



East Village Magazine

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Jackson Civil War muster to be filmed

By Donna Ullrich Aug 2010

iMichigan Productions Inc. will be on location at the Jackson, Mich., 26th Annual Civil War Muster Aug. 28 and Aug. 29 to capture more stories of Michigan's role in the Civil War for its production *The Michigan Experience: The American Civil War Years*. The project comes just in time for Michigan's Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration slated to run April 2011 to April 2015.

The Michigan Experience will be presented by WKAR 23 in East Lansing next spring. The complete production will feature a full-length documentary that producer and director Rodney Brown said "will be the definitive history of Michigan's prestigious role in the Civil War for years to come."

It will also include specials for commercial television and an online classroom aligned with the Michigan Department of Education's curriculum standards. The classroom will be aimed at third, eighth and 11th grade Civil War curriculum and include video, audio and interactive elements. It will be available to public, private, charter, home schools and libraries throughout the state.

Intensive research involving many of Michigan's Civil War historians and re-enactors has resulted in a production that tells the whole story of Michigan's role in the Civil War including its 90,000 soldiers, its senator who orchestrated the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, its agricultural and equestrian contributions to the war effort, its navy and calvary and its Civil War cemeteries. It even includes the role the Civil War played in the invention of Michigan's own Vernor's Ginger Ale.

John Gibney, director of the Monroe County Historical Museum, called the production, "The most factual depiction of the Civil War I have ever viewed."

Through the state's Civil War re-enactor community and historians, the stories of its many regiments and government are told through the voices of the soldiers, government leaders and citizens. These stories include those of the 102 USCT of Detroit, Michigan's only black regiment to fight in the war.

Genesee County-based radio and television personality, Michael J. Thorpe, will be the program host.

With the support of the state historical museum and history buff partners, iMichigan is seeking status for this production as an official activity of the state's Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration.

iMichigan Productions, a nonprofit production company was founded by media professionals Rodney Brown of Grand Blanc, Leon Collins of Houston, Texas, and Donna Ullrich of East Lansing. They recognized the need for providing professional quality experiences for media students in the ever-evolving 21st century digital technology industry. At the same time, they say, there is a great opportunity to develop programming that entertains and educates. iMichigan Productions is seeking programming sponsors and grants to fund its production projects.

Visit www.imichiganproductions.org for more information about iMP.

(Note: This report is provided as a service to our readers and a service to the group or individual mentioned in the release. Usually, only minor editing is done. The group or individual is responsible for all information provided.)