A Letter from the Executive Director....

2012 was an outstanding year for the Foundation, and I apologize for being late in reporting on it. In February we moved into our new home in the Lee-Jackson Building in downtown New Market, and the move caused a major upheaval in our normal course of business, with recovery taking nearly a month. Now we are settled into our offices, and evaluating plans for use of the first floor of the building that will focus on visitor orientation, a store experience, and a food service facility.

We protected 497 acres of battlefield land in the National Historic District in fiscal year 2012, the second best year in our 12-year history. This result is more noteworthy when considering we have not received any portion of our authorized annual appropriation for battlefield protection since 2009. Nor have we received any portion of our authorized funding for technical assistance (battlefield protection, maintenance, and interpretation) since the Foundation was created. Our successes have resulted from creativity in identifying partner funding to protect battlefield properties.

In addition to our record of battlefield protection in 2012, we completed new interpretation at Cross Keys and McDowell, further progress on the Valley Pike + Fisher’s Hill trail project, completion of the Artillery Ridge tract at Cross Keys, and coordinated over 40 Sesquicentennial events in our District.

Another milestone was reached in 2012 when our unrestricted private donations reached their highest level ever, representing a 23% increase over 2011. Our membership program for individuals, after its first year, numbered 503, and we received funds from 484 individual donors.

Importantly, the part of our 2012 operating budget represented by our contribution from the National Heritage Areas program was 50%, down from 63% in 2009.

However, as noted above, securing funds for battlefield protection, along with battlefield maintenance and interpretation, remains our greatest challenge. We are meeting this challenge through increased support from individuals, businesses, and private foundations. We have also launched an on-line store featuring SVBF-branded merchandise and other distinguished products from the National Historic District. It is gratifying to see these sources of private income grow as we continue to experience uncertainty about the future of funding through the National Heritage Area program.

Another major challenge in 2013 will be the initiation of our restoration and interpretation project at the Third Winchester battlefield. This impressive battlefield contains 367 contiguous acres and witnessed the largest and most significant battle in the Valley. A cultural heritage plan for the battlefield was completed in 2012 and seeks involvement from “signature partners” for community projects involving education, recreation, agriculture, and scouting. We look forward to working with our supporters in Winchester and Frederick County as we embark on this ambitious project, with an equally ambitious schedule of completing much of the work by the 150th Anniversary of the battle on September 19, 2014.

I thank our hundreds of partners, volunteers, and financial supporters, along with the support of our Congressmen, Goodlatte, Wolf, and Cantor and Senators Warner and Webb, for nurturing the Foundation’s work to “Protect the Valley’s Historic Landscapes”.

W. Denman Zirkle
The Civil War Sesquicentennial
With our regional mission and national reach, the Foundation has taken the lead in coordinating and promoting Sesquicentennial programs in the Valley, as well as presenting flagship events of our own...

“A Wind From the Mountains”: 150th Anniversary of Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign, 1862-2012

From the beginning of the Sesquicentennial, the 150th Anniversary of Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign was seen as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Shenandoah Valley. During 2012, the Battlefields Foundation and its partners took full advantage, presenting a series of 40 programs that followed along with the historical events of the campaign, and in the paths of the armies that crisscrossed the Valley – giving each site its chance to shine. There were programs of all types, from large-scale reenactments to quiet memorials, focusing on the stories great and small.

The commemoration was bookended by two major SVBF events, a March 3 conference, Perspectives on Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign, and the closing event on June 9, “If This Valley is Lost”: Preserving the Legacy of Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign. In between, visitors were able to “walk in the footsteps” of the campaign: the stone wall at First Kernstown, Jackson’s headquarters at Miller-Kite, Sifton’s Hill at McDowell, the last Union stand at Front Royal, the path of the Louisiana Tigers at First Winchester, Bank’s Fort in Strasburg, Turner Ashby’s death site in Harrisonburg, the 8th New York’s repulse at Cross Keys, and the Coaling, where the campaign came to a furious climax at Port Republic.

The commemoration of the 1862 Valley Campaign was a resounding success. It not only helped build greater awareness of the historic events; it also built greater appreciation of the need to preserve that history for generations to come.

“If This Valley Is Lost”...Preserving the Legacy of Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign

The climactic event of the commemoration took place on June 9, when more than 500 guests from across the country gathered at the Widow Pence Farm on the Cross Keys Battlefield. Co-sponsored by SVBF and the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission, “If This Valley is Lost” included a reception, barbecue dinner, period music, interpretation, living history, and youth activities, climaxing with a special commemorative program.

