



THE CIVIL WAR HISTORY CONSORTIUM

of Greater Philadelphia

c/o The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia PA 19107

<http://www.civilwarphilly.net/>

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The Second Revolution: Civil War Philadelphia and the Countryside

Background: The Philadelphia region's Civil War heritage and the Civil War History Consortium

(PHILADELPHIA, PA, October 2009) -- The Civil War History Consortium, with almost 70 members, seeks to preserve, link, and promote the stories, collections, and sites that reveal the Philadelphia region's crucial role in the United States' search for liberty and unity during the Civil War era. Taking advantage of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011-14, the Consortium will provide meaningful and engaging heritage and educational experiences that extend past eighteenth-century history, stimulate our local communities, and increase economic development.

The Consortium's membership includes libraries, museums, historical societies and historic sites across the Philadelphia region that have materials, objects, structures, and activities related to the period between the antecedents of the Civil War and its aftermath. These resources tell many stories of the abolition movement, the Underground Railroad, and the "home front" in the war effort. They also provide critical context for the many subsequent societal changes leading to the Civil Rights movement. Members also include organizations dedicated to telling those stories through performances and other public programs and promoting them to a national and international audience of cultural and heritage tourists.

About Civil War Philadelphia

The Consortium's founding represents a long overdue recognition of the critical importance of the Philadelphia area in the Civil War. The war was a turning point in American life, and Philadelphia was a pivotal force in the war's outcome. The region:

- Embodied the most potent symbols of Union freedom and nursed the genesis of a civilian patriotic movement that spread across the country;
- Was a divided city, with strong ties of family and commerce to the slaveholding south;
- Served as a free black population center (the largest north of the Mason-Dixon line), as a cradle of abolition sentiment and, later, as a principal hub of the Underground Railroad;
- Propelled the war machine as the nation's industrial and transportation center;
- Was chief navy yard, ship building center, arsenal, and training center for African American troops as well as provider of over 100,000 men to the armed forces—20,000 of whom never came home;
- Fueled the war effort through its major financial institutions; and
- Cared for more sick and wounded through its medical institutions than anywhere else.

The stories are deep and complex and tell strikingly of the profound ways that the Civil War affected every American life. Much of the material and intellectual heritage that reveals this story remains extant in Consortium member collections and historic sites throughout the region.

About the Civil War History Consortium

As a collective, the Civil War History Consortium will marshal the resources of the region to facilitate communication between local, regional and state entities, consortium members, and collaborators; create structures for linking sites and develop sustainable infrastructure for 19th century history; build and share local collections; create interactive Web resources; support k-12 education; and coordinate quality programming.

Since its founding, the Consortium's accomplishments have included

- ***The Civil War History Consortium Collections Survey, 2003*** (prepared by Cynthia Little, Ph.D.)—A listing of materials from dozens of institutions in the region. Survey items are grouped into six themes: The Home Front/Civilians; The African American Community; The Medical Contribution; Militaria and Diaries; Lincoln in Philadelphia; and Legacies—Monuments, Statues and Cemeteries. This report supplements the *millions* of library and archival items (books, manuscripts, maps, and photographs) in more than two dozen institutions. Available online at <http://www.civilwarphilly.net/2003survey/>
- ***Identification and Analysis of Civil War Sites and Related Programs, 2006*** (Prepared by Kise Straw & Kolodner, Inc.)—This 12-month research project examined the Philadelphia region's rich Civil War sites and related programming, circa 1830-1876. Available online at http://www.civilwarphilly.net/ksk_report/
- ***Site Mapping and a Civil War Geographic Information System, 2006*** -- The Consortium partnered with **the Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network** to create a web-based repository of historical geographical information about Philadelphia, its buildings, and its people. The Consortium's work focuses on the "slice" of time and locations related to the Civil War. In time, interactive maps will allow visitors and scholars to explore Philadelphia's extensive inventory of Civil War sites online. Such tours will help tourists and teachers prepare trips to the area. Before they arrive, visitors will be able to identify those areas, places, and themes of most interest to them—for example, Underground Railroad sites in use from 1830 to 1865 or locations used by medical personnel to treat wounded soldiers—and create personalized discovery tours. (Visit <http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/cwgis/> to view these resources)
- ***Philadelphia as a Civil War Era Destination: Assessing Interest and Preferences among Potential Visitors, 2006*** (Prepared by The Melior Group, Inc.)—A three-phased research study to identify audience interests and key themes to develop and interpret the regional Civil War history experience; determine how best to position and market the region's Civil War treasures to target audiences; and identify optimal marketing approaches for the venture and the overall potential for success.
- ***Telling Philadelphia's Civil War Stories: New Narratives from Old Collections, 2006-2007***. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Consortium, was a lead partner in a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded initiative led by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, to establish an intellectual framework

