Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

...to preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley...

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333)
... to create partnerships... to preserve, conserve, enhance, and interpret the nationally significant battlefields and related sites associated with the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley...

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (PL. 104-333)


LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation this past year. This has been the culmination of three years on the Battlefields Commission helping to write the management plan for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and the six years on the Foundation’s Board. As I conclude my time on the Board I have every confidence that incoming chairman, Dr. Irvin Hess, will provide stable leadership and bring abundant enthusiasm to the Foundation’s work as a result of his tremendous interest and commitment to its purposes and vision.

During 2006 the Battlefields Foundation made considerable progress toward implementing the District’s Management Plan. It protected nearly 600 acres of battlefield land through donated and purchased easements and purchase of land in fee. We have now added more than 1,200 acres to the protected battlefield lands in the National Historic District. The Foundation has also added to the body of knowledge about the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley, hosted a successful symposium, and made significant strides toward completing an interpretive plan for the historic sites in the District. We also launched a marketing program that will assist in making the Valley’s economy even stronger through increased heritage tourism. These accomplishments have not been achieved without considerable effort, diplomacy, compromise—and at times a little head clunking. It is truly satisfying to see the planning efforts of the Battlefields Commission coming to fruition.

In addition, 2006 saw a substantial increase in the number of individual and organizational donors who support the Foundation’s work. Their contributions supplement and further our congressional appropriation and grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are grateful for this collective generosity and trust in the Foundation’s stewardship of financial resources.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the current and past trustees who have given of their time, talent, and resources to help the Battlefields Foundation move forward, the Foundation’s capable staff, and the many individuals who have volunteered their time and skills to advance our plan for the National Historic District.

With sincere best wishes,
Kris C. Tierney
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

National heritage area board members and staff—including SVBF Chairman Kris Tierney, Executive Director Howard Kittell, Program Manager Elizabeth Stern, and Office Manager Nancy Long—joined National Park Service Director Fran Mainello at a Capitol Hill press conference in July to release the NPS Advisory Board report on heritage areas in the U.S.
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

“...this community-based approach emphasizes Valley hospitality and showcases the personalities, stories, and attractions of five different areas centered on the battlefields . . .”
–Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Management Plan

In July, the NPS Advisory Board and the National Geographic Society issued a report to Congress on the value of National Heritage Areas and cited the Battlefields Foundation and the National Historic District as one of the model National Heritage Areas in the United States.

National Heritage Areas
The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District is one of the nation’s 37 National Heritage Areas. National Heritage Areas are parts of our country’s landscape that have been recognized by the United States Congress for their unique contributions to the American experience. A heritage area may be developed around a common theme or an industry that influenced the culture and history of that region and our country.
—National Park Service
RESOURCE PROTECTION

The federal legislation creating the National Historic District identifies ten Civil War battlefields to be preserved. The law and the District's Management Plan mandate voluntary protection of these battlefields as well as other cultural and natural resources.

More than 600 acres preserved at seven battlefields

In Fiscal Year 2006, the Battlefields Foundation protected more than 600 acres at seven battlefields, bringing to 1,201 acres the total area protected by the Foundation since its inception six years ago. As of November 2006, the Foundation is working with 30 additional landowners on projects that could preserve an additional 3,000 acres at the Valley’s battlefields.

The Battlefields Foundation’s preservation work this year demonstrated its use of a variety of land protection tools, including purchasing the land itself, purchasing a conservation easement, and the donation of a conservation easement by a landowner to the Foundation, as well as the use of public and private funds.

Fisher’s Hill battlefield
(Shenandoah County - 15 acres)

Following the recommendations made by local landowners in the Fisher’s Hill and Tom’s Brook Battlefields Preservation Plan, the Foundation purchased this parcel atop Flint Hill adjacent to a 22-acre property purchased by the Foundation in 2001.

Tom’s Brook battlefield
(Shenandoah County - 109 acres)

Shenandoah County asked the Battlefields Foundation to consider purchasing the property to ensure its protection as envisioned in the landowner-directed Fisher’s Hill and Tom’s Brook Battlefields Preservation Plan. In July, the Foundation purchased the land, which also lies adjacent to the county farm and park.

New Market battlefield
(Shenandoah County - 69 acres)

This purchase links the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, owned by the Virginia Military Institute, with land purchased by the Battlefields Foundation in 2005, bringing the total protected area at New Market to almost 500 acres, the largest contiguous protected battlefield area in the Valley.

LEGEND FOR SMALL MAPS

- Preserved by DVF in FY2006
- Previously Preserved by DVF
- Preserved by Partners
- National Park Service
- County Park Area
- Battlefield Core Area
- Battlefield Study Area
Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), one of the architects of the valley program, called it a “huge success.”

