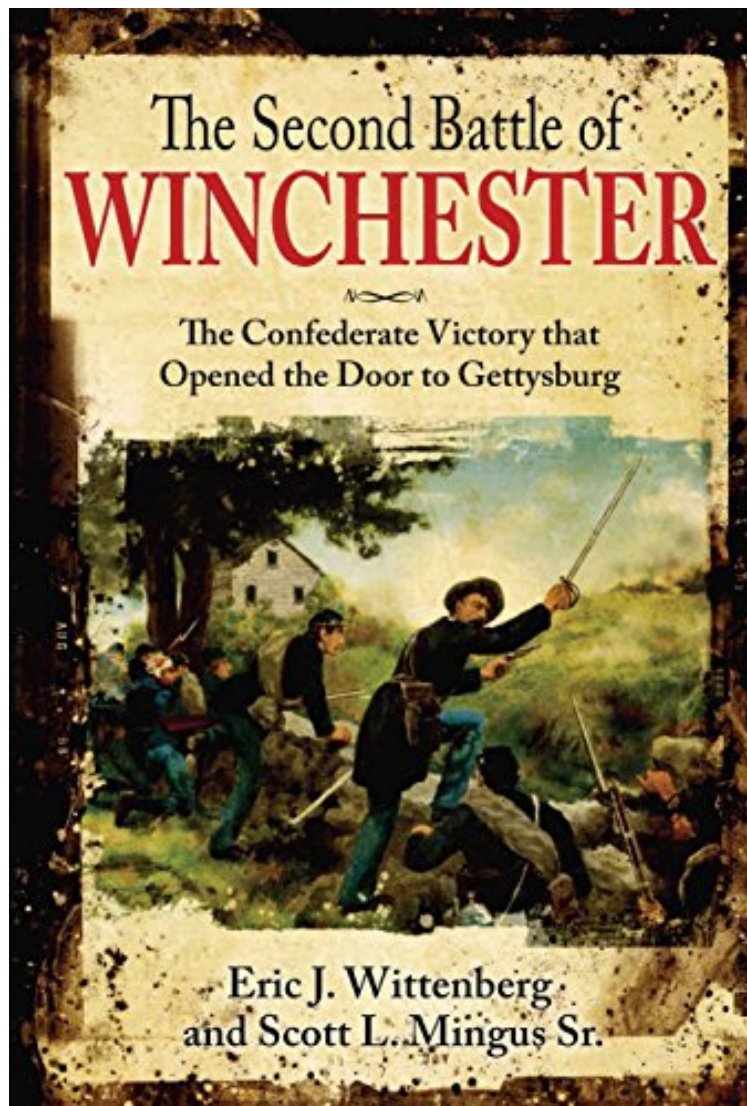


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## The Second Battle of Winchester: The Confederate Victory that Opened the Door to Gettysburg

*Eric J. Wittenberg, Scott L. Mingus Sr.*  
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researched. The book read like a novel. I would suggest buying the hardback edition because of all the photos, maps, illustrations. The kindle version (I have both) is OK, but this is a book you need to have a physical copy of to fully enjoy. I grew up in this area it was great to see an entire book tell the story of this strategic Civil War town and this important battle. Great work. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended! By Ken Pepper  
Eric Wittenberg is my favorite Civil War writer and historian. This book was a wonderful read that shed new light on a topic I have read about several times. Well researched and well written. Captures the bigger picture of the battle while also focusing on the personal experiences of the common soldiers of both sides. Highly recommend! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good stuff for readers of Civil War material By david montana  
Puts a new perspective and goes in depth about a battle that has deserved much more research by such learned authors as Mr. Wittenberg. Thank you sir. When I think I know it all, here you go with this. I feel as if I heard a new song by the Beatles.

