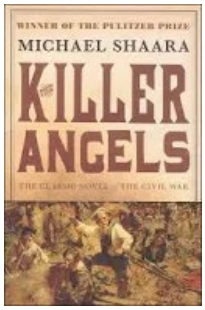
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Civil War Battlefields

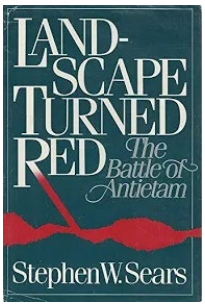
Reading and Viewing Suggestions from PLL Trip Scholar Richard Waller C'76

The Killer Angels, Michael Shaara (#1 Reading Option)



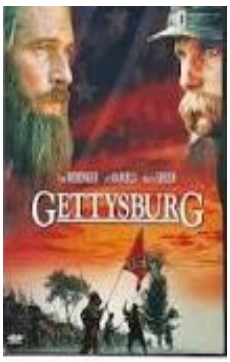
Pulitzer Prize-winning historical fiction and one of the most read books about Gettysburg. Features Lee, Longstreet, Joshua Chamberlain and, more subtly, John Buford and Winfield Hancock. The "imaginary" dialog is often taken from comments the characters actually wrote at some point, so one could say that their "words" are used. Extremely readable. The fact that Longstreet was a prolific writer means he comes across in a very positive light. Makes the stand of the 20th Maine at Little Round Top an epic and Chamberlain, their commander, a hero.

Landscape Turned Red, Stephen Sears (#2 Reading Option)



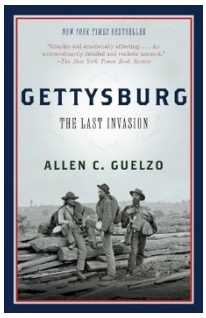
This is award-winning history, and probably the standard work on Antietam today. Sears is a distinguished historian who specializes in the Union Army of the Potomac. Reads in many ways like a novel, engagingly written. The use of personal accounts lightens the review of facts, while still leaving clear what happened and how. *Landscape* really established how contemporary Civil War history has been written, with this combination of the historical record with personal experience. Winner of the 1983 Fletcher Pratt Award for Civil War History.

Movie *Gettysburg* (1993) (#3 "Reading" Option)



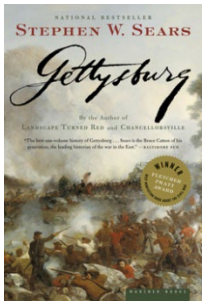
This blockbuster (but commercially unsuccessful) movie faithfully follows *Killer Angels* in its dialog and character development. On one hand one could argue that you just should pick one of them and skip the other—but on the other hand it is sort of fun to read and then watch. Veeerry long (4h 31m) but well done. The characters—Longstreet and Chamberlain, and to a lesser extent Lee and Buford—are well presented. Highlights the debates between Lee and Longstreet about how the battle should be fought (which, again, since Longstreet left an account of those debates and Lee did not, presents Longstreet as always "right"). The obvious choice in this list for a non-reader.

Gettysburg, The Last Invasion, Allen Guelzo (#4a Reading Option)



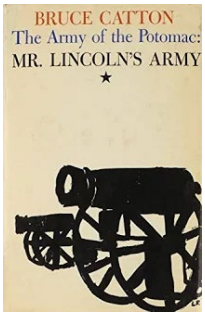
One of the latest one-volume works (2013) on Gettysburg. Guelzo is a prominent historian on the faculty of Gettysburg College. I'm putting this ahead of Sears' *Gettysburg* just to give you another author. Both are good storytellers and, like Sears' books, this reads like a novel. A review characterizes this as: "an intimate and vivid account of the Battle of Gettysburg, focusing on the experiences of individual soldiers, the influence of politics, and 19th-century military practices."

Gettysburg, Stephen Sears (#4b Reading Option)



Sears again. Not as awarded as *Landscape Turned Red*, and part of a much greater body of work, but Sears is always readable and understandable. A very good one-volume account. Like *Landscape*, blends an excellent description of events with extensive use of personal accounts to paint a picture from both top down and bottom up. Hard to distinguish from Guelzo—if you loved *Landscape*, you might want to stick with Sears.

Army of the Potomac Trilogy by Bruce Catton



Vol 1 *Mr. Lincoln's Army* (includes Antietam)
Vol 2 *Glory Road* (includes Gettysburg)
Catton was America's great historian of the 1960s. This trilogy covering the Army of the Potomac is one of many works he published on the Civil War. He writes beautifully, almost lyrically. Antietam is covered at the end of Vol 1 and Gettysburg in the middle of Vol 2. These volumes should be almost certainly in your local library (or acquirable by them—really, I'd guess that is true for all of these). As "classic" volumes, many of you may have them in your own library.