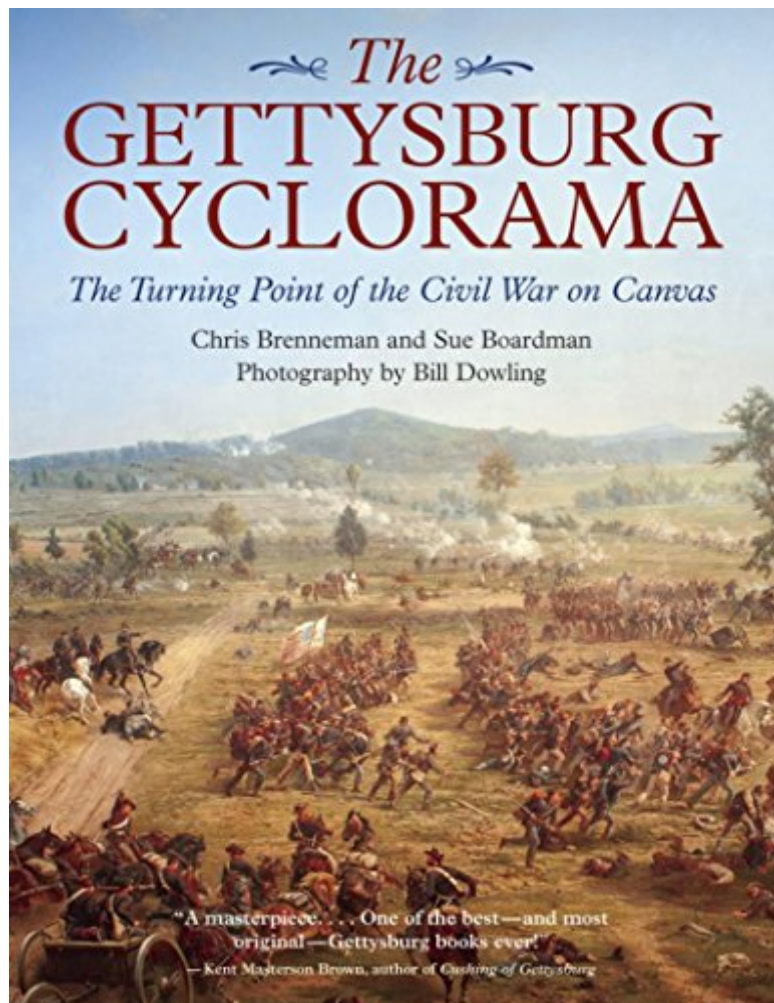




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# The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point Of The Civil War On Canvas



## Synopsis

Thousands of books and articles have been written about the Battle of Gettysburg. Almost every topic has been thoroughly scrutinized except one: Paul Philippoteaux's massive cyclorama painting The Battle of Gettysburg, which depicts Pickett's Charge, the final attack at Gettysburg. The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point of the Civil War on Canvas is the first comprehensive study of this art masterpiece and historic artifact. This in-depth study of the history of the cyclorama discusses every aspect of this treasure, which was first displayed in 1884 and underwent a massive restoration in 2008. Coverage includes not only how it was created and what it depicts, but the changes it has undergone and where and how it was moved. Authors Chris Brenneman and Sue Boardman also discuss in fascinating detail how the painting was interpreted by Civil War veterans in the late 19th Century. With the aid of award-winning photographer Bill Dowling, the authors utilized modern photography to compare the painting with historic and modern pictures of the landscape. Dowling's remarkable close-up digital photography allows readers to focus on distant details that usually pass unseen. Every officer, unit, terrain feature, farm, and more pictured in the painting is discussed in detail. Even more remarkable, the authors reveal an important new discovery made during the research for this book: in order to address suggestions from the viewers, the cyclorama was significantly modified five years after it was created to add more soldiers, additional flags, and even General George Meade, the commander of the Union Army! With hundreds of rare historic photographs and beautiful modern pictures of a truly great work of art, The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point of the Civil War on Canvas is a must-have for anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg or is simply a lover of exquisite art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Long story alert! Many years ago, a friend invited me to attend a series of art appreciation classes held at a beautiful Summit Hill home in St Paul. I thought I should go and expand my knowledge of art beyond the poker playing dogs hanging in my basement and he was paying. After a short happy hour, we arrived to our first class by bus. We were greeted on the steps by a snooty and snotty woman who looked like Frau Blucher (think Young Frankenstein). Noticing our jeans, arrival by bus and our beer breath, she sniffed the air with disdain as she escorted us to the chairs in the far back. Frau was "teaching" the first class and she spoke with a monotone and at length about a Renaissance looking man with his hand held up. Apparently, this hand had great meaning and she asked everyone what they thought. My friend whispered to me that he thought the subject in the painting was preparing to flip Frau off. I suppressed a giggle only to snort loudly, twice. Everyone turned to look and Frau Blucher, after a long pause, sighed and gave us the stink eye. When she finished her class to rousing applause, we left hanging our heads in shame. We attended a couple more classes. No longer fueled by Budweiser, we still could not get into it. It was presented to us in a boring way and meant for those who already had an eye for art. Everyone else, including the homeowner, indicated they were available to answer questions and were very nice. But, I already had a bad attitude and became judgmental the moment I arrived because of one person. I decided I disliked art. I am smart enough but have an easily distracted mind. My friend was no dummy. He was an MD and a nerdy brainiac. My friend said he sat through too many boring lectures in college to deal with it now and I thought is this is how I felt when I tried to read Atlas Shrugged. Now to my point... No matter how interested I am in a subject, I get frustrated with a book that forces me to read a paragraph twice, is too wordy, or is meant for minds greater than mine. I am not a scholar, but I know my passion. I love history. I am not criticizing these types of books as I know it is just me and I am jealous of those who can appreciate them. On a recent trip to Gettysburg the Cyclorama was not

