

**The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
December 2016**



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Virginia Association for Parks supports a Civil War battlefields state park in Culpeper County and joins Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain



State Park Alliance

The Virginia Association for Parks at its October 1 meeting passed a resolution in support of creating a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields State Park. Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields in Culpeper County are among the most significant sites of the American Civil War. The effort is underway to transform this pair of historic battlefields into Virginia's next state park. More information about the initiative and ways to support the state park can be found at BSCMstatepark.com

The Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance is leading the effort to establish a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State park. The Alliance now includes the Brandy Station Foundation, the Civil War Trust, the Culpeper Department of Tourism, the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the Germanna Foundation, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, the Piedmont Environmental Council, Preservation Virginia, Presqu'Isle, the Remington Community Partnership, and the Virginia Association for Parks.

About 1,400 acres of land have been purchased and permanently protected by the preservation community across Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain to date. This land, between the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, is home to some of the most picturesque landscapes in Virginia. A state park encompassing these two battlefields would provide the Commonwealth with a unique opportunity to showcase our shared history, increase tourism, and promote outdoor recreation in a region currently underserved by the Virginia state park system.

On October 12, 2016, the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance issued the following press release headlined: Virginia Association for Parks endorses creation of Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park: Commonwealth's premier statewide park advocacy organization joins Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance.

(Culpeper, Va.) – The Virginia Association for Parks (VAFP) has formally called on the Commonwealth of Virginia to take the necessary steps to create a new Civil War-centered state park in Culpeper County.

Formed in 1997, VAFP is the nonprofit umbrella organization for the respective friends groups and individual volunteers supporting the 37 state parks; 59 state natural areas; and the 22 national parks, monuments, and historic sites located throughout the Old Dominion. At VAFP's Fall Conference — held at Bear Creek Lake State Park in Cumberland, Va. — the organization on October 1 unanimously passed a resolution in support of transforming the

storied Civil War battlefields at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain into Virginia's next state park.

"These battlefields present a turn-key opportunity to advance an already well-preserved and interpreted history," VAFP President Johnny Finch said. "Formed into a Virginia state park, they will lend visibility to — and make accessible — the local area's historic and natural resources and will create significant opportunities for local public-private partnership and investment."

Further, a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park will feature "a significantly broader and more comprehensive period of Civil War history and events than the state park system's current battlefield holdings," Finch added.

With its announcement, VAFP becomes the 11th member of the burgeoning Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance. Launched last year, the Alliance additionally includes the Brandy Station Foundation, the Civil War Trust, the Culpeper Department of Tourism, the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the Germanna Foundation, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, the Piedmont Environmental Council, Preservation Virginia, Presqu'Isle and the Remington Community Partnership.

Following its formation, the Alliance partnered with STACH pllc — a preservation landscape architecture and planning firm — and the Community Land Use + Economics Group to produce a feasibility study assessing the opportunities and economic advantages of establishing the envisioned state park. The results of the study were presented to state and local officials in January. Citing the potential of a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park to serve as a "distinctive destination for heritage and recreational tourism alike," the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and Culpeper Town Council each voted unanimously to support the park's creation. In an editorial published on July 15, 2015, Fredericksburg, Va.-based newspaper The Free Lance-Star had provided an early and similarly compelling endorsement for the establishment of the park, calling it "the right thing to do."



To date, about 1,400 acres of proposed park land have been purchased and permanently protected at the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields. Individuals interested in supporting the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance are encouraged to visit BSCMstatepark.com to sign and send a letter to the members of the Virginia General Assembly with the power to turn the Alliance's proposal into a park — and a lasting legacy.

Evergreen Shade Christmas Concert at Christ Church followed by refreshments at the BSF Open House at the Graffiti House

Saturday, December 3rd, 2 PM - Evergreen Shade Christmas Concert at Christ Church in Brandy Station followed by refreshments at the Brandy Station Foundation Open House from 3-4:30 at the Graffiti House.

The Christ Episcopal Church, Brandy Station and the Brandy Station Foundation are pleased to announce a Christmas Concert with Mrs. Anne Howard and Dr. John Tole performing as Evergreen Shade on Saturday, December 3rd. The church is located at 14586 Alanthus Rd. in Brandy Station, VA 22714 and the concert will begin at 2:00 PM. The Christ Episcopal Church is the continuation of the St. James Church which was totally dismantled during the encampment of Union troops in the winter of 1863-64. The original site continues to be owned by its descendant church, Christ Episcopal of Brandy Station with Brandy Station Foundation as the steward of the two acre property located in the midst of the largest cavalry battle of North America. The concert will contain songs that represent the 1860's

period along with songs from many centuries and well known favorites. Refreshments will be served at the BSF Open House at the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Rd. after the concert from 3:00 - 4:30 and everyone is invited! For further information, please call 540.341.7019.