Speakers included Virginia Lt. Governor William Bolling, Speaker of the House (and chair of Virginia’s Sesquicentennial Commission) William Howell, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Kathleen Kilpatrick, historian Jonathan Noyalas of Lord Fairfax Community College, and keynote speaker Dr. James I. Robertson, Emeritus Professor of History at Virginia Tech, who spoke about the impact of the Valley Campaign, and why it still resonates so powerfully today.

The event ended as the sun set behind the mountains, with a ceremony that included the SVBF’s Valley Voyagers marching to the main stage, Scott Christopher Murray performing “Oh Shenandoah” and “Let Us Cross over the River,” an honor guard salute, and the playing of “Taps” and “Tattoo” to honor the fallen.
The shift to state funding, necessitated by an absence of federal appropriations to SVBF for land acquisition since 2009, has been possible because of the creation of the Virginia Civil War Site Preservation Fund (VCWSPF). The VCWSPF was established in 2006 for the purchase of fee simple interests in or conservation easements on Virginia battlefields listed in the Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields, issued in 1993 by the Congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

When utilizing the VCWSPF, the Battlefields Foundation must provide at least $1 in non-state matching funds for each $1 received from the fund in the form of cash or the bargain sale or donation of land or interest therein made by the landowner.

SVBF has used grants from the fund save key parcels of land at Cedar Creek, Cross Keys, Fisher’s Hill, and Tom’s Brook, setting aside acreage that would otherwise be lost. Preserving these landscapes is crucial to providing today’s visitors and future generations an historical sense of place at sites where Union and Confederate soldiers fought in some of this nation’s bloodiest and most legendary battles.

In 2012 grants totaling $2.6 million were awarded by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which determines the awards based on a rigorous evaluation process. Of this $300,000 was granted to SVBF that will help protect more than 500 acres at Port Republic. All totaled, the 2012 awards could result in the protection of more than 2,792 total acres associated with battles across the state.

2012 was a good year for SVBF’s land conservation program as we continued to pivot away from federal appropriations for our land and conservation easement purchases. This year, almost half our funding for conservation came from the Commonwealth of Virginia and private sources. Three conservation easements were recorded by SVBF protecting 288 acres on three battlefields: Cross Keys, Fisher’s Hill, and Tom’s Brook.

The landscape that greeted Sheridan’s Army of the Valley as they approached Fisher’s Hill remains largely unchanged today, and will remain pristine as a result of conservation easements in the area acquired by SVBF in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
“By preserving battlefields through public and private partnerships, we save hallowed ground and honor the Commonwealth’s past while we simultaneously make an investment in its future through heritage tourism,” Governor McDonnell said in announcing the 2012 awards.

All SVBF’s easements are co-held by primary partner our in battlefield preservation, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. As co-holders of the conservation easements, SVBF and VDHR share responsibility with the landowners for seeing that the terms of the easements are upheld in perpetuity. The owners of the properties preserved in 2012 agreed through the easements to forgoing any future subdivision of their land. Almost all new construction is prohibited in the easements except for limited development of agricultural buildings.

“The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War offers Virginia an opportunity to pass forward a great legacy, namely the conservation of open space, natural resources, and historic hallowed ground of national significance through the protection of battlefields,” said Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, director of the Department of Historic Resources. “This year’s awards will allow us to secure places with the power to connect us and future generations to the lessons of a defining period of our history. Time is running out. Each year, battlefield lands are lost forever.”

An important milestone for SVBF and our partners and predecessors was reached in 2012 as almost a quarter (23 percent) of the core area land on the 10 battlefields where SVBF focuses has been preserved, over 7,100 acres total. Almost as much land has been preserved on these battlefields in the last two decades as has been developed (9,500 acres) on the battlefields in the 150 years that have passed since the war.

