

**GETTYSBURG, A HISTORY OF THE
GETTYSBURG BATTLE-FIELD MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE GIVING
MOVEMENTS, POSITIONS, AND LOSSES
OF THE COMMANDS ENGAGED**

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Gettysburg, a History of the Gettysburg Battle-Field Memorial Association with an Account of the Battle Giving Movements, Positions, and Losses of the Commands Engaged by John M. Vanderslice

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INTRODUCTION.

CONGRESS having passed an act on February 11, 1895, "to establish a National Military Park at Gettysburg," the Board of Directors of the Gettysburg Battle-field Memorial Association, at a meeting held May 22, 1895, having been previously authorized to do so by a vote of the stockholders, decided to transfer to the United States government the six hundred acres of land which had been acquired by the Association, upon which seventeen miles of avenues had been constructed, giving access to the most interesting points of the battle-field, and to consign to the care and protection of the general government the three hundred and twenty monuments which had been erected upon the field by the several States and by regimental associations.

There were present at this meeting of the Board: Colonel C. H. Buehler, of Pennsylvania, vice-president; General Daniel E. Sickles and General Alex. S. Webb, of New York; General Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin; Colonel Frank D. Sloat, of Connecticut; Colonel Charles L.

Young, of Ohio ; Colonel George E. Briggs, of Michigan ; Colonel Wheelock G. Veazey, of Vermont ; General D. McM. Gregg, General Louis Wagner, Hon. Edward McPherson, Hon. S. McSwope, Captain H. W. McKnight, D D., and Messrs. J. M. Vanderslice, J. L. Schick, J. A. Kitzmiller, Dr. C. E. Goldsborough, and Calvin Hamilton, the Secretary of Pennsylvania ; General Joseph B. Carr, of New York, and Colonel John B. Bachelder, of Massachusetts, having died since the previous meeting in October. There were also present Colonel John P. Nicholson, of Pennsylvania, also a member of the Board ; Major W. M. Robins, of North Carolina, and Major C. A. Richardson, of New York, composing the United States Board of Battle-field Commissioners.

After the transaction of the important business attending the formal transfer to the national government of the property of the Association, and the practical completion of the work for which it had been organized thirty-one years before, upon motion of General Sickles, it was decided to publish a brief history of "The Gettysburg Battle-field Memorial Association." It was considered of importance, historically, that there should be preserved a record of the great results accomplished by the Memorial Association, the first of like character ever organ-

ized. It was also deemed proper that there should be some recognition of the generous and patriotic support accorded the Association by the people of the several States, whose legislatures had made liberal appropriations in furtherance of its objects, and of the zealous and effective co-operation given it by the survivors of many of the commands which participated in the battle ; for, by the aid thus rendered, the Association was enabled to acquire much of the most important part of the battle-field and to correctly mark the lines of battle, so that at the conclusion of its work the position of every volunteer command in the Union army except three had been appropriately marked by enduring, and many of them by artistic and costly, monuments or memorials, representing in the aggregate an expenditure of more than three-fourths of a million dollars, and Gettysburg was not only more visited but better marked and understood than any battle-field in the world.

It was suggested that in connection with the history of the Memorial Association there should be published a concise history of the battle, so that the work of the Association might be better understood and the difficulties attending its efforts to secure and accurately mark the battle-field be better appreciated, as well as to show how fitting was the work it attempted to accom-

plish, how richly the troops who fought upon the field deserved that it should be preserved as it was when hallowed by their services and sacrifices, how appropriate, too, that their States should erect thereon memorials to commemorate for all time their devotion and valor, and why the care and attention the field is now receiving from the national government in liberal appropriations and intelligent management by able and judicious commissioners meets the approbation of all patriotic people.

The writer was selected by the Board of Directors to write this history. As he had been actively identified with the work of the Association for sixteen years, for the most of that time being a member of the Executive Committee and Secretary of the Committee on the Location of and Inscriptions on Monuments, it was probably thought that his familiarity with the work and the information he had acquired might in a measure qualify him for the duty.

While highly appreciative of its confidence in him, as evinced by this action of the Board, he is equally appreciative of the responsibility he assumes and of probable disappointment with the results of his work.

It is proposed to briefly and accurately describe the position, movement, services, and losses of every regiment and battery engaged

in the battle, as established by the information gathered and collated by the Association, by the official reports, and by statements of officers and men of both armies, who, by its invitation upon several occasions, met and conferred upon the field for the purpose of marking the lines of battle, which statements have been most carefully examined, compared, and verified.

There will be no criticisms upon strategical or tactical movements upon the field. In fact, there were few such. As has been well said, "Gettysburg was, in a measure, the American soldiers' battle," a battle of the ranks, a struggle of American prowess and courage, of discipline and tenacity, of unwavering fidelity and unselfish devotion, a contest of American manhood.

GETTYSBURG.

THERE are many reasons why Gettysburg was selected at such an early period for preservation, and why it has attracted more attention and been visited by more people than all the other battle-fields of the Rebellion.

In every epoch of history there will be found some battle which ever remains prominent above others of the same period, though they be of greater magnitude. As in Napoleon's campaigns, Lodi, Arcole, Rivoli, Jaffa, Aboukir, Marengo, Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, Burgos, Wagram, Lutzen, Dresden, and even Borodino, when Russia and the whole continent lay at the feet of the invincible conqueror, and Leipsic, his first serious and decisive defeat, are eclipsed by the memories of Waterloo, because of its effects upon the destinies of Europe and of civilization, so Gettysburg will ever be pre-eminently the most renowned of all the battles of the war for the Union, not only because of its magnitude and immediate results, but also by reason of the grave consequences dependent upon the issue.