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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We want to keep you in “Stitches”

Popular period clothing workshop series returns as part of new “Civil War Medicine” event June 5 – 7 at Old State Capitol

SPRINGFIELD – Organizers want to keep you in “Stitches” during the new Civil War Medicine event June 5 – 7 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield.

The popular “Stitches in Time” Mid-19th Century Clothing Workshop series returns this year as part of the new Civil War Medicine event. This year’s series will be conducted by noted period clothing expert Carolann Schmitt, founder of the Genteel Arts Academy in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, an organization dedicated to mid-1800s clothing and needlework. All of the sessions require advance registration, and most have participation and materials fees. For registration information, call (717) 337-0283 or email cschmitt@genteelarts.com. A registration form may be downloaded at <http://www.genteelarts.com/GAatSpringfield.pdf>. All sessions will be held in the Community Room in the lower level of the Old State Capitol.

The Nitty-Gritty Details of Dress Construction, Friday, June 5, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to do gauging, create a faux curved back seam, and make and apply tiny piping, all while learning period dress construction methods. The registration fee is \$35 which includes a kit with fabric and notions.

Hardware and Software: The System of Women’s Underclothing, a Structural Support for Fashion, Saturday, June 6, 8 to 10 a.m. The session will discuss common characteristics, fabrics, trim and construction, including such topics as tight-lacing, crinoline size and whether to tuck or not to tuck. The \$15 fee includes handouts.

The Artifice of Dressing Well: Selecting Styles that Flatter You and Your Figure, Saturday, June 6, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn which styles are more flattering for certain body shapes, how changing one element of style can add or subtract ten pounds, and how to choose age-appropriate and pretty fabrics. The \$15 fee includes handouts.

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Fichus: Simply Elegant Accessories, Saturday, June 6, 2 to 5 p.m.
Participants will learn to make and embellish fichus, a simple accessory that can dramatically change the look of a dress. The \$35 fee includes a kit with cotton net and lace.

The Difference *Is* in the Details: Little Things *Do* Mean a Lot, Saturday, June 6, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This session will review common characteristics of period attire for men, women and children that are often overlooked in reproduction wardrobes. There is no charge to attend this illustrated session.

The Crowning Touch: A Simple Net, Lace and Ribbon Cap, Sunday, June 7, 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will make a cap that can be worn with a simple day dress or an elaborate dinner gown. Only minimal sewing skills are required. The \$35 fee includes a kit with cotton net, lace, linen tape and silk ribbon.

The “Stitches in Time” Mid-19th Century Clothing Workshop series began during 2008 at several Springfield-area historic sites and proved to be very popular and well-attended. K. Krewer’s original 1800s clothing collection, one of the highlights of last year’s sessions, will be displayed throughout the Civil War Medicine weekend this year.

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