

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



President: Clark B. "Bud" Hall **Vice President:** Tony

Seidita **Treasurer:** Michael E. Block

Secretary: Mary Tholand **Board of Directors:** Todd Berkoff, Jane Brookins, Alan Culpeper, Melissa Delcour, Helen Geisler, Mike Green, Robert L. Jones (Past President), Peggy Misch, Mary Root, Cecilia Schneider-Vial, Chuck Siegel, and Craig Swain.

FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED BY PRESERVATION SOCIETY



BSF Past President Robert L. Jones accepts citation from the Society for the Preservation of Culpeper History from Mary Jo Browning & Perry Cabot, co-chairpersons of SPCH.

Over the Culpeper Remembrance Days weekend in April the BSF received a singular honor. The Foundation was the recipient of the first of annual awards to be given out by the Society for the Preservation of Culpeper History (SPCH).

The plaque which now hangs proudly by the front door of the Graffiti House reads as follows:

The Graffiti House under the Brandy Station Foundation is hereby presented this Citation of Preservation in recognition of its superior custodianship of Culpeper history.

In testimony thereof and with the admiration of grateful citizens we do confer this award.

Signed by Mary Jo Browning & Perry Cabot, Co-chairmen of SPCH and Michael Lysczek, chairman, awards committee.

Newly elected President Clark B. 'Bud' Hall voiced, since he had just taken office and had not been a direct part of all the work going on at the Graffiti House to stabilize the walls, uncover and save the graffiti, that Robert L. Jones, outgoing President, should receive this recognition on behalf of the BSF. Bob has worked tirelessly on the House projects, even to hosting the conservator in his own home to save the Foundation that expense. We are all grateful to Bob for his hard work.

The BSF is indeed honored to have our preservation efforts acknowledged publicly and we look forward to working with the SPCH in continuing the preservation of Culpeper history.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING REPORT



BSF Board of Directors: Back row: Clark B. (Bud) Hall (President), Robert L. (Bob) Jones (Past President), Mike Green, Todd Berkoff, Jane Brookins, Chuck Siegel, Craig Swain, Tony Seidita

(Vice President) , Middle row: Mary Tholand (Secretary), Cecilia Schneider-Vial, Front row: Mary Root, Helen Geisler, Melissa Delcour, and Margaret (Peggy) Misch. Not pictured: Michael E. (Mike) Block (Treasurer) and Alan Culpeper.

The BSF held its annual membership dinner meeting on April 9 and it was well attended. The gathering was treated to a delightful and informational presentation by Eric Mink on 'Stonewall Jackson in Pictures and Art'. It was great to have Carolyn and Jack Reeder take time to sit for a book signing session with their work *From a True Soldier and Son, the Civil War Letters of William C. H. Reeder*, published by the Brandy Station Foundation. This intriguing collection of letters home by Jack's ancestor contains thirteen which are datelined either Encamped near Culpeper or Brandy Station. This book is available in the Graffiti House gift shop along with several great books on the Battle of Brandy Station and other matters of the area.

Outgoing President Robert L Jones was honored for his service to the Foundation. He was given a framed certificate of appreciation and a framed print of 's ' *Mortal Conflict*', a depiction of the conflict in the Battle of Brandy Station.

The all important business part of the evening was the election of the slate of Officers and Directors for the 2010-11 year. The list of the new Board can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. I hope all members will join in thanking the Directors, past and present, for their service to the Foundation, now in its third decade of preservation efforts.

Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Graffiti House and on the Website: www.brandystationfoundation.com

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION & CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH JOIN FOR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT ST. JAMES HISTORIC SITE

Christ Episcopal Church, Brandy Station and the Brandy Station Foundation are pleased to announce that the 2nd Annual Commemorative Church Service will be held at the site of the destroyed St. James Church on the battlefield at Brandy Station on Sunday, June 13th at 2 P.M.

The community is invited to participate in this recreation of a 1860's service of Holy Eucharist. It will be an especially moving service in that the musical accompaniment will be provided by the ever popular *EVERGREEN SHADE*, a duo well known for their Civil War era repertoire

The service, led by the Reverend Joie Weiher, will be 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 site continues to be owned by its descendant church, Christ

Episcopal of Brandy Station and the Brandy Station Foundation is the steward of the 2 acre property in the midst of the largest cavalry battle of North America.

It is asked that those attending park their cars at the designated CWPT parking circle at the intersection of Beverly Ford Rd. and St James Church Rd. This is just yards before the entrance into the airport. It is a short walk down the road to the site entrance and then a shorter path leads us through the woods to the site of the church. . We will have some chairs available for seating during the service but we recommend that you bring a folding lawn chair if possible. Drivers for handicapped persons may drop them off at the entrance to the woods and then remove the auto to the parking circle area. It is also suggested that you prepare for the woods with closed shoes and bug repellent and of course check for critters afterwards.

The public is welcomed to this event, keeping in mind it is an authentic church service. All are then invited after the service to the Graffiti House in Brandy Station for refreshments. The Graffiti House is open for tours from 11A.M. to 4 P.M. on Sundays, as well as Fridays and Saturdays.

For additional information, call Mary Tholand of the Foundation at 540 727 7718.

SUNDAY LECTURE SERIES

The Brandy Station Foundation Sunday lecture series began again this April—a welcome sign of spring! The lectures are the last Sunday of the month from April through October and begin at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, the lectures are free (although donations are welcome), and free refreshments are provided by BSF board members and friends.

6/27/10 "It Started in Prince William County—JEB Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg" – Mark Trbovich

7/25/10 "The Battle of Rappahannock Station"—Mike Block

8/29/10 "The Life and Times of John Mosby" – Dave Goetz

9/26/10 TBD—Melissa Delcour

10/31/10 "The Memory of the Civil War"—Richard Deardoff

Saturday Battlefield Tours 2010

The BSF is presenting a series of two-hour tours, one devoted to each of the four engagements that comprise the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. 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.

Beverly Ford & St. James Church (April 3, May 29, July 24)

Kelly's Ford & Stevensburg (April 17, June 12, Aug 7
Fleetwood Hill (May 1, June 26, Aug 21)
Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge (May 15, July 10, Sept 4)

Beverly Ford & St. James Church – May 29, July 24

The first tour in the series covers the early morning fighting between troops under the command of Union General John Buford and those commanded by his West Point classmate, Confederate General William E. "Grumble" Jones. Incidents examined include the death of Union Colonel Benjamin Franklin Davis in a one-on-one encounter with a Confederate lieutenant on the Beverly Ford Road, and the charge of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry against Confederate artillery at Saint James Church.

Kelly's Ford & Stevensburg –, June 12, Aug 7

The second tour in the series begins with a discussion of the Union river-crossing at Kelly's Ford, and then follows the route of march of the Union cavalry division commanded by Colonel Alfred Napoleon Duffie to Stevensburg. This tour concludes with a description of the mortal wounding of Captain William Farley, JEB Stuart's volunteer aide de camp.

Fleetwood Hill – June 26, Aug 21

The third 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.

Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge – July 10, Sept 4

The final installment in the series of tours 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.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Exciting days are certainly ahead at the Brandy Station Foundation, and we will soon alert our loyal members to strategic initiatives that detail the more expansive preservation role your Foundation will assume in the months ahead.

It is a fact that Culpeper County, Virginia, is the most fought over, marched and camped upon county in our country, and your Foundation will henceforth champion *all* Civil War assets in Culpeper—to include Cedar Mountain; Kelly's Ford; Morton's Ford; and Freeman's Ford, as well as other lesser-known battle sites.

It is also a fact that the Army of the Potomac wintered in Culpeper for five months in 1863-1864. Many of the tangible resources of that occupation—Pony Mountain; Hansborough's Ridge, etc.—remain in pristine condition, and we'd obviously like to see them stay that way. Culpeper needs "advocates" who can speak on behalf of battlefield lands that cannot speak for themselves. As we see it, that's *our job*, and we plan to be effective spokesmen on behalf of "Civil War Culpeper."

Does this enhanced role on behalf of other battle venues mean that we will pay less attention to America's greatest cavalry battlefield? A resounding "No!" is the firm answer. Right now, for example, your Foundation is working closely with property owners and our partners to secure additional battlefield land at Brandy Station. Soon, we will have some wonderful news to report in this regard!

