

BARNUM MUSEUM TO HELP PRESERVE HISTORY AND MEMORIES

REMEMBERING THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

May 2016 - Next year marks the 100th Anniversary of this country's entry into World War One. In an effort to help preserve this significant part of our history, the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport will be assisting the Connecticut State Library in gathering old photos, documents, mementoes and other materials from the war to digitize them and preserve them in the Connecticut Digital Archives.

On Tuesday May 24th from 11:00am until 3:00pm, area residents can bring in their photos, letters and other keepsakes to have them made in to digital copies, safely and easily. Adrienne Saint-Pierre, Barnum Museum Curator says, "This will ensure these items endure for a long time and are available for people to see, do research from and preserve elements of our history". She added, "We know there are a significant number of people in the Greater Bridgeport and Fairfield County areas who had relatives who worked in the factories, or who helped sell War Bonds, or in other capacities assisted on the home front, and who have things they want to share". "They don't need to be from Connecticut either", she added.

As this is the first of the State's events to take place in Fairfield County, area residents are being asked to look around, contact family and friends and neighbors and find things that might be tucked away in drawers or trunks.

The Greater Bridgeport area has an important WWI story to tell. Bridgeport was the ammunition-manufacturing hub of the war, employing tens of thousands of people in factories around the city. A Military Census in 1917 showed Bridgeport registered 78,312 men between the ages of 14 and 95, in addition to a Home Guard, and there were thousands of women working with the Red Cross and Liberty Loan campaigns.

For more information about the event please contact The Barnum Museum at (203) 331-1104 x100 or the Connecticut State Library at 860-757-6517 or CTinWW1@ct.gov. To learn more about the project or other upcoming events please visit www.CTinWorldWar1.org.

###

ABOUT THE BARNUM MUSEUM:

Bridgeport's Barnum Museum is one of P. T. Barnum's many philanthropic gifts. Completed in 1893, the architecturally significant building boasts a unique combination of styles and terra cotta ornamentation, and is listed on the National Register. Today the museum proudly shares the history and legacy of the world-famous entrepreneur, showman, and museum proprietor, who was also a state legislator, mayor, real estate developer, and philanthropist. The museum is home to thousands of artifacts, many

pertaining to Bridgeport native Tom Thumb and his wife, as well as the P. T. Barnum Family, and Nathaniel Wheeler Family. Their furniture, carriages, artwork and other items are currently displayed, along with a centaur and mermaid. Since 2010, the historic building has been undergoing repair and restoration due to a series of weather events that comprised the structure. The Museum is currently open for visitors in the People's United Bank Gallery located behind the historic building, open for viewing and tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m on Thursdays and Fridays year round. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome.