

**The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
December 2010**



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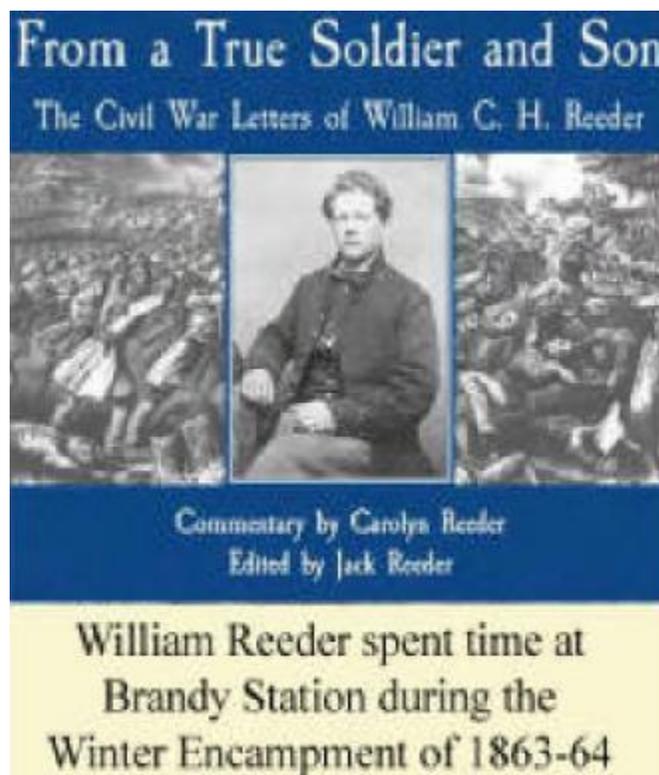
BSF 2010 Holiday Open House

BSF Holiday Open House on December 18th—Mark your calendars, please!

The Brandy Station Foundation is hosting its annual Holiday Open House at the Graffiti House (19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, 540-727-7718) on Saturday, December 18, 2010, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Please stop by to see Civil War graffiti, enjoy holiday fare, and find gift items for sale, including Civil War books and DVDs, Civil war prints, children's gifts, and Graffiti House mugs, ornaments, glassware, tee shirts and sweatshirts. Santa Claus will be stopping by in the afternoon between 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM.

A wonderful gift that helps to support the Brandy Station Foundation is a book edited by **Carolyn and Jack Reeder**, titled **From a True Soldier and Son, The Civil War Letters of William C. H. Reeder**. The book is sold for \$ 18.00. Three years of young William's letters to his parents—plus commentary, maps, and illustrations—have been published by the Brandy Station Foundation. A number of William's letters to his parents were datelined either Encamped near Culpeper or Brandy Station. He wrote that he was close to the railroad "where we can see the iron horse as he goes snorting by".

Many Virginia readers are familiar with the Reeder's' books about the people who lived in the area that is now Shenandoah National Park. Carolyn's fictional book set in the post Civil War period, **Shades of Gray**, won the Scott O'Dell Award and was an American Library Association "Notable Children's Book".



2010 has proved to be a productive year for the Brandy Station Foundation as your Board of Directors has labored to meet milestones set when the “new board” took over in April 2010.

Here are some goals we outlined for 2010 (not in order of priority):

- Continue to develop close ties with the Culpeper Community.
- Establish firm bonds with preservation groups, national and local.
- Conduct lectures and tours that memorialize and promote Culpeper’s unequalled Civil War history.
- Continue to sustain our Headquarters gem, the historic Graffiti House, and to serve as responsible stewards to battlefield land BSF owns near Fleetwood Hill, and at Kelly’s Ford.
 - Directly participate in preparations to memorialize America’s Civil War Sesquicentennial.
 - Revamp our website in order to improve our “public face.”
- Work with landowners to conserve and acquire threatened Civil War sites in Culpeper County.
 - Grow our membership and increase the donor base as we confront a challenging economic environment.

