysburg, that a small group of cavalrymen led by Ulric Dahlgren captured two confederate couriers as they entered the Center Square of Greencastle. The couriers carried a message from Richmond, VA telling General Robert E. Lee that General Beauregard's army would not be able to advance on Washington from Virginia while Lee was in Pennsylvania, a key break for General Meade's Union Army.

And while General Pickett marched through town towards Gettysburg, a girl named Dolly Harris waved the Union colors in the faces of the Confederates, a bold show of courage and a symbol of a commonwealth united for its country.



## ALLISON-ANTRIM MUSEUM

# MERCERSBURG

Pennsylvania has been the birthplace of one President, the man who led in the years leading up to the Civil War, James Buchanan. Although often regarded as one of our nation's least prodigious leaders, the town still does its due deference to its native son. The log cabin where he was born stands on the grounds of the Mercersburg Academy,



a home to a number of famous alumni in its own right. It's a town full of tradition that hasn't changed much over the years. The small square is not all that different from when General Jeb Stuart brought the Civil War to the doorstep of Mrs. Steiger in October of 1862.

Mrs. Steiger turned the General away saying that her children were sick and her husband away. On their way to Chambersburg, Confederate troops ran into a livestock dealer, taking him hostage and stealing his horses. The man they captured with hope to ransom was George Steiger. But he escaped that night, making his way back to surprise a house full of worried family and concerned neighbors.

Confederate invasions of Pennsylvania were not just for supplies but also to round up freedom seekers and kidnap free men. Not far from town is the Zion Union Cemetery, home to the graves of 36 African American Civil War veterans, a shadowy reminder of the breadth and depth of their role in this great conflict.

## TOWN SQUARE ZION UNION CEMETERY

# CHAMBERSBURG

**HERITAGE  
CENTER**  
**JOHN BROWN/  
MARY RITNER  
HOUSE**  
**FRANKLIN CO JAIL**  
**LINCOLN HIGHWAY**  
**MURALS**



As you first happen upon Chambersburg, it's hard to imagine that in 1864 a large portion of the town was burned to the ground. The square, or as they call it in these small PA towns, "the diamond" is full of smiling faces. Near a sparkling old fountain is a statue of a Union Soldier facing south as if to warn of incoming Confederates. The Union army, however, provided very little in the way of protection for Chambersburg.

A good place to start on this small town's story is at the Heritage Center, on the southeast corner of the square. The solid marble building, once a bank protecting valuables and money, now protects a wealth of information. In the vault are some of the real treasures, old documents and artifacts, some you can even pick up and hold.

One of the buildings to survive the fire is the Franklin County Jail. It has a town hall grace for a place where from the gallows hung many menacing men. The county gallows rest in the yard, surrounded by high stonewalls and next to an old apple tree. If you have time for a tour, the basement gives you a sense of what prison was like during the Civil War. The smell, low ceilings, and dim sharp light all give the feeling of disillusion, and the feeling that time would slow down or speed up at its uncertain will without regard for anyone inside.

Before you continue on, you can stop by Mary Ritner's boarding house, where John Brown stayed while he planned the raid on Harpers Ferry. Known as the John Brown House, it blends into a row of other homes full of families and stories all their own.

# BOILING SPRINGS

**ALLENBERRY RESORT  
INN & PLAYHOUSE**

**BOILING SPRINGS  
TAVERN**

Heading from Chambersburg towards Carlisle, if you want a quick trip on the kind of detour that was made for driving, take Pine Grove Road. A left off Route 30, it runs right through Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Covered in the scent of pine and surrounded by green, every turn off takes you to a campground, a scenic hike, a waterfall or part of the Appalachian Trail. The canopy-path through the woods takes you back to a time when you can hear the drumbeat of a Union march.



As you keep on towards Carlisle you'll go through a place you could almost miss if you happen to blink at the wrong time – Boiling Springs. As you stop to take a stroll around the pond full of families of geese and ducks, it's easy to understand why people in this picturesque setting worked for the freedom of others. Close to the Mason-Dixon Line and Appalachian Trail, it wasn't always just an idyllic image, but once an ideal place for freedom seekers.

If it's the right time of day, stop for lunch at the Boiling Springs Tavern. The only thing better than the service is the food – fresh, delicious and hearty. And if after your meal you feel like meandering through the afternoon and staying the night, the Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse is the perfect place. Set on 57 acres just outside of town it offers a 40-week play season, fly-fishing in the Yellow Breeches Creek, and a simple setting that frees the mind and soul of burdens and bothers.



# CARLISLE

For more than 250 years, Carlisle has been part of the story of the American Military, whether by training future generals at the Army War College, being home to the second oldest barracks in the country, or coming into direct contact with our bloodiest conflict.

Tree-lined streets filled with buildings of blown-glass windows lead to the Cumberland County Historical Society. It's across the street from Carlisle Theatre, a movie theatre that looks like it saw the premiere of *Sunset Boulevard*. Inside is all you could ever want to know about Carlisle and the county around it, set inside a much more inviting museum than the word tends to imply.

