



Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania

## Press Release

For immediate release  
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### 1865 – A Nation Reunited

*New Program and Document Display Commemorate Sesquicentennial of Civil War's End*



1865 was a pivotal year in American history. With the end of the Civil War, Lincoln's assassination, and the beginning of Reconstruction, politics were forever changed. Lives were changed, too.

Join HSP and the reenactors of the [Confederation of Union Generals](#) to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War with [\*1865 – A Nation Reunited\*](#), exploring the stories of those who fought, deliberated, and struggled so that our nation would survive. Attendees will have the chance to speak with a slew of "honored guests" including George Meade, John Gibbon, Dr. Mary Walker, and more. A reception will follow the program.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to view HSP's newest document display, [\*1865 – Eyewitness to History\*](#), featuring items from its collection related to these momentous occasions in American history. *1865* includes manuscripts, maps, photographs, prints, and more.

The surrender at Appomattox, the passage of the 13th Amendment, and the establishing of new organizations to help "freedmen": these events are brought to life through the words and illustrations of those who lived through them. **The display is free and open to the public during [regular library hours](#).**

As part of *1865 - Eyewitness to History*, visitors will be able to view:

- Lithographs and other prints depicting Lee's surrender
- The scrapbook of Union Maj. General John White Geary
- Illuminated map detailing the Appomattox campaign
- The diary of Charles McKnight, a PA infantryman who fought at Appomattox
- Political cartoons depicting the Commonwealth's elected officials at the time
- Pamphlets created by the U.S. Adjutant General Office
- Letters from Thomas Drayton, a pro-Southern planter, to his pro-Union family living in Philadelphia
- An 1865 National Freedman Monthly Journal
- And so much more!

**Act 48/CEU credits are available for educators.**

**Tickets are free for students and members of HSP and the Confederation of Union Generals. \$15 for nonmembers.**

**[Please click here to register.](#)**

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### **About the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) is a provider of education and information for the people of Philadelphia and beyond. With over 21 million documents – including manuscripts, graphics, and ephemera – HSP serves more than 4,000 on-site researchers annually and millions more around the globe who use its resources online at [hsp.org](http://hsp.org). HSP offers extensive online resources including digital collections, curricular materials, and hosts educator workshops, public programs and lectures throughout the year. To offer this array of programming and services, HSP relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support our mission of inspiring individuals to create a better future through historical understanding at [hsp.org](http://hsp.org)

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