



CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY
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Chelsea District Library to Host “Michigan in the Civil War” Exhibit, February 1- April 1

The Detroit Historical Society’s newest traveling exhibition, *Michigan in the Civil War*, will be on display at the Chelsea District Library starting February 1 through April 1. Although no battle occurred on state soil, Michigan citizens were integral to the Union’s victory in the Civil War, from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter, to the sounding of the bugle at Appomattox Courthouse. This exhibit is composed of eight freestanding kiosks, featuring artifacts, photos, and informational panels highlighting people, events, and experiences of fighting in the Civil War. Visitors will explore many aspects of what it was like as a Michigan soldier in the war, and come away with a better understanding of how Michigan helped shape the course of American history.

All ages are invited to attend a grand opening celebration on Saturday February 6th, featuring special events and activities. A film screening of *Gettysburg* (1993), the 4 and 1/2 hour depiction of the decisive American civil war battle will start at 11am in the library’s youth room, KidSpot. At noon in the McKune Room Bob Griggs, the past Camp Commander Austin Blair Camp No. 7, a Sons of Union Veterans group from Jackson, will present a talk about the Civil War experience of the soldiers from Jackson. Members of the group will talk on other topics, such as “Women in the Civil War,” and will present weapons of the period and wear authentic Civil War garb. From 1pm to 3pm, children ages 4 and up are invited to go back in time with mid-1800s crafts and games in the Picture Book Area.

The culminating event for the afternoon will begin at 2:30pm in the McKune room. Al and David Eicher, producers of Michigan visual history documentaries, will present a special lecture offering an intimate look at the timeline of events in Michigan during the Civil War with photos, video, and

artifacts. This program includes rare photographs of historic Michigan and moments from the Civil War as well as artifacts. The Eichers gathered video from five years of reenactments and visits to historic sites, which are included in this 78-minute presentation.

Special Civil War exhibition events will continue through March. On March 6, from 2-3pm, Chelsea High School students will present photos and share their experiences about their annual field trip to Gettysburg. George Till, local Civil War Reenactor and historian will take you inside the world of the paranormal on Thursday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30pm with highlights from Mark Nesbitt's "Ghosts of Gettysburg" books and video series shown on A&E and the History Channel. On Sunday, March 13 at 2pm, the 5th Michigan Regiment Band brings the history of the Civil War Era alive through an authentic historical recreation of a Civil War Regimental Band including performing on antique and replica sax horns and wood rope tension drums.

When President Lincoln first called for troops, Michigan provided more than required. The First Regiment and its early movement to the seat of war in Virginia marked the first "western" troops to make it to the front lines. Reportedly, Lincoln proclaimed "Thank God for Michigan!" Throughout the war, men, women and even children gave their all to the cause of restoring the Union. This one-of-a-kind exhibit tells the stories of the sons and daughters of Michigan who served in the Civil War; from the stalwart soldiers of the MI 24th Infantry "Iron Brigade," to female soldier and spy Sara Emma Edmonds. Whether infantry, nurse, musician, or mechanic, the people of Michigan served valiantly in the Civil War, and their dedication and sacrifice was acknowledged by many.

For more information about the Civil War exhibit and events, visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org and click on the calendar tab.

Chelsea District Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide equal access to quality resources that serve the lifelong cultural, educational and informational needs and interests of all people. The Library currently serves 14,000 residents in the Chelsea district – City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships and more than 20,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

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Since its founding in 1921, the Detroit Historical Society has been dedicated to ensuring that the history of our region is preserved so that current and future generations of metro Detroiters can better understand the people, places and events that helped shape our lives.