

Date: May 11, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCAL PRESERVATION GROUP CELEBRATES PRESERVATION OF LOCAL TREASURE  
Ellwood reopens with restored rooms**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) will be hosting the “grand opening” of Ellwood at the Wilderness. Though the house and grounds officially opened for the 2008 season on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the public will have its first opportunity to view the completion of Phase I of the restoration plan on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

“We have been looking forward to this day for five years,” stated Carolyn Elstner, chair of the Ellwood Restoration Project. “It has been a long, tedious and wonderful experience working as partners with the FSNMP and developing life-long friendships with those who share this dream,” she continued.

Phase I includes the restoration of the first three rooms on the first floor and, most dramatically, the furnishing of the south parlor as Gen G. K. Warren’s headquarters and the entry hall as his adjutant’s “office.”

The funding for this effort is the result of the generosity of hundreds of individuals and the culmination of several years of fundraising activities.

“It is an exciting milestone,” said Zann Miner, volunteer Development Specialist, “but we are not done yet.” FoWB received a huge boost with the recent announcement of a Centennial Initiative grant awarded to the FSNMP of \$240,000. These funds are designated for exhibit and interpretation projects at Ellwood.

FoWB will continue to raise funds to complete the restoration work at Ellwood. “We estimate the need to raise an additional \$100,000,” added Miner. The next phase will address the remaining rooms on the first floor and finally work on the second floor.

Asked why the Friends have undertaken such a project, the answer though not simple resonates loudly with all Americans.

“It is our shared heritage. Those that lived, worked and died here deserve to have their individual and collective memories honored and preserved in perpetuity for future generations.” said Mrs. Elstner.

Ellwood is open May-October, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and Fridays June 6–Aug. 22. Visit [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org) for more on Ellwood, FoWB, or the Wilderness Battlefield.

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**Event Announcement:**

The Ellwood Restoration Celebration: Phase I

Date: Sat. May 17

Hours: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Who: Public is invited.

Fees: None

Refreshments: Lemonade and cookies

Activities: Special tours of the newly completed restoration and furnishings of Gen. G.K. Warren's headquarters at Ellwood (Lacy house) during the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness.