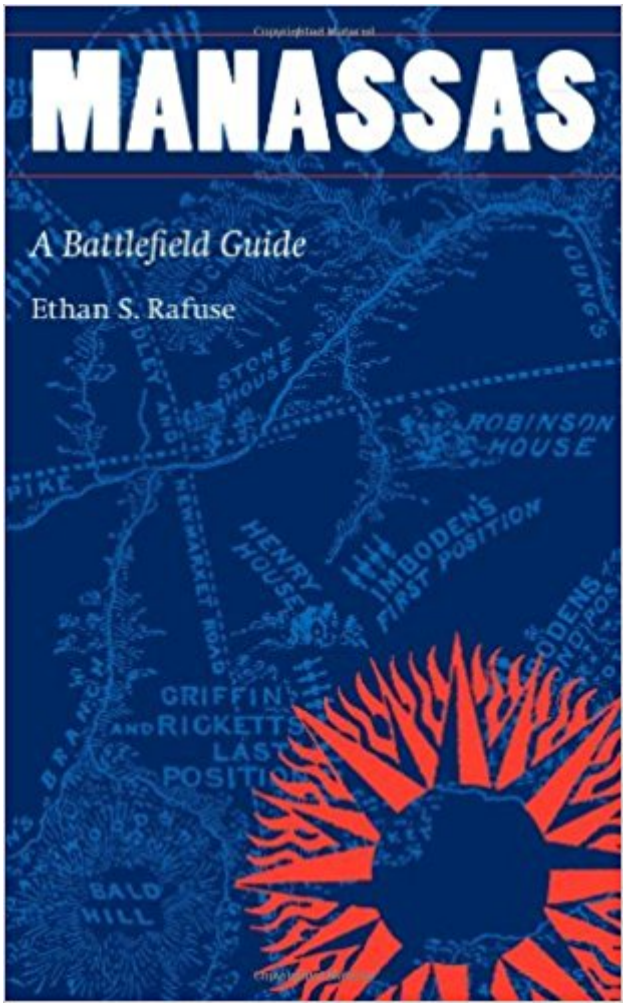
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Manassas: A Battlefield Guide (This Hallowed Ground: Guides To Civil War Battlefields)



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Synopsis

This volume is the essential guide to the Manassas battlefields, site of two of the Civil WarÃ¢â ¬â„¢s critical campaigns. Ethan S. Rafuse, a distinguished scholar of the Civil War, provides a clearly organized, thorough, and uniquely insightful account of both campaigns, along with expert analysis and precise directions for armchair traveler and battlefield visitor alike.The July 1861 Battle of First Manassas and the August 1862 Battle of Second Manassas unequivocally influenced the course and outcome of the Civil War. The first battle dealt a decisive blow to hopes that the inexperienced armies of the North and the South could bring about a quick military resolution of the secession crisis. The second battle was the climactic engagement of a spectacular campaign that carried the war to the outskirts of Washington DC and marked the coming of age of Robert E. LeeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Army of Northern Virginia. Manassas: A Battlefield Guide presents readers with a clear, convenient guide to the sites in northern and central Virginia that shaped the course and outcome of these campaigns. Lucid, concise narratives give readers a better understanding of the events that took place on these battlefields and of the terrain, personalities, and decisions that shaped them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An excellent battlefield guide. . . . A must-have companion for serious students of the Civil War and casual battlefield tourists alike."Ã¢â ¬â •Nathan A. Marzoli, Army History Magazine (Nathan A.

Marzoli Army History Magazine)"Rafuse's Manassas ranks among the best tools for touring the Second Bull Run campaign and battlefield and for the first battle it is without peer among traditionally formatted guide books."Ã¢â ¬â •Civil War Books and Authors (Civil War Books and Authors 2014-04-21)"[Manassas] belongs in every serious visitor's knapsack."Ã¢â ¬â •Free Lance-Star (Free Lance-Star 2014-07-22)"Rafuse has done yeoman's work in simplifying a complicated subject for the casual tourist on a battlefield visit, the scholar conducting historical research, and the military profession on a staff ride."Ã¢â ¬â •Kevin Dougherty, On Point (Kevin Dougherty On Point)"Ethan S. Rafuse, a distinguished scholar of the Civil War, provides a clearly organized, thorough, and uniquely insightful account of both campaigns, along with expert analysis and precise directions for armchair traveler and battlefield visitor alike."Ã¢â ¬â •civilwar.com (civilwar.com)"As with the other guides, ManassasÃ¢â ¬â„¢s format is a model of perfection."Timothy J. Orr, Civil War Monitor (Timothy J. Orr Civil War Monitor 2015-01-07)"This volume is highly recommended to all for their next battlefield trek."Ã¢â ¬â •Stuart McClung, Journal of America's Military Past (Stuart McClung Journal of America's Military Past)

Ethan S. Rafuse is a professor of history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and has led staff rides and tours of historic battlefields for many military and civilian groups. He is also the author of several books, including Antietam, South Mountain, and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide (Nebraska, 2008) and McClellanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union.

Warning - the print in this book is very tiny. BUT well worth the read, especially if, like me, you live in the area.

Read 2 books in this series that helped on the battlefieldGreat maps.Easy to follow around the whole battlefield.Helpful appendix.Great for beginners and experienced war fans.

The book arrived today on time and in great shape. I live about an hours drive from Manassas Battlefield Park. I intent to read the book and take it down to the battle field to see how good it is. But so far everything looks great.

This recently published book by the University of Nebraska Press is part of the wonderful series; "This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields", edited by Brooks D. Simpson, Mark

Grimsley and Steven Woodworth. Ethan S. Rafuse has written a well-organized, user friendly, balanced and comprehensive account of First and Second Manassas. It provides understandable directions to all important locations, detailed descriptions of the battle and excellent analysis for readers, newcomers to the battlefield, scholars and advanced students on a staff ride. This volume lends itself to any serious treatment of research on these two campaigns.Unlike most guides, this new work covers two entire campaigns that took place in 1861 and 1862. A concise narrative that provides armchair travelers with a better understanding of the events that took place in these battlefields as well as personalities and decisions that shaped them. This title contains eighteen main stops that cover the two battles as well as optional campaign excursions including Stone Bridge, JacksonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Arrival, Cedar Mountain and Chantilly. The recommended time suggested to the tramper is eight hours to two days.RefuseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s text provides a campaign overview that places Manassas in the context of the Civil War and brief informative summaries of the action each day of the fighting. The book point out landmarks and terrain features necessary to understand the key moments. The author does a superb job in explaining the course of the battles, provides a sufficient amount of substance to satisfy battlefield visitors and readers. There is also an interesting vignette section featuring personal accounts and anecdotes from soldiers of both sides.The student will gain more from their battlefield tour by familiarizing themselves with the abundance of clear, concise and detailed maps that appear throughout this manuscript. They provide day by day as well as at times hour by hour troop movements of the battlefield that are critical to most individuals visits however GPS coordinates would have been most useful. Additionally, all of the illustrations appearing in this publication are taken from the four volumes of "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War." They are all informative and helpful in identifying the many participants.This study concludes with an order of battles, an essay on "Organization, Weapons and Tactics", how to estimate distance, Sources utilized throughout the tour and For Further Reading. The serious Civil War buff gains a greater understanding into the two important battles from these Appendices as well as being able to follow up with additional research after their tour of Manassas.This guidebook is a must for the battlefield stomper and someone planning a walking tour of Manassas. The author has provided novices and enthusiasts with a well-organized route to the in northern and central Virginia that shaped these campaigns. Anyone who enjoys battles of the Eastern Theater should add this volume to their overcrowded library. Highly recommended.

If you are like me and like to read about a battlefield before you go, then walk the ground, then

return home and re-read about it, then this is your book. It gives directions, tells you where to stop, and even how to orient yourself so you are not staring off in the wrong direction.In these pages it tells you what happened in that spot, gives you an analysis of the battle situation at the time, and even gives a vignette, usually the point of view of a soldier who fought at that point of the field and later wrote about it. It will then suggest further reading that you might want to study before your visit, or use to help add clarity to what you saw in your visit. The further reading suggestion includes the name of the book, the author, and even the pages to read.This is a day by day account of what happened at Manassas. I am a collector of battlefield guides and only feel disappointed because I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have this one during my last visit. It is of good size and weight, perfect to carry along as you follow its many maps and read the details of each stop you visit. I highly recommend that you add this guide to your collection.

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