



Pennsylvania Heritage Society
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FACT SHEET:
Pennsylvania Civil War 150
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DESCRIPTION:

Pennsylvania Civil War 150 is a statewide alliance of history, heritage, arts and culture organizations convened by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the Pennsylvania Heritage Society (PHS) at the request of Governor Edward G. Rendell to serve as the Commonwealth's official planning committee for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015). *PA Civil War 150* will both: (i) coordinate several key statewide initiatives; and (ii) facilitate and help market numerous activities and events at the regional and local levels. *PA Civil War 150* is leveraging the considerable strengths of the state's history and museum community to bring high-quality programming to the commemoration.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Pennsylvania Heritage Society / Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (Harrisburg)
- Senator John Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh)
- The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES:

Comprehensive Web site (www.PACivilWar150.com)

- A cornerstone of the commemoration, www.PACivilWar150.com is a comprehensive Web site containing an interactive timeline, a statewide events calendar and many in-depth stories recounting the experiences of real Pennsylvanians during the Civil War. Launched in September 2009, the site features interfaces designed to elicit user involvement with the featured content. The site also contains an educational resource section, including tools for teachers aligned to Pennsylvania academic standards. Linking to tourism and trip planning sites across the Commonwealth, the Web site provides visitors a rich and uniquely Pennsylvania Civil War experience.

Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show

- The Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show is a multi-dimensional experience that will travel throughout the state in a 53-foot tractor trailer during the four-year anniversary period. The Road Show will engage local communities across Pennsylvania – in all 67 counties – and connect those communities with the history of *their* Civil War experience, from the battlefield to the home front. Through interactive exhibits, activities and performances, the Road Show will introduce the compelling stories of the Civil War to Pennsylvanians from all walks of life and of all ages. The Road Show is also about building Pennsylvania's Civil War history, one story at a time: it will ask Pennsylvanians to add their own stories, documents and artifacts to a database traveling with the Road Show. These collections will be posted on www.PACivilWar150.com, ensuring the personal narratives of Pennsylvanians are recorded for future generations.

K-12 Civil War Education

- Developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and designed to complement *PA Civil War 150* statewide initiatives, a number of educational resources will be made available to statewide K-12 educators for teaching students about Pennsylvania's role in the Civil War. Supporting experience-based classroom learning, these resources include electronic guides containing primary documents and images, lesson plans and reading selections; a Web site and teacher blog featuring expanded content and creative lesson plan ideas; teacher workshops; an annual summer institute for teachers; and Civil War magazines tied into the curriculum guides.

Enhanced and Digitized Collections

- Under the leadership of the Richards Center at Pennsylvania State University, *PA Civil War 150* has launched a digitization initiative to unearth and organize local primary source collections focusing on the Pennsylvania Civil War experience. The material will then be inventoried, digitized and made accessible online. The goal of the initiative is to make the collections of Pennsylvanians relating to experiences both on and off the battlefield accessible to scholars, teachers, students and the public. A particular emphasis will be placed on African American collections. In addition, in conjunction with the Road Show, "scan-a-thons" encouraging the public to bring artifacts and documents to their local historical societies for digital preservation will uncover stories of the Pennsylvania Civil War experience. An inventory of the primary source materials collected will be made available through www.PACivilWar150.com.

Publications / Special Media Initiatives

- The Heinz History Center is coordinating the production of several publications and media initiatives to further reveal an accurate and telling account of the Commonwealth's Civil War story. Plans include the publication of two books, *Pennsylvania Civil War in Photographs* and *Pennsylvania African Americans in the Civil War Era* and a collaborative magazine project bringing together content from *Western Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Heritage* and *Pennsylvania Legacies*. In addition, audio and video projects will be produced with state media outlets, including a series of Civil War Spotlights that will highlight anniversaries of significant Pennsylvania Civil War events.

Product Development

- *PA Civil War 150* will develop a line of high-quality, branded merchandise to be sold at tourism and cultural venues throughout the state and online. Using the institutional network of more than 20 PHMC-operated museum and historic sites along with other partner venues, *PA Civil War 150* is well-positioned to serve as the developer and distributor of a merchandising program. The products developed will have emotional and authentic connections to the Civil War story while appealing to the contemporary heritage consumer.

Special Exhibit

- The National Constitution Center is planning a special exhibit centered on our nation's long struggle to achieve justice and racial equality. The exhibit is intended to travel to in-state partner institutions such as The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg and the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, as well as venues outside the Commonwealth.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES:

Working through regional partners encompassing all sections of the Commonwealth, *PA Civil War 150* will facilitate, encourage and help market a wide range of local and regional events and activities, including re-enactments, exhibitions, Civil War-era dramatic and musical performances, heritage tours, lectures and symposia. Among the featured attractions will be the Civil War Trails, an initiative of a number of state agencies that have partnered with local communities to promote and increase heritage tourism in South-Central Pennsylvania.

PLANNING PARTNERS:

PA Civil War 150 is premised on a statewide partnership among a number of organizations and institutions to develop programming and content for the commemoration. These include:

- Civil War History Consortium (Philadelphia)
- George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, The Pennsylvania State University (University Park)
- Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg Foundation, Gettysburg College (Gettysburg)
- National Civil War Museum (Harrisburg)
- National Constitution Center (Philadelphia)
- Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (Harrisburg)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Humanities Council (Philadelphia)
- Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- The State Library of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg)
- The State Museum of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg)

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