



NEWS RELEASE
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150 Years Ago, Florida was 'Blue and Gray'

(Tampa, FL) – Call it Southern pride but, after the Union Navy launched a cannon ball into the living room of the Ferris home in 1862 - one of several bombardments of Tampa - the family never bothered to repair the hole.

That cannon ball, along with Civil War-era maps, weaponry, photographs and reproduction uniforms will be on exhibit during *Blue and Gray in Tampa Bay: The Civil War on Florida's West Coast* opening at the Tampa Bay History Center on January 10th.

In Florida, the third state to secede from the Union in 1861, confrontations between Confederate and Union troops raged along the Gulf Coast. Learn about stealthy Confederate blockade runners and Florida's "Cow Cavalry," plus find out how the War Between the States affected Secessionists, Unionists, slaves and women in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, the History Center will feature the traveling exhibit *Florida in the Civil War*, on loan from the Orange County Regional History Center.

"The opening date of January 10th is significant," said the History Center's Saunders Foundation Curator of History, Rodney Kite-Powell. "Florida seceded from the Union exactly 150 years ago, on January 10, 1861."

Blue and Gray in Tampa Bay is on exhibit through June 2011 in the History Center's Wayne Thomas Gallery. For more information about the exhibition and

related programming, visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org or call (813) 228-0097.

About the Tampa Bay History Center

The Tampa Bay History Center includes three floors of permanent and temporary exhibition space focusing on 12,000 years of Florida history. The History Center also features a Museum Store, the Witt Research Center (a branch of the Hillsborough County Public Library System), a map gallery, an event hall and the Columbia Cafe. One of Tampa's premier cultural venues, the History Center's hands-on, kid-friendly activities, together with cutting-edge interactive exhibits and theaters provide a unique educational experience. For more information, visit www.tampabayhistorycenter.org.

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