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[Pennsylvania readies statewide commemoration of 150th anniversary of Civil War](#)

Posted in [Arts](#), [Community](#), [Life](#) on Tuesday, October 6th, 2009 at 10:01 am by Stacy Briggs, Intelligencer Features Editor

Pennsylvania will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, highlighting the commonwealth's paramount role in the war through traveling exhibits, special events and a content-rich Web site, which will extend from 2011 through 2015 and beyond.

Convened at the request of Gov. Edward G. Rendell, Pennsylvania Civil War 150 is a unified, statewide alliance that will both attract visitors and enrich their experience county by county in Pennsylvania through programming for the sesquicentennial commemoration.

"Nearly 150 years later, the role of the Keystone State in the war that redefined this nation has new meaning for a new generation," says Barbara Franco, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

"The Pennsylvania Civil War 150 commemoration is far more than a formal remembrance. It is a collection of stories brought to life that are as epic as the fields at Gettysburg or as small as the struggles of a soldier's wife working to survive her husband's absence on a Pennsylvania farm. Through these stories, Pennsylvania Civil War 150 will renew interest and engagement in our state's heritage."

The launch will preview key initiatives for the commemoration that will provide localized, unique experiences throughout the state:

PACivilWar150.com, a Web site that unlocks the personal stories of Pennsylvanians both on the battlefield and at the home front, the vast Civil War collections of the state's museums and historical societies, and the state's numerous heritage tourism attractions and trip-planning resources.

Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show, a traveling museum experience based in a 53-foot tractor-trailer that will bring interactive exhibits and unique programming to all 67 counties in the state from 2011 through 2015. It will encourage residents and organizations in each locality to share their stories and artifacts in conjunction with the traveling exhibition.

Additional initiatives include a digitization project under the direction of Penn State University that aims to unearth and organize Civil War collections in an online format to preserve primary source materials and make them accessible to the public and to scholars.

The Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh will also coordinate the publication of two books: "Pennsylvania Civil War in Photographs," a collection of rarely seen photos from the Civil War era, and "Pennsylvania African Americans in the Civil War Era," an account of the African American experience during the same time period.

"Pennsylvania Civil War 150 is fortunate to have a strong alliance of partner organizations to expertly coordinate statewide initiatives that will positively impact Pennsylvania far beyond the four-year anniversary period," says

Franco.

Lead partners include the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Senator John Heinz History Center.

Information: www.PACivilWar150.com.

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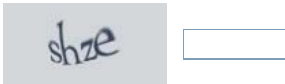
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