The Civil War casts a long shadow in the United States. As Robert Penn Warren put it in his classic 1961 book, The Legacy of the Civil War, “many clear and objective facts about America are best understood in reference to the Civil War.” The November 14-15, 2014 (out of the reporting period of this report) conference, “A Fire Never Extinguished: How the Civil War Continues to Shape Civic and Cultural Life in America,” held at the University of Vermont campus explored the influence that the War had and continues to have on literature, visual art, race, memory, and politics. The conference, taking place five months before the end of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, identified lessons vital to American democracy that still can be learned from the war and its aftermath. The conference was filmed and documentary videos of the conference summary and highlights of keynote speakers were developed and distributed via web and DVDs by CVNHP, VHC, NPS and other conference partners. The CVNHP approved a final report for this contract during this reporting period.

In the reporting period, the CVNHP provided $18,222 to support an American Civil War Conference sponsored by the Vermont Civil War 150th Anniversary Commission and the Vermont Humanities Council (VHC). The CVNHP received $15,000 in special NPS project funding. After administration costs, $13,333—along with $4,889 from the FY2014 CVNHP budget—of these funds were allocated to the conference and the subsequent documentary.

The back and front cover of the DVD case featuring the proceedings of the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Vermont Humanities Council held in November 2014.