
Tour of Gettysburg

Chapelgate Men's Retreat

Pete Skillman - May 17, 2014



Base map from <http://OpenStreetMap.org>. Annotations by Pete Skillman.

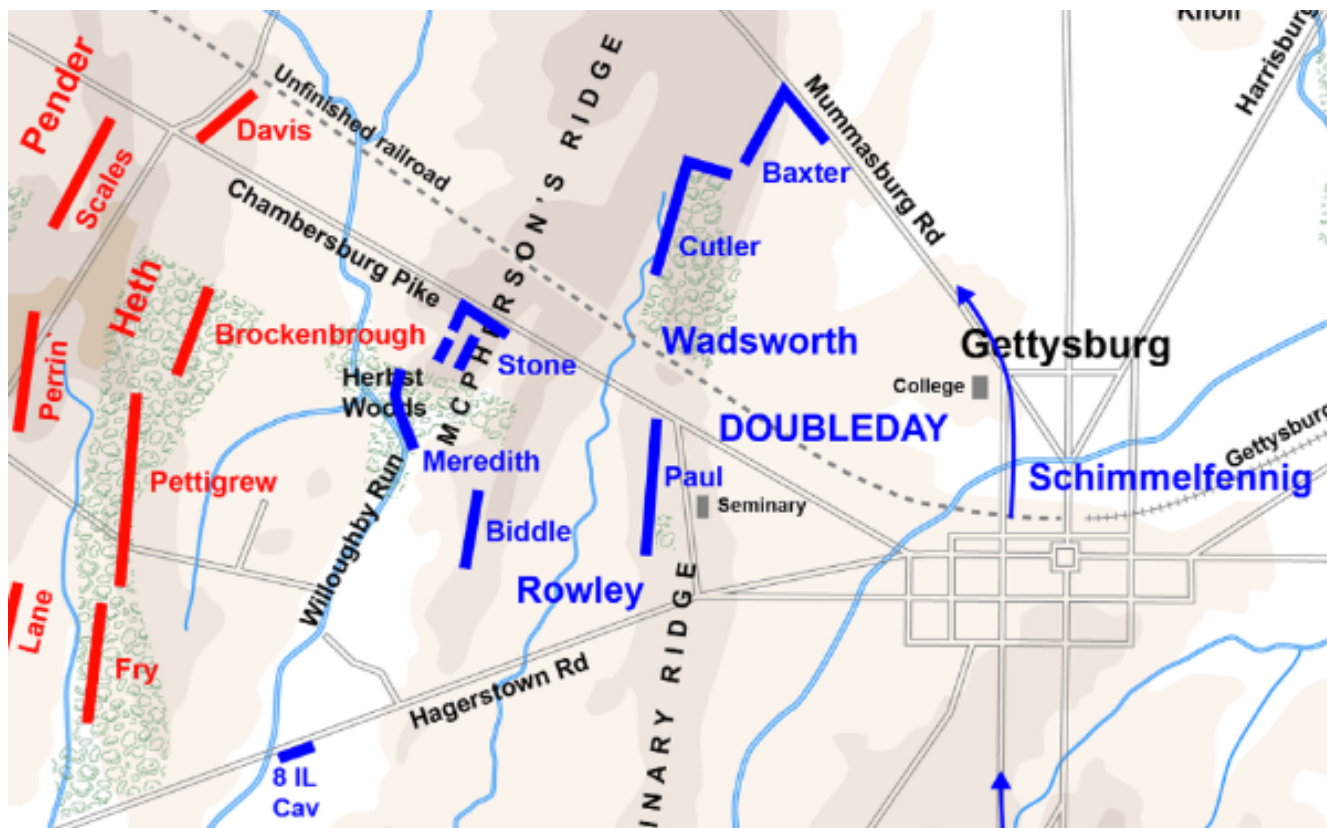
Stop 1 - West End Guide Station

GPS Coordinates: **39.837864, -77.252319**

At our first stop, we'll set the scene. Union Brigadier General John Buford's cavalry found a Confederate infantry brigade leaving town on the afternoon of June 30. He set up a defense-in-depth that night, hoping that the Union I Corps infantry would arrive in time to reinforce him.

