

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall

## 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTLE OF WINCHESTER: THE CONFEDERATE VICTORY THAT OPENED THE DOOR TO GETTYSBURG

**SPEAKER: SCOTT MINGUS, SR.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

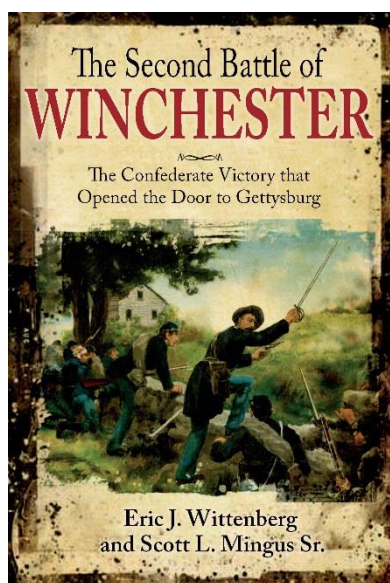


In the summer of 1863, as Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia began its inexorable push northward toward Pennsylvania, only one significant force stood in the way -- Union Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy's division of the Eighth Army Corps in the vicinity of Winchester and Berryville.

Milroy, affectionately known to his men as the Old Grey Eagle, would stubbornly defy repeated instructions to withdraw to safety even as the overpowering Rebel force approached. Believing that the enemy was merely a cavalry raid or feint, the veteran Indiana politician-turned-general chose to stand and fight. His controversial decision put his outnumbered and largely inexperienced men on a path to what most observers considered to be a military fiasco when Milroy lost half his force and routed ingloriously from the final battlefield.

Many of the Northern soldiers who fought at Second Winchester, however, believed their three-day, ultimately unwinnable resistance delayed the vaunted Rebels from entering Pennsylvania long enough to buy time for the Army of the Potomac to arrive and defeat Lee at Gettysburg.

Mr. Mingus has written nineteen Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written several articles for *Gettysburg Magazine*, as well as for various historical journals.



Light refreshments served. 2nd Saturday Lecture Series made possible by the Massey Charitable Trust.

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**Registration not required. Free and open to the public.**