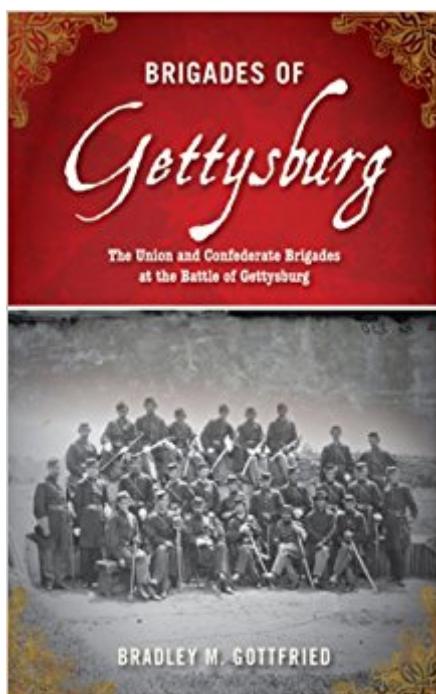


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# Brigades Of Gettysburg: The Union And Confederate Brigades At The Battle Of Gettysburg



## Synopsis

Using a wealth of first-hand accounts, author Bradley M. Gottfried pieces together each brigade's experience at Gettysburg. Whether stories of forced marches, weary troops, or the bitter and tragic end of the battle, you'll experience every angle of this epic battle. Learn what happened when the guns stopped firing and the men were left with only boredom and dread of what was to come. This collection is a lively and fascinating narrative that empowers the everyday men who fought furiously and died honorably. Every detail of the Battle of Gettysburg is included in this comprehensive chronicle.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gottfried (Roads to Gettysburg) paints a fine-grained portrait of the decisive battle of the Civil War in this exhaustive, engrossing study. In vividly written narratives that draw heavily on first-hand accounts of the fighting, he recounts every brigade's training and prior history in combat, profiles its commanders and chronicles its experiences in the course of the battle. The conflict emerges less as a coherent whole than as a series of small, disjointed brigade-level actions-a perspective close to that of the soldiers, who had no grand overview to help them make sense of the unfolding battle. The result is a human-scale view of the varied experiences of the participants: the grueling marches, the effects of heat and exhaustion, which sometimes felled more soldiers than enemy bullets did, the occasionally prickly relations between officers and men, the tedium and anxiety as soldiers waited to go into action and the panic and elation when they did. Gottfried's treatment has

its limitations: it is hard to follow the main "plot" of the battle, since no brigade witnessed more than a fragment of it, and the fine maps of individual battlefield sectors should have been supplemented with an overall map to orient readers. Those unfamiliar with the battle will need to consult a conventional history, but Civil War buffs will delight in this gripping addition to the literature of Gettysburg. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried is president of Sussex County Community College in New Jersey. He is the author of three Civil War books: The Battle of Gettysburg—A Guided Tour; Stopping Pickett: The History of the Philadelphia Brigade; and Roads to Gettysburg.

I actually got this book out on loan from the Carnegie Library system in early February. After briefly reading and paging through the book, I had seen enough and decided to purchase a copy for my own personal library. Though I have other books on Gettysburg, this book is one that I have gone to for quick answers on what the Brigade did during the entire battle. Instead of paging through numerous chapters of other books looking for details on what the 1st Minnesota (for example) did during the battle, I can quickly look its Brigade and get a quick summary. If you want a book that covers the battle chronologically, there are better ones out there. If you want a quick reference book whenever a question comes on on a particular Brigade, this book fits that need nicely (I know five descendants of General Alexander Hays that live in my town. There also are descendants of General Sherman in the Sewickley area so if you are going to discuss anything about the Civil War with them, you better be prepared). I recommend the book to Civil War buffs and those who are just curious.

This is a great book for those interested in the infantry brigades that participated at the battle of Gettysburg. The Cavalry and Artillery units are not at all described. So if you wanted to know where Gen. Custer's Michigan horseman were at or what batteries made up Col. Porter Alexander's artillery units you will have to find out through research. The author of this book does have a book on the Artillery of G-Burg. Sorry to make this so long just figured I would pass this tidbit along, Cavalry and Artillery are not mentioned but the book is a must have for any Civil War historian. I just would have liked to have seen all the units that served at G-Burg in one book, I believe this could be done at the Brigade level. Thank you Mr. Gottfried for the great book.

This is a fascinating book for anyone interested in the Civil War and, more particularly, the stunning three days at Gettysburg. The author provides a surprising amount of new detail about individuals and units. By focusing on the individual brigades of each army he can go into considerable detail without losing the focus of the larger picture. I have read numerous books on the battle, but this I will keep as a permanent reference.

This is a well written examination of all the military participants involved in the battle at Gettysburg. The placement and movements of troops from start to finish are described in detail along with a brief history of the brigades prior to the engagement. I enjoyed following the ebb and flow of each days actions as these soldiers from within their command structures attempted to carryout the sometimes complex manoeuvres their officers employed. These manoeuvres as described in the book clearly demonstrated to me the then current military theories practiced and how the officers adapted them, or failed to adapt them to the rapidly evolving events of the battle. A great read, and an enlightening reference that will make my next trip to Gettysburg more meaningful.

Bradley Gottfried's book, *Brigades of Gettysburg*, would be a nice addition to a person's Civil War Library. This would be especially interesting for those who want to know about key battles in more detail than one would get in a standard rendering of the battle. This book is kin to Larry Tagg's *The Generals of Gettysburg*, a volume that discusses the role of general officers at Gettysburg, including Army leaders down to generals/colonels heading the Brigade level. As a result, there is much brigade level information. However, Gottfried's book provides more detail (it is almost twice as long as Tagg's useful volume). While some brigade level histories exist and spell out actions of units at Gettysburg in some detail (e.g., Wert's *A Brotherhood of Valor*, Nolan's *The Iron Brigade*, Parsons' *Put the Vermonters Ahead*), coverage of many brigades is very brief in the standard works on Gettysburg (Coddington, Sears, Trudeau, for example). Thus, this volume provides useful coverage of the various brigades involved at the battle, even those not heavily engaged. For instance, Sedgwick's large VIth Corps was much less hotly engaged than the other Union Corps. Nonetheless, this volume lays out what the components of this Corps actually did during the battle. The coverage of both Confederate and Union units is nicely done and the interested reader will be well rewarded for perusing this book.

It is very detailed and well written in narrative form. It also details the life of the average solder on both sides before and during the Gettysburg conflict. All the marching to get to the battle site, the

slack of sleep and food, confusing or dubious orders from the commanders, and who wound up at the right place at the right time. If you are a civil war buff or especially want to know more about Gettysburg, then I would highly recommend this book. I found that it I would read a chapter and then put it away for a day.

Very informative but I have found some issues. The author labeled multiple Pennsylvania regiments as Bucktails who were in fact not. There are only 4 regiments, the original, 42nd PVI (13th PA Reserve) and the 3 regiments in Stone's Bucktail Brigade (143, 149 and 150 PVI). I did find several grammar / spelling errors but they were minor. More maps would have made the text even more informative.

Gettysburg is a short distance from where I live and holds a particular fascination for me. My great grandfather was a Union solder there and, fortunately survived with no serious injury. This book helped me with a new perspective of what went on those 3 days in the summer of 1863. Whether you are a student of Civil War history or not, you will learn a lot.

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