



**White Oak
Civil War Museum**

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White Oak Museum News Release

Release date: Immediately
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Date: 5 September 2011

Caring for the Soldiers: A Medical Field Hospital during the Civil War

On Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th, the White Oak Civil War Museum invites the public to attend a special living history program on the grounds of the museum, *Caring for the Soldiers: A Medical Field Hospital during the Civil War*. Living history volunteers from the First Federal Division Headquarters Staff will portray a Union Army Field Hospital providing aid and comfort to sick and wounded soldiers in Stafford County during the 1862-63 Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville campaigns. The White Oak Church (across the street from the museum) served as a military hospital, a United States Christian Commission station, and as a photographic studio and around 20,000 soldiers of the Army of the Potomac's VI Corps camped in the immediate area.

The Field Hospital is led by Colonel Pete (Doc) Peters, a long time and renowned Civil War reenactor. Doc Peters portrayed the assistant surgeon in the scene of the amputation of "Stonewall" Jackson's arm in the movie *Gods and Generals* and was recently featured in the documentary *The Fighting Irish* on the Smithsonian Channel. As a historically equipped military field hospital, Doc Peters and his staff will demonstrate surgical techniques and general medical practices of the period. Additional encampment impressions will include a civilian embalming surgeon, U.S. Sanitary Commission workers, provost guards, soldier casualties, and a commissary cook staff.

Special surgical demonstrations with reenactors portraying wounded soldiers will be held at 11 a.m. and 1:30p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The 11a.m. demonstration will be non-graphic and suitable to a general audience. The 1:30p.m. demonstration will feature the more realistic portrayal of a leg wound bullet extraction as seen on the Smithsonian Channel documentary, *The Fighting Irish*, and parental guidance is suggested. The provost guards will conduct historic weapons drill and firing demonstrations periodically on both days. There is no cost to attend the Field Hospital program; however, there is a small admission charge for the museum's indoor exhibits.

For additional information, please call the White Oak Museum at 540-371-4234.