

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 3, 2015



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### **VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR 150 HISTORYMOBILE ROLLING INTO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK**

SUFFOLK, VA (March 3, 2015) History is on the move in Virginia as the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile rolls into Suffolk for a two day visit on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. both days. The exhibit, an initiative of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, will be located at the Suffolk Visitor Center, 524 North Main Street. Admission to the HistoryMobile is free and open to the public. These "history days" are presented by the Suffolk Division of Tourism partnering with the Suffolk Public Library, Riddick's Folly House Museum and the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront.

In addition to the HistoryMobile exhibit, the event also includes tours and a living history reenactment at Riddick's Folly House Museum; guided tours of historic Downtown Suffolk and the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; and a genealogy workshop and a history presentation. Stop by the Historic Seaboard Station Railroad Museum to browse the large selection of Historical Society publications and learn about the importance and history of railroads in Suffolk while viewing the HO scale railroad model of 1907 Suffolk.

The HistoryMobile uses immersive spaces and interactive exhibits to draw together stories of the Civil War and emancipation from the viewpoints of those who experienced it across Virginia—young and old, enslaved and free, soldier and civilian. Visitors will encounter history in ways they may have never experienced before. The HistoryMobile exhibit is divided into four sections: Battlefield, Homefront, Journey to Freedom, and Loss-Gain-Legacy. From the bewildering sense of chaos experienced by soldiers, to the last letter written by a dying son to his father after sustaining a mortal wound, to a hushed conversation between a husband and wife considering the great risks and rewards of fleeing to freedom, the HistoryMobile presents the stories of real people in Virginia whose lives were shaped by the historic events of the 1860s, and invites visitors to imagine, “What Would You Do?”

The Civil War 150 HistoryMobile crosses the state visiting museums, schools, and special events. Its tour began in July 2011, and since then it has made over 120 stops and attracted visitors from every state and a number of other countries.

In addition to learning more about Virginia's history, the HistoryMobile also provides visitors with information from Virginia Tourism about the many historic sites and destinations that they can explore today.

Admission to the Virginia Civil War 150 HistoryMobile is free and open to the public. For additional information on event happenings in conjunction with the HistoryMobile visit such as tour reservations, associated costs and times contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757-514-4130 or [visitsuffolk@suffolkva.us](mailto:visitsuffolk@suffolkva.us). Space is limited on tours. Advance reservations are required.

### **Friday, March 13, 2015 Activities**

10am-5pm HistoryMobile open to schools and public

10am-4pm Riddick's Folly House Museum open for hourly tours (\$5 per person)

- 10am Washington Ditch Boardwalk Guided Walk (\$5 per person; reservations required)
- 11am-4pm Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum open to public for tours (donation)
- 12pm Great Dismal Swamp's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Pavilion Tour (\$5 per person; reservations required)
- 3pm Historic Downtown Narrated Bus Tour (\$5 per person, reservations required)
- 6pm Legends of Main Street: A Suffolk Ghost Walk (\$10 per person; reservations required)

**Saturday, March 14, 2015 Activities**

- 10am-5pm HistoryMobile open to public
- 10am-4pm Riddick's Folly House Museum open for hourly tours (\$5 per person)
- 10am-4pm Period reenactments on the grounds of Riddick's Folly (free)
- 10am-1pm Genealogy Workshop with the "Daughters of the American Revolution" at Morgan Memorial Library
- 10am Washington Ditch Boardwalk Guided Walk (\$5 per person; reservations required)
- 10am-3pm Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum open to public for tours (donation)
- 12pm Great Dismal Swamp's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Pavilion Tour (\$5 per person; reservations required)
- 2pm-3pm "The Battle of Suffolk: Through Soldier's Letters," a presentation by Kermit Hobbs at Morgan Memorial Library
- 3pm Historic Downtown Narrated Bus Tour (\$5 per person, reservations required)
- 6pm Legends of Main Street: A Suffolk Ghost Walk (\$10 per person; reservations required)

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