



Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission

News Release

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**FOR INFORMATION:
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History Hits the Highways

~ Statewide Tour of HistoryMobile Begins on Thursday ~

Manassas, VA - On Thursday, July 21, 2011 the Virginia Civil War 150 HistoryMobile will open for the first time to the public after the official ribbon cutting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the Manassas National Battlefield Park Henry Hill Visitor Center located at 6511 Sudley Road. The ribbon cutting will immediately follow the First Battle of Manassas 150th Anniversary Commemorative Program that is scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m.

The Civil War 150 HistoryMobile is an interactive "museum on wheels" housed in a 53-foot tractor-trailer donated by Volvo Trucks North America. Its debut is Thursday, launching its tour throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. With interactive exhibits the HistoryMobile gives visitors an opportunity to imagine and better understand the human experience of the war both on the battlefield and on the home front. The HistoryMobile was developed by the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in partnership with the Virginia Historical Society and the National Park Service.

Divided into four sections - Battlefield, Homefront, Slavery and Freedom, and Loss-Gain-Legacy, the HistoryMobile uses state-of-the-art technology and immersive environments to present individual stories of the experience of the Civil War in Virginia - whether from the perspective of a soldier, civilian, enslaved person, or child. Just as the Civil War impacted every area of Virginia, the stories represented in the HistoryMobile are representative of the war experience throughout the state, and the places that visitors can go today to learn more and experience Virginia's rich history first-hand. From the heart-rendering last letter written by a dying son to his father after being injured at Spotsylvania in 1864, to touch-screen computers that invite visitors to consider "What Would You Do?", to an overheard conversation between husband and wife considering the great risks and great rewards of fleeing to freedom, the HistoryMobile presents the stories of loss, gain, and legacies of the Civil War throughout Virginia.

The Virginia Tourism Corporation and Department of Motor Vehicles partnered with the Commission to manage the statewide tour of the HistoryMobile. After its debut in Manassas, the HistoryMobile will travel to Amherst and Arlington. There are 18 scheduled stops through the end of 2011, including a two-week blitz of multiple stops in Southwest Virginia.

Led by Speaker of the House of Delegates, William J. Howell, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission has organized a series of sesquicentennial events from 2009 through 2015, including annual Signature Conferences, a major gallery exhibition at the Virginia Historical Society, a document digitization project with the Library of Virginia, and an Emmy-nominated DVD produced by Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. for use in classrooms. Virginia is a national leader of the sesquicentennial, by virtue of strong state support, well-developed initiatives, and a panoramic and inclusive approach to history.

For more information, go to www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/historymobile.