Stop 2 - Herbst / Reynolds' Woods

As the Union I Corps arrives, a lull comes over the battlefield. During our second stop, we'll explain why, and describe the renewal of the fighting. Some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire battle took place in these woods. We'll also discuss how the first day of fighting ended.



Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>

Stop 3 - The Peach Orchard

GPS Coordinates: **39.800700, -77.247523**

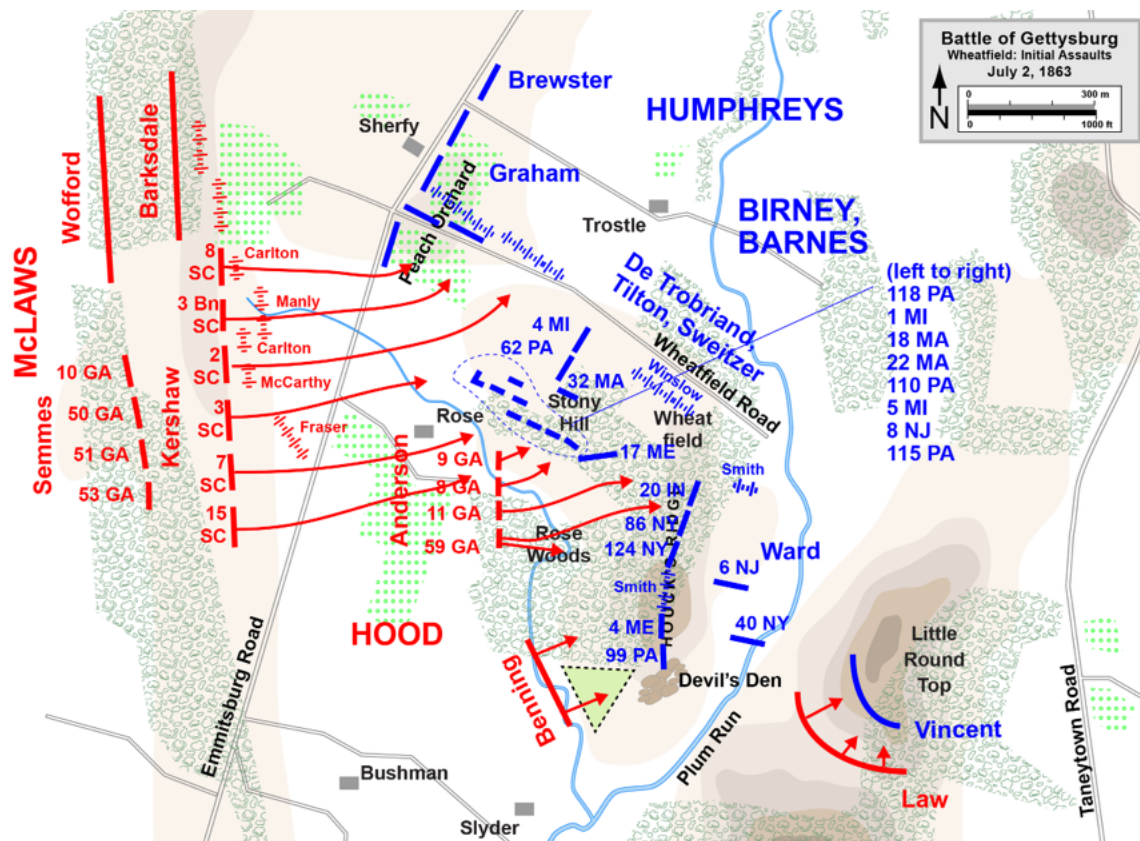
Major General Daniel Sickles - operating without orders - moved his men here on July 2. We'll talk about his scandalous backstory, and explain the fighting that transformed this small, unassuming piece of land from *just some* peach orchard, into *THE* Peach Orchard.

Stop 4 - The Devil's Den

The left flank of Sickles' advanced line rested on this ridge and took the initial Confederate attack on July 2. I'll explain the history of the "Devil's Den" name and we'll discuss the struggle for Little Round Top from this stop, too. Finally, we'll meet a living witness of the fighting that took place here over 150 years ago.

