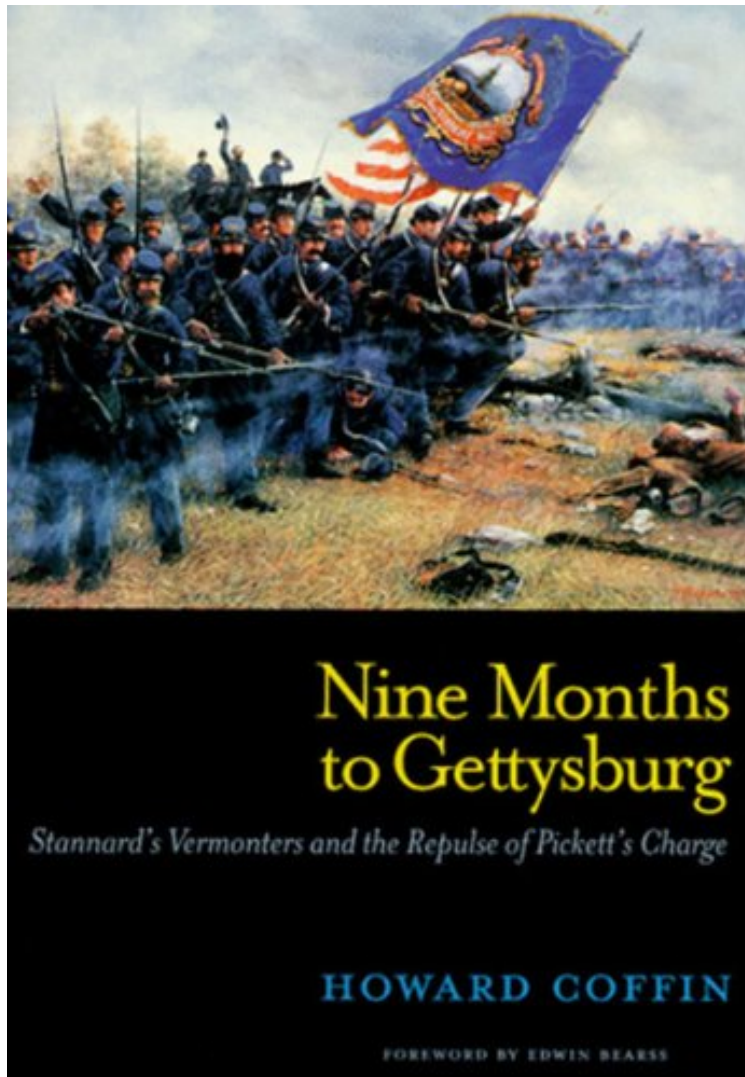


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Nine Months to Gettysburg: Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge

Howard Coffin

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Howard Coffin : Nine Months to Gettysburg: Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Nine Months to Gettysburg: Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. General Lee had other Ideas!By CustomerI've been a member of the VTARNG since 1992 and sorry to say that this particular and interesting story of the Civil War and of the critical part