Through our concerted efforts since 2000 we are beginning to achieve preservation on a landscape scale at a number of battlefields, protecting substantial acreage in concentrated areas that will truly enable future residents of the Valley and visitors to understand what happened on them. These include:

- 1,623 acres at Cedar Creek, nearly half (44 percent) of the land in the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Park;
- 1,200 contiguous acres at McDowell;
- 648 acres Tom’s Brook;
- 610 contiguous acres at Third Winchester; and
- 575 contiguous acres at New Market

Our work is far from over, however. There are still more than 14,600 acres of core battlefield land at our primary sites that are unprotected but retain the integrity needed to convey the Valley’s Civil War story. Projects in SVBF’s preservation pipeline could see nearly 800 additional acres brought under protection in 2013.
Preserving battlefields is more than purchasing land or conservation easements. Ensuring that these historic landscapes are well managed is essential. In its stewardship of its protected properties, the Battlefields Foundation employs conservation best management practices to protect its natural and cultural landscapes.

Since 2001, the Foundation has with its partners protected more than 6,000 acres of land on ten Shenandoah Valley battlefields. Most of that land remains in the same use as it was during the Civil War: agricultural production.

From the Huntsberry Farm at Third Winchester, to properties at Tom’s Brook, New Market, Cross Keys, and as far away as McDowell, the Battlefields Foundation has implemented conservation best management practices on its land to promote healthy farms, natural habitat, and better water quality, in addition to protecting the historic character of battlefield landscapes.

The Foundation’s stewardship work is accomplished through formulating partnerships and projects with agencies and organizations such as the Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District, the National Park Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Virginia Departments of Historic Resources, Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, and many others.

Star Fort: Awakening a Silent Sentinel

Since 2008, the Battlefields Foundation has been working hard to preserve Star Fort, an imperiled Civil War era fort in Winchester, Virginia. To date, over $64,234 dollars have been invested on property improvements including: a boundary fence, invasive vegetation and hazard tree removal, stump grinding, trash cleanup, perimeter trail development, and the establishment of turf grasses on the exposed earthworks.

In 2012, SVBF was able to institute its first annual landscaping program, working with a local team of experts at Arnette Landscapes, Inc. to ensure the on-going protection of Star Fort’s newly established grasses and perennial vegetation, and also the long term maintenance of our perimeter walking trail.

Looking ahead to 2013, the Battlefields Foundation is preparing extensively for a grand opening of Star Fort to the general public during in June, coincidental to the sesquicentennial commemoration of Star Fort and the Second Battle of Winchester (1863). None of this would have been possible without the dedicated stewardship efforts provided thus far by SVBF staff, and the dedicated Volunteer Corps.

Star Fort has emerged from a once perilous point of destruction, entanglement of thicketed thorns and brush, to now: a newly dedicated open space. With this recovery, some finer moments and new opportunities have also come into light with community engagement through our Volunteer Corps program. Youth have attained the rank of Eagle Scout through employing restoration projects on site. Many neighbors have begun to take an invested interest in the history, oversight, and continual maintenance of Star Fort by lending a hand at Park Day. Firewood has been continually collected and donated to the needy while cleaning up the site through the C-CAP Program of Winchester. And Living History educational programs are beginning to take shape for both young and old alike, who now can once again come to Winchester and peer over the earthworks which remain from one of the Valley’s most formidable Civil War fortresses.
The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is grateful to the following institutions and individuals for their generous support in 2012. Their gifts have been a significant part of the Foundation’s accomplishments during the last year.

### Golden Circle ($100,000 +)
- American Battlefield Protection Program
- Civil War Trust
- James R Wilkins Charitable Trust

### Shenandoah Society ($25,000 +)
- Agua Fund, Inc.

### Signal Knob Society ($10,000-24,999)
- Bryant Bank
- Luray Caverns
- The Roller Bottimore Foundation

### Third Winchester Corps ($5,000 to $9,999)
- Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Heatwole
- Mark and Karen Perreault
- Craig and Belinda Stevens
- Mr. & Mrs. W. Denman Zirkle
- Lockhart & Associates
- The Helen Clay Frick Foundation
- The Westchester Foundation

