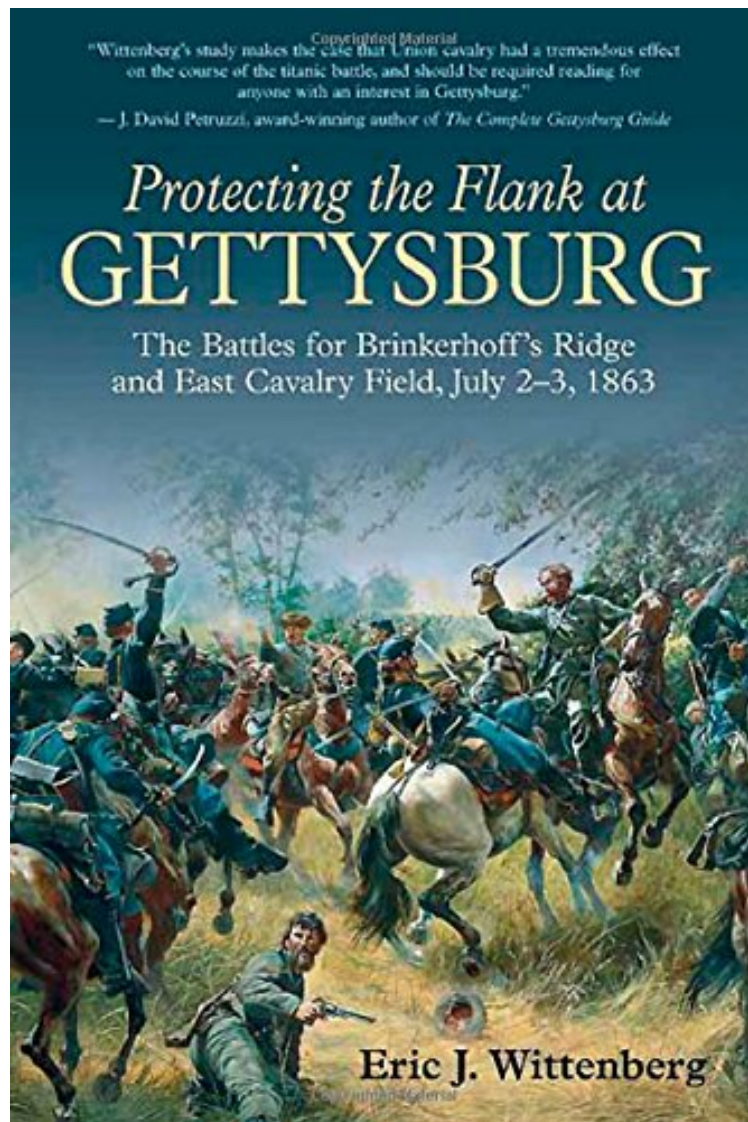


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Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field, July 2 -3, 1863

Eric J. Wittenberg

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Eric J. Wittenberg : Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field, July 2 -3, 1863 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field, July 2 -3, 1863:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The cavalry at GettysburgBy Steven PetersonThere have been a

