

Gettysburg Battlefield MONUMENTS



*The Embodiment of One of America's
Most Memorable Battles*

What Mean These Stones?

"What Mean These Stones?" was the title of the speech given by Major Chillon W. Hazzard of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association during the dedication ceremonies of the Pennsylvania monument:

You are here today to set a pile of stones, as did Israel at Gilgal, to tell the story to those who may come after you, and who will ask, "What mean these stones?"...What, then will these stones tell to the children of men? The answer has been given by immortal lips...These stones, these monuments, will say to the children of men, as Abraham Lincoln said when he dedicated yonder monument: 'Gather ye here increased devotion to the cause for which they gave their lives.'

Today, more than 1300 granite and bronze markers lead us on a journey back through three brutal days in American history: the Battle of Gettysburg. They are a testament to one of the nation's bloodiest battles.

If you examine them closely, you will discover that each of these monuments has a story to tell. They are stories that allow us to revisit both the horror and the honor of this great battle. They are stories that nourish our intellect, engage our imagination, and awaken within us a keen appreciation of a time and place by which the nation first glimpsed its destiny of freedom and unity.

This book provides insights into 32 of the memorials dedicated by others, in memory of those who gave their lives to a cause. It is our hope that the monument facts and features described within this booklet will not only enrich your journey back to Gettysburg 1863, but also guide you in your quest to unravel for yourself the meaning of the stones scattered across these hallowed grounds.

JOHN BUFORD PORTRAIT STATUE

McPherson's Ridge (Chambersburg Pike)

Crafted in bronze by James E. Kelly and dedicated on July 1, 1895

Commemoration

It is quite fitting that a monument dedicated to this Kentucky-born general begins this monument tour. For it was General John Buford who reputedly commanded the first Union artillery shot in Gettysburg on the morning of July 1, 1863. The dismounted cavalymen of Buford's division alone held their ground against General Heth's Confederate division until the arrival of General Reynolds' troops.

Observation

Field glasses in hand, Buford solemnly peers out over McPherson's ridge. Four Ordnance Rifles (including the one that reputedly fired the opening shot of the battle under Buford's direction) are anchored at the four corners of the monument's base. The use of the Ordnance Rifles was the inspiration of Major John Calef who served under Buford and attended the dedication.



BUFORD

JOHN REYNOLDS EQUESTRIAN STATUE

Reynold's Woods (Chambersburg Pike)

*Crafted in bronze by Henry Kirke Bush-Brown
and dedicated on July 1, 1899*

Commemoration

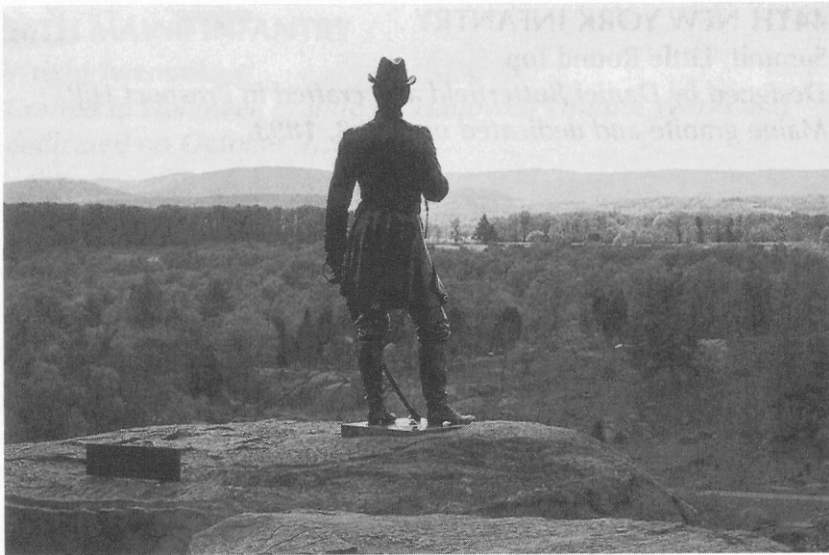
General John Reynolds, commander of the First Army Corps, was killed in the opening hours of the battle. A 1912 publication written by Luther W. Minnich offered a vivid description of the Pennsylvania native's death: "The minie ball which killed General John F. Reynolds passed in at one side of his head and came out of the other. He fell from his horse and never spoke." This monument was contributed by the men he so honorably led, and erected at the site where he tragically fell.

