



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove
National Historical Park

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Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2010

Strasburg Town Hall
Strasburg, Virginia

- I) General Introductions
- II) Review of Minutes from December 17, 2009.
- III) Updates
- IV) Proposed Interpretation at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP, Eric Campbell
- V) Discussion, Patrick Farris
- VI) Old Business
- VII) New Business
- VIII) Next Meeting – June 17, 2010 at the Middletown Town Hall, Middletown, Virginia.

Adjourn

- NPS –

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Park Advisory Commission Meeting

December 17, 2009

Warren County Government Center
Front Royal, Virginia

- I) General Introduction
- II) New Park Staff Introduction.
- III) Election of Park Advisory Commission Chair and Co-chair
- IV) Current Park Activities and Plans
- V) General Management Plan and its Implementation.
- VI) Review of September 17, 2009, Minutes
- VII) Old Business
- VIII) New Business
- IX) Next Meeting—March 18, 2010, at the Strasburg Town Hall, Strasburg, Virginia

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Mary Bowser; Patrick Farris; Sarah Mauck; Elizabeth McClung; Pam Sheets; Jim Smalls, and Kris Tierney, chair.

Commission members absent: Roy Downey, Gary Rinkerman, and Dan Stickley

Others in attendance: Carl Bernhards Jr., Middletown council member; Eric Campbell, NPS; Mark Davis, Middletown council member and planning commission member; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Stanley A. Hirschberg, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Toni Horton, NPS; Nicholas Picerno, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF); Nicholas Redding, Civil War Preservation

Trust (CWPT); Elizabeth Stern, SVBF; and Hank Zimmerman, shenandoahvalley.com.

Chair Kris Tierney opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. He suggested that the agenda be reordered since some commission members, who were known to be on their way, could be present at the time of the election of new officers.

Diann Jacox began by introducing Toni Horton, who will be the new historical landscape architect and cultural resources program manager. She comes to Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP from Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Jacox then gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the major changes that will be coming to the park. She began by recapping the GMP process that began in 2005. She noted as a compliment to everyone that she knew of two other GMPs that had been begun before the one for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP and are still not completed. To date almost all of the park's focus has been on the planning process to the detriment of a physical presence. This emphasis is about to change. In the coming months the staff will direct its attention to visitor services and stewardship. This is a signal that the NPS will now have more of a public presence. As these programs become established, the park will need to look at the kinds of positions that may be needed to fully staff the national park. . Among the kinds of positions that will be considered, but are not limited to, are program assistant, interpreter, maintenance person, natural resource specialist, cultural resources manager, and a partnership specialist. These positions will be a mix of permanent, term, seasonal, and volunteer personnel.

An important consideration in this discussion is the budget. Working with the regional Position Management Review Board and looking at budget cost projections over a five year period the park will determine what it can accomplish. Throughout the process the park will keep two basic questions in mind: What positions are needed in order to accomplish the park's core operations? What must the park do to remain solvent?

The NPS has also increased its land base. . In the last few months purchases have increased the size of the NPS holdings from 8 to approximately 69 acres. This is an important development for maintaining the viability of the park.

With these changes in mind, the park has been developing work plans for the next two-to-three years. For the interpretive program, the park has identified three areas that it would like to focus on. These include (1) Public programming for 2010 – which includes recruiting & training staff, developing tours, and

coordinating with the Key Partners. (2) Interpretive Facilities and Services - – which includes developing an interim visitor contact station, and developing non-personal media including audio tours, maps, brochures and upgrading the park's website. (3). Interpretive Planning which includes discussions about graphic identity, signage, wayside exhibits and integrating the partners' programs, operations and messages. The visitor contact station will not be a visitor center; it will not be open seven days a week; it will not be open all year; it will be a place where the public can interact with the NPS. With the recent land purchases and the structures that have come with these lands as well as the Hite-Whitham Farm, the NPS must document their current conditions, and preserve and maintain these structures.

Integral to all these undertakings is the idea that everything must be managed for meeting and achieving goals consistent with the legislation establishing the park.

