



News release

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**WGTD Radio theater premieres
Wisconsin production of Civil War play**

“Soldier, Come Home,” a play by Frank W. Wicks, based on his great-grandparent’s Civil War letters, will have its Wisconsin premiere in a live broadcast on WGTD Radio Theater 11 a.m. Sept. 22 at the Civil War Museum, 5400 First Ave., Kenosha.

The 91.1 Players will perform the production focused on letters written 1859 to 1865 from western Pennsylvania and several major Civil War battle sites, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg and Appomattox. Wicks, of Maine, will attend the performance.

“I was struck from the beginning by the emotional content of the letters,” Wicks said. “They were filled with conflicts, complicated relationships, humor, enormous difficulties and struggles for survival. I felt that the energy of the letters, plus their historical importance, would make an interesting dramatic presentation.”

Prior to the 11 a.m. performance of “Soldier, Come Home,” Wicks will be Steve Brown’s guest in a live broadcast from The Civil War Museum of WGTD’s “Education Matters,” which airs at 10:30 a.m.

Wicks used the letters of his great-grandparents, Philip and Mary Pringle, to write the script for his play. Mary Pringle wrote to her husband from Armagh, Penn., while he responded from several major Civil War battle sites. The letters were discovered in a shoe box in 1950 in the attic of the home of Wicks' grandparents, John S. Wicks and Sadie Pringle Wicks, in South Fork, Penn. Wicks' father, Frank Wicks Sr., began to transcribe the letters. After his father's death, Wicks continued the project and began work on "Soldier, Come Home."

"This is an extraordinary story of courage, honesty, love and hope for a new future for America, for both the North and the South," says WGTD Radio Theater co-executive producer and director Steve Brown. "In addition, the true magic of Frank Wicks' play is in its simplicity which comes alive through the letters that are read to the audience. These letters become the dialogue, conflict, humor and emotions that completely take over the moment this play begins."

Stars from the 91.1 Players, who appear in this performance, are Andrew Potter, Alexa Eaves, Todd Eaves, John O'Leksy and Don Jensen.

Audience members are welcome and admission is free. The audience should arrive by 10:45 a.m. In addition to being aired over WGTD, the program will also be streamed live online at WGTD.org. WGTD can be heard in Racine and Kenosha counties at 91.1 FM, in the Elkhorn area at 101.7 FM, and in the Lake Geneva area at 103.3 FM. The broadcast is produced by WGTD Radio Theater and The Brown Ullstrup Performing Arts Foundation.

A history of the play can be found at <http://civilwarplay.com/>

For more information, contact Brown at (262) 813-0144.

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