



FACT SHEET

Pennsylvania Civil War 150 October 2012

DESCRIPTION

Pennsylvania Civil War 150 is the state's official commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, 2011-2015. The PA Civil War 150 Committee, convened by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), is a statewide alliance of history, heritage, arts, and cultural organizations from across the state. *PA Civil War 150's* mission is to leverage the considerable strengths of these institutions and bring high-quality programming to the Commonwealth's commemoration of the American Civil War. *PA Civil War 150* includes a wide array of statewide initiatives and facilitates numerous activities and events at the regional and local levels.

The *PA Civil War 150's* number one priority is to market signature and commemorative events across the Commonwealth. Projects that are fully or partially funded by the PACW150's fundraising efforts are considered *sponsored initiatives*. Those funded by outside organizations or individuals that meet specified criteria will be granted permission to use the *PA CW150* logo on descriptive and promotional materials, and can be described as *endorsed initiatives*. Projects funded by outside organizations or individuals that do not meet Pennsylvania Civil War 150 endorsement criteria will be *recognized initiatives* and will be included on Pennsylvania Civil War 150 listings as a public service.

SPONSORED INITIATIVES

Comprehensive Web site

- A cornerstone of the commemoration, www.PACivilWar150.com, is a comprehensive website containing an interactive timeline, a statewide events calendar and many in-depth stories recounting the experiences of Pennsylvanians during the Civil War. The site features interactive content, an artifact showcase, and multimedia exhibits, as well as an educational resource section that includes tools aligned to Pennsylvania academic standards for teachers. Linking to tourism and trip planning sites across the Commonwealth, the website provides visitors a rich and uniquely Pennsylvania Civil War experience.

Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show (Completed)

- The Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show was a multi-dimensional traveling exhibition experience installed in an expandable 53-foot tractor-trailer that traveled across the state during the summers of 2011 and 2012. The Road Show engaged local communities across Pennsylvania and connected them with the history of *their* Civil War experience, from the battlefield to the home front. Through interactive exhibits and activities complemented by engaging programs and performances at each host community, the Road Show introduced the compelling stories of the Civil War to audiences across the state and beyond. Over the course of its run the Road Show visited 36 communities and welcomed over 110,000 visitors. Work is currently underway to install components of the Road Show at The State Museum in Harrisburg, where it can be enjoyed year round beginning in the fall of 2013.



The Civil War in Pennsylvania

- The Heinz History Center has developed a 500-square-foot traveling exhibit that features four life-size historical figures and modular panels describing Pennsylvania's contributions to the Civil War. The exhibit is designed to allow for the addition of local artifacts and stories in order to generate interest at each of the venues. Beginning in March 2012, some 40 sites will host the exhibit, at no cost, for several weeks each as the exhibit tours the western portion of the state.

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 are being made available to statewide K-12 educators for teaching students about Pennsylvania's role in the Civil War. These resources are based on the latest historical research about the Civil War and are designed to meet Pennsylvania's new Academic Standards and Curriculum Frameworks.

Publications

- The Heinz History Center is coordinating the publication of two books and media initiatives to further reveal an accurate and engaging account of the Commonwealth's Civil War story. Plans include the publication of *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History* in late 2012 and *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: The African American Experience* in 2013. In addition, a collaborative magazine project will bring together content from the Heinz Center's *Western Pennsylvania History*, the PHMC's *Pennsylvania Heritage* and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's *Pennsylvania Legacies* in 2013.

Product Development

- *PA Civil War 150* has developed a line of high-quality, branded merchandise to be sold at tourism and cultural venues throughout the state and online. Using the extensive institutional network of museum and historic sites across the Commonwealth, *PA Civil War 150* is well-positioned to serve as the developer and distributor of a merchandising program. These products have emotional and authentic connections to the Civil War while appealing to the contemporary heritage consumer.

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.

Signature Events

- Throughout the commemoration, *PA Civil War 150* is sponsoring and participating in significant events that highlight Pennsylvania's multi-faceted role during this critical period in our nation's history. Events undertaken and completed include:
2012: The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg Maryland)
2012: The 150th Anniversary of the Loyal War Governors Conference (Altoona)



2012: The 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation (Gettysburg College)

ENDORSED INITIATIVES

Working through regional partners encompassing all sections of the Commonwealth, *PA Civil War 150* is facilitating and encouraging 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. Some of these initiatives are:

- ***From Slavery to Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of Freedom in Western Pennsylvania*** is an exhibition that will open at the Heinz History Center in November 2012.
- **Schmucker Hall Rehabilitation** is a multimillion-dollar renovation that will create interpretive exhibits in this historic building that served as a field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg scheduled to open in July 2013.
- **Civil War Trails** is an initiative of a number of state agencies that have partnered with local communities to promote and increase heritage tourism in South-Central Pennsylvania.
- **The Gettysburg Story** is a brand new audio tour and guide that animates the National Park Auto Tour route. The acclaimed actor Stephen Lang narrates the tour, which is based on the works of renowned historian and author Gabor Boritt.
- **Civil War Voices from York County, Pa.** is a collection of oral histories, traditions and remembrances from individuals who remember what their grandparents told them about the Civil War. Combined with letters, diaries and newspapers articles, these histories create a story about York County's role in the war, with special emphasis on the participation of women, African Americans and students.

RECOGNIZED INITIATIVES

- **Audacious Freedom: African Americans in Philadelphia 1776-1876** is a permanent exhibition at the African American Museum detailing the freedom journey of African Americans in Philadelphia during the nation's first century. Stories of individuals and groups highlight the Underground Railroad, the free black community in Philadelphia, African American soldiers in the Civil War, and early struggles for civil rights.
- **General Jeb Stuart's Raid into PA Road Bike Tour** is a fully-supported and guided four-day Penn Trails Bike Tour that follows the route of Confederate General JEB Stuart's southern cavalry on their hard-riding, controversial raid into central Pennsylvania during the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign. Penn Trails LLC & Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau organized the event.



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:

- Abraham Lincoln Foundation (Philadelphia)
- Civil War History Consortium (Philadelphia)
- George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, The Pennsylvania State University (University Park)
- Gettysburg 150 Steering Committee (Gettysburg)
- Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg Foundation (Gettysburg)
- Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College (Gettysburg)
- National Civil War Museum (Harrisburg)
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
- Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (Philadelphia)
- Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (Harrisburg)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- Pennsylvania Humanities Council (Philadelphia)
- Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Senator John Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh)
- The State Library of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg)
- The State Museum of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg)

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