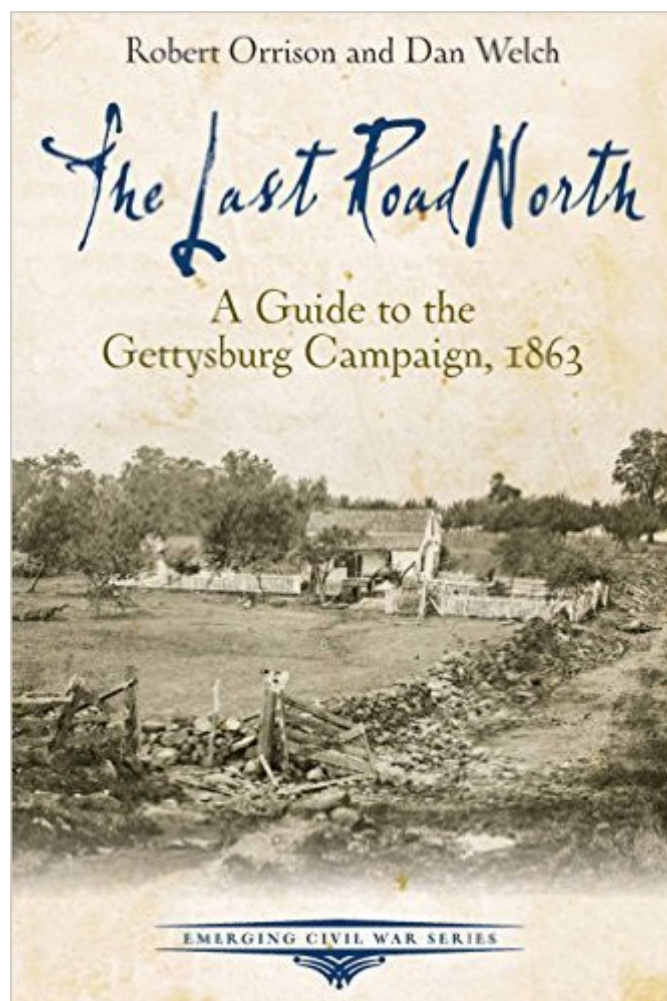


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# The Last Road North: A Guide To The Gettysburg Campaign, 1863 (Emerging Civil War Series)



## Synopsis

"I thought my men were invincible," admitted Robert E. Lee. A string of battlefield victories through 1862 had culminated in the spring of 1863 with Lee's greatest victory yet: the battle of Chancellorsville. Propelled by the momentum of that supreme moment, confident in the abilities of his men, Lee decided to once more take the fight to the Yankees and launched this army on another invasion of the North. An appointment with destiny awaited in the little Pennsylvania college town of Gettysburg. Historian Dan Welch follows in the footsteps of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac as the two foes cat-and-mouse their way northward, ultimately clashing in the costliest battle in North American history. Based on the Gettysburg Civil War Trails, and packed with dozens of lesser-known sites related to the Gettysburg Campaign, *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign* offers the ultimate Civil War road trip.

## Book Information

Series: Emerging Civil War Series

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Savas Beatie (June 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 161121243X

ISBN-13: 978-1611212433

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.3 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #305,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Gettysburg](#) #110 in [Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Historical Maps](#) #245 in [Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > Mid Atlantic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863" offers four separate driving tours which follow the movements of the Union and Confederate armies before and after the Battle of Gettysburg of July 1 -- July 3, 1863. While the Gettysburg battlefield has been visited by millions of people over the years, a much smaller number are familiar with the events leading to and

following the battle itself during June to mid-July, 1863. "The Last Road North" includes a good, succinct chapter on the battle, but the focus is on the before and after. The four driving tours it presents are each lengthy and separate and cover movements through Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The first two tours begin in Virginia following the Chancellorsville Campaign. The first tour guides the reader on "The Confederate Advance" which took Lee's army from Virginia through the Shenandoah Valley to as far north as the vicinity of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The second tour, "The Union Response" is a guide to the Army of the Potomac's efforts to ascertain the goal of Lee's movements and to follow and counter them. Most of the pursuit was at a considerable distance from Lee's army, making this tour independent of the first with little overlap. The third tour "Jeb Stuart's Ride" follows the Confederate cavalry commander's fabled long ride around the Union army through Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The last of the four tours covers the "Retreat from Gettysburg" including the roads Lee's Army took back to Virginia following the battle and the Union pursuit. Each tour includes many tour stops and good brief discussions of their significance.

Robert Orrison and Dan Welch, in their appealing style, describe the action of "The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863" and discover insightful consequences. While the Battle of Gettysburg was a Union victory, the campaign leading to and the Confederate retreat back to Virginia was far from the best moment in the history of the Army of the Potomac which failed to follow up their advantage. Union General George Meade failed to prevent the Army of Northern Virginia to cross the Potomac which led to 21 months of fighting until Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The authors make excellent points in showing that Lee failed to meet most of his most important objectives in having his army cross the Potomac in early June 1863, freeing Virginia from enemy forces, and transferring the fighting to the North. Ultimately, his forces were defeated and the war did continue. This study offers a good introduction to the Gettysburg Campaign. The organization of this title and tour follow the battle in the framework of actions leading up to and after the monumental Battle of Gettysburg. This solid guide book covers a large geographic area from central Virginia to central Pennsylvania. This volume is separated into four routes; the Confederate Advance, the Union response, Jeb Stuart's Ride to Gettysburg, and the Retreat from Gettysburg. The first three tours end at different locations at Gettysburg National Military Park. The Retreat from Gettysburg starts at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg. Each route is each at least 120 miles while the retreat route is approximately 50 miles.

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