

## CHAPTER SIX

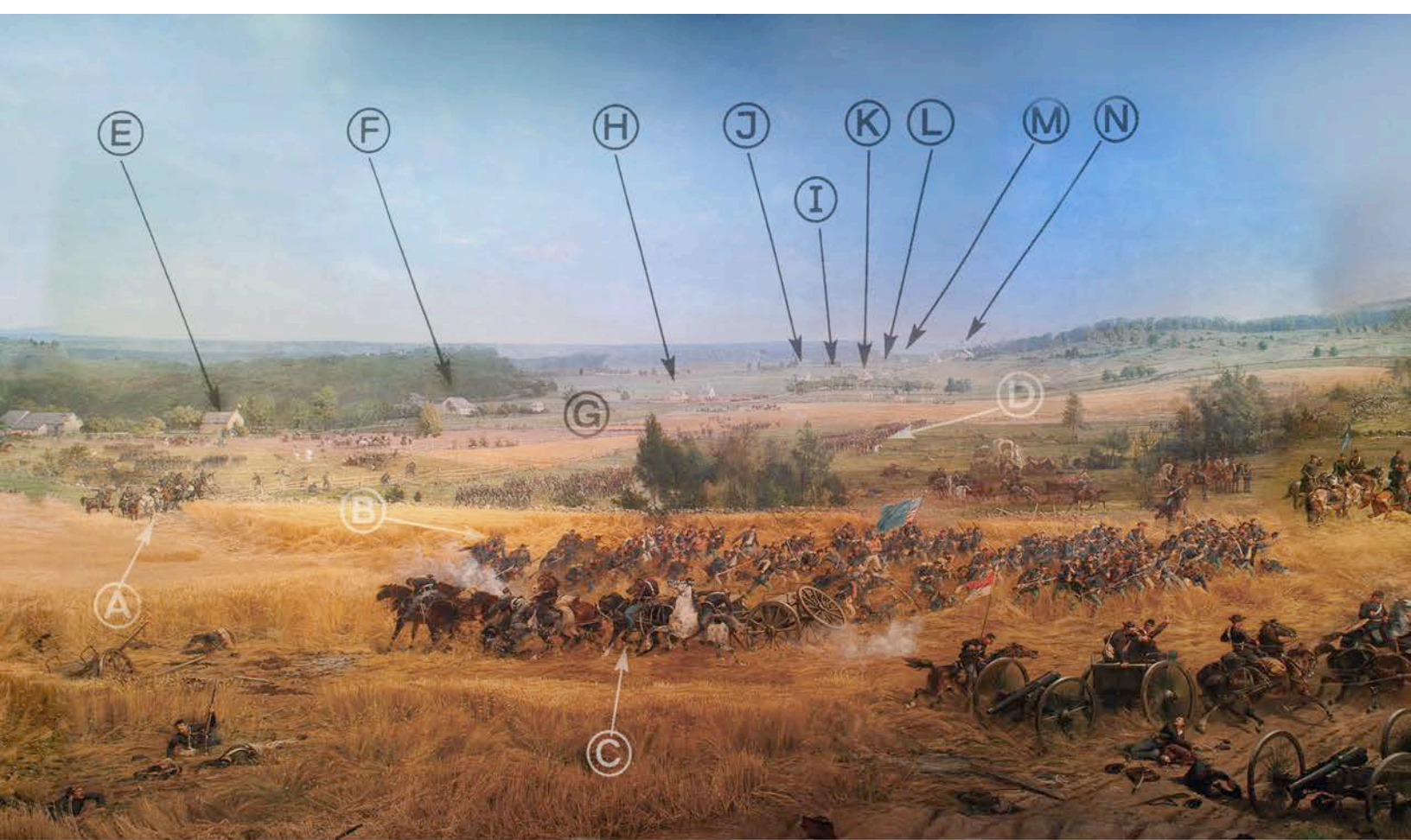
# Notes on view #0

(facing southeast)