### Cedar Creek Regiment ($500-999)
- Mr. Nikoo Bakhtiar
- Mr. Gerald Beam
- Mr. Brian Beirne
- Mr. Spencer L. Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. Childs Burden
- Mr. Harold E. Dukes Jr.
- Dr. Robert Eggleston
- Mr. Chris Ellis
- Dr. James Embrey
- Mr. James Roderick O. Graves
- Mr. Thomas M. W. Green
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kearns
- Mr. David A. Langbart
- Mr. Linden P. Martineau
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. McCombs Jr.
- Mr. Robert T. Mitchell Jr.
- Mr. Frederick B. Molineux
- Ambassador James Nolan
- Mr. Frederick W. Otto
- Mr. Wayne Pankey
- Mr. & Mrs. William J. Petersen
- Mr. Randy Phillips
- Mr. Clive E. Rice
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- Mr. S. Michael Sharp
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- Mr. Henry Simpson
- Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Solenberger
- Mr. Calvin Sonner
- Mrs. Betty Hite Guier
- Ms. Lisa Hawkins
- Col. & Mrs. Frederick E. Johnston III
- Mr. Thomas E. McGowan
- Mr. John L. Nau III
- Mr. Brian K. Plum
- Mr. James C. Robertson
- In memory, Art. Capt. PG Breckenridge, 2nd Cavalry K.I.A. 5-26-64
- Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Bedall Jr.
- Hon. Rudolph Bumgardner III
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas T. Byrd
- Ms. Penni R. Curtis
- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew U. Ferrari
- Dr. Rogers M. Fred III
- Mrs. Betty Hite Guier
- Ms. Lisa Hawkins
- Col. & Mrs. Frederick E. Johnston III
- Mr. Thomas E. McGowan
- Mr. John L. Nau III
- Mr. Brian K. Plum

### Port Republic Division ($1,000 to $4,999)
- Mr. James C. Robertson
  - In memory, Art. Capt. PG Breckenridge, 2nd Cavalry K.I.A. 5-26-64
- Dr. W. Cullen Sherwood
  - In honor, Carrington Williams
- Mrs. Daniel C. Stickley
  - In memory, Daniel C. Stickley
- Mr. C. J. Steuart Thomas III
- Mr. & Mrs. Don Trost
- Mr. & Mrs. John M. Volkhardt
- Ms. Linda C. Wheeler
- Mr. Allan J. Zellnock

### Cross Keys Battalion ($300-499)
- Mr. Edward A. Altemos
- Mr. Paul Andrzejczuk
- Mr. Harry P. Aubright III
- Mr. Douglas R. Bohi
- Mr. Bruce Brem
- Mr. Edward C. Browne
- Dr. & Mrs. Winston Cameron Jr.
- Dr. Michael H. Chancey
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard S. Crampton
  - In Memory, Capt. Benjamin P. Crampton, Co. C, 7th VA Cavalry
- The Reverend Robert H. Crewdson
  - Pvt. Meredith Branch Thurman, 14th VA
- Mr. Eugene F. Dearing Jr.
- Mr. Lloyd M. Doering
- Mr. John F. Down
- Mr. Robert L. Fiscus
- Mr. Richard F. Fox
- Mr. Michael T. Friend
- Mrs. Barbara R. Graves
  - In Memory, Dr. Owen D. Graves
- Mr. David E. Huffman
- Mr. Paul Jeffery
- Mr. Michael E. Klein
- Mr. Kenny L. Konrad
- Mr. Bruce W. Kramer
- Mr. & Mrs. Graham C. Lilly
  - In Memory, Margaret Kemper Lilly
- Mr. & Mrs. John Lubetkin
- Mr. Paul M. Martini
- Hon. & Mrs. Richard Masson
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- Mr. Robert A. Neville
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- Mr. Joe Proctor
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- Mr. John Rosenberger
- Mr. & Mrs. Keith A Sandum
- Mr. Robert P. Sprague
- Mr. John Staelin
- Mr. Robert N. Steinwurtzel
- Mr. Robert Stone
- Mr. Samuel A. Tucker
- Mr. Jeffrey Scott Wieand
- Mr. Wesley Woods
- Shenandoah Valley Civil War Era Dancers
- Rockingham Cooperative Inc.
Mr. John C. Adamchak
Mr. Robert R. Adams
Mr. Larry Allamong
Mr. William G. Allman
Mr. Robert E. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Andreea
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Mr. Garland E. Ashby
Mr. James Atkinson
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew A. Bailey Jr.
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Mr. Robert W. Bain
Mr. Terry T-Bear Barber
Mr. Charles Lewis Beal
Mr. Edwin C. Bears
Mr. Ronald L. Beavers
Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Bell
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Mr. Kenneth W. Bradley
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Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Bray
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Mr. Thomas F. Brown
Ms. Mildred G. Brumback
Mr. C. Philipp Brundrett
Mrs. Magalen O. Bryant
Mr. Jeffrey C. Burden
Brig. Gen. Duncan Campbell
Mr. Michael H. Carlson
Mr. Shawn Ted Carmack
Mr. Dale Carroll
Mr. Michael J. Chapman
Mr. Gary R. Cheseman
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Mr. David S. Clarke
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Mr. Christopher P. Darling
Mr. Russell Dashiel Jr.
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Paul E. Dende, DO, FACP

