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ANNA ELLA CARROLL RECOGNITION DAY AND WORLD PREMIERE FILM SCREENING OF <u>THE LOST RIVER</u> SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, IN CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

Celebrating the True Life Story of Eastern Shore Native Anna Ella Carroll, Military Strategist and Adviser to President Abraham Lincoln; Her Involvement in the Civil War was kept a Secret

Film Screening Takes Place at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay at 7 p.m., with a Special Pre-Reception at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door (\$35 to attend both the Pre-Reception with VIPs and the Film Screening).

Hosted by the Friends of Anna Ella Carroll in Partnership with the Maryland Women's Heritage Center

BALTIMORE / **CAMBRIDGE**, **Md.** – The Friends of Anna Ella Carroll in partnership with the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the first comprehensive state-based center and museum of its kind in the United States recognizing the experiences and contributions of Maryland women and girls, hosts the **world premiere film screening of** <u>The Lost River</u> celebrating the true life story of Eastern Shore native Anna Ella Carroll. **The screening is set to take place on** "**Anna Ella Carroll Recognition Day" on Saturday, November 20**, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay located at 100 Heron Boulevard in Cambridge, Md.

The film screening takes place at 7 p.m., with a special pre-reception at 5 p.m., including the film's producer Bruce Bridegroom, Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, President of Military Women in Service and the driving force to build a memorial to women in military service in Arlington Cemetery, and Eastern Shore artist Laura Era, as well as other VIPs.

Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door. To attend both the pre-reception and the film screening, the cost is \$35. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Friends of Anna Ella Carroll at 410-943-1694 or the Maryland Women's Heritage Center at 410-767-0675 or www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the Dorchester County Visitor's Center (410-228-1000) or the Troika Gallery in Easton, Md. (410-770-9190).

Anna Ella Carroll, a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore, served as President Abraham Lincoln's military strategist and adviser. She is credited with helping to prevent Maryland's secession from the Union, however, her involvement in the war was kept a secret from the public and the military for fear that Union generals and soldiers would not follow a plan devised by a woman civilian.

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In fact, the 1864 painting of the *First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln* by Francis Carpenter depicting Lincoln and his cabinet prominently displays an empty chair filled with notes and maps, similar to the ones Carroll often carried. Many historians now feel it was Carpenter's way of acknowledging Carroll, the unrecognized member of the cabinet.

[Artist Laura Era is currently creating a Maryland version of Francis Carpenter's famous painting, which is to have Anna Ella Carroll seated in the "empty chair." She is working from Troika Gallery in Easton, Md., and her painting is to be revealed at the film screening on Saturday, November 20. It will then be shown throughout Maryland.]

Once the Civil War was over, Carroll was largely ignored, until, in 1870, she officially appealed to Congress for both recognition and compensation, which she was finally granted in 1881. Her story became a banner for the women's suffrage movement. To many, she remains an historical symbol of women's contributions and the inequities in their recognition and compensation.

According to Frank Bittner of the Friends of Anna Ella Carroll, "Anna Ella Carroll not only called Dorchester County her home, but she is also buried here. Over the years, there have been many dedicated local citizens who have been determined to preserve her memory, such as historian Earl Brannock. We are proud to be able to help preserve her honor by hosting this world premiere here in Cambridge."

Jill Moss Greenberg, Executive Director of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, said, "I applaud the work of Frank [Bittner] and his colleagues in working for the long overdue recognition of the national importance of Anna Ella Carroll. I anticipate that people from throughout the state and beyond—media buffs, those interested in history, and people who care about the recognition of women—will flock to these Anna Ella Carroll Day events."

About The Lost River

For more information, visit http://lostriverthemovie.com/

Written and produced by Arizona attorney and historian Bruce Bridegroom, the film is produced by Joe Dunlap and directed by Jason Urban. Veteran New York stage actress Tami Sutton portrays Anna Ella Carroll. Fritz Klein is Abraham Lincoln, a role he has been playing since 1976 in productions on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and the feature "No Retreat from Destiny." Additional cast include James Reeves as General Grant, Wayne Strickler as General Winfield Scott, Joe Jones as Lemuel Evans, and Reb Moorehead as Edwin Stanton.

"... I will tell you what Mr. Lincoln said of you last night. I was there with some seven or eight members. . .when a note came with a box from you. He seemed delighted—and read your letter to us and showed the contents of your box. He said Miss Anna Ella Carroll is the head of the Carroll race, and when the history of this war is written, she will stand a good bit taller than ever old Charles did."

- Rep. William Mitchell (R-Ind.), 13 May 1862