

## **Virginia's Civil War History Mobile Coming to Caroline County, Town of Bowling Green, and the Caroline Museum and Cultural Center August 25 - 27**

- *18-wheeler is filled with interactive, multi-sensory exhibits and activities* -

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Alan Partin, Interim County Administrator

**(Bowling Green, VA):** Civil War history is on the move in Virginia as its special 18-wheeler Civil War History Mobile rolls into Bowling Green for a three-day visit Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit, an initiative of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission, will be located on Courthouse Lane in the Town of Bowling Green.

The Caroline Museum and Cultural Center will also open for the first time within just a few yards of the History Mobile and is located in the old Commissioner of Revenue's Building, 121 North Main Street in Bowling Green and situated behind the old Caroline Courthouse built in 1835.

Hours of operation for both initiatives will be 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday August 25 & 26. Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Museum and Mobile will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The Caroline Museum and Cultural Center is a 501 c(3) organization whose mission is to collect, exhibit and present artifacts and physical materials associated with and related to the history, development and growth of Caroline County Virginia, and to provide the public with educational resources with regard to the same. Organized three years ago, the Museum Board has developed a valuable partnership with the Caroline Historical Society and has received their considerable collection of artifacts, photographs and files as a loan. During the opening, a display will be presented entitled "War Between Brothers" featuring stories of the real soldiers and civilians who participated from Caroline County in the Civil War. The Museum will also feature "The Underground Railroad Quilt" Secret messages in the form of quilt patterns aided slaves escaping the bonds of captivity in the Southern states before and during the American Civil War and an example will be displayed courtesy of Alinda Uzel who developed the quilt and its story for the State Fair of Virginia, Heritage area.

The History Mobile itself is an expandable 53-foot tractor trailer contains a high-tech immersive experience detailing Virginia's incomparable place in Civil War history. The exhibits were designed through a partnership between the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Battlefields Park and the Virginia Historical Society and examine Virginia's Civil War history from the viewpoints of soldiers, civilians and slaves. The History Mobile is also supported by the Virginia Tourism Corporation through which visitors can obtain information on visiting Virginia Civil War sites at the exhibit, as well as by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Visitors will encounter history in ways they may have never seen. Touring through the exhibit a visitor will enter a battle environment and be surrounded by the bewildering sense of chaos experienced by soldiers. The Homefront exhibit calls on visitors to place themselves in the shoes

of wartime civilians and make the same choices that confronted Virginians of those times. Slavery is examined through the perspectives of those who tried to escape to freedom as well as those who chose to stay where they lived. The enduring legacy of the war is presented as a loss/gain scenario that challenges visitors to examine their own perspectives. The History Mobile exhibit will also include a living history campsite, live Civil War era music, storytelling, and guest speakers.

In the future, going forward the Caroline Museum and Cultural Center will be open and staffed by a Caroline County travel counselor and one volunteer. Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-5 pm. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. For the Bowling Green Harvest Festival the museum plans several new exhibits featuring the rich Native American Culture of the Powhatans and a collection of never before seen photos on loan from UVA of early African American Industrial Education in Caroline County in the early 1900s. For information on volunteering or donating an article please call Museum President Kathryn McVay at 633-5731 after 5 p.m. or Susan Sili, Marketing and Collections Chairman anytime at 804-633-9084.

For more information about Virginia's Civil War History Mobile and the initiatives of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission can be found at [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org). For information on visiting Civil War sites throughout Virginia go to [www.Virginia.org/CivilWar](http://www.Virginia.org/CivilWar).

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