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HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA GETS READY FOR JULY 4th CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
Traveling Civil War Road Show is the Centerpiece of Holiday Weekend

Philadelphia, PA – June 8, 2011 – While Historic Philadelphia is known as the birthplace of American Independence, July 4th celebrations can include other periods of the nation’s past as well. **As part of the summer-long commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, Historic Philadelphia, Inc. will produce a “Civil War Weekend” July 1-4, 2011**, featuring a variety of in-depth, interactive, and family-friendly experiences to delight and engage everyone from the serious Civil War buff to the youngest visitor, much of it free to the public. The highlight of the weekend will be a four-day stop at Franklin Square by the state’s traveling **Civil War Road Show**, in the only opportunity to see the Road Show in Philadelphia. In addition to the many offerings from the Colonial era of Philadelphia’s history, from Once Upon A Nation storytelling benches to immersive Adventure Tours, Historic Philadelphia is expanding its menu of programs to include commemoration of the Civil War’s importance to the region. **Media are invited to a press preview on July 1, 2011, 8 - 10 am in Franklin Square, 6th and Race Streets.**

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. President and CEO Amy Needle says, “Historic Philadelphia, Inc. specializes in bringing Philadelphia’s and the nation’s history to life through storytelling in many ways, over the past 300 years. The Civil War era is another fascinating piece of our history and we look forward to focusing attention on this important period. We are also thrilled to be hosting the Civil War Road Show at Franklin Square during our Civil War Summer. ”

Civil War Weekend Highlighted by FREE Road Show in Franklin Square

The FREE traveling Civil War Road Show, sponsored by PA Civil War 150, pulls into Franklin Square July 1 for its only Philadelphia stop, kicking off the long-weekend’s events. A look at how

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Pennsylvanians contributed to the War – and how it transformed their lives, the Road Show is based in an impressive 53-foot expandable 18-wheeled trailer and features hands-on, interactive displays to tell stories that will be engaging for the whole family. From the original “3-D experience” of stereoscopes, to the voices of individual Pennsylvanians, to the scenes of camp and home life, visitors will be immersed in a new understanding of how America’s greatest crisis changed the lives of Pennsylvanians.



The Road Show aims to assemble Pennsylvania’s Civil War history, one story at a time. Through a *Share Your Story* recording booth, visitors are invited to share their own Civil War-era family photographs, artifacts, and other material and stories. These are then uploaded to the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 website, a public repository that grows as the Road Show travels the Commonwealth. Through images, sound, words, objects and interactive multimedia, the Road Show will convey stories of the many different ways Pennsylvania’s men, women, children and communities experienced the Civil War, both on the battlefield and the home front.



The Civil War Road Show will be accompanied by a host of free programs in Franklin Square July 1 – 4 from 12 noon – 5 pm each day. The entertainment includes appearances by History Makers portraying Abraham Lincoln and Octavius Catto, Civil War Muster (where children are encouraged to join a playful army enlistment), storytelling by a Once Upon A Nation storyteller with stories from the Civil War and Underground Railroad, and Civil War re-enactors creating a replica encampment on the grounds of Franklin Square.

Another Civil War Weekend highlight will be the opportunity to meet Octavius Catto and the authors of *Tasting Freedom*, Daniel Biddle and Murray Dubin, for a free book signing event at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 2 at the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets. *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America* chronicles the life of this charismatic black leader – a free black whose freedom was in name only. Born in the American south, where slavery

permeated everyday life, he moved north where he joined the fight to be truly free – free to vote, go to school, ride on streetcars, play baseball, and even participate in July 4th celebrations. Catto was a black educator, intellectual, and civil rights activist, who became a martyr to racism, as he was shot and killed in election-day violence in Philadelphia in 1871.



Throughout the **Civil War Summer**, which continues after July 4th Weekend all the way through Labor Day, visitors will have the chance to meet period History Makers, hear stories at the Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches, see *Liberty 360* in the PECO Theater, and enjoy *Rally 'Round the Flag* at the Betsy Ross House. All of these attractions will be open for Civil War Weekend and continue through September 5, 2011.

Betsy Ross House Exhibit

Visitors won't want to miss a visit to the **Betsy Ross House for a look at the newest exhibit, *Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags They Carried***, which examines the most dangerous job on the battlefield. Featuring stories, photographs, and flags including a fully-restored Civil War flag made by Betsy Ross's daughter, Clarissa, on display for the first time ever, the exhibit honors the men – and women – who risked their lives to protect the flag. The exhibit is presented in cooperation with the *Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library* and the *Philadelphia Flag Day Association*. This exhibit will be on display during Civil War Weekend July 1-4, and continue through April 2012.

Meet History Makers and Hear Stories

The chance to meet one of Historic Philadelphia's newest "History Makers," **Octavius Catto**, is a highlight of the Civil War Weekend that also continues after July 4th Weekend through Labor Day. Visitors will be riveted by hearing his stories from the front lines of the country's very first battles for civil rights as they meet this History Makers among many others, in person at one of several locations throughout the summer. The new History Maker encounter, "We The People," is a free three-minute dramatic interpretation of the United States Constitution incorporating the words of Frederick Douglass, the renowned abolitionist. "We The People" takes place every day at noon on Independence Mall on July 1-4, and continues daily through Labor Day, between Market and Arch Streets next to Independence Visitor Center.

The Civil War experience continues at the Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches, scattered in 13 locations throughout the Historic District. All summer long, including July 1 - 4, storytellers will share Underground Railroad and Civil War-era stories with subjects as varied as Octavius Catto to Harriet Tubman to two Philadelphia Civil War generals who fought on opposite sides: George Gordon Meade and John C. Pemberton.



Technology Thrills

To make the Civil War Summer complete, catch a showing of the new *Liberty 360* in the PECO Theater, a 15-minute, 360-degree experience hosted by Ben Franklin. This groundbreaking 3D show features stirring imagery, including a visual journey from the Emancipation Proclamation through the civil rights movement.



Civil War Weekend Hours

Franklin Square, 6th & Race streets is open 10 am - 10 pm, July 1 & 2; 10 am - 9 pm, July 3 & 4 (some admission required). The Road Show will run 11 am - 7 pm (free). The Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street, is open 10 am - 7 pm, July 1-3; 10 am - 5 pm, July 4 (admission). *Liberty 360* in the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets, runs every 20 minutes from 9 am - 9 pm, July 1 & 2; 10 am - 7 pm, July 3; and 9 am - 7 pm, July 4 (admission). For more information about Civil War Summer, Civil War Weekend, or any of HPI's programming, call (215) 629-4026 or visit www.historicphiladelphia.org. Tickets for all of the attractions are available at the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets and online at www.historicphiladelphia.org.

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. enhances the visitor experience and helps strengthen Philadelphia's tourism industry through interpretation and interaction, making our nation's history relevant and real. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s programs include the Betsy Ross House, Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and Lights of Liberty.

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High-resolution photographs are available for media usage at <http://tinyurl.com/HPIphoto>. Email cari@reliefcomm.com for login information.