

# CIVIL WAR 150

## Application to Host Free Traveling Exhibition for Libraries and National Park Historic Sites

*Application receipt deadline: July 15, 2012*

*Notification: August 15, 2012*

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The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, in partnership with The Library of America, announces a tour to fifty libraries and National Park historic sites of a free traveling panel exhibition, *Civil War 150*. A collection of readers (discussion guides) drawn from the four-volume Library of America series *The Civil War Told By Those Who Lived It* will accompany the exhibition.

NOTE: Each site selected by competitive application to host the exhibition will be awarded a grant of \$1,000 to plan public programming. The exhibition is available for three-week periods from October 2012 – March 2015.

The traveling exhibition and tour are funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. **Public, academic, and special libraries as well as National Park historic sites are invited to submit applications for the exhibition.**

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### Exhibition Overview

#### Civil War 150

The Civil War is the most transformative period in US history. Drawing upon letters, personal accounts, and images, *Civil War 150* invites Americans to understand how soldiers, presidents, freedmen, and families grappled with the end of slavery, the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war, and the role of a president in wartime. The exhibition is organized into five interlocking, free-standing panels and requires 10–15 feet for display. An overview of the panels and highlights of the documents are below.

#### Panel 1: The Coming of the War

By the mid-1850s, divisions in the United States over competing visions of the future sparked debates over the extension of slavery into new territories. The constitutionally guaranteed rights of states and individuals clashed with the ideals of a country based upon “free speech, free soil, free labor, free men.” These issues fueled vigorous debate during the presidential campaign of 1860 and resulted in the election of Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln.

##### *Document Highlights:*

*Report of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the opinions of the judges thereof, in the case of Dred Scott versus John F. A. Sandford. December term, 1856.*

“Most governments have been based, practically, on the denial of the equal rights of men . . . ours began, by affirming those rights.” Note by Abraham Lincoln for a speech on slavery and American government, ca. 1857–1858.

Wide Awake campaign ribbon, ca. 1859.

“The temper of the Black Republicans is not to give us our rights in the Union, or allow us to go peaceably out of it. If we had no other cause, this would be enough to justify our secession, at whatever hazard.” Letter from Jefferson Davis, January 13, 1861.

## **Panel 2: The War Commences (1861)**

Lincoln defined the war as “a people’s contest,” with the survival of democratic government at stake. The election of 1860 prompted the Southern states, which feared a federal attack on slavery, to secede. War commenced with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter on April 14. In Virginia, a young woman reflected after the first few days of war: “We shall never be the same as we have been.” The outbreak of war divided families, communities, and friends, among them military officers Braxton Bragg, who fought for the Confederacy, and Henry Hunt, who fought for the Union.

### *Document Highlights:*

“The Union is dissolved!” *Charleston Mercury, Extra Ed.*, December 20, 1860.

“It is hard to realize the fact that we are in hostile array against each other. But so it is.”  
Letter from Braxton Bragg to Henry J. Hunt, April 21, 1861.

## **Panel 3: “This Cruel War,” 1862**

Mounting casualties on the battlefield and deprivations on the home front forced leaders and soldiers to question the value of war in light of the human toll and the impact on families.

### *Document Highlights:*

“The wounded are dying every day. This is a three story building and very large at that and every room is full its very sad times indeed.” Letter from Mary Kelly to her sister Sarah, March 31, 1862.

“O Pa how glad we shall all be when you get home again, you wont go to war again will you.” Letter from Georgiana Tillotson to her father, July 31, 1864.

“I wrote you the truth fully + squarely, the whole + nothing but.- when you, mother + Ellen go into a hospital as nurses I shall drop out correspondence. The army is no place for women according to my ideas.” Letter from Charles M. Coit, Union soldier with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, to his family, June 1, 1862.

## **Panel 4: Turning Points (1863)**

Taken together, military victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863, illustrate the complexity of the issues at stake. The Emancipation Proclamation joined the preservation of the Union with the end of slavery; it transformed the war and galvanized the nation.

### *Document Highlights:*

The Emancipation Proclamation, printed ca. 1863-1864.

Diary of William Woodlin, African American soldier in the 8th US Colored Troops, 1863-1864.

“Harvest of Death,” photograph of the Gettysburg battlefield, ca. 1863.

Excerpt from the President’s Dedication at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.

“It rained every day and night . . . we held the fire and lay behind the stone fence until they come within easy range & then we opened fire & we cut them down by thousand so much so that the ground was literly covered with the dead & wounded as far as we could see.” Letter from David V. R. Smith, Union private, 12th New Jersey Volunteers, to his wife, July 10, 1863.

“There is nothing new in camp—we hated to hear of the fall of Vicksburg but are not despondent. We believe ‘there is a providence that shapes our ends rough hew them as we may!’” Letter from Edward K. Ward, Confederate officer, 4th Tennessee Infantry, to his sister, July 16, 1863.

### **Panel 5: The Price of Victory (1864–1865)**

The Union victory in April 1865 forever changed the trajectory of the nation. It reaffirmed the union, ended slavery in the United States, and marked an increase in the power of federal government. The Civil War was the bloodiest in the nation’s history—some 750,000 soldiers died, and comparable numbers were wounded or suffered from disease and hardship. Families, communities, and the economy of the South were ravaged.

In his Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, Lincoln said: “With firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds.” Lincoln’s assassination little more than month later left his hopes for the future unresolved.