“I have not heard any complaints, absolutely no complaints, and that is very unusual,” Wolf said. “When we first introduced the legislation, questions were raised about property rights and other issues, but we addressed those concerns. Since then, there has been great cooperation.”

The Washington Post - October 12, 2006
Coordinating the Valley’s Interpretive Work

In September, the Foundation and its partners resumed work on a District-wide interpretive plan. When complete, the plan will help historic sites throughout the Valley coordinate their interpretive efforts so that visitors will experience a consistent, seamless, and meaningful exploration of the region’s Civil War story. The plan is funded by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service.

“If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost!”
- Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign

In May, the Battlefields Foundation hosted a day-long symposium looking at Confederate Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign. The occasion also heralded the release of the Foundation’s booklet about the campaign, comprised of essays by well-known historians, edited by the Foundation’s Interpretation & Education Committee, and generously funded by a grant from BB&T Bank-Blue Ridge Region.
VISITOR SERVICES & TOURISM

The Battlefields Foundation is to develop a high-quality branding and marketing program for the National Historic District that will help make it and its individual sites a world-class visitor destination that provides fuel for the Shenandoah Valley’s economic engine.

Coordinating the District’s Tourism Marketing

In the summer, the Foundation issued a request for proposals for creation of a District-wide marketing plan. The marketing plan will be a blueprint for how partners throughout the Valley will coordinate their efforts to promote the region—particularly its Civil War story—as a visitor destination to maximize the District’s economic impact. In September, the Foundation chose the National Trust’s Heritage Tourism Program as the consultant to coordinate the development of a workable plan.

“What do those big brown signs mean?” — Training hospitality personnel about the District

In the spring, the Battlefields Foundation and the Valley’s tourism offices collaborated to offer a series of training sessions for hospitality personnel throughout the National Historic District. The sessions were designed to inform these front-line workers about the National Historic District and the historic sites so that they can help visitors explore the Valley’s Civil War story.

Advertising: bringing visitors to the Valley

Until the completion of the marketing plan for the District, the Battlefields Foundation directs its tourism advertising dollars to publications recommended by the Foundation’s Tourism Committee and works with tourism partners to find cooperative advertising opportunities where possible.
FOSTERING LOCAL COLLABORATION: THE “CLUSTERS”

The District Management Plan groups the battlefields and related historic sites into five geographic “clusters.” The Battlefields Foundation is to encourage and assist partner organizations in each cluster area to collaborate to tell their communities’ unique Civil War stories.

Winchester

First Kernstown/First Winchester Battlefield Driving Tour: Following the template created for the Cross Keys & Port Republic and the Third Winchester driving tours, the cluster group developed a printed tour for the two Winchester-area battles associated with Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign.

Civil War Weekend: In September, Civil War sites all over the Winchester-Frederick County area collaborated to offer special programs bringing the community’s Civil War experience to life for visitors.

Orientation Center: Work has begun on what will be the second of five Civil War orientation centers in the National Historic District. The center will be co-located with the new regional visitor center—managed by the Convention & Visitors Bureau—as well as Shenandoah University’s History & Tourism Center.

Signal Knob

In the fall of 2005, a stakeholders’ group was formed for what had previously been called the “Cedar Creek - Fisher’s Hill - Tom’s Brook” cluster. As its initial project, the group created a brochure guide to the Civil War sites in this area. In developing the piece, the group renamed itself the “Signal Knob” cluster for its most prominent geographic feature: the north end of Massanutten Mountain. Among other things, the knob served as a signal station for Confederate troops during the war.

Rockingham

Preservation March: In June, the cluster hosted the largest-yet event on the Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields. Dubbed “Shenandoah 1862,” the occasion brought more than 600 reenactors from across the country to raise funds to protect the farm fields where the final two battles of Jackson’s Valley Campaign were fought.

Kids Camp: The second annual Cross Keys Kids Camp took place in July. More than 40 children took part in this sold-out event where they learned about soldier life during the war as well as the effect of the war on the civilians who struggled through it.
MANAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

In fulfilling its mission as the “lead managing partner” for the National Historic District, the Battlefields Foundation is working with and supporting local, regional, and national partners to protect, interpret, and promote Civil War battlefields and related sites in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

Identified in the new park’s legislation as one of its key partners, the Battlefields Foundation serves on the Federal Advisory Commission that is helping the Park Service write the park’s General Management Plan. The Foundation also participates with other key partners on planning for activities and events at the park - in addition to preserving land within the boundary of the park.