Stop 5 - The Wheatfield

This area changed hands at least 6 times on the evening of July 2, and became another location that - like The Peach Orchard - earned a formal title that day. A highlight at this stop is the Irish Brigade monument: one of the most beautiful anywhere on the field.



Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>

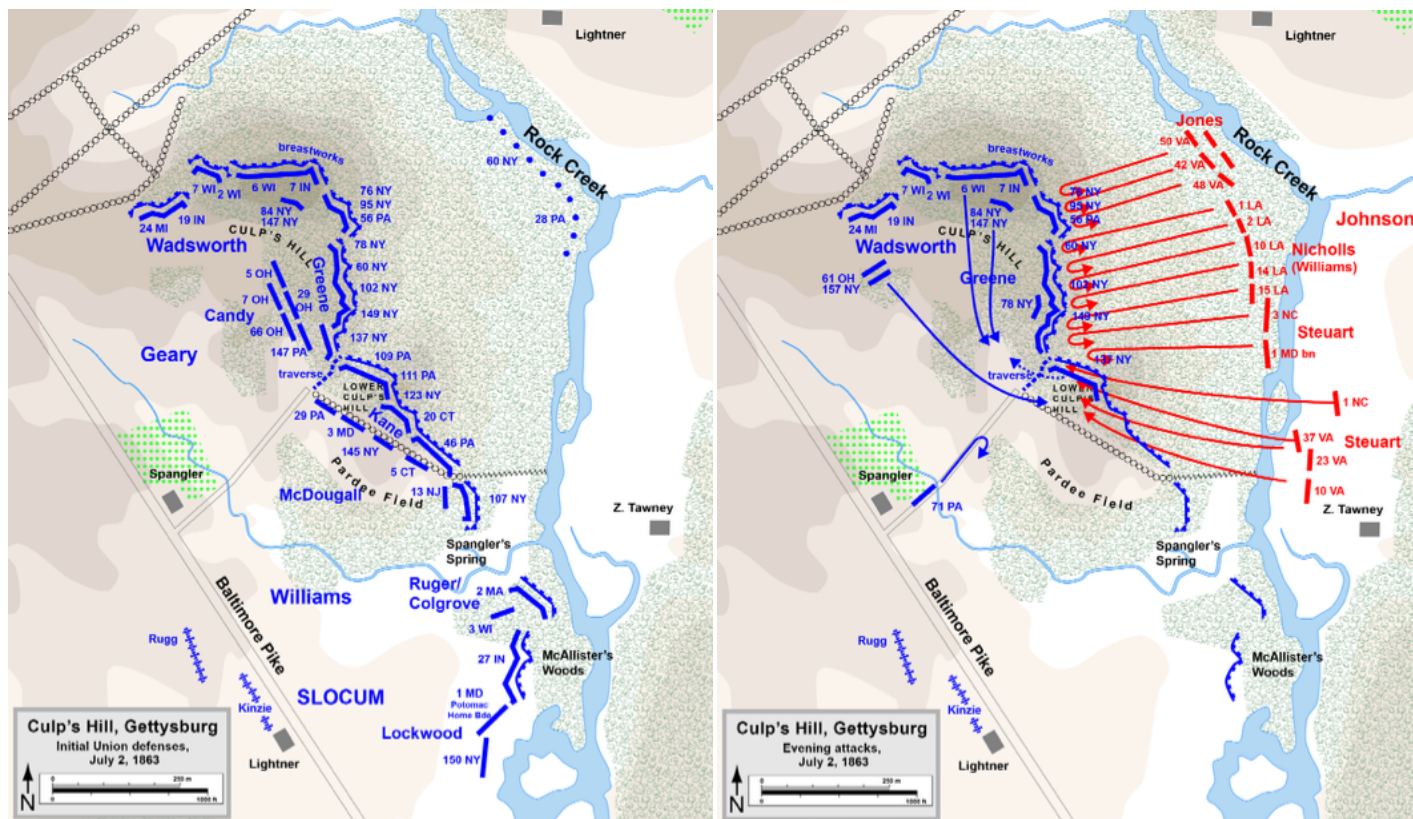
Stop 6 - Pennsylvania Monument / 1st Minnesota Infantry

How can we come to Gettysburg without seeing its largest monument? Across the street, we'll finish our discussion of the Union left on July 2 by learning about one of the most amazing stories of bravery to come out of this tragedy.

Stop 7 - Culp's Hill

GPS Coordinates: **39.818206, -77.219400**

Moving to the other side of the battlefield, we'll see the site of a desperate fight that took place from the evening of July 2 into the morning of July 3. A visit to Brigadier General George Sears Greene's earthworks, and a walk across the ground where Marylanders fought against Marylanders, are the highlights at this stop.



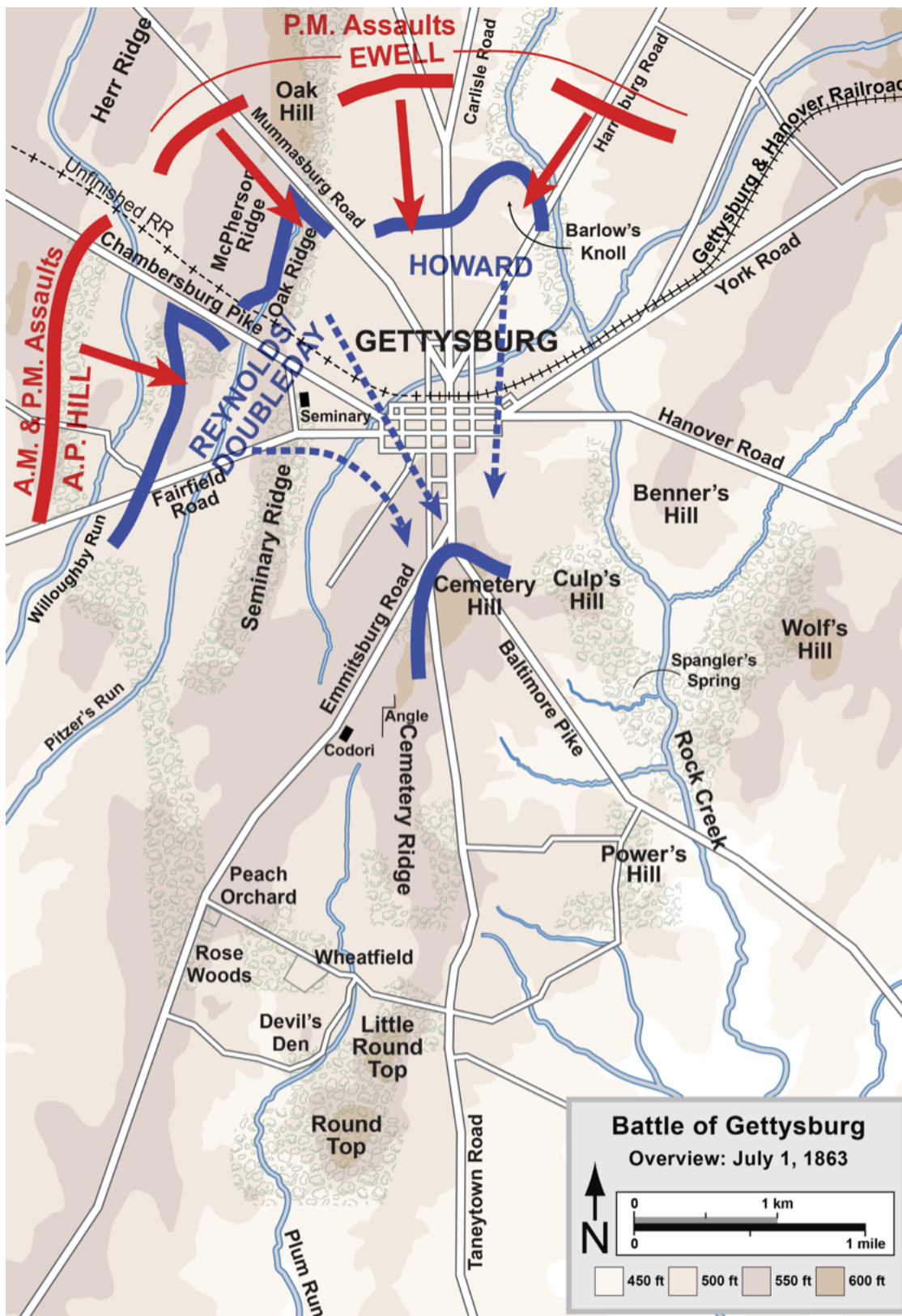
Maps by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmmaps.com/>

Stop 8 - The Confederate High Tide

GPS Coordinates: **39.812916, -77.235453**

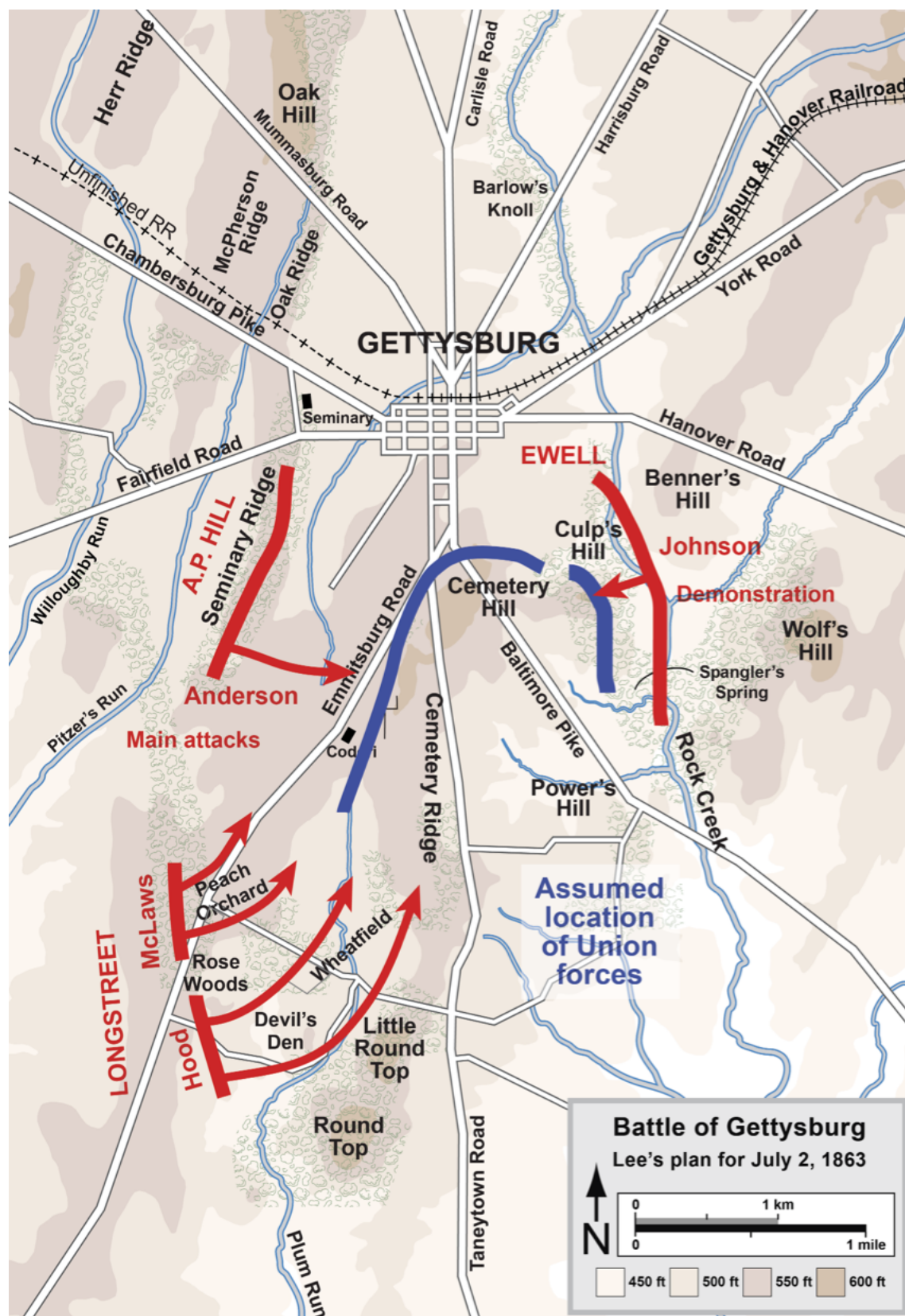
On July 3, the Union line in front of The Copse of Trees was the target for the most famous part of the battle: Pickett's Charge. We'll discuss why that name isn't the *most accurate*, and describe the infantry assault and the artillery duel that preceded it. For those who are willing, we'll even venture out into the field to see what the Confederate attackers were up against.