Not far from there, in the square, stands the Old Courthouse with a weathervane perched and pointing toward the wind's next destination. It

has been there since the Civil War; rough spots and small holes show sandstone scars of the Confederate shelling. You can run your fingers through places carved by munitions.

The Army Heritage and Education Center tells the story through the eyes of the American Soldier, a stop sure to preserve a perspective on the reality of war. On your way out of town, Dickinson College is a reminder of the way the Civil War set friend against friend. In the archives is an autograph book that shares the parting words of 118 students headed to war. At the time, the student body was split between North and South. One of the students, F.B. Sellers, had his fellows sign the aforementioned book ahead of their departure, giving them a chance to say their final goodbyes before they'd say hello on the field of battle.

**CARLISLE BARRACKS**  
**CUMBERLAND CO.**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**DICKINSON**  
**COLLEGE**

**ARMY HERITAGE & EDUCATION**  
**CENTER**



# MECHANICSBURG

Mechanicsburg is a perfect little slice of America, from its dictionary definition Main Street full of historical homes, to its quiet charm. Its brick-laid walkways and breezy, cozy streets make it an easy place to stop and stretch your legs as the afternoon inches on.

Near the edge of town is the Stationmaster's House. His name was George Zacharias and his station saw twenty-five trains a day during the war. In the center of town is Civil War and More, an old shoe store that's full of all things Civil War.

In 1863 the people of Mechanicsburg saw the war in ways beyond a well-stocked shop. They left their homes to attend Sunday's services and when they came out the town was under siege. They knew the Confederates were coming and had sent much of what they owned out of town so it couldn't be captured, but that didn't stop General Jenkins from requesting provisions. It was only by the actions of then Mayor George Hummel that the town was saved from fire and kept in a condition connected to its storied history.



**MUSEUM AND  
TRAIN HOUSE  
CIVIL WAR  
AND MORE**

## CAMP HILL



On your way to Harrisburg you will pass the northern most advance of Lee's Confederates into the North. Many of the buildings that saw the Skirmish of Sporting Hill are still standing, some marked with signs for the Gettysburg Campaign, others simply rehabbed into some modern use.

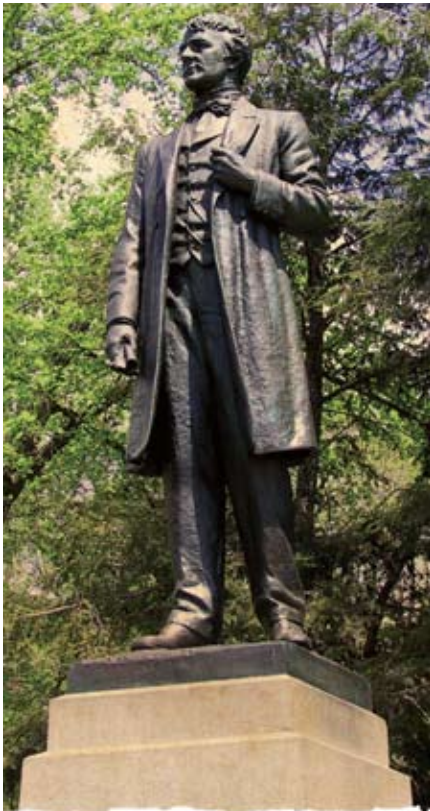
If you need a pick-me-up before you hit all the attractions of the State's capital, stop by Cornerstone Coffee. It's a small coffee shop with outdoor seating, a smiling staff and the smell of fresh roasting beans in the air.

**CORNERSTONE  
COFFEE**

# HARRISBURG

The capital of the second largest state in the Union, Harrisburg was at the center of the North's war effort. A major railroad and strategic hub, it provided supplies and money that supported the vast northern forces. More soldiers passed through its station than any city besides Baltimore or Washington. It was near the station, in 1862, that Eby Byers and John B. Simon created the Soldier's Retreat, a refuge for the soldiers passing through and their families, with most of the supplies and money coming from the citizens of Harrisburg.

The people of Harrisburg provided more than a place to stay. The Broad Street Market helped



feed the troops training at Camp Curtin, the largest federal training camp in the war. The market is still open today and is an ideal place to start your day. You can hear a hum of life coming through open windows that trade their morning smells for fresh, cool air. The women of Harrisburg played a role of particular importance during the war. The Ladies Union Relief Association, under the leadership of Mary Beatty, raised cash, goods, and services for the Union.

Many of the other Pennsylvanians who contributed to the defense of the commonwealth are interred at Harrisburg Cemetery, another stop on your tour of Harrisburg. After a trip through downtown, head up to The National Civil War Museum for an unbiased look at the war. It sits high atop a hill, with vistas and breathtaking views in every direction of the rolling sea of green that is Central Pennsylvania. The position of the hill between so many others leads to heavy breezes full of thoughts from other places and times. Looking out over the busy lives of strangers below, one can't help but wonder what might have happened had the Confederates crossed the Susquehanna.

