



# The Campfire

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the Butler YWCA Heritage Room



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Questions:

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## Upcoming Events

### April

Gettysburg Topic  
Wayne Motts

### May

Rose O'Neil Greenhow  
Emily Lapisardi

### September

Daniel Sickles  
Russ Brohman

### October

Scott Mingus  
Antietam Human  
Interest Stories

### November

To Be Announced

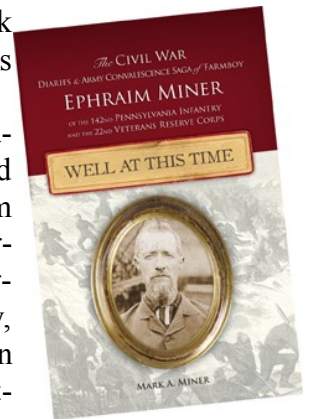
### December

Civil War in 3D  
Bill May

## Adventures of a Civil War Farm boy Wednesday—March 14th—7:00 p.m.

Our March meeting will feature author Mr. Mark Miner presenting a slide show/talk on his new book on his great-great uncle Ephraim Miner.

Coinciding with the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, a new book has been published chronicling the wartime diaries and saga of Ephraim Miner, a Western Pennsylvania farmer boy. With his eardrums shattered and feet frostbitten at the Battle of Fredericksburg, in action with the 142nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Ephraim then spent more than two-and-a-half years in Army hospitals and later on light duty with the 22nd Veterans Reserve Corps.



Born and raised in Somerset County, PA, Ephraim and the men in the 142nd Pennsylvania were ill-equipped for the deadly hostility they would face. At Fredericksburg, they were one of a handful of Union regiments to break through enemy lines commanded by Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill. In the immediate aftermath of battle, Ephraim may well have spoken with or been treated by Clara Barton (future founder of the Red Cross), Louisa May Alcott (author of *Little Women*) and Walt Whitman (author of *Leaves of Grass*), who were nurses treating the Union wounded at Fredericksburg. Later, while in hospitals in Washington, D.C., sitting on Capitol Hill, he wrote in his diary and may well have laid eyes upon President Lincoln. His path may again have crossed with Whitman, who spent much of the rest of the war as an aide in the Union hospitals in the city. It is entirely possible that Ephraim's diary may have been a gift from Whitman himself.

*I will have books available for purchase after my talk and I will be more than happy to inscribe them for you!*



Please visit Mark's family genealogy website [minerd.com](http://minerd.com). This award-winning site -- now in its 12th year -- has twice been named one of *Family Tree Magazine's* "Top 10 Family Websites." Having drawn 2 million visitors since 2000, it captures the sweep of Americana through the eyes of one family, with thousands of stories.

## Do You Know These Men?

In 1862, the USS Monitor — a Civil War-era ironclad warship — fought one of the world's first iron-armored battles against the Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia. Less than a year later, a violent storm sank the Union ship off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C. The wreck was discovered more than a century later, and subsequent searches have turned up more than just a crumbling ship — they also found the skeletons of two of the Monitor's sailors in the ship's gun turret.

To this day, their identities are unknown, but David Alberg, superintendent of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, is trying to change that. With help from the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and forensic scientists at Louisiana State University, Alberg's organization has released facial reconstruction images made from the sailors' skulls that he hopes will help identify them.

Alberg tells NPR's Melissa Block that scientists learned a lot from the sailors' remains. They know one of the men was likely in his early 20s, while the other was likely in his early to mid-30s. They have the sailors' height, weight and even samples of their DNA.

"From an anthropological perspective, the challenge now is more of a genealogical challenge: How do we go out and find somebody that can come forward, provide DNA to compare their data to what JPAC has done," Alberg says.

He says he hopes the facial reconstruction photos will prompt people to revisit family albums, talk about family history and, if they think they may be related to the lost sailors, come forward to claim their kin.

Visit <http://monitor.noaa.gov/150th/> for more information!

