



TEXAS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM OPENS IN FORT WORTH

For Immediate Release

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FORT WORTH—The largest collection of Civil War artifacts west of the Mississippi River went on display when the Texas Civil War Museum opened to the public on January 25, 2006.

The museum is a collaborative effort involving private collectors Ray and Judy Richey and The Texas Division United Daughters of the Confederacy. The museum has more than 3,000 artifacts which will rotate on exhibit.

Among the artifacts is a collection of more than 60 flags valued at approximately \$3 million. It is the largest collection of flags in the state of Texas. Most of the flags are from Texas units that fought for the Confederacy.

“This is a long-time dream of mine to be able to share my personal collection in a public venue,” said Richey, president of Ray Richey and Company, Incorporated. “I have been collecting for more than 20 years, and this is one of the largest private collections of Civil War artifacts in North America. I believe this museum will be an essential stop for anyone interested in learning more about this important part of Texas and United States history.”

The museum is a non-profit entity that includes artifacts from what was the Texas Confederate Museum displayed in Austin from 1904 to 1988. This collection is controlled by The Texas Division UDC. This joint venture between private collectors and a public trust is considered rare among museum collections in the United States.

Among the featured displays at the museum is a collection of Victorian era dresses. The museum has over 200 dresses and about three dozen will be displayed on a rotating basis.

The museum will offer special discounts and attractions for student groups. The museum’s main focus will be educating current and future generations about the Civil War and the role Texas played.

Once opened, the museum's operating hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission prices are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students ages 7 through 12. Children 6 years and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Group and active military discounts are available.

The museum is located at 760 Jim Wright Freeway North in Fort Worth. Information about the museum can be obtained by calling 817.246.2323. Much more information is available at the museum's Web site, www.texascivilwarmuseum.com.