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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just what the Civil War doctor ordered

New event June 5 - 7 at Old State Capitol to feature authentic Civil War medical encampment, programs for the entire family

SPRINGFIELD – Downtown Springfield will be transformed into a Civil War field hospital complete with re-enactors, camp life and activities for the entire family during a large new special event being held June 5, 6 and 7 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site. The event, part of the year-long Lincoln Bicentennial observance, is endorsed by the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is free and open to the public.

The Old State Capitol grounds will be the site of a Civil War encampment Friday through Sunday, June 5 - 7 that will focus on the practice of medicine during the Civil War. Civil War Medicine is sponsored by Memorial Medical Center, the Old Capitol Foundation and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

“This event will show visitors the challenges that medical personnel faced while trying to treat the injuries, diseases and infections suffered during the American Civil War. The techniques used to treat the sick and injured formed the basis for much of the practices used by the medical community today,” said Chet Rhodes, acting site manager of the Old State Capitol.

Friday, June 5 will be a special youth day, with reservations strongly encouraged, as space is limited – these can be made by calling (217) 558-8918. Groups of youth will rotate through six different stations on the Old State Capitol lawn from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. The stations will include military drills, a Civil War widow and Clara Barton impersonators, a Civil War doctor and his medical tools, artillery, a comparison of Union and Confederate soldiers’ equipment, and a period fashion show.

The program for Saturday, June 6 will begin with a memorial service at the present State Capitol at Second and Monroe at 8:30 a.m. that will be followed by a parade to the Old State Capitol at Sixth and Adams Streets. There, visitors will be able to hear speakers, encounter first-person re-enactors (including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant and Mother Bickerdyke), participate in a youth scavenger hunt, view Civil War

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medical displays, attend book signings and, of course, spend time among Civil War re-enactors who will be camped on the grounds. A Saturday evening dance from 7 to 8:30 p.m. will feature the Independent Silver Band, an authentic a Civil War band, with a dance caller and refreshments.

A flag ceremony and worship service at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 7 will be followed by speakers with camp breaking at noon. All activities throughout the three-day encampment are free and open to the general public.

In addition, the “Stitches in Time” mid-19th century clothing workshop series returns during the weekend, with sessions all three days pertaining to various aspects of making 1800s women’s clothing. Session information is available from cschmitt@genteelarts.com, and all sessions require advance registration, with most having materials fees. Friday, June 5 will feature “The Nitty-Gritty Details of Dress Construction.” On Saturday, June 6 four sessions will be offered pertaining to 1800s women’s underclothing, styles that flatter you and your figure, elegant accessories, and details that make a difference. The Sunday, June 7 session will have participants fabricating a net, lace and ribbon cap.

A full schedule of activities for the Civil War Medicine event may be found at www.lincoln200.net.

Civil War Medicine is the latest special event in the year-long celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday during 2009.

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