

505 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801  
Ph: 302-655-7161  
Fax: 302-655-7844  
[dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org)



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Contact: [communications@dehistory.org](mailto:communications@dehistory.org) or 302-655-7161

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## Historically Significant Civil War Flag Returns to the Delaware Historical Society

*Underwent critical conservation work supported by crowdfunding campaign.*

Wilmington, DE — An historically significant Civil War flag, sent out for critical conservation work earlier this year after a successful crowdfunding and traditional fundraising campaign, returned home to the Delaware Historical Society this month. The flag will be a highlight in the permanent exhibition on Delaware history that is currently being installed as part of the renovations to the Delaware History Museum, which is scheduled to reopen in early 2016. This will be the first opportunity for the flag to be publicly displayed in many years, possibly since its donation to the Delaware Historical Society in 1884.

The “Rally Round the Flags” campaign had its kickoff in September 2014 with the goal of supporting much-needed conservation work for both the regimental and U.S. flags that were carried by the 1st Delaware Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. After the \$30,000 fundraising goal was met, the regimental flag was transported to Philadelphia, PA in April where textile conservators at Philadelphia Textile & Object Conservation diligently worked to repair and stabilize the damaged flag. With the return of the regimental flag, the U.S. flag will begin the crucial conservation process as well.

Eyewitness accounts detail the dramatic action these two flags saw in the Civil War battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg in 1862 and 1863. Retired in 1864, the flags have been under the care of the Delaware Historical Society since 1884, but have not been exhibited because of the extensive damage they received in battle.

Conservation of these treasured artifacts is a careful and painstaking process that involves flattening and realigning the silk fabric, fitting in loose fabric pieces and ultimately encasing each flag in a custom-made pressure-mount frame suitable for both preservation and exhibition.

To learn more about the flags, their conservation, and the fundraising campaign visit:  
<http://dehistory.org/rally-round-the-flags>.

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit [www.dehistory.org](http://www.dehistory.org).

**Photographs available upon request, including before and after photographs.**

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