Day 1 General Overview Map



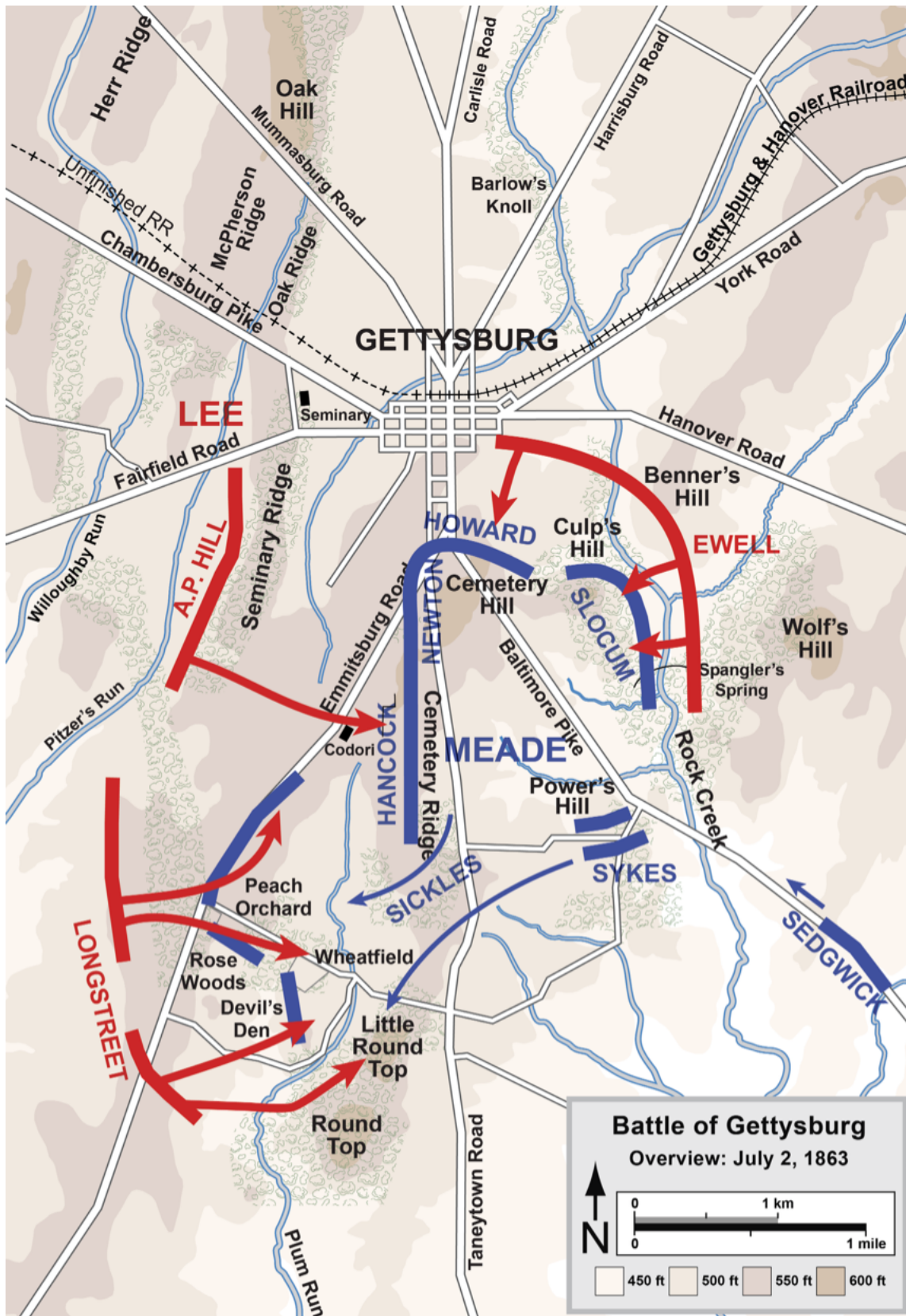
Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>

