

STOP
5

Emmitsburg Road (West Side) Across from Codori Farm

GPS: 39°48'43.35"N, 77°14'23.47"W; Elev. 578 ft.

As you walked from the Spangler woodlot to this point, you were approximating the route followed by Garnett and Armistead's brigades. (Note that while many park visitors often walk directly from the Virginia monument to the Angle, no troops actually traveled such a route on July 3.) Kemper's Brigade would have crossed the road to the south of us in the vicinity of the Daniel Klinge farm. Kemper's advance was by a series of alternate moves by the left flank and then by the front.¹

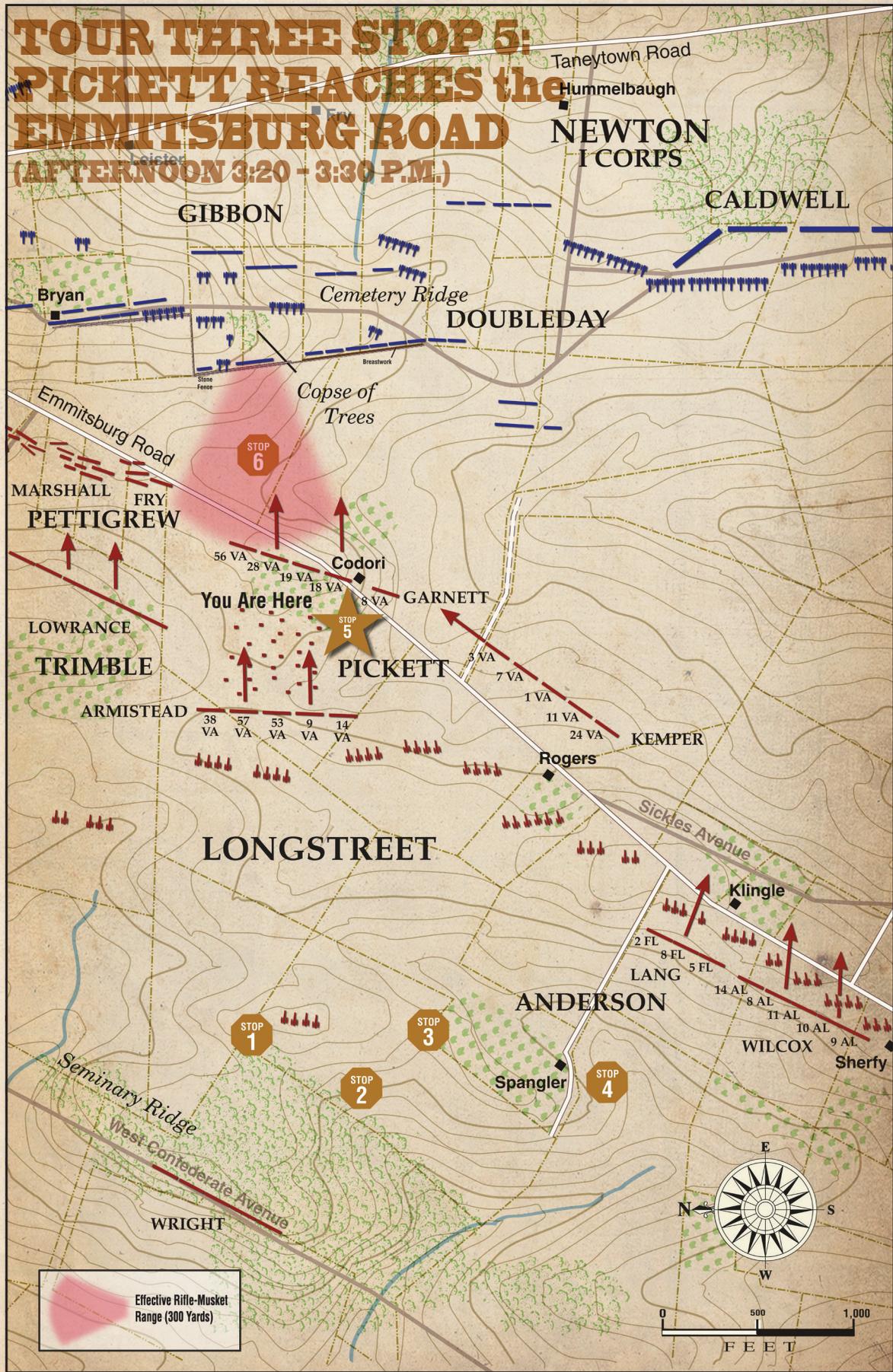
Rawley Martin of the 53rd Virginia described the "tramp, tramp" sound the men made in the tall grass as they moved forward. Federal batteries were hitting Confederate targets across much of the field. Martin thought the Yankee batteries opened at a distance of about 1,100 yards, "hissing, screaming shells break in their front, rear, on their flanks, all about them."² Major Joseph Cabell, 38th Virginia, wrote that after crossing about half of the field, they were "subjected to a severe enfilading fire from the right" and "until nearly to their works, grape and canister were poured onto us from the right and front." Cabell's line was "steady and unbroken" except for gaps that were quickly closed up.³

"All during this time the line was exposed to a terrible fire," wrote Charles Loehr of



As you walk in the footsteps of Pickett's men, you will notice the dips and swells in the ground. At times you will lose sight of the Codori farm (above) and of Cemetery Ridge. These dips offered the Confederates a brief reprieve from Union guns. Image courtesy of Karl Stelly

TOUR THREE STOP 5: PICKETT REACHES THE EMMITSBURG ROAD (AFTERNOON 3:20 - 3:30 P.M.)