Observation

Captured here in a natural yet commanding pose, Reynolds' left hand holds the reins of his mount as his other rests upon his hip. This likeness of Reynolds gazes for all eternity across the field on which the general met his fate.

The sculptor crafted a 4.5 ton statue which, as you can see in the photo, balances upon just two of the horse's hoofs. The horse's footing on the equestrian statues at Gettysburg have an unplanned pattern which reflects the fate of the honored rider. Mounted upon horses with just one hoof off the ground are those who suffered a wound during battle; on horses with two hoofs off the ground are those who died in battle; astride horses with all four hoofs terra firma ride those who survived the battle without injury. The unplanned pattern is confirmed by the sculptor himself who indicated that it was not his intent to convey the fate of Reynolds when he crafted this memorial to one of Pennsylvania's own.





GOVERNEUR WARREN PORTRAIT STATUE
Summit, Little Round Top
Sculpted by Karl Gerhardt in standard bronze and dedicated on August 8, 1888

Commemoration

It was from roughly this location that Brigadier General Gouverneur Warren (Chief Engineer of the Army of the Potomac) first noticed-and immediately rallied reinforcement against-Confederate troops advancing along the ridges. As a result of his expeditious action, he has been referred to as the "Savior of Little Round Top."

Observation

With a sword in one hand and field glasses in the other, Warren assumes a casual yet commanding stance on the summit of Little Round Top. Here, he looks out over some of the most blood-drenched grounds of the battle: Devils' Den, the Wheatfield, and the Peach Orchard. The lifelike appearance and natural setting of this statue (note the unobtrusive boulder that serves as the statue's base) invites us to envision the events that took place right here on July 2, 1863.

IRISH BRIGADE MONUMENT

Sickles Avenue, The Loop

Sculpted by William Rudolph O'Donovan in Gettysburg granite, Quincy granite and bronze and dedicated on July 2, 1888

Commemoration

With this monument, three New York regiments honor the Irish Brigade formed by Thomas Francis Meagher, once an Irish revolutionary. The Irish Brigade, after fierce fighting at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, had dwindled to approximately 500 men. The Irish brigade lost over two hundred more souls during the battle on July 2nd.



Observation

Undoubtedly, this is one of the more unusual monuments to grace the battlefield. Here, in an eye-catching display, an Irish Wolfhound lies loyally at the base of a Celtic Cross (both traditional symbols of Ireland). Stacked vertically on the cross, in bronze, are a trefoil, three New York regiment seals, the New York state seal, and the seal of Ireland.



GEORGE GORDON MEADE EQUESTRIAN STATUE

Hancock Avenue

Sculpted in bronze by Henry Kirke Bush-Brown and dedicated on June 5, 1896

Commemoration

It was just days before the Battle of Gettysburg that Major-General George Gordon Meade took his position as commander of the Army of the Potomac. He is honored here, by his home state of Pennsylvania, for leading the Union Army into this battle and the many that followed — often in the company of General Ulysses S. Grant.

Observation

Just as General Lee's Equestrian Statue (on the Virginia State Memorial) faces that of General Meade, Meade's memorial points appropriately in the direction of Lee. This positioning is in keeping with Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association guidelines adopted in 1887 stating that all statues with a figure of a soldier must face enemy lines.

LINCOLN SPEECH MEMORIAL

(Following page)

National Cemetery

Sculpted by Henry Kirke Bush-Brown but never dedicated

Commemoration

The Lincoln Speech Memorial is an interesting and multi-faceted memorial. Erected to honor President Abraham Lincoln's extraordinary Gettysburg Address, the memorial also serves to commemorate the invitation that brought President Lincoln to Gettysburg and the war that brought the nation unity.

Observation

The Lincoln Speech Memorial is located near the spot where Lincoln's historical address was delivered on November 19, 1863. At the center of this symmetrical granite memorial is a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln. To the left is a curved tablet featuring Judge David Wills' invitation to Lincoln. To the right are the eloquent and unforgettable words spoken by Lincoln upon his visit. A row of stars is carved into the top rim of each tablet.