



News for Immediate Release

Sept. 4, 2013

New Exhibit Tells How Pennsylvanians Experienced the Civil War

State Museum Exhibit Featuring Personal Stories, Original Artifacts Opens Sept. 20

Harrisburg - The State Museum of Pennsylvania will add another Civil War-related exhibit to its offerings, beginning Friday, Sept. 20, with "Stories from the Homefront: Pennsylvania in the Civil War."

Through compelling personal stories and photographs, the exhibit focuses on the many contributions made by Pennsylvania individuals and industries to the Union cause during the American Civil War.

The expanded and enhanced Homefront exhibit features components drawn from "The Civil War Road Show," which traveled the commonwealth in 2011 and 2012 and attracted 110,000 visitors.

The exhibit complements the acclaimed "Objects of Valor: Commemorating the Civil War in Pennsylvania" exhibit which opened in April. Both exhibits and related programming were designed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Interactive features include stereoscopic photographs, original compositions of Civil War-era music and sound effects, hands-on objects and animated stories.

Additionally, nearly 50 artifacts from The State Museum's vast Civil War collections have been added to the display. Items include an 1861 poster recruiting "All patriotic young men of Montour County," a tin container, engraved 1861-62, that once held a flask owned by Captain William Printer of Philadelphia, plus muskets, bayonets and other personal items reflecting not only the fighting, but also the camp life of soldiers between battles.

Other new features include murals of Chambersburg after the Franklin County community was torched by Confederates in 1864 and a detailed map of Pennsylvania's Civil War resources, both designed to highlight the state's involvement in the war beyond the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Friends of the State Museum will host a special opening for the exhibit on Friday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. in conjunction with Harrisburg's popular 3rd in the Burg. The opening will feature a reception, presentation and book signing by the authors of the recently published book "The Civil War in Pennsylvania: A Photographic History." The publication is the first photo history of the war in Pennsylvania.

Cost is \$40 per person, \$35 for State Museum Affiliate members and Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation members. Purchase tickets online at www.shoppaheritage.com or call 717-787-2407 for more information.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, adjacent to the State Capitol in Harrisburg, is one of 25 historic sites and museums administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as part of the Pennsylvania Trails of History®. The State Museum offers expansive collections interpreting Pennsylvania's fascinating heritage.

With exhibits examining the dawn of geologic time, the Native American experience, the colonial and revolutionary era, a pivotal Civil War battleground, and the commonwealth's vast industrial age, The State Museum demonstrates that Pennsylvania's story is America's story.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children and senior citizens.

For more information about the museum, visit www.statemuseumpa.org.

Media contact: Howard Pollman, 717-705-8639

###