

## March 2017 Update

Below is a selected bibliography of material on the Maryland Campaign. However it is not all-inclusive and the scholarship on the Civil War and the Maryland Campaign is added to all the time. This list should be viewed as your starting point. A more complete bibliography can be found in Dennis E. Frye's *Antietam Revealed*, Collingswood, 2004. The first section contains particularly important works that you should read and study thoroughly to gain a complete understanding of the campaign. It includes the most current and accurate material on the Maryland Campaign. The second section contains other important works that will add to your understanding of the action. Hopefully in your study to date, you have already seen and read many of these titles.

### Must Read

For many years, the most balanced account by far of the Maryland Campaign was Joseph Harsh's epic work *Taken at the Flood Robert E. Lee & Confederate Strategy in the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, (Kent: The Kent State University Press, 1999). While ostensibly from the point of view of Lee, Harsh offers a very even-handed assessment of George McClellan's actions during the campaign. This book should be at the top of your reading list. Harsh has two other books that you should eventually get to. They are *Confederate Tide Rising Robert E. Lee and the making of Southern Strategy 1861-1862* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1998), an account of the months leading up to the Maryland Campaign, and *Sounding the Shallows - A Confederate Companion for the Maryland Campaign of 1862* (Kent: The Kent State University Press, 2000), a veritable treasure trove of details on the campaign, largely from the point of view of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Joining the list of the most important Maryland Campaign works is D. Scott Hartwig's newly released work *To Antietam Creek - The Maryland Campaign of September 1862* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2012). This book is the story of the Maryland Campaign through September 16, 1862. The second volume will cover the Battle of Antietam. This series is the most comprehensive balanced telling of the story of the Maryland Campaign yet. It is a compelling story of the campaign, including analysis of the armies, leadership, equipment, tactics, and terrain. The descriptions of the fighting are clear and easy to follow from little known cavalry skirmishes early in the campaign to the Battle of South Mountain, a fight on the scale of First Manassas but destined to be thoroughly over shadowed by the battle at Antietam three days later. It is objective, detailed, thoroughly researched and documented and at the same time is an excellent read. Like Harsh's work, it should be in any guide or potential guide's library.

Ezra Carman's monumental work on the Maryland Campaign has finally become available to the world thanks to the work of Antietam Battlefield guide Dr. Tom Clemens. *The Maryland Campaign of September 1862 Volume 1 - South Mountain*. (New York: Savas Beatie, 2010.) [\*The Maryland Campaign of September 1862 Volume 2 - Antietam\*](#). (New York: Savas Beatie, 2012.) [\*and The Maryland Campaign of September 1862 Volume 3 - Shepherdstown Ford and the End of the Campaign\*](#).

| [\(New York: Savas Beatie, 2017.\)](#) cover the entire Maryland Campaign. While Carman's narrative is sometimes hard going, Dr. Clemens thorough editing and footnoting and the use of the companion Carmen-Copes maps have at long last brought Carman's important work to life. This is primary source material and the foundation of all subsequent reputable scholarship on the battle.

*McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union* by Ethan Rafuse (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005.) is also required reading for a good understanding of George McClellan. The chapters on the Maryland Campaign are particularly useful for an understanding of the Federal high command's perspective. While *Unfurl Those Colors! McClellan, Sumner, & The Second Army Corps in the Antietam Campaign* by Marion V. Armstrong (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2008), is ostensibly about the role of the Second Corps during the battle, it too offers a good point of view on McClellan's role in the strategic and operational direction given during the Maryland Campaign. Released during the Antietam sesquicentennial are Laurence Freiheit's *Boots and Saddles – Cavalry During the Maryland Campaign* (Iowa City: Camp Pope Publishing, 2012), and Stephen Recker's beautifully rendered *Rare Images of Antietam and the Photographers Who Took Then* (Sharpsburg MD: Stephen Recker, 2012). Freiheit's book makes significant contributions to the often ignored role of cavalry in the Maryland Campaign. Recker's book delivers photographs of the early years of the battlefield never seen before by the general public.

Also recently released is Brad Gottfried's *Maps of Antietam* (Savas Beatie 2012). This book is a useful companion to use when you are reading other Maryland Campaign work. Keep this book close by as a reference to the maps as you study other works.

Knowledge of the effects of the Maryland Campaign on the people of western Maryland is essential. Antietam ranger Kevin Walker's *Guide to the Antietam Farmsteads* (Sharpsburg: WMIA, 2010) and Kathleen Ernst's *Too Afraid to Cry – Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign* (Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1999) are must-reads. In addition, Antietam Battlefield guide John Schildt over the years has created a truly important body of work that covers all of these subjects and should be read as well. His most recent book is *Frederick in the Civil War (MD): Battle and Honor in the Spired City* (Charleston: The History Press, 2011). Other useful books in his series are *Antietam Hospitals* (Chewsville, 1987) and *Monuments at Antietam* (Frederick, 1991). Many of Rev. Schildt's other titles are available at the Antietam Book Store. Also, Kevin Pawlak's book *Shepherdstown in the Civil War* (History Press, 2015) is an important discussion of the aftermath of the battle and it's effect on the civilians who live in nearby Shepherdstown. It contains much information as well on the organization of the Army of Northern Virginia's medical service.