Kris Tierney opened the discussion among the commissioners once Diann Jacox ended her presentation. Some of the thoughts that were put on the table included:

- Need to think about the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and how it affects Cedar Creek and Belle Grove.
- How do we present a seamless experience for the visitor while also maintaining identity of the various organizations/partners that make up the park?
- NPS Unigrid standards can be mined for solving identity problems.
- Where might a visitor contact station be located?
- What are the parameters of the contact station?
- How will it be managed?
- Consider the Monocacy or Jackson Shrine examples when creating a contact station.
- Clean bathrooms and clear directions are very high on any visitor's needs.
- How will we count visitors?
- We could launch some interpretive programs via iPods in conjunction with the CWPT.
- We need to maximize outreach with the goal of telling the story and letting people know that the park is here.
- In addition to being far off main-traveled roads, the Hite-Whitham House has safety and health issues that would not lend it for use as a contact station. An upcoming Historic Structures Report will throw much needed light on this building.
- A building along U.S. 11 would be an asset for both park and the traveling public.

Several commissioners commented that there was much to think about and suggested that this discussion be continued at the March meeting after everyone would have some more time to think and ponder everything that had been heard.

Kris Tierney announced that if there was no further discussion, the commission would proceed to the election of a new chair and co-chair. Nominations were made the vote was taken—separately, for each office—and the new officers were announced: Patrick Farris will serve as chair, and Pam Sheets will serve as co-chair.

The minutes were approved with one change.

New Business

Sarah Mauck announced that VDOT has given permission for a reenactment of the train robbery of June 1861 to take place along U.S. 11 during Memorial Day weekend 2011.

Next Meeting

The commission will meet in the Strasburg Town Hall, March 18, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Outgoing Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Park Advisory Commission Membership and Terms
3. Press release announcing hiring of Eric Campbell
4. Press release announcing hiring of Toni Horton
5. Meeting Notes from September 17, 2009

Proposed Interpretation at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP



Park's Primary Interpretive Themes

1-Overall

Fertile soil and an excellent transportation corridor brought wealth and prosperity to the peacetime Shenandoah Valley, but made it a target of destruction and an avenue of invasion and counter-invasion during the Civil War, bringing death and destruction and permanent change to the social order and economic life of the valley.

2-Natural

The well-watered rich limestone soil and other abundant natural resources of the Shenandoah Valley supported a flourishing Native American population and attracted early settlers to the region.

3-Colonial

Virginia colonial land policies promised both opportunity and danger to new settlers as the Shenandoah Valley became a buffer to French and Indian claims.

4-Ante-Bellum

Belle Grove Manor House represents the height of a Shenandoah Valley agricultural society and economic system based on grain and slavery.

5-Military

The desperate and dramatic Battle of Cedar Creek established federal control of the Shenandoah Valley, ending military threats to Washington and denying the valley's rich granary to the Confederate Army.

6-Political

Combined with the capture of Atlanta, the Battle of Cedar Creek virtually assured the reelection of Abraham Lincoln and the relentless prosecution of the war to its ultimate conclusion.

7-Post-War

The area encompassed by Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP underwent significant changes in land ownership, settlement patterns, and labor systems as a result of the Civil War.

Personal (Ranger Conducted) Programs

Program: “Cedar Creek and Belle Grove in a Box”

A History of the Park Overview Program

Length: 1 hour

Frequency: Once daily or a minimum 4 days a week (mid-June, July, mid-August and/or Battle Anniversary Weekend)

Intended Audience: General visitors, student groups

Description: An overview program will offer an introductory explanation of the rich history of the lower Shenandoah Valley (concentrating on the Middletown/Strasburg/Cedar Creek area), from the pre-colonial period, up to and including the Battle of Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864). It will provide brief and sweeping explanations of the events from pre-colonial thru the antebellum periods (the geological formation of the Valley, Native American occupation, frontier settlement period, development of the Valley transportation corridor, the growth and importance of agriculture, etc.), before concentrating in more detail on the battle and the context in which it was fought. This program uses props, consisting of a variety of items (various colored ropes for streams, creeks, roads, wooden block “buildings” for towns or specific landmarks and the audience itself to represent the opposing troops, etc.) which the ranger pulls from a box, to “reconstruct” the natural and cultural features of the area, and then the battlefield, to explain the growth and development of the area, and eventually the principal movements of the opposing armies during the battle. This concept not only explains the overall topography and battle, but connects that knowledge immediately to the very landscape upon which the visitor is standing and they can see around them. This visual and contextual connection thus easily relates the important geological and natural features that shaped the battle, to the landscape itself, by placing the visitors “in the middle of the battlefield.”

