

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Free, Family-Friendly Newcomer House Porch Programs Continue This Summer

Keedysville, MD – The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) will continue a new series of free, family-friendly public programs at the [Newcomer House](#), HCWHA's Exhibit & Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield, on Saturdays this summer. The Porch Program series began in April and covered diverse topics including music of the Civil War era and the role of women at Antietam. The lineup of programs this fall is being finalized now.

June 18: Battle in Your Backyard (Starting at 1:00 PM)

Join the Civil War Trust and the Heart of the Civil War in experiencing the life of civilians before, during and after the Battle of Antietam. Kids ages 8-18 and their families are invited to take care of a farm, build a fence, interact with soldiers, and deal with the battle's terrible aftermath. At 3:00 PM, the program will conclude with a special discussion between renowned Civil War historian Dennis Frye and his father, John, about sharing a passion for history. [Register here.](#)

July 23: Secret Codes & Ciphers (11:30 AM & 2:00 PM)

Emily Huebner, a research archivist at the Maryland State Archives, will present a program about the use of secret codes, riddles and puzzles during the Civil War. The presentation will explore the meaning of the riddles, addressing both the cultural, political, and literary references that make up the enigmas' clues, and the historic context of the documents. The presentation will focus on this particular example of message encipherment as a form of entertainment and even of dissent. Participants will create their own codes & ciphers.

August 13: 19th Century Medical Practices (11:30 AM & 2:30 PM)

Portraying the persona of Dr. Edward Stonestreet, Clarence Hickey will bring to life 19th century medical techniques, such as demonstrating Civil War anesthesia instruments and removing a bullet. Dr. Stonestreet will discuss transportation of the wounded, pain management, and pre-op, operative, and post-op care.

The Newcomer House is located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville, MD. On each of these days, the Newcomer House will be open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Newcomer House Manager Rachel Nichols at rbknichols@gmail.com or (240) 308-1740.

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