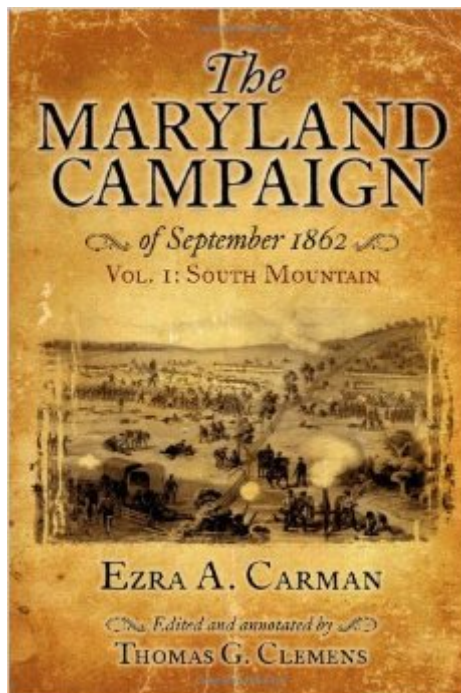


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The Maryland Campaign Of September 1862: Volume 1, South Mountain



Synopsis

WINNER FOR REPRINT, 2010, ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD

When Robert E. Lee marched his Army of Northern Virginia into Maryland in early September 1862, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan moved his reorganized and revitalized Army of the Potomac to meet him. The campaign included some of the bloodiest, most dramatic, and influential combat of the entire Civil War. Combined with Southern failures in the Western Theater, the fighting dashed the Confederacy's best hope for independence, convinced President Abraham Lincoln to announce the Emancipation Proclamation, and left America with what is still its bloodiest day in history. One of the campaign's participants was Ezra A. Carman, the colonel of the 13th New Jersey Infantry. Wounded earlier in the war, Carman would achieve brigade command and fight in more than twenty battles before being mustered out as a brevet brigadier general. After the horrific fighting of September 17, 1862, he recorded in his diary that he was preparing a good map of the Antietam battle and a full account of the action. Unbeknownst to the young officer, the project would become the most significant work of his life. Appointed as the "Historical Expert" to the Antietam Battlefield Board in 1894, Carman and the other members solicited accounts from hundreds of veterans, scoured through thousands of letters and maps, and assimilated the material into the hundreds of cast iron tablets that still mark the field today. Carman also wrote an 1,800-page manuscript on the campaign, from its start in northern Virginia through McClellan's removal from command in November 1862. Although it remained unpublished for more than a century, many historians and students of the war consider it to be the best overall treatment of the campaign ever written. Dr. Thomas G. Clemens (editor), recognized internationally as one of the foremost historians of the Maryland Campaign, has spent more than two decades studying Antietam and editing and richly annotating Carman's exhaustively written manuscript. The result is 'The Maryland Campaign of September 1862', Carman's magisterial account published for the first time in two volumes. Jammed with firsthand accounts, personal anecdotes, maps, photos, a biographical dictionary, and a database of veterans' accounts of the fighting, this long-awaited study will be read and appreciated as battle history at its finest.

About the Authors: Ezra Ayres Carman was born in Oak Tree, New Jersey, on February 27, 1834, and educated at Western Military Academy in Kentucky. He fought with New Jersey organizations throughout the Civil War, mustering out as a brevet brigadier general. He was appointed to the Antietam National Cemetery Board of Trustees and later to the Antietam Battlefield Board in 1894. Carman also served on the Chattanooga-Chickamauga Battlefield Commission. He died in 1909 on Christmas day and was buried just below the Custis-Lee mansion in Arlington Cemetery. Thomas G. Clemens earned his

doctoral degree at George Mason University, where he studied under Maryland Campaign historian Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. Tom has published a wide variety of magazine articles and book reviews, has appeared in several documentary programs, and is a licensed tour guide at Antietam National Battlefield. An instructor at Hagerstown Community College, he also helped found and is the current president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc., a preservation group dedicated to saving historic properties.

REVIEWS

“Ezra Carman’s long-unpublished history of the 1862 Maryland Campaign is an essential source on the operations that produced the bloodiest day in American military history and largest surrender of U.S. troops before World War II and there is no one better qualified than Thomas Clemens to bring it to print. Not only does this volume make Carman’s study broadly accessible to students of the war, but Clemens’s many years studying the events of September 1862 and unmatched knowledge of Carman and his work enable him to skillfully and authoritatively explain and scrutinize Carman’s take on events. In addition to being a magnificent contribution to literature on the Civil War, this outstanding book will also advance the process of securing Clemens a place alongside Carman and Harsh in the pantheon of Maryland Campaign scholars. I cannot recommend it highly enough.”

— Ethan S. Rafuse, author of McClellan’s War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union and Antietam, South Mountain, and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide

From reading the manuscript and Clemens’s expert editing, one easily sees why modern Antietam scholars lean heavily upon Carman’s pioneering work. One wishes all Civil War battlefields had been likewise gifted with such a worthy and dedicated veteran sponsor. Soon, with the completion of the pair of volumes comprising The Maryland Campaign of 1862, all readers will have easy and affordable access to a classic of Civil War historiography, as well as a mammoth editorial project of significant scholarship in its own right.

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Customer Reviews

Much of what we "know" about Civil War battles is due to a few men, who devoted their lives to record what happened. They corresponded with, talked to and/or walked the field with veterans. They wrote pages of notes, filed letters and some produced a manuscript. Over and above the Official Record, these men's efforts provide a personal account of a battle. While they are not always right, they are the best personal record we have. Ezra A. Carman is one of these men. The Civil War consumed his life, first as a Union officer and later as a historian and trustee for Antietam. Carman is unique in that he is a veteran of The Battle of Antietam leading the 13th New Jersey during fighting in the Cornfield. After the battle, Carman wrote he wanted to prepare "a good map" of the field. His "good map" grew into a handwritten 1,800-page history. This document took most of the 1890s to produce. A treasure trove for scholars, it only recently became available to the general public. Thomas G. Clemens is an authority on Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862. He is an Antietam guide, a student of Dr. Joseph L. Harsh and active in preserving the area. Having him edit and make annotations brings two experts to the table. Carman talked with the veterans and Clemens has years of studying and analyzing the historical records. Together, they complement and extend the narrative producing a whole that is greater than a single effort by either of them. This is the first of two volumes covering the Maryland Campaign of 1862. We start with a brief history of Maryland in the Civil War as seen by a Union Officer. Clemens is very even handed here, stressing the source of Carman's writing.

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