

## Art in the Park: The Monuments at Gettysburg

A memorial urn in the Soldiers' National Cemetery became the first monument placed on the battlefield around 1867 — four years after the battle. It was placed there by the state of Minnesota to honor the First Minnesota Infantry which sacrificed so heavily here at Gettysburg. The pace of battlefield monumentation picked up in the 1880s, as the 25th anniversary of the battle approached. More than 200 were erected during that era.

Until 1895, the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association controlled the portion of the Battlefield held by the Union army, and so monuments erected before then overwhelmingly honored Union regiments and batteries. When the Battlefield became a National Military Park in 1895, Congress directed the marking of the lines of battle for both armies.

Between 1895 and 1910, several hundred tablets were erected to mark positions of both armies and explain their operations during the three-day battle. In addition, the former Confederate states also honored the service of their soldiers by erecting state monuments. Virginia's was the first — in 1917 — and Maryland, commemorating her troops in both armies, the last, in 1994. Today, some of the most beautiful sculpture in the park is located along Confederate Avenue.

And with nearly 1,400 monuments and memorials, Gettysburg National Military Park preserves one of the world's largest collections of outdoor sculpture, some of them designed and sculpted by internationally recognized sculptors and architects. A self-guided auto tour, which can be [downloaded here](#), offers [highlights of the monument collection](#). As you travel through the Battlefield, take time to stop, read the inscriptions on the monuments, enjoy the beauty of these works of arts, and contemplate the stories of the men whose sacrifices they honor.

1. **Major General John Reynolds** is depicted as he arrives on horseback at the start of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. The general will be killed within an hour of his arrival. This is one of seven equestrian statues on the Battlefield. Its artist, Henry Kirke Bush-Brown (1857-1935), was known for his representation of American themes. Bush-Brown has four portrait sculptures on the Battlefield. His other work includes, along with Philip Martiny, the 54 sculptures on the exterior of the Surrogate's Courthouse in downtown Manhattan.

Located near the Reynolds monument is one dedicated to **Major General John Buford**, who is portrayed looking west, where his cavalymen engaged the first advance by the Confederate Army. This is the work of sculptor and illustrator James Edward Kelly (1855-1933), and its lifelike depiction of Buford is similar to his other tributes at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and in Arlington National Cemetery.

2. **Brigadier General James Wadsworth**, commander of the first Union division to go into action at Gettysburg, is portrayed directing his troops to defend against the Confederate charge. His portrait statue was created by Roland Hinton Perry (1870-1941), a painter and sculptor trained at the École des Beaux Arts and the Academie Deleceuse in Paris. Perry's work includes a series of bas-reliefs at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the *Fountain of Neptune* in front of the library's main building. He also executed the working model of the statue *Commonwealth* that tops the dome of the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg.
3. The **Eternal Peace Light Memorial** was dedicated in 1938 at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of the battle. Erected by both Northern and Southern states, it is composed of Alabama limestone and Maine granite. The memorial is the work of Lee Lawrie (1877-1963), one of America's foremost architectural sculptors. In a career with more than 300 commissions, Lawrie designed churches, libraries, state capitols and other public buildings, including the Education Building in Harrisburg, Pa. His most recognizable work is probably the statue of Atlas at New York City's Rockefeller Center.
4. The **North Carolina State Memorial** depicts five of her soldiers during their fateful advance across the deadly fields during Pickett and Pettigrew's Charge. Its creator, Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941), modeled the faces of the sculpture after actual North Carolina soldiers — except for the color bearer, which is based on Randolph Scott, the designer of the first Confederate national flag. Borglum's art can be seen around the world, but his most famous sculpture is that of the four presidents on the face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

The memorial to **Tennessee**'s soldiers is a short distance from the North Carolina monument. The original proposal for the Tennessee memorial featured three-dimensional bronze figures. But the memorial, which was designed by Felix deWeldon (1907-2003), also the creator of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va., was scaled down. The monument on the Battlefield features the artist's design etched on its face. DeWeldon is the only artist in the world to have sculpture on all seven continents, having done the monument to Admiral Byrd for Antarctica.

5. The seven figures at the base of the **Virginia State Memorial** depict a young bugler and color bearer, surrounded by five fellow soldiers representing the various backgrounds of Virginia men who served their native state. On top of the monument — and looking toward the Union position on Cemetery Ridge — is Gen. Robert E. Lee and his horse Traveler. The tribute to Virginia's soldiers and their leader was designed by Frederick William Sievers (1872-1966), and cast in bronze by Louis Tiffany & Sons. Sievers created four portrait statues for the Virginia Capitol and a number of sculptures commemorating Confederate leaders, including the equestrian statues of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson on Monument Avenue in Richmond. It is said that, of the nearly 100 monuments to Robert E.

Lee throughout the country, this statue most closely resembles the general and his favorite horse, Traveller.

6. **Louisiana**'s memorial to its soldiers features a female spirit floating above a fallen soldier from the "Washington Artillery of New Orleans." The spirit of peace and memory, who also symbolizes a strong and resurgent Confederacy, blows taps for the dead. The monument's designer is Donald DeLue (1900-1988), a prolific medalist and sculptor whose art can be found in museums across America. His work also includes the Omaha Beach memorial in Normandy, France, and the Boy Scout Memorial Tribute in Washington, D.C.

