“TO MAKE A DEMONSTRATION, TO THE LETTER”: SEVEN DISTINCT MAPS OF LONGSTREET’S GETTYSBURG PERFORMANCE

In a February 1887 article, while addressing continued criticisms of his performance at the Battle of Gettysburg, former Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet advanced a curious suggestion, heretofore unexplored, which was to produce a “volume of distinct maps” of key points in the battle that would combat these allegations and other falsehoods that had emerged in the postwar years. Unfortunately for the historical record, several inaccuracies of Longstreet’s time have persisted into modern-day studies and the collective consciousness of historical memory. This presentation will examine seven distinct battle maps covering all three days of the battle, using them as tools to thoroughly address some of the most persistent misrepresentations of Longstreet’s performance.

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