... 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

“Daddy, where do the kids play?”

Protecting battlefields does more than preserving sacred vestiges of land. Battlefield protection is also a means of ensuring open spaces, rivers, and streams are available for the education and enjoyment of future generations, while preserving agricultural land sustains our ability to produce our own foods and support our local agricultural economy.

These points are driven home to me almost every day. Recently I was visiting with Winchester businessman and Foundation friend Bill Hottel. Bill told me that he was in northern Virginia with his then seven-year old son. After driving past seemingly endless residential developments, his son asked, “Daddy, where do the kids play?”

The Battlefields Foundation does, indeed, play a role in assuring that future generations of children will have a place to play.

Take, for instance, the Foundation’s purchase in 2009 of the Huntsberry Farm at Third Winchester. Together with the 136 acres already owned by the Foundation and 222 acres owned by the Civil War Trust, a total of 567 contiguous acres are now preserved. This tract, in the middle of one of the largest battles fought in the Shenandoah Valley, lies only minutes from US Route 11 and I-81 and can be reached from most of Winchester in 15 minutes.

The Third Winchester land will become a place where children can play, and when older they can learn about the monumental sacrifices and the enduring courage our soldiers experienced on the same land. For all of us, Third Winchester will become a place of pride in the lower Shenandoah Valley.
The task to realize this dream is ambitious. We are currently defining the scope of improving this beautiful property in accordance with best management practices for agricultural and historic landscapes. Then will come an interpretation plan to determine how best to coordinate the property’s agricultural use with interpretation and visitation, followed by the implementation of the plan.

While this project is ambitious – and it is only one of many on our work list – we know it can be done with the help of our dedicated trustees, staff, and supporters.

We had a good year in 2010, despite the uncertainties of funding from our governmental partners. We protected an additional 276 acres at three battlefields, including the 40 acres pictured here along Cedar Creek, as well as farmland at Cross Keys and Fisher’s Hill.

We made progress with our stewardship and interpretive efforts throughout the region, and we began to cultivate strategic partnerships with key tourism stakeholders, especially Luray Caverns. Finally, the planning process for our trail project at Fisher’s Hill – which combines all of the elements our mission articulated in our legislation above – made great strides in 2010.

Looking at landscapes like the one pictured here, one cannot help but be inspired. As the Battlefields Foundation enters its next decade, we are even more confident that with your support, these exquisite landscapes, these vital elements of the Valley’s agricultural economy, and this hallowed ground will be here for future generations.

My thanks for all that you do for the Shenandoah Valley’s Battlefields.

W. Denman Zirkle
Executive Director
In 2009, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation initiated its most ambitious project yet: a trail that will link preserved areas of the Fisher’s Hill battlefield to one another, to the nearby Town of Strasburg, and ultimately to Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

**Historic Road to Battlefield Trail**

Even before the Shenandoah Valley was settled by Europeans, the Valley Pike—once a footpath, then a wagon road and a turnpike, and now US 11—was a vital transportation route for people moving through the region. It carried new settlers to the western areas of the Virginia colony. Union and Confederate armies moved along it during the Civil War, as did tourists and commerce throughout the 20th century.

In the coming years, the Valley Pike will add a new distinction to its long history by becoming part of a new trail system in northern Shenandoah County connecting the Fisher’s Hill battlefield with the Town of Strasburg and the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

Sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the $1.5 million project is funded in part by transportation enhancement grants and will connect properties that have been preserved using federal, state, local, and private funds. The Battlefields Foundation protects a total of 426 acres at Fisher’s Hill.

**Engaging the Public in the Planning Process and...**

Determining the trail’s location and features has involved a team of technical advisors – including representatives from the National Park Service and Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation – and a steering committee comprised of landowners from throughout the project area, representatives of potential user groups (bicyclists, hikers), historians, local preservation organizations, and the town and the county.

The initial phase of the project – planned to begin in spring 2011 – will improve parking, interpretation, and trail access on the Foundation’s Ramsaur’s Hill property west of Interstate 81. Future phases will prepare other preserved areas for visitation before linking them together.
The project involves every element of the Foundation’s mission: preservation of battlefield land along the trail, responsible stewardship of the historic landscape along the trail’s path, interpretation of the battle and its context, and the creation of media to encourage visitors to explore this part of the District.

The Gibraltar of the Valley

The Battle of Fisher’s Hill (22 September 1864) was one of the last major battles in the Shenandoah Valley. In the fall of 1864, Union commanders sent Gen. Philip H. Sheridan to the Valley to bring a final end to Confederate control of the region. After delivering a crushing defeat at Winchester on 19 September, Sheridan faced Confederate Gen. Jubal Early just south of Strasburg at Fisher’s Hill, where the Valley is at its most narrow – the area was called the “Gibraltar of the Valley.”

