



Hale Farm & Village

Western Reserve Historical Society and the Civil War

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is nationally recognized for having one of the finest and most comprehensive library and museum collections documenting the Civil War (1861-1865) in the United States. Although most of the war was not fought in Ohio, more than 300,000 Ohioans served in the Union Army and those “at home” were involved in efforts to support the troops. WRHS interprets Civil War history through exhibits, K-12 educational programs, publications, genealogical seminars, and through the presentation of immersive living history experiences, including an annual Civil War event at Hale Farm & Village.

Hale Farm & Village Civil War Event, August 13-14, 2022

WRHS is re-envisioning its interpretation of slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the legacy and lessons of this watershed event in American history. After a two-year hiatus, WRHS presents a reimagined Civil War event at Hale Farm & Village that is expected to draw 5,000 guests and hundreds of reenactors. In 2014, during the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Hale Farm & Village event received the prestigious Civil War 150 Heritage Award from the Ohio History Connection. Today, museum and reenactor leadership remain fully committed to authenticity and excellence in historical impressions and battle reenactments, and great care is taken to ensure the historical authenticity of soldier uniforms, flags, civilian attire, accoutrements, and encampments for the benefit and enjoyment of our guests.

WRHS's Civil War Collections

WRHS maintains a significant American Civil War photograph, print and archival collection drawing the attention of scholars, filmmakers, authors, museum professionals, genealogists and local historians and other independent researchers. WRHS photographic images have appeared in major pictorial histories of the Civil War, documentaries such as Ken Burns' Civil War Series, and in numerous articles and exhibits. The core of the Civil War photograph, manuscript and publication collection was compiled by former WRHS President William P. Palmer, the son of a captain in the 155th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. The collection is preserved and available for research at the WRHS Library in University Circle, Cleveland.

The Civil War photograph collection includes over 2,600 portraits, military units, views and objects and several important Picture Group collections. The Picture Group collections include professional Civil War photographer compilations, photographs depicting Union and Confederate forces, hospitals, camp scenes and other records. The manuscript and archival collections include letters, diaries, official log books, reports and other records maintained by soldiers, institutions, and regiments.

[Learn more about WRHS Civil War Collections here](#)

WRHS's Promise

The Hale Farm & Village Civil War Event explores a seminal historical event in our nation's history. It is important to note that WRHS does not condone gun violence, nor do we allow firearms on any WRHS premises. WRHS is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free experience for everyone, including ALL guests, vendors and independent contractors, volunteers, interns, stakeholders, community partners and employees. Accordingly, WRHS prohibits harassment or discrimination based on race, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, ability, veteran or military status, or other dimensions of diversity. Harassment and/or offensive behavior is not tolerated.

If you find yourself in a situation where you feel your safety is at risk, or if you bear witness to behavior that you feel is unacceptable, please immediately visit one of the admissions desks or reach out to a WRHS staff member. WRHS will investigate all reported incidents with discretion, and urgency. As a consequence, WRHS reserves the right to revoke, without refund, access to the museum sites and/or WRHS membership. [View WRHS's mission, vision, core values and code of conduct here.](#)

Since 1867, WRHS is committed to preserving and providing access to the history, culture and development of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. We promise to provide a safe, welcoming, accessible and enriching experience to all, with integrity and adhering to the highest level of standards for personal and professional conduct.