

"The Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad and the First Defenders"

Scott Mingus

Multiple Award-Winning Civil War Author

Forming the backbone of the New York-to-Washington route, the PW&B became one of America's earliest and most important interstate railroad networks. In 1860, President-elect Abraham Lincoln used this railroad to slip into Baltimore undetected to avoid a reported assassination plot while he was on his way to his inauguration. In the days following the firing on Fort Sumter, it carried a group of Berks County volunteer soldiers to Baltimore as tensions rose between the Federal government and secessionists in Maryland's largest city. Those men became known to history as the "First Defenders." The PW&B became one of the Union Army of the Potomac's main supply routes for fresh troops, ammunition, artillery, horses, mules, etc. during the war years.

Scott Mingus has written 20 Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of General William "Extra Billy" Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written several articles for Gettysburg Magazine, as well as for various historical journals. Mingus and his wife Debi live in York, Pa., and for more than a decade he has written a blog on the Civil War history of York County. He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County History Center for his contributions to local Civil War history. He also has written six scenario books for Civil War miniature wargaming. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer and rifleman in the 51st Ohio Infantry in the Western Theater, and other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg in the 7th West Virginia.

SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00	Registration (tea and coffee will be served)
9:00 - 10:00	Three Cheers & a Ringgold Tiger Mark Pflum
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:15	All Manner of Petty Annoyances John M. Lawlor, Jr.
11:15 - 11:30	Break & Refreshments
11:30 - 12:30	Rare Images of Antietam Stephen Recker
12:30 - 1:15	Lunch
1:15 - 2:15	The PW&B Railroad and the First Defenders Scott Mingus
2:15 - 2:30	Closing

BERKS HISTORY CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019



Berks County & the Civil War

Mark Pflum
John M. Lawlor, Jr.
Stephen Recker
Scott Mingus

Berks History Center
940 Centre Ave.
Reading, PA 19601
610-375-4375
www.berkshistory.org

SPEAKERS

“Three Cheers and a Ringgold Tiger!
The Story of the First of the First Defenders”

Mark Pflum

First Defenders Civil War Historian

Before they were First Defenders, they had already become the pride of Reading, Pennsylvania. Our town was home to many illustrious Militia Companies before the Ringgold Light Artillery was ever formed, so how did these upstarts become the preeminent light artillery company in Eastern Pennsylvania in such a short time? Come and learn about the men of the Ringgold Light Artillery and what it was like to be a member of this illustrious militia company.

Mark Pflum is a summa cum laude graduate of Kutztown University, where he also earned membership into both the Phi Alpha Theta and the Phi Kappa Phi honors fraternities. He started Civil War reenacting in 1988 when he joined two different infantry units. He was a Background Artist in both the "Glory" and "Gettysburg" movies, as well as also being the Artillery Coordinator for the National Park Service's movie "Manassas: End of Innocence." He formed The Ringgold Living History Association in 1994, which focused on researching and portraying Independent Battery D, Pennsylvania Volunteer Artillery.

“All Manner of Petty Annoyances: Executing
Federal Civil War drafts in Berks County”

John M. Lawlor, Jr.

Professor Emeritus

Provost Marshal George W. Durell wrote a history of his experiences managing the Federal Civil War drafts in Berks County. In it he reported “all manner of petty annoyances” that he and his staff had to deal with while administrating the drafts. His tenure and the topic reside within the framework of local political activism and manpower requirements of the Lincoln administration. Durrell’s history is augmented with Minutes of the Democratic City Club, local newspapers, and a broad array of other resources. Material is shared at the session through a multimedia presentation.

John M. Lawlor, Jr. taught part-time at Reading Area Community College (RACC) from 1976 until 1990 when he took a full time position. He retired on December 31, 2015 with emeritus status. He graduated from Kutztown University with degrees in education (BS in Ed.) and history (MA). He served as professor of history, division chair and director of instructional technology at RACC. In 1999 the National Archives selected him as Constitutional Community member to design American history digital lesson plans. Lawlor has served as a researcher, fellow and advisor for a number of organizations including: Community College Humanities Association (CCHA)/NEH/Library of Congress American Cities/Public Spaces Institutes and CCHA/NEH/Library of Congress/National Archives/Smithsonian Institution On Native Ground summer institute. He currently serves as Volunteer Director for Environmental Activism at the National Advocacy Center, consultant volunteer for the Education Department at the National Archives, and is working on the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress American Folk Life Center. He continues to be active with research and writing projects. John (Jack) resides in the Womelsdorf area with Shelley, his spouse of 46 years. He has two children and three grandchildren.

“Rare Images of Antietam: And the
Photographers Who Took Them”

Stephen Recker

Photograph Collector & Author

Stephen Recker has undertaken the most thorough and detailed study of photography at Antietam since Gardner packed his wagon and departed. Scouring dozens of repositories, and assiduously collecting and researching Antietam photos, Recker has amassed a large and important collection of early views of Antietam battlefield. Many of these photographs are previously unpublished, most will be new to the majority of attendees, and all will tell a story that will surprise and enlighten. Includes seventy featured images and over 200 supporting images.

Stephen Recker is a collector of rare Antietam photographs and relics. Items from his collection can be seen on battlefield waysides and in the newly renovated museum at Antietam National Battlefield, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, as well as in new book, "Rare Images of Antietam: And the Photographers Who Took Them." Recker is a member of Antietam Battlefield Guides, a service he founded in partnership with WMIA, the non-profit at Antietam National Battlefield. He produced Virtual Gettysburg, a critically acclaimed interactive Civil War battlefield tour; and Antietam Artifacts, a CD-ROM with images of rare postcards from the Maryland Campaign of 1862. He began his professional career as a lead guitarist, recording and touring with Al Stewart, the Spencer Davis Group, Mary Wells, and Tommy Chong, and as technician for Ringo Starr, Kiss, Diana Ross, and Madonna. In multimedia, he produced for Apple Computer, Adobe, and the Smithsonian, and was named a Top 100 Producer by AV Multimedia Producer Magazine. He is currently the Web and Multimedia Coordinator at Hagerstown Community College and is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston.

SWEET STREET 6.01.18

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