

The Grand Review Brandy Station Foundation December 2020



President: William Truitt Vice President: Howard Lambert Treasurers: Peter Mocarski and Peggy Mocarski Secretary: Peggy Misch Board of Directors: Jane Brookins, Don Carlson Helen Geisler, Paula K. Johnson,, Kimberly Lillard, Larry Pullen, Eugene Triplett Jr., Rice Sumner Wagner, and Paul Warmack



The Graffiti House in Winter

Brandy Station Foundation Reopens Graffiti House by Appointment

Because of the coronavirus, the Graffiti House was closed for seven months, from early March to early October. The house is now open for tours by appointment only. Visitors are asked to contact our volunteer coordinator, Cindy Welch, at 703-895-4083 or cndywlch@aol.com to schedule a tour. They are asked to be flexible and include a couple of dates with times between 11AM and 4PM. Group size is limited to four and masks are required.

Message from the President: BSF's Showcase the Graffiti Project

The BSF Board is proposing an ambitious project in 2021: the Showcase the Graffiti Project. This project includes building improvements and maintenance to preserve the integrity of the Graffiti House.

We believe the Showcase the Graffiti Project will greatly improve both the appearance and the structural integrity of the 1858 Graffiti House. We want the building to showcase the Civil War graffiti—the star attraction of the Graffiti House. The museum exhibits seek to put the graffiti in context and explore the history of Brandy Station and Culpeper County during the Civil War.

We are asking you to help us in two ways.

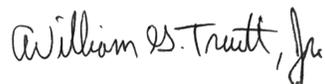
First, we invite you to join or renew your membership in the BSF. Membership dues defray a substantial portion of our operating expenses and help us keep the Graffiti House open to the public.

Second, we ask that you make a donation to our Showcase the Graffiti Project.

For your convenience we have enclosed a BSF Showcase the Graffiti Project donation & membership application form.

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and wish you the best in 2021.

Sincerely, and with the thanks of the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Truitt, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

William Truitt, President, Brandy Station Foundation

Brandy Station Foundation

Membership & Showcase the Graffiti Project Donation Form

Please complete form below and mail to: **Brandy Station Foundation P.O. Box 165 Brandy Station, VA 22714-0165**

PLEASE CHECK THOSE THAT APPLY

_____ Please start / renew (please circle) my membership with the Brandy Station Foundation. Memberships are for one year. \$30 Individual; \$40 Couple; \$10 Student Membership (high school or college) My dues payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

_____ Yes, I wish to support the BSF's 2021 **Showcase the Graffiti Project** with a donation of \$_____.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

___ Enclosed is a check payable to: Brandy Station Foundation

___ Charge my (VISA) (MasterCard) #: _____

Exp. Date: (mm/yyyy) _____

CVV(three digit Card Verification Value) _____ for \$ _____

The name on the credit card is: _____

My billing address is: _____

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

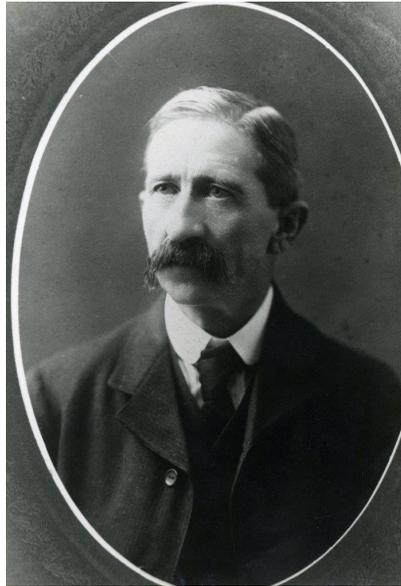
City: _____ State: ___ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Please send my BSF newsletter by email or postal service. (Please circle one)