So, as contrasted with stated objectives, how have we done so far? In sum, we have done extremely well in some areas, and not so well in others. Let’s discuss the good news first:

Your Brandy Station Foundation is highly regarded in the local community, and we are often called upon to assist the Museum of Culpeper History; Culpeper Department of Tourism and other local groups (Chamber of Commerce, etc.) in promoting Culpeper County’s Civil War history. On point, please consider a quote from Culpeper’s Director of Tourism: “Tourism truly is a partnership... I am grateful to the Brandy Station Foundation for being such a wonderful partner.”

We have established important linkages with the Civil War Preservation Trust; Piedmont Environmental Council; Journey through Hallowed Ground; Friends of Cedar Mountain; Society for the Preservation of Culpeper History; Germanna Foundation; and the Remington Community Partnership. Further, BSF retains leadership representation on Culpeper County’s slowly emerging Sesquicentennial Committee.

BSF has hosted well-attended public lectures and tours at the Graffiti House, and we have conducted battlefield tours for such diverse groups as the National Press Club; the National

Parks Conservation Association; Civil War Roundtables, and historic seminar groups. We have lectured at Civil War gatherings, including those sponsored by the Mosby Scenic Heritage Area, and the National Sporting Library.

BSF's work has been the focus of considerable media interest, and news articles highlighting our events have appeared in the Culpeper Star Exponent; Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star; Civil War News; CWPT's Hallowed Ground; and PEC's Newsletter. Further, we are confident that our revamped website, now under construction, will help us get out the message that BSF is a meritorious organization, worthy of the public's trust.

BSF continues to undertake vital preservation work (expensive!) at the Graffiti House involving plaster stabilization and exterior maintenance, and these professional efforts have resulted in even more graffiti being discovered! Please stop by and see these fascinating inscriptions left by Civil War soldiers on both sides.

BSF has helped facilitate extraordinarily vital conservation easements on the Brandy Station battlefield. In this regard, we serve as the local partners of the Civil War Preservation Trust as that esteemed organization continues efforts to amass battlefield land at Brandy Station. And BSF itself now seeks to acquire yet more battlefield acreage utilizing a \$68,000 grant as awarded to BSF by the Virginia Department of Transportation's "Transportation Enhancement Program."

So as our valued members can see, BSF has recorded some major accomplishments in the past year. But hard-won achievements aside, where have we not yet met important goals?

Very bluntly, our membership levels have increased only slightly, and although we can (and do) pay the bills, this little non-profit organization—with no paid staff—retains very little "buffer money" in our bank account. And this is where you come in. Point of fact, we need your help if we are to keep the doors open at the Graffiti House. (It is that serious.)

We respectfully invite you to renew your support by using the 2011 membership form in this newsletter. Membership is \$25.00, and you are urged to convey an "additional donation." All donations are of course tax deductible, and we intend to use a portion of your funds to directly support additional plaster stabilization and exterior maintenance at the Graffiti House, to include much-needed caulking and painting.

Plus, you can get the word out to others to join BSF, and in order to augment your "reaching-out" efforts, here is the message: The Brandy Station Foundation, local stewards to America's greatest and most significant cavalry battlefield needs you to "jine the

cavalry!!” So, please become BSF members, and both Jeb Stuart and John Buford will be grateful to you. (And so will their champions...)

We soon anticipate a major effort to acquire a vital piece of acreage comprising 21 acres on the Brandy Station Battlefield—a ridge that witnessed heavy combat and casualties on June 9, 1863. Your funds will also help bolster the \$68,000 grant BSF was given to buy battlefield at Brandy, as the piece of ground we have identified will cost much more than 68K. As we view it, battlefield preservation is the Lord’s work, and we must not fail. In fact, we don’t intend to—with your help.

Antiques Appraisal Show



Sarah Hayes, right, of the Quail at the Woods Antique Shop, Culpeper, at the Antiques Appraisal Show with John Graham

On November 6th, there was an Antique Appraisal Show at the Graffiti House. The Wilderness 'Tiques - Lake of the Woods Antique Club - held this special show and three professional antique appraisers donated their time for this event.

The proceeds will go to the restoration of the Graffiti House. The appraisers include Sarah Hays who is the owner of the Quail at the Wood Antique Shop in Culpepper and specializes in silver, china, crystal and antique jewelry; Steve Hoffman from Madison who specializes in antique furniture, tools and weapons; and, Kathy Shumate of Shumate Auctions, Warrenton who specializes in silver, china, furniture and jewelry.

A Spirited Evening at the Graffiti House

We had over 125 guests visit the Graffiti House on October 30th , making this Spirited Evening our most successful ever. The highlight of the evening was Jackson, Laura and Rick from Virginia Paranormal Investigators, who displayed there ghost-hunting tools of the trade and show video and played audio from the August 27, 2010 ghost-hunt at the Graffiti House. That hunt was the first time we obtained definitive prove that there was paranormal activity in the house.

The crisp Autumn air make the bonfire, smores and warm apple cider a hit. I was even told by a few of the guests that they felt or sensed some activity while in the house. I guess our permanent house guests wanted to help the evening along—Contributed by Mike Block.

A Very Special Visitor



One of the nice things about volunteering at the Graffiti House is that you meet such interesting people. Such an incident occurred this past July when Nellie Santinga, a friend of the BSF for a long time, brought her new friend to see the Graffiti House, Her friend was Al Slusser (of Cottonwood, Arizona) who at age 71 had just completed a WALK from San Diego, California to Annapolis, Maryland. The walk took him 220 days to complete while he pulled a 140 pound cart with all his supplies. He camped along the way and depended on the good will of people like Nellie to allow him to use their yards for campgrounds and "watering holes". When asked why he did the walk, he replied that he wanted to see the country and could not think of a better way to see it "up close and personal" Congratulations Al - and I hope you took the plane back home! (The picture shows both Al and Nellie) Contributed by Bob Luddy.

Warrenton Classic Car Club visits the Graffiti House



On October 24, the Graffiti House was visited by 25 members of the Warrenton Classic Car Club. The club tours local sites every fall and this year selected the Graffiti House because of the large interest within the club generated by the GH's unique artifacts. So for about 3 hours, the Graffiti House was treated a parking filled with beautiful classic cars - some of which are shown here. Lastly, the group was toured through the GH by Mike Block and Bob Luddy and expressed their appreciation of the wall artifacts preserved with the GH.-Bob Luddy.

Chesapeake (Md.) Civil War Round Table visits Brandy Station



October 9, a special day for Maryland Civil War historians!! That was the day when 25 members of the Chesapeake Civil War Round Table paid a visit to Culpeper County. Arriving on the same day as the Culpeper Air Show (with attendant traffic challenges), they were given an expert tour of the Brandy Station battlefield by Joe McKinney. Additionally, Bob Luddy and Mike Block gave them a tour of the Graffiti House with emphasis on the Maryland Scroll. Later the group visited the Old House Vineyard with its scenic views of Pony Mountain, Cole's Hill and Battle of Stevensburg site. All tour members said that they

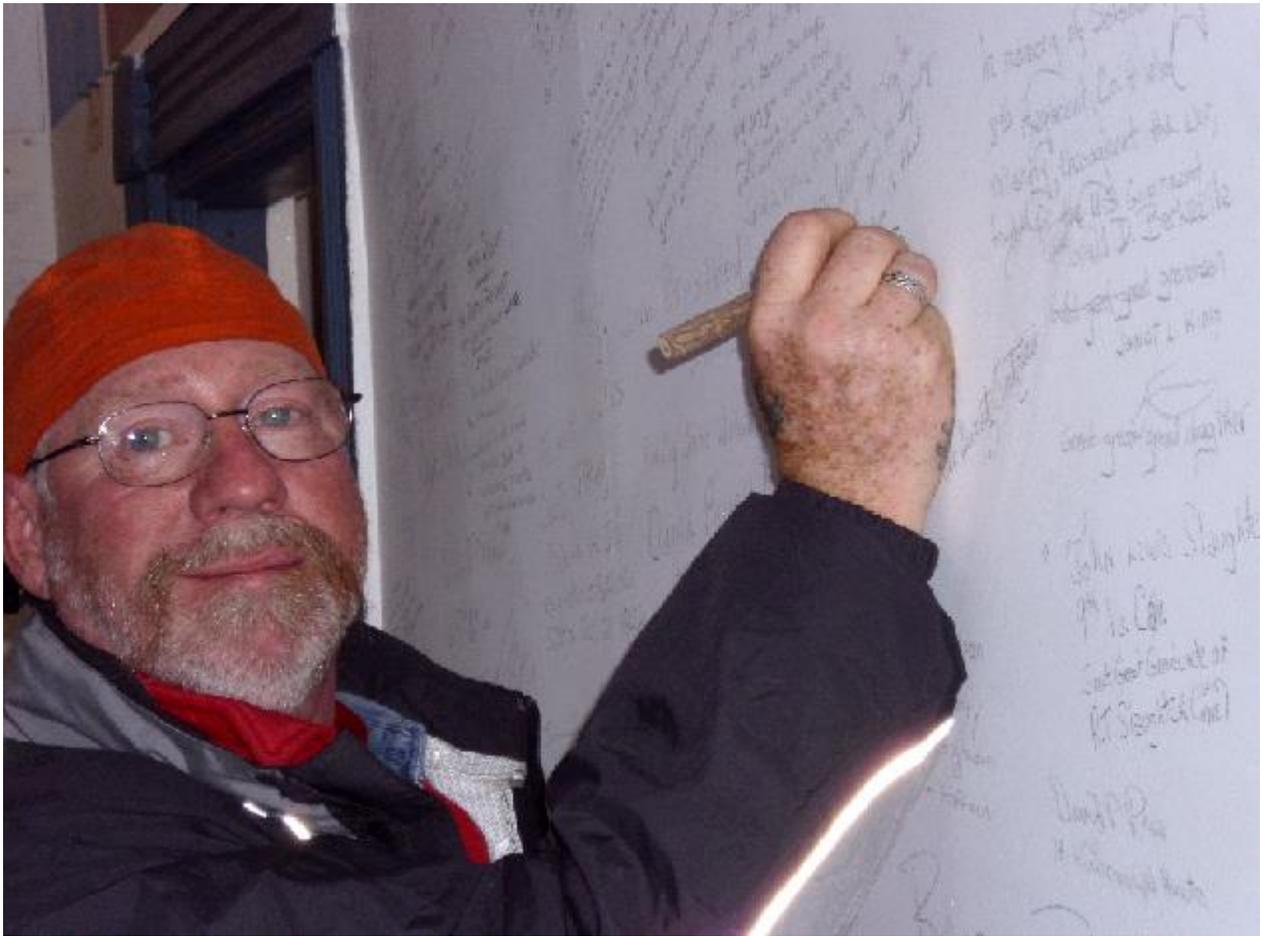
had an excellent time and looked forward to another visit to Brandy Station next year!!—
Bob Luddy

Good things come in small packages



Recently, the Graffiti House Museum was the recipient of a 6 pd. solid shot cannonball from Mr. George Evans Jr. of Culpeper. The ball, held here by grandson, Zachery Allen, was found at Greenwich Rd, 2 miles south of Vent Hill Rd in Manassas. John Mosby had a small engagement near to this location in which he used his mountain howitzer. Perhaps this shot was a by-product of that engagement? Bob Luddy, contributor.

Pennsylvania Re-enactor signs the Wall of Honor



Donald E. Husler, Jr. is a relative of Private Thomas John Husler, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry Corps, 117 Regiment, Company "F". He stopped by with friends on October 23rd. Donald is a re-enactor with the 148th Pennsylvania Infantry.

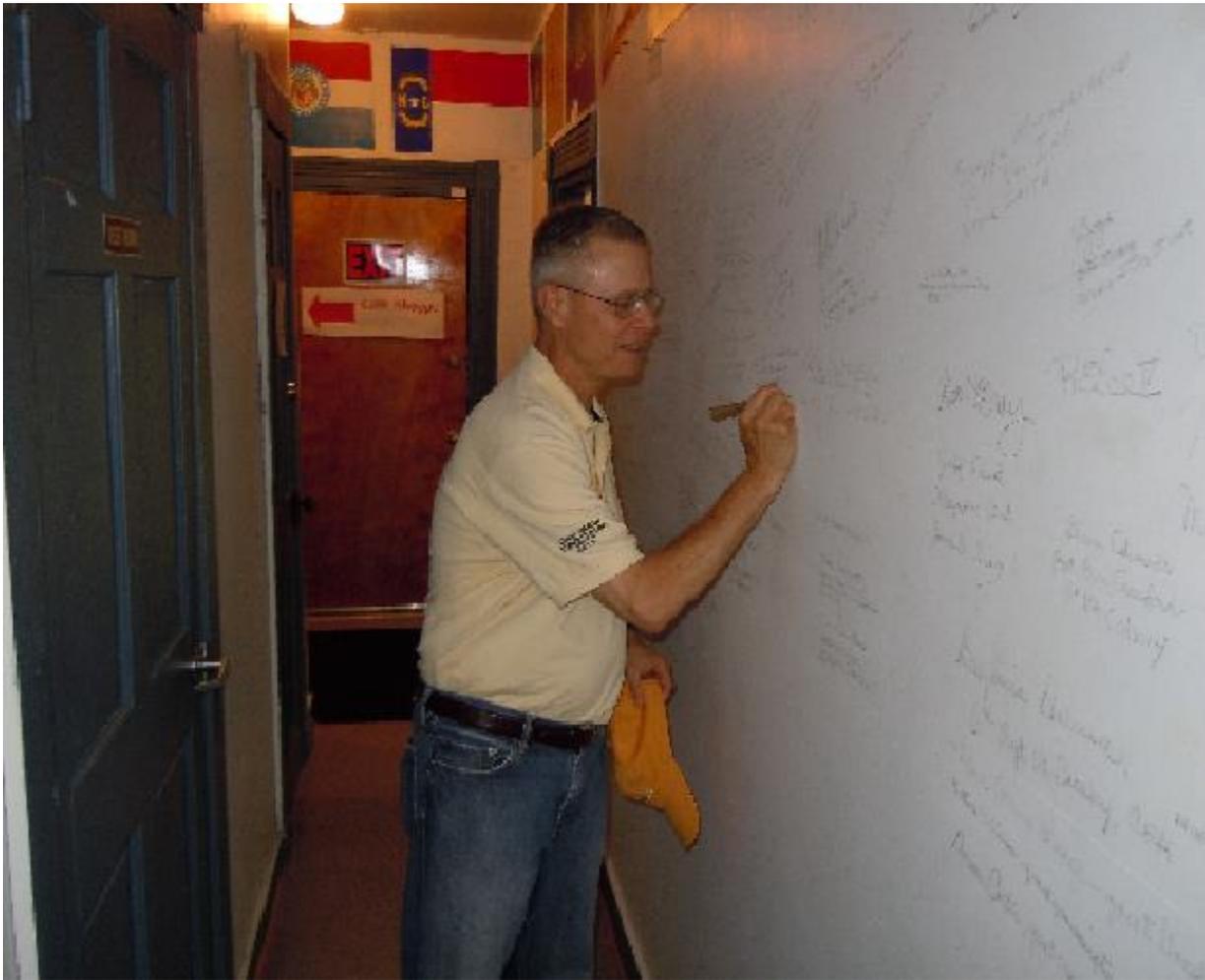
Lillian Beane and the 6th Virginia Cavalry

On September 19th, Lillian Beane (below) signed the wall for her great grandfather Robert Francis (Harry) Farley of the 6th Virginia Cavalry. Bob Luddy contributor.



6th Pennsylvania Rides again!

Lt. Mike Litzelman, U.S. Army, signed the Graffiti House wall in honor of his ancestor, Trooper Nicholas Bluhm of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Lt. Litzelman is one of more than 400 individuals who have joined with the BSF to identify and honor those whose history and sacrifices are intertwined with Brandy Station.



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 _____

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.