

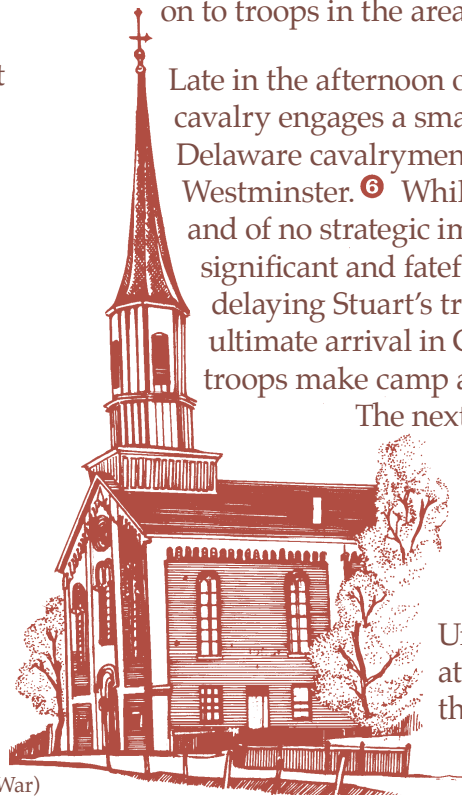


On June 29, 1863, Major General J.E.B. Stuart arrives with 6,000 Confederate troops in Sykesville, the southeastern corner of Carroll County.¹ Attempting to sever communication and supply lines, Stuart's troops tear down telegraph lines, destroy sections of B & O Railroad tracks, and burn bridges in their wake. The Howard Cotton Factory is raided and the Confederate soldiers gladly use the belts from the factory's machinery to replace the soles of their worn boots.

At the same time, Union troops create an ominous procession,² moving north from the southwest. Major General John Sedgwick leads the Sixth Corps (18,000 men in all) through the sleepy towns of New Market (Frederick County), Ridgeville, and Mount Airy Station, and on to New Windsor. A ten-mile column trudges down dusty roads in the summer heat, their fate not yet known nor sealed in the days before Gettysburg.

The horses, soldiers, wagons, and cannons passing through Carroll County towns draw the attention of the citizens intrigued by the guns, tents, and battle stories of these weary veterans. Miss Maggie Mehring, just thirteen years old at the time, records in her wartime journal that she and some of her friends at the Kleesich School for Girls in New Windsor³ stayed up all night taking turns to watch the march of their estimated 5,400 troops pass by. *"They were dressed very nicely and rode handsome horses. It was a beautiful sight for the moon shown so brilliantly that one could almost imagine it was day and the horsemen riding six and eight abreast with their swords clattering while cheer after cheer rent the air."*

Trinity Lutheran Church (as it appeared during the Civil War)



Resting for the night (June 29 and 30) outside Uniontown, Major General Winfield S. Hancock and his Second Corps take advantage of the opportunity to pen a few lines to parents, wives, and sweethearts. Bearing a Uniontown, Maryland⁴ postmark, many of these letters would be the last letter home—4,369 soldiers from Hancock's Second Corps would die in Gettysburg. Captain David Acheson wrote to his mother, *"All look anxiously for news from Pennsylvania. I hope this is but the beginning of the final defeat of the rebs."* Acheson was killed during the first day's battle in Gettysburg. On July 1st, the Second Corps march through Taneytown and on to Gettysburg, joining strength with the Third and Twelfth Union Corps. During the battle, messages are passed from the battlefield to Taneytown from the tower of Trinity Lutheran Church.⁵ Signals are sent with flags by day and flares by night, passing vital information on to troops in the area.

Late in the afternoon of June 29, Stuart's cavalry engages a small contingent of Delaware cavalymen in a skirmish in Westminster.⁶ While the encounter is brief and of no strategic importance, it serves one significant and fateful purpose — delaying Stuart's troops from their ultimate arrival in Gettysburg. Stuart's troops make camp around Union Mills.⁷

The next day the Confederate troops move north toward Hanover, Pennsylvania,⁸ 15 miles east of Gettysburg.

Union troops camp at Union Mills within the same twenty-four hour period as their Confederate

counterparts. Major General George Sykes' Fifth Corps seek respite July 1st along the banks of Big Pipe Creek, which passes through Union Mills Homestead.



