

## **Cantigny Park Offers Civil War Activities October 5 & 6**

*16<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Symposium at First Division Museum on Oct. 5;*

*Outdoor activities October 5 & 6 include “living history” actors, Civil War encampment, artillery demos, mock battles and musical/theatrical performances*

**WHEATON, IL, September 25, 2013** — The First Division Museum and Cantigny Park are the places to be for Civil War history buffs, educators and curious onlookers the weekend of October 5 and 6.

More than 100 attendees, primarily history teachers, are expected at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Symposium hosted with the National Archives Great Lakes Region on Saturday, October 5, from 9 am to 4 pm.

The theme for this year’s symposium is “1863: The Tide of War Turns,” with presentations by:

- Michael Ballard, Mississippi State University  
*Atrocities at Milliken’s Bend: U.S. Grant, Racism, and the Siege of Vicksburg*
- James Downs, Connecticut College  
*Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War*
- Robert Girardi, Independent Scholar  
*The Union High Command at Chancellorsville*
- Stephen Towne, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
*Fighting Desertion and Disloyalty: The Rise of Army*

The one-day symposium is free and open to the general public but advance registration is required. Further information and a downloadable registration form are online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org) or interested parties may call 773.948.9001 or e-mail [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov).

Civil War “living history” re-enactors portraying soldiers and civilians will camp at Cantigny during the weekend. Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln and Harriet Tubman will perform outside the First Division Museum on Saturday, and spectators can witness artillery demonstrations, infantry drills and skirmishes on the Cantigny Parade Field both days. A battlefield surgeon will perform at the camp’s hospital tent (caution: not for the faint of heart!). Visitors also can listen to The Battlefield Balladeers perform songs from the Civil War era.

Full details and a daily timeline of events are posted online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

Like the symposium, outdoor events and activities are free of charge with paid parking (\$5 per vehicle). Registration applies only to the Civil War Symposium inside the First Division Museum.

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**About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit Robert R. McCormick Foundations, 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. It 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).

**About the National Archives and Records Administration**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) ensures ready access to essential evidence documenting the rights of American citizens, the actions of Federal officials and the national experience from the nation's beginnings in 1774. Among the records in its holdings are the Charters of Freedom: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. Established in 1934, NARA is a national resource with 22 regional records facilities located in 17 states. For more information, visit [archives.gov](http://archives.gov).

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