the Vermonters played at Gettysburg was not known to me. A fellow soldier recommended it as we both have an interest. I was also unaware of the 9 month regiments. So very cool stuff. How the country negotiated with volunteers over enlistments and of course how history delivered eternal glory to them, they thought they would be home for the 4th of July but General Lee had other ideas. The personal letters were of particular interest. The names and towns are very similar to the names and towns the current soldiers I went to Afghanistan with if not direct descendants. I would have liked to see a few more battlefield illustrations of the actual brigade maneuver as they clashed with Pickett's flank.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Makes My Top Ten List of Favorite Civil War Books
By marguerite c. khosravi
I chose this book because I live in the northern Virginia area only a few miles away from where some of the Vermont soldiers were encamped at Wolf Run Shoals. Through excerpts from diaries and letters of the men, Mr. Coffin provides a portrait of what life was like for them on the march and in the camps (and in battle) and gives us a glimpse of who they were as people. The research must have been exhaustive and the book skillfully weaves material from the regimental histories and archives into a story that is riveting and rich with detail - and as free flowing as one of those beautiful Vermont rivers. In fact, I was so taken with the book that I contacted Mr. Coffin by e-mail and invited him down from Vermont, where he lives, to lecture to our historical group about the experiences of the Vermont soldiers in northern Virginia. I was quite surprised when he actually responded and agreed. He ended up speaking to several different groups while he was here and it was a wonderful experience. I hope he sold many copies of the book because it is one that deserves to be read.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. A detailed look at a key unit
By Don Lowry
This is a very readable, very informative history of a brigade of 9-months men who spent the vast majority of their enlistments in a fairly safe and routine assignment in the outer defenses of Washington DC, only to play a key roll in the Union victory at Gettysburg just days before being sent home and mustered out. Laced with quotations from numerous letters home, this oversized volume gives an interesting look at how these five regiments learned their trade and what it was like to be an infantryman in the Civil War, then details their important contributions to a pivotal victory, including their hard 7-days march to reach the battlefield, their repulse of Rans Wright's Georgians on the battle's second day, and their key role in defeating Pickett's Charge on the third day. An excellent addition to the literature of Gettysburg and the Civil War in general.

The compelling story of the Second Vermont Brigade and its vital role at Gettysburg (more than any other brigade they determined the fate of the battle) fills a significant gap in the history of America's Civil War. "A Vermont brigade held the key position at Gettysburg and did more than any other body of men to gain the triumph which decided the fate of the Union," the New York Times reported soon after the historic battle over the Fourth of July, 1863. The citizen soldiers of General George J. Stannard's Second Vermont Brigade, only a few days short of their nine-month enlistments, occupied a sector of Cemetery Ridge, helped stabilize the line, and then shattered the right flank of Pickett's famous charge just when the outcome of the battle hung in the balance. In this unique eye-witness account, Coffin draws on scores of soldiers' letters to relate how and why young recruits from isolated hill farms flocked to the Union colors in response to Lincoln's call in 1862. During the nine months leading up to their rendezvous with destiny at Gettysburg, they recorded, in humorous detail, foraging for food, and, in more sober terms, enduring homesickness, monotony, and often fatal diseases. We share, too, their anxieties as they are thrust suddenly into the most important infantry maneuver directed against the Confederate assault.

From Library Journal
Coffin (Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War, CountryMan, 1994) has written a stirring account of the Vermont 2nd Brigade and its important role at the battle of Gettysburg. Through an exciting narrative of short chapters, the reader experiences a you-are-there sensation as the author offers letters and diaries of the participants. Coffin, a former reporter and board member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, reveals the full range of military life, from the monotony of camp to the overwhelming sensation of battle. He may slightly exaggerate the brigade's accomplishments, but clearly its actions were significant. Though dozens of books of this genre have been published in recent years, the public's appetite seems insatiable. As such, this lavishly illustrated volume is a well-recommended addition to the group.
?Stephen G. Weisner, Springfield Technical Community Coll., Mass.
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From the Back Cover
On the surface, this is the story of a group of green soldiers from the hills of Vermont who responded to Lincoln's call in 1862 for 300,000 men to serve for nine months, and who found themselves, at the very end of their term, in the midst of the greatest battle of the war. What's more, at Gettysburg they occupied a key position on Cemetery Ridge and shattered the right flank of Pickett's famous charge. By doing so, they perhaps did "more than any other body of men to gain the triumph which decided the fate of the Union", according to the New York Times. On another level, this is the story of ordinary men who confronted fire with extraordinary bravery, hardship with remarkable wit, and fear with surprising honesty. It is through countless letters and journals that we come to know many of these men and follow each through the war to his fate - sometimes tragic - at the final crushing battle.
About the Author
Howard Coffin, former press secretary to U.S. senator Jim Jeffords, is the author of The Battered Stars, Full Duty, Guns Over the Champlain Valley, and Nine Months to

Gettysburg. He lives in Montpelier, Vermont.