Carrington Williams Preservation Award

In late November, the Shenandoah Valley lost a great friend and perhaps its best-loved historian when John Heatwole’s fight with cancer ended. John was a passionate, active participant, a leader, and a supporter of the National Historic District and of the Battlefields Foundation. He was a founding trustee of the Foundation and a member of the federal commission that predated it. He gave unstintingly of his time, energy, and talent to collect and present the Shenandoah Valley’s heritage and specifically its Civil War history. His efforts stimulated an increased understanding of the importance of the Valley’s Civil War battlefields and historic sites to local, state, and national elected officials, organizations, and individuals.

John’s persistent, consistent, and diplomatic approach to preserving the Valley’s battlefields and heritage was in keeping with the model set by Carrington Williams, the founding chairman of the federal commission and the Battlefields Foundation. John’s passion for the Shenandoah Valley, for its Civil War history, and for the preservation of its battlefields and sites was akin to that of Carrington’s. For these reasons, at an event in his honor in October, John Heatwole became the recipient of the 2006 Carrington Williams Preservation Award. The Foundation will strive to continue in the path of these two remarkable leaders.

Volunteer of the Year Award

A number of accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the efforts of Jonathan A. Noyalas, the recipient of the Battlefields Foundation’s 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award. Jonathan edited the Foundation’s booklet about Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign, helped coordinate the symposium where the booklet was released, and spoke at the symposium. In addition, he coordinated and wrote the Winchester cluster’s driving tour for the First Kernstown and First Winchester battlefields.

Jonathan serves on the Foundation’s Interpretation & Education Committee and on the board of the Kernstown Battlefield Association. He is a history professor at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia and director of the College’s Center for Civil War History and Institute of Culture and History and is the author of “My Will Is Absolute Law”: A Biography of Union General Robert H. Milroy and Plagued by War: Winchester, Virginia, During the Civil War. The Foundation is deeply grateful for all of the hard work that Jonathan has done to make the Valley’s Civil War story more accessible for the region and the nation.

FY 2006 Budgeted Income and Expenses

(1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006)

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*This figure includes battlefield preservation appropriations carried over from the prior fiscal year.
FUNDING THE FOUNDATION’S WORK
The Battlefields Foundation is grateful to the following private donors who have chosen to share their resources with us.
Our Partners

As one of 37 congressionally-created National Heritage Areas, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District receives federal funding through the National Park Service’s National Heritage Areas Program as well as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Our partnership with the National Park Service is one of our strongest.

In addition, the Battlefields Foundation is fortunate to have partnered in 2006 with a wide variety of organizations throughout the Shenandoah Valley and beyond. There is no way to fully list all of these organizations but a sampling follows.

10th Virginia Reenactors
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
Augusta County Historical Society
Belle Grove Plantation
Bridgewater College
Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
The Center for Civil War Living History, Inc.
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
Civil War Preservation Trust
Col. D.H. Lee Martz Camp #10, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Cross Keys-Goods Mill Historical Society
Cross Keys-Mill Creek Ruritan Club
Elkton Historical Society
Fort Collier Civil War Center
Frederick County
Frederick County Farm Bureau
Frederick County Historic Resources Advisory Board
Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River
Town of Front Royal
Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance
Front Royal Tourism
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Harrisonburg Tourism
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society
Highland County
Highland Historical Society
James Madison University
Kernstown Battlefield Association
Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
Lord Fairfax Community College
Luray-Page Chamber of Commerce
National Forest Service
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
New Market Battlefield State Historical Park
Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
Northern Shenandoah Valley Travel Council
Old Court House Civil War Museum
The Opequon Watershed, Inc.
Preservation of Historic Winchester
Rockingham County
Rockingham County
Scenic 340 Project
Shenandoah County
Shenandoah Parks and Recreation Department
Shenandoah County Tourism
Shenandoah Valley Civil War Round Table
Shenandoah Valley Network
Shenandoah Valley Travel Association
Society of Port Republic Preservationists
Staunton Convention & Visitors Bureau
Stone House Foundation
Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp’s Hill
Strasburg Heritage Association
Strasburg Museum/Shenandoah County Historical Society
Turner Ashby Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy
Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center
Valley Conservation Council
Virginia Civil War Trails
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
Virginia Land Conservation Fund
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Virginia Tourism Corporation
Warren County
City of Waynesboro
City of Winchester
Warren Heritage Society
Warren Rifles Confederate Museum
Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
Winchester Green Circle/Shawnee Springs
Winchester Old Town Development Board

Created by Congress in 1996, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District encompasses Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties in Virginia and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester. As authorized by the Secretary of the Interior, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation serves as the non-profit manager for the District, partnering with local, regional, and national organizations and governments to preserve the Shenandoah Valley’s Civil War battlefields and interpret and promote the Valley’s Civil War story for the region and the nation.

Details about the information contained in this report may be found online at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org or by calling the Foundation’s offices.