Interpretive themes covered: 1-7

As this will be the “base” NPS program for the park, it would be ideal to offer it once daily, for two reasons:

- Consistent programming will help achieve our objective of establishing recognition of the park as a “real” unit of the NPS
- Visitor convenience in planning their visit to the park, thus increasing program attendance.

If staffing levels do not allow this schedule, then at the minimum it should be offered at least 4 days a week (example, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday).

Program: **“From Back Country to Breadbasket”**

The Peopling of the Shenandoah Valley

Length: 45 minutes-1 hour

Frequency: 1 or 2 times a week (mid-June, July, mid-August)

Intended Audience: General visitors

Description: An overview program of the history of the Northern Shenandoah Valley from the existence of Native American tribes, through the antebellum period, in order to set up its importance to both North and South on the eve of the Civil War. Subjects covered will include, but are not limited to:

- basic geography of the Valley
- Native American tribes
- arrival and settlement of the first Euro-Americans (including the Hite-Bowman families)
- settlement patterns of the colonial era and beyond
- development of the major transportation routes in the Valley, including the War Path/Great Wagon Road/Valley Pike
- growth of, and factors effecting, agriculture in the Valley, concentrating on the importance of wheat production, which ultimately resulted in the area becoming the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy” during the Civil War.

Interpretive themes covered: 1-4

Program: “To Battlefield and Beyond”

War Comes to the Shenandoah Valley

Length: 45 minutes-1 hour

Frequency: 1 or 2 times a week (maybe weekends only) (mid-June, July, mid-August)

Intended Audience: General visitors, special interest groups

Description: A basic overview of the impact of the Civil War upon the residents and economy of the Shenandoah Valley. A wide variety of subjects could be covered, including, but not limited to:

- a general overview of the Civil War campaigns in the Valley (to illustrate the impact of constant and repeated troops movements and numerous military engagements had on the local populace)
- the physical destruction of the public and private property in the Valley (including, but not limited to the burning of VMI by Gen. Hunter, and in reprisal, the Confederate burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and “The Burning” ordered by Gen. Sheridan that fall)
- the role and impact of the guerilla war waged in the area (including, among others, “Mosby’s Confederacy,” the Lt. John Meigs/Dayton incident in October 1864, etc.)
- the changing nature of war (from being one of strictly military goals to ending as a war targeting civilians and their property)
- the total impact of the war on the Valley and the post-war recovery efforts
- reconciliation efforts in the Valley (including the 1880s reunions held in Valley by Sheridan’s veterans)
- stories of individual Valley residents or families and how they were personally effected by the war

Depending on the starting location, this could either be a stationary, sit-down program or one that involves limited walking to visit individual farmsteads to either illustrate a particular point, or to be the focal point of that particular program.

Interpretive themes covered: 1, 5, 6, 7

Program: **Battle of Cedar Creek Tour**

Length: 2 hours

Tour would consist of 5 to 6 total stops. Possible tour stop locations could include, but are not limited to:

- Hite/Whitham property—NPS and/or Thorburn's Redoubt—SVBF
- 128th NY monument—VDOT and/or XIX Corps Entrenchments—CCBF
- Belle Grove Overseer's Cottage or Manor House—BG or Cedar Creek BF headquarters
- Middletown Cemetery
- Miller's Mill site on SR 634
- Lord Fairfax CC-State Historical Marker at entrance—LFCC

Frequency: 1 or 2 times a week (weekends only)? (mid-June, July, mid-August and ?Anniversary?)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: A basic tour of the Battle of Cedar Creek and could be offered either through a car caravan system (ranger leads a group of cars from stop to stop) or a ranger "piggy-back" system (a two-ranger team tag-teams to give the tour, each presenting alternate stops, with the visitors driving on their own between stops). The preferred alternative of the two would be the ranger-lead caravan system (both for visitor ease in getting from site to site and for program continuity).