Union Mills

Sykes' northern trek takes his corps through Hanover via Bonoughtown (now Bonneauville, Pennsylvania).⁹ The following day, July 2, finds these men on the Gettysburg battlefield in the area of Round Top.

Major General George G. Meade's plan calls for the Sixth Corps to march through Manchester¹⁰ to Hanover. But on July 1st, General Sedgwick receives orders to redirect his troops to Gettysburg. Backtracking from Manchester, the Union's Sixth Corps find the Littlestown Pike (now Rte. 97N) jammed with miles of wagons. Nonetheless, the zealous soldiers make the 37-mile march in 17 hours, in darkness, and on unfamiliar roads. About 2 p.m. on July 2nd, the Union signal men posted on Little Round Top in Gettysburg see dust rising from the moving column of men, horses, artillery, and wagons. The cry of relief heard by many: "Glory be, Hallelujah it is Uncle John and the Sixth."¹¹

Carroll County's good road system, strategic position, and rail link made this quiet county a natural draw for both Union and Confederate troops. Meade's anticipated encounter ultimately took place just 24 miles north of Big Pipe Creek. Carroll County's role in the formative days around the historic battle was significant. Some sixty thousand Union and Confederate soldiers marched through these towns, in these fields, and on these roads...to Gettysburg.

Captain David Acheson of Washington, Pennsylvania
Hancock's Second Corps
Company C
140th P.V.I.



Killed at Gettysburg

Brochure developed and designed by:
Carroll County Office of Tourism and the
Office of Information and Communication Services

A special thanks to the Civil War Brochure Committee...

Sally Walters, National Parks Service, Gettysburg
Jay Graybeal, Historical Society of Carroll County
Dan Schaeffer, Western Maryland College Student
Lori Jenkins, Towson State University Student
Rick Barber, Civil War Re-Enactor
Thomas S. Gordon, Jr., Historian/Collector
Carolyn Cherry, Carroll County Public Library
Sharon Martin, Carroll County Tourism Office

Cover: Detail of painting "Serious Work Ahead"
by Civil War Artist Dale Gallon

This brochure accompanies
Roads to Gettysburg Driving Tour Booklet



For more tourism information, contact the
Carroll County Visitor Center
210 East Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
1-800-272-1933
www.carrollcountytourism.org

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, at 410-386-3600, 1-888-302-8978, and TT No. 410-848-9747. The mailing address is 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

Carroll County Maryland Roads to Gettysburg

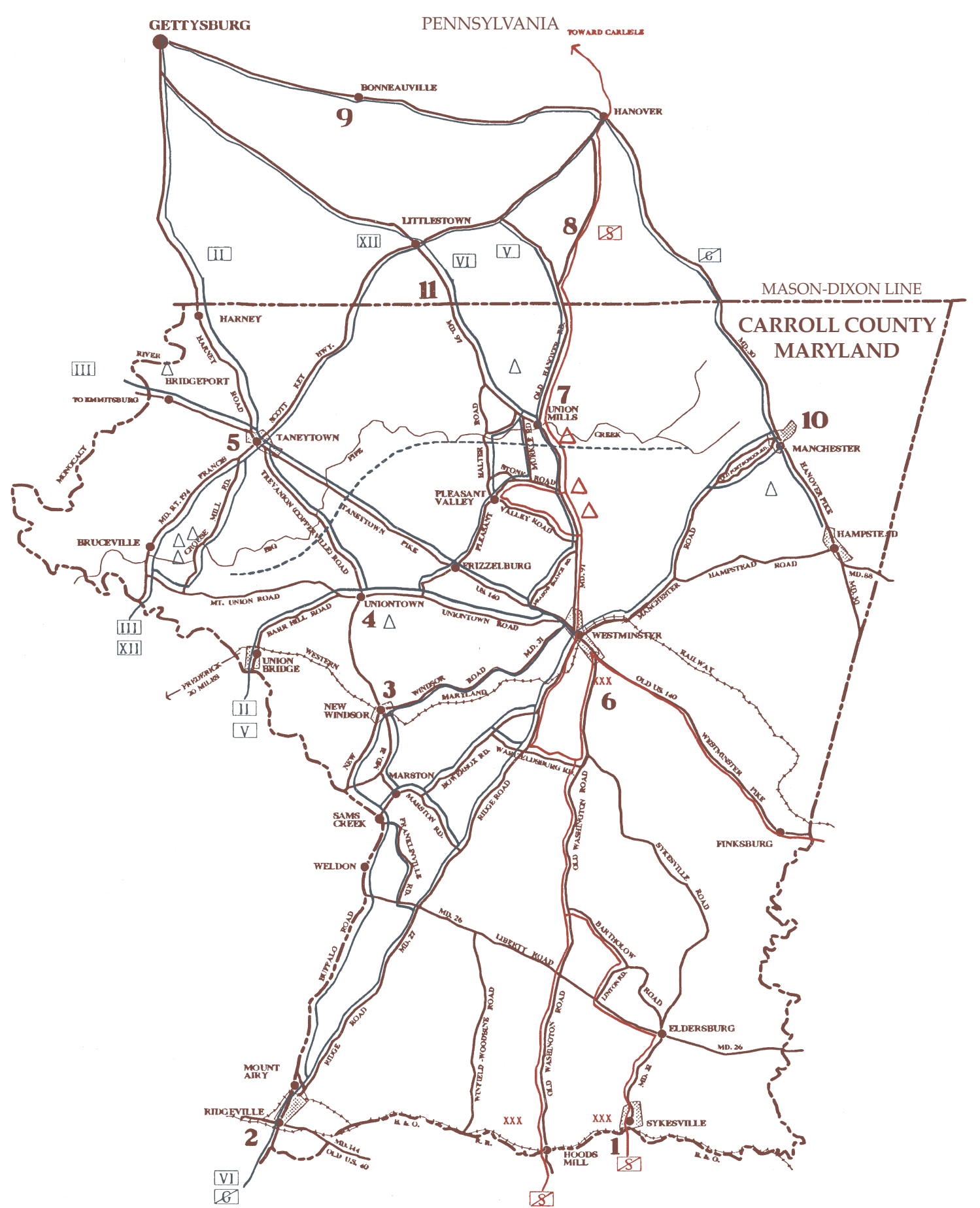




The rich farmland of Carroll County skirts the Mason-Dixon line, denoting North from South. Picturesque and serene, this pivotal county remained relatively unscathed during the two years the Civil War had raged.

Union commanders were aware of the strategic value of this rolling farmland. The recently completed Western Maryland Railroad's depot in Westminster meant much needed supplies could come in from Washington and Baltimore. The Union Army of the Potomac set up its rail head and supply base in Westminster where it remained during the course of the war. Supply lines were established and guarded; residents became accustomed to Union troops and supply wagons in and around their once peaceful town.

With Confederate troops converging from the north and west, Major General George G. Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, developed a plan to protect Baltimore and Washington. If the Confederate Army moved south, the "Pipe Creek Plan" would create a defensive shield behind Pipe Creek, which flows west across Carroll County. Meade's army began moving northeast from Frederick to position troops in the hills outside Manchester, as described in the "Pipe Creek Plan". Though they didn't know yet, these soldiers were marching on the roads to Gettysburg.



Legend

-  Major Encampment
-  Union Movements
-  Cavalry
-  Confederate Movements
-  VI Corp Number
-  XXX Engagement
-  Meade's "Pipe Creek Plan"

Map was prepared by Carroll County Office of Geographic Information Service from a map drawn by James C. A. Conner and published in Klein, Frederick S. Just South of Gettysburg, (Westminster, Md.: Historical Society of Carroll County, 1963.)

Troop Movements

	29 June, 1863	30 June, 1863	1 July, 1863	2 July, 1863
II Corps	Uniontown	Uniontown	Taneytown to Gettysburg	
III Corps	Uniontown to Taneytown	Bridgeport	Gettysburg	
V Corps	Liberty (Frederick County)	Union Bridge to Uniontown and Union Mills	Gettysburg	
VI Corps	Ridgeville to New Windsor and Westminster	Manchester	Manchester to Westminster to Union Mills	Gettysburg
XII Corps	Bruceville to Taneytown	Taneytown to Littlestown, Pennsylvania	Gettysburg	
Cavalry	Ridgeville to New Windsor and Hood's Mill and Sykesville to Westminster and Union Mills	Manchester (Along Hanover Pike) Confederate Cavalry Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart to Union Mills to Hanover, Pennsylvania	Gettysburg Dover, Pennsylvania	Gettysburg