
NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana
Department of State



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OPEN HOUSE AT MANSFIELD FEMALE COLLEGE MUSEUM

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne and the staff and Friends of the Mansfield Female College Museum are inviting the public to visit the museum during an open house on Saturday, April 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event is in conjunction with the re-enactment of the Battle of Mansfield, said to have been the "Bull Run of the West" by a Union soldier who was at both battles, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Mansfield Battle Park.

Former Gov. P.O. Hebert signed paperwork to incorporate the Mansfield Female College in 1855. It became the first women's college west of the Mississippi and offered cutting-edge educational opportunities for women of that era. The college also played a prominent role during the Civil War when Confederate troops participating in the Battle of Mansfield on April 8, 1864 used it as a field hospital. Many of the college's students and residents of Mansfield cared for the wounded and dying soldiers.

The museum features exhibits about the Battle of Mansfield, Civil War medical procedures and authentic medical instruments, a recreated Civil War hospital room and the story of "Old Peg-Leg." Legend has it that Peg-Leg was a Confederate soldier who had his leg amputated and ultimately died at the college. On the evening of April 8 every year, Peg-Leg would emerge seeking out his dismembered appendage. Students celebrated this event annually with the telling of ghost stories and trips to the battlefield. Additional exhibits include the college's history, daily life with recreated dormitories and lobbies, graduation and fine arts education.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information about Mansfield Female College Museum, visit our Web site at www.sos.louisiana.gov/mfcm.

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