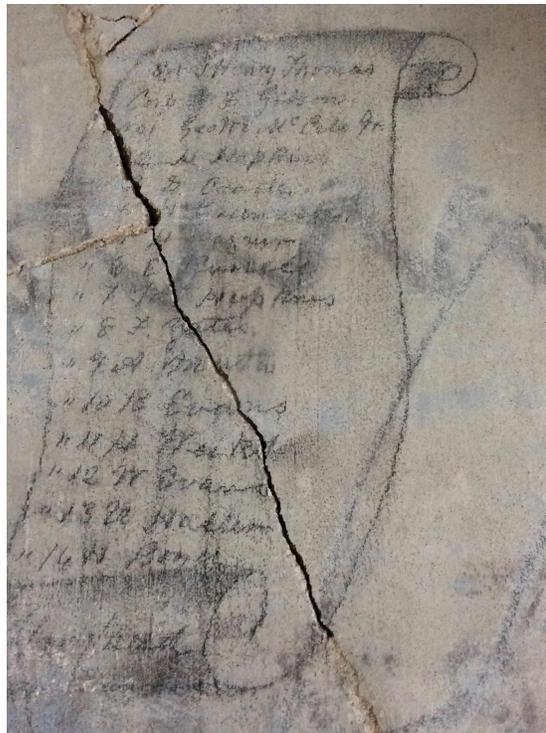
The Brandy Station Foundation is a 501(c)-3 non-profit group dedicated to preserving the natural and historic resources of the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County, Virginia. It relies on tax deductible donations to meet its goals. Website: www.brandystationfoundation.com

Spotlight on the Graffiti



This Graffiti article is from Bob Luddy, BSF volunteer and former BSF President.

Thomas Franklin Yates, Private, 1st Stuart Horse Artillery



The name of Thomas Yates is found on the “Maryland Scroll” in position No. 8. The Scroll is located in the Graffiti House’s Stuart Room within the display case. Yates

may have been present in this room with the rest of his gun crew on March 16, 1863 when the Maryland Scroll drawing was created. The next morning, March 17, 1863, his gun crew was called upon to repel the Federals at the Battle of Kelly's Ford. The battle resulted in the death of the "Gallant Pelham", the nickname of John Pelham, an artillery officer who served with the Confederate cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart.

Thomas Yates information:

Born: 12/21/1843 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Residence: Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Enlisted in Pelham's Battery, Stuart Horse Artillery on August 10, 1862.

Wounded: 7/1/63 on the nose at Carlisle, Pa.

Transferred: 8/15/64 into Co. "K", 1ST Maryland Cavalry.

Issued clothing 9/64. Captured in Maryland 3/65 and sent to Old Capital Prison.(No further record)

Promoted: (date not given) to Corporal.

Other Information: Died 3/7/1914 at Maryland Line Old Soldiers Home, Baltimore, Md. and is buried within Our Lady's Chapel Cemetery, Medley's Neck, Md., St Mary's Co., MD

Sources utilized:

- The Virginia Regimental Histories Series(c) Historical Data Systems, Inc. @ www.civilwardata.com
- Valor in a Border State, Robert L. Long, 2012
- The Hoss, Robert J. Trout, 2013, pg.95

Excerpts from a letter from Theodore Butters, 2nd Massachusetts Infantry

The Graffiti House is on the Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail. Historic Blenheim in Fairfax is also a site on the trail. Bob Moran, a researcher and volunteer guide at Historic Blenheim, has shared a Civil War letter that he ran across while doing research at the National Archives in downtown Washington, DC. It is a letter by Pvt. Theodore Butters with the 2nd Mass. Infantry. Butters wrote the letter in June of 1863 from Fairfax Court House as he was marching north to Gettysburg where he was subsequently killed in action on July 3rd at Culp's Hill. In excerpts from the letter, Theodore describes his unit's involvement at the Battle of Brandy Station as well as how much he misses fishing. Note from newsletter editor Peggy Misch: brackets indicate where I am unsure of the words in the letter.

