

“...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



Our Partners

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

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Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation 2007 Annual Report

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Dear Friends:
 I know that I speak for the Trustees of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation when I say that is a very special privilege to help preserve and interpret the battlefields and sites associated with the Civil War here in the Shenandoah Valley. And, in our special role as a National Heritage Area, we also have the opportunity to work with partners to encourage increased visitation to these hallowed sites and the exquisite Valley—to share our history with people from around the globe.

When Congress created the National Historic District in 1996, less than 1,700 acres of battlefields had been preserved. Today I am pleased to report that more than 4,600 acres are now under permanent protection by a variety of private and public organizations and agencies. This land is forever protected to inspire future generations. I am proud to report that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has had a hand in preserving many of those acres, and with more to come! To be sure, we have had our losses, but the trend has shifted.

I am especially proud that the professional work of the Battlefields Foundation has been recognized by local governments, private organizations, and individuals, such that they have entrusted us with stewardship of their cherished battlefield properties. More than 230 acres of battlefield land were donated to the Foundation in 2007 to be permanently protected, managed, and interpreted for posterity.

Finally, as we transitioned to a new fiscal year last fall, we took time to acknowledge the dedicated and diligent work of four SVBF Trustees whose terms ended at the end of 2007: Faye Cooper, Beverly Fleming, Kay Frye, and Susie Hill. Each of them gave six years of excellent service to the Foundation. And all of them continue to serve on SVBF committees—so their commitment has not ended.

I also want to welcome trustees whose terms began in 2008: Randy Bryant of Winchester, Jean Clark of Lexington, Richard Hobson of Alexandria, and Nancy Sorrells of Greenville. We are so pleased to have them with us!

With best regards to all of you who are helping us fulfill our vision and mission.
 Irvin E. Hess, M.D.
 Chairman

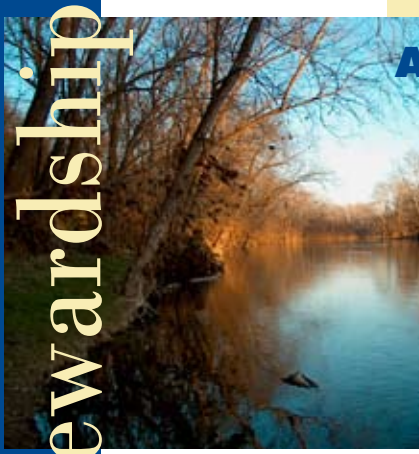


Additional Land Protected at Cedar Creek

In January 2007, the Powers family of Winchester protected 33 acres on the Cedar Creek battlefield through the donation of a conservation easement to the Battlefields Foundation.

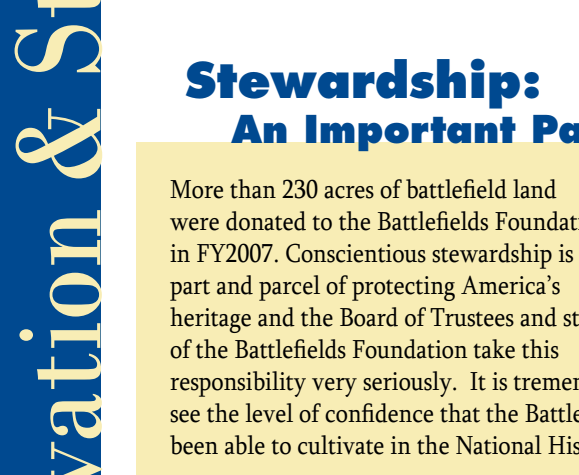
The parcel lies along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Warren County, just downstream from the confluence of the river and Cedar Creek. Confederate troops crossed these fords in the predawn mists as they prepared to attack Union encampments along the creek.

With the donation, the Battlefields Foundation has preserved 304 acres in the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. The protection of this area not only preserves its historic resources, it also provides a permanent buffer for the waterway, preserving this important riparian area and decreasing the chance of flooding downstream.



Stewardship: An Important Part of Battlefield Preservation

More than 230 acres of battlefield land were donated to the Battlefields Foundation in FY2007. Conscientious stewardship is part and parcel of protecting America's heritage and the Board of Trustees and staff of the Battlefields Foundation take this responsibility very seriously. It is tremendously gratifying to see the level of confidence that the Battlefields Foundation has been able to cultivate in the National Historic District.



