

SAVE 153 ACRES AT SECOND WINCHESTER

“This battle of Winchester was one of the most perfect pieces of work the Army of Northern Virginia ever did.”

**- MAJ. ROBERT STILES
CONFEDERATE ARTILLERYMAN**



shenandoahwar.org



**CONFEDERATE
LT. GEN. RICHARD
EWELL**

In June of 1863, Confederate forces under Gen. Robert E. Lee were on the march toward Pennsylvania for their second invasion of the north. Leading the advance was the 2nd Corps commanded by Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell. As part of their advance, Ewell was given the task of clearing the Shenandoah Valley of all Union opposition. That Union opposition was in the fortified defenses of Winchester. On June 13th, Ewell's 2nd Corps reached Winchester and went to work in clearing the way for the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Following two days of fighting south and east of Winchester, Union Maj. Gen. Robert Milroy was forced to abandon his forts and the town. On the night of June 14th, Milroy ordered his men to quietly move out of their defensive positions and head north using the darkness as their cover. The guns in the forts were spiked and all supplies destroyed.

As Milroy's army moved north, Confederate Maj. Gen. Edwards "Allegheny" Johnson anticipated the attempted retreat and moved to cut it off. Moving his men east on the Berryville Pike, Johnson then turned north and marched his men along the Charlestown Road. The Charlestown Road led his men toward Stephenson's Depot and the Valley Pike, directly into the route of Milroy's retreat.

At 3:00 AM on the 15th, Confederates reached a bridge crossing over the Winchester & Potomac Railroad (northeast corner of the Target Property). Johnson deployed his men to the north as they tried to ascertain the position of the Union forces moving toward them. The 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry made contact with the Confederates near the bridge and the fighting began.

As the Union infantry moved north on the Valley Pike, Confederate infantry and artillery deployed north of the Charlestown Road and began to engage the Union forces along the pike. As more Confederate infantry and artillery arrived, the line began to deploy on the south side of the Charlestown Road (on the Target Property) along the railroad bed. With their route of retreat blocked by Confederates, Union forces attempted to break out by attacking the Confederates posted along the railroad bed to their east. Confederate artillery commanded by Lt. Col. Richard Snowden Andrews positioned near the bridge (northeast corner of the Target Property) blocked the Charlestown Road and helped drive back the Union assault.



**UNION MAJ. GEN.
ROBERT MILROY**



**CONFEDERATE
MAJ. GEN.
EDWARD
"ALLEGHENY"
JOHNSON**

As the fighting continued, more Union soldiers arrived from Winchester. The 18th Connecticut and 87th Pennsylvania moved near the Carter Farm heading toward the intersection of the Charlestown Road (northern part of the Target Property). As they arrived, Louisianans along the railroad cut opened fire on their lines. “This was a murderous trap which was not seen in the gray dawn of that fatal morning, and it was first discovered by the flash of rebel rifles,” said 18th Connecticut chaplain Rev. William Walker. Fellow cavalry moving alongside the infantrymen up the Valley Pike took the brunt of the fire and the surprised horsemen created chaos in the infantry lines as they fled.

After restoring their lines, the 87th Pennsylvania were ordered forward by Milroy to attempt to capture the Confederate cannons near the Charlestown Road (crossing the Target Property). In the darkness, the 87th Pennsylvania moved across Hiatt Run to the Confederate line. Confused by the movement across the field, both the Confederates and the 18th Connecticut began firing at the Pennsylvanians, halting their advance. Milroy himself intervened and stopped the Connecticut soldiers firing. As the Keystone soldiers recovered, they again began to advance but were repulsed by the defending Confederates and retreated to the safety of Hiatt Run.

With a sense of urgency to break the Confederate line, Milroy sent the 18th Connecticut and 5th Maryland forward (across the Target Property) to make a second assault. The 18th Connecticut’s Chaplain Walker said, “The Union forces could see nothing else as they charged into the woods, and up the crossroad, hence the rebels had every advantage, and were not slow to improve it.” The assault again didn’t dislodge the Confederate defenders.

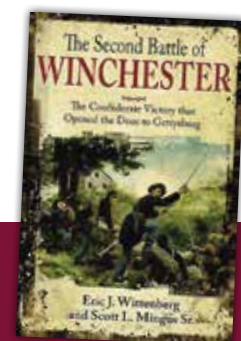
Still determined, Milroy again formed the three regiments for another attack. For this attack, Milroy placed the 116th Ohio and 12th West Virginia in reserve to take advantage of any breakthrough. As the attack went forward toward the railroad cut a Connecticut soldier recalled, “A long line of fire streamed from thousands of rifles, interrupted now and then by the blaze of the battery.” Yet again, the attack didn’t break through.

On the Valley Pike, more Union forces were arriving. Col. Andrew T. McReynolds brigade arrived and quickly filed off the Valley Pike onto a dirt road moving toward the Confederate left flank. The 67th Pennsylvania and 6th Maryland moved in column along the road and through the tunnel under the Winchester and Potomac Railroad. As they marched toward the Confederate line, the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry made a charge at the Confederate left (across the Target Property). The charge was quickly repulsed, and the cavalryman left the field retreating east toward Harpers Ferry. The 67th Pennsylvania and 6th Maryland would also attempt to turn the Confederate flank but were also unsuccessful.

As they reached Milburn Road, the 67th Pennsylvania broke ranks at the Jacob Easter farm for rest and water. Three Louisiana regiments swung to block their advance and surprised the Pennsylvanians taking nearly 400 prisoners. The 6th Maryland formed south of the road and tried to make a defensive stand, but they were overwhelmed and eventually scattered to avoid capture.

With the Union attacks failing all along the Confederate line, they began to retreat into the woods west of the Valley Pike. The Confederate line advanced in pursuit (some across the Target Property). “By this time the fields were all dotted by scattered troops in all direction and the enemy close behind” wrote Sgt. George Blotcher of the 87th Pennsylvania. Gathering in the woods west of the pike, Union soldiers began to wave white flags to surrender. In total, 4,000 men would surrender, half of Milroy’s force.

With the battle over and Milroy’s force destroyed, the road to Maryland and Pennsylvania was clear of Federal soldiers and the Army of Northern Virginia would begin its second northern invasion.



If you're interested in learning more about the battle, "*The Second Battle of Winchester: The Confederate Victory that Opened the Door to Gettysburg*" by Eric Wittenberg and Scott Mingus is available through our online store at www.shenandoahatwar.org.