

## Virginia Preserves Civil War History Through Ground-Breaking Digitization Project

*~ Attics and storage trunks may yield historical treasure ~*



**(Richmond, Va.)** February 9, 2011 - 2011 marks the start of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War and Emancipation. The Commonwealth of Virginia, with more Civil War sites than any other state, is marking the commemoration with a ground-breaking Civil War history document preservation project to capture diverse and compelling letters, papers and artifacts from the Civil War era.

*The Civil War 150 Legacy Project* is a collaboration between the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission. The Legacy Project provides a secure method of sharing history without releasing possession of valued documents and images. The state invites families to visit Virginia during the 150th Commemoration, bring family treasures to be scanned and recorded and officially become part of history.

The goal of the project is to encourage people to search through personal collections in attics, basements, desk drawers and other places to find documents containing vital information and insight into ancestors who experienced the Civil War in Virginia.

The project sends teams of professional archivists from the Library of Virginia to cities and towns throughout the state to digitally scan documents and images free of charge, so that their content can be preserved long beyond the life of the original. Scanning will be conducted at local libraries, visitor centers, administrative offices or other public buildings. Dates, locations and information regarding appointments for Legacy Project scanning events can be found at [www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/legacy](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/legacy).

Those owning manuscripts, documents or images originating from 1859-1867 and reflecting social, political, military, business or religious life in Virginia during the Civil War and early Reconstruction are encouraged to bring those items for scanning.

Appointments are recommended, though a limited number of walk-ins will be accommodated. Scanned materials can be viewed on the web sites of the Library of Virginia ([www.virginiamemory.com/cw150](http://www.virginiamemory.com/cw150)) and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission ([www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/legacy](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org/legacy)).

While traveling to and from a scanning event, take time to visit some of Virginia's famous battlefields, museums, trails and historic sites that tell a diverse story of the Civil War. Virginia has nearly 800 Civil War sites statewide that are complimented by great local restaurants and hotels, scenic drives, wineries, beaches and outdoor recreation. To plan a trip to Virginia's Civil War Sites and renowned Civil War Trails program, visit [www.Virginia.org](http://www.Virginia.org) or call 1-800-VISITVA to request a free Virginia travel guide.