## MURRAY (HYDE H.) CIVIL WAR SITES ADVISORY COMMISSION PAPERS

(Mss. # 4691)

Inventory

Compiled by Leslie Bourgeois

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library Louisiana State University Libraries Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2008

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#### **SUMMARY**

3 linear feet Size

**Geographic Locations** Southern States, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C.

**Inclusive Dates** 1986-1995

**Bulk Dates** 1990-1994

English Languages

This collection consists of correspondence, administrative **Summary** 

> files, research files, printed items, clippings, and notes related to Hyde H. Murray's work as vice-chairman of the

Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

**Access Restrictions** No restrictions.

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> appointed commission, the materials in Subgroup 1 are in the public domain. Copyright of Murray's personal papers, found in Subgroup 2, has been transferred to the LSU

Libraries.

**Related Collections** None

Citation Hyde H. Murray Civil War Sites Advisory Commission

> Papers, Mss. #4691, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

X:1-X:3; OS:M **Stack Location(s)** 

#### BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission was created on November 8, 1990, through Public Law 101-543, a piece of legislation sponsored by Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. As a result of the nation's renewed interest in the Civil War and the high cost to the federal government of saving the Manassas battlefield in 1988 through emergency measures, Bumpers felt that the nation needed to establish a bi-partisan blue-ribbon commission with the purpose of developing a systematic process of identifying and prioritizing Civil War sites. Consequently, this legislation provided the mandate for the Commission to identify important Civil War sites, determine their significance and current condition, evaluate any threats to their integrity, develop alternatives for preservation and interpretation and report these findings to Congress. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields were excluded from the purview of the Commission due to an earlier study already underway.

As a part of the original legislation, the Commission was to have 13 members. The Civil Rights Act of 1991 contained an amendment for two additional members for a total of 15, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, Congress and designees from the National Park Service and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The membership of the Commission included: Edwin C. Bearss, the chief historian of the National Park Service; Mary Frances Berry, professor of history and law at the University of Pennsylvania; Ken Burns, the producer of the documentary, *The Civil War*; Dr. Robert D. Bush, Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Howard J. Coffin, a writer on the subject of Civil War battlefields; Dr. William J. Cooper, a Boyd Professor of history at Louisiana State University; J. Roderick Heller, III, a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Chairman of the Civil War Trust; Frances "Peg" Lamont, a South Dakota state senator and Trustee Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Dr. James M. McPherson, Princeton University history professor and author of the Pulitzer Prize winning book, Battle Cry of Freedom; Congressman Robert J. Mrazek of New York; Hyde H. Murray; Dr. Holly A. Robinson, historian for the National Park System Advisory Board; Congressman Charles H. Taylor of North Carolina; and Judge William J. Wright, founder of Company L of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

The Commission held sixteen public meetings between July 1991 and July 1993 in eleven states, which allowed for public comment and expert opinions on Civil War battlefields and the issues surrounding their preservation, as well as site visits. With the assistance of the National Park Service staff, individual Civil War sites were also evaluated based on criteria developed by the Commissioners. The result of this work was the Commission's report entitled *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*, first presented on July 12, 1993. The Commission officially disbanded on October 10, 1993, 90 days after the release of the report, as mandated by law.

Hyde H. Murray served as the Vice-Chair of the Commission. His two greatgrandfathers served in the Civil War from Murray's native state, Wisconsin, and spurred

his interest in the conflict. After graduating from Georgetown Law School in 1957, Murray served as counsel to the House of Representatives in various capacities for 30 years. In 1990, he became the Director of Governmental Relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Murray also served on the Board of Directors for American Forests. His interest in Civil War history was exhibited through his charter membership in the Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table and as a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Infantry Regiment Reenactment Group.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hyde H. Murray Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Papers consist of correspondence, administrative files, research files, printed items, clippings, notes, and artifacts related to Hyde H. Murray's work as vice-chairman of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The correspondence, administrative files and research files relate to information generated by the Commission through their public meetings in order to compile the *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* and present it to Congress. Murray's printed items, research files, clippings, notes, and artifacts were documents collected by Murray on the issues considered in the report, such as historic and battlefield preservation, conservation and private property rights. The American Forests Famous and Historic Tree series contains information on this project in which Murray participated apart from his work with the Commission.

### LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- Subgroup 1. Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Records
  - I. Correspondence (1987-1994)
  - II. Administrative (1991-1994, undated)
  - III. Research (1991-1993, undated)
  - IV. Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields (1992-1993)

#### Subgroup 2. Hyde H. Murray Papers

I. Printed Items

Subseries 1. Newsletters (1988-1994)

Subseries 2. General (1987-1994, undated)

- II. Research Files (1986-1995, undated)
- III. American Forests Famous and Historic Trees (1990-1995, undated)
- IV. Clippings (1990-1995, undated)
- V. Notes (1990-1994, undated)
- VI. Artifacts (1993, undated)

#### SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

#### Subgroup 1: Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Records, 1987-1994

This subgroup consists of documents generated by or on behalf of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Handwritten notes by Commissioner Hyde H. Murray can be found on several items.

#### Series I: Correspondence, 1987-1994 (.25 linear feet)

This series consists of the incoming and outgoing correspondence of Hyde H. Murray and copies of letters sent to him pertaining to his work with the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Specific topics covered include Murray's appointment to the Commission, correspondence between his fellow Commissioners, letters from citizens concerned about their local sites, and the aftermath of the presentation of the report.

Several letters recount the process Murray underwent in order to become a Commissioner. These include letters of recommendation, a letter to Speaker of the House Thomas S. Foley asking for his consideration for an appointment to the Commission (Dec. 19, 1990), and Murray's letter of appointment from Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr. (June 24, 1991). Numerous letters of congratulations followed, including one from Senator Bob Dole of Kansas (July 8, 1991). Another letter of interest from Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas explains the background of the Commission and why he decided to author the legislation for its creation (July 17, 1992).

As a commissioner, Murray frequently corresponded with his colleagues in order to share ideas on how best to fulfill the Commission's mandate. Specific topics discussed were involving as many people and organizations as possible in preserving battlefields (Feb. 14, 1992), the efforts for the preservation of buildings located on specific sites (June 17, 1992), and advice from experts, such as Frances H. Kennedy on state recreational use statutes and battlefield preservation (June 7, 1993).

Throughout the Commission's existence, concerned citizens and members of the Civil War preservation community sent letters to the Commissioners asking for the consideration of their local battlefields for aid, as well as letters of thanks for visiting sites during their meetings. These sites include Antietam, Md. (Dec. 3, 1991), Nashville and nearby Fort Negley, Tenn. (Feb.-Apr. 1992), and Alcorn and Corinth Counties, Miss., (Mar. 27, 1993). After the presentation of the Commission's report, a controversy over the use of the Brandy Station, Va., battlefield divided members of the preservation community (Sept.-Dec. 1993).

After the presentation of the Commission's report, steps were taken to implement its recommended actions. A letter from Lawrence Aten of the National Park Service (NPS) describes the media coverage of the report and the efforts by his agency to implement the proposed changes (Oct. 8, 1993). Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia wrote to Murray in order to enlist his help for the passage of the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act of 1993, a related piece of legislation separate from the Commission's work (Oct. 22, 1993).

Arranged chronologically.

#### Series II: Administrative, 1991-1994, undated (.3 linear feet)

The administrative files for the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission consist of the group's charter and other background information, agendas, minutes and statements from meetings, memoranda, summaries of the preservation alternatives workshops, a work plan for the study and statements made before Congress.

Official minutes for six of the Commission's public meetings are included for meetings 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, and 13 (1991-1993). Meeting 12 in Baton Rouge, La., is of particular interest because of its focus on Port Hudson (Dec. 4, 1992). Agendas and statements made by invited speakers are also included for other meetings. A complete listing of meeting locations, topics of discussion, and guest speakers can be found in Appendix D of the Commission's report located in series IV of this subgroup.

The Preservation Alternatives workshops run by consultant Elizabeth B. Waters for the NPS brought together experts in several fields in order to brainstorm ideas for a variety of ways to fund battlefield preservation. The background materials and summaries of the three meetings are included (1992). The Commission also developed a work plan for the Civil War sites study to aid NPS staff in their evaluation of specific sites (1991-1992). Evaluation characteristics for use at each site were also decided upon (July 1, 1992).

Background information on the Commission was put together before the group's testimony before Congress. In addition to the group's charter and information on the members, a briefing sheet provides an overview of the work performed by the Commission, including their recommendations made in the study, and answers to possible questions posed by Congress (Sept. 7, 1993). The statements of Hyde H. Murray and Congressman Charles Taylor before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources are also included (Sept. 14, 1993).

Arranged chronologically.

