

**The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
August 2011**



President: Joseph W. "Joe" McKinney Vice President: Robert L. Jones Treasurer: Gary Wilson
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Geisler, Eugene Hankinson, Cecilia Schneider-Vial, and Tony Seidita.



BSF Festival at Old House Vineyards

The Brandy Station Foundation will be hosting its Brandy Station Festival at Old House Vineyards on Sunday afternoon, September 18th from 1-5 PM . The cost is \$25.00 per person (12 and under free). Includes free pork barbecue and sides, blue grass band Mountain Remedy, crafts, free wine tasting, hayrides, Civil War re-enactors, games for the kids, and auction items. The restored 1800's farmhouse serves as the Old House tasting room.



he Foundation will be hosting a family festival at Old House Vineyards ,18351 Corkys Lane, Culpeper, on Sunday afternoon, September 18th All are warmly invited to the Brandy Station Festival from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This is BSF's annual fundraiser and we have something for the whole family: Free pork barbecue and sides, homemade ice cream

and cotton candy, the blue grass band Mountain Remedy, free wine tasting, hayrides around the area, craft vendors, games for the kids, Civil War re-enactors including the 17th Virginia Infantry and Governor William "Extra Billy" Smith plus more!

Ample free parking. Feel free to bring lawn chairs. Old House Vineyards is at 18351 Corkys Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701 From Culpeper take RT 3 East approx 7 miles, turn left onto Stevensburg Rd (RT 663), go 1.1 miles, turn left onto Corkys Lane and follow the Vineyard signs to the parking area.

Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 each (children 12 and under free). Get your tickets in advance at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station, by sending your check or credit card information to Brandy Station Foundation, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714 using the form on the back of this page, or by calling BSF Treasurer Gary Wilson at 540-547-4106. Tickets also sold on the day of the Festival.

Foundation News by BSF President Joe McKinney

Dear BSF Members,

I'm sure that by now you are all looking forward to the fall and relief from summer's heat and humidity. Here it has been stifling. Last month we reluctantly were forced to close the Graffiti House on a few days—the window air conditioners were no match for heat indexes

approaching 120 degrees.

For the Foundation, it has been a very busy summer, and I am amazed at the diversity of our activities, most of which are conducted without much fanfare. To mention a few:

- In partnership with Christ Church Parish, Brandy Station, we hosted a memorial service at the site of St. James Church. The service concluded with taps and a rifle salute in honor of the men who died in battle on June 9, 1863.
- We opened the Graffiti House to Confederate “recruits” from Camp Henry, a day-camp program conducted by the Museum of Culpeper History. The 25 recruits, 3rd thru 5th graders clad in gray kepis and jackets, asked some pretty tough questions about the graffiti and the Civil War during their visit.
- On the other end of the spectrum, we hosted a graduate student from Manchester, England, who is writing her master’s thesis on Civil War graffiti. After a full day with past-president Bob Luddy, I’m sure that she will have no problem satisfying her thesis committee.
- Also, we have now on two occasions had paranormal investigative groups spend a night in the Graffiti House sensing spirits and recording voices. While you may not believe in ghosts, many people find the groups’ work intriguing. If nothing else, the investigations are a lot of fun. We’ve scheduled a crew to film investigators at work in the Graffiti House next month. Assuming that the spirits make their presence known, the program should appear on the RIP Files on the Internet this fall.

Each of you should have received a letter asking for donations to repair the exterior of the Graffiti House. From the photos in the letter or from personal observation, many of you know that the house exterior needs a lot of work. Direct-mail fundraising is something new for the BSF, but I think it is warranted given the need. If you have not yet responded, please consider making a generous donation. Your money will be well-spent. Thank you to those who have already sent generous donations and thank you in advance to those who will be able to send donations.

Regarding the Graffiti House, one question that has arisen is, “What color should we paint it?” As you probably know, the house is presently red with white trim, which is certainly not traditional (I suspect a previous owner got a good price on barn paint from the local co-op). White would be a more common color for 19th Century rural Virginia. If you wish to provide your opinion, send me an email at director@brandystationfoundation.com. Please put “GH Color” in the subject line. Take care, Joe McKinney

Anonymous Gift in Memory of Mr. B.B. Mitchell and in Honor of Mrs. Page Mitchell

The board of the BSF is pleased to inform you that in July a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous donated \$20,000 to the foundation. This gift was made in memory of Mr. B.B. Mitchell, the first president of the BSF, and in honor of Mrs. Page Mitchell, B.B.'s wife and a founding member of the organization.

Baltimore Light Artillery Graffiti Uncovered at the Graffiti House

In the small room (the Marshall Room) at the top of the Graffiti House staircase, can be found a very unexpected, yet important piece of graffiti. Located upon the west wall of the room, written in pencil is the statement "Remember the Baltimore Light Artillery". This graffiti was uncovered by conservator Christopher Mills (pictured below working at the Graffiti House) just after Thanksgiving last year. Who were the members of the Baltimore Light Artillery and why should they be remembered?