The route would generally follow the flow of the battle, from south to north and cover most of the key landmarks associated with the battle. Obviously, the entire tour would be conducted on state or county roads, and use existing pull-offs, right-of-way or privately parking lots to allow access to each stop. Nearly all of the possible stop locations can safely accommodate at least five (5) vehicles. This limitation might require either car-pooling by the audience and/or a restriction on audience size. The latter option would result in a pre-tour sign up requirement. Permission to park the visitors' vehicles at some privately owned locations, right-of-ways and parking lots would need to be obtained.

Interpretive themes covered: 1, 5, 6

Program: **Battle of Cedar Creek, In-depth**

Length: 4 hours total, divided into 2 parts

The tour would consist of two different sections, offered either over two consecutive days, ideally over a weekend (Saturday-Part 1, Sunday-Part 2) or on one day (morning-Part 1, afternoon-Part 2).

Part 1 could consist of 5 to 6 total stops, possible locations could include, but are not limited to:

- Hupp's Hill
- Bowman's Mill Ford
- Long Meadow (near Bowman's Ford)
- Hite/Whitham property—NPS and/or Thorburn's Redoubt—SVBF
- 128th NY monument—VDOT and/or XIX Corps Entrenchments—CCBF
- 8th Vermont Monument—Don and Barbara Ratcliff
- Belle Grove Overseer's Cottage or Manor House—BG or Cedar Creek BF headquarters

Part 2 could consist of 5 or 6 stops, possible locations could include, but are not limited to:

- Meadow Mills Church
- Middletown Cemetery
- Miller's Mill site on SR 634
- Kline's Mill Road (unspecified site)
- Lord Fairfax CC-State Historical Marker at entrance—LFCC
- Valley Pike (Rt. 11) crossing of Cedar Creek-at State Historical marker and CW Trail waysides—VDOT)

Frequency: 1 or 2 weekends a month (mid-June, July, mid-August) and Battle Anniversary (see "Special Programs" below)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: Much like the "Battle of Cedar Creek Tour" listed above this program would provide a tour of the battle and could be offered either through a car caravan system or a ranger "piggy-back" system. The preferred alternative of the two would be the ranger-lead caravan system (both for visitor ease in getting from site to site and for program continuity). The route would generally follow the flow of the battle, from south to north and cover nearly all of the key landmarks associated with the battle. As this tour will cover more area than the 2 hour "Cedar Creek Tour" it will take longer (approximately 4 hours total) and thus would be offered in two parts. These either can be presented over two consecutive weekend days, or in day (morning and afternoon). Part 1 would cover the introduction to battle and the initial surprise Confederate assault the morning of October 19, 1864, ending near Belle Grove or the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation headquarters. Part 2 would explain the final Confederate attack (including the holding action of the Union 6th Corps near the Middletown Cemetery), the arrival of Gen. Sheridan on the battlefield and cover the Union counterattack later that afternoon. Obviously, the entire tour would be conducted on state or county roads, and use existing pull-offs, right-of-way or privately parking lots to allow access to each stop. Nearly all of the possible stop locations can safely accommodate at least five (5) vehicles. This limitation might require either car-pooling by the audience and/or a restriction on audience size. The latter option would result in a pre-tour sign up requirement. Permission to park the visitors' vehicles at some privately owned locations, right-of-ways and parking lots would need to be obtained.