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## KEY

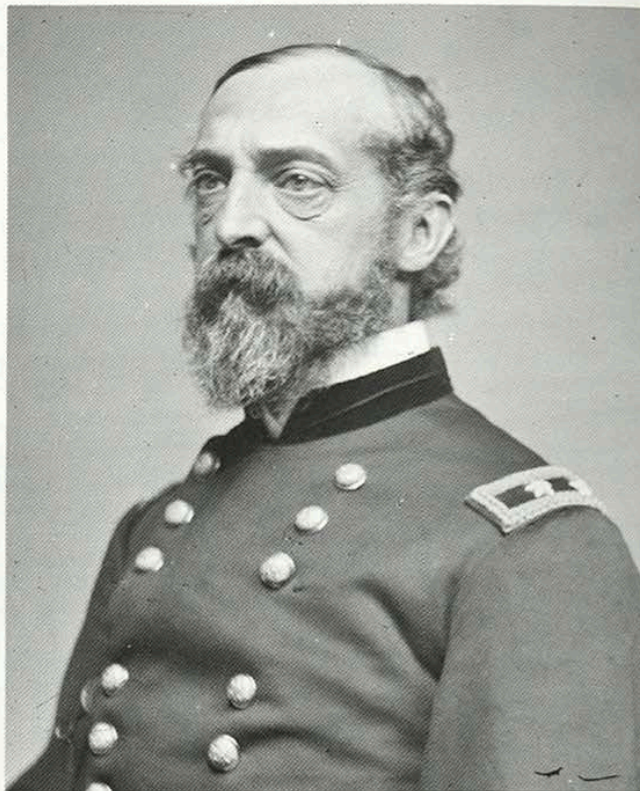
- Ⓐ Major General George Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, and Staff
- Ⓑ 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment
- Ⓒ Caisson Withdrawing
- Ⓓ Brigadier General John C. Caldwell and the 1st Division, II Corps
- Ⓔ Peter Frey Farm
- Ⓕ John Fisher Farm
- Ⓖ Taneytown Road
- Ⓗ Solomon Cassatt Farm
- Ⓘ Isaac T. Shriver Farm
- Ⓙ William Patterson Farm
- Ⓚ Jacob Hummelbaugh Farm
- Ⓛ Granite School House Lane
- Ⓜ Sarah Patterson Farm
- Ⓝ Michael Frey Farm



## The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point of the Civil War on Canvas

**A** Major General George Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, and Staff. During the cannonade that preceded Pickett's Charge, dozens of artillery shells were landing in the area of the Lydia Leister house. This heavy fire forced General Meade to move to General Slocum's headquarters between the Lightner farm and Powers' Hill (see View #9, J and N). When the artillery fire stopped, Meade started moving toward the Union center.<sup>1</sup> The painting depicts General Meade and his staff arriving near the High Water Mark at the end of Pickett's Charge. General Meade's staff would have included his son, George Meade, Jr.

As discussed in Chapter 4, General Meade was added to the painting in 1889. Of note is that Meade owned a brown horse, named Old Baldy, and a black horse, named Blackie. We know that he did not ride a white horse on July 3, as was depicted in the painting.<sup>2</sup> It is the author's opinion that Philippoteaux used white horses to help the viewer more easily find important generals, especially ones who were depicted fairly far away. We will see many other generals on white horses as we continue to examine the painting.