Fairfax Court House VA June 16th | 63

Dear Sister,

You will perhaps wonder that I have not written before but I will try and tell you the reason why I have not answered your letter sooner.

We left camp the PM of the 6th in Co. with the 3rd Wis from our Brigade + the 33rd Mass from the 11th Corps and two Regts from the 3rd Corps, for a grand recognisance. The principle part of our force being cavalry with two or three light Batterys.

I had just got out of camp on to the road when your letter came and the rain was coming down just then in torrents but it cleared up 'ere long and when we stopped for the night at a little past [?] in the morning, the moon was shining bright.

Well, we made the first 88 miles in 23 hours and on the morning of the 9th we crossed the Rappahannock until the [Batt; i.e. battle?] opened directly and continued throughout the day but the rebs had no Infantry but they had some sixteen thousand cavalry and they did not have horses for most all of them so many were on foot.

They had artillery of a much heavier metal than we did the way the shells flew was a [caution?]. We lost but one man in our Co. and there were but few lost in the Regt. Our Cavalry went within 1 1/2 mies from Culpeper so you can judge somewhere near where we went. We recrossed the river at night and on Sunday we commenced to retreat not to Stafford [CH] but the old route the same taken by Pope in that celebrated retreat last August. We arrived at Fairfax Station at about nine last evening and came up to the CH this morning and if we were not pretty well played out I don't know.

... I am getting tired of this and shall be glad if my time [ever] is up. There has a lot of soldiers been mustered out lately and they must feel glad and I often wish I was one of them.

There will be another grand move for us in a day or two at the farthest & there has got to be another big fight somewhere. ...

[Theodore] Butters

Raffle Tickets for Don Troiani print

On display at the Graffiti House is a 24x30 framed and matted Don Troiani print, *BRANDY STATION REVIEW*, signed #606/1150. This print was donated by Patrick L. Lydon of Culpeper. Framing is thanks to Village Frameworks and Gallery, Culpeper. Raffle tickets for the print are being sold to benefit the Brandy Station Foundation. The drawing is on April 16, 2021 & the winner does not need to be present at the drawing. Raffle tickets cost \$5.00 for one, \$20.00 for five. Please send checks made out to Brandy Station Foundation & indicate your address and number of tickets requested to Brandy Station Foundation, PO Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714. Your raffle ticket stubs will be mailed to you.



B.B. and Page Mitchell honored at the Brandy Station Foundation Annual Meeting & Picnic September 12, 2020

President William Truitt with Mary Keith Russell (center) and Nancy Mitchell Kochli (right) at the BSF Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting on September 12, 2020, B.B. and Page Mitchell were honored as founders of the Brandy Station Foundation. President William Truitt presented the plaque in their honor for the Graffiti House, as well as plaques for the two daughters of the Mitchells, Mary Keith Russell and Nancy Mitchell Kochli,

Last year, former BSF President Bob Luddy proposed that a plaque be placed in the Graffiti House to recognize both B.B. and Page. A Mitchell plaque committee was formed with Bob, Helen Geisler, and Peggy Misch.

Other Mitchell relatives at the event were Bill Mitchell and Scott and Roxy Mitchell. Long-time BSF directors Jane Brookins and Helen Geisler fondly remembered the couple and their contributions to battlefield preservation.

This is selected text from the plaque: *Without their foresight, courage, and dedication, little, if any, of the Brandy Station battlefield that we see today would exist. In 1989, working with other preservationists and local land owners, they formed the Brandy Station Foundation with B.B. as President and Page as Secretary.*

Brandy Station Foundation

**P.O. Box 165
Brandy Station, VA 22714-0165**

Return Service Requested

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please start/renew me as a member of the Foundation. Please mail to: Brandy Station Foundation, PO Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714-0165 \$ ____ Annual Membership (\$ 30.00 individual; \$40.00 family; \$10.00 student) \$ ____ Additional Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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