Robbie Rhodes, Nick Nerangis, Howard Kittell, Richard Shickle, Kris Tierney, and other partners announced the donation in early September.

Star Fort

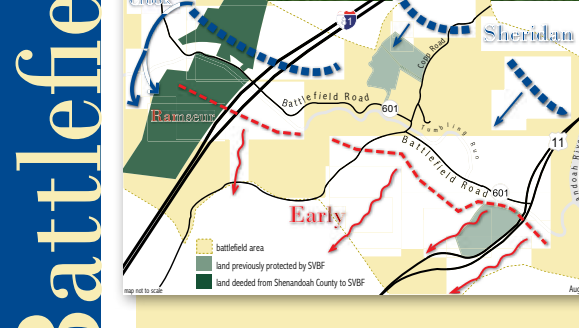
In the summer of 2007, the Middlesex Artillery-Fleet's Battery donated to the Battlefields Foundation one of the last remaining Civil War-era defensive forts around Winchester: Star Fort. Neighboring developers also donated a buffer area around the fort. The Foundation will collaborate with Middlesex members, Frederick County, and other stakeholders to stabilize and protect the fort's remains and, building on a management plan for the fort created by the county in 2000, develop interpretive facilities for the site.



SVBF and Shenandoah County officials and partners gathered at Fisher's Hill to announce the donation in August 2007.


Fisher's Hill

In August, Shenandoah County deeded its land at the Fisher's Hill battlefield—194 acres—to the Battlefields Foundation, which now owns more than 250 acres at Fisher's Hill, including a segment of the Civil War-era alignment of the Valley Turnpike, the main north-south roadway through the Valley during the war. The Foundation will work with partners in the area to develop interpretive facilities, knitting together the preserved areas of the battlefield and telling the story of the battle in a way that protects the historic landscape and respects the people who live and work in the modern-day village.



Banks Fort

In October, James R. Moore of Strasburg donated to the Battlefields Foundation the surviving undeveloped portion of Banks Fort in Strasburg. Mr. Moore, who passed away in February 2008, had owned the property for almost 50 years and wanted to ensure that this remnant of the fort would be protected forever. Despite modern development in and around Strasburg, the property still affords commanding views of the surrounding terrain, including Fisher's Hill, Signal Knob, and the more distant Round Hill to the south.






Sharing the Valley's Civil War story: 1864 Shenandoah Campaign Symposium and Booklet

In September 2007, more than 60 people packed a lecture hall in Winchester to study the dramatic story of the Union Gen. Philip Sheridan's fiery 1864 Shenandoah Campaign. Sheridan's successful but devastating campaign played a pivotal role in the reelection of Abraham Lincoln and all but ended the war in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Battlefields Foundation's all-day symposium featured four nationally-recognized scholars of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley—Mr. Jeffrey D. Wert, Dr. Brandon H. Beck, Dr. Joseph Whitehorne, and Prof. Jonathan A. Noyales—and concluded with a walking tour of Civil War Winchester.

The symposium also marked the release of the Battlefields Foundation's second campaign booklet, "Give the Enemy No Rest": Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign. Each of the symposium's speakers contributed essays to the booklet, which features discussions of the battles and events of Sheridan's campaign. The booklet also includes Valley historian John Heatwole's final essay on "The Burning." Mr. Heatwole passed away in November 2006.







Preparing for the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War

In four years the United States will begin commemorating one of the most significant events in our nation's history. The Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War will begin in April 2011, the 150th anniversary of Fort Sumter. In actuality, the commemoration will begin even sooner with the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 2009.

Virginia and the Valley Lead the Way

At the federal level and in many states, planning is underway to recognize the momentous four-year conflict. Virginia is leading the way. In 2006 the General Assembly created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission to develop a four-year program of events and activities to engage all of Virginia and the nation in the sesquicentennial. The commission is comprised primarily of General Assembly members and private citizens, one of whom is a Battlefields Foundation trustee. Foundation trustees and staff also participate in the commission's work groups and committees.

In 2007, the General Assembly authorized special license plates for the sesquicentennial. A portion of the proceeds supports the Virginia commission's activities.

