



CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
OF PHILADELPHIA



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CIVIL WAR MUSEUM OF PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO SHOWCASE WORLD CLASS COLLECTION

*Agreement with the Gettysburg Foundation and the National Constitution Center Will
Provide Future Generations With Access To World Class Collection*

PHILADELPHIA – May 4, 2016 – The Civil War Museum of Philadelphia Board of Governors and the Gettysburg Foundation today announced an historic partnership to ensure that the largest collection of Civil War artifacts, not under government stewardship, will be cared for at the highest possible standards, will be maintained in perpetuity, and will be exhibited in venues where millions of visitors will have expanded access to it.

The Gettysburg Foundation, the Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Civil War Museum have worked together to care for the artifacts since 2010. In seeking a strategy to protect the collection for the long-term, the Museum Board recognized that Gettysburg was the ideal partner for CWMP in its efforts to preserve this historic collection.

“There is no more iconic and authentic place for learning about the Civil War,” said Oliver St. Clair Franklin, chair of the Museum Board. “Millions of people visit each year from across the country and across the world. The staff at Gettysburg knows better than anyone else how to care for and preserve these artifacts.”

Since 2010, the Gettysburg Foundation and Gettysburg National Military Park have not only cared for the collection, but has also exhibited artifacts in the galleries of the Museum and Visitors Center and in special exhibits, such as the one commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, “Treasures of the Civil War”.

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“The Civil War Museum collection complements our own holdings in important ways,” said Robert A. Kinsley, chairman of the board, the Gettysburg Foundation. “These artifacts are intimately connected to specific individuals and their roles in the war. These objects, used by those whose service shaped this conflict, will enhance our ability to connect visitors to the story of the Civil War on a personal and emotional, as well as an intellectual level. All the artifacts in the collection are significant to the history of our nation. In particular, the General George Meade Collection evokes stories and imagery of his leadership at Gettysburg during the battle that changed the course of history. When you see the American flag that was flown over Meade’s headquarters at Gettysburg, or see the bullet hole in his campaign hat, you can feel the passion, the courage and the conviction of the men who bravely fought to preserve our nation.”

Ed Clark, Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, added, “These amazing objects will enable us to better tell the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War. They will inspire our visitors now and for generations to come.”

The Board of the Civil War Museum approached Gettysburg after it evaluated its prospects for building a new museum for the collection in Philadelphia and it became clear that it would be both a challenge to build it and an even bigger challenge to sustain it over time. “As stewards of this world class collection, the Board of the Civil War Museum felt a strong ethical and historical responsibility to developing a partnerships that would both protect this collection and ensure that it is accessible to the public and researchers in both Gettysburg and Philadelphia into the future, said Franklin”

The National Constitution Center will play an important role in this partnership, as well. While the Civil War Museum will transfer ownership of the artifact collection to the Gettysburg Foundation, Gettysburg has agreed to loan the National Constitution Center artifacts from the collection. If funding is secured, the Center will create the first permanent exhibit in America dedicated to the constitutional legacy of the Civil War and the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. This will keep a significant part of the collection in Philadelphia, expand the number of people who can will see it, and enhance the National Constitution Center’s role as America’s only museum of the U.S. Constitution.

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“We are thrilled about the possibility that the National Constitution Center will create America’s first and only exhibit about the constitutional legacy of the Civil War,” said Jeffrey Rosen, President & CEO of the National Constitution Center. “The creation of a Civil War exhibit would help us tell the story of how Thomas Jefferson’s promise in the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal, wasn’t vindicated until Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and the passage of the Reconstruction Amendments.”

The agreement does not include the archives and books of the Civil War Museum. This important two-dimensional material, which will remain the property of the Museum is subject to a separate long-term stewardship agreement, is housed at the Heritage Center of the Union League of Philadelphia where researchers and others can access it.

About the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia

The Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, the oldest Civil War museum in the country, was chartered in 1888 by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States as the War Library and Museum. The museum’s artifact collection is one of the most historically significant and largest in the country outside of government hands with more than 3,000 items.

About the Gettysburg Foundation and Gettysburg National Military Park

The Gettysburg Foundation is a non-profit educational organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg. The Foundation raised funds for and now operates the Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park, which opened in April 2008. In addition to operating the Museum and Visitor Center, the Foundation has a broad preservation mission that includes land, monument and artifact preservation and battlefield rehabilitation—all in support of the National Park Service’s goals at Gettysburg.

Gettysburg National Military Park preserves, protects, and interprets for this and future generations the resources associated with the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War, the Soldiers’ National Cemetery, and their commemorations. The Eisenhower National Historic Site preserves and interprets the home and farms of the Eisenhower family as a fitting and enduring memorial to the life, work, and times of General Dwight David Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, and to the events of far-reaching importance that occurred on the property. www.nps.gov/eise

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis.”

As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org

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