

For Immediate Release

"Painting for Preservation" Initiative Names Frederick W. Lander, G.A.R. Post 5 Museum Inaugural Recipient.

Lynn, MA. (December 19, 2004) – The *"Painting for Preservation"* initiative is pleased to announce that the Frederick W. Lander, G.A.R. Post 5 Museum, of Lynn, Massachusetts, is the inaugural recipient of funds generated by the program. Created by Historical Landscape and Preservation artist Jeff Fioravanti, this initiative, by allocating a portion of *"all sales"* from the artist's *"historic landscape"* series, is designed to support the mission of those non-profit groups and organizations entrusted and dedicated to protecting and preserving the treasured lands, properties and antiquities of our national heritage.

"The Post 5 G.A.R. Hall in Lynn is a treasure of a quickly fading fraternity," stated the artist. "Due to many factors, many of the G.A.R. Halls, important portals to our past, have been lost, neglected, or converted to other uses, resulting in few hidden jewels like Post 5 remaining," continued the artist. "I am proud to help such an important entity maintain and continue its mission for our future generations."

Named for Frederick W. Lander, a transcontinental explorer, poet and brevet brigadier general of volunteers, the Post 5 Grand Army of the Republic Museum was erected in 1885 with funds raised by local Civil War veterans for what was to be the largest G.A.R. post in the country. Its most magnificent feature is the 56' x 46' main hall on the third floor, which retains the original furnishings and has its walls covered to the ceiling with photos of the members of the post. In addition to the main hall, there are six additional rooms which house memorabilia from the veterans of the post as well as items from the Revolutionary War through the Korean War. There is also a research library with an impressive built-in bookcase, designed and built by one of the founding veterans.

"Thus far, most of my efforts with preservation, have involved American Civil War sites, considered the front lines of historic preservation, including Gettysburg and Maryland," noted the artist. "For the inaugural distribution of funds from the *"Painting for Preservation"* initiative, I wanted to aid a worthy cause closer to home, where preservation of the period is just as vital to our understanding and appreciation of the time, but seems to garner less focus or lack awareness except to a small few," continued the artist. "The Post 5 GAR Hall is a gem that certainly deserves our attention and is worth saving."

"Hopefully, one day, many more will show an interest in the value of saving our history, and the protection and preservation of these cherished and important sites of our country will result," concluded Fioravanti.

The Frederick W. Lander, G.A.R. Post 5 Hall is located at 58 Andrew Street, in Lynn, Massachusetts. The Hall is typically open, M-F from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, and evenings, on the second Friday of each month (September – June) during the North Shore Civil War Roundtable meeting. Further information may be obtained by calling: 781-477-7085.

Information about artist Jeff Fioravanti, the "Painting for Preservation" initiative, as well as his artwork and other efforts with preservation, may be obtained by contacting the artist at 781-595-5961, via email at jfiorava@concentric.net, or by visiting the artist's web site at: <http://www.fioravanti-fineart.com>.