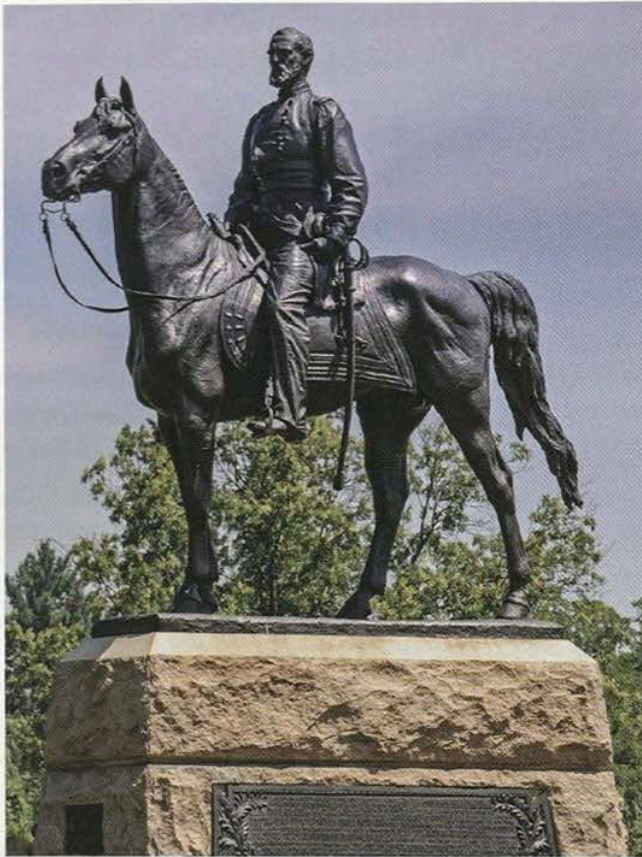


Major General George Gordon Meade. LOC

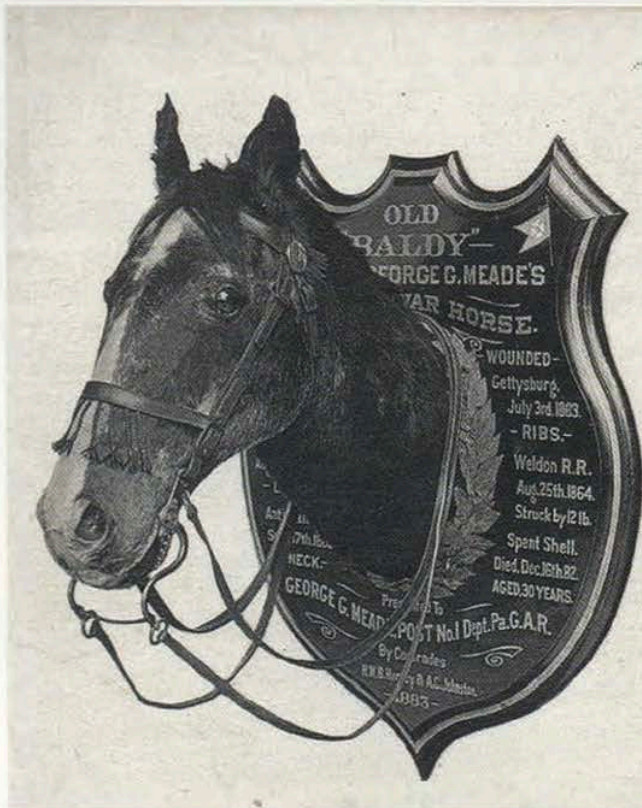


Detail of the painting showing Major General George Gordon Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, and staff. BD





General Meade's Equestrian Statue at Gettysburg. *BD*



The preserved head of General Meade's horse, Old Baldy, from the Philadelphia Grand Army of the Republic Museum. *SBC*

## Ⓑ 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment

In this area, a unit can be seen charging from east to west into the Angle at the climax of Pickett's Charge. The blue state flag was added next to the United States flag in 1889 (see Chapter 4). The modern NPS key identifies this unit as the 72nd Pennsylvania. After studying the original keys, the authors have found that the designation of this unit may be open to interpretation. In some of the historic keys this unit could be meant to represent the 7th Michigan. On the historic keys, the description of this unit was linked to the description of the 19th Massachusetts (View #1, C). The number seems to represent a brigade sized unit (3 to 5 regiments). All the original keys described a part, or Hall's entire brigade in this area. Hall's brigade was comprised of the 7th Michigan, the 42nd & 59th New York, and the 19th & 20th Massachusetts. To add to the confusion, different units from Hall's brigade are mentioned in different cities.

The units in this area seem to be examples of local marketing. Since this is one of the most easily visible regiments in the painting, it is logical that it would be highlighted as a local unit. In the Chicago key, this unit was listed as "7th Mich. Vol., 3rd div., 2nd A.C., Col. N. J. Hall comd'g." The 7th Michigan would have been the only Midwestern unit in the area, so it would make sense to highlight them for the Chicago audience. This description was not accurate, however, because the 7th Michigan was actually part of the 3rd Brigade of the 2nd Division of the II Corps. In reality, the 7th Michigan would have moved into the Angle from the south through the Copse of Trees (View #2, I), and would be hard to see in their actual position. Another example of the promoters using this spot for local marketing can be found on a buckeye key that was used in Minneapolis in which the 1st Minnesota was located in this area. This unit, like the troops from Michigan, would have also moved into the Angle from the south.

The 72nd Pennsylvania was first identified on the old Gettysburg keys that were made at the East Cemetery Hill building. The NPS acquired the painting in the 1940s, and they have used this designation ever since. In other cities these troops were used to market the painting to the local audiences, the owners of the building on East Cemetery Hill being no exception. The operators of the original Gettysburg building might have been under some pressure to



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identify the 72nd Pennsylvania. With the painting being permanently located in Gettysburg, it would have been hard to ignore a Pennsylvania unit that was known to have played an important role in the repulse of Pickett's Charge. It is further possible that the 72nd might be represented among the troops who are closer to the Angle (see View #2, C) but none of the original keys specifically named this unit. The NPS description may also make the most sense when studying the actual position of the regiments at the time of the High Water Mark. We will discuss the positions of the regiments in this area further in View #1, C.

