

Bibliography of the Chancellorsville Campaign

Conner, Albert Z., Jr. with Chris Mackowski. Seizing Destiny: The Army of the Potomac's "Valley Forge" and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union, (El Dorado Hills, 2016). Examines the changes brought about at the direction of Federal General Joseph Hooker after he took over army command following the disastrous Fredericksburg Campaign and during the winter encampment of 1863 molded both the morale and efficiency of the army into the unit that would ultimately gain victory at Gettysburg and win the war. (The first stop of the tour will be to a preserved site of the XI corps winter encampment.)

Wittenberg, Eric J. The Union Cavalry Comes of Age: Hartwood Church to Brandy Station, 1863, (Washington, 2003). This book focuses on a critical period in the emergence of the Federal cavalry into a branch that would make significant contributions to the Army of the Potomac and a force to be reckoned with by J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry. (The tour will visit pre-Chancellorsville Campaign sites at Hartwood Church and Kelly's Ford, both covered in this volume.)

Furgurson, Ernest B. Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave, (New York, 1992). Furgurson's book fills a much-needed void in the history of Chancellorsville. Although by no means definitive, it is a detailed but readable mainstream account of the battle. Unfortunately, the maps do not stand up to the text. (This is the single most recommended volume for preparatory reading for this tour.)

Sears, Stephen W. Chancellorsville, (New York, 1996). Like the Furgurson book, this is a very readable, volume on the battle. Sears is very sympathetic toward Hooker, and stimulates some thought provoking ideas, challenging previously accepted aspects of the battle. The interpretation is not mainstream, however, and Furgurson's book ought to be read first so one may more critically assess Sears' viewpoint.

Mackowski, Chris and Kristopher D. White. Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church, May 3, 1863, (El Dorado Hills, 2013). Rather than offering a micro-study of several frequently ignored smaller actions of the Chancellorsville Campaign, this study examines these actions in the context of the overall campaign and effectively demonstrates that they had significant impacts on the conduct and outcome of the entire campaign. The fighting at Chancellorsville proper cannot be fully appreciated without also understanding how events near Fredericksburg affected the main battle.

Lively, Mathew W. Calamity at Chancellorsville: The Wounding and Death of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, (El Dorado Hills, 2013). A fresh look at Jackson's last day with the important contributions of a physician's perspective on the medical aspects of Jackson's death.

Voices of the Civil War: Chancellorsville. (Alexandria, 1996). Excellent set of first-person accounts compiled by the editors of Time-Life Books.

O'Reilly, Frank A. "Chancellorsville: Danger in the Dark Woods – Action from April 28-May 2, 1863," Blue and Gray Magazine, Vol. 29, number 4 (2013). Concise overview of the opening Federal army maneuvers, and the bold Confederate reactions, through the wounding of Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, with numerous maps.

O'Reilly, Frank A. "Chancellorsville: The Soldiers' Battle, Victory Amid the Flames – Action May 3-6, 1863," Blue and Gray Magazine, Vol. 29, number 5 (2013). Concise overview of the bloodiest morning of the war on May 3, when a soldier fell every second for five hours, and a wrap-up of the battle, with numerous maps.

Nelson, Erik F. "East of Chancellorsville: Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church, Including the Action on May 4, 1863" Blue and Gray Magazine, Vol. 30, number 1 (2013). Overview of the often-overlooked actions of the Chancellorsville Campaign that occurred near Fredericksburg, including the demonstration that caused the Confederates to contemplate just where the main Federal thrust would be – Chancellorsville or Fredericksburg, to Lee's frustration at being unable to destroy an isolated Federal corps to close the campaign, with numerous maps.

Mackowski, Chris and Kristopher D. White. That Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy, May 1-4, 1863, (El Dorado Hills, 2014). A volume in the Emerging Civil War Series, these books all provide a narrative of the topic while also connecting the reader with a modern day look at the site, including a tour guide segment. This Chancellorsville volume is done by editors/historians of the series who both worked for several years with the National Park Service on that very battlefield who know the story well and tell it in a compelling manner. (If looking for a quick read, this book or the Gallagher booklet are highly recommended.)

Gallagher, Gary W. The Battle of Chancellorsville, Civil War Series (Eastern National, 1995). Concise history of battle with maps and pictures, including excerpts by Sue Chancellor of Chancellorsville. (If looking for a quick read, this magazine size booklet is an excellent choice, and you may also wish to consider "That Furious Struggle" by Mackowski and White as well.)

Sutherland, Daniel E., Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville: The Dare Mark Campaign, (Lincoln, 1998). Takes a look at the broader context and the connections between these two campaigns, fought back-to-back, and over some of the same terrain. When examined together instead of individually, these two campaigns lead to a better understanding of the military and politician conditions of both armies.