#### *Document Highlights:*

“I hope they may make a compromise and stop the war tho I am not willing to compromise on any terms I want them to contend for our independence to the last. . . . if they are willing to sacrafise all that is dear to them and submit to Yankee tirants I do not wish to be with them so we will fight on a while longer.” Letter from Jeremiah Tate, 5th Alabama Infantry, to his sister, February 1, 1865.

“The Room in McLean House at Appomattox C.H., in which Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant,” published by Major & Knapp, 1867.

“The streets [of Washington DC] were literally festooned with wreaths of flowers every state of the North had her delegates with huge mottoes of Welcome to the Western heroes of Gen. Sherman’s Army. there seemed to be no end to the gratefulness they Displayed towards us.” Letter from Lysander Wheeler, Illinois 105th Infantry, to his family, May 26, 1865.

Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.

“The President is Dead!” broadside, April 15, 1865.

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## **Project Components**

### **Libraries Will Receive**

Libraries and National Park historic sites selected for the tour will receive:

- The traveling exhibition for a three-week loan period; shipping is supported by the grant.
- A collection of *Civil War 150* Readers in digital form, for reading and discussion groups.
- Up to 1,500 exhibition brochures.
- Insurance coverage for reasonable damage to the exhibition.
- Both print and online site support notebooks with press materials, art, shipping and installation instructions, suggestions for programming, and more.
- Technical and programming support throughout the tour.
- An orientation webinar for exhibition coordinators in September 2012. Participants will engage with a planning team; learn about interpretive materials, public relations, and exhibition logistics; and view the exhibition.

### **Guidelines**

Libraries and National Park historic sites chosen for the exhibition will:

- Sponsor an opening reception or preview of the exhibition for the public.
- Present programs featuring a lecture/discussion by a scholar in the humanities and focusing on exhibition themes. (One of these programs may be combined with the opening reception.) These programs must be free and open to the public.
- (For academic and special libraries) Present at least one program that is open to and marketed to public audiences beyond the library's use groups.
- Charge no fee for viewing the exhibition or for participating in public programs.
- Provide required reports, including a final report, to the Gilder Lehrman Institute by the set deadlines.
- Appoint one staff member as the local coordinator of the exhibition. The coordinator is required to participate in the orientation webinar.

### **Selection Criteria**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute will recommend fifty libraries and National Park historic sites to the NEH for the exhibition tour, based on the following criteria:

1. Excellent ideas and plans for public programs that will feature a lecture/discussion by a qualified speaker on exhibition themes. Applications from institutions previously selected for traveling exhibitions have contained an average of five or more programs.
2. Location of the sites. The selection committee would like the exhibition to visit all regions of the country.
3. Size and demographics of the community. The selection committee seeks a mix of different community sizes and varied demographics.
4. Evidence of the site's ability to reach target audiences and market the exhibition and related programs effectively. For academic institutions or park sites, examples of previous programs that have successfully reached public audiences are helpful.
5. Commitment of the library or National Park historic site director for the staff time required for display of the exhibition and development of related programming.

NOTE: Libraries who are not selected for the tour will be given priority for a \$500 grant to support reading and discussion groups and other events related to the four-volume Library of America series *The Civil War Told By Those Who Lived It*.

### **Application Form Follows**

THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY  
CIVIL WAR 150

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

DEADLINE: July 15, 2012

**Institution Information**

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Include name of university or other governing body*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Line 1*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Street Address Line 2*

\_\_\_\_\_ *City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *ZIP Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Service Population: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Budget (main and branches): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibition Coordinator Information**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Middle Suffix*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Name (Type or print)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

**Director Information - Leave blank if same as above.**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Middle Suffix*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Name (Type or print)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

I would like to join the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's mailing list.

Please email the completed application with the subject line "Civil War 150" to:

Susan F. Saidenberg, Director of Public Programs and Exhibitions  
saidenberg@gilderlehrman.org

**NOTE: Applications must be received by July 15, 2012. Faxed, late, and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**  
For questions, contact Susan F. Saidenberg at (646)-366-9666 or saidenberg@gilderlehrman.org.

# CIVIL WAR 150

## Application Questions

**Please respond to the following questions using no more than two pages total. Please be sure to number each question on your response sheets.**

1. Why would your institution like to host *Civil War 150*? Please describe unique collections and local resources related to the exhibition, and other organizations that will support this exhibition (collaboration with other libraries and park sites is encouraged).
2. The Gilder Lehrman Institute strongly suggests libraries and National Park historic sites displaying this exhibition plan two public programs led by a humanities scholar and based upon the exhibition themes. What ideas do you have for public programs?
3. Describe the audience you will target and how you will publicize the exhibition. If your institution is an academic or special library or National Park historic site, describe how you will ensure that the public beyond your own user community will see the exhibit.
4. What is the scope of your current adult cultural programming and outreach to schools? Please suggest a school in your community, with contact information, interested in American history.
5. Has your institution recently participated in or is it scheduled to participate in any other NEH-sponsored programs or Gilder Lehrman Institute exhibitions? If so, please list those programs.
6. Are there any dates between October 2012 and March 2015 that you would prefer to display the exhibition, or cannot display the exhibition? Selected sites will have the exhibition for three weeks. We will try to accommodate requests, but WE CANNOT GUARANTEE REQUESTED DATES. Sites that have the exhibition near major holidays will have the exhibit for a longer period.

Thank you for your application.