Although Maryland (and Baltimore) could not sever itself from the Union because of the forcible occupation of the Union army, many of Maryland's sons left its borders and traveled to Southern cities to enlist in the Confederate army. One such group traveled to Richmond where on September 17, 1861 they became the

2nd Maryland Artillery, CSA (also known as the Baltimore Light Artillery). This battery was originally organized as a field artillery battery and over the next eighteen months participated in Jackson's Valley Campaign (being awarded two napoleon cannons for gallantry at Cross Keys), the Seven Days battles, Manassas and Sharpsburg. In April of 1863 the battery was refitted as horse artillery and by the summer of 1863, they joined the Stuart Horse Artillery.

During Lee's 1863 advance into the north, the Baltimore Light Artillery penetrated as far north as the southern suburbs of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania returning only after receiving Lee's order to concentrate at Gettysburg. Later back in Virginia, The battery was hotly engaged at Culpeper Court House on September 10 (losing a cannon) and again on October 10th at James City and again on October 12th at Brandy Station. Following these engagements, the battery was reassigned to the newly formed Maryland Line, then located at Hanover Junction, Virginia.

In May of 1864, J.E.B. Stuart requested of the Maryland Line commander that the Baltimore Light Artillery be detailed to him for a bit since he was in pursuit of a Union cavalry column whose target appeared to be Richmond. (With the addition of the Baltimore Light guns, Stuart had ten guns while Sheridan commanding Union forces had thirty guns and a 2-1 advantage in cavalry forces). Stuart won the race to intercept Sheridan and battle was joined at Yellow Tavern, on May 11th, 1864.

The Baltimore Light Artillery maintained a position in the center of the Confederate defensive line and quickly came under fire from three Union batteries. Despite horrid counter-battery fire, they held their position. A large group of Union cavalry formed and charged the entire the Confederate line, taking tremendous losses from the Confederate defensive fire. However, the supporting Confederate cavalry gave way and the Baltimore Battery was left unsupported. It swept the Union cavalry, and overran the guns. Stuart who had witnessed the combat from a position nearby, gathered some cavalry and rode forward (according to W.W. Goldborough) shouting "Charge Virginians and save those brave Marylanders!" But alas, a shot rang out and J.E.B. Stuart went down. The line was broken, and the Confederates began a rapid retreat.

There were other battles on other days. The battery (what was left of it) was refitted and fought with Early in the Valley at Waynesboro, Fisher's Hill and Woodstock. Eventually, all of its guns were captured and its surviving artillerymen ended the war as infantrymen. Their story is not a happy one – but it is a story of grit, determination and valor against overwhelming odds – a story worth remembering!

By Bob Luddy, former BSF President and current volunteer.

Graffiti House Gift Shop News

The GH Book of the Month for July/August is the newly published "Young Lion" Life and Death of John Pelham by Dr. Jerry H. Maxwell. Every book is personally signed by Dr. Maxwell. The regular price is \$49.95, but BSF is selling it in their Gift Shop for \$40.00. NEW !!!! Our gift shop now has Prince Michel wines for sale at \$15.75 per bottle. These are

specially made for us with a Battle of Brandy Station label commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Sunday Lecture Series

The Brandy Station Foundation Sunday lecture series are the last Sunday of the month from April through October .Everyone is welcome, the lectures are free (although donations are welcome), and free refreshments are provided by BSF board members and friends. All lectures start at 2:00 PM at the Graffiti House

August 28 "24 Hours at Manassas Junction - August 27, 1862 - Stonewall Jackson Raid on Manassas Junction"— Mark Trbovich

September 25 "Fauquier County in 1860 and 1861"—Richard Deardoff

October 30 "Along the Dare Mark Line"-- Mike Block

Travel Writers Visit the Graffiti House on June 15th.

Travel writers were welcomed to the Graffiti House in June; here is a link to one of the subsequent articles by Gretchen Kelly.

<http://offmanhattan.com/2011/07/14/things-to-do-shenandoah-national-park/>



Hall of Honor Elbert McCormick Signs under the State Flag of Missouri

On July 3rd, Elbert McCormick signed the wall in the Hall of Honor for being a descendent of two soldiers of the 4th Va. Cavalry , Co. D, Little Fork Rangers. He was the **first** person to sign under the state flag of Missouri.

3.33 Am Paranormal Research visits Graffiti House

On the night of June 15, 2011 the 3:33 Am Paranormal Research team came to the Graffiti House with their sophisticated and complex video cameras and audio recording devices. They set up their equipment at nightfall. On July 16 they presented their findings to the Officers and Board of the BSF. They encountered 48 separate and distinct contacts with paranormal spirits in the upstairs rooms in the house. Most of these were voices whose words they captured on their audio recorders. One researcher felt a tug on the back of his shirt. Another saw a flitting image go across the room that was caught on camera. The researchers continually asked the spirits for a sign but none was given until

they had packed up their equipment and were just starting to shut & lock the front door and they heard a loud Knock! Knock! Knock! from upstairs as if to say don't let the door hit you on the way out.