Although firmly lodged in earthworks above the Valley Turnpike, Early’s diminished forces were not able to fully cover the Valley’s span. As a result, the Federals routed the thinned Confederate lines along Fisher’s Hill. Seeing that they had been flanked, the Southerners were forced into a hasty retreat along the Valley Turnpike towards Woodstock.

In its 1992 survey of the Valley’s Civil War battlefields, the National Park Service noted the significance of the Battle of Fisher’s Hill. “Confederate defeat at Fisher's Hill...opened the Shenandoah Valley to a US advance that reached beyond Staunton,” the report said. “When Sheridan withdrew during the first part of October, his army systematically burned mills, barns, crops, and forage, and ran off livestock. By implementing this strategy of ‘total warfare,’ Sheridan felt that he accomplished the primary objective of his campaign--to deprive the Confederacy of the agricultural abundance of the Valley.”

...Looking to the Future

Ultimately, the project – which is expected to result in a ten-to-twelve mile long trail – will not only connect areas of the battlefield to one another. It will also connect key elements of the community to one another: the battlefield, the town, the national park. It will offer visitors and residents increased recreational opportunities, and by interpreting the area’s Civil War history it will support the region’s tourism economy and educate visitors about the role of the Shenandoah Valley in this important part of American history.

Finally, the project supports the preservation of the surrounding farmland, contributing to the Valley’s agricultural economy and improving water quality in Tumbling Run, which flows through the Fisher’s Hill battlefield into the Shenandoah River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.
Land Preserved at Cedar Creek, Fisher’s Hill, and Cross Keys

In the early morning mists of October 19, 1864, Confederates from Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina crossed the field pictured above – which lies along Cedar Creek in the northern Shenandoah Valley – and launched a devastating attack on the Federal brigade of Lieutenant Colonel Wildes’ (quoted above), entrenched just to the north – units from New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

In 2010, the Battlefields Foundation permanently protected this land – a 40-acre field in Warren County – adding it to the 494 acres it had already protected on the Cedar Creek battlefield and within the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. The conservation easement acquired on the property keeps this land available for farming and protects this portion of the stream corridor, which improves water quality for the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Other projects completed in 2010 protect land at Cross Keys in Rockingham County and at Fisher’s Hill in Shenandoah County, totaling 236 acres. They ensure that those hallowed grounds will keep their historic character and continue to contribute to the Valley’s agricultural economy.

Preservation through Partnership

The Battlefields Foundation leveraged its federal funding for land preservation by almost two-to-one to conserve 276 acres at three battlefields in 2010. Of the $1.4 million spent to preserve these properties, more than $770,000 came from the Foundation’s public and private partners.

Grants from the Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund totaling more than $378,000 were used by SVBF to protect properties at Cedar Creek and Fisher’s Hill. This includes $94,402 awarded by Governor Bob McDonnell at a ceremony in Chancellorsville in April. Virginia’s investment was matched by $332,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Civil War Trust.
Stewardship

Preserving battlefields is more than purchasing land or conservation easements. Ensuring that these historic landscapes are well managed is important. In its stewardship of its protected properties, the Foundation uses best management practices for natural and cultural landscapes.

Since 2001, the Foundation has protected more than 2,100 acres of land on ten Shenandoah Valley battlefields. Most of that land remains in the same use it was during the Civil War: agricultural production.

From the Huntsberry Farm and Fay Spring properties at Third Winchester, to land at Tom’s Brook, New Market, Cross Keys, and Port Republic, the Battlefields Foundation has implemented agricultural and forestal practices on its land that promote healthy farms and better water quality, in addition to preserving its historic character, topography, and resources.

In this work, the Foundation partners with agencies and organizations such as the Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District, the National Park Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the departments of Historic Resources, Forestry, and Game and Inland Fisheries, as well as Trout Unlimited, and many others. Their partnership and funding have supported the Foundation’s responsible stewardship of this incredibly important landscape.

Star Fort: Defending Winchester

As one of the few remaining defensive earthworks in the Lower Shenandoah Valley – and one that is in stunningly good condition – Star Fort provides a fascinating opportunity for Americans to learn about this aspect of the Civil War.