number of authors who speak of Robert E. Lee's third day generalship. Including an attack on the rear of Union forces as the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble charge took place--after a massive artillery bombardment. Well, if this plan was in place it did not work. Wittenberg's book is a solid contribution here. He directly contradicts the thesis by Carhart and others what Lee contemplated a linked offensive--artillery, infantry, and cavalry on Day # 3. In that, this is a useful book, joining the thesis of other authors. What the book does especially well is to describe the "back and forth" battle in considerable detail. George Custer showed some courage in serving under General Gregg when he had been ordered to another position. His "Wolverines" (Michigan regiments) had a measurable impact on the battle. General Gregg had a very good day in command. The book makes that clear--with plenty of detail. Jeb Stuart's cavalry and the Union forces fought well. By this time, Union cavalry could hold their own. Buford, on the first day of Gettysburg, demonstrated that. Just so, Gregg's forces. Overall, a good contribution to the cavalry forces' role at Gettysburg. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Well grounded academics with an engaging writing style By LimaBN It is truly a pleasure to find recent academic study that turns up new ground so well. "Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg" joins "Plenty of Blame to Go Around" and "One Continuous Fight" on my shelf of "Keepers." Detailed, but not to the point of exhausting the reader, this book stays closely grounded to the realities facing the commanders and soldiers on the field at the time. Mr. Wittenberg's close attention to the lay of the land and the timing of the events as they occurred brings a sense of secure knowledge and understanding to the reader. As an aside, I have never seen a better evisceration of unfounded scholarship. Another author, new to the demands of accurate history, had recently resurrected the fanciful theory that Stuart was trying to coordinate his cavalry efforts from the east with those of the Pickett/Pettigrew infantry charge on the western slope by "firing four rounds" from a cannon (7 miles distant) as a signal. Carefully, thoroughly, and completely, Mr. Wittenberg totally demolishes the wishful thinking that mars too many efforts in this field. And he does it politely, without any trace of snark or disrespect. One can only wish such critical thinking and careful logic were more prevalent in our country today. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read - Wittenberg offers a well written and thorough piece on the cavalry actions of the Gettysburg campaign By J. Fioravanti Eric Wittenberg is perhaps the most knowledgeable author writing on the cavalry actions of Battle of Gettysburg. This latest book from Mr. Wittenberg does not disappoint in offering the reader a well researched and thorough piece of history on this part of the Gettysburg campaign. It is well written and gives important new insights on the cavalry actions at Gettysburg. Deserves to be on the shelf of any Civil War enthusiast and especially those with an interest in fine tuning their knowledge of the Battle of Gettysburg. When read in conjunction with his other book on the forgotten cavalry actions at Gettysburg you will have a new and greater appreciation for this part of campaign, while raising these actions in importance to the level of some of the more well known infantry actions during July 1-3, 1863.

Few aspects of the battle of Gettysburg are as misunderstood as the role played by the cavalry of both sides. *Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field, July 2-3, 1863* by award-winning author Eric J. Wittenberg is the first and only book to examine in significant detail how the mounted arm directly affected the outcome of the battle. On July 3, 1863, a large-scale cavalry fight was waged on Cress Ridge four miles east of Gettysburg. There, on what is commonly referred to as East Cavalry Field, Union horsemen under Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg tangled with the vaunted Confederates riding with Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart. This magnificent mounted clash, however, cannot be fully appreciated without an understanding of what happened the previous day at Brinkerhoff's Ridge, where elements of Gregg's division pinned down the legendary infantry of the Stonewall Brigade, preventing it from participating in the fighting for Culp's Hill that raged that evening. Stuart arrived at Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 2 after his long ride around the Army of the Potomac just in time to witness the climax of the fighting at Brinkerhoff's Ridge, and spot good ground for mounted operations one ridge line to the east. Stuart also knew that Gregg's troopers held the important Hanover and Low Dutch road intersection, blocking a direct route into the rear of the Union center. If Stuart could defeat Gregg's troopers, he could dash thousands of his own men behind enemy lines and wreak havoc. The ambitious offensive thrust resulted the following day in a giant clash of horse and steel on East Cavalry Field. The combat featured artillery duels, dismounted fighting, hand-to-hand engagements, and the most magnificent mounted charge and countercharge of the entire Civil War. This fully revised edition of *Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg* is the most detailed tactical treatment of the fighting on Brinkerhoff's Ridge yet published, and includes a new Introduction, a detailed walking and driving tour with GPS coordinates, and a new appendix refuting claims that Stuart's actions on East Cavalry Field were intended to be coordinated with the Pickett/Pettigrew/Trimble attack on the Union center on the main battlefield. About the Author: Eric J. Wittenberg is an accomplished Civil War historian, author, and attorney. He has written more than a dozen books and a score of articles in popular magazines. *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions* won the prestigious 1998 Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award and the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award for Reprint, 2011.

"Wittenberg's study makes the case that Union cavalry had a tremendous effect on the course of the titanic battle, and should be required reading for anyone with an interest in Gettysburg." (J. David Petrucci, award-winning author of

The Complete Gettysburg Guide)"Well written and easy to use as a guide, this book is both informative and entertaining." (Rea Andrew Redd, Civil War Librarian blog)"Wittenberg is a unique historian in that he is able to tell a narrative of a battle in a way that keeps the reader engaged. He discusses the different tactics used by each side...If you are fortunate to visit the battlefield during the 150th anniversary of the battle, take time to read this book and visit the less frequented East Cavalry Field" (Collected Miscellany)About the AuthorEric 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.