



For Immediate Release

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Making Sense of the American Civil War

Reading and Discussion Series in Partnership with the Worcester Public Library

Worcester, MA – Worcester Historical Museum will host a scholar-lead reading and discussion series for public audiences starting in May through June of 2013. *Making Sense of the American Civil War* is a free program, in partnership with the Worcester Public Library that provides the chance for the public to discuss and explore the complex and multi-layered issues surrounding a pivotal moment in America's history. The four part series focuses on three literary works about the Civil War: *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Crossroads of Freedom* by James McPherson and the anthology *America's War* edited by Edward L. Ayers. Discussions will be led by Dr. John Anderson, associate professor of history *emeritus* of the College of the Holy Cross.

This national series, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Library Association and Mass Humanities, happening libraries across the country, focuses on different perspectives of the Civil War and the varying experiences of individuals from different genders, ethnicities and backgrounds. Robyn Christensen, librarian of Worcester Historical Museum, promises to include local history in the series as well stating, "the discussion series will not only talk about the impact the war had on the nation, but will highlight the Worcester connections through individual actions, regimental achievements and hometown support."

Those interested participants can sign up via Worcester Historical Museum's website, www.worcesterhistory.org/civil-war-discussion, or by call 508.753.8278. Space is limited in the series to fifty participants. Pre-registration is required for the program. Upon registration loaned copies of selected readings will be made available to participants, courtesy of the Worcester Public Library.

This program is presented with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Library Association, Mass Humanities, and the Worcester Public Library.

About Worcester Historical Museum

Founded in 1875, Worcester Historical Museum is the only organization solely dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Worcester's unique and diverse history from all time periods and subject areas. The holdings of WHM encompass thousands of documents and artifacts vital to the study of Worcester history. Worcester's history is interpreted through a calendar of exhibitions, educational programming, tours, and publications. WHM features both permanent installations and changing exhibits.

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