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**BETSY ROSS HOUSE'S NEW EXHIBIT COMMEMORATES CIVIL WAR 150TH;
FLAG MADE BY BETSY'S DAUGHTER IS A HIGHLIGHT**

Philadelphia, PA – A flag made by Betsy Ross' daughter, Clarissa Claypoole Wilson, will be displayed at the Betsy Ross House for the first time ever as part of a new exhibit opening in the gallery this spring. The Civil War era 34-star silk flag is one of the highlights of *Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags They Carried*, which opened April 12 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

Featuring stories, photographs and flags, the new exhibit examines the most dangerous job on the battlefield, the color bearer and is designed to honor the men – and women – who risked their lives to protect the flag. *Rally 'Round the Flag* is being presented in cooperation with the *Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library* and the *Philadelphia Flag Day Association* and guest curated by Dr. Wayne A. Huss, professor of history at Gwynedd Mercy College.

“The state of Pennsylvania has a full slate of activities planned to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War,” said the House’s director, Lisa Acker Moulder. “With the opportunity to display the restored flag made by Betsy’s daughter, that dates to the Civil War, we saw a great chance to put together an exhibit that complimented all the Civil War programming that is planned over the next year.”

The flag sewed by Clarissa Claypoole Wilson was made to signify the admission of Kansas into the Union and was given to the Betsy Ross House by a descendent. Before conservation, the flag appeared in hundreds of confetti-like pieces until its restoration by skilled conservators at Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

Visitors will also learn stories of specific color bearers, like Kady Brownell of the 1st Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry and Sgt. Andrew Jackson Smith of the 55th Massachusetts, an African American color bearer who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001 by President Bill Clinton. Also on display will be authentic objects a color bearer may have carried, including a musician’s sword, a Union belt and a tin cup.

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Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags they Carried continues through April 2012. It will serve as the centerpiece for a Civil War Weekend, July 1-4. Presented by Historic Philadelphia, Inc., which manages the Betsy Ross House, Civil War Weekend will feature the traveling Civil War Roadshow in Franklin Square and a variety of other interactive activities commemorating the Civil War sesquicentennial.

About the Betsy Ross House:

The Betsy Ross House is dedicated to preserving the legend of the first flag and the story of Betsy Ross, herself, and of all colonial women. The House, located at 239 Arch Street, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is one of Philadelphia's most popular historic attractions with nearly 300,000 visitors annually. The House will host the fourth annual ***Flag Festival***, a Victorian-style street fair celebrating Flag Day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.

The Betsy Ross House is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily March through September; Tuesday through Sunday October through December; and Wednesday through Sunday in January and February. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$3 for children and seniors. An optional audio guide is \$4, which includes admission.

For more information about ***Rally 'Round the Flag, Flag Festival 2011*** or any other programs at the Betsy Ross House, call (215) 686-1252 or visit www.betsyrosshouse.org.

The Betsy Ross House is managed by Historic Philadelphia, Inc. HPI 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 other programs include Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and the Lights of Liberty Show. For more information, call (215) 629-4026 or visit www.historicphiladelphia.org.

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