

Civil War Road Show rolls into Ephrata

By LARRY ALEXANDER
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LANCASTER -- The Civil War Road Show the state's mobile museum commemorating the war's 150th anniversary will make its only Lancaster County stop Saturday Sunday and Monday at the Ephrata Public Library.

Housed in an expandable 40-foot trailer the Civil War Road Show features hands-on interactive displays telling stories from America's greatest test as a nation using original 3D stereoscopic images voices of historic Pennsylvanians and scenes of camp and home life.

The library will also host a wide array of programming that includes Civil War era musicians re-enactors a Victorian dance ensemble and a multimedia program incorporating over 150 pieces of historic art with music and sound effects to provide a stunning visual of the Battle of Gettysburg.

"Some places that get the road show they have just the trailer, and they don't do all the extra programming," library director Penny Talbert said. "I couldn't see bringing just the Road Show to town without having other educational and fun activities to go along with it."

The grant that brought the road show to Ephrata Talbert said "came with no money." Funds for the extra events came from the Pennsylvania Heritage Society the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and a cultural arts grant from Ephrata Borough.

Talbert said there will be "constant activity all day long" throughout the three days.

Saturday's events will include Civil War minstrel Jeff Trace; Civil War Tableaux a popular parlor entertainment where people formed "living pictures" to depict famous historical events; a presentation by Patrick Falci who portrayed Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill in the film "Gettysburg"; 19th-century music by the Susquehanna Travellers; and Ghosts of Gettysburg an evening of ghost storytelling and

exploration of strange phenomena connected with the Gettysburg battlefield.

Sunday's activities will include a talk by Debra Sandoe McCauslin who will discuss her ancestor George Washington Sandoe the first soldier to die at Gettysburg. Also on Sunday will be "The Battle of Gettysburg in Sight and Sound" presented by licensed Gettysburg Battlefield tour guide Joseph E. Mieczkowski and Ronald Hawkins portraying Confederate Gen. James Longstreet. Hawkins has been featured on the History Channel Discovery Channel and A&E.

Monday closes with an American Girl Tea Party with American Girl Addy Walker that will feature tea party food and games of the period followed by a discussion about the Underground Railroad by local historian Randolph J. Harris.

Inside the library is a display on "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" a traveling exhibition that opened on Aug. 29. It examines how President Abraham Lincoln used the Constitution to confront the secession of the southern states slavery and wartime civil liberties.

"This comes to us through a separate grant that we were just lucky enough to time with the Road Show," Talbert said.

Talbert said this is the largest event the library has ever attempted.

"It's a big deal," she said. "We should celebrate our history."

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The Civil War Road Show is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day. Admission is free.

Some parking is available at the library 550 S. Reading Road. Overflow parking will be at Ephrata Senior High School 800 Oak Blvd. There will be shuttle service to and from the library starting at 9:30 a.m.

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