### Series III: Research, 1991-1993, undated (.25 linear feet)

The research consists of information on the existing federal Civil War battlefield programs and data put together specifically for the Commission. An overview of the Department of the Interior program, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), explains the short and long term goals of the project and provides information on significant battlefields, including their 25 priority sites (1991). The Civil War Battlefield Foundation, a private partner of the ABPP, presents its strategic plan for preserving the established 25 priority sites (Mar. 24, 1992). The study "Civil War Heritage Preservation: A Study of Alternatives" by Elizabeth B. Waters synthesizes the information gathered from the preservation alternatives workshop and provides a historical context for battlefield preservation, presents the current situation and recommendations for future action (Oct. 1, 1992). A sampling of state laws on protecting historic places is also included (June 13, 1991). Lastly, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission site data packet consists of a listing of the battlefields in the Commission's inventory listed by state, theater and campaign, military importance, integrity and interpretative potential criteria. It also includes a listing of lost Civil War battlefields (undated).

Arranged chronologically.

#### Series IV: Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, 1992-1993 (.5 linear feet)

This series contains numerous drafts and the final versions of the Commission's report, appendices and index. Between November 1992 and July 1993, the National Park Service staff and Commissioners worked on several drafts of the report in an effort to find the best way to present their recommendations and conclusions from their study. The final product was a 65-page report with 25 appendices (1993). The report contains a principal recommendations section that touches on the areas of government leadership, preservation priorities, private sector preservation, preservation and local jurisdictions, public and private funding and technical support. It also discusses its 384 priority battlefield sites. Lastly, the report presents specific recommendations for action by both Congress and the Department of the Interior. An illustrated and published version of the report is also available (1993). The appendices present a wealth of information on the background of the commission and the work it performed, a listing of Civil War sites based on different criteria, the methodology used by the staff in determining battlefield integrity and data on historic preservation. A section of particular interest is Appendix I, which contains 80 pages of reference sources on the Civil War. A full listing of Appendix titles is available at the end of this inventory.

Arranged chronologically.

#### Subgroup 2: Hyde H. Murray Papers, 1986-1995

This subgroup consists of documents collected by Commissioner Hyde H. Murray to assist him in his work with the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

#### Series I: Printed Items

## Subseries 1: Newsletters, 1988-1994 (.15 linear feet)

This subseries consists of newsletters collected by Hyde H. Murray on the subjects of Civil War history, historic preservation, conservation, property rights, and individual historic sites and monuments. Two newsletters deal specifically with organizations for the historic figures of Robert E. Lee and Mary Surratt. Many of the newsletters contain items on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and the progress of their work.

One newsletter of interest is *Battlefield Update* from the American Battlefield Protection Program, which includes frequent updates on the Commission's work and the agency's partnership with the Port Hudson, La., site (1991-1994). In addition, an issue of *Hallowed Ground* from the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites chronicles the organization's efforts on behalf of the Mansfield Battlefield site in DeSoto Parish, La. (Sept. 1993). A guest essay by Commissioner James M. McPherson on the reasons to save Civil War battlefields appears in an issue of *Civil War Landscapes* put out by the Civil War Trust (Fall 1993). An article in the *Land Letter* contains information on the compromises made between Senator Bumpers and the Department of the Interior on shaping the Commission (Aug. 1, 1990). Lastly, there are Civil War-themed issues of the *Land Rights Letter* (April 1991), *Maryland Military Monuments* (Summer 1993), and *Midland Trails, West Virginia* (undated). A full listing of newsletter titles is available in the container list of this inventory.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

#### Subseries 2: General, 1987-1994, undated (.15 linear feet)

This subseries consists of press releases, programs, brochures, advertisements, certificates, postcards, and stickers related to Civil War history, battlefield preservation and property rights. Many of the press releases chronicle the efforts of the Conservation Fund, through their Civil War Battlefields Campaign program to save sites, including two from Louisiana: Grant's Canal and Port Hudson (1990-1993). A brochure and program from the organization also highlight these efforts (1990, undated). The brochures also provide information on organizations involved with Civil War preservation efforts, such as the Civil War Trust (undated). Other brochures are from specific sites, such as Belle Grove Plantation and the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, Cheat Summit Fort, Camp Allegheny and Rich Mountain in West Virginia, and Gettysburg, Pa. (undated). A brochure put out by the National Parks and Conservation Association provides an overview on visiting Civil War battlefields (undated). One program of interest is from an American Forests banquet in which Murray received the President's award because of his work on the board (Nov. 6, 1992). One certificate honors Murray's service to the Department of Interior by serving on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission while another serves as proof of Murray's purchase of one square foot of land in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (1992-1993). The postcards are from battlefield sites in Corinth, Miss., Gettysburg, Pa., and Honey Springs, Okla. (undated).

Arranged by type and chronologically therein.

#### Series II: Research, 1986-1995, undated (.5 linear feet)

This series consists of research gathered by Murray on issues related to the Commission's work, such as Civil War history, historic preservation, and property rights issues.