In Honor, Lance Corporal Mark Dende, USMC

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Mr. & Mrs. Hank P. Deyerle Jr.
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Mr. Tom Leach
Mr. Geary E. Lehr
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Mr. Charles David Powell
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Mr. Ted Raczkowski
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Mr. Gregory T. Regelski
In Memory, The Star Fort
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Mr. Larry E. Sarver
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Mr. Joseph Anders
Mr. Richard Anderson
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In Memory, Sgt. James G. Vickers, 1923-1989
U.S. 5th Air Force
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Mr. Don Crider
Mr. Terry Crider
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The Valley At War

Civil War Battles in the Shenandoah Valley

A Look Back…

The guns seldom fell silent in the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War. The official records tell of 326 armed conflicts in the Valley during the long years of the war, but even that lengthy list does not include many of the raids, ambushes, and partisan actions that were a constant companion of life in the Valley during those years.

The record of clashes in the Valley begins with the burning of the armory at Harper's Ferry on April 21, 1861 — just eight days after the fall of Fort Sumter — and ends with a skirmish at Fisher's Hill on March 21, 1865, nineteen days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The four years bookended by those dates witnessed every type of combat imaginable, from small but lethal clashes on remote back roads to 54,000 Americans locked in a desperate stand-up fight at Third Winchester.

Twenty of those battles stand out because of their significance, as determined by the 1992 Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the National Park Service's 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, and the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report Update. That significance is measured by their "special strategic, tactical, or thematic importance to local operations, campaigns, theaters, or to the war as a whole." And it is those twenty battles that serve as the focus for SVBF's interpretive and heritage tourism efforts.

Each of these battles has tales to tell, such as the desperate race for the stone wall at First Kernstown, the ferocious struggle for The Coaling at Port Republic, the charge of the VMI cadets across the "Field of Lost Shoes" at New Market, or Sheridan's inspiring ride to rally his shattered ranks at Cedar Creek. Each of these clashes featured remarkable feats of heroism and sacrifice. And each of them took a terrible human cost, a cost reflected in sobering scenes on the battlefield, empty spaces at the campfire, and empty chairs at home.

First Kernstown (March 23, 1862)
Stonewall Jackson attacks a larger Union force at Kernstown. Though a tactical defeat, the battle proves a strategic success, resulting in the diversion of Union forces to the Valley.

McDowell (May 8, 1862)
Jackson uses deception, the railroad, and fast marching to surprise and defeat numerically Union forces -- preventing them from entering the Valley through its "back door".

Front Royal (May 23, 1862)
Screened by Massanutton, Jackson marches his army north down the Page Valley and surprises and destroys a small Union force at Front Royal.

First Winchester (May 25, 1862)
A flank attack spearheaded by the Louisiana Tigers drives Gen. Nathaniel Banks' Federals from the field, sending them fleeing north across the Potomac.

Cross Keys (June 8, 1862)
Jackson splits his army, moving portions of it to Port Republic and leaving General Richard Ewell to repulse an attack by Union Gen. John C. Frémont.

Port Republic (June 9, 1862)
After initial Confederate attacks are repulsed, the arrival of reinforcements and the capture of the Coaling turns the tide and wins the day for the rebels, bringing a triumphant end to Jackson's Valley Campaign.
Second Winchester (June 13-15, 1863)
Confederate Gen. Richard Ewell destroys Gen. Robert Milroy's force and opens the way for Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North, which will end at Gettysburg.

Manassas Gap (July 23, 1863)
Federals under Gen. William H. French try to cut off Lee's withdrawal after Gettysburg, but Confederates hold off the attacks and continue through the Page Valley.

New Market (May 15, 1864)
Union Gen. Franz Sigel's advance up the Valley is stopped at New Market by Confederates under General John C. Breckinridge, aided by cadets from VMI.

Piedmont (June 5, 1864)
Union Gen. David Hunter routs a Confederate force under "Grumble" Jones, leading to "Hunter's Raid", the burning of VMI, and threatening Robert E. Lee's supply lines - prompting Lee to send Jubal Early to the Valley.

