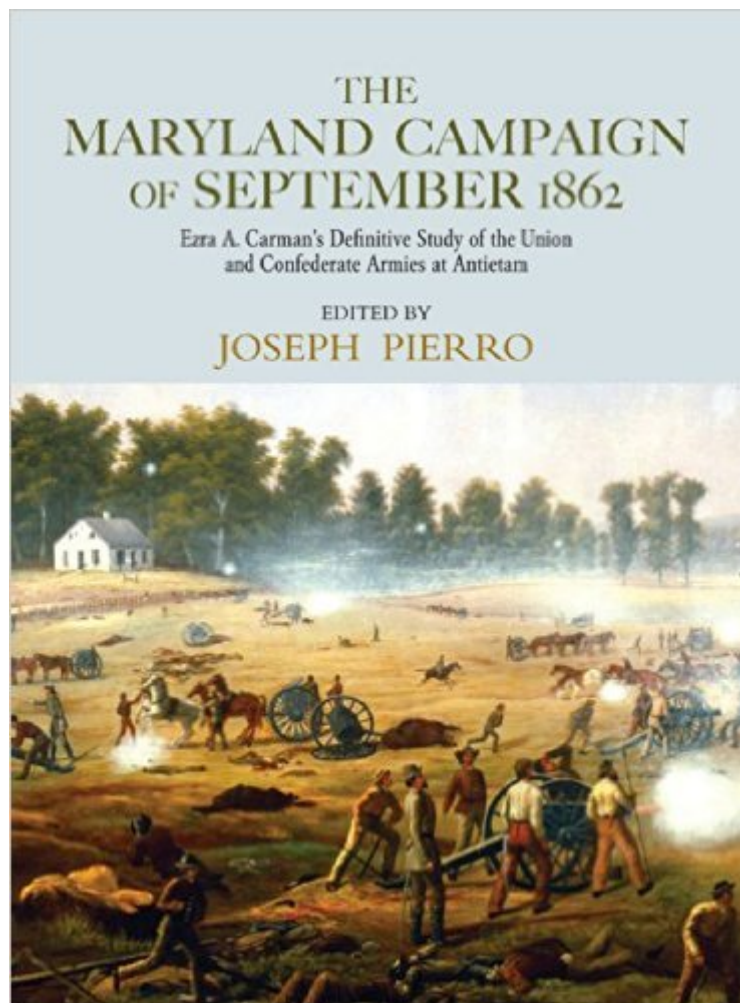


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The Maryland Campaign Of September 1862: Ezra A. Carman's Definitive Study Of The Union And Confederate Armies At Antietam



Synopsis

Completed in the early 1900s, *The Maryland Campaign of September 1862* is still the essential source for anyone seeking understanding of the bloodiest day in all of American history. As the U.S. War Department's official expert on the Battle of Antietam, Ezra Carman corresponded with and interviewed hundreds of other veterans from both sides of the conflict to produce a comprehensive history of the campaign that dashed the Confederacy's best hope for independence and ushered in the Emancipation Proclamation. Nearly a century after its completion, Carman's manuscript has finally made its way into print, in an attractively packaged one-volume edition painstakingly edited, annotated, and indexed by Joseph Pierro. This edition, the first to publish the entire Carman manuscript, including the fifteen appendices, is designed for ease of use, with standardized punctuation and spelling, and conveniently footnoted explanations wherever necessary. *The Maryland Campaign of September 1862* is a crucial document for anyone interested in delving below the surface of the military campaign that forever altered the course of American history, and is still the only complete edition of Carman's work on the market. **Due to an unfortunate case of mistaken identity, the man currently appearing in the frontispiece of *The Maryland Campaign of September, 1862* is not the actual Ezra Carman, but someone who looks remarkably similar to him. The real Mr. Carman can be found at: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003001783/PP/>. We apologize for the mistake, and will correct this error in further printings.

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Customer Reviews

We have been very lucky to have two important manuscripts published in the last year. First, Savas Beatie published the Cunningham dissertation as "Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862" in 2007. Now, Routledge brings us the Ezra Carman manuscript on Antietam. These happy events are an opportunity to improve our scholarship on two important and often over looked battles. Ezra Ayers Carman led the 13th New Jersey, Third Brigade, First Division, Twelfth Corps on September 17, 1862, fighting in the area of the Dunkard Church. After the war, he held a number of government position and was active in veteran's organizations. He maintained a lifelong interest in Antietam and in 1894 received an appointment as Historical Expert to that battlefield's board. His mission was to gather and coordinate as many firsthand accounts as possible. He directed the writing of the historical markers and is responsible for the Antietam maps in the Atlas of the Battlefield of Antietam. He died in 1909, leaving behind a hand written manuscript covering his research and understanding of the campaign and battle. This manuscript is one of the foundation documents used in every book on the battle but, until now, was never available to the public. This is not a "my experiences at Antietam" book! This is a detailed, comprehensive campaign study of 24 chapters with extensive documentation and footnotes. Supplementing this is 15 appendices covering everything from army organization to the British perspective on the battle. While written 100 years ago, the author did a modern campaign study including national and international political considerations in addition to detailed battle studies. The editor has maintained the tempo and feel of Carman's writing.

When the U.S. Government undertook in the late 19th century to commemorate the September 17, 1862, battlefield of Antietam, Union veteran Ezra A. Carman was selected to serve as the governing board's "historical expert." Through countless interviews and exchanges of correspondence with veterans of both sides, supplemented by all the accounts of the battle that had been published up to that time, Carman crafted the government's official understanding of what remains the bloodiest single-day battle in all of American history. He oversaw the placement of and wrote the text for hundreds of cast iron markers (still extant today), supervised the construction of a superb multi-plate atlas of the battle, and crafted a never published, 1,400 page history of the entire campaign. Carman's role in the subsequent development of historical interpretation of this battle and the resultant literature cannot be overstated. Every historian who subsequently worked in the field - consciously or not - has been to some degree influenced by Carman's initial efforts, for his labors not only shaped the physical space of today's Antietam National Battlefield but also provided the

template for all subsequent interpretation by first the War Department and then by the National Park Service (where it still forms the core of the interpretive model). Further, his unpublished manuscript has been used a principal source by the authors of every major history of the campaign and battle published in the 20th century: Murfin's *Gleam of Bayonets*, Sears's *Landscape Turned Red*, Harsh's *Taken at the Flood*, etc. But using this resource has always been difficult - until now! The physical manuscript resides in the Library of Congress, where access is almost always restricted to the microfilm.

This book is long-awaited good news for students of the Battle of Antietam and Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign of September 1862. Carman was a participant in the Battle of Antietam as a colonel commanding the 13th New Jersey. He also was the long-term historian serving on the Antietam National Battlefield Board so he was able to tour the various battlefields with veterans and exchange hundreds of letters with them as well as interview residents. Editor Pierro helps the modern reader by addressing problems regarding Carman's poor writing skills. Without diminishing Carman's meaning, Pierro standardized spelling and punctuation as well as applying modern editing techniques to this previously unedited manuscript. He also corrected Carman's obvious mistakes. While Pierro tried to track down all of Carman's references, some proved elusive since Carman sometimes did not cite his sources or described them only generally. Pierro's very detailed, extensive index of Carman's manuscript makes researching this large volume easy. Fifteen appendices include details of the organization and strengths of the two armies, casualties in the various battles making up the campaign, the British perspective, the controversial surrender of Harper's Ferry, and the mortal wounding of Union Gen. Joseph K.F. Mansfield. Pierro made these appendices from tables and lists Carman had scattered throughout his 1,400 page manuscript in his successful effort to make the book more readable. Pierro's use of footnotes must be applauded. This allows the reader to quickly peruse the source of information at the bottom of the page or to find clarification of the source. I found the absence of a bibliography disappointing.

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