

**The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
December 2015**



President: Joseph W. "Joe" McKinney Vice President: William Truitt Treasurer: Gary Wilson
Secretary: Don Carlson Board of Directors: Barry Atchison, Jane Brookins,, Helen Geisler,
Paula Johnson, Peggy Misch, Scott Mitchell, John Orr, Benjamin Ryman, Cecilia Schneider-
Vial ,and Tony Seidita.

Brandy Station Foundation Holiday Open House
Please join us at the Graffiti House on Saturday, December 12, 1-4 PM



The Wilderness Run Players at the Holiday Open House at the Graffiti House in December 2014

Members, friends, and friends we haven't met are invited to the Holiday Open House at the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. The Brandy Station Foundation will provide refreshments and the Wilderness Run Players will provide beautiful music. The Graffiti House gift shop will be open with books, tee-shirts, and other gift items for sale.



BSF Vice President William Truitt (left) with Chris Mills In September at the Graffiti House

Conservator Chris Mills Receives Plaque of Appreciation for his Graffiti House conservation work

On September 27th, conservator Chris Mills discussed his conservation work at the Graffiti House and received a plaque of appreciation from the Brandy Station Foundation. Thanks to

his work, we now believe that virtually all of the graffiti left in the house has been uncovered.

Give a Gift Membership to the Brandy Station Foundation!

Please consider giving a gift membership to the Brandy Station Foundation. [Please download, complete and mail the PDF Version](#) of the following form to: Brandy Station Foundation, PO Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714-0165

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION GIFT MEMBERSHIP



Please send a Gift Membership to the Brandy Station Foundation to:

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\$ ____ Annual Membership (\$ 25.00 individual; \$40.00 couple; \$15.00 high school or college student) \$ ____ Additional Donation

Check # or credit card # _____ VISA__ MC__ exp. Date _____

Checks may be made out to: Brandy Station Foundation

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

Fleetwood Hill Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Interpretive Trail



One of the new markers on the Civil War Trust Fleetwood Hill Interpretive Trail

On Monday, October 26, 2015, the Civil War Trust organized a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new interpretative trail with historical markers on Fleetwood Hill, the Battle of Brandy Station site of the largest cavalry battle in North America where more than 20,000 men on horseback clashed on June 9, 1863. Jim Lighthizer, Civil War Trust President, spoke to the assembled crowd of about two hundred, according to the Culpeper Star Exponent article by Allison Brophy Champion.

The Trust, based in Washington, D.C., raised \$3.6 million to purchase the 56-acre tract at Fleetwood Hill. They removed two homes and used digital imagery to return it, as closely as possible, to its Civil War appearance.

On December 20, 2012, the Civil War Trust announced that agreement had been reached to purchase Fleetwood Hill, the culmination of the Battle of Brandy Station but land which was also camped on many times during the Civil War. The Brandy Station Foundation supported the purchase of this land by the Trust in two important ways

- The BSF raised money during 2013 for that Fleetwood Hill Purchase, including a raffle, and pledging half the proceeds from the Kelly's Ford Ball in March 2013 towards the purchase of Fleetwood Hill with the other half to support the Graffiti House.
- President Joe McKinney worked with the Civil War Trust and with owner Joseph Troilo, Jr. to come to agreeable terms for the purchase.

As Joe reported in the last newsletter, recently there have been articles in the local press regarding the possibility of Virginia establishing a State park in Culpeper centered on the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields. Throughout this process the Board of the Brandy Station Foundation is committed to maintaining our organization's focus on battlefield preservation, honoring those who served here, and ensuring that the public is informed regarding the significance of events that occurred here in Culpeper just more than 150 years ago.



