

# CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

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## **Civil War Sesquicentennial – State Quarterly Review**

*July 15, 2010*

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War approaching, many states have taken measures to commemorate the war's memory. As of July 15, 2010, twenty states have formed commissions or established initiatives to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial (hereafter referred to as CW150). Although no new commissions have been created in the past three months, many states have recently bolstered their Web presence—for example, Maine unveiled a new CW150 website this spring. Local and county preparations have also amplified, particularly in Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Many state and private organizations have begun to release dates for previously unscheduled 2011 events, although some groups have organized “lead-up” events throughout the rest of 2010. In short, state and private organizations have created a wide array of events, exhibits, and resources for commemorating the war, many of which are detailed below.

### **State Commissions**

The following states have established official commissions to commemorate the CW150, often through or in conjunction with the state's historical society.

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Entity</u></b>	<b><u>Formed</u></b>	<b><u>Web Presence?</u></b>
Arkansas	Commission	2007	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Connecticut	Planning Committee	Unknown	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Delaware	Heritage Commission	2010	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Georgia	Steering Committee	2007	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Indiana	Committee	2009	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Iowa	Advisory Committee	2009	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Kentucky	Commission	2009	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Louisiana	Initiative	Unknown	No
Maine	Committee	2009	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Michigan	Committee	2007	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Mississippi	Commission	2009	No
Missouri	Commission	2010	No
New Jersey	Committee	2008	<a href="#">Yes</a>
North Carolina	Committee	2006	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Ohio	Initiative	2009	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Pennsylvania	Planning Committee	2007	<a href="#">Yes</a>
South Carolina	Advisory Board	2008	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Tennessee	Commission	2007	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Vermont	Commission	Expected 8/2010	<a href="#">No</a>
Virginia	Commission	2006	<a href="#">Yes</a>
West Virginia	Commission	2009	No

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**Alabama:** Alabama has joined with Georgia and Tennessee in the formation of the [Tri-State Civil War 150th Commemoration Association](#), with the goal of promoting interest in northwest Georgia, northeast Alabama, and southeast Tennessee. The [Alabama Shakespeare Festival](#) recently announced its 2010–2011 season, which includes two plays to commemorate the CW150. Both plays will premiere in February 2011.

**Arkansas:** In May, the Arkansas CW150 commission received a \$40,000 [grant](#) from the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council for its historical marker program. With this grant, the commission hopes to place at least one Civil War sesquicentennial marker in every county, adding to the two new [markers](#) dedicated in Lunenburg and DeValls Bluff in June. The CW150 commission website features a Civil War [timeline](#), [battlefield database](#), and a calendar of upcoming [events](#), which include regional CW150 informational meetings on July 19 and August 17, 2010. Several local groups have also begun preparations for the CW150 anniversary. In [Helena](#), a panel recently announced plans for development of an interpretive exhibit leading up to the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Battle of Helena in 2013. The [Old State House Museum](#) in Little Rock will showcase five Civil War-themed exhibits beginning in 2011, one of which includes conservation of two Arkansas Confederate battle flags.

**Georgia:** In April, the University of Georgia received a gift from an Atlanta couple to hire a distinguished [Civil War scholar](#) to fill a newly endowed chair. The university hopes to bring Civil War studies front and center for the CW150. The City of [Dalton](#) recently announced plans for a five-year commemoration of the CW150 beginning in November 2010. The Dalton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau is seeking Civil War-era letters, diaries, and related documents from the area to display during the anniversary.

**Illinois:** With the flurry of celebration for Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday now over, many local communities and museums have turned their attention to the Civil War. In October 2010, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield will open a [Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibition](#) entitled “Lincoln’s Cabinet and the Crossroads of War.” This exhibition will run through August 2011.

**Indiana:** The Indiana CW150 committee has been steadily adding to its [website](#), which includes a form to submit CW150 events and a list of Civil War-related resources. One research tool now available is the [Civil War Soldier Database](#), which consists of 213,000 searchable individual records compiled by the Indiana State Archives. In addition, five new digitization projects have received federal grant funds. These collections will be part of INDIANA MEMORY on the [state library website](#).

**Iowa:** Several local communities in Iowa have directed attention to the CW150. In Muscatine, residents are raising money to replace their Civil War Memorial [Monument](#)—a deteriorated statue of a Union soldier that stood at the Muscatine County Courthouse. Residents hope to have a new monument ready for rededication by 2011. Iowa is publishing a book of about the area during the Civil War. They are also putting together a 150 committee meeting to discuss their mission and purpose for a statewide celebration of the sesquicentennial.

**Kentucky:** On June 5, the Civil War Preservation Trust recognized the Kentucky Historical Society, administrator of Kentucky’s CW150 commission, as the 2010 [Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization of the Year](#). In honor of the upcoming CW150, the [Hardin County](#)

[History Museum](#) unveiled a new exhibit in May looking at the county's ties with the Confederacy.

**Maine:** The Maine CW150 committee has a [new website](#) providing a calendar of events, book recommendations, and pictures and information about 148 Civil War monuments located throughout the state. The 5th Maine Museum on Peaks Island also offers a list of upcoming local and statewide CW150 [events](#) on their website.

**Maryland:** Several local and county groups are preparing for the CW150 in Maryland. The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, which encompasses Frederick, Washington, and Carroll counties, covers CW150 news and events in its official newsletter, [The Bugle Call](#). In April, the City of Hagerstown announced a preliminary [plan](#) for the city's commemoration of the CW150. The CW150-focused exhibit "[Circuit of the Summer Hills: Mourning the Losses of the Civil War](#)" at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown will continue through September 19, 2010. For the CW150, the nonprofit organization Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership hopes to plant [620,000 trees](#)—one for each soldier who died in the war—along the 180-mile stretch of US Route 15 in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

**Michigan:** John M. Dempsey, a member of the Michigan Historical Commission, continues to provide excellent information regarding the state's Civil War-related activities on his [blog](#). A CW150 website is said to be forthcoming.

