

WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 8, 2011

CONTACT
ANGIE LOWRIE
DIRECTOR, MARKETING & SALES
216-721-5722 X297
alowrie@wrhs.org

Western Reserve Historical Society Launches Civil War 150th Commemoration

History Center - 10825 East Boulevard - Cleveland, OH 44106
Hale Farm & Village - 2686 Oak Hill Road - Bath, OH 44210

CLEVELAND, OH -- With a wide variety of programs and exhibits, Western Reserve Historical Society honors the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War now through 2015 at its History Center in University Circle and Hale Farm & Village in the Cuyahoga Valley. Visitors will discover the many ways Northeast Ohioans played a key role in the war that shaped the United States.

The current centerpiece of the commemoration in the History Center is two exhibits - *Rally 'Round the Flag* and *Do You Know Your Lincoln?* -- open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00 pm at the WRHS History Center, 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

Do You Know Your Lincoln? is drawn from the WRHS unusually rich Lincoln collections. The exhibit tests the museum visitor's knowledge of the history of America's 16th President. It places the election of Lincoln in the larger context of the outbreak and public perception of the Civil War, and connects the President to the City of Cleveland.

Opening April 30th, *Rally 'Round the Flag* contains approximately 25 historically important flags and banners from the Civil War era. They document the entire spectrum of the war: the anti-slavery movement, regimental colors, a progression of United States flags, captured Confederate flags, and postwar patriotic organizations including the Grand Army of the Republic. The most spectacular display is two massive 18' flags of the Union Jack and the Confederate Stars and Bars.

Additional WRHS Civil War commemoration events for April and May include:

Saturday, April 16 at 2:00 pm
Cleveland at the Start of the Civil War
WRHS History Center

Dr. John Grabowski will use a series of photographs, taken in and around Cleveland from 1859 to 1864, to discuss the many changes in the city before and during the Civil War such as industrialization, immigration, the growth of transportation links, and the physical expansion of the city. Admission is \$3 for WRHS members; \$12.50 for non-members which includes museum admission.

Saturday, April 16; 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Division Drills

Hale Farm & Village

See a Civil War reenactors' battalion spring muster. Learn about Civil War-era weapons firing, maintenance, and safety, and basic soldier equipment. Watch Birney's Division 2nd Battalion conduct a skirmish drill and interact with the reenactors throughout the afternoon. The day concludes with a field exercise including battalion/company movements, firing, and skirmish. Reduced, special admission of \$5. Call 330-666-3711 for further details.

Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 pm

Civil War: The Soldiers Aid Society and Cleveland's Sanitary Fair

WRHS History Center

Tim Daley, Executive Director of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, presents "The Soldier's Aid Society, the Sanitary Commission and Cleveland's Sanitary Fair during the Civil War". Admission is \$3 for WRHS Members; \$12.50 for non-members which includes museum admission.

All Western Reserve Historical Society Civil War programming is part of the statewide initiative to honor the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Information on events is posted at wrhs.org and ohiocivilwar150.org.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society is one of the largest privately-supported nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. WRHS preserves and uses its collections, historic sites and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of Northeast Ohio and place that regional experience within the larger context of state, national and global history.

###