

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



BSF ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER, Friday, APRIL 9, 2010

Friday evening, the 9th of April, 2010, is the date chosen for the Brandy Station Foundation Annual Meeting of the Membership. The meeting will be held at the Brandy Station Fire Hall, 19601 Church Rd., Brandy Station, VA at 6:00 P M with dinner served by the Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary at 7 P M. The menu is a chicken breast dinner at the cost of \$25 per person and a cash bar (wine only) will be available. Our gift shop will also have a selection of items for your purchase.

Provided herein is a form for your reservation. We have provided an ample amount of time to respond in advance but if necessary, you may telephone your reservation to the office at 540 727 7718 or email to director@brandystationfoundation.com and then you may pay at the door. We must receive your reservation by April 1st.

We are pleased to announce that Eric J. Mink will be the speaker of the evening. His topic is "*...a sternness to his countenance, Stonewall Jackson in pictures and Art*". Mr. Mink is a National Park Service historian and cultural resources management specialist in Fredericksburg, VA. He is also the author of a number of articles and book reviews on Civil War subjects. Mr. Mink has spoken widely on various Civil War subjects and has conducted numerous battlefield tours. He received his B.A. in Historic Preservation and American Studies from the University of Mary Washington. We look forward to Mr. Mink being an enjoyable and informative speaker.

We are also pleased to announce a book signing by Carolyn and Jack Reeder, editors of *From a True Soldier and Son, The Civil War Letters of William C. H. Reeder*, published by the Brandy Station Foundation. The book is sold for \$ 18.00 and may be personalized. Thirteen of young 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.'

Three years of young William's letters to his parents in Indiana—plus commentary, maps, and illustrations—have been compiled by Carolyn and Jack Reeder. Many Virginia readers

are familiar with their books about the people who lived in the area that is now Shenandoah National Park.

After the program we will conduct the short but important business meeting at which the membership will vote on the slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the year 2010 presented by the Nominating Committee; and any other matters to be brought before the Membership. Please remember that in order to be a voting member of the BSF your 2010 dues must be paid by the date of this meeting.

-----BRANDY

STATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER RESERVATION

April 9, 2010. Opens at 6:00 PM to visit with friends. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM at the

Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 19601 Church Road, Brandy Station, VA 22714

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____ # of reservations @ \$25 per person Total: \$ _____

Check # or credit card # _____ VISA__MC__ exp. Date _____

Checks may be made out to: Brandy Station Foundation

Signature (if using credit card) _____

My billing address (if different from mailing address)

is: _____

_____ You may also pay your dues with this form.

2010 annual dues \$ 25.00 - _____ any additional donation welcomed _____

RSVP: By April 1st by phone (540) 727-7718 (Graffiti House) or

by email: director@brandystationfoundation.com, or print, fill out and mail this page to the Brandy Station Foundation, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714

GRAFFITI HOUSE LAND DEED AT THE CULPEPER COURT HOUSE



Barry Atchison holds a copy of the Graffiti House Deed

Barry Atchison is a volunteer with the Brandy Station; Barry leads battlefield tours—in the spring, summer, and fall—and gives tours of the Graffiti House throughout the year. Here is his story of his recent discovery of the Graffiti House land deed:

I was doing some research for my job, in the records room at the Court House, back in the fall and it led me to the Grantor-Grantee book that covered the 1850's & 60's. While I was looking for information on the property I was researching I ran across James Barbour's name as a grantor. There were a number of entries under his name so I didn't have the chance to look up the Graffiti House at that time. I finished my research and went back to the office but I was curious if I could find the Graffiti House deed. A couple of days later I went back to the Court House and returned to the Grantor-Grantee book where I had seen James Barbour's name and I looked for a transaction between him and John Stone and that led me to Deed Book 16 page 165, and there it was. To me it brought to life some of

the stories we tell about the House and it was kind of like looking at a snap shot of the past but one that had more meaning than the typical Civil War image because of our attachment to the Graffiti House. I just took it for granted that the deed had been circulated around the volunteers in the past so I stuck at copy in my Graffiti House notebook and forgot about it until the day I showed it to [three other volunteers at the Graffiti House].

The deed is dated October 2, 1869 although the property actually transferred on October 9, 1858 between James Barbour and John Stone with the price being \$336.00 for 3 acres. John Stone built the Graffiti House on this property. The entry in the clerk's records was actually July 7, 1882. The deed says in part: This deed made the 2nd day of October in the year 1869 between James Barbour and Fannie J, his wife of the first part and John A. Stone of the second part ... the said James Barbour agreed to sell to the said Stone a certain lot of land lying near Brandy Station ...

Sunday Lecture Series

The Brandy Station Foundation Sunday lecture series begins 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.

4/25/10 "Mosby's Keydet Rangers" – Eric Buckland

5/30/10 "Topic TBD" - Joseph McKinney

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

7/25/10 Open

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

9/26/10 "The Memory of the Civil War" - Richard Deardoff

10/31/10 "The Battle of Rappahannock Station" – Michael Block

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

A good time was had at the BSF Christmas Party on December 12th. Robert E. Lee was in attendance, as were some visiting reenactors. A book signing by Paul Herbert was featured: *'God Knows all Your Names: Stories in American History'*. Paul Herbert is the president of the Historical Society of Fairfax County. Karla Seidita donated some of her delicious Christmas cookies for a raffle benefiting the Foundation.



Board Member Helen Geisler holds up one of the BSF Christmas party raffle prizes, Paul Herbert's book titled: '*God Knows all Your Names: Stories in American History*'.



Reenactors, including (from left) Eric Kyff, George Wells ("Robert E. Lee"), Richard R. (Rusty) Jones, and Steve Dunn pose by the Graffiti House at the BSF Christmas Party.