Cool Spring (July 17-18, 1864)
As Early withdraws into the Valley after his raid on Washington, he pushes the pursuing Union forces back in a battle along the banks of the Shenandoah River.

Rutherford's Farm (July 20, 1864)

Second Kernstown (July 24, 1864)
Early, determined to keep Federals from moving to Richmond, attacks and defeats Gen. George Crook. This victory, combined with the burning of Chambersburg, prompts the diversion of the Union forces to the Valley and the appointment of Philip Sheridan to command.

Guard Hill (August 16, 1864)
Union cavalry surprises Confederate columns in midstream of the Shenandoah River, but the Confederates rally and advance, gradually driving back the Federals.

Berryville (Sept. 3-4, 1864)
Confederate Gen. R.H. Anderson's (Kershaw's) division attacks Gen. George Crook's corps, with limited results.

Third Winchester (Sept. 19, 1864)
After fierce fighting on both sides of the Berryville Turnpike, a sweeping Union cavalry charge turns the Confederates and sends them streaming through Winchester. The battle heralds the beginning of the end of Confederate control of the region.

Fisher's Hill (Sept. 22, 1864)
The Confederates possess too few men to adequately man the "Gibraltar of the Valley," and Sheridan's flanking attack drives the Confederates from the field and opens the Valley to The Burning.

Tom's Brook (Oct. 9, 1864)
After weeks of harassment by Confederate cavalry during The Burning, Union cavalry routs Confederates in a battle that becomes known as the "Woodstock Races."

Cedar Creek (Oct. 19, 1864)
A brilliant Confederate surprise attack in the morning appears to win the day, but the Federals rally after Sheridan's famous ride to the battlefield, then rout the Confederates in a crushing counterattack. The battle deals a crushing blow to the Confederacy in the Valley and buoys Lincoln's presidential campaign.

Waynesboro (March 2, 1865)
Federals flank and roll up the small remnants of Early's army, destroying the last remaining southern force in the Valley.
**INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION**

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.

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**Sesquicentennial Programs**

The SVBF conference, “A chapter in history…without parallel”: Perspectives on Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign, was the first major program of the 1862-2012 Sesquicentennial year. The event featured renowned Civil War historians Eric Campbell, Jeff Wert, Peter Cozzens, Gary L. Ecelbarger, and Jonathan Noyalas – and drew more than 200 attendees, shattering attendance records. Staff, volunteers, and committee members were also involved in coordinating, planning, partnering, and presenting much of the other interpretive programming during the Sesquicentennial of the Valley Campaign, culminating with the interpretive and education programming at the “If This Valley is Lost” program on June 9.

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**New Interpretation**

The Battlefields Foundation installed new Civil War Trails markers at two SVBF-owned battlefield sites related to the Valley Campaign: Cemetery Hill at McDowell and Artillery Ridge at Cross Keys. In addition, the Civil War Trails program replaced and/or repainted more than thirty 1862-related markers in the Valley. And staff and committee started development of 20 new markers that will be installed in the coming year at Star Fort (Winchester), Staunton, Third Winchester, and Fisher’s Hill.

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**Interpretive Planning**

During 2012, SVBF staff and committee members conducted interpretive planning at three battlefield sites: Star Fort, the Middle Field (Third Winchester), and Ramseur’s Hill (Fisher’s Hill). The planning identified specific interpretive and visitor initiatives that will be completed in 2013, including new trails, new battle and campaign maps, interpretive markers, orientation kiosks, directional and regulatory signage, printed driving tours, podcasts, website materials, and new digital and web-based tools to serve the smartphone-equipped visitor.

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**Valley Campaign Film**

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Valley Campaign, the SVBF began the production of a new film, “If This Valley is Lost”: Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign. Development was largely completed in 2012, and will be finished in 2013. The 12-minute film – complete with animated map, high-definition video, voiceovers, music, sound effects, and historic artwork – will provide historical content for the history buff, educational content for teachers and historians, and will encourage visitors to journey to the actual sites where the historic events occurred. The film has been underwritten by the Roller-Bottimore Foundation, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Luray Caverns, the Cross Keys/ GOODS Mill Historical Society, and generous individual donors.