Outside the museum is the Walk of Valor, an arc of red bricks inside of which are etched



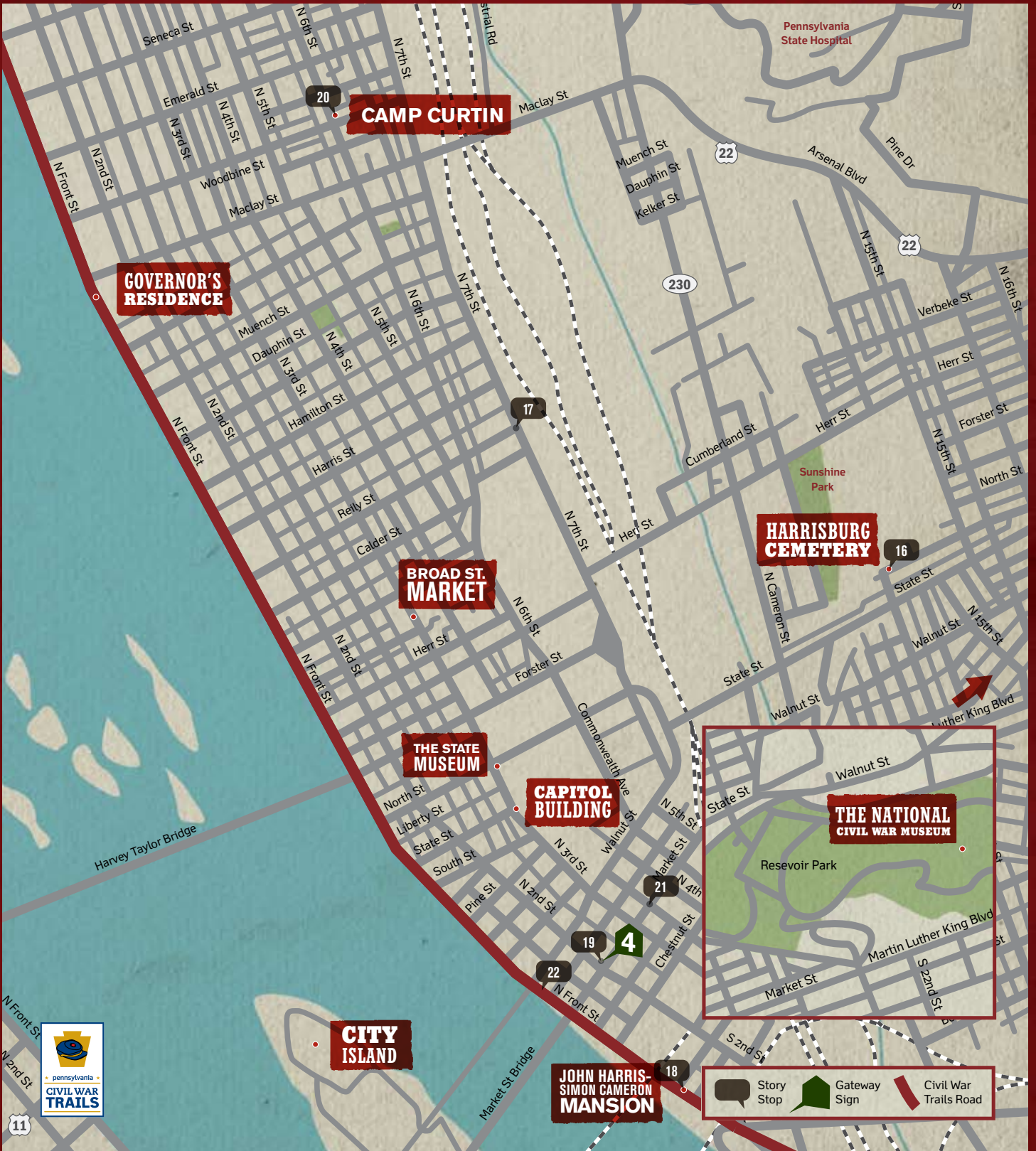
the names of those who served. Organized by state, they paint a picture of not just the bloodshed but the breadth of the contribution across our country. Each step instills a deeper sense of the sacrifice made by towns and cities, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. Each step reminds you of the stories less told and the lives they changed.

After you've filled your mind inside, there are plenty of paths cutting through the manicured lawns for long strolls in the afternoon sun. If you stay all day, there's a place to the right of the front entrance where you can see the sun set near the meeting of two hills. And you may feel something beyond anything we can read, write or tell. You may for a moment remember, how we all must give for our world to keep going.

**THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

**HARRISBURG CEMETERY**  
**CAMP CURTIN**  
**BROAD ST. MARKET**

# HARRISBURG



**GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE**

**CAMP CURTIN**

**BROAD ST. MARKET**

**THE STATE MUSEUM**

**CAPITOL BUILDING**

**HARRISBURG CEMETERY**

**THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

**CITY ISLAND**

**JOHN HARRIS-SIMON CAMERON MANSION**

-  Story Stop
-  Gateway Sign
-  Civil War Trails Road



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