2016 Spirits of the Graffiti House

The community enjoyed a family event at the Graffiti House on October 22nd. Two paranormal groups, Transcend Paranormal and Culpeper Paranormal were on hand to talk to visitors. There was face painting and storytelling. Thanks to all who helped to make the evening a fun event!

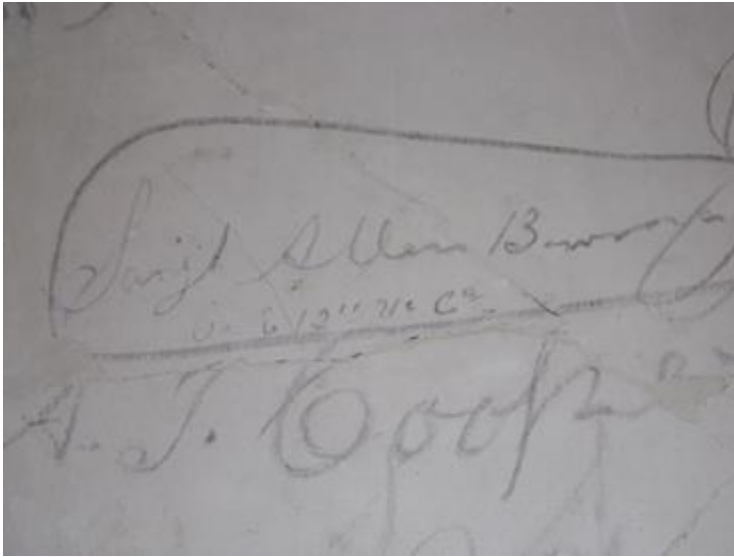


Wall Signer Descendants visit the Graffiti House



At the Graffiti House from left: Bob Jones, Graffiti House tour guide, Broadus and Peggy Bowman from Greenwood, SC; David and Elizabeth Bowman from Fulton, MD ; Jim and Carolyn Bowman from Newark, DE

On Sunday, October 30th, the Brandy Station Foundation welcomed some special visitors to the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. The Graffiti House served as a field hospital for the South during the Battle of Brandy Station and other local battles during the Civil War. It also served as a headquarters facility for the Federal forces during the winter encampment of 1863-64. Soldiers from both sides made drawings and signed their names and units on the walls.



One of the signatures upstairs at the Graffiti House is Sgt. Allen Bowman, from Company E of the 12th Virginia Cavalry.

Shortly after the Graffiti House opened to the public in 2002, Sergeant Bowman's signature appeared in an Associated Press news story in South Carolina. Broadus and Peggy Bowman from Greenwood, SC recognized their Civil War ancestor's name and subsequently visited the Graffiti House and the Brandy Station Battlefield. Broadus is the great

grandson of Allen Bowman.

The family later donated Allen Bowman's hoe/bayonet to the Brandy Station Foundation. It is on display at the Graffiti House along with a photo of Bowman after the Civil War. The ceremony took place at the site of the destroyed St. James Church.

Fast forward to 2014. Robert L. ("Bob") Jones, a past Brandy Station Foundation president, is giving tours at both Montpelier, the home of James Madison in Orange, and the Graffiti House. A couple from Maryland are taking Bob's tour at Montpelier and start asking about Montpelier during the Civil War. Bob subsequently tells the visitors about the Graffiti House in Brandy Station and learns that their last name is Bowman; they are James W. ("Jim") and Carolyn Bowman.

Bob tells Jim and Carolyn about the Allen Bowman signature at the Graffiti House. They visit the Graffiti House and learn that they have relatives in South Carolina that they were unaware of—Jim is the great grandson of John W. Bowman of the 12th Virginia Cavalry, Allen Bowman's brother.

Jim then went on to correspond with Broadus, but they had not met in person until now. They visited the Graffiti House and the Brandy Station Battlefield on October 30th. David and Elizabeth Bowman from Fulton, MD were the third Bowman couple; David is the great, great grandson of Allen Bowman.

The 12th Virginia Cavalry fought at St. James Church and at Fleetwood Hill during the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. In his book, *Brandy Station 1863: First step toward Gettysburg*, Dan Beattie wrote that Major Henry B. McClellan, General Jeb Stuart's assistant

adjutant general, “would always regret that the sacrifice of many brave men in the 12th Virginia was necessary to save the day”.



Jim and Broadus Bowman read one of the markers on the Battle of Brandy Station’s Fleetwood Hill walking trail.



The Bowman family on Fleetwood Hill

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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)

Additional Donation \$ _____

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Send my newsletter by EMAIL (please give email address) 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