Nearby is the **Mississippi Monument**, also the work of Donald DeLue. This monument marks the position held by Brig. Gen. William Barksdale's brigade, but represents all 14 Mississippi units which fought at Gettysburg.

7. The green Quincy granite monument to the 63<sup>rd</sup>, 69<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry regiments of the famous "**Irish Brigade**" is one of the most handsome monuments on the Battlefield. These units fought with valor in the Wheatfield on the second day of the battle. The bronze and granite base, which supports a carved Celtic cross, features traditional Irish symbols. The Irish wolfhound lying at the base represents the faith and devotion to duty, as exhibited by the soldiers in the brigade. The monument's designer, William Rudolf O'Donovan (1844-1920) had no formal training as an artist and, in fact, served in the Confederate Army. Following the war, he moved to New York City, where he opened an art studio and made his name as a well known sculptor of memorial pieces.
8. The tribute to **Major General Gouverneur K. Warren**, chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac, shows him discovering the Confederate advance from Seminary Ridge toward Little Round Top on the second day of battle. The statue, perched on Little Round Top, is the work of Karl Gerhardt (1853-1940), who was a close friend of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). Gerhardt also created one of the best known busts of Clemens, as well as a mask of General Ulysses S. Grant, taken at the time of his death.

The castle-like structure about 400 feet south of General Warren's statue is the monument to the **12<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry** regiments. The tower of the monument is 44 feet tall, with a 12-foot-square interior chamber containing bronze tablets memorializing the men of the two regiments. It was designed by Gen. Daniel Butterfield (1831-1901), the former regimental commander of the 12<sup>th</sup> New York and the first brigade commander of the 44<sup>th</sup> New York. Butterfield served as the army's Chief of Staff at Gettysburg, but is probably best known as the composer of the bugle call, *Taps*.

9. The **Reverend Father William Corby** was the chaplain of the Irish Brigade at Gettysburg. Father Corby was known to administer the last rites on the battlefield while under fire. His statue on Hancock Avenue, designed by sculptor Samuel A.

M. Murray (1869-1941), is mounted on the identical boulder from which he gave absolution to the brigade on July 2, 1863 — the second day of battle. Following the war, he served as president of the University of Notre Dame. An identical statue of Father Corby can be found on the South Bend, Indiana campus, standing on a rock taken from the Gettysburg Battlefield.

10. The **Pennsylvania Monument** is the largest and most complex memorial at Gettysburg National Military Park. This tribute to the Pennsylvania soldiers who fought at Gettysburg includes 90 bronze tablets at its base that contain their names. Designed by New York architect W. Liance Cottrell (1868-1964), the monument features sculpture by a number of artists, including sculptors Lee Lawrie (1877-1963), Otto Schweizer (1863-1955), W. Clark Nobel and Cyrus Dallin (1861-1944). On the dome stands *Winged Victory*, the work of Samuel Murray, who originally studied painting and shared studio space with Thomas Eakins, one of America's greatest painters. The Pennsylvania Monument is composed of 1,252 tons of cut granite, 1,410 tons of steel, 740 tons of sand, 366 tons of cement, 50 tons of steel bars and 22 tons of bronze.
11. The **Lincoln Speech Memorial** is one of the few memorials in the world dedicated to a speech. Designed by Louis Henrick, the monument features the invitation from Gettysburg attorney David Wills to Abraham Lincoln to speak at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and, on the right, a copy of the Gettysburg Address. The bust of Lincoln is the work of Henry Kirke Bush-Brown (1837-1955). The congressional bill that created Gettysburg National Military Park, enacted in 1895, included a provision for a memorial to the Gettysburg Address. The sponsor of the legislation, then New York Rep. Daniel E. Sickles, was former commander of the Union Third Corps at Gettysburg. His soldiers saw some of the heaviest fighting at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, and he lost one of his legs to a Confederate cannon ball.
12. The **Soldiers' National Monument** was one of the first memorials to be placed in Gettysburg. It is part of the original plan for the Soldiers' National Cemetery, designed by William Saunders (1822-1900), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's first botanist and landscape architect. Saunders also designed the park system in Washington, D.C., and is credited with planting 80,000 trees. The granite and marble monument entitled *Genius of Liberty* features Lady Liberty standing with a sword in one hand and a laurel wreath — the symbol of victory — in the other. Below her are seated four allegorical figures representing war, history, plenty and peace. The marble statues were carved in Italy under the supervision of neo-classicist sculptor Randolph Rogers (1825-1892). Rogers created other Civil War monuments for Ohio, Michigan and Rhode Island, and is also known for the bronze Columbus Doors in the U.S. Capitol in Washington.
13. One of the more contemporary works in the park is the **Masonic Memorial Monument** entitled *Friend to Friend, A Brotherhood Undivided*. The statue depicts a wounded General Armistead being attended to by one of General

Hancock's staff officers. The longtime friends fought for opposite sides during the war. The artist, Ron Tunison (1946- ), has several monuments on the Gettysburg Battlefield, including the monument to Gen. Samuel W. Crawford in the "Valley of Death" near the Wheatfield, and the Delaware State Monument on Taneytown Road.