On the topic of Civil War history, there are several explanations of specific battles, including Corinth, Miss., Perryville, Ky., McDowell, Va., Cedar Creek, Va., Pea Ridge, Ark., New Bern, N.C., Bentonville, N.C. and President Station in Baltimore, Md. (all undated). In addition, the testimony of Kent Masterson Brown before Congress presents a detailed explanation of the Battle of Gettysburg. (May 9, 1994). Two reprints of speeches by Abraham Lincoln on the "Proclamation Calling Militia & Convening Congress" from April 15, 1861, at the outset of the war, and from the Sanitary Fair in Baltimore, Md., on April 18, 1864 (undated). Lastly, a copy of the screenplay of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates by Richard Burress is also available (Feb. 12, 1993).

In the area of historic preservation, there is information available on specific agencies and reports on the impact of historic designations. In addition to background information for the Advisory Council in Historic Preservation, additional data on the effects of Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act is included. Several reports are concerned with the impact of historic designation on property, including a "Study of Battle Fields in the U.S. for Historic Purpose" from the Secretary of War in 1928 (Aug. 16, 1991). Murray also included a few significant court cases from state and federal Supreme Court cases, including *United States v. Gettysburg Electric Railway Company* from 1895.

For private property rights, information on federal actions is included. Two Supreme Court cases are available on this subject: *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council* (1991) and *Dolan v. City of Tigard* (1993). Several statements made to Congress from a variety of viewpoints on the Private Property Protection Act of 1993 are also included. In addition, this series also consists of

two statements on the position of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Murray's employer, on this issue (1991-1992) and a report entitled "Property Rights and Public Benefits" by Joseph L. Sax.

The "Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia," a report required by separate legislation from the Commission's report, is available (1992). The Congressional minutes and statements made before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests in relation to the subsequent Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partner Act of 1993 are also included.

This series also consists of other pertinent federal legislation. This includes the House record from the legislation establishing the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Copies of the legislation on the Open Space Preservation Act of 1992, possible amendments to the Historic Preservation Act and the Civil War Commemorative Coin Act are also available.

The oversize folder contains a reproduction of a map of Civil War Battlefields from 1861-1865 (undated).

Arranged chronologically.

# Series III: American Forests Famous and Historic Trees, 1990-1995, undated (.25 linear feet)

This series consists of correspondence, clippings and printed items related to the Famous and Historic Trees Project, through a partnership between the American Forestry Association and the Civil War Trust. A proposal for the project explains the ideas behind raising money for Civil War battlefield preservation through the sale of trees made by seeds gathered from trees from the sites (1992). The proposal also contains data on the different types of trees available and the historical significance of the battles they witnessed, as well as "Tree Stories" for the Antietam American Sycamore, Gettysburg American Sycamores, Robert E. Lee Sweet gum and other non-Civil War related trees (undated). The 1993 Catalog of Famous & Historic Trees and the Living Classrooms Learning Guide are also available (1993). The oversize folder includes planting certificates for the trees and issues of *Classic Tree News* and the *Famous and Historic Trees Program Guide*, as well as a newspaper clipping on famous trees.

Arranged chronologically.

#### Series IV: Clippings, 1990-1995, undated (.25 linear feet)

This series contains newspaper and magazine clippings collected by Murray on the topics of Civil War history and important figures, battlefield sites and threats to their integrity, private property rights and the Commissioners themselves. Several of the articles center on the events and people during the Civil War era, including Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12 & 13, 1994), Mary Surratt (Oct. 13, 1991) and the women who served as soldiers (Oct. 5, 1991). Background information on the Manassas case that spurred the creation of the Commission (July 28, 1991) is also available. In addition, information is included on the threats to Brandy Station, Va. (1991-1993), disagreement over the Shenandoah Valley, Va. (1993) and the success of the Perryville, Ky. preservation efforts (June 1992). For the area of private property rights, extensive coverage of the Supreme Court case, *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal* is given (1991-1993). Regarding the Commissioners include articles on Rep. Mrazek (June 6, 1991), J. Roderick Heller, III (July 1991), and Hyde H. Murray (Winter 1993) and articles written by Howard Coffin (March 19,

1992) and James McPherson (June 13, 1993). The oversize folder contains an article on Commissioner Ed Bearrs (Feb. 15, 1992).

Arranged chronologically.

