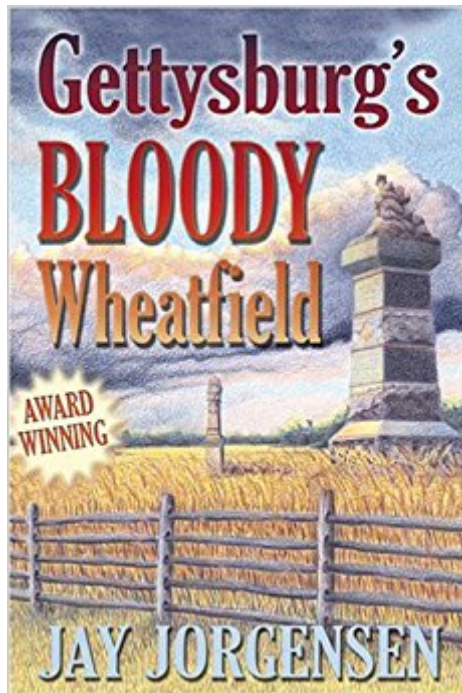




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# Gettysburg's Bloody Wheatfield



## Synopsis

The fight for the Wheatfield at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 has long been one of the most confusing and misunderstood engagements of that famous battle, until now. This book provides readers with a blow-by-blow description of the fight in which one out of every three soldiers was a casualty.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Few Civil War battlefields witnessed more horrific fighting than that which occurred in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 2, 1863. As part of James Longstreet's assault against the Union left flank, the action in the Wheatfield pitted troops from six Confederate brigades against Union soldiers in regiments from four corps. Jorgensen's narrative, which includes biographical vignettes of key leaders on both sides, makes sense of the complex ebb and flow of the action. His book should appeal to all students of Gettysburg." Gary Gallagher, University of Virginia

"A thoroughly researched, well-written tactical study of one of the most heavily contested pieces of real estate in U.S. history. The excellent maps, and meticulous attention to personal biographies and firsthand accounts makes this history a valuable addition to any Civil War student's library. This book is first-rate." John Michael Priest

Winner of the Bachelder-Coddington Award for 2002 for the book on Gettysburg that provides the best new information about the battle! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although I have visited Gettysburg over 30 times, and although my great great Uncle was in the 140th Pa Infantry and killed at the Wheatfield, and even though I read the official history of the 140th; I still learned a lot, a whole lot. My first visit to Gettysburg was in 1957 and we hired the park guide who used to ride in your car for a tour. He said "Here is the Wheatfield. It changed hands many times during the Battle and a great many died here." Then we moved on. That is about as much as I remember, he may have mentioned some Generals names or regiments. But the guides usually do not go into very great detail, especially in those days. This book will provide you with virtually all the detail that is known regarding the taking and retaking of the field, the Generals, Colonels and soldiers. I can now visualize what took place there at different times through out that afternoon and early evening. You can read this book by a fireside at home with a glass of Scotch, or better yet, plan a visit to the Battlefield and read it there. Sit under a tree at 8 AM and look at the Wheatfield. Read on. By evening you will have finished and have had a real experience you will remember your entire life. Walk around and use it as a guide. No Scotch on the Battlefield though, that is what the Gettysburg Pubs are for at nightfall when you retreat from history back into the present.

Jorgensen's detailed research explain's the actions of the regiments of the north and south at the Wheatfield section of Gettysburg. Various regiments did not know what was occurring while in battle and Jorgensen provides a very clear description of a critical part of the three days at Gettysburg. Highly recommended.

Explains the confusion and chaos of the Wheatfield that had eluded me for so long. Confirmed "folklore" stories I had heard about CSA Brig Gen "Tige" Anderson and his being wounded during this pivotal battle, and how leadership soon devolved to Capt. Hillyer. My great-grandfather was seriously wounded at some point during the Wheatfield battles, nearly died there but somehow survived his wound. Anderson was his Regimental commander.

4 hours of carnage and devastation Jay Jorgensen's Gettysburg's Bloody Wheatfield is an excellent micro-history of that monumental battle. Concentrating mainly on the fierce fighting in and around the infamous Wheatfield, Mr. Jorgensen has done exhaustive research and it shows. 75 regiments were fed into this swirling caldron of death and destruction only to be decimated. 12% (6135) of all Gettysburg casualties occurred in and around the Wheatfield. The fighting was continuous and fierce and Mr. Jorgensen does a fine job of relaying this to the reader. Overall an excellent

micro-history of a key fights during the Gettysburg battle. Mr. Jorgensen also included well placed excellent maps to enhance the reader's comprehension of exactly what happened and when in and around the Wheatfield. He also included informative vignettes of the main regimental and brigade commanders. Overall a superb micro-history and indispensable to fully understanding the 3 day battle at Gettysburg. Must read for all Civil War buffs. Puts the Gettysburg battle in more focus. See also Dave Shultz's *The Battle Between the Farm Lanes: Hancock saves the Union's Center* for additional Gettysburg micro-history. That part of the July 2nd battle occurred next to and simultaneously with the Wheatfield fight. Together, the two books give greater meaning and depth to that horrendous day of death. Also of help was Bradley Gottfried's *The Maps of Gettysburg* which will help give the reader a broader perspective of the Wheatfield engagement as it shows the surrounding areas where fighting was also at a fever pitch. From 4:15 to 8:30 PM the southern part of the Gettysburg battlefield was a roiling sea of sustained fierce fighting with the bloody Wheatfield at the epicenter. It is truly difficult to comprehend this maelstrom but Mr. Jorgensen does a fine job of giving us an excellent starting point. Well done sir.

A detailed, though at times tediously told recount of the July 2, 1863 battle for the Wheat Field at Gettysburg. Keep a map handy because the action is fast and furious, but well described in this book. A must read for anyone interested in the second day at Gettysburg.

An excellent companion piece to Philip Tucker's "Barksdale's Charge" concerning the fighting at the Peach Orchard - this book is an almost minute by minute account of the sanguinary fighting in the Wheatfield late on the afternoon of July 2, 1863. It is amazing that anyone survived.

First book I read where I can understand the Wheatfield fighting on day 2 of Gettysburg. One of the most complicated see-saw parts of the battle with Yankees and Rebs exchanging control of the wheatfield 5 times. Also covers fighting in adjacent areas such as Roses woods, Houcks ridge, the triangular field, trostle woods, stony hill as well as the actual Wheatfield. its not a thick book and if I was visiting Gettysburg Wheatfield I would bring it to refer to. Excellent

This books is a micro history of one bloody area of the second day of the battle of Gettysburg. As such it focuses at the regimental level and the individual experiences of combatants of both sides. The reader is given a convulsive inside look of the ebb and flow of the struggle over a small portion of the larger ongoing cataclysms of the critical day. It is a must have for Civil War buffs.

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