for a statewide 150th anniversary program. This initiative brought together leading scholars and representatives from historical and cultural institutions across the state for information and resource sharing.

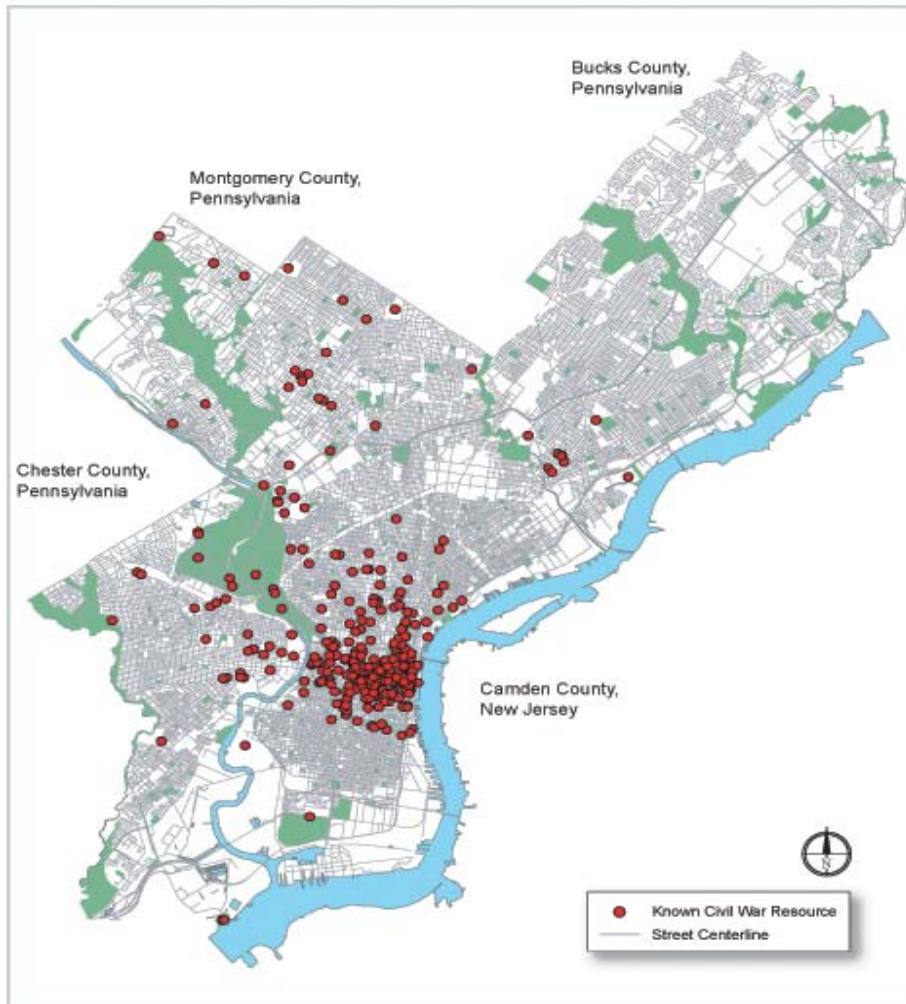
- ***PACivilWar150 planning process (2007-2009)***. The Consortium has been instrumental in identifying sites, resources, and narratives for the statewide 150th anniversary initiative announced by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in October 2009. The Consortium's special role in this process has been the development of many of the web site's educational resources.
- ***Lincoln200 Festival (July 2-5, 2009)***. Several Consortium members provided exhibitions and activities for this four-day festival on Independence Mall, where an estimated 75,000 visitors learned about Lincoln and about Philadelphia's role in the Civil War.
- ***New web site, CivilWarPhilly.net*** (July 2009 and ongoing). Launched to support the Lincoln200 festival, the site features information on public programming, research and education resources, and about the consortium itself. The site serves as the regional extension of the statewide web site.
- ***Cell phone tour of Philadelphia Civil War sites*** (July 2009 and ongoing). A prototype tour, with 12 stops, showcases the hidden Civil War histories of well known historic sites near the Lincoln200 festival and members who participated in the festival. Additional tour stops are under development. Sample the prototype tour at <http://www.civilwarphilly.net>