A Tourism Marketing Plan for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

As the manager of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, the Battlefields Foundation too has been preparing for the sesquicentennial. In FY2007 the SVBF and its partners crafted a tourism marketing plan for the National Historic District. The plan was approved by the Foundation's trustees in January 2008, subsequent to the September close of the 2007 fiscal year. It will guide the collaboration between the Battlefields Foundation and its tourism partners in the ongoing effort to promote the Shenandoah Valley as a premier destination for heritage travelers seeking to learn about our nation's Civil War history. This promotional effort will not only maximize the District's economic impact for the Valley and Virginia, but it will also build awareness of the region's Civil War battlefield landscapes and other historic sites and foster a sense of stewardship among travelers and residents.

Awards Recognize Partners' Efforts

At its November 2007 annual meeting, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation recognized the hard work and dedication of two exceptional individuals whose efforts have greatly contributed to the mission of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.

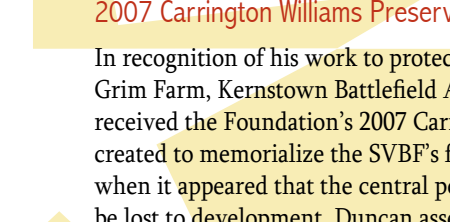
2007 Carrington Williams Preservation Award: Larry Duncan

In recognition of his work to protect and interpret the 315-acre Pritchard-Grim Farm, Kernstown Battlefield Association President Larry Duncan received the Foundation's 2007 Carrington Williams Preservation Award, created to memorialize the SVBF's founding chairman. In the late 1990s when it appeared that the central portion of the Kernstown battlefield might be lost to development, Duncan assembled a team of volunteers that spent the next decade working first to preserve the farm, then to restore it and interpret it as an important part of the Winchester-Frederick County historical and natural landscape.

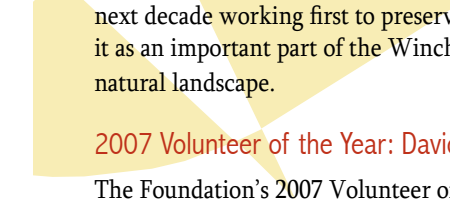


2007 Volunteer of the Year: David Pridgeon

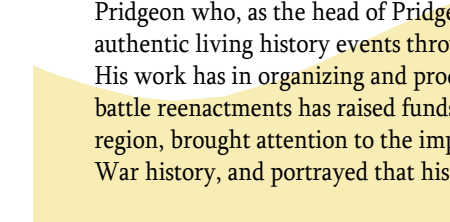
The Foundation's 2007 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to David Pridgeon who, as the head of Pridgeon's Shenandoah Legion, has coordinated authentic living history events throughout the Valley for more than a decade. His work has in organizing and producing living history events and Civil War battle reenactments has raised funds for battlefield preservation throughout the region, brought attention to the importance of the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War history, and portrayed that history in an accurate and authentic way.



The Kernstown Battlefield Association owns and manages the Pritchard-Grim Farm on the Kernstown battlefield.



Reenactors recreate the Union approach to Port Republic.



Marketing Plan Recommendations

"To implement new marketing strategies that will increase awareness of the District's Civil War history and position the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District to capitalize on the 2011-2015 Sesquicentennial of the Civil War by making the Valley the premiere place to learn about the Civil War in Virginia."

—Marketing Plan for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

- Connect the Product with the Promotion**
 - Create an Official Guide to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.
 - Enhance the National Historic District's website.
- Tourism Public Relations and Communications Strategies**
 - Create a media database and a press kit about the National Historic District.
 - Foster media activities, generate press releases to "build buzz."
 - Create PSAs, host press trips, conduct editorial board meetings.
- Advertising the National Historic District's Civil War sites**
 - Partner with the Virginia Tourism Corporation's cooperative advertising programs.
 - Continue current advertising efforts.
 - Pursue additional advertising opportunities as partners participate and funds are available.
- Travel Industry Sales: Develop Packages and Promotions**
 - Partner to offer customized Valley travel packages to group tours and individual travelers.
 - Sell packages to area colleges and universities—alumni, parents, and students.
 - Work with AAA, American Bus Association, National Tour Association, and TravelSouth.
- Cross Promotions and Civil War Signatures**
 - Conduct front desk personnel training and tours, "Open Doors" program for Valley residents.
 - Define and create "Signature" sites, programs, events, tours, and/or exhibits.