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). Tours leave from the Graffiti House at 10:00 am and last 2 hours. 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 – April 3, 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 – April 17, 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, a deserter from the French army, to Stevensburg. The fighting at Stevensburg, a neglected aspect of the Battle of Brandy Station, is presented in detail. This tour concludes with a description of the mortal wounding of Captain William Farley, JEB Stuart's volunteer aide de camp.

Fleetwood Hill – May 1, 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. Unlike most Civil War battles, the troopers fought from the saddle, mostly with sabers. One frustrated Rebel was heard to shout at his Yankee opponent, "Why don't you Yankees put away your sabers, draw your pistols, and fight like gentlemen!"

Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge – May 15, 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. During the fighting, Rooney Lee, Robert E. Lee's second son, was shot in the thigh and carried from the field. Colonel Solomon Williams of 1st North Carolina Cavalry, commanding his regiment in battle for the first time, was shot in the head and killed. He had been married just two weeks earlier.

BSF Presents Books to the Culpeper County Library

The Brandy Station Foundation is honored to have made a presentation to the Culpeper County Library of a selection of books. In our continuing efforts to promote education through understanding, and in joint efforts with the community, we aim to increase the availability of information available to the public through the use of the public library. The library owns a copy of **'Brandy Station, June 9, 1863, the Largest Cavalry Battle of the War'**, a wonderful accounting of the Battle of Brandy Station, written by one of our favorite members, Joe McKinney. Joe also conducts excellent tours of the Brandy Station Battlefield.

We are delighted that we can supply them with another copy of **'Brandy Station 1863, First Step towards Gettysburg'** by our esteemed Advisory Board member, Dr. Dan Beattie. This will enable the library to have a copy for reference purposed as well as a copy available to check out.

One of the two additional books we donated was: **'From a True Soldier and Son, the Civil War Letters of William C. H. Reeder'** with commentary by Carolyn Reeder and edited by Jack Reeder, a direct descendant. This is a compiling of personal letters, many from (or referencing) Brandy Station. The Foundation is proud to be the Publisher of this special book.

And the newest book we donated is that by Mr. Paul Herbert, the President of the Fairfax Historical Society, titled **'God Knows All your Names, Stories in American History'**. This is a wonderful collection of personal stories divided into 3 sections, the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and other stories

With the economy impacting one of our most valuable community assets, our public library, the BSF is pleased to have contributed in a small way to increasing the resources of knowledge available to the public.

2nd Annual Commemorative Service at St. James

The Foundation and Christ Episcopal Church at Brandy Station are pleased to announce that the second annual Commemorative Service will be held on Sunday June 13th at 2 P.M. at the Historic St. James Church site on the Brandy Station Battlefield. This 13th day in June is the date on which we will honor with remembrance those who fought and gave their lives at the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. The Reverend Joi Weiher will officiate at the service of Holy Eucharist. We are thrilled this year to have musical accompaniment provided by Anne Howard and John Tole of *Evergreen Shade*. All persons are invited to attend this service and you are encouraged to come in Civil War period costume. Parking will be available at the CWPT parking circle at the corner of Beverlys Ford Rd. and St. James Church Rd. (For reference this is off the airport road just before the entrance into the airport.) We suggest that you bring a folding camp chair for sitting during the service. Everyone is welcomed at the BSF headquarters, the Graffiti House at 19484 Brandy Rd.,

after the service for light refreshments, and of course the House will be open for touring at this time.

For more information please contact Mary Tholand at 540 825 5534, or at the GH, 540 727 7718.

Culpeper Remembrance Days April 23-25

The Foundation will once again welcome members of Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, "The Fairfax Rifles," as they establish a picket on the grounds of the historic Graffiti House on April 24-25 during Culpeper Remembrance Days.

The Fairfax Rifles, is a family oriented re-enactment group, and has been a frequent guest here at Brandy Station in Culpeper County, supporting the preservation efforts and goals of the BSF. They look forward to sharing their knowledge of life during the War Between the States with visitors. A period camp will be established and the soldiers can expect a visit from their wives and friends. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn about life at home during the war by talking to the women of the sewing circle, and will gain a better understanding of the day-to-day actions of the Fairfax Rifles as they march, drill and learn to survive "in the field."

On Sunday, the 25th, at 2 P.M. the Graffiti House will host its monthly Sunday Seminar. Featured for this special Remembrance Days Weekend is Eric Buckland, author of *'Mosby's Keydet Rangers'* which is a collection of biographical information, passages from books, personal letters, obituaries, memorials, personal accounts and newspaper articles about the young men and college students from the Virginia Military Institute who rode with Mosby's Rangers. Mr. Buckland gives a lively and interesting talk about these VMI men from his book. He has spoken to many Civil War Roundtables and other groups interested in the Civil War and Mosby's Rangers. Eric is a retired Army Lt. Col (22 years of service). He spent the majority of his time in the Army in Special Operations. After retiring in 1999 and spending two years as a contractor at the Dept of State, he has been working at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as a Policy Analyst.

Enjoy a weekend full of educational and entertaining programs, demonstrations, and activities commemorating and celebrating Culpeper's rich history! Aviation enthusiasts will love visiting the Open Hangars and flying vintage aircraft at the Culpeper Regional Airport. Enjoy living history, a Civil War encampment, and Colonial dance demonstrations at the Museum of Culpeper History and Burgandine House in town. Attend an authentic 18th century Anglican church service at Little Fork Church, the oldest colonial church in the area. On Sunday, enjoy a choral performance by the Blue Ridge Chorale. Meet Cowboy

and Western Singer Del Shields of “Best of America by Horseback” fame in concert at the Depot in downtown Culpeper.

For more information, please visit: www.brandystationfoundation.com or the Culpeper tourism website: www.visitculpeperva.com/remembrance

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.