# **HISTORYCENTER**



# FROM GETTYSBURG TO PITTSBURGH

bout 10 years ago, Ken Burns' documentary *The Civil War* took the nation by storm, smashing all records for PBS television viewership. I discussed this phenomenal success with Ken, and was surprised that he had been inspired to do the series after reading Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Killer Angels*. I, too, had been captivated by the work that so uncannily exposed the inner workings of the characters behind the real-life drama of the 1863 battle of Gettysburg. In fact, when I learned in 1992 that a full-length motion picture would be made based on *The Killer Angels*, I signed on as a "background artist" and actually made my debut on the big screen (for a total of 37 seconds) appearing in the Little Round Top scenes and again on Cemetery Ridge just before Pickett's charge. The film helped to increase visitation at National Park Service Civil War battlefields, and a fascination remains with the war that shaped America in so many ways.

On April 4, 2003, the History Center will feature *Eye of the Storm: Unknown Stories of the Civil War*. This exhibit is designed around the art of Private Robert Sneden – a collection of paintings recently acquired by the Virginia Historical Society – and never-before-exhibited artifacts revealing the role

of Western Pennsylvania in the Civil War. Col. Strong Vincent's sword, on loan from the Smithsonian, will be the centerpiece of the Gettysburg section. A native of Erie, Pa., Vincent commanded Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine and other regiments that saved Little Round Top, the battle of Gettysburg, and possibly the Union.

Visitors will learn more about Fort Pitt Foundry, which cast the largest cannon ever, and they will discover the dangers of the home front, as evidenced by the Allegheny Arsenal tragedy of 1862. Many will be amazed by Pittsburgh's Civil War connections to Lincoln, Stanton, Grant, and others.

For those interested in further exploring the Civil War, be sure to attend our Dominion Lecture Series on American History, featuring four speakers throughout the Spring – see page 43 for more information. And if you love to read, get yourself a copy of just-published *Industry and Infantry*, an edited anthology of Civil War articles from the past eight decades of this magazine.

Andrew E. Masich, President and Chief Executive Officer Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Andy Masich relished
his involvement
with the filming of
Gettysburg. Like Andy,
Ken Burns (left) also
played a Union officer
in the movie.





THE HISTORY CENTER

THE YEAR IN PICTURES: IMAGES FROM THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE THROUGH APRIL 20

PANE E LAVORO: A HISTORY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S **ITALIAN AMERICANS THROUGH MAY 31** 

EYE OF THE STORM: UNKNOWN STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR APRIL 4 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

WROUGHT METAL TREASURES FROM THE BLUM COLLECTION ONGOING

GLASS: SHATTERING NOTIONS ONGOING

HEINZ 57 ONGOING

KIDSBURGH ONGOING

**DISCOVERY PLACE ONGOING** 

PRINE COLLECTION OF WOODWORKING PLANES ONGOING

POINTS IN TIME: BUILDING A LIFE IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, 1750 - TODAY ONGOING

ISALY'S DAIRY: KLONDIKES, CHIPPED HAM AND SKYSCRAPER CONES ONGOING

# HISTORYCENTER INFORMATION

1212 SMALLMAN STREET, IN THE STRIP DISTRICT, (412) 454-6000 www.pghhistory.org

\$3 for four hours in the lot at 12th & Smallman Streets with History Center validation.

# HOURS

Museum and Shop: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. Library & Archives: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Center closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

# **ADMISSION**

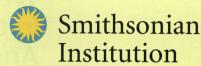
Members: Free

Adults: \$6; Students/Seniors: \$4.50; Ages 6-18: \$3 Ages 5 and under: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Café on site. Discovery Place for children.

Discounted rates. Advance booking required. Call (412) 454-6304.

History-related gifts and souvenirs. Members enjoy a 10% discount.

Your special event or wedding is a historic occasion. A timeless and distinctive setting, with superb dining provided by Common Plea Catering, the History Center is the perfect place to host your next banquet, party, reception, seminar, or meeting. Call (412) 454-6435 for information and reservations.



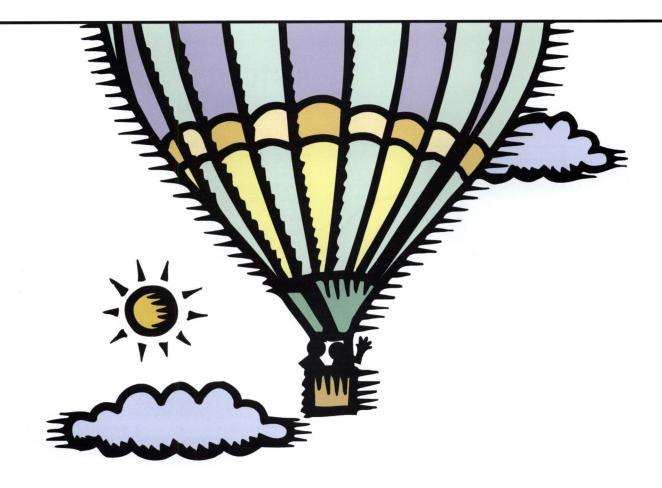
# THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION OFFERS EXHIBITS AND RESOURCES RELATED TO THE CIVIL WAR.



CivilWar@Smithsonian, produced by the National Portrait Gallery, is a guide to the institution's collections from the era. Numerous images and a Civil War timeline are included, www.civilwar.si.edu

Civil War Studies at The Smithsonian Associates offers in-depth tours of battle sites as well as lectures and seminars. Many of the tours are led by historian Edwin C. Bearss, former chief historian for the National Park Service, and a recipient of numerous awards in the fields of history and preservation. The studies program also offers a newsletter delivered via e-mail. www.civilwarstudies.org





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