With support from Frederick County and the fort’s surrounding neighborhood, the Battlefields Foundation is taking steps to preserve and rehabilitate the nine-acre property. To stabilize the earthworks, much of the extensive overgrowth of invasive vegetation has been removed using a process that protects the sensitive fortifications. In the coming year, mulch made from the felled trees will be used to create a trail system in preparation for opening the site for interpretation and enjoyment.
The Battlefields Foundation is directed by the District’s Management Plan to coordinate a regional interpretive program that includes visitor education, living history demonstrations, and other interpretive techniques, all unified through a District wayfinding system.

Sharing the Valley’s Civil War History from the Civilian Point of View

For residents of the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War, the home front was the battle front, making the impact of the war especially devastating.

In December 2009, the Battlefields Foundation hosted a day-long symposium examining the civilian experience in the Valley during the horrific years of the war. The event, held at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, featured five scholars of the Civil War period in the Valley: Dr. Edward L. Ayers, Dr. Jonathan M. Berkey, Kenneth E. Koons, Jonathan A. Noyalas, and Nancy T. Sorrels. The speakers highlighted the distinct and at times heart-breaking impact of the Civil War on nearly every aspect of the lives of the average civilian.

The event also marked the release of the Foundation’s third booklet on the history of the war in the Valley, Home Front to Front Line: The Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley. Funded by the Grattan Weaver Foundation, the booklet features chapters on civilian life from a variety of perspectives. Earlier publications focused on the military campaigns of Stonewall Jackson and Philip Sheridan. Together, the three-booklet series provides a multi-faceted look at the impact of the Valley’s Civil War history on the nation and the region. The booklets are available at visitor centers and retail outlets throughout the Valley.

Marching for Preservation: Cross Keys and Port Republic

In June, more than 500 reenactors took part in “Shenandoah ’62”, a preservation march at the Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields. The seven-mile march, organized by the 10th Virginia Infantry and supported by Pridgeon’s Shenandoah Legion, was the second such preservation event that reenactors have held on these battlefields.

The event raised more than $10,000 to support the Battlefields Foundation’s work on the sites of the twin battles of June 8 and 9, 1862, that brought a close to Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.

Funds from the march will fund improved interpretation and visitor access at the Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields.
Tourism & Visitor Services

Guiding visitors through the National Historic District involves a high-quality branding and marketing program to strengthen the Shenandoah Valley’s position as a preeminent visitor destination, one that provides fuel for the region’s economic engine.

Enhancing Tourism Partnerships: Luray Caverns

The Battlefields Foundation has joined with Luray Caverns in a new multi-faceted tourism and education partnership that will attract new audiences to the Valley’s Civil War sites and attractions while also supporting the Foundation’s interpretive and preservation efforts.

August saw the grand opening of Luray Caverns’ new Luray Valley Museum. The museum provides an impressive overview of the Valley’s history, including a Civil War gallery. At the entrance to this gallery is a Shenandoah Valley Battlefields interpretive panel designed to serve as both a compelling introduction to the Valley’s Civil War story and as a preamble to the gallery itself.

In September, the Caverns hosted its second annual Civil War reenactment. Students from Luray, Page, and Mt. Carmel Christian middle schools toured the encampments, learning about camp life, period clothing, medicine and other elements of life during the war. Battlefields Foundation donors received complimentary tickets to the reenactment, and Luray Caverns graciously donated the proceeds from the event to the Foundation for further preservation efforts.

In addition, the Foundation has installed a New Market-Luray area Civil War Orientation Panel in the Caverns’ new tourism kiosk. The panel gives visitors an overview of the area’s Civil War history and directs them to the sites where they can experience that history today.

First Public Tour of the Huntsberry Farm

As the Battlefields Foundation works to stabilize the newly-protected Huntsberry Farm property at Third Winchester, it held a first-ever public tour of the farm in September. Led by National Park Service interpreter Eric Campbell – who ventured out from his new position at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park – the tour covered properties owned by the Foundation and Civil War Trust, which hosts a 5-mile walking trail and was a key partner in the Huntsberry preservation project in 2009. The Foundation is looking forward to similar collaborations with the Park Service in the future.

The tour corresponded with a variety of events taking place throughout Winchester and Frederick County during the annual Civil War Weekend. Ten sites in the surrounding area offered programs to bring the Civil War history of Winchester and Frederick to life for visitors of all ages.
Ten Years of Accomplishments...and Counting!

In the fall of 2000, as the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission (whew!) finished up its work on the management plan for the District, it created its successor: the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. The Foundation was charged with implementing the plan’s directives regarding the preservation of battlefield land, interpretation of the Valley’s Civil War history, and development of a system to guide visitors to the region’s Civil War sites.