Interpretive themes covered: 1, 5, 6, 7

Program: **History at Sunset**

Length: 60-90 minutes

Possible Locations: Various locations, depending on subject matter of individual program

Frequency: Once weekly or a series of 4 or 5 dates (Friday evenings, 7:00 p.m. --mid-June, July, mid-August) depending on staffing, and/or Battle Anniversary weekend (October 1617)

Intended Audience: Local public, general visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: These programs will cover a wide variety of subjects related to the park and all of its interpretive themes. Each program would be offered once and could either be a stationary, sit-down program, or a walking tour. Depending on park staffing levels and availability these could be offered once weekly, twice a month or possibly advertised as a series of 4 or 5 special programs.

These special presentations are designed to serve as the “signature NPS programs” at the park. While offered to a wide variety of audiences, the main goal of these programs is to draw attention to, and support of, the park at the local level. Thus they would help to achieve the GMP stated goal that “Visitors would perceive the park as a unit of the National Park Service.”

Interpretive themes covered: 1-7

(See “Special Programs” on these presentations being offered during the Battle Anniversary Reenactment/Civil War Commemoration Weekend).

Special Event Programs (both On-Site and Off-Site)

Belle Grove “Living History Camp for Kid” June 28-July 2

Program: **Unknown at this time**

1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign Program Series

Program: **Battle of 3rd Winchester**

Length: 1-2 hours

Possible Locations: Battlefield property owned and preserved by SVBF and CWPT (specific starting location and tour stops unknown at this time, pending further research)

Frequency: Once (preferably on a weekend) in the summer or battle anniversary (September 19)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: This program could provide either a basic overview of the Battle of 3rd Winchester (September 19, 1864) or a more in-depth explanation of this action, depending on program length. In addition to covering the basic troop movements involved in the battle, this presentation would also provide an overview of the strategic situation of the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864, placing it within the entire context (both militarily and politically) of the Civil War. While the program could serve as a “stand-alone” presentation, it ideally would be offered as the first in a series of programs that chronologically covered the entire 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Program: **Battle of Fisher’s Hill**

Length: 1-2 hours

Possible Locations: Battlefield property owned and preserved by SVBF (specific starting location and tour stops unknown at this time, pending further research)

Frequency: Once (preferably on a weekend) in the summer or battle anniversary (September 22)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: This program could provide either a basic overview of the Battle of Fisher’s Hill (September 22, 1864) or a more in-depth explanation of this action, depending on program length. In addition to covering the basic troop movements involved in the battle, this presentation would also provide an basic overview of the strategic situation of the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864, placing it within the entire context (both militarily and politically) of the Civil War, including the Battle of 3rd Winchester. While the program could serve as a “stand-alone” presentation, it ideally would be offered as the second in a series of programs that chronologically covered the entire 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Program: “The Burning”

Length: 1-2 hours

Possible Locations: Battlefield property owned and preserved by SVBF, privately owned property, public and private right-of-ways and/or parking lots (specific starting location and tour stops unknown at this time, pending further research)

Frequency: Once (preferably on a weekend) in the summer or anniversary (once between Sept. 26-Oct. 8)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: This program will provide a basic overview of the systematic destruction of the Shenandoah Valley’s agricultural and economic resources by Union forces, otherwise known as “The Burning.” In addition to covering the basic events and participants involved in this episode, this presentation would also provide an overview of the strategic situation of the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864, placing it within the entire context (both militarily and politically) of the Civil War. Program length will depend on how the presentation is conducted. It can either be given as a static program at one site (yet to be determined) associated with “The Burning” or as a tour of many sites (yet to be determined) associated with the event. While the program could basically be a “stand-alone” presentation, it ideally would be offered as the third in a series of programs that chronologically covered the entire 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Program: **Battle of Tom’s Brook**

Length: 1-2 hours

Possible Locations: Battlefield property owned and preserved by SVBF (specific starting location and tour stops unknown at this time, pending further research)

Frequency: Once (preferably on a weekend) in the summer, Battle Anniversary (October 9)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: This program could provide either a basic overview of the Battle of Tom’s Brook (October 9, 1864) or a more in-depth explanation of this action, depending on program length. In addition to covering the basic troop movements involved in the battle, this presentation would also provide an basic overview of the strategic situation of the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864, placing it within the entire context (both militarily and politically) of the Civil War, including the Battles of 3rd Winchester and Fisher’s Hill and an explanation of “The Burning.” While the program could serve as a “stand-alone” presentation, it ideally would be offered as the fourth in a series of programs that chronologically covered the entire 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Program: **Battle of Cedar Creek**

