PRESS RELEASE

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CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT AT HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

On April 13, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, igniting a terrible Civil War that claimed more than 600,000 lives. 150 years later, on April 12, 2011, Hiwan Homestead Museum will open a major exhibit called "Fateful Lightning: Colorado in the Civil War, 1861-1865". Focusing on the role Colorado played in the War, this exhibit will feature original weapons, battlefield relics, documents, letters, personal items, photos, and other memorabilia. Colorado troops served in several major battles, such as the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico and the battles around Westport, Missouri, the largest Civil War conflicts west of the Mississippi. They also participated in the infamous Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. Confederate guerrillas known as the Reynolds Gang preyed on ranchers and travelers in South Park and the Conifer area.

The exhibit will run through November 20th, and it is sponsored by the Jefferson County Historical Society. This will be the only major exhibit in the state relating to Colorado's role in the Civil War.

Hiwan Homestead Museum is a 25-room log mansion constructed in the Rustic style of architecture. It is located in Evergreen at 4208 S. Timbervale Drive. Hiwan Homestead Museum is a Jefferson County Open Space facility operated in partnership with the Jefferson County Historical Society. The Museum was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.