Management / Financial Report

Cultivating Support

Reviewing the Battlefields Foundation's financial information for FY2007, it is clear that federal appropriations and state grants certainly enable to Foundation to accomplish a great deal. But this public funding is not sufficient. Each year the Battlefields Foundation has been strengthening its fundraising capacity, bringing more funding partners to the table who want to play a role protecting, interpreting, and promoting the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War resources. In terms of actual dollars raised, 2007 was the high water mark for private contributions and grants to the Battlefields Foundation.

The Board of Trustees and staff are deeply grateful to the following individuals, corporations, and institutions for their trust and support.

10th VA Vol. Inf.	Miriam Heatwole	Robert & Linda Russman
John Ackerly, III	Walter J. Helm, Jr.	William Saunders
Agua Fund, Inc.	Irvin & Nancy Hess	SCV Camp #10
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Dean Brundage	Lenhart Obenshain PC	Thomas Tart
Gregory Bullock	Alan Leonard	Kris Tierney
Rudolph Bumgardner	Allen Louderback	Danielle Torisky
Robert Burnham	Betty Martin	Randolph Trader
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Ben Fordney	Susan Peden	Williams Charitable Trust
William Frueh	Nicholas Picerno	Edward Winn
Kay Frye	Robert Quigley	Theresa Woods
Patrick Gillroy	Michael Rexrode	Rush Wright
Mary Gunta	Ben Ritter	D. Peyton Yancey
Great Eastern Resort	Roanoke CWRT	Patricia Zontine
Nancy Gum	Marvin & Jane Russell	

FY2007 Income and Expense

Income	
Federal Appropriation	\$ 460,000
Federal Grants	100,000
State Appropriation	135,000
Grants, contributions and other income	186,000
Total Income	\$ 881,000
Expenditures	
Programs	\$ 454,000
Clusters and projects	\$ 22,700
Interpretation	42,500
Promotion and Tourism	152,600
Grants to partners	37,400
Resource Protection	135,200
Property Management	63,600
Administration	373,200
Total Expenditures	\$ 827,200
Balance - Income over Expense:	\$ 53,800

Not shown in this statement are the lands funds that the Battlefields Foundation holds or has committed. During FY2007 the Battlefields Foundation received a pledged grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation of \$539,400 that will be used during 2008 to acquire a significant battlefield parcel. This grant will be coupled with a \$1 million federal appropriation and other federal and private funds.

Also in 2008 the Foundation will use a \$212,409 VLCF grant coupled with a \$334,591 federal appropriation to retire a \$547,000 mortgage and permanently protect land at the Fisher's Hill battlefield. Throughout 2007 work progressed on two other battlefield protection projects totaling \$323,500 that will close in FY2008.

Staff Changes in FY2007

Robinson Boosts SVBF's Development Effort

In February 2007, Tom Robinson became the Battlefields Foundation's Program Coordinator for Development, a new position within the organization. Tom supports the Foundation's Development Committee in its efforts to continue to cultivate a donor base, research granting institutions, and prepare grant applications.

Tom brings an extensive background in history as well as management and interpretation of historic resources. He holds a Bachelors in History and a Masters in Library and Information Studies, both from Florida State University. Before joining the SVBF staff, he was a consultant, historian, and archivist for organizations such as the Clermont Trust in Clarke County, the Florida State Library and Archives, and the Atlanta History Center.

Milner Fills Resource Protection Vacancy

Chase Milner joined the staff in October as Program Manager for Resource Protection, filling a vacancy created in January 2007 when John Hutchinson departed to open a private consulting practice.

Milner's background is in land conservation and environmental stewardship. He comes to the Foundation from the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy where he worked with landowners, partners, and others to support various elements of the conservancy's land protection projects. He is a graduate of the University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee where he received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, specifically forestry and geology.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is profoundly grateful to the members of our congressional delegation who have worked diligently to secure funding for the National Historic District and the Battlefields Foundation—Senators John Warner and Jim Webb and Congressmen Frank Wolf and Bob Goodlatte.

In recent years state funding has played an increasingly important role in the Foundation's budget and programs. We want to thank our General Assembly members who have worked to secure grants for the Foundation. Senators Emmett Hanger and Mark Obenshain and Delegates Beverly Sherwood, Clifford Athey, Joe May, Steve Landes, and Todd Gilbert. Senator Russ Potts and Delegate Vincent Callahan, now retired, were also instrumental in helping us in Richmond. And we welcome the support of our newest state senator, Jill Holtzman Vogel.

Battlefield Preservation & Stewardship

Interpretation & Education

Tourism Marketing

Management / Financial Report