

Civil War maps placed on world wide web

WASHINGTON (AP) — Civil War buffs are getting access to a treasure trove of information — thousands of original maps and diagrams of battles and campaigns between 1861 and 1865, all posted on the Internet.

The Library of Congress is posting 2,240 maps and charts and 76 atlases and sketchbooks, while The Virginia Historical Society and the Library of Virginia are

adding about 600 items. Much of the collection is online now; the rest will be by the spring.

The items depict troop positions and movements, as well as fortifications. There also are reconnaissance maps, sketches and coastal charts and theater-of-war maps.

One plan of the Mississippi port of Vicksburg was done in 1863, the year Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant forced

its surrender on July 4 in one of the war's most decisive operations. It gave the Union control of the river and cut the Confederacy in two.

It also won the attention of President Lincoln to his most successful commander. Lincoln wrote Grant a letter of congratulation and promoted him to major general.

The Vicksburg map includes fortifications, railways, levees, drainage, veg-

etation and even the names of a few residents.

The same day Vicksburg fell, more than 900 miles away Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began retreating to Virginia from Gettysburg, Pa., following his defeat there.

The National Archives and Records Administration recently drew attention to a map of the Gettysburg campaign in its own collection. It

records positions of troops on July 2, 1863, when the South came close to winning the battle.

The agency has been looking at the back of some of its documents since it worked with Walt Disney Pictures on the current film "National Treasure," a fictional story about a map to hidden treasure on the back of the original Declaration of Independence.

The Gettysburg map, which is not online, went with Lee's report on the battle to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. On the back of Lee's 14-page report was written: "Read with satisfaction and returned to War Dept. [Jefferson] Davis Aug. 6. 1863"

Davis may have been relieved by the failure of Union Gen. George G. Meade to
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Forman

(Continued from Page 2) ing Committee and was elected its executive secretary one week later.

Although both the student group and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference were fighting the same struggle, there was friendly competition.

Often the students organized demonstrations and took positions that went beyond those advocated by King.

For example, when Mississippi tried to send an all-White delegation to the 1964 Democratic convention, Forman was far more outspoken than King about the compromise that allowed two at-large votes for Black delegates. SNCC helped organize a protest in Atlantic City, N.J., where the convention was held that renominated President Johnson.

"They always thought King got all the publicity and they did most of the suffer-

ing, that they were the shock troops," said Taylor Branch, who has written two books on the civil rights movement. "There was tension and resentment and cooperation all at once."

But John Lewis, a congressman who was the coordinating committee's chairman when Forman was its executive secretary, said Forman's role was critical in convincing students they had a stake in the fight for equality and justice.

"He was the glue that held the young people together during the most abrupt time of the civil rights movement," said Lewis, D-Ga. "He was somewhat older than many of the young people who became part of the movement but was thoughtful, had great organizing skills and was a good manager."

Lewis credits Forman for persuading the group to purchase its own office building, printing press and research department that helped document the struggle. Rather than wait for King to arrive in a town and deliver a motivational speech, Forman tried to develop leadership among students, including the appointment of field secre-

taries to recruit young activists across the South.

"The chairman was kind of the public face and spokesperson while the executive secretary was always the guy running the organization behind the scenes, making things happen," Branch said. "To the people scattered down in Mississippi going to jail for tiny projects, he was the one who made sure somebody would get you out."

In 1969, Forman became one of the first major Black leaders to demand slavery reparations.

His "Black Manifesto," delivered at a church in New York, sought \$500 million from White churches for America's role in the Atlan-

tic slave trade.

He remained active in promoting the cause of Blacks throughout his career, including traveling to Africa and Europe on behalf of the Black Panther Party, planning a new March on Washington in 1982 and lobbying against the appointment of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork and the presidential campaign of former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke.

Dorie Ladner, a longtime friend and neighbor for several years in Washington, said Forman left his mark on the civil rights movement.

"He was very intelligent, a learned man with zeal for justice and equality," Ladner said. "He was fearless."

