



BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM of Natural
History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Deborah Cowman, Executive Director
Telephone: 979/776-2195
Email: dcowman@brazosvalleymuseum.org

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Lee and Grant Exhibit
at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History
June 16 - August 11, 2010

Opening Events, Saturday, June 26th, 10 am - 8 pm

BRYAN, TX --- The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**, proudly presents ***Lee and Grant***, a nationally touring exhibit in honor of the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015). By the end of the Civil War, most Americans considered either Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant to be a hero. The reputations of the two generals, molded in part by a sectional bias that would enhance the achievements of one often to the detriment of the other, would wax and wane over the next 140 years.

The exhibit *Lee and Grant* provides a major reassessment of the lives, careers, and historical impact of Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. It also encourages audiences to move beyond the traditional mythology of both men and rediscover them within the context of their own time—based on their own words and those of their contemporaries. *Lee and Grant* presents photographs, paintings, prints, coins, reproduction clothing, accoutrements owned by the two men, documents written in their own hands, and biographical and historical records to reveal each man in his historical and cultural context, allowing audiences to compare the ways each has been remembered for almost 150 years.

"Visitors will enjoy discovering similarities and differences between Lee and Grant that are rarely pointed out," said Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, exhibition co-curator and the Lora M. Robins Curator of Art at the Virginia Historical Society. "These generals have been explored by historians for decades, but *Lee and Grant* is the first exhibition to present the two men together so that visitors can make decisions about them, side by side, based on facts. We hope that after they view *Lee and Grant*, visitors will give more thought to the legacies of both generals."

"In addition to items curated by the Virginia Historical Society, our Museum is proud to offer the addition of a special display featuring Civil War materials from local collections highlighting some of our Brazos Valley Civil War history," said Dr. Deborah Cowman, Executive Director of the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. The Museum will opening events on June 26th, featuring **Dr. Charles Grear, Texas Civil War Scholar, on "Why Texans fought in the Civil War" at 3 pm, re-enactors will be present all day with black powder demonstrations beginning at 4 pm**, followed by a **stage performance by Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux on "The Resurrection of General Harriet Tubman" at 5 pm** in the Brazos Center Auditorium ,

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with **vocal music by Maureen Broy Papovich, soprano, and finally, a reception and exhibit viewing at 6 pm in the Museum.**

This exhibit was made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, through underwriting provided by the William Knox Holt Foundation and by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit was originally developed by the Virginia Historical Society, and co-curated by Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Curator of Art at the Virginia Historical Society and Dr. Robert S. Tilton, Chairman of the Department of English, University of Connecticut, Storrs. This exhibit is toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road. NEH on the Road offers an exciting opportunity for communities of all sizes to experience some of the best exhibitions funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Mid-America Arts Alliance was founded in 1972 and is the oldest regional nonprofit arts organization in the United States. For more information, visit www.maaa.org or www.nehontheroad.org.

Admission to outdoor and Brazos Auditorium Events are free; regular admission to the Museum reception and gallery viewing applies. Admission fees: adults \$5; seniors/students/children \$4; members and children 3 and under are free.

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History is open to visitors Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-5 pm. For more information about this exhibit and other displays, events, programs and activities, please contact the Museum at 979-776-2195 or visit us on the web at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

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SUMMARY

Exhibition Name: *Lee and Grant*

Description: This exhibition provides a major reassessment of the lives, careers, and historical impact of Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. The exhibit encourages audiences to move beyond the traditional mythology of both men and rediscover them within the context of their own time—based on their own words and those of their contemporaries.

Organized By: Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia and Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Toured By: Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road

Touring Exhibition Curators: Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Curator of Art, Virginia Historical Society and Dr. Robert S. Tilton, Chairman of the Department of English, University of Connecticut, Storrs

Brazos Valley Civil War History Curators: Elisabeth Manning, Mervin and George Marshall Peters, Weldon Svoboda, John Blair

Brazos Valley Civil War History Items on Loan: Mervin and George Marshall Peters, Dr. Floyd Jones and David Burdett

Touring Exhibition Contents: 35-45 objects, including military equipment, uniforms, engravings, books, coins, medals, political campaign items, stereoview cards, commemorative items and souvenirs, flags, and contemporary materials.

Touring Exhibition Commentary: "This exhibition is more than a study of Lee and Grant," states co-curator Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen. "These generals have come to symbolize the two regions that fought the Civil War—each was a product of his region and his rearing. When we investigate the values that they championed and their decisions, which literally changed the course of this country's history, we discover the sectional legacies that many contemporary Americans have inherited from southern gentry and from Yankee self-made men."