The blue state flag may have led some people to believe that this unit was the 72nd Pennsylvania. Michigan, however, also has a blue state flag. Further investigation revealed that at the time of the battle, the 72nd Pennsylvania was only carrying one flag. At Gettysburg they were carrying a regimental color which was all blue with the state symbol on one side and the national arms (an eagle) on the reverse. The 72nd was not carrying a national flag. Most of the other Pennsylvania units would have had a national flag and a state flag. The state flag would have resembled a U.S. flag with the Pennsylvania state symbol in the blue area where the stars are normally displayed.<sup>3</sup> As we will see, the artist was not always accurate with his depiction of the flags in the painting (see View #2, B and View #3, D).

A mounted officer is visible just south of the first line of this unit. This officer could be Lt. Col. Amos E. Steele, Jr. of the 7th Michigan who was wounded near the end of the attack.<sup>4</sup> This officer could also represent

Lt. Col. Theodore Hesser, who took command of the 72nd Pennsylvania after Col. DeWitt C. Baxter was wounded on July 2.<sup>5</sup>

### © Caisson Withdrawing

Civil war artillery was moved around using several teams of horses. There would have been six horses attached to a two-wheeled vehicle called a limber (see View #3, G). The limber also contained a box that held ammunition for the cannon. The limber would have been attached to the cannon when moving, to create a four-wheeled vehicle. In addition, each cannon would have had a caisson, a four-wheeled vehicle with three ammunition boxes and a spare wheel. Thus, on the move, each cannon required twelve horses. Each group of cannon, or battery, would have included an extra wagon with blacksmith supplies called the battery wagon (see View #7, B and View #3, A).<sup>6</sup>

The caisson depicted in this area was probably from Cushing's battery (View #2, B). Early in the cannonade, Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing sent three of his six caissons to the rear for safety. Unfortunately, they moved to the area of the Leister house (see View #8, H). There was so much artillery fire raining down on this area that they were moved again to the area of Granite School House Lane (View#0, L). At the end of the bombardment, these caissons were returned to the High Water Mark area to replace several of the caissons that were destroyed by artillery fire.<sup>7</sup>

The cyclorama painting does an excellent job of illustrating the four types of artillery projectiles that were used in the battle. In this area, we can see the



Detail of the painting showing the 72nd Pennsylvania and a caisson withdrawing. *BD*



## Notes on view #0 (facing southeast)

effects of shell and case shot. Both of these types of ammunition had a timed fuse. When the cannon went off, the flames from the powder that launched the projectile would light a fuse. This fuse would burn for a certain number of seconds and then the missile would explode in mid-air. Pieces of the projectile would rain down on the enemy and cause damage. A shell was a hollow projectile. When it exploded, the outer shell would break into pieces that would fly through the air. Case shot was a hollow projectile with small iron balls (called shrapnel) inside. When case shot exploded, even more pieces of iron would fly through the air, causing more damage. In this scene, you can see white puffs of smoke from the exploding projectiles, and several men around the caisson and in the infantry unit nearby are being hit by flying shrapnel or shell fragments.

There were two other types of artillery ammunition: solid shot and canister.<sup>8</sup> The effects of these projectiles are clearly illustrated in View #5, C (canister) and View #6, C (solid shot).



Detail of the painting showing General Caldwell on a white horse. *BD*

division included the famous Irish Brigade. The 1st Division suffered heavy casualties in the Wheatfield on July 2. On July 3, Caldwell's division was held in reserve.

### **E** Peter Frey Farm

At the time of the battle, a tenant named Brown rented the farm from Mr. Frey. After the war, the farm was purchased by Basil Biggs, a famous black resident of Gettysburg.<sup>9</sup> The house is still there today and it is kept close to its 1863 appearance by the National Park Service. The barn was rebuilt in the late 1800's and does not look the same as it does in the painting. Interestingly, one of the surviving pieces of the New York cyclorama shows the Peter Frey barn and some nearby troops.

