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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Set for Delaware State University

**Delaware Heritage Commission Kicks Off Commemoration of the
150th Anniversary of the Civil War with “Choosing Sides” Program**

Dover, DE - The Delaware Heritage Commission, in conjunction with the History Department of Delaware State University, kicks off its observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War with a free event titled "Choosing Sides," set for Delaware State University on Friday, May 6, 7 p.m., in the Education and Humanities Theatre.

In the spring of 1861, the State of Delaware – and thousands of individual Delawareans – faced what many considered to be a life or death decision. The Union, of which Delaware had become the proud first state just 74 years earlier, was coming apart. As a border state where slavery was legal and abolitionism was active, a deeply divided Delaware and her citizens had to choose sides.

Well-known historian Adam Goodheart, Director of the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, Chestertown, MD, and a contributor to the *New York Times* on the subject of the Civil War, has authored a new book titled *1861: The Civil War Experience*. Mr. Goodheart will discuss his book, and the days between the election of Abraham Lincoln, and the outbreak of War, as little Delaware and its citizens struggled to cope with unstoppable forces from well beyond our borders.

Joining Mr. Goodheart will be a number of “living historians” portraying Delawareans of the time discussing the difficult choices they were facing, and the manner in which they made those choices. The event is being held in conjunction with the 78th Annual Dover Days Festival, which is saluting the Civil War Sesquicentennial May 6-8 with a three-day Civil War encampment featuring the 2nd Delaware Regiment Volunteers.

The program will be followed by a reception and book-signing, at which guests can discuss the events of 1861 with Mr. Goodheart and the Delawareans of 1861.

The event will take place at DSU’s Education & Humanities Theatre. Parking for the event is available in Parking Lot 16 off College Road on the south end of the campus. For further information, please contact the Delaware Heritage Commission at 302-744-5077 or delawareheritageoffice@state.de.us. For more information about the Dover Days Festival, call 302-734-4888 or www.doverdaysfestival.com.

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