View of Beauregard Farm and Blue Ridge Mountains from Fleetwood Hill



UDC marker on Fleetwood Hill with new interpretive trail in the distance

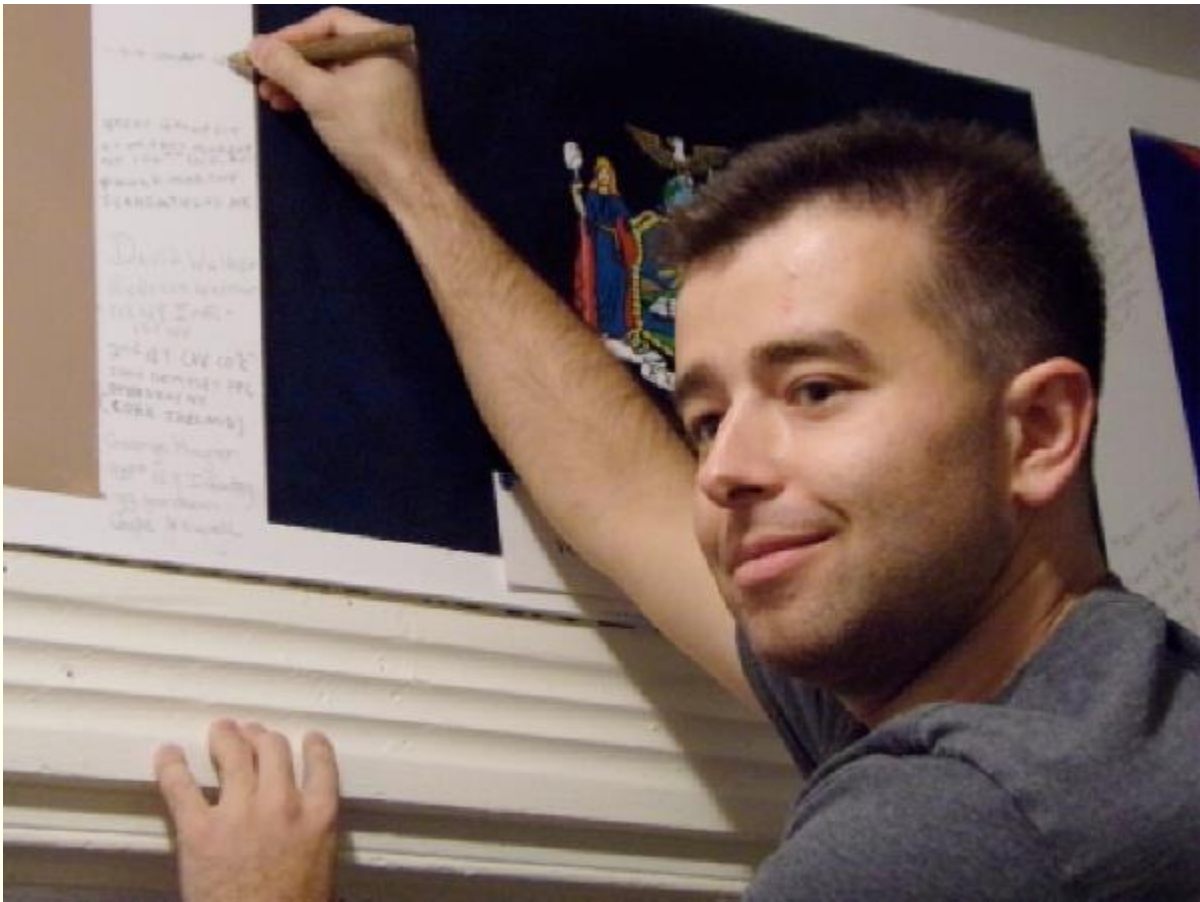
Spirited Evening at the Graffiti House in October

On October 24th, the Foundation held its Spirits of the Graffiti House community event. Featured events included ghost stories, a campfire with marshmallows, and the continuous screening of the video produced by "The R.I.P. Files" from a Graffiti House paranormal investigation. Mark Higgins, investigator with the Research and Investigation of the Paranormal (R.I.P.) Team, discussed the investigation with visitors.



Mark Higgins talking to Graffiti House visitors during Sprits of the Graffiti House

During the evening, there was a wall signing on the Hall of Honor by Jonathan Drake. He is a great-great-great-grandson of Private Andrew Jackson (Jack) Snow, Co. E, 5th New York Cavalry Volunteers who were in Brandy Station from February to May of 1864 during the Winter Encampment.



Jonathan Drake signing the Hall of Honor in October

WINTER ENCAMPMENT OF 1863-64

After the Confederate defeat at Bristoe Station in October 1863, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade pressed Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia south across the Rapidan River into Orange County. The Union army then settled in for the winter around Culpeper Courthouse in Culpeper County, while the Confederates encamped along the south bank of the Rapidan.

The rail station at Brandy became the major transportation hub for the winter encampment.

Supplies, visiting dignitaries and people of notoriety came to Culpeper during this time. Officer's wives came and toured the area with pomp and pageantry. Grand balls were held in the homes of prominent citizens.

For five months, the two combatants studied each other, resupplied and reinforced their armies, and tested each other's lines with occasional thrusts. In March 1864, Grant arrived

in Culpeper County, having been appointed commander of all Union armies by President Abraham Lincoln.

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – MEMBERSHIP FORM

[Download this form as an Adobe Acrobat \(pdf\) file](#)

Please enroll me as a member of the Foundation. Please mail to:

Brandy Station Foundation,
PO Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714-0165

_____ Annual Membership (\$25.00 individual; \$40.00 couple; \$15.00 high school or college student)

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Send my newsletter by EMAIL (please give email address) or POSTAL SERVICE (circle one)

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