



Cashtown, Pennsylvania: Prelude to **Gettysburg**

James H. Hillestad highlights the role that the hamlet of Cashtown played in the Civil War

On Wednesday morning, June 3, 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee set in motion his 70,000-man Army of Northern Virginia, heading north.

His intention was to invade the North, create havoc, feed his hungry troops from the enemy's rich farmland, and threaten Washington, D.C.

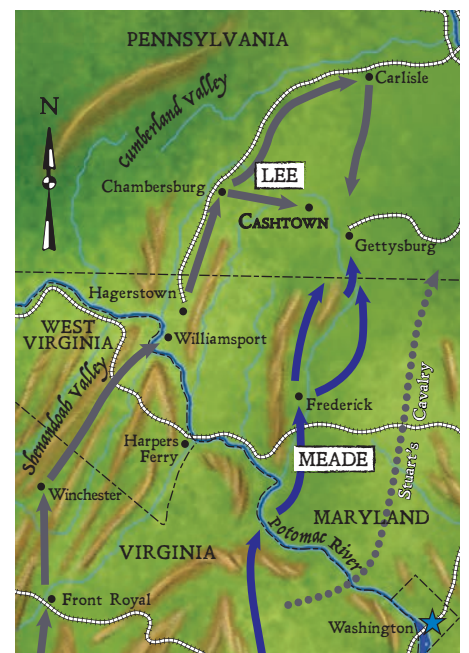
His troops surged across southern Pennsylvania, oblivious to the potential threat of Union forces, which they believed to be far to the south.

On June 28, scouts informed Lee that the Union army was in fact, north of the Potomac River – and coming his way. Quickly, Lee ordered his scattered army to concentrate at the crossroads town of

Gettysburg.

Crossing from Chambersburg, with General A.P. Hill's Third Corps in the van, Lee's army arrived at Cashtown on June 29. They were eight miles west of Gettysburg.

The residents of this small farming community thought that the whole Rebel army had descended on their town.





A.P. Hill set up his headquarters in the relative comfort of the Cashtown Inn. The following day, General Lee arrived, accompanied by musicians and crimson battle flags.

On July 1, the pivotal battle of Gettysburg was launched, when Hill sent General Henry Heth's division on to Gettysburg in search of much-needed shoes and supplies.

There, on the Chambersburg Road, they were met by Union General John Buford

commanding the First Division of the Cavalry Corps. The battle was joined. The rest is history. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP
Diorama of the Cashtown Inn on June 30, 1863

OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT
A.P. Hill, wearing his characteristic red battle shirt, greets General Lee

OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT
The opposing forces converge on Gettysburg

TOP LEFT
The band strikes up *I Wish I Was in Dixie*

TOP RIGHT
Don Troiani captures the event

BELOW LEFT
Not to be left out, a dog joins the troops

BELOW RIGHT
Innkeeper Jacob Mickley and his wife anxiously view the new arrivals



The Cashtown Inn

The inn was built in 1797 and got its name from Peter Marck, the first innkeeper, who would only accept cash.

In 1815, Marck applied for a tavern license and went on to operate the tavern for the next 30 years. Henry Mickley bought it in 1854 and his son Jacob was the innkeeper during the Civil War.

At the onset of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Inn bustled with activity while Generals Lee and Hill and their staffs were quartered there.

A stable next to the Inn was used to shelter the wounded, and dotting the nearby orchards were Lee's supply wagons.

Notwithstanding assurances that the Confederates would respect private property, innkeeper Mickley lost a horse, a steer, 50 chickens, 100 apple trees, and 580 gallons of whiskey and brandy!

Acknowledgement: My thanks to Larry Kórczyk and John Winkleman, Gettysburg battlefield guides, for their guidance with this article.



Archival photo of the Cashtown Inn, early 1900s