Length: 2 to 4 hours

Possible Locations: See “Battle of Cedar Creek Tour” and “Battle of Cedar Creek Tour, In-depth” above

Frequency: Once (preferably on a weekend) in the summer or battle anniversary (October 19)

Intended Audience: General visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: This program could provide either a basic overview of the Battle of Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864) or a more in-depth explanation of this action, depending on program length (2 or 4 hours). In addition to covering the basic troop movements involved in the battle, this presentation would also provide an basic overview of the strategic situation of the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864, placing it within the entire context (both militarily and politically) of the Civil War, including the battles of 3rd Winchester, Fisher’s Hill and Tom’s Brook, and an explanation of “The Burning.” While the program could serve as a “stand-alone” presentation, it ideally would be offered as the fifth in a series of programs that chronologically covered the entire 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Special NPS-sponsored Programs for Battle Anniversary Weekend (October 15-17)

Program: History at Sunset

Length: 1 hour

Frequency: Evenings (6:00 p.m.?) of Anniversary Weekend (October 15-16)

Intended Audience: General Visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: If offered during the Battle Anniversary Reenactment/Civil War Commemoration Weekend, these programs would provide an NPS presence, without interfering with the Key Partners special events and presentations. At this early stage of planning, it is envisioned that it will be a sit-down program whose topic will cover broader based subjects related to the Battle of Cedar Creek. Possible subjects could include, but are not limited to:

- the impact of the battle on the civilian population (concentrating on the citizens of Middletown and Strasburg)
- the battle and its impact through the words of the soldiers and civilians who experienced it first-hand (an “eyewitness” type of presentation that recounts the battle)
- the battle’s aftermath
- the broader based impact of the battle and entire 1864 Valley Campaign upon the entire Shenandoah Valley and the nation as a whole (politically, economically and politically), etc.

*Sunset at 6:33 p.m. October 16, 2010

OR

Program: Middletown/Strasburg town walking tours

Length: 1 hour

Possible Locations: Middletown/Strasburg (specific locations unknown pending further research)

Frequency: Evenings (6:00 p.m.)-Once each during Battle Anniversary weekend (October 15, 16)

Intended Audience: General Visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: These special programs would be ranger-lead walking tours of one or both of these towns, covering not only the role of each during the battle, and also the impact of Cedar Creek on them and their residents. (Further research will allow a more detailed development of these programs).

OR

Program: Special lecture series

Length: 45 minutes-1 hour

Possible Locations: Town Halls or local churches in Middletown and/or Strasburg?

Frequency: Evenings (6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.)-Once each during Battle Anniversary weekend (October 15, 16)

Intended Audience: General Visitors, Civil War enthusiasts, special interest groups

Description: Special lectures offered during the evenings of the Battle Anniversary weekend (October 15-16) that could cover a wide variety of subjects, that could include, but are not limited to: the impact of the battle on the civilian population (concentrating on the citizens of Middletown and Strasburg), the battle and its impact through the words of the soldiers and civilians who experienced it first-hand (an “eyewitness” type of presentation that recounts the battle), the battle’s aftermath, the broader based impact of the battle and entire 1864 Valley Campaign upon the entire Shenandoah Valley and the nation as a whole (politically, economically and politically), etc. These could either be presented by NPS staff, or keynote guest lecturers are considered noted authorities within their respective fields. These lectures would be given at, as of yet, undetermined locations in either Middletown or Strasburg (or both) and would be hosted by local churches and/or governments. Ideally, they would be free to the public.

Non-Personal Interpretive Media

- Professionally produced modern Map of the Battlefield available to the General Public
- Self-Guided Auto Tour Map, with interpretive text
- Audio tour of the battlefield (podcast and iPhone tour ap)
- Expanded NPS Website
- Visitor Contact Station interpretive exhibits (location unknown)