Lee's Plan for Day 2



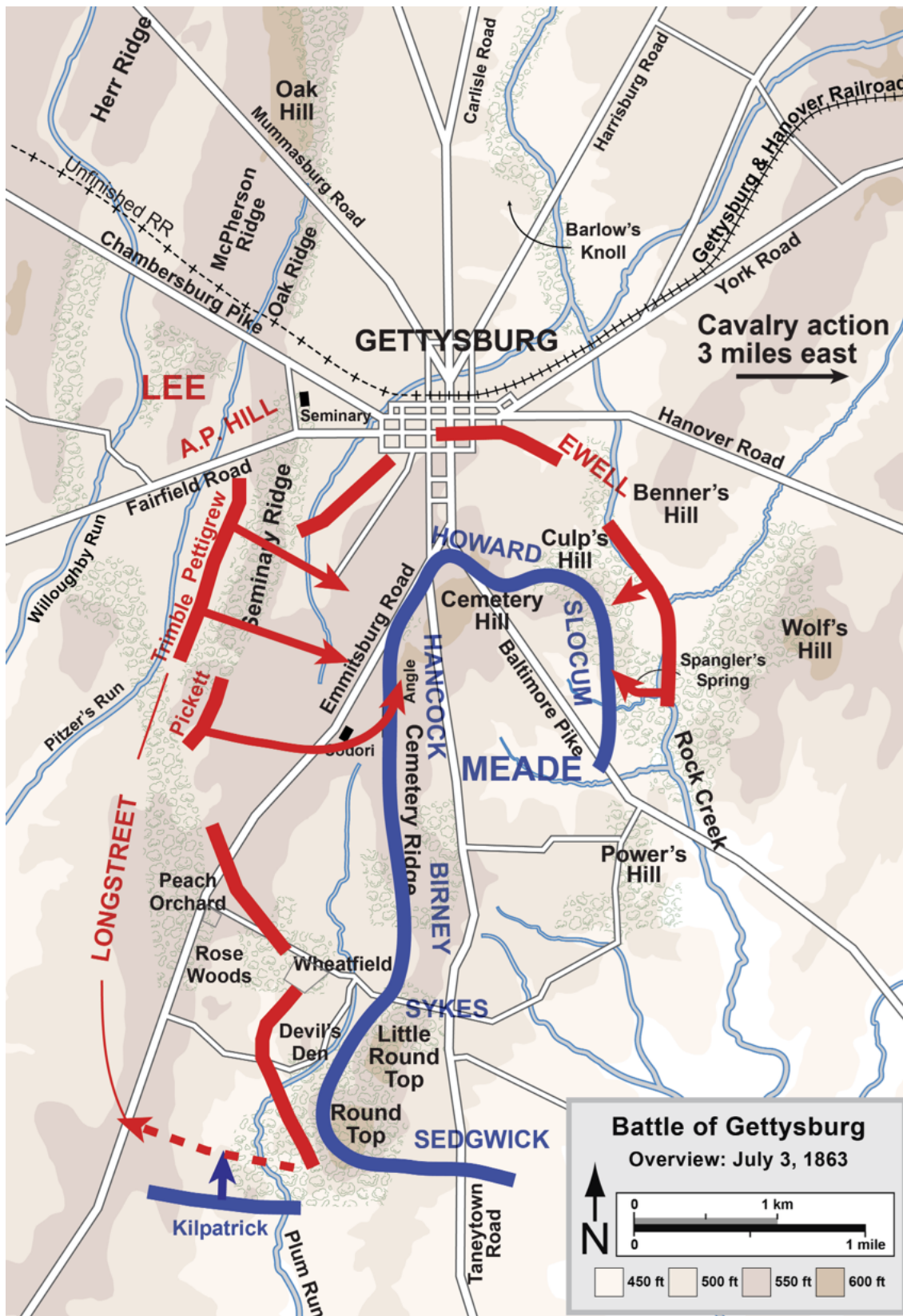
Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>

Day 2 General Overview Map



Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>

Day 3 General Overview Map



Map by Hal Jespersen - <http://www.cwmaps.com/>