

COMINGSOON... TO THE HISTORY CENTER

Anne Madarasz
Chief Curator, Museum Division

Until recently, many Americans had no personal experience with war. War happened far away, not on our soil. How different than the first 100 years of this nation's history, when battles were fought on our lands, and war pitted friends and relations against one another.

Eye of the Storm, opening at the History Center April 4, provides an eyewitness account of the Civil War and reminds us of its personal consequences. Seen through the eyes and art of Private Robert Knox Sneden, the exhibit follows his journey from soldier, to battlefield mapmaker and artist for the Army of the Potomac, to prisoner at Andersonville.

Integrated with the Sneden story are objects, images, and personal accounts from HSWP collections and lenders throughout the region. Visitors

will see how a city prepared for, participated in, and persevered during the war.

Though the battles came only as close as Gettysburg, the war came calling: young women packed shoulder-to-shoulder at the Allegheny Arsenal rolling cartridges until their world was shattered by an explosion; soldiers such as Pittsburgher John Nevin captured and incarcerated in Libby Prison; and the thousands of men from Western Pennsylvania who went to war and never came home.



HSWP Library & Archives, Gilbert Hays collection

A fragment of the 63rd Regiment's drum corps reunites in Carrick, Pa., 1907.

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