MLK

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The theme was selected with the city's centennial anniversary in mind, Taylor said.

Taylor joined the committee in 1991 to work alongside former state assemblyman Wendell P. Williams. Williams founded the community-based committee in 1981 and nurtured its growth, bringing it from a small group of residents working together to a group of more than 20 people of all ages and varying backgrounds who help organize the annual event.

In previous years, the MLK Committee also has hosted a fundraiser banquet and New Directions Breakfast. This year the annual fund-raiser banquet will not take place, however the breakfast will take place at Nevada Partners, 710 W. Lake Mead Blvd., on Monday, Jan. 17, at 8 a.m. The breakfast is free to the public.

The annual fund-raiser is expected to take place in the spring to commemorate the April 15, 1968 assassination of Dr. King. Taylor said the decision to move the banquet to later in the year is part of a new direction the committee is taking. Rather than channeling all of its energy and resources into planning a single annual event, the group will focus on incorporating year-round projects.

Williams said the new focus is to include a special team to address human and civil rights concerns as well as a team to work on youth programming. Dean Ishman, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Las Vegas chapter, is expected to work on the human and civil rights team.

Among the new changes for the organization is the changing of the guard that has placed Ricki Barlow in the position of current chair of the MLK Committee. Barlow was enthusiastic and appreciative of his team members as they prepared to head into the final stretch of planning for next weekend's celebrations.

"It has been a challenging experience,

however, at the same time it has been a lot of fun having the opportunity to work with the King Committee," Barlow said. "Its members have allowed me the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the committee itself and the many branches such as scholarships, the parade, banquet and social response where the committee assist community members that are in need beyond King week.

The committee does a lot of great things throughout the year in regards to giving back to the community, and that has been truly gratifying for me. I have always worked in the community and this has given me an opportunity to meet a lot of really great people." The committee teamed with the City of Las Vegas and Clark County who will be conducting Peace Week 2005 which consists of various programs that will take place during that week beginning Mon., Jan. 17 and culminating with a Candlelight Vigil on Sat., Jan. 22. at 6 p.m. at the Dr. King Statue at the Clark County Community Resource Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard and Carey Avenue.

Barlow, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Inc., also spoke proudly of Dr. King's affiliation with the fraternity and said the local chapter in conjunction with the Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow Youth Program would be conducting a two-day workshop called Project Alpha for youth ages 14 to 17 at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. The two-day seminar, scheduled for Jan. 11 and 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. will address health issues as they relate to the African-Americans, risky behavior and smart life choices. The seminars are free to the public.

For more information on any of the activities commemorating King including the parade, Project Alpha or the breakfast, contact Barlow at 392-1916 or Eddie Taylor at 648-8440. For information on Clark County Peace Week activities, call 702.455.7188.

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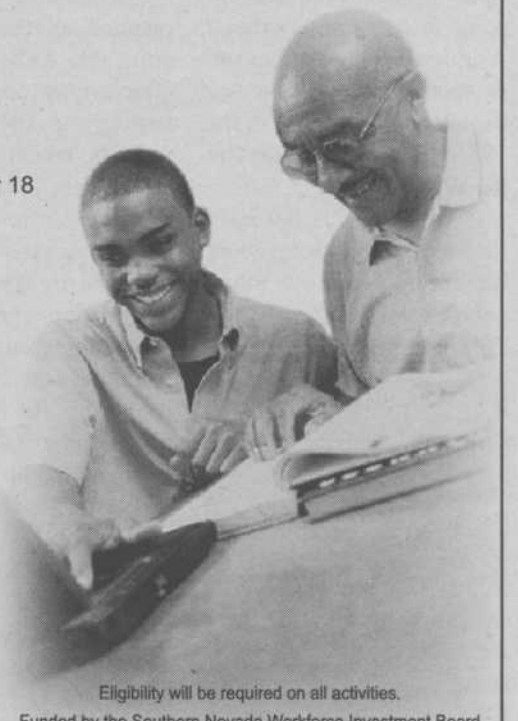
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