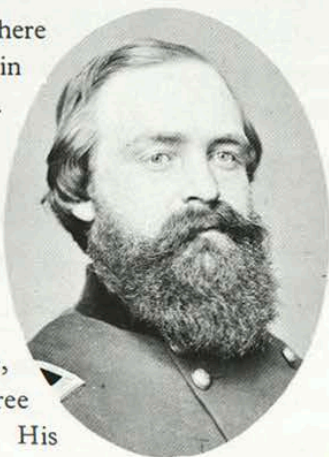
In the historic Chicago and Philadelphia keys, this farm was erroneously labeled as "General Meade's



Detail of painting showing Caldwell's Division. *BD*

### **D** Brigadier General John C. Caldwell and the 1st Division, II Corps

This is another area where the painting was changed in 1889 (see Chapter 4). Perhaps there did not appear to be enough men in this area to be an entire division, so more troops were added. General Caldwell, pictured on a white horse, was one of Hancock's three division commanders. His



Brigadier General John C. Caldwell. *LOC*

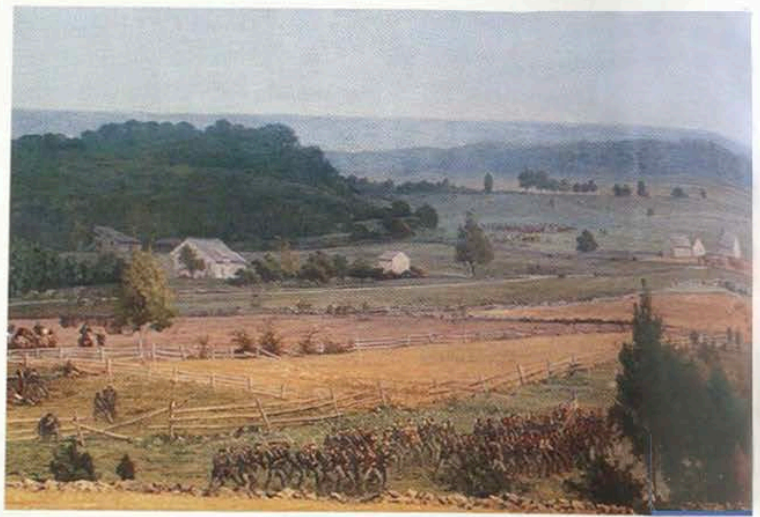


Detail of the painting showing the Peter Frey farm. *BD*





A surviving piece of New York version, showing the Peter Frey farm. *BD*



Detail of the painting showing the John Fisher farm. *BD*

Headquarters” or “Meade’s 2nd Headquarters.” In the New York key it was labeled as “General Meade’s Headquarters at Cassatt’s [*sic*] Mill.” The Cassatt farm was nearby (see H), but did not have a mill and was not Meade’s headquarters. It is possible that this reference referred to objects which were farther in the distance. During the bombardment, Meade moved his headquarters to the Lightener farm (see View #9, J) which was close to McAllister’s farm and mill (see View #9, K).

In reality, this farm was used as a headquarters by Brig. Gen. John Gibbon (see View #1, E). In a *Boston Herald* advertisement for the changes that were made to the painting it stated: “One of the most noticeable alterations is the placing of Gen. Meade more in the reground than before” (emphasis added).<sup>10</sup> Although it was not labeled on the keys, it is possible that visitors are told that General Meade was one of the extremely stant figures in this area.

This farm was also used as a field hospital. A flag visible on top of the Frey house. Since the flag is so distant, it is possible that it is meant to be either a spital or a headquarters flag. Almost all of the farms along the Taneytown Road were used as hospitals or field stations on the second and third day of the battle.<sup>11</sup>

### J) John Fisher Farm

This farm no longer exists. In the painting, the Fisher farm appears to be on the east side of the Taneytown Road. According to historic maps, it was actually on the west side of the road. If it still stood today, it would be

just south of the Peter Frey farm on the west side of the Taneytown Road.

Some mounted troops and a battery can be seen between this area and the Peter Frey farm (see E). These troops may have included “Gen. Pleasanton’s cavalry Headquarters guard with Fuller’s Mass. Bat.” who were mentioned in the New York key in the area of the Hummelbaugh farm (see K).

### G) Taneytown Road

In 1863, ten roads led into the town of Gettysburg, radiating out from the center of town like the spokes on a wheel. This road network made Gettysburg an ideal spot for massing Civil War armies. Once the battle started on July 1, these roads made a larger battle at Gettysburg almost inevitable. The Taneytown Road was a dirt road that headed south from Gettysburg towards Baltimore and Washington. As one of only two roads controlled by the Union army on July 3, the Taneytown Road was a vital line of supply and communication.