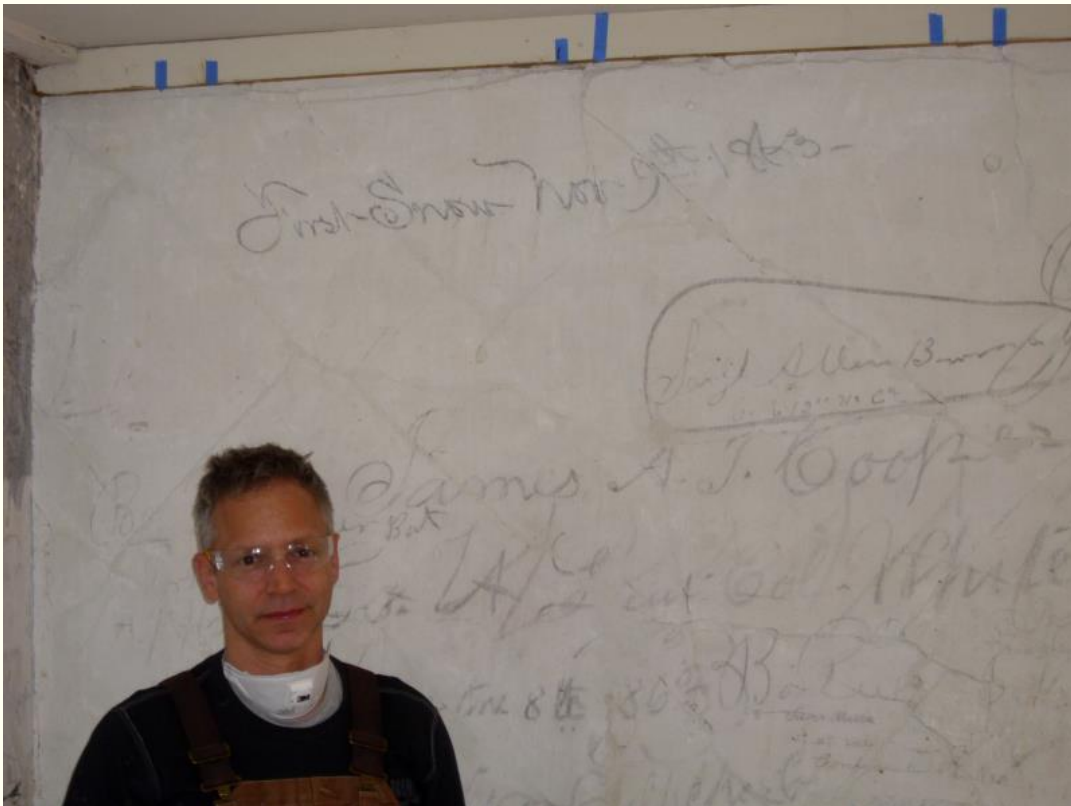
So please join up with us if your membership has elapsed. And kindly renew if you never left us. We *badly* need your support in the months ahead. And I am certain you will find the esteemed board of the Brandy Station Foundation eminently worthy of your trust. If I can answer any questions, you are urged to contact me by e-mail, ClarkBHall@aol.com. So, saddle up, and let's charge!

PRESERVATION WORK AT THE GRAFFITI HOUSE



The work takes patience. A lot of it. Christopher Mills has patience. And patience has its reward. Christopher Mills is an Architectural Conservator from New York. He made two trips to Brandy Station this spring to accomplish some desperately needed repairs to the walls of the Graffiti House.

In addition to the repairs--after 145 years--Chris has provided the Brandy Station Foundation with more graffiti. But uncovering more graffiti wasn't why Chris was hired. The plaster walls have been slowly separating from the lathing which holds it in place. The wall on which the Dancing Lady resides was the worst. Chris used a method known as plaster consolidation to stabilize and reattach the compromised plaster to the lathing. As part of the process Chris cleaned the walls in the preparation for the insertion; in doing so he removed paint and post Civil War plaster. With the removal of the 'modern' material, graffiti unseen for decades is now visible. In fact, it has been determined that all the graffiti that can be recovered in the Dancing Lady room has now been revealed.



Chris Mills below the newly uncovered graffiti: First snow Nov 9th 1863

More pictures, including a soldier peering out the window and possibly a locomotive and coal car are visible; a weather report appears near the ceiling "November 9, 1863 first snow of season"; and a number of new names. Board member Mike Block found these references

to November 9, 1863: 4th Michigan Infantry Corporal Henry S. Seage Co E. 4th Michigan Vol. Regt.

Mon Nov 9th 1863 Rose at Sun Rise had breakfast and about 1 P.M. went out on Brig Drill ordered by our new Brig Genl Bartlett on acct of Boys yelling Hard Tack at Him. Came in from Drill and immediately the Genl Call Sounded and we fell in and went over the River and Camped for the Night awful Cold It Snowed quite hard tonight the first snow of the Season. <http://home.midsouth.rr.com/devinney/diary2.html>

-40th Virginia Infantry: The regiment marched through falling snow to the old camp along the Rapidan, by way of Peyton's Ford. (40th Virginia Infantry, Robert E. L. Krick, p. 36)

One name has ended a mystery that has stared at us since the graffiti was found in 1993. Just who was George? 'George' signed his name three times, each in a variation of Block Style. But Chris, in his preparation work for the stabilization, uncovered George's last name – Howver, above the front window. Mike Block found the following: George Howver served in company H, 7th Virginia Cavalry, Hired as a substitute for Joseph Hoover in Rockingham County on July 1, 1862. He was likely present with the regiment from that date until January 1864, when he was captured near Moorefield on January 24. He first went through Atheneum Prison and then on to confinement at Camp Chase, Ohio. A month later, he was transferred to Fort Delaware where he remained until he took the oath of allegiance and was released on June 15, 1865. George was listed as a farmer, age 17 when captured.

Before Chris left for contracted projects in New York, he spent a little time in the Maryland Scroll room and has found another name, possibly John L Knotts of the 12th Virginia Cavalry. Finally, work was done over the Trellis Window in the hallway. Words have been uncovered but have yet to be deciphered. The marvelous thing about the Graffiti House is how it slowly gives up its secrets. When the graffiti is revealed, the search begins to answer the questions: who are you, when and why did you enter in the house, and what is the story behind the charcoal on the wall?



BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – 2010 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, 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.