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**Youth Education Programs**

The SVBF saw enormous growth in its youth educational programming in 2012, including in-school education programs, on-site programs, digital resources – and, most of all, the SVBF’s Valley Voyager program. Staff and living history partners (including the 10th Virginia and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War) presented the SVBF’s first in-school education programs at North Fork Middle School, along with a mini-kids camp during the “If This Valley is Lost” program. The SVBF’s “Foot Cavalry” passport program, featuring stops at 12 different Valley Campaign-related events, saw 87 youngsters take part. And the Valley Voyagers program, which grew to over 200 members, featured special events, the Voyager e-newsletter (“The Bugler”), and our first youth photo contest.
TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

Sesquicentennial Marketing

The Battlefields Foundation has taken a regional leadership role not only in planning and coordinating programs to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial in the Valley, but also in marketing and promoting these programs. During 2012 and the 150th Anniversary of Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign, these promotional efforts included press events, radio and TV appearances, newspaper advertising, special newspaper inserts, co-op ads, presentations, the 1862-2012 Sesquicentennial events rack card, on-site promotion at events, on-line promotion, social media via Facebook and Twitter, and a host of information on the www.ShenandoahAtWar.org website.

The most effective tools, however, were SVBF’s digital marketing efforts, which used low-cost digital means to directly reach SVBF’s email list of over 4,500 people (from every state and 22 foreign countries), and indirectly reach an exponentially wider audience. In addition to our regular monthly e-newsletter, the Foundation produced five different marketing e-blasts promoting specific battle/event commemorations: First Kernstown, McDowell, Front Royal/First Winchester, Cross Keys/Port Republic, and Stonewall Jackson’s Way – as well as individual e-blasts for SVBF’s two major “tentpole” events: the March 3, 2012 Conference on the Jackson’s Valley Campaign and the June 9, 2012, “If This Valley is Lost” commemorative program.

Those two major events provided resounding evidence of the success of SVBF’s marketing efforts, as a record crowd of more than 200 people (from 14 states) attending the March 3 Conference, and an overflow crowd of over 500 people (from 11 different states) attended the June 9 “If This Valley is Lost” program on the Cross Keys battlefield. In addition, Civil War sites throughout the Valley reported a dramatic surge in both event attendance and regular visitor attendance.

Website and Mobile Initiatives

The content on the ShenandoahAtWar website continued to grow by leaps and bounds throughout 2012. The sections on Civil War history, battlefield preservation, education & research, events and programs, organizational information, development, and membership all expanded dramatically, and special features such as “150 Years Ago Today” proved enormously popular. Traffic on the site reflected that growth, as well as the appeal of the new site; unique visitors to the website increased by an average of 77 percent from the previous year, and page views increased by 76 percent. The website also played a critically indispensable role in marketing SVBF and partner programs and initiatives, most especially the Sesquicentennial. But the most explosive growth came in the site’s tourism-related content. The collection of “Signature Sites” – places to see, sleep, and dine – listed on the site more than doubled, enabling staff to develop and launch the first wave of “Signature Tours”. Staff also began research into potential mobile marketing initiatives, including a mobile website and smartphone app.
Signature Tours

The Battlefields Foundation launched its Signature Tours program in 2012. The Signature Tours are designed to make it easy for visitors and potential visitors to discover and enjoy the best sites and experiences that the Shenandoah Valley has to offer, and to serve as powerful economic drivers for tourism-related and other businesses in the Valley.

The Tours are designed to use Civil War-related and other heritage tourism attractions as the heart of the tours, but to include something for all travelers. So they’ll include Civil War tours and sites, but also tours designed to fit other interests, such as cultural sites, wineries, and natural wonders, tours for families, tours for the adventurous, and tours for those looking for special back-road experiences. The first four tours were launched in 2012, featuring two Valley Turnpike tours and two Winchester-Frederick County-based tours, with much more to come.

Online Store and SVBF Products

Battlefields Foundation merchandising operations and offerings both expanded in 2012. The Foundation launched an online store (ShopShenandoahAtWar.org) that gave visitors a place to shop for the growing SVBF product line. (The store also served as a valuable resource for fundraising efforts, event registrations, and book sales.) And the store’s product line grew to include three main sections: Battlefield Originals, the Breadbasket Collection, and Battlefield Crafts.

