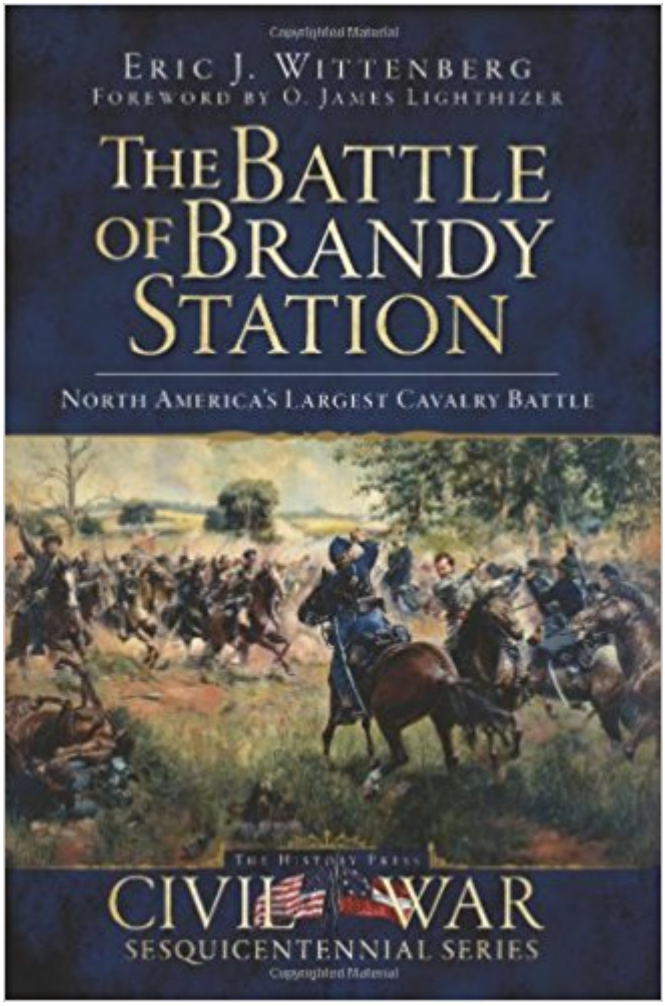
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The Battle Of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle (Civil War Series)



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Synopsis

Just before dawn on June 9, 1863, Union soldiers materialized from a thick fog near the banks of Virginia's Rappahannock River to ambush sleeping Confederates. The ensuing struggle, which lasted throughout the day, was to be known as the Battle of Brandy Station--the largest cavalry battle ever fought on North American soil. Meticulously captured by historian Eric J. Wittenberg, these events marked a major turning point in the Civil War: the waning era of Confederate cavalry dominance in the East gave way to a confident and powerful Union mounted arm. This fascinating volume features a GPS guided tour of the battlefield with illustrations and maps by master cartographer Steven Stanley.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Wittenberg is even-handed, covering both sides in detail and meting out praise and criticism often to the same individuals. His use of first-person accounts and a well-honed ability to describe cavalry fighting bring the thunder of thousands of hooves, the clang of steel upon steel and the crack of carbines to life for the reader...As a work on a very important episode in the development of cavalry fighting in the Civil War, this book is highly recommended." --Kenneth Williams, Civil War News

An attorney in Columbus, Ohio, Eric J. Wittenberg has long been a student of Civil War cavalry operations. Wittenberg has published fourteen books on Civil War history, most of them centering on Virginia. Additionally, his articles have appeared in Gettysburg Magazine, North & South, Blue &

Gray, Hallowed Ground, America's Civil War and Civil War Times Illustrated. He is very active in battlefield preservation and is affiliated with the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Brandy Station Foundation. He has worked extensively with the trust on the preservation of the Trevilian Station battlefield in Louisa County, Virginia, and is a member of the advisory board of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation. He has also fought for the preservation of the Buffington Island battlefield in Meigs County, Ohio; Brandy Station in Culpeper, Virginia; and for various sites associated with the Battle of Gettysburg.

Great detailed description of both sides of this important cavalry battle of the Civil War. This was the first time the Union had joined the cavalry divisions under one command and went on the attack. While both sides felt they accomplished what they needed to on that day, the lasting result for the Union was a sense of success the cavalry had not shown anytime in the three years before. Technically both sides considered it a win, and like most battles there were moments on each side when they could have gained more, but decisions or circumstances kept that from being taken to the next level. For Gen Stuart it was considered something of an embarrassment as his troops were caught off guard, and it was a hard fought 14 hour day that left the Confederates in possession of the field. The Union chose to withdraw to their original position across the river and Gen Pleasanton felt he had scattered Stuart's cavalry to prevent the South from making another raid. While that was not true, this test proved the Union could hold its own against Stuart and the Battle of Brandy Station was when the two sides began to match as equal fighting forces.

I really like the book. I wanted to read more about what happens in war. it makes me want to learn more about what takes place at the time of war. so i gave it a 10

Clear concise explanation of the battle which is usually only given passing mention in the Gettysburg campaign histories. Added bonus is the driving walking tour of the battlefield section with GPS coordinates. Excellent maps

New and Noteworthy---The Battle of Brandy Station, VirginiaThe Battle of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle, Eric J. Wittenberg, Steven Stanley [maps], History Press, 272 pp., 57 illustrations and photographs, 12 maps, notes, bibliography, guided tour, order of battle, paperback, $24.95.Fought on June 9, 1863, the Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia was the largest predominantly cavalry engagement of the American Civil War. Many Civil War enthusiasts regard

the battle as solely a cavalry fight but there were eleven Union regiments engaged. Also, though many view it as the beginning of the Pennsylvania Campaign, it may also be seen as the conclusion of the Chancellorsville campaign. Wittenberg's effort would have been strengthened by noting the Union cavalry's raid that began April 27, before the Battle of Chancellorsville. He does develop a picture of the Federal cavalry's growing aggressiveness by covering the purge of Rebel guerrillas from the Northern Neck region between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers in mid-May.One of the several delights of Wittenberg's The Battle of Brandy Station is his handling of primary sources of the combatants. There are about 100 indented and italicized comments from the soldiers. The voices of the soldiers are heard throughout the narrative. Wittenberg takes a non-partisan stance towards the sides; both criticism and compliments fall on Blue and Gray. Stuart's three grand reviews and sham battles [May 22, June 4 and June 5] are not overweighted against him. But for Wittenberg , more illustrative are Stuart's over wrought responses to the Richmond press' reports that hold him accountable after the battle. The author does not advance speculations about the press editorials and Stuart's decision to ride around the Union army in late June and early July.Also, Wittenberg organizes his work into chapters that are not focused on the clock but focused on the brigades' and divisions' engagements. The divisions with their brigades and regiments are well developed and the are not diminished by overcrowding pages and chapters with everything that was going on at a particular hour of the battle. Of the 14 chapters, eight are devoted to specific segments of the battle though other fighting was going on at the same time. This helps with the continuity within the day long engagement between nine Federal brigades[seven cavalry and two infantry] and five Confederate brigades.In a minor but helpful decision, The History Press' Civil War Sesquicentennial Series places the portraits in the text where the first mention of the soldier occurs. Often times, inserting all the portraits in the center and on glossy paper, is a nuisance and minimizes the effectiveness of the illustrations. The maps in The Battle of Brandy Station contain topographic features and elevation lines. Missing is a map that shows the entire battlefield. An additional and enjoyable feature is the Epilogue that tells the story of two Federals who were detained as prisoners captured at Brandy Station and were sent to Richmond's Libby Prison. Of the many prisoners from the battle these two were chosen to be executed in retaliation for the execution of two Confederate spies quartered at Johnson's Island prison near Sandusky, Ohio. The story is a highlight that reveals the state of prisons and paroles in 1863.The analysis of the Battle of Brandy Station and the Walking and Driving Tour of the attle are clear and concise. Overall, readers are well served by Wittenberg's The Battle of Brandy Station and the History Press' Civil War Sesquicentennial Series.

Mr. Wittenberg has done some fine work and he keeps it up on this book. I've driven and walked the field and it is hard to imagine the thousands of horsemen thundering down the narrow roads. This book on the battle pieces the events in order and he treats both sides fairly. I recommend this book.

Wonderful book!! My husband has one of his ancestors that died at this battle and it really helped him to understand the battle.

Great, thanks.

If you want to see how things changed for the U.S. cavalry in our personal war with ourselves, read this ... sammy

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