

For Immediate Release:

CVB Helps Sponsor Civil War Exhibit at WCMFA; Opens August 15th "The Unwritten War: A Visual Story of the Civil War"

WHAT: The Unwritten War: A Visual Story of the Civil War

WHEN: August 15, 2009 - March 21, 2010

WHERE: Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

HAGERSTOWN, MD - In 1892, Walt Whitman reflected on the American Civil War, writing in *Specimen Days*, "The real war will never get in the history books." Whitman recognized that the history books would never truly capture the experiences of the men and women who lived through the war, as well as those who died in battle. This special exhibition, on view August 15, 2009 through March 21, 2010, will tell the story of the American Civil War visually. The sponsors for this exhibition are the Hagerstown Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mr. and Mrs. Art Callaham, Dr. and Mrs. Robert K. Hobbs and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Newcomer.

As the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War approaches, and this region commemorates John Brown's raid in 1859, it is particularly important to reflect on the impact the war had on the daily lives of the soldiers who fought, as well as their families back home. Items on view come from the Museum's Permanent Collection and loans from local collectors. Pieces included range from decorative carved bullets made by soldiers in the quiet time between battles to a woman's dress and fashion accessories. The daily life of a soldier will be told through original letters and diaries and the experience of the battlefield will be shown through firearms and medical equipment. Photographs by Mathew Brady (1822-1896), such as *Burnside Bridge After the Battle of Antietam*, highlight the significance of Washington County during the war. Also included in the exhibition is *Portrait of Captain George Luther Hager* by Alexander Lawrie (1828-1917). Hager was a descendant of the family who founded Hagerstown and served in the 31st Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.

Through works of art, objects, and archival materials, the exhibition will connect national events and people to local events and people, and will investigate the themes of the soldier's life, letters and personal papers, clothing and accessories, battles, lives and roles of women, domestic arts, African-American history, medicine and surgery, and Lincoln memorabilia.

Lectures associated with the exhibition are: "Lee's Incursion into the North--Antietam" by Art Callaham, Director of Greater Hagerstown, is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2:30 p.m. The lecture is part of a 3-part lecture series which will support and interpret the exhibition, "The Unwritten War: A Visual Story of the Civil War Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War." The other 2 lectures are by Dr. Larry Jones, on a collection of objects linking the lives of a Northern and Southern soldier at the battle of Pickett Mills, Georgia, on Sunday, December 13, 2:30 p.m., Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. William G. Plavcan, and "Frederick Douglass: a Living History" by Bill Grimmette, on January 17, 2010, 2:30 p.m., Sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.

For more information on the Museum, please phone (301) 739-5727 or visit www.wcmfa.org. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free.

###