The Battlefields Originals line offers SVBF logo-branded products, including hats, polo shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, mugs, lapel pins, and more – fourteen different items in all. The Breadbasket Collection built upon the success of our private label wines (through Cave Ridge Vineyard) and coffees (Cabin Creek Roasters) by adding Route 11 Potato Chips, two types of Highland County maple syrup (produced by Back Creek Farms and the Sugar Tree Country Store), and “Black Powder Blend” barbecue sauce (through Golden Blends BBQ); and our Battlefield Crafts offer hand-crafted artisan baskets from a tree from the Fisher’s Hill battlefield and six different hand-crafted items (such as letter openers and ornaments) from a “witness tree” on the Third Winchester battlefield, a historic white oak that fell in 2011 during a violent storm.

SVBF staff also hosted promotional displays at events throughout the Valley, including the Lee-Jackson-Maury Celebration in Harrisonburg, the Highland County Maple Festival, New Market Battlefield Home School Day, the First Kernstown Programs at Rose Hill, the 10th Virginia Encampment at the Heritage Museum, Stonewall Jackson’s Grand Encampment in Elkton, the McDowell Reenactment, the New Market Reenactment, Luray Cavern’s Evening with Stonewall Jackson, Harrisonburg’s Court and Market Days, Grand Caverns Heritage Day, the Wine and Jazz Festival and Blues and brews Festivals in Staunton, the Middlebrook Barn Tour in Augusta County, the Rockingham County Fair, the Luray Caverns Reenactment, Belle Grove’s Civil War Commemoration weekend, the Mt. Jackson Harvest Festival, and Belle Grove’s Wine Festival.
MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Providing critical funding for the foundation’s work — and exceeding expectations in 2012

Rifle Raffle

The fundraising appeal for SVBF’s commemorative Stonewall Jackson Valley Campaign custom rifle realized nearly $20,000 in raffle ticket and rifle sales for SVBE. Nearly one thousand raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win the #1 rifle in the series. Mrs. Bonnie Lancaster of Luray, Virginia was the lucky winner of the collectible rifle; she in turn gifted the rifle to her husband, Leroy.

SVBF Annual Membership

SVBF’s newly established membership program saw remarkable enrollment in its first full year, with 503 members and over $35,000 received in membership dues. Of those members, 120 are new contributors to SVBF. Recognition goes out to Mr. Craig Stevens, long time SVBF enthusiast, who was the first member to achieve Third Winchester Corps status. In total, private donor support increased 23 percent in 2012 over 2011, and 59 percent over 2010.

Record-Setting Appeals

The 2012 third quarter appeal for Lynnwood Farm at Port Republic realized SVBF’s largest single appeal to date with donations totaling over $49,000! The fourth quarter appeal for Star Fort saw donations totaling over $23,000. A special thanks to the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and the Southern Heritage Ball for their combined efforts, which raised over $7,000 to support our work at this remarkably preserved site.

Heartfelt thanks from the SVBF team to all who made 2012 a record breaking year. None of what we do is possible without financial and volunteer assistance from people who are dedicated to moving SVBF’s preservation and education mission forward.

McMahon, Whites, Picerno Receive 2012 SVBF Awards

The Foundation’s prestigious annual awards were presented during our 2012 Annual Meeting on September 15 in Luray. The Carrington Williams Preservation Award was given to Edward McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, for his work on behalf of land use planning in the Shenandoah Valley. The coveted Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Jim and Lorraine White of Monterey, in recognition of their long time support of the SVBF’s preservation, interpretation, and visitor service efforts in Highland County. The Chairman’s Award was presented to Chairman Emeritus Nicholas P. Picerno in recognition of the remarkable progress made by the Foundation during his tenure as chairman.
Funding the 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.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is undergoing significant changes in its financial structure and sources of funds. These changes are being driven primarily by federal expenditure reductions that are already impacting the Foundation and are expected to continue to do so.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance (battlefield maintenance and interpretation, 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)</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management (SVBF)</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 eleven 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 2012, the Management funds provided by Congress were $447,000. However, even that allocation 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 65-35% ratio of Government-Private operations funding in previous years to 30-70% Government-Private funding by 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. In 2011, this ratio had improved to 55-45% with a further improvement projected for 2012.

Funding for Land Acquisition is not expected in 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 2011 with roughly $1 million in federal funds to match with partner funds to continue to protect battlefield property into 2012. In addition, several major landowners have expressed interest in donating easements on their battlefield land.

Finally, the Foundation has several projects that were announced to the public in 2011 which involved property restoration and interpretation. In addition, work continues on the Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill trail project launched in 2010.