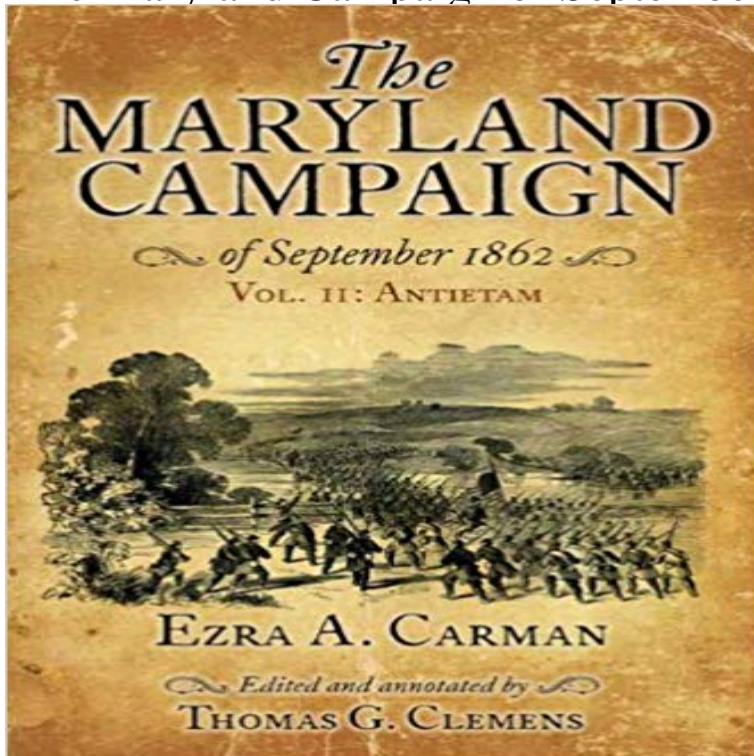


The Maryland Campaign of September 1862. Volume 2: Antietam



Antietam is the eagerly awaited second volume of Ezra Carman's magisterial *The Maryland Campaign of September 1862*. Many authors have written about the climactic September 17 battle of the 1862 invasion of Maryland, but it is impossible to do so without referencing Carman's sweeping and definitive maps and 1,800-page manuscript. His work guides every Civil War historian and comprises the basis of the National Park Service's interpretive programs at Antietam. Indeed, even the basic layout of the National Park battlefield was based upon Carman's groundbreaking work. Carman had the advantage of not only participating in the battle as a colonel in the Union army, but knowing, corresponding, and conversing with hundreds of Northern and Southern soldiers from corps commanders all the way down to privates. Over the decades he amassed a vast collection of letters, maps, and personal memoirs from many key participants. He used this treasure trove of firsthand accounts to create his compelling narrative. No one has devoted more time and effort to understanding what happened at Antietam than did Ezra Carman. The campaigns' first true historian. Unfortunately, Carman did not always note from where he obtained his information, making the authenticity and reliability of his work problematic. Editor Thomas G. Clemens, recognized internationally as one of the foremost historians of the Maryland Campaign, has spent more than two decades studying Antietam and editing and richly annotating Carman's exhaustively written manuscript. As Clemens discovered, Carman used his sources judiciously, and the stories he relates withstand scrutiny for accuracy and reliability. Carman's invaluable prose is augmented by his detailed maps of the dawn to nearly dusk fighting on September 17, which have never appeared in their original form in any book on the battle.

Even more exciting are the newly discovered 19th century photographs authorized by Carman to document his work laying out the battlefield, a haunting visual record of how the battlefield appeared to Carman as he tried to unravel its mysteries. The result is *The Maryland Campaign of September 1862: Antietam*, the most comprehensive and detailed account of the battle ever produced. Jammed with firsthand accounts, personal anecdotes, detailed footnotes, maps, and photos, this long-awaited study will be read and appreciated as battle history at its finest. Indeed, we will never see such a study again.

About the Authors: Ezra Ayres Carman was born in Oak Tree, New Jersey, on February 27, 1834, and educated at Western Military Academy in Kentucky. He fought with New Jersey organizations throughout the Civil War. He died in 1909 on Christmas day and was buried just below the Custis- Lee mansion in Arlington Cemetery. Thomas G. Clemens earned his doctoral degree at George Mason University, where he studied under Maryland Campaign historian Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. Tom has published a wide variety of magazine articles and book reviews, has appeared in several documentary programs, and is a licensed tour guide at Antietam National Battlefield. A retired professor from Hagerstown Community College, he also helped found and is the current president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc., a preservation group dedicated to saving historic properties.

REVIEWS Ezra Carman fought at Antietam, devoted the rest of his life to studying the battle, and his manuscript of the Maryland campaign and Antietam is unparalleled in Civil War historiography. Editor Thomas Clemens has applied scholarship, context, and analysis to Carman's life work. A masterful performance all around.?

Stephen W. Sears, author of *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam* If the long-unpublished Ezra Carman manuscript is the Bible on the Maryland Campaign in general and the battle of Antietam in

particular, then Tom Clemens edited and annotated version is the equivalent of Strongs Concordance. The Maryland Campaign of 1862 (with a third concluding volume to follow) remains the unchallenged authority on Ezra Carman, and everyone interested in the subject needs to read these books. Ted Alexander, Chief Historian, Antietam National BattlefieldHistorians have long recognized and used the Carman manuscript as the most knowledgeable and reliable source on the Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam. Based on his exhaustive research into Carmans papers and other sources, Dr. Clemens has now exponentially enhanced the manuscripts value and utility by demonstrating where Carman obtained his information, and where that information can be accessed today. Nothing will ever be of greater value to historians researching the Maryland Campaign. Marion V. Armstrong, author of Unfurl Those Colors!: McClellan, Sumner, & the Second Army Corps in the Antietam Campaign and Disaster in the West WoodsEzra A. Carman knew more about Antietam than anyone. His manuscript is one of the most important works ever written on the battle, and Tom Clemens has made it better with a brilliant job of editing. D. Scott Hartwig, author of To Antietam Creek: The Maryland CampaignThe Maryland Campaign of 1862 offers a detailed blow-by-blow account of the action that raged outside the small western Maryland town of Sharpsburg and along the banks of Antietam Creek, told primarily through the recollections and firsthand accounts of those who fought in the massive bloodletting in 1862s September. As he did with Volume 1 on South Mountain (2010), Dr. Thomas Clemens brilliantly edited and annotated this portion of Ezra Carmans monumental manuscript, and in doing so demonstrates anew not only his great skill as a trained historian in analyzing Carmans interpretations and sources, but his own extensive knowledge of this decisive battle, which remains the bloodiest single day battle in American history. Quite simply,

this volume belongs in the hands of anyone seeking a true understanding of Antietam.
John David Hoptak, Park Ranger, Antietam National Battlefield

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