



## NEWS RELEASE

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- **Battle of Homestead Foundation earns funding for digital archives**
  - **Rivers of Steel program grant bolsters labor history preservation efforts**
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**HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA** — The **Battle of Homestead Foundation** has received a timely grant it hopes will encourage today’s audiences to take a deeper look at the area’s historical past.

The \$4,881 award was given by the [Rivers of Steel Heritage Area Mini-Grant Program](#) and supports the Foundation’s efforts to digitize its extensive labor history archives for online public access.

In all, the Rivers of Steel grant program allocated \$60,000 among eight local nonprofits involved in heritage tourism, community development and placemaking initiatives.

“We are very grateful to Rivers of Steel for including the Battle of Homestead Foundation in this wonderfully diverse group of organizations,” says Foundation president **John Haer**. “This July we mark the 130th anniversary of the 1892 Battle of Homestead; expanding our ability to bring this history to more people is vital.”

The Rivers of Steel grant allows the Foundation to join Pennsylvania’s [POWER Library](#), an online portal linking databases and catalogs from all Pennsylvania libraries, says **Sinéad Bligh**, archives advisor for the Foundation.

“As a partner, the POWER Library search engine will host our Foundation archive and provide support, training and custom programming to ensure our archive materials can be shared to library users across Pennsylvania.”

Battle of Homestead Foundation Archives co-chair **Perry Recker** agrees. “Having a researchable, online digital archive helps us provide a more complete picture of the people whose labor built our region and shaped the local communities in which we live today.”

Founded in 1992, the [Battle of Homestead Foundation](#) is an educational nonprofit promoting Western Pennsylvania’s vibrant industrial and labor history starting with the 1892 Homestead Steel Strike and connecting with current labor issues involving economics, the environment, healthcare, racism and other social concerns.

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