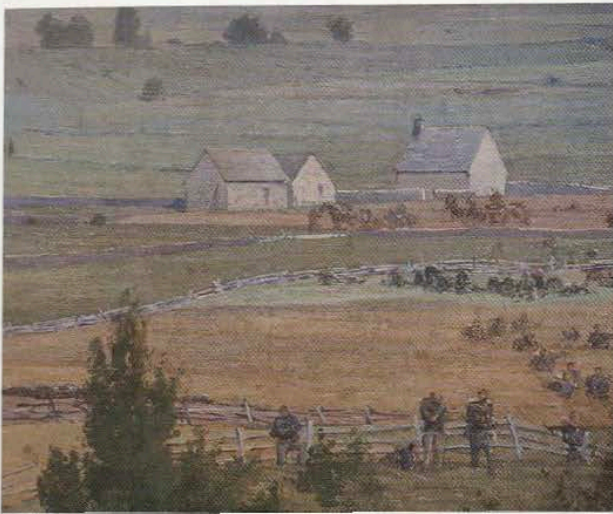
### H) Solomon Cassatt Farm

The original Cassatt farm no longer exists. The NPS owns a small yellow house and a barn that is near the site of the original farm.

### I) Isaac T. Shriver Farm

The original Shriver farm no longer exists. If it still stood, it would be located close to the start of the walking trail, across the Taneytown Road from the NPS maintenance building on Pleasanton Avenue.





Detail of the painting showing the Solomon Cassatt farm. *BD*

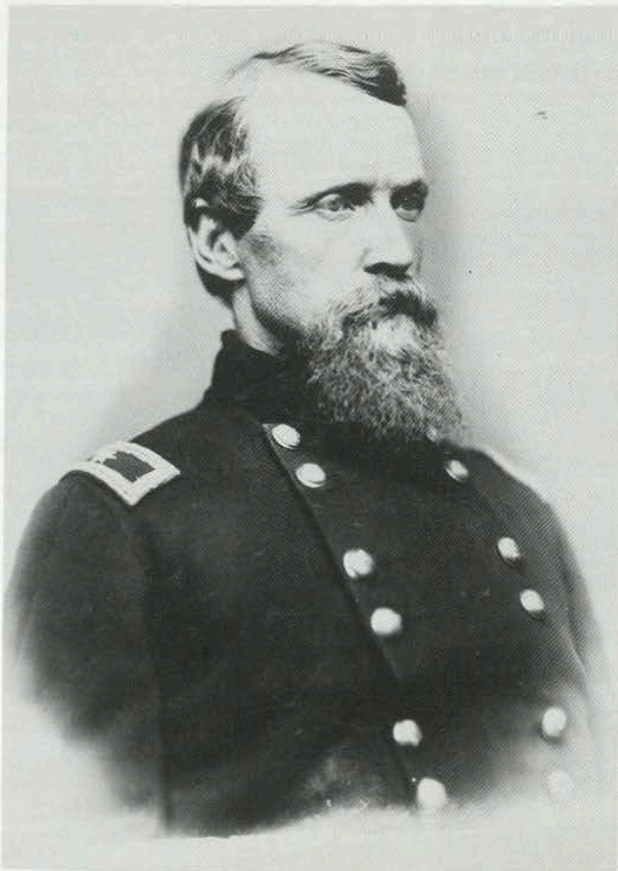
① **William Patterson Farm**

At the time of the battle, the Patterson farm included a house on the east side of the Taneytown Road and a barn on the west side of the road. The house still stands and is kept in its 1863 condition by the National Park Service. The barn no longer exists, but stone walls and



William Patterson farm, modern. *BD*

some orchard trees are visible near the site of the old barn. During the fighting on July 2, the Union II Corps established a field hospital at this farm. Later, the hospital was moved farther to the rear to escape artillery fire. In the Chicago and Philadelphia keys, this site was listed as being General Birney's headquarters. Major General David B. Birney took command of the III Corps after General Sickles was wounded on July 2. Birney's official report does not say where he established his headquarters on July 3. After the battle, Brig. Gen. Marsena R. Patrick used the farm as the headquarters for the provost guard (see View #9, E).<sup>12</sup>



Major General David B. Birney. *LOC*



Brigadier General Marsena R. Patrick. *LOC*

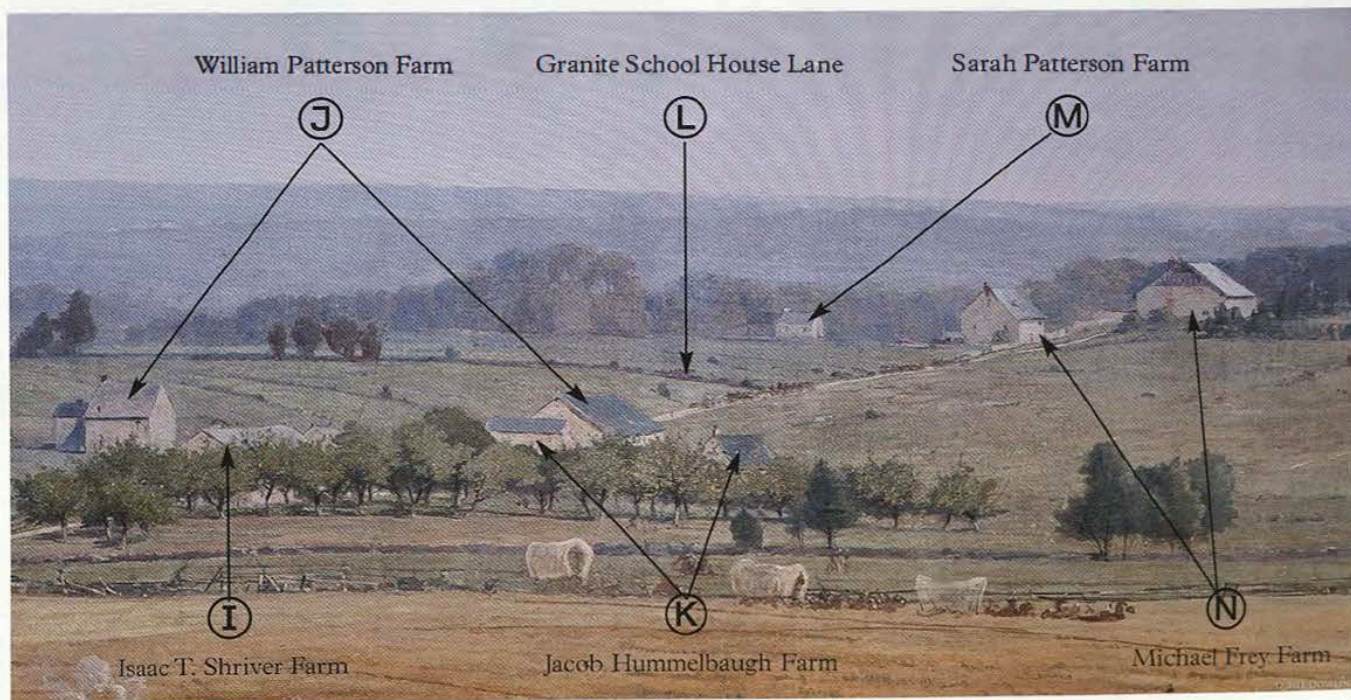


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### Ⓚ Jacob Hummelbaugh Farm

This farm currently includes three buildings (the house, the barn, and one out-building) that are kept in their 1863 appearance by the National Park Service. This house was used as a hospital during the battle. The most famous patient was General Barksdale who died there and was buried next to the house.<sup>13</sup> In the Chicago key, it noted “Gen. J. S. Robinson, hospital” which seems to be local marketing. The Chicago key also mentioned General Robinson in an area to the north (see View #6, N). At the time of the battle, Col. James S. Robinson was the commander of the 82nd Ohio, XI Corps. Colonel Robinson was wounded on July 1 on the north side of town near Heckman’s Battery.<sup>14</sup> We know that the Union II Corps used this area as a field hospital on July 2 and July 3. On this day, Robinson was probably in the XI Corps hospital behind Powers’ Hill at the George Spangler farm (see L).<sup>15</sup> Of interest is that he was labeled as a general when he was only a colonel at Gettysburg. By the end of the war, Robinson attained the rank of general. After the war, he became an Ohio Congressman from 1881 to 1885.<sup>16</sup> When the Chicago cyclorama opened in 1883, he would have been a well-known figure to spectators who would have called him general. The fact that the promoters in Chicago took the time to mention Robinson twice shows how a person’s status after the war influenced whether or not they were mentioned in the keys.

On the New York key, the Hummelbaugh farm was labeled as “Gen. Pleasanton’s cavalry Headquarters guard with Fuller’s Mass. Bat.” After the battle, Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton established his headquarters there until July 6.<sup>17</sup> Pleasanton’s HQ were probably farther south of this area on July 3 (he does not have a HQ marker on the field). Pleasanton was directly supervised by Meade during the battle, and spent a lot of time at Meade’s HQ. It was quite possible that his HQ guard was nearby. In the Boston version, there appears to be some mounted troops and a battery close to the Peter Frey and the John Fisher farms (E and F). These troops may have been closer to the Hummelbaugh farm in the New York version. On the field today, there are several cavalry and horse artillery markers around the Hummelbaugh farm. Lieutenant William D. Fuller’s battery was the 3rd U.S. Light Artillery: Battery C (not a Massachusetts battery), which was part of Capt. John C. Tidball’s 2nd Horse Artillery Brigade. Fuller’s battery marker is farther south directly across the Taneytown road from the start of Granite School House Lane (L). There are also several other distant units on the Taneytown road that could either represent these units or reinforcements from the artillery reserve. They are so far distant that no details can be clearly determined.



