



**PILGRIM SOCIETY &  
PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM**  
75 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360  
508-746-1620; [www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)



April 10, 2014

**Contact:** Patrick Browne, [director@pilgrimhallmuseum.org](mailto:director@pilgrimhallmuseum.org)  
Tel. 508-746-1620 ext. 2

**Eastern Bank to Sponsor Pilgrim Hall Museum Exhibition, “Plymouth Witness to the Civil War”**

Pilgrim Hall Museum announces the upcoming opening of a new temporary exhibition, “Plymouth Witness to the Civil War.” The exhibition opens on May 17 and will remain on display until December 30, 2014. The exhibition is sponsored by Eastern Bank.

“Plymouth Witness to the Civil War” centers on a remarkable collection of 65 letters in the archives of Pilgrim Hall Museum written by Private William S. Robbins (1843-1920) of Plymouth. Robbins’s letters tell of his experiences during the war, his trials in camp and on the battlefield, and his connections to those back home in Plymouth.

Seventeen years old at the start of the war, Robbins was working as a clerk. In February 1862, he enlisted with a group of 20 other men from Plymouth and was mustered into the 32nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company F. After three months of training and garrison duty at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor, the 32nd Massachusetts was shipped to Washington at the end of May 1862 and became part of the Army of the Potomac. The regiment took part in some of the most infamous battles of the war. Robbins was present for the Second Battle of Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, among others.

The central storyline of Private Robbins’s experiences will be supplemented by Civil War artifacts from the collections of Pilgrim Hall Museum and other organizations. The artifacts include authentic uniforms, photographs, weapons and other objects belonging to individuals from Plymouth and the surrounding region. Among these objects is the sword of Capt. Samuel Doten who commanded the “Plymouth Rock Guards,” the first company recruited from Plymouth for three years’ service at the start of the war.

Pilgrim Hall Museum will host a reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibition on Saturday, May 17 from 5 - 7 p.m. The reception is free of charge. The event will include demonstrations by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and the United States Sanitary Commission Boston Branch, two local groups of Civil War reenactors who represent roles performed by men and women during the war.

Additional support for the exhibition comes from the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States Massachusetts Commandery and from Wes Ennis Photography.

Those who wish to set up a special group tour of the exhibition should contact Director of Visitor Services Ann Young at 508-746-1620 x.4. For more information about the exhibition in general, contact Curator Stephen O'Neill at 508-746-1620 x.5.

#

---

Pilgrim Hall Museum is located at 75 Court Street (Route 3A), Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

**Information:** 508-746-1620; Web site: [www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org)

**Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Christmas Day and the month of January.

**Admission:** Adults \$8.00; seniors (62+) \$7.00 and AAA members \$6.00; Children (5-17) \$5.00; Families (2 adults with their children aged 5-17) \$25.00. Residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts are admitted free.