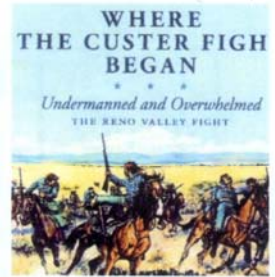




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## **LBHA Member Mark Miner Publishes Uncle's Civil War Diaries**

Coinciding with this year's 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, LBHA member Mark A. Miner has written a new book, *Well At This Time*, the Civil War diaries of his great-great-grand uncle, Ephraim Miner of the 142nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. LBHA members will recall Miner's 2005 Research Review article, "Tontogany's Deep Secret," which received the Lawrence A. Frost Memorial Award.

*Well At This Time* chronicles the story of a Pennsylvania farmboy who suffered extensively during his three years of service in the war. After his eardrums were shattered and feet frostbitten in his one and only battle, at Fredericksburg, he spent more than two-and-a-half years languishing in the ill-prepared Army's makeshift hospitals and in light duty posts at hospitals, prisoner of war camps and arsenals. Cryptic notations in the diary show he also suffered emotionally and psychologically from survivor guilt. He was deaf and had trouble walking for the rest of his life, only experiencing redemption in his 70s and 80s when honored as a hero at Civil War reunions.

The book also makes reference to Ephraim's cousin, Rebecca Miner of Tontogany, Ohio, who produced a son out of wedlock with General George Custer's younger brother Thomas Ward Custer.

Evidence suggests that Ephraim's diaries, covering the years 1864 and 1865, may have been a gift from poet Walt Whitman, author of the famed *Leaves of Grass*. A nurse during the war, Whitman is known to have given inexpensive writing materials and diary books to convalescing soldiers in the same Washington, D.C. hospital and at the same time Ephraim is known to have been there.

Ephraim's includes writings about the Battle of Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C., the only one witnessed by President Abraham Lincoln during the war; his joy at receiving letters from home and occasional visits from relatives; his sorrow upon learning of Lincoln's assassination; and much, much more.