

Cantigny Park Offers Civil War Activities October 1 & 2

14th Annual Civil War Symposium at First Division Museum on October 1 (registration required, fee applies);

FREE activities October 1 & 2 include “living history” actors, Civil War encampment, artillery demos, mock battles, musical/theatrical performances and more!

WHEATON, IL, September 21, 2011 — The First Division Museum and Cantigny Park are the places to be for Civil War history buffs, educators and curious onlookers on Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2.

More than 100 people, primarily history teachers, are expected at the 14th Annual Civil War Symposium on October 1, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Presentations inside the First Division Museum will include:

- *The First Battle of Manassas*
Ray Brown, Manassas National Battlefield Park
- *Baring the Iron Hand: Discipline in the Union Army*
Steven J. Ramold, Eastern Michigan University
- *Thomas Jackson Gains a Nickname*
James I. Robertson, Virginia Tech
- *The 1861 Campaign in Western (West) Virginia*
Mark A. Snell, The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University

The one-day symposium is open to the public but advance registration is required. Details, fee information and the registration form are online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org. Those with questions should call 773.948.9001 or e-mail chicago.archives@nara.gov. Special rates are available for teachers, students, senior citizens, veterans and active-duty military.

Civil War “living history” actors 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.

Visitors also can listen to The Battlefield Balladeers perform songs from the Civil War era, and watch a performance of [Letters of the Civil War](#) at the Visitors Center Theater (Saturday, 1 pm). Fun, educational activities for children will be available throughout the weekend, including a Civil War scavenger hunt.

A timeline of daily events is posted on the First Division Museum [website](#).

Outdoor events and activities are free of charge with paid parking (\$5 per vehicle). Participation fees apply 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 Robert R. McCormick Foundation, promotes public learning about America’s military heritage and affairs through the history of the Big Red One—the famed 1st 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 online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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