the 1st Virginia, "but the line would close up as the men fell" and continue to oblique left.⁴ "I remember I saw a shell explode amidst the ranks of the left company of the regiment on our right," James Crocker of the 9th Virginia recalled. "Men fell like ten-pins in a ten-strike."⁵ Lieutenant John Lewis, also of the 9th Virginia, wrote that they started to take fire about 200 yards into the advance:

Crash after crash came the shot and shell. Great gaps were being made in the lines only to be closed up; and the same steady, move forward; the division was being decimated. Its line was shortening, but as steady as ever, the gallant Armistead still in the lead, his hat working down to the hilt of his sword, the point having gone through it.⁶

Just to the west of the Emmitsburg Road opposite the Codori farm, you will see a large orchard that has been replanted by the National Park Service and is intended to represent a Codori orchard that stood here during the battle. However, period maps and photos are not in agreement on whether Codori's orchard sat west or east of the house in 1863.⁷

Charles Loehr, on Kemper's skirmish line, recalled one of his comrades, M. J. Wingfield (nicknamed "Monk"), turning when about half way across the field, "Where are our reinforcements?" None were "in sight" except Pickett's brigades "and now subject to a storm of shells, tearing great gaps into the lines." Monk realized, "We are going to be whipped, see if we don't." Those were Monk's last words as a bullet struck him only minutes later.⁸

Joseph Mayo, in General Kemper's Brigade, recalled that as they approached the Emmitsburg Road, Pickett directed them to keep a proper interval with Garnett. Kemper then went to "see what troops those were coming up behind us," discovering them to be Armistead's. "At the same moment I saw a disorderly crowd of men breaking for the rear," with Pickett and staff officers "vainly trying to stop the rout." Federal cannon were "double-stocked" and "literally riddling the orchard on the left of the now famous Codori house, through which my regiment and some others passed." Remarking to a nearby captain that things were "pretty hot," the captain replied: "It's redicklous, Colonel; perfectly redicklous. [sic]"

By now you should greatly appreciate the fact that the ground over which this assault occurred is not flat but is actually rolling with a large number of elevations and swales. Just west of the replanted orchard, there is a large drop that may have allowed Garnett and Armistead's men one final opportunity to re-form before reaching the Emmitsburg Road.

The Emmitsburg Road in 1863 was an unimproved road and was more narrow and sunken than what you see today. The arrival of Pickett's Division at the road would have changed the nature of the attack dramatically. The fences and the road itself became obstacles for the attackers to cross under fire. The Virginians now also increasingly moved within range of the Yankees' rifle muskets. It is roughly 400 yards from the Emmitsburg Road at the Codori farm to the monuments that approximate the Union's defensive position, and even closer where the road angles to the northeast. Things were about to get even more dangerous for Pickett's men.

Nicholas Codori Farm

GPS: 39°48'38.86"N, 77°14'25.93"W; Elev. 572 ft.

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- The Nicholas Codori property witnessed some of the battle's most epic fighting on July 2 and July 3 as large bodies of infantry maneuvered through here on both days. Pickett's Division passed on both sides of the house while en route to Cemetery Ridge.
- Like many property owners on the battlefield, Nicholas Codori lived in town and leased the farm to tenants. He did not reside on the property that so famously bears his name today.



The Nicholas Codori farm as viewed from the east side of the Emmitsburg Road.

Image courtesy of Michael Waricher

- Codori became a successful butcher and was later described as “the leading and best-known butcher in this section of the country.” He was also considered a “prudent” investor who placed his “surplus means” into real estate investments such as this one. Unfortunately, Codori met a gruesome demise in July 1878 at the age of 70 while working fields near the Bliss farm. He was accidentally thrown by his horse team in front of a mower and suffered a severed foot and groin injury. He died several days later as a result.
- The house was present at the time of the battle, although the two-story brick addition was added to the rear in the 1870s. The current barn is a replacement. Evidence indicates that the barn that stood during the battle was smaller and white.¹⁰



Daniel Klingle Farm

GPS: 39°48'22.31"N, 77°14'46.42"W; Elev. 584 ft.

- Farther south down the road, you will see the restored Daniel Klingle house. Klingle's home was a wartime structure and has recently been returned to its original log exterior by the National Park Service.¹¹ The existing barn is a post-battle building.
- General Kemper's Brigade had to execute a series of moves by their front and left flank to reach their objective on Cemetery Ridge. Kemper's right probably crossed the road in the vicinity of the Klingle farm. Portions of Wilcox and Lang's brigades also passed through here approximately 20 minutes later in their ill-conceived attempt to protect Kemper's right flank.
- Across the road and just north of the Klingle farm once stood the home of Peter and Susan Rogers. The now-forgotten one-story log home was riddled with shot and shell, and the property was covered with dead bodies.¹²

EMMITSBURG ROAD FENCES

The presence and impact of the post and rail fences along the Emmitsburg Road are just one of the many battle details that can create endless debates amongst Gettysburg students. Many battlefield visitors have tried to visualize Pickett and Pettigrew's men scrambling over these sturdy fences under a withering enemy fire. There is even a popular notion, perpetuated several years ago by a television documentary, that these fences were such an obstacle that they actually played a decisive part in the charge's outcome.

There is no doubt that fences existed in July 1863. Nor should there be any doubt that they were subjected to a heavy fire of bullets and artillery projectiles on both July 2 and July 3. Confederate William Swallow wrote, "some slabs were so completely perforated with bullet holes that you could scarcely place a half inch between them." One 16-foot piece of fence rail was found to contain 836 bullet or shrapnel holes. Swallow believed that this particular rail was located where Lowrance's Brigade had reached the road.¹

Numerous eyewitness accounts attest to the suspense and the length of time required to climb the fences. Not only would attack formations have nearly collapsed, but the soldiers would have also provided increasing target density as they slowed and bunched near these obstacles. William Swallow wrote: