

The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
August 2009



A vintage advertisement for Berry Hill Dyspepsia Water. The background is a dark, textured red. At the top, the title "Berry Hill Dyspepsia Water" is written in a large, ornate, white serif font. Below it, "OLD VIRGINIA'S REMEDY" is written in a smaller, simpler white font. The advertisement is divided into three main sections. On the left, under "DIRECTIONS:", it lists "FOR DYSPEPSIA AND INDIGESTION: 2 OR 3 GLASSES AFTER MEALS." and "FOR CONSTIPATION: 2 OR 3 GLASSES AT BED-TIME." Below this, it says "Keep well corked in a cool place, not exposed to light." In the center, there is a detailed illustration of a strawberry with green leaves, set within a square frame. The words "TRADE-MARK" and "REGISTERED" are written in small letters on either side of the strawberry. On the right side, the text reads "Berry Hill Mineral Springs Company, of Va." and "Office—Culpeper, Va. Springs—Elywood, Va." At the bottom, a large white banner contains the text "FOR AN AMERICAN DISEASE. A PERMANENT RELIEF" in bold, followed by a smaller line of text: "FOR DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, CONSTIPATION AND ALL FORMS OF STOMACH DISORDERS. A REMEDY OF GREAT MERIT FOR KIDNEY DISEASES, URIC ACID, DIATHESIS, STONE, GRAVEL, RHEUMATISM, GOUT AND DROPSICAL AFFECTIONS."

BSF Celebration at Berry Hill Farm

The Board of Directors of the Foundation is pleased to announce a special September event. Through the gracious hospitality of Mrs. Jorge Schneider and her family , a luncheon and afternoon festivities will be held at Berry Hill Farm, Brandy Station, VA. on Sunday, September 13, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. All are welcome. Proceeds benefit the BSF.

The BSF is honored to have as our special guest speaker noted CW historian and author **Eric J. Wittenberg**. Eric is an award-winning Civil War historian. His specialty is cavalry operations, with a particular emphasis on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps He is the author of fifteen published books on cavalry operations in the Civil War, and is a frequent lecturer and tour guide. His first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*,

was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg of 1998. Other works of his have been chosen as main selections by the History and Military Book Clubs, and his work uniformly receives good reviews. He is also the author of more than two dozen published articles on Civil War cavalry operations. His articles have appeared in Gettysburg Magazine, North & South, Blue & Gray, Hallowed Ground, America's Civil War, and Civil War Times Illustrated.

Battlefield preservation work is very important to him. He was part of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, APCWS, which joined with the Civil War Trust to become the CWPT. He began promoting the efforts of the BSF early on, getting involved in 1996. His new book on the Battle of Brandy Station will be published by The History Press in 2009. A native of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Eric was educated at Dickinson College and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is an attorney in private practice.. He and his wife Susan and their two golden retrievers live in Columbus, Ohio. Eric regularly travels the country to lecture on the war, and he is frequently asked to lead Civil War battlefield tours. He sits on the boards of advisors of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Friends of the Alligator, and has regularly worked with the Civil War Preservation Trust in helping to save battlefield land. He is an original member of, as well as past president and program chairman of, the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable.

This event is an opportunity to join in celebrating 20 years of preservation in Culpeper County and honoring those men and women who have given their time and efforts, and often much more, in serving as members of the BSF Board of Directors through the 20 year history of the Foundation. Without their dedication and hard work, often against staggering odds, the Brandy Station Battlefield, the Graffiti House, and the integrity of the Brandy Station Civil War area would not be intact today.

Please join the Board for a delicious luncheon catered by Gentry Catering. We are pleased to have "Evergreen Shade" provide Civil War period music for the afternoon. There will be on the grounds several artisans demonstrating their crafts and selling the results of their labors. There will be a basket weaver, a smithy, spinners and more. Tours of the house will be conducted by BSF volunteers and Mrs. Schneider will give a brief history of the Farm. Berry Hill Farm was used as his headquarters by General Ewell during the War and the grounds were camped on frequently by both sides of the struggle. Two mounds in the yard are reminders of cannon mounts. The original house, home to Captain Pembroke Thom and his family, was destroyed on a cold December 1863 morn when the Union troops posted there were ordered to gather straw and dry grasses and pile this in the rooms of the house where the material was lit and consequentially the house burned to the ground

leaving only the stones of the foundation . These were carted off to build chimneys and other structures for the Union encampment.* The property was sold and in 1865 a new house was built and still stands today as the right hand portion of the present home.* "My Dear Brother", *a Confederate Chronicle*, by Catherine Thom Bartlett

The program for the day will have gates open at 1 P.M. with luncheon served at 2 P.M.- Mr. Wittenberg will speak at 2:30. We will be holding a silent auction of various donated articles.

Directions to Berry Hill Farm:

From Culpeper: Go north on Rt. 29. At Brandy Station light, turn east (right) onto Alanthas Rd.- go left at stop sign and follow road to the right as it crosses over the **railroad tracks**. Continuing straight you are now on Carrico Mills Rd. Travel **2.8 miles** to stone pillared drive entrance on left. Entrance is marked Berry Hill Farm Drive.

From **Rt 3**, 7.2 miles east of Culpeper, just past the Blue Ridge Growers greenhouses, turn left onto Carrico Mills Rd. and go **2.9 miles** to stone pillared driveway on right.

It is a long driveway , please be cautious of any out-going vehicles.

The cost is \$25.00 per person (Please make checks out to Brandy Station Foundation) **Reservations MUST BE RECEIVED by September 6th**.

When: September 13, 2009

Where: Berry Hill Farm , Carrico Mills Road, Brandy Station VA 22714

RSVP: By September 6 by phone(540) 399-1637 (Board member Helen Geisler) or by email: director@brandystationfoundation.com, or, print, fill out and mail this page to the **Brandy Station Foundation, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714**

Number of guests _____ at \$25.00 per person.

Names: _____

_____ Enclosed is a check payable to: BSF, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714

_____ Charge my (VISA) (MasterCard) # _____ Exp. Date:

_____ for \$ _____

My billing address

is: _____

_____ I am unable to attend; but wish to make a donation of \$ _____ to the BSF.

Sunday Lecture Series

The Brandy Station Foundation has again been hosting a series of Sunday lectures on the Civil War. Free, donations welcome. The lectures are be on the last Sunday of each month starting April 26 and ending October 25. They are at the Graffiti House (19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, VA) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We welcome everyone to join us for the lectures and light refreshments. Upcoming lectures are:

8/30/09 "Walt Whitman's Civil War" - Melissa Delcour

9/27/09 "The Civil War in Culpeper Through the Eyes of Artists and Photographers" - Michael Block

10/25/09 "The Music of the Civil War" - Evergreen Shade

Saturday Battlefield Tours 2009

Beverly Ford & St. James Church (April 4, May 30, July 25)

Kelly's Ford & Stevensburg (April 18, June 13, Aug 8)

Fleetwood Hill (May 2, June 27, Aug 22)

Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge (May 16, July 11, Sept 5)

Tours leave from the Graffiti House at 10:00 am and last 2 hours. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, children are free. No reservation needed, just show-up at Graffiti House before ten. For info contact Gary Wilson at 540-547-4106 or email BSFJune91863@aol.com. Full tour schedule at www.brandystationfoundation.com.



Memorial Service Held at St. James Church Site

On June 14, the Foundation had the pleasure of joining with the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church of Brandy Station to hold a service at the historic St. James Church site on the battlefield. This was a memorial service honoring the men who fought in the Battle of Brandy Station and all who gave their lives. The Reverend Joie Clee Weiher conducted the Service of Holy Eucharist as it would have been done at St. James during its short life from 1840 to 1863. She used the St. James Communion Chalice and the Bible from the church which was stolen by Union troops and then returned.

The 1860s era service was attended by 50+ communicants. The processional was led by a bagpiper and an honor guard from the Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp 1722 of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans of Fredericksburg. Many thanks go to them for their participation. Several friends arrived in period dress and the weather was perfect. The church generously shared a collection of \$284 with the BSF. . Light refreshments were served following the service at the Graffiti House.

At the conclusion of the service BSF President Bob Jones made a few remarks about that infamous day in June of 1863 and the men who gave their lives on this sacred ground:

Listen!

If you listen closely, concentrate on listening, perhaps you can hear the sounds as I do, of that beautiful spring morning of June 9th, 1863. The sky has just started to lighten, & we hear the sounds of the forest as animals stir & the morning breeze begins to fill the trees here around St. James Church. Birds commence their morning symphony, & on the farm lands that surround us, we hear the cows & horses & roosters issuing their wake up greetings.

Nearby, we hear the voices of men & young boys stirring, the rattle of coffee pots & cups as the morning meal is prepared. And through the trees we hear the voice of a young man in quiet song singing a popular ballad of the times – one that most of us are familiar with – a ballad written in 1855 in Philadelphia by a young African-American Richard James Milburn, with the words by his music store employer Septimus Wimmer.

*“Listen to the mocking bird, Listen to the mocking bird.
The mocking bird still singing o’er her grave.
Listen to the mocking bird, Listen to the mocking bird.
Still singing where the weeping willows played.”*

Before the song is ended, another sound arouses our interest. Listen! It is the sound of hoof beats – the sound of many horses being ridden hard up the nearby road from Beverly Ford

...

Bob ended with: As the sun begins to go down, as the day comes to a close, please rise. Please rise & listen with me to one final sound. A sound in honor of those who fought & died for all of us, on that beautiful spring day of June 9th, 1863.

Then followed the hallowing sound of _Taps_ being played from a short distance followed by a 3 gun salute to the fallen. The congregation then filed back down the wooded path. Many commented on how moving the service was.

We thank the Reverend Joie Clee Weiher for her conducting of this inspiring service and Boo Ingram, Christ Church vestry member for originating the event. We thank church member Don Richardson and BSF volunteers Scott Nickens and Richard Deardoff, with his band of students, for their help in preparing the site. Many thanks go to Mr. George Hovenden, BSF member, for his photos.

The Board of Directors of BSF looks forward to working again with the members of Christ Church to make this an annual event.

Board Changes

The Board is pleased to announce the return of one of its own. **Clark B. 'Bud' Hall** has moved his residence back to Virginia and has rejoined the Board. Bud, a founding member and former President of the Foundation is looking forward to again having an active roll within the Board. Welcome back !

The Board of Directors regrets to announce the retirement of **Shirley and Bob Pfile** from the Board. The loss to the gift shop especially is great. Thank you both for all your good work.



Journey Through Hallowed Ground Bike Tour

On June 24, 2009, The Graffiti House played host to nearly 400 bicycle riders from across the country as they peddled their way through Culpeper County celebrating the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) Bike Tour.

It is believed that this day brought the largest single visitor total in the history of the Brandy Station Foundation.

The Brandy Station Foundation worked in partnership with the JTHG and tour staff, coordinating the day's events. The Graffiti House was selected as the days secret location, meaning bikers earned the opportunity for prizes.

At times during the early afternoon, the front yard was literally covered in bicycles, with dozens of visitors enjoying the early summer day by sitting on the picnic benches or on the front porch. Inside while the stream of visitors viewed wallboards and the orientation film downstairs, docents upstairs told stories about the men and events the soldiers from the 1860's left for us to decipher.

Some of the riders use the time at the house to rest and recoup, but most were fascinated by what secrets the house revealed and in one instance, at least one rider returned after she completed the ride with a friend to learn more.

The event was a fulfilling and successful day for all who participated.

The Inn at Kelly's Ford Celebrates July 4th

There was lots of food, fireworks, and fun at the Inn at Kelly's Ford on the 4th of July. The Foundation had a good day. Helen Geisler, Peggy Misch, and Mike Block manned the information table and sold items from the Gift Shop. Proceeds to the BSF from the sale of beer was about \$1650.00. Thank you very much to Bill and Linda Willoughby and the wonderful staff of the Inn at Kelly's Ford.

Interested in Volunteering at the Graffiti House?

Join our Volunteer Coordinator, Tony Seidita, on Sunday, October 4, from 2 to 4 at the Graffiti House, to learn about volunteer opportunities at the Graffiti House. This is a casual get-together with light refreshments. Come and learn more—no experience necessary!



A Knight to the Rescue!

Maureen and Pat Knight of Shrewsbury, England visited the GH on July 19th. Pat has an unusual job - he repairs and reconstructs old airplanes!! Recently he was contacted by an American aviation hobbyist who had purchased a 1950's United Kingdom trainer called the Bulldog. After some conversations, the Knights were flown to the United States, journeyed to mid-Virginia where he is now actively engaged in the reconstruction of the plane. In the picture, Pat and his wife are shown relaxing on the porch of the GH with Karla and Tony Seidita and Bob Luddy.

Thanks to Tony and Karla Seidita!

BSF Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator Tony and his charming wife Karla hosted the Board and volunteers for a summer picnic at their new Bed and Breakfast, Cheesecake Farms, in Sumerduck, Virginia. The food was incredible and the hospitality was warm. We even had fun blowing bubbles at the picnic tables!

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I support the work of the Brandy Station Foundation in preserving Historic Brandy Station. 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, community-based membership 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.