



ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER FEATURES AUTHORS SALVATORE G. CILELLA, JR. AND WENDY HAMAND VENET FOR *CIVIL WAR SUNDAY* LECTURES

- Guests can enjoy an afternoon of Civil War book discussions and tour the Civil War exhibit-

ATLANTA, GA- Since it is home to one of the nation's largest and most complete Civil War exhibitions, *Turning Point: The American Civil War*, it is no surprise that the Atlanta History Center's upcoming *Civil War Sunday* lectures feature two of the most recent book releases about the Civil War. Authors Salvatore G. Cilella, Jr. and Wendy Hamand Venet will discuss their books at *Civil War Sunday* on July 12, 2009 at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM.

Cilella discusses his book *Upton's Regulars: The 121st New York Infantry in the Civil War*. The book is about upstate New Yorkers that responded to President Lincoln's call to service by volunteering in large numbers to defend an imperiled Union. Drawn from the farms and towns of Otsego and Herkimer Counties, the 121st New York State Volunteer Infantry Regiment served with the Sixth Corps in the Army of the Potomac throughout the Civil War. In the first comprehensive history of the regiment in nearly ninety years, Cilella chronicles the epic story of this heroic "band of brothers."

Venet, a Georgia State University professor, discusses her book *Sam Richards's Civil War Diary: A Chronicle of the Atlanta Home Front*. This unpublished diary by bookseller Samuel Pearce Richards is the best firsthand account of life in Civil War Atlanta. Out of Richards' sixty-seven-year diary, this volume excerpts the period from October 1860 to August 1865. The latter is the date when the Richards family returned to Atlanta after having been forced to leave the city by Sherman's troops, followed by a period of exile in New York City. Richards' observations include the Union bombardment of Atlanta, the evacuation of Confederate forces, and the entry of the Union Army into the city.

Books will be available for purchase in the Atlanta History Center Museum Shop during *Civil War Sunday*. Lecture admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Reservations are required. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 404.814.4150.

Before or after the lectures, guests are invited to tour the museum and see *Turning Point: The American Civil War* firsthand. The exhibit is located in the 9, 200-square-foot Dubose Gallery. With over 1,500 Union and Confederate artifacts, including cannons, uniforms, and flags, guests experience the Civil War through the eyes of soldiers and civilians. Highlights include the Confederate flag that flew over Atlanta at the time of its surrender, a Union supply wagon used by Sherman's army, General Patrick Cleburne's sword, a Medal of Honor won by the United States Colored Troops, the logbooks of the C.S.S. Shenandoah, medical equipment, firearms, and more. In addition, dioramas, videos, and interactive learning stations help bring this chapter of history alive. A final section of the exhibition explores how the Civil War continues its impact on us today. Free audio tours of the *Turning Point: The American Civil War* provide an additional resource to study the collection and learn about the American Civil War. The Atlanta History Center will be open at noon and then close, after the lectures, at 5:30 PM.

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ABOUT THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER:

Founded in 1926, the Atlanta History Center is an all-inclusive, thirty-three acre destination featuring the Atlanta History Museum, one of the Southeast's largest history museums; two historic houses, the 1928 Swan House and the 1860 Tullie Smith Farm; the Centennial Olympic Games Museum; the Kenan Research Center; the Grand Overlook event space; Chick-Fil-A at the Coca-Cola Café, a museum shop, and acres of Historic Gardens with paths and a kid-friendly discovery trail.

In addition, the History Center operates the Margaret Mitchell House. Located in Midtown Atlanta, the two-acre campus features tours of the apartment where Margaret Mitchell wrote her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Gone With the Wind*, an exhibition highlighting the life of Margaret Mitchell, a *Gone With the Wind* movie exhibition, and a museum shop. For more information on Atlanta History Center offerings, hours of operation, and admission, please call 404.814.4000 or visit AtlantaHistoryCenter.com.

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