June 1863. The Gettysburg Campaign is underway. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia is pushing northward through the Shenandoah Valley toward Pennsylvania, and only one significant force stands in its way: Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy's Union division of the Eighth Army Corps, in the vicinity of Winchester and Berryville, Virginia. What happened next is the subject of the provocative new book *The Second Battle of Winchester: The Confederate Victory That Opened the Door to Gettysburg, June 13-15, 1863*. Despite being heavily outnumbered, General Milroy defied repeated instructions to withdraw his command even as the overpowering Second Corps under Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell approached within striking distance. The veteran Indiana politician-turned-soldier was convinced the enemy consisted of nothing more than cavalry or was simply a feint. Milroy's controversial decision to stand and fight pitted his outnumbered and largely inexperienced men against some of Lee's finest veterans. The complex and fascinating maneuvering and fighting that followed on June 13-15 cost Milroy hundreds of killed and wounded and some 4,000 captured (about one-half of his command), with the remainder of his command routed from the battlefield. The combat cleared the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley of Federal troops, demonstrated Lee could obtain supplies on the march, justified the elevation of General Ewell to replace the recently deceased Stonewall Jackson—and sent shockwaves through the Northern states. Today, the Second Battle of Winchester is largely forgotten. But in June 1863, the politically charged front-page news caught President Lincoln and the War Department by surprise and forever tarnished Milroy's career. The beleaguered Federal soldiers who fought there spent a lifetime seeking redemption, arguing their three-day "forlorn hope" delayed the Rebels long enough to allow the Army of the Potomac to arrive and defeat Lee at Gettysburg. For the Confederates, the decisive leadership on display outside Winchester proved an illusion that masked significant command issues buried within the upper echelons of Stonewall Jackson's former corps that would only make themselves known in the earliest days of July on a different battlefield. Award-winning authors Eric J. Wittenberg and Scott L. Mingus Sr. combined their researching and writing talents to produce the most in-depth and comprehensive study of Second Winchester ever written. Their balanced effort, based upon scores of archival and previously unpublished diaries, newspaper accounts, letter collections, other firsthand sources, and a deep familiarity with the terrain in and around Winchester and the lower Shenandoah Valley, explores the battle from every perspective. *The Second Battle of Winchester* is comprehensive, highly readable, deeply researched, and immensely interesting. Now, finally, the pivotal battle in the Shenandoah Valley that opened the door to Gettysburg has the book it has long deserved.

From the Back Cover "The Second Battle of Winchester uniformly receives scant mention when historians discuss the Gettysburg Campaign, but its significance should not be so quickly dismissed. Authors Wittenberg and Mingus--whose demonstrated expertise is evident by their numerous books and awards on a variety of Gettysburg-related titles--describe the complex Winchester affair with tight clear prose and solid analysis. It belongs on your shelf." -- David A. Powell, award-winning author of *The Chickamauga Campaign* trilogy "The authors have mined a stunning array of freshly unearthed primary sources to produce the definitive account of the long-overlooked but vitally important battle of Second Winchester. The superb writing and sharp insights make it essential reading for anyone interested in a deeper understanding of the long and complicated campaign that culminated at Gettysburg." -- Robert J. Wynstra, award-winning author of *The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson* "Gettysburg experts Eric Wittenberg and Scott Mingus Sr. have joined forces to produce the definitive work on the Second Battle of Winchester, finally filling one of the few remaining gaps in the Gettysburg Campaign literature. They have done so by utilizing a wide array of sources to craft the complicated pieces of this forgotten battle in the Shenandoah Valley into a narrative readers will easily understand, while simultaneously offering them a front row seat for the action that opened the door for Robert E. Lee's long-sought campaign north of the Potomac River that resulted in the legendary showdown at Gettysburg." -- Scott C. Patchan, author of *The Last Battle of Winchester: Phil Sheridan, Jubal Early, and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, August 7 - September 19, 1864* "Despite the vast library on the Gettysburg Campaign, the Second Battle of Winchester has received scant attention. This unjustly neglected battle gets the spotlight it deserves in this outstanding new book by Eric Wittenberg

and Scott Mingus, who rectify that oversight with this sterling, impressively detailed account. From the story of Richard Ewell's finest hour to the travails of Milroy's 'weary boys,' *Second Winchester* is brought to life with consummate skill." -- Terence M. Heder, Director of Interpretation, Education, and History, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

About the Author Eric J. Wittenberg is an accomplished American Civil War cavalry historian and author. An attorney in Ohio, Wittenberg is the author of many articles and the author or co-author of more than a dozen books on Civil War cavalry subjects, including *The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads* and *the Civil War's Final Campaign; Plenty of Blame to Go Around: Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg*; and *One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863*. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife Susan.

Scott Mingus has written fifteen Civil War books. His biography of Confederate General William "ExtraBilly" Smith won the 2013 Nathan Bedford Forrest Southern History Award as well as the Dr. James I Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize. He also wrote several articles for *Gettysburg Magazine*. Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County ([yorkblog.com/cannonball](http://yorkblog.com/cannonball)). He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County Heritage Trust for his contributions to local Civil War history. He and his wife Debi live in York PA.