Detail of the painting showing the farms located to the south on the Taneytown Road (I, J, K, L, M and N). *BD*



### Ⓛ Granite School House Lane

This farm lane started at the Taneytown Road and ran behind Powers' Hill (View #9, N) to the Baltimore Pike (View #9, L). Along the way, it passed a granite school house that gave it its name (not visible in the painting). Because this lane ran behind the Union line, it was a perfect route for shifting troops from one end of the line to the other. Granite School House Lane was especially important on July 2 when the Union V Corps used this route to help repulse Longstreet's attack on the Union left. This area behind the lines was also a major staging area for Union supplies and the reserve artillery. There was a large hospital located off of this road at the George Spangler farm (not visible).

During the bombardment that preceded the infantry attack on July 3, some of the reserve artillery had to be moved farther to the rear because Confederate shells were over-shooting and landing in this area. The reserve artillery cannot be seen in the painting, but several units are depicted moving up the Taneytown Road that could have just come from this area (see K).

### Ⓜ Sarah Patterson Farm

To the left of the Michael Frey farm (N), a small house can be seen in the painting. This building was probably part of either the Jacob Swisher or the Sarah Patterson farm. Both of these farms were south of Michael Frey on the Taneytown Road, and have hospital signs today. At this angle, the Swisher farm was probably hidden by Weikert's hill (View #1, K). We are probably seeing part of the Sarah Patterson farm, which is farther back from the Taneytown Road than Swisher. However, it is too small in the Tipton photographs to positively identify, and the view on modern photographs is blocked by trees and modern buildings.

### Ⓝ Michael Frey Farm

The original Michael Frey farm no longer stands. At the time of the battle, the farm house was located on the east side of the road. Today, there is a more modern structure at this site with a hospital marker. The barn was located on the west side of the road and no longer stands. The barn, clearly visible in the painting, would have been located near where the horse path crosses the Taneytown Road today.

<sup>1</sup> Edwin B. Coddington, *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command* (New York, NY, 1968), 495–496.

<sup>2</sup> Old Baldy is on display at the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library (4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA). Blackie was Meade's show horse, Freeman Cleaves, *Meade of Gettysburg* (Norman, OK, 1960), 339.

<sup>3</sup> Richard A. Sauers, *Advance the Colors* (Harrisburg, PA, 1987), 195–196.

<sup>4</sup> Reports of Maj. Sylvanus W. Curtis, in *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1880–1901), Series 1, vol. 27, pt. 1, 448.

<sup>5</sup> Reports of Brig. Gen. Alexander S. Webb, *OR* 27, pt. 1, 427.

<sup>6</sup> Philip M. Cole, *Civil War Artillery at Gettysburg: Organization, Equipment, Ammunition, and Operations* (Ortanna, PA, 2002), 101–110.

<sup>7</sup> Kent Masterson Brown, *Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander* (Lexington, KY, 1993), 236 and 242.

<sup>8</sup> Cole, *Civil War Artillery at Gettysburg: Organization, Equipment,*

*Ammunition, and Operations*, (Ortanna, PA, 2002), 121–133.

<sup>9</sup> Timothy H. Smith, *Farms at Gettysburg: The Fields of Battle* (Gettysburg, PA, 2007), 37.

<sup>10</sup> Advertisement, *Boston Herald*, August 22, 1889.

<sup>11</sup> Gregory A. Coco, *A Strange and Blighted Land—Gettysburg: The Aftermath of Battle* (Gettysburg, PA, 1995), 194.

<sup>12</sup> Smith, *Farms at Gettysburg: The Fields of Battle*, 35; Reports of Maj. Gen. David B. Birney, *OR* 27, pt. 1, 485.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 36.

<sup>14</sup> Harry W. Pfanz, *Gettysburg—The First Day* (Chapel Hill, NC, 2001), 264.

<sup>15</sup> Coco, *A Strange and Blighted Land—Gettysburg: The Aftermath of Battle*, 207–209.

<sup>16</sup> Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue* (Baton Rouge, LA, 1964), 406–407.

<sup>17</sup> Denise Carper and Renae Hardoby, *The Gettysburg Battlefield Farmsteads Guide* (Gettysburg, PA, 2000), 58