

# The Grand Review Brandy Station Foundation September 2020



President: William Truitt Vice President: Paula K. Johnson Treasurers: Peter and Peggy MocarSKI Secretary: Don Carlson Board of Directors: Jane Brookins, Helen Geisler, Anne Howard, Howard Lambert, Kimberly Lillard, Peggy Misch, Larry Pullen, Paul Warmack  
*B.B. and Page Mitchell will be honored at the Annual Meeting & Picnic*

## **Brandy Station Foundation Annual Meeting & Picnic September 12, 2020**

The Brandy Station Foundation Annual Meeting & Picnic is Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, VA. The outdoor event, with a tent in the event of rain, begins at 5:00 PM. The cost for the dinner is \$30 per person. The membership will vote on the slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the year 2020 presented by the Nominating Committee and any other matters to be brought before the Membership. Please remember that in order to vote at the annual meeting, you must be a BSF member and pay your 2020 dues on or before the meeting. Proceeds from the event go directly to the Brandy Station Foundation. At the meeting, a plaque in honor of B.B. and Page Mitchell for placement in the Graffiti House will be presented. Raffle tickets for a framed and matted Don Troiani print, Brandy Station Review, signed #606/1150 will be sold to benefit the Brandy Station Foundation; the winning ticket will be drawn on April 16, 2021. Winner will not need to be present at the drawing. Patrick

L. Lydon of Culpeper donated the print. Framing is thanks to Village Frameworks and Gallery in Culpeper.

Please make reservations by Sunday, September 7th by emailing Larry Pullen at [larrypullen@gmail.com](mailto:larrypullen@gmail.com) and paying at the picnic **OR** print, fill out and mail the reservation page to the Brandy Station Foundation, Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714

***BSF ANNUAL MEETING & FUNDRAISER RESERVATION  
September 12, 2020. Opens at 5:00 PM for social gathering. The  
picnic dinner which begins at 5:30 PM. Enjoy barbecue, hot dogs,  
hamburgers, soft drinks, salads, baked beans, and dessert.***

Location: The Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, VA 22714

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of reservations @ \$30 per person                      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # or credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_ MC \_\_ exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV (Card Verification Value three or four digit number) \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 start or renew your annual dues with this form. 2020 annual dues (\$ 30.00 individual; \$40.00 couple; \$10.00 high school or college student) \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP: By September 7th to Larry Pullen via email [larrypullen@gmail.com](mailto:larrypullen@gmail.com) or print, fill out and mail this page to the Brandy Station Foundation, Box 165, Brandy Station, VA 22714



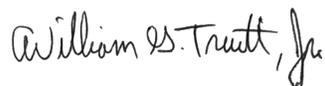
**President's Corner**

Greetings everyone,

During these challenging and unusual times, I hope everyone is doing well. Due to the prevailing circumstances, the Graffiti House has remained closed since March. The BSF board will continue to monitor the situation and will consider reopening at such time it is warranted. The Museum of Culpeper History and the Culpeper Department of Tourism have remained closed as well. I believe it would be prudent to not consider reopening until they also decide to reopen. At such time, we will follow the state and county guidelines for reopening.

On a positive note, we have been blessed with very generous donations from the Francis Chapin Foundation (Jennifer Reilly), the family of Marvin "Doc" Ankers, donations in memory of Ed Gentry, donations from the "Give Local Piedmont" campaign, and a grant from the County of Culpeper. These funds are continuing to be used for upgrades to improve the Graffiti House infrastructure. Recently, we installed a new surveillance security camera system to better protect the BSF assets in and around the property. The Culpeper County Sheriff's Department and a nearby neighbor, Jimmy Howell, have been greatly vigilant in their efforts to keep a lookout on the Graffiti House property and the Pelham monument. I want to send a special "Thank You" out to them.

Finally, in closing, I want to let all of our members and volunteers know how much you are appreciated. Let's all remain resilient and strong during this time of unprecedented challenges and continue to support the BSF the best we can. I encourage present and future members to continue to pledge their support through volunteerism, membership dues, and donations. We will all come out of this eventually and be stronger and better than before to continue the Brandy Station Foundation mission of preserving the natural and historic resources of the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William S. Truitt, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "Jr." at the end.

William Truitt, President, Brandy Station Foundation

## **We Remember Culpeper's Soldiers in Blue** by Howard Lambert

*Editor's note: In December 2018, the Foundation was pleased to announce the unveiling of the first stage of a new exhibit, Culpeper's Forgotten Heroes: Black Union Soldiers of Culpeper County, Virginia. This exhibit was researched and curated by BSF Board Member Howard Lambert, who indicated that the Graffiti House was hosting what he believed to be the first permanent exhibit dedicated to Culpeper-born United States Colored Troops. The Graffiti House is an appropriate location due to the fact USCTs were stationed at Brandy Station guarding the Supply Depot. Their story is all part of the history of Culpeper during the Civil War and the fabric of this country. In 2019, Howard founded the Freedom Foundation dedicated to Culpeper County born USCTs and currently serves as the President of that organization. Their website is [freedomfoundationva.org](http://freedomfoundationva.org).*

The Civil War was fought on soil both in the North and South and by young and old from hamlets and cities throughout the country. They came from Elmira, New York, Tupelo, Mississippi, Colorado Territory and yes, Culpeper, Virginia. Forgotten among the many are the men who identified Culpeper, Virginia as their place of birth. They were men of African descent who joined the Union Army as members of the United States Colored Troops (USCTs). At the beginning of the war in 1861, persons of African descent were not allowed to officially enlist in the Union Army. Finally, after many attempts to offer their services and the constant urging by the likes of Frederick Douglass, the Union finally relented.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are henceforward shall be free. The Emancipation Proclamation also allowed for the enrollment of freed slaves into the United States military. They came from both Northern and Southern states including each of the states that seceded from the Union. Louisiana led all Southern states contributing over 25,000 USCTs, more than any Northern state. Of the nearly 200,000 men of African descent who joined the Union Army, most were ex-slaves. As the Union Army moved south into Virginia, many of the enslaved were given safe passage to pursue a life of freedom which would take them to Alexandria, Virginia or other parts north including the newly established Freedman's Village, what is today Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon.



Prior to the Civil War, Culpeper residents numbered over 12,000 residents, of that number approximately 6,000 were enslaved. In 1863 and 1864, the Army of the Potomac moved into Culpeper and winter at Brandy Station prior to the start of Grant's Overland Campaign. The Army of Potomac included the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, of which the IX Corps was made entirely of soldiers of African descent commanded by General Edward Ferrero. In their ranks were over 15 men who identified Culpeper, Virginia as their place of birth. They comprised members of the 19<sup>th</sup> USCT, 30<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, 30<sup>th</sup> USCTs, 43<sup>rd</sup> USCTs and the 23<sup>rd</sup> USCTs. The 23<sup>rd</sup> had the largest contingent of USCTs, as their ranks included 12 members who identified Culpeper as their place of birth. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was organized at Camp Casey, Virginia and included free and escaped slaves and some freemen. After the 4<sup>th</sup> Division of the IX Corps completed training at Camp Stanton in Annapolis, Maryland, the 23<sup>rd</sup> USCT joined them as they crossed the Potomac. The men journeyed down to Warrenton Junction and were assigned to guard and escort the wagon trains. Other regiments made their way to Rappahannock Station. At the time, Brandy Station was the main supply center for the Army of the Potomac as supplies—including ammunition, food and feed for the horses—were shipped out to the regimental camps. Members of the USCT were assigned to guard the supply depot at Brandy Station and guard the wagon trains of the Army of the Potomac through the Wilderness and on