The story of the Antietam National Cemetery is well covered in Steve Stotelmyer's classic *Bivouacs of the Dead* (Toomey Press 1997). The book includes a history of

## March 2017 Update

the cemetery and a list of the soldiers who are buried there. There are a collection of human-interest stories about those killed in action and a detailed description of the burial process that could apply to any major Civil War battle.

For a detailed and comprehensive understanding of other battles in the Maryland Campaign, read former Antietam Ranger and guide John Hoptak's *The Battle of South Mountain* (Charleston: The History Press, 2011) and Tim Reese's *Sealed With Their Lives The Battle for Crampton's Gap* (Baltimore: Butternut and Blue, 1998). For action at Shepherdstown after Antietam, read Thomas A. McGrath's *Shepherdstown: Last Clash of the Antietam Campaign September 19-20 1862* (Lynchburg: Schroeder Publications, 2008.)

There are three battlefield guidebooks you will need as you start to tromp the field. They are The U.S. Army War College's *Guide to the Battle of Antietam* edited by Jay Luvaas & Harold W. Nelson (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1987), *Antietam, South Mountain & Harpers Ferry – A Battlefield Guide* by Ethan S. Rafuse (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008.) and *A Field Guide to Antietam* by Carol Reardon and Tom Vossler (UNC Press, 2016). Reardon and Vossler provide a sound understanding of the battle, great maps, and some terrific vignettes. Rafuse also provides commentary, vignettes, and good maps. Luvaas guides you around the field using the participant's own Official Record reports. All are worth having.

### Recommended

Several accounts that do a good job depicting elements of the Maryland Campaign are John Hoptak's *Our Boys Did Nobly, Schuylkill County Pennsylvania, Soldiers at the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam* (John David Hoptak, 2009), James McPherson's *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), and Benjamin F. Cooling's *Counter-Thrust From the Peninsula to the Antietam* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska 2007). Two useful anthologies edited by Gary Gallagher are *Antietam - Essays on the 1862 Maryland Campaign* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1989) and *The Antietam Campaign* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999). Very recently published is Antietam Park Historian Ted Alexander's concise work *The Battle of Antietam – The Bloodiest Day* (Charleston: The History Press, 2011). The Civil War Regiments series edited by Mark Snell contains two fine volumes on the Maryland Campaign. They are *Antietam: The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Vol. 5, No. 3*, (Shepherdstown, 1997), and *The Maryland Campaign of 1862 and its Aftermath, Vol 6, No. 2*, (Shepherdstown, 1998.) Dennis Frye's book *September Suspense – Lincoln's Union in Peril* (Harpers Ferry: Antietam Rest Publishing, 2012) draws from a voluminous cache of period newspapers to expertly demonstrate just how fragile the national bond had become by the autumn of 1862.

Two other monographs of the battle of Antietam are Stephen Sears' *Landscape Turned Red*, (New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1983) and James Murfin's *Gleam of Bayonets* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965). While details of the

## March 2017 Update

battle are accurately laid out, the biases against George McClellan have to be realized when you are reading these works. Antietam Battlefield guide John Priest has two works written largely from the points of view of the fighting men. They are *Antietam The Soldier's Battle* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989) and *Before Antietam The Battle of South Mountain* (Shippensburg: White Mane Publishing, 1992).

Tom Rowland's excellent book *George McClellan & Civil War History in the Shadow of Grant and Sherman* (Kent: Kent State Press, 1998) offers a compelling look at the historiography of George McClellan offering a much different perspective than the "standard" centennial interpretation of George McClellan

Finally, *The Antietam Effect* (Gettysburg: Media Magic, 2012) by Bradley Graham is an important contribution to the scholarship of the Battle of Antietam. The book is a series of ten essays written by Graham, the producer of the orientation film that is shown at the battlefield. The work is not the usual interpretation of the battle but covers such diverse and eclectic topics as the Constitutional roots beneath the Confederate invasion, Sumner's use of inductive reasoning in making decisions, reevaluation of the testimony and evidence concerning the so call Union Reserve at Antietam, the effects of weather, hard campaigning and even a volcano the year before, and six other equally fascinating topics.

The Harsh Scholarship series of articles are very important additions to understanding on the Maryland Campaign. The first paper was published in 2014. Titled "*Perceptions not Realities...*" *The Army of the Potomac in the Maryland Campaign*, this work by Antietam Ranger Daniel Vermilya examines the condition of the Army of the Potomac at the onset of the Maryland Campaign.

Some suggested additions –

William Frasanito's *Antietam, Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978. Detailed study of the Gardner photographs taken Sept. 18-20, 1862. Some errors have been revealed over the years, but still very solid book.

Curt Johnson & Richard Anderson Jr., *Artillery Hell, The Employment of Artillery at Antietam*, College Station: Texas A&M Univ., 1995. Reprint of Fred Hanson's report from the 1940's, but also includes good detail on the batteries present, strengths, armament, etc.

George Large & Joe A, Swisher, *Battle of Antietam, The Official history by the Battlefield Board*, Shippensburg: Burd Street Press, 1998. Basically a listing of all the tablets created by the Battlefield Board. Useful.

Phillip Thomas Tucker, *Burnside's Bridge, The Climactic Struggle of the 2nd and 20th Georgia at Antietam Creek*, Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 2000. A useful micro-history of a portion of th battle. Although marred by a few flaws, a good study.

March 2017 Update

D. Scott Hartwig, *The Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862: a Bibliography*, Westport CT: Meckler Publishers, 1990. Very detailed listing of many obscure articles and books related to the campaign & battle.