

VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION



Civil War 150 HistoryMobile Fact Sheet



About the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile

The Civil War 150 HistoryMobile is an interactive “museum on wheels” housed in a 53-foot expandable tractor-trailer. An initiative of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, the HistoryMobile visits museums, schools, state and federal parks, fairs, and other sites. Its four-year tour began in July 2011, and it has received widespread praise as it travels throughout Virginia and beyond. In 2011 there were more than 20 scheduled stops and a dedicated two-week tour of Southwest Virginia, and there are over 30 scheduled events in 2012.

The HistoryMobile draws together stories from all over Virginia and uses state-of-the-art technology and immersive exhibit spaces to present individual stories of the Civil War from the perspectives of those who experienced it—young and old, enslaved and free, soldiers and civilians. The imprint of the Civil War can be found on almost every inch of Virginia, and visitors are inspired and encouraged to explore this abundance of history.

“In Their Footsteps”: Inside the HistoryMobile

The HistoryMobile exhibit is divided into four sections: Battlefront, Homefront, Journey to Freedom, and Loss-Gain-Legacy. From the heart-rending letter written by a dying son to his father after sustaining a mortal wound at Spotsylvania in 1864, to an overheard conversation between husband and wife considering the great risks and rewards of fleeing to freedom, the HistoryMobile presents the stories of real people whose lives were shaped by the historic events of the 1860s. A touch-screen computer invites visitors to imagine and consider “What Would You Do?”

The HistoryMobile exhibit includes:

The Whirlwind: Virginia in the Civil War—A film that examines Virginia’s decision to secede and poses the question “Why War?”

Battlefront Immersion—Conveys the experience of battle in its intensity, confusion, and suffering.

Home Interrupted—Offers a first-person view of real-life dilemmas faced by civilians, soldiers, and slaves in Virginia during the Civil War. Visitors see how people “made do” during shortages at home and read the letters of eight-year-old Sophia Downman, who experienced the war outside of Fredericksburg.

Journey to Freedom—Visitors learn about the overall experience of slavery amid war—the people who stayed and those who fought for freedom.

Loss-Gain-Legacy—Explores the profound impact of the war on Virginia, the end of slavery, and the reunification of the nation. Stories of well-known and lesser-known personalities reflect the enduring legacy of the Civil War, and visitors see where they can delve into this history at Civil War sites and battlefields across Virginia.

Partners

The **Virginia Civil War 150 HistoryMobile** represents an extraordinary cooperative partnership among private organizations and companies and public agencies.

The **Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission** is an agency of the Virginia General Assembly, formed in 2006 and led by Speaker of the House of Delegates William J. Howell. The Commission sponsors a series of projects and events to commemorate the sesquicentennial, including the HistoryMobile; seven annual Signature Conferences, hosted by universities around Virginia; an award-winning Virginia history exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society; a document scanning project, through the Library of Virginia; and an Emmy-nominated documentary, produced by James I. Robertson Jr. and available on DVD.

Virginia Historical Society and the **Fredericksburg / Spotsylvania National Military Park** designed and curated the HistoryMobile exhibits. The design/build team was Riggs-Ward Design in Richmond and ExPlus in Sterling.

Virginia Tourism Corporation and the **Department of Motor Vehicles**, in cooperation with the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, manage the scheduling, routing, and hosting of the statewide tour of the HistoryMobile.

Ironworks of Richmond designed the interactive kiosks outside the HistoryMobile which were funded through grants administered by the **Virginia Department of Transportation**. Kiosks provide tourist information about destinations in Virginia, with information from the **Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Wine Board, and Civil War Trails**.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities**, in addition to being a major contributor, chose the HistoryMobile as recipient of its Chairman's Special Award.

Volvo Trucks North America donated a top-of-the-line, environmentally-friendly Volvo VN780, which was manufactured at the New River Valley Manufacturing Plant in Dublin, Virginia, the world's largest Volvo truck manufacturer.

Wilson Trucking in Staunton, **Cox Transportation** in Ashland, the **American Trucking Association**, and the **Virginia Trucking Association** provided help with logistics.

Additional funding for the HistoryMobile was provided by **Altria, Norfolk Southern Foundation, and Walmart**.

For media requests or more information, see www.VirginiaCivilWar.org or contact:

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High-resolution pictures of the HistoryMobile are available at:
<http://www.virginiacivilwar.org/press/imagelibrary.php>. Unless otherwise noted, all images are provided courtesy of Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.