

= Gettysburg (The Office) =

" Gettysburg " is the eighth episode of the eighth season of the American comedy television series The Office . It was written by Robert Padnick and directed by Jeffrey Blitz . The episode aired on NBC in the United States on November 17 , 2011 . " Gettysburg " guest stars Lindsey Broad as Cathy Simms .

The series ? presented as if it were a real documentary ? depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania , branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) takes some of the office staff on a field trip to Gettysburg for inspiration . Meanwhile , the rest of the office , under orders from Robert California (James Spader) , are tasked with coming up with a new business idea for Dunder Mifflin . Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) proposes several vending machine ideas that capture California 's imagination .

" Gettysburg " would be the last episode to feature Jenna Fischer before she went on maternity leave . The episode received mixed reviews , with commentators mainly criticizing the episode for recycling jokes . According to the Nielsen Media Research , " Gettysburg " drew 5 @. @ 50 million viewers , and ranked first in its time slot and was the highest @-@ rated NBC show of the night .

= = Plot = =

Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) decides to motivate and inspire everyone by taking them on a field trip to Gettysburg . At Gettysburg , Andy is unhappy with the lack of morale and belief in his leadership and attempts to make an analogy between running a paper company and fighting in the Civil War . Andy starts to lead a haphazard tour , and eventually most of the office members sit down to rest . Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) and Darryl Philbin (Craig Robinson) follow Andy after he presses on , and eventually tell him to stop trying to impress the office . They reinforce the fact that his co @-@ workers like him the way he is .

During the tour , Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) argues with Oscar Martinez (Oscar Nunez) about what he claims is the northernmost battle of the Civil War : the Battle of Schrute Farms . Dwight maintains that its absence from the history books is an example of re @-@ writing history , whereas Oscar maintains that the battle is a fictitious creation . After tracking down a historian , Dwight and Oscar learn that the Battle of Schrute Farms did in fact take place . However , the " battle " was really a code term . During the Civil War , Schrute Farms was a safe haven for artists and poets (and , as heavily implied , homosexuals) . Oscar finds this fascinating , whereas Dwight leaves in disgust . Meanwhile , Gabe Lewis (Zach Woods) is sidetracked by another tour group who assume that he is an Abraham Lincoln impersonator . He acquiesces and delivers an improvised but applauded performance .

Meanwhile , at the office , half of the office opts to stay behind . Robert California (James Spader) makes a spontaneous visit and asks them to come up with Dunder Mifflin / Sabre 's next big idea . However , the office fails to impress Robert with their ideas . Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) details an idea he has about cookie placement in the vending machine , but Robert gets the impression that he is extremely clever and is speaking only in metaphors . Ryan Howard (B. J. Novak) , who has been annoyed the entire day with Kevin being creative and Robert rejecting his ideas , later tricks Kevin into explaining an idea he has involving the Big Mac , and Robert realizes that there was no subtext to Kevin 's ideas .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by story editor Robert Padnick , his second writing credit for the series after joining the writing staff the previous season . It was directed by frequent director of The Office , Jeffrey Blitz . The episode also marks the second appearance of Lindsey Broad , who plays Cathy , Pam 's replacement during her maternity leave . She appeared in a recurring role for the season . Due to Jenna Fischer 's actual pregnancy , " Gettysburg " would be the last episode of 2011 to

feature Pam . The episode was not filmed on location in Gettysburg , Pennsylvania . The A.V. Club reviewer Myles McNutt noted that the writers ' used Andy 's " overeager qualities " to have the office group skip the official tour , allowing for " some random California heritage site " to stand in for the real Gettysburg . The Season Eight DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode . Notable cut scenes include Andy preparing the office to go to Gettysburg , and Kevin discussing his new @-@ found approval by California .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast on NBC on November 17 , 2011 , " Gettysburg " was viewed by an estimated 5 @.@ 50 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 9 rating / 7 percent share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 9 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 7 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode marked a three percent decrease in the ratings from the previous episode , " Pam 's Replacement " . Despite this , the episode ranked first in its timeslot , beating the Fox drama series , Bones which received a 2 @.@ 7 rating / 7 percent share , CBS drama , Person of Interest which received a 2 @.@ 6 rating / 7 percent share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) medical drama , Private Practice which received a 2 @.@ 6 rating / 7 percent share , although all three shows received more total viewers than " Gettysburg " .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Gettysburg " received mixed reviews from critics , ranging from negative to slightly positive . Hollywood writer Hannah Lawrence was heavily critical of the episode and wrote , " This episode seemed like a joke to me . I really didn 't like it . " What Culture ! reviewer Joseph Kratzer gave the episode three out of five stars and wrote , " While the episode was technically satisfactory , it didn 't carry much momentum . " McNutt referred to the " Battle of Schrute Farms " gag as a " payoff , " but was overall negative . He concluded that although " The Office is still capable of finding humor in [...] situations [but] it doesn 't feel like the show is willing to explore that humor , instead content on making the same statements the show has been making for quite some time . " He ultimately gave it a " C ? " .

Not all reviews were negative . IGN writer Cindy White awarded the episode 7 out of 10 , signifying a " good " episode . However , she heavily criticized the recycling of story lines , writing , " It may have been heartwarming in the premiere , but now it feels repetitive , and it 's still not funny . " M. Giant of Television without Pity gave the episode a " B ? " . Chris Plante from New York wrote a generally positively review , saying " No episode has done the ensemble work better than ? Gettysburg , ? a kind of sitcom buffet , its many stories giving the audience a small taste of every personality . That isn 't to say every character has been fleshed out well . [...] Andy and California seem off point . "

The episode 's opening , featuring Pam Halpert (Fischer) faking her water breaking , received mixed reviews . White called the sequence her " favorite part " and felt an empathetic connection to the character . Kratzer claimed that he enjoyed the scene . McNutt , however , wrote that the opening concludes that " Pam and Jim are basically total jerks " .