a highlight. I thought it was pretty cool, but I did not understand it, I thought it was confusing and I have always thought Civil War art too dramatic and unreal to me. I like photos and maps. I already had a negative view about art. While reading info on another book, this book was shown as "also viewed." I thought "ick" I did not want to read a boring analysis of art, even if it was Gettysburg. I yawned thinking about it, but I kept going back to the reviews and I had just finished an outstanding book on Pickett's Charge, so I thought what the heck. This book made me very happy. Not only did it click with my Adult Attention Deficit mind but I had a hard time putting it down., staying up till wee hours to read it. The pictures were fabulous! The keys helped me understand. The story of how it came to be was fascinating. I found myself appreciating ART! How did this happen? I stared at the pictures and was amazed at how much detail there was. How did these authors figure all this out? I loved reading about the accuracies and the mistakes. This book had me mesmerized. I can't wait to get back to Gettysburg.

One item not mentioned is the Gettysburg cyclorama located on Pay Streak at the Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Expo in 1909. I have a postcard of the building housing the cyclorama at that time, the location today being on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle. My research has not disclosed what the cyclorama depicted inside and which one of the "buckeyes" (ie. knockoffs) was being displayed. There was also a painting of the Monitor and Merrimac battle. Otherwise, this volume is, by far, the most comprehensive rendition of the painting's history. As an aside, as a child, I recall seeing the painting on display at the old block building on Baltimore Street in Gettysburg. The cost: a quarter. The ranger at the entrance saw me counting all my nickels and pennies to go inside. He said: "Just go inside, son." Would that happen today???? All the significant points of interest in the painting were identified by numbered boards leaning against the bottom of the artwork. The person providing the narrative would simply refer to the numbers on the boards to describe what was being depicted. Contrast that to the the manner in which the painting is displayed today.

This book will not enlighten or change your perspective about the battle of Gettysburg. However it is a very interesting read about a topic I never gave a lot of thought to. The book points out details of the painting I never knew existed. After reading this I can not wait to get back to Gettysburg and look at this painting in a whole new light.

"The Gettysburg Cyclorama" is with out a doubt the most interesting book I've

picked up in a LONG time. The book's authors are to be commended as is the publisher. The information is encyclopedic, the pictures are amazing, yet at the same time it is very readable.

I have always had an interest in the civil war, especially in the battle of Gettysburg. I purchased the "Gettysburg Cyclorama" book and found it a wealth of information. I especially loved the photographs by Mr. Dowling, he truly has an eye for details. It was a very informative read.

The very best historical rendering of a wonderful historic relic. Nicely readable and incredibly researched. If possible, it brings even more meaning and connection to the Gettysburg Cyclorama.

Incredible!

Best book ever on the cyclorama, from the history of paintings to present day restoration, and all points in between. Loved it!!

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