Looking ahead to 2010 and beyond, the Consortium will continue to serve as the regional contact point for the statewide initiatives. It will continue to contribute to the statewide web site and to encourage the contribution of content by its members, and will facilitate the location of the traveling exhibition in Philadelphia and in the surrounding counties. It is also engaged in planning for innovative exhibitions, public programming, teacher workshops and other educational projects.

Civil War History Consortium: Charter Members and Associated Organizations

- Abraham Lincoln Foundation of The Union League of Philadelphia*
- African American Museum in Philadelphia*
- American Historical Theatre
- American Swedish Historical Museum
- Athenaeum of Philadelphia*
- Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia*
- Berks County Historical Society
- Bucks County Historical Society / Mercer & Fonthill Museums
- Chester County Archives & Records Services*
- Chester County Historical Society*
- Cheyney University – Library
- Christ Church Preservation Trust
- City of Philadelphia – Department of Records
- Civil War Museum of Philadelphia
- College of Physicians of Philadelphia / Mütter Museum*
- Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site
- Elfreth’s Alley Association
- First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry
- Fort Delaware State Park
- Fort Mifflin on the Delaware
- Free Library of Philadelphia
- General Meade Society of Philadelphia, Inc.
- Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)
- Civil War Museum & Library*
- Greater Philadelphia Tourism & Marketing Corporation
- Historic Germantown (including Awbury Arboretum, Cliveden/Upsala, Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, Germantown Historical Society, Johnson House, Stenton and others)
- Historical Society of Montgomery County*
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania*
- Independence Visitor Center Corporation
- John Bartram Association / Bartram’s Garden
- Jubilee Project
- Landmarks Architectural Walking Tours
- Laurel Hill Cemetery
- Library Company of Philadelphia*
- Lincoln 200, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Festival
- Masonic Library & Museum of Pennsylvania
- Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Pennsylvania Commandery*
- Mother Bethel AME Church and Richard Allen Museum
- National Archives & Records Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region
- National Civil War Museum*
- National Constitution Center
- National Historic Theater
- New Freedom Theatre
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts*
- Pennsylvania Tourism Office
- Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL)
- Philadelphia Hospitality
- Rosenbach Museum & Library
- Temple University – Civil War & Emancipation Studies
- Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion
- United States Colored Troops (USCT) Third Infantry Regiment
- Villanova University – Department of History
- Wagner Free Institute of Science

* Charter Member



Known Civil War Resources in Philadelphia, as plotted against *The City of Philadelphia's* centerline map in a Geographic Information System, showing a strong central Philadelphia cluster and the possibility of bus or trolley tours to outlying clusters in Fairmount Park or in Germantown/Mt. Airy/Chestnut Hill.

(from the Kise Straw & Kolodner report, "Toward a Redefinition of Philadelphia's Historical Perspective: Identification and Analysis of Civil War Sites and Related Programs," 2006. This report is available online in Adobe Acrobat format at http://www.civilwarphilly.net/ksk_report)