Ten years later, at a grand gathering of partners and friends, the Foundation took the opportunity to look back on the strides made over the last decade to preserve and share the Valley’s nationally-significant Civil War story. Joined by members of our congressional and state legislative delegations, representatives from the National Park Service and state agencies, local governments, private organizations, and donors and friends, the Battlefields Foundation hosted its largest-ever annual reception and dinner.

During the event, we looked at our shared accomplishments. Together, the Battlefields Foundation and its public and private partners have...

- protected more than 3,000 battlefield acres since 2000, bringing the grand total to more than 5,000 acres—a quarter of the core battlefield acreage in the Valley that still retains its historic integrity;
- collaborated locally and regionally to interpret the Valley’s nationally-significant battlefields and related historic sites, creating driving tours, interpretive signage, and coordinating lectures and symposia;
- opened three of five planned Civil War orientation centers throughout the National Historic District, all of which are owned and managed by local partners.

And we looked to the future. More than 14,000 battlefield acres are without permanent protection. Preserved battlefield areas need to be added to the interpretive experience. And exploring innovative ways to bring a new generation of heritage travelers to experience this American story presents exciting opportunities for all of us!

Senator John Warner Honored

At the Tenth Anniversary Celebration, the Foundation presented its annual Carrington Williams Preservation Award to former U.S. Senator John Warner, one of the authors of the District’s legislation and a consistent champion for the Valley’s battlefields.

In presenting the award, Carrington’s grandson, Miles Carrington Williams, said, “John Warner’s leadership in the Senate to create the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District exemplifies Carrington’s approach. [Senator Warner] worked with many individuals and partners to legislate a preservation approach for preserving the Valley’s battlefields—one that is still working today. Then he ensured that through the years the District and the Foundation received congressional support for the preservation work and, looking around, we can see the results of his efforts—thousands of battlefield acres preserved and the ability of future generations to learn from them.”
The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is undergoing a sea change in its financial structure, organization, and mission. This change is being driven primarily by federal expenditure reductions that are already impacting the Foundation and will probably continue to do so.

In the 1996 enabling legislation for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, the following annual funding was authorized:

- **Land Acquisition**: $2,000,000
- **Assistance (grant-making, interpretive and educational programs, acquiring lands or interests in lands, capital projects and improvements, and facilitating public access; must be matched one-to-one with non-federal funds)**: $2,000,000
- **Management entity (SVBF)**: $500,000

Neither the Land Acquisition nor the Assistance funding has ever been included in the Administration's proposed budget. Nonetheless, Congress has appropriated some Land Acquisition funding for the National Historic District in eight of the last ten years. However, none of the Assistance funding has ever been received.

The Management funding has been received regularly since 2001. It is submitted to Congress in the Administration's budget by the National Park Service through the National Heritage Areas program. In 2010, the Management funds provided by Congress amounted to $464,000. However, even an annual Management allocation of $464,000 can no longer support the costs of operating the Foundation and maintaining, interpreting, and promoting the National Historic District.

Early in 2010, the Foundation set a five-year goal of inverting the 70-30% ratio of Government-Private funding in previous years to 30-70% Government-Private funding in FY2015. Due to the potential curtailment of federal funding, this schedule must be accelerated. As a result, the Foundation has reorganized its staff and refocused its resources on generating private funding.

Funding for Land Acquisition is not expected in either 2011 or 2012; however, partner participation has been significant and private support has been increasing since 2009. While private support is not expected to be adequate to finance land protection costs, the Foundation ended 2010 with more than $1.2 million to match with partner funds to continue to protect battlefield property through 2011. In addition, several major landowners have expressed interest in donating easements on their battlefield land.

Finally, the Foundation has several projects on the drawing board that will be released to the public in 2011 which involve property restoration and interpretation—projects that the Foundation believes will receive significant private support from many constituencies. In addition, work continues on the Valley Pike + Fisher’s Hill trail project discussed earlier in this report. This is the largest project ever undertaken by the Foundation, and it is currently being financed substantially with transportation enhancement funds by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Highways Administration.

### Financial Statements

#### Management and Programs

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<td>Private Contributions</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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#### Battlefield Preservation

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<td>Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund</td>
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Note: The Management and Programs report reflects accrual method accounting and is unaudited. The Battlefield Preservation report reflects a cash flow basis of accounting. The year stated is the fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

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**Funding the Battlefields Foundation’s Work**

The District’s Management Plan outlines a substantial body of projects and programs for the Battlefields Foundation to accomplish and foster. None of this, however, would be possible without a substantial investment of public and private funding from a variety of sources.