



Delaware Heritage Commission Kicks Off Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War with “Choosing Sides” Program, May 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at Delaware State University’s Education & Humanities Theatre

April 5, 2011-The Delaware Heritage Commission, in conjunction with the History Department of Delaware State University, kicks off its observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War with an event entitled, “Choosing Sides.”

In the Spring of 1861, Delaware – and thousands of individual Delawareans – faced what many considered to be a life or death decision. The Union, of which Delaware had become the proud first state just 74 years earlier, was coming apart. As a border state where slavery was legal and abolitionism was active, a deeply divided Delaware and her citizens had to choose sides.

Well-known historian Adam Goodheart, Director of the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, Chestertown, MD, and a contributor to the New York Times on the subject of the Civil War, has authored a new book entitled 1861: The Civil War Experience. Mr. Goodheart will discuss his book, and the days between the election of Abraham Lincoln, and the outbreak of War, as little Delaware and its citizens struggled to cope with unstoppable forces from well beyond our borders.

Joining Mr. Goodheart will be a number of “living historians” portraying Delawareans of the time discussing the difficult choices they were facing, and the manner in which they made those choices.

The program will be followed by a reception and book-signing, at which guests can discuss the events of 1861 with Mr. Goodheart and the Delawareans of 1861.

The event will take place at DSU’s Education & Humanities Theatre. Parkign for the event is available in Parking Lot 16 off College Road on the south end of the campus. For further information, please contact the Delaware Heritage Commission at (302) 744-5077 or **delawareheritageoffice@state.de.us**

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Offices

121 Duke of York Street
Dover, DE 19901

Telephone:
(302) 744-5077

Fax:
(302) 739-6710

E-mail:
delawareheritageoffice
@state.de.us

Website:
<http://heritage.delaware.gov/>