#### Series V: Notes, 1991-1994, undated (.15 linear feet)

This series consists of handwritten notes made by Murray pertaining to Commission business. Murray took extensive notes at each of the Commission's 16 meetings, with the exception of Meeting 13 in Gettysburg, Pa. (1991-1993). Murray's amendments to various drafts of the Commission's report are also included (1993). Another item of interest is Murray's contribution to the listing of priority sites (Aug. 26, 1992). Notes from other meetings on behalf of the Commission, including Members of Congress from the Sunbelt Caucus (Sept. 24, 1992) are also available. Other notes include Murray's random ideas for the Commission's report and selling it to the public

Arranged chronologically.

#### Series VI: Artifacts, 1993, undated (.25 linear feet)

This series consists of artifacts collected by Murray during his travels while inspecting Civil War battlefields. Two fans from Gettysburg, Pa., depict Pickett's Charge from July 3, 1863 (1993). An explanation of the history of the fan is also included (1993). In addition, this series contains buttons for Commissioner Ed Bearrs (undated).

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			Honey Springs, Ok., Stickers

Stack Location	<u>Box</u>	Folder(s)	Contents (with dates)
			Series II: Research
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		30	"Working with Section 106" (1986)
		37	Private Property Rights (1988-1993)
		38	Historic Preservation (1988-1991)
		39	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (1989-
			1993)
		40	The National Trust for Historic Preservation
			(1989-1992, undated)
		41	Federal Legislation (1990-1992)
		42	US vs. NPS: Virginians Defending the Bill of
			Rights (1991)
		43	"Listing of Reports on Seizures of Property during
			the Civil War"; United States v. Gettysburg
			Electric Railway Commission, 1895 (1991,
		4.4	undated)
		44	Citizen's Guide to the Property Rights Movement
		4.5	(1992)
		45	Virginia Report on "The Financial Impact of
		46	Historic Designation" (1992)  Maryland Preservation (1992, undeted)
		40 47	Maryland Preservation (1992, undated) Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields
		47	Partnership Act of 1993 (1992-1993)
		48	Private Property Rights (1992-1993)
		49	Federal Historic Preservation Laws (1993)
		50	"The Lincoln Douglas Debates" Script by Richard
			Burress (1993)
		51	Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields
			Partnership Act of 1993 (1993-1994, undated)
		52	The Battle of New Bern, NC (1993)
		53-55	The Battle of Bentonville, NC (1993)
		56-57	Private Property Protection Act of 1993 (1993)
		58	The Battle of Gettysburg (1994)
		59	Coker House, Stones River National Battlefield
			General Management Plan (1994, undated)
		60	American Battlefield Protection Program
		<i>C</i> 1	Partnership Funding (1994-1995)
		61	American Battlefield Protection Program
		62	(undated) "Property Pights and Public Penefits" by Joseph
		62	"Property Rights and Public Benefits" by Joseph L. Sax (undated)
		63	Reprints of Abraham Lincoln Speeches, Charivari
		03	Reprints of Autanam Emcom Speeches, Charlyan

Stack Location	Box	Folder(s)	Contents (with dates)
OS:M		64 65 1	(undated) Battles of Pea Ridge, Corinth, Cedar Creek and Perryville; President Street Station (undated) The Battle of McDowell (undated) Civil War Battlefield Map (undated)
			Series III: American Forests Famous and Historic Trees
X:3	3	1 2-3 4 5-6 7 8 9 10 11 12 2	American Forestry Association (1990-1992, undated) Correspondence (1991-1994) Program Proposal (1992) Tree Information (1992, undated) Clippings (1992-1994) Press Releases and Newsletters (1992-1995) Catalog and Learning Guide (1993-1994) Advertisements (undated) Magazine Premier Issue (undated) Magazine Second Issue (undated) Tree Certificates, Classic Tree News, the Famous and Historic Trees Program Guide, clipping (1991-1994)
X:3 OS:M	3	13-22 1	Series IV: Clippings Clippings (1990-1995, undated) Clipping (1992)
X:3	3	23-27	Series V: Notes Notes (1991-1994, undated)
X:1	4	28	Series VI: Artifacts The History of the Gettysburg Fan (1993) Gettysburg Fan; Ed Bearrs' Buttons (1993, undated)

## REPORT ON THE NATION'S CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS APPENDICES

(Report Located in Subgroup 1, Series IV)

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В	The Commission Members
С	Commission Staff, Consultants, Regional Coordinators, Field Investigators, Geographic Information System Staff, Preservation Alternative Workshop Participants and Study Informants and Others Who Assisted the Commission
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E	Battlefield Survey Procedures and Documentation
F	GIS Assessment of Battlefield Integrity
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Н	Civil War Preservation Agencies and Organizations
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W	State Recreational Use Statutes and Battlefield Preservation by Frances H. Kennedy
Y	Vision Statement by Howard Coffin