This research by 3:33 Am Paranormal Research attracted the attention of Ms Pat Marin, the Executive Producer of "The R.I.P. Files" which is regularly aired on the internet and is being marketed to TV networks. "The R.I.P. Files" crew will begin making a film at the Graffiti House in September which could bring national attention to The Brandy Station Foundation and the Graffiti House spirits and ghosts. The link to the results of the research at the Graffiti House is: <http://www.333ampararesearch.org/page20>.



BSF volunteer Geoffrey Hazzan, BSF President Joe McKinney, Katherine Reed, her mother Janet Reed, and BSF volunteer and former President Bob Luddy.

Graffiti House Visitor from Scotland

On June 24th, the staff of the Brandy Station Foundation experienced a first time educational treat. On that date, the BSF was visited by Katherine Reed, a 24 year old post-graduate history student from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. Accompanied by her "Mum", Janet Reed, Katherine had traveled from Scotland to Brandy Station to see first-hand, the unique and exciting graffiti to be found on the walls of the Graffiti House. To complete her degree requirement, she must now write a dissertation, consisting of no less than 50,000 words on her chosen subject area - that of American Civil War graffiti. To facilitate her project, prior to arriving at Brandy Station she had also spent two days in Fairfax inspecting the Blenheim House and its fine collection of graffiti. At Brandy, Joe McKinney, Geoffrey Hazzan and Bob Luddy provided a background of facts and figures supplemented by pictures and stories concerning the GH graffiti and its origins. At days end, we wished her well with her project and look forward to receiving a copy of her paper in the not too distant future.

Saturday Battlefield Tours 2011

The BSF has been presenting a series of four two-hour tours, one devoted to each of the four engagements that comprise the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863: Beverly Ford & St. James Church; Kelly's Ford & Stevensburg; Fleetwood Hill; and, Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge. Transportation: Personal vehicle caravan will depart from the Graffiti House at 10AM. The cost is \$10 (children under 12 are free). No reservations are needed, please arrive at the Graffiti House before ten. Special tours for individuals or groups on other days can be specially arranged.

Fleetwood Hill (Aug 20)

Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge (Sept 3)

Battle of Rappahannock Station (August 27, November 5)

Fleetwood Hill – Aug 20

The tour focuses on the fighting for Fleetwood Hill, the most intense and prolonged combat on June 9, 1863. At one point 12 regiments -- 6 Union and 6 Confederate -- struggled for control of the hilltop. Unlike most Civil War battles, the troopers fought from the saddle, mostly with sabers.

Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge – Sept 3

This tour presents the fighting that took place later in the afternoon of June 9 between General Buford and General W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee's brigade..

Battle of Rappahannock Station - Aug 27, Nov 5

The Battle of Rappahannock Station was one of the briefest and violent engagements during the Civil War. It was also fought in near darkness. This field tour will walk the fields where two brigades from the Army of the Potomac's Fifth and Sixth Corps successfully captured two redoubts and over 1800 Confederates on November 7, 1863

June 12th Commemorative Service at the St. James Church site



Re-enactor Stephen Dunn, receives communion from the Reverend Joie Weiher at the June 12th commemorative service at the St. James site on the Brandy Station Battlefield. Music was provided by a traditional Appalachian string band, The Cabin Raiders.

On June 12th, Christ Episcopal Church and the Brandy Station Foundation joined for a service at the St. James Site in commemoration of those who died in the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. The service, led by the Reverend Joie Weiher, was outside at the location of the small Episcopal church which was totally dismantled during the encampment of Union troops in the winter 1863-64. The original St. James Church Civil War chalice was used in the service. Brandy Station Foundation President Joe McKinney welcomed those attending, gave a history of the St. James site, and read a poem by a former BSF president Robert L. Jones entitled "Listen". Roy Perry and bugler John Martin, commander of the Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp 1722 were in attendance. The Cabin Raiders, a traditional Appalachian string band, from the Warrenton area, provided the music for the service and graciously performed afterwards at a reception at the Graffiti House.

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the Foundation.

_____ \$25 Membership Additional Donation \$ _____

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Mail to: Brandy Station Foundation, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714

Let me know how I can volunteer. _____

Phone Numbers: Daytime _____ Night _____

Send my newsletter by email or postal service. (circle one)

The Brandy Station Foundation is a 501(c)-3 non-profit group dedicated to preserving the natural and historic resources of the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County, Virginia. It relies on tax-deductible donations to meet its goals. More information at: www.brandystationfoundation.com