



Civil War Commemoration Public Programs: Ideas & Resources

Below is a list of Civil War-related program idea-starters. Pennsylvania Civil War 150 does not endorse these programs, unless specifically noted, but rather offers them as resources for organizations planning Civil War anniversary programming.

Questions or comments, contact editor@pacivilwar150.com.

SPEAKERS:

- **Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speakers:** Civil War-Era Speakers: www.pahumanities.org/resources/speakers.php (click to “View the complete lineup of presentations”)
- **Association of Mid Atlantic Civil War Round Tables (AMART) Speakers Bureau:** www.amartcivilwar.org
- **Civil War medical historian/speaker:** Lesley Wood: cwsurg1861@msn.com or phone 610-777-9485. Programs related to CW medicine and women in the War. She also portrays Dr. Sarah Ann Chadwick Clapp, a Union regimental surgeon

PERFORMANCES/DEMONSTRATIONS:

- **Civil War Reenactors:** Invite a company to attend the Road Show and give demonstrations.
 - Links to reenactment organizations: www.civilwarhome.com/reenact.htm
 - 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (2nd Bucktails; originally raised in Allegheny, Clarion, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Perry, Potter and Tioga Counties). Contact: Thomas Reilly, Chairman, phone 978-342-2765 or Bruce Petro, Vice Chairman, phone 570-799-0129
- **Living History Actors**
 - The Pennsylvania Past Players <http://www.questforfreedom.org/grouptours/>
- **Civil War-era storytellers (Historic Philadelphia, Inc.)**
 - Contact: Jennifer Hoffmaster, Programming Manager: Phone: 215-629-5801, ext. 208; jennifer@historicphiladelphia.org
- **Civil War-Era Music:** Stage a performance:
 - Joe Becton, Philadelphia, historian/musician/interpreter: <http://zootpro.com/jb.htm>
 - Camptown Shakers, West Grove, PA: www.myspace.com/camptownshakers



- Philadelphia Brigade Band, Manager Scott West
Contact: (609) 221-2572 or becksband@gmail.com
<http://www.becksband.com/>
- Jeff Angeley, musician (banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, etc.)
Contact: (508) 207-7357 or jeffangeley@gmail.com
- Rick Spencer, Catfeather Art & Music
Contact: (860) 859-1927 or rspencer02@snet.net
http://www.catfeather.com/historic_music_programs.htm
- **Civil War-Era Dance:** Stage a performance/demonstration: The Victorian Dance Ensemble, Camp Hill, PA: www.civilwardance.org Email: civilwardance@verizon.net (or email for a copy of their sponsor booklet to help plan your event)
- **Other Ideas:**
 - Ask a local theater group to perform scenes from *Little Women* or another period piece.
 - Stage a period political debate
 - Present a demonstration on food and cooking during the Civil War (books of recipes available)
 - Put on a 19th-century “fashion show”
 - Find a local photography expert to present a demonstration on 19th-century photography, such as how to tell the difference between different types of photographs.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOPS:

- **Civil War-related Books:** Hold a book reading/discussion/signing. See PA Humanities Council’s Live & Learn Weekends for ideas: www.pahumanities.org/projects/live-learn.php
- **Civil War-Era Games:**
 - Engage children and adults alike in playing 19th-century games. Related resource: *American Children’s Games through the Civil War Period*, by Michael Mescher (Burke, VA: Nature’s Finest, 1997)
 - Vintage baseball: There are clubs in Pittsburgh and Somerset County that recreate games using 19th-century uniforms, equipment (no gloves!) and rules. For more information, including 19th-century rules: <http://gvbbt.wordpress.com>
- **“Women’s Work” Workshops:** Hold a knitting, sewing or quilting workshop, based on the idea that women on the home front knit socks and made other items to send to soldiers.
- **Scrapbooking:** A popular activity during and after the Civil War, and still popular today. Hold a scrapbooking workshop (you could ask a local craft store for their support), or a demonstration comparing 19th-century with modern scrapbooks.
- **Archival Preservation:** Enlist a local archivist to demonstrate how to properly store and preserve family artifacts and other items. The



Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, also provides lectures, seminars and workshops for the general public:

www.ccaha.org/education

- **Contemporary Relevance/Care Packages:** Hold an event at which participants prepare care packages for U.S. troops serving abroad.

OTHER RESOURCES

Grants: The Pennsylvania Humanities Council awards competitive grants of various sizes for public programs in the humanities; for more information:

www.pahumanities.org/resources/h-grants.php