



Abner Doubleday

CHANCELLORSVILLE AND GETTYSBURG

## Chancellorsville and Gettysburg

by Abner Doubleday (1819-1893)

Abner Doubleday began the Civil War as a Union officer and aimed the first cannon shot in response to the bombardment of Ft. Sumter in 1861. Two years later, Doubleday took command of a division in the Army of the Potomac's 1st Corps. These are his memoirs of service in two of the War's great campaigns.

At Chancellorsville, a promising start by General Hooker against Lee's forces fell to defeat when, in Doubleday's estimation, prudent precautions against surprise in the heavily-wooded battlefield were not carried out.

After Chancellorsville Hooker was replaced by General George Meade. At Gettysburg Doubleday's 1st Corps fought well against Confederate divisions that badly outnumbered him. The Corps was forced by battle losses to retire, but its desperate fight bought the time needed for Union reinforcements to arrive and prevent a defeat.

General Howard replaced Doubleday as the senior commander on the field, and mistakenly wrote to Meade that 1st Corps had routed after practically no fighting. Meade removed Doubleday from command of 1st Corps, replacing him with a more junior general. The snub would embitter Doubleday against Meade. This book is in part Doubleday's revenge, as he picks apart Meade's indecision after the battle was essentially won. In his view, Meade could have won the war at that moment.

**Total running time: 6:46:28**

**Read by Mark F. Smith**

*Cover design by Kathryn Delaney  
Engraving of the battle of Gettysburg from Harper's Weekly, July 23, 1863*

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