



**Media Contact:**

Gayln Piper  
First Division Museum  
630.260.8130

[gpiper@firstdivisionmuseum.org](mailto:gpiper@firstdivisionmuseum.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BATTLE OF CANTIGNY AUTHOR TO SPEAK JULY 1**

**Wheaton, Ill., June 18, 2015** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park is pleased to welcome author and military historian Matthew J. Davenport on Wednesday, July 1. He will discuss “First Over There: The Attack on Cantigny, America’s First Battle of World War I.”

The presentation begins at 7:30 pm in the Cantigny Visitors Center. The program is free to attend and parking also is complimentary.

Davenport’s newly published book tells the riveting story of America’s first modern military battle and its first victory during the Great War. Fought in 1918, the Battle of Cantigny liberated the hilltop village of Cantigny, France, from German occupation.

The courageous “doughboys” fighting the battle belonged to the U.S. Army’s 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, or Big Red One. One of them was Robert R. McCormick, Cantigny Park’s benefactor, who commanded an artillery battalion supporting the successful attack. The experience made such an impression on McCormick that he renamed his Wheaton estate Cantigny after returning home.

A book signing will follow Davenport’s talk, and copies of ‘First Over There’ will be available for purchase in the Cantigny Shop. From 6:30 to 7:30, guests are invited to enjoy a cash bar and limited food menu. Coffee is complimentary.

This event is part of the First Division Museum’s *Date with History*, a monthly series featuring lively discussions with authors, panelists, historians and special guests. Information about upcoming programs is online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

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**About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Ill., is part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation. It promotes public learning about America’s military heritage and affairs through the history of the “Big Red One”—the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division of the U.S. Army—and stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. The museum’s main exhibit hall transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II and the jungles of Vietnam. Outside, tanks are displayed from every era, along with personnel carriers and artillery. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum’s library, archival and photo collections. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).