**Minnesota:** The Minnesota Military Museum is raising money for an [exhibit](#) honoring the CW150 to open in June 2011. There is going to be a celebration in Wasioja from June 24-26, 2011 entitled "A Call to Arms." For this event they expect to have Civil War battle reenactments, living history activities, a military/civilian ball, as well as a few more activities.

**Missouri:** Many local groups have already announced dates for several ceremonies and reenactments commemorating Missouri's Civil War battles, including the Battles of [Pilot Knob](#), [Wilson's Creek](#), [Leasburg](#) and [Carthage](#). The Missouri State Archives' [exhibit](#) "Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives" opened in April 2010 and will continue through May 2011. The CW150 anniversary has also prompted the Missouri State Archives to increase the [digitization](#) of Civil War records.

**New Jersey:** In April, the New Jersey CW150 committee released its first publication, [New Jersey Goes to War](#). The committee has a list of upcoming [events](#) on its website.

**North Carolina:** North Carolina is planning a major symposium on Civil War memory in Raleigh on May 20, 2011. The Southern Historical Commission is also working on a Civil War 150 website.

**Ohio:** The State Library of Ohio debuted its 2011 [book list](#), which includes four Civil War-related books to promote the CW150. The State Library has partnered with the Ohio CW150 initiative to provide on-line learning toolkits from the 2010 and 2011 books with Civil War-era themes. The [James A. Garfield National Historic Site](#) has planned several Civil War-related events and exhibits in honor of the CW150, including a diorama of the Battle of Chickmauga and two weekend encampments on the grounds of President Garfield's home. The Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) has an [exhibit](#) "Do You Know Your Lincoln?" in honor of Lincoln's 200th birthday and the CW150. The exhibit will run through January 2011. On August 13-15,

2010, WRHS and the Hale Farm & Village will also hold several Civil War-related [events](#), including a reenactment, a “dinner with Abraham Lincoln,” and a reenactment ball. Several counties and local communities, such as [Licking County](#), are also planning CW150 events.

**Pennsylvania:** In the fall of 2009, the Pennsylvania Civil War 150 Planning Committee unveiled a [comprehensive website](#), which includes a calendar of [events](#), interactive [timeline](#) and interactive [map](#). The committee is planning a [traveling exhibition](#) that will visit all 67 counties and has undertaken a partnership with the state Department of Education to teach K-12 students about the state’s role in the Civil War. In addition, many local groups are putting on CW150 tributes. The Gettysburg CVB has dedicated a portion of its [website](#) to upcoming CW150 events. As part of a series of initiatives to commemorate the CW150, the Pennsylvania State University Libraries has teamed up with several organizations on the “PA Home Front Civil War Era Digital Archives” [project](#). Documenting the experiences of the northern home front during the war, the project aims to create a website to serve as a resource station for the vast collections of archival material around the state.

**South Carolina:** The South Carolina CW150 Advisory Board’s website includes lists of upcoming [events](#) and [exhibits](#). The [Annual Symposium on South Carolina Civil War History](#), scheduled for September 24–25, 2010, at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia, is kicking off CW150 events with lectures on South Carolina’s secession and the first shots at Fort Sumter.

**Tennessee:** The Tennessee CW150 commission will sponsor a series of annual conferences from 2010 to 2015. The first conference, entitled “[The Coming of the Civil War](#),” will take place in Nashville on November 12–13, 2010. Teams of archivists and conservators from the Tennessee State Library and Archives continue to travel the state in search of private and public Civil War-related materials for their on-line [exhibit](#). They are also working to digitalize for the sesquicentennial.

**Texas:** In Texas, CW150 activities kick off with “[The Road to Secession](#)” event, which will be held on December 1–5, 2010, and will discuss the critical events of 1840 to 1860.

**Vermont:** In August, the Governor will announce a statewide commission for the sesquicentennial. They are currently working on a statewide website and a framework for each year’s commemoration in Vermont.

**Virginia:** In June, the Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded \$3.5 million in transportation enhancement [grants](#) to support Virginia’s commemoration of the CW150. With this grant, Virginia’s CW150 commission will partner with several organizations to promote tourism throughout the state. On September 24, 2010, Virginia’s CW150 commission will host its second annual [signature conference](#) at Norfolk University on the topic of “Race, Slavery, and the Civil War: The Tough Stuff of American History and Memory.” The Virginia CW150 commission is also sponsoring a major museum exhibition entitled “[An American Turning Point](#)” as well as a traveling Civil War exhibit dubbed “HistoryMobile.” The commission provides a statewide [calendar](#) of other events on its website. 126 (out of 134) counties and regions have formed their own commissions for planning CW150 commemorations. The Richmond and Petersburg region has a [website](#) that includes a calendar of events as well as personal stories and itineraries for day trips in the area. In June, the Fredericksburg-Stafford-Spotsylvania CW150 commission announced a preliminary [schedule](#) of

CW150 events. [Alexandria](#), [Manassas](#) and several other municipalities have also announced plans to commemorate the CW150. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is accepting submissions about the Civil War in Appalachia for the forthcoming “[Stories](#) from the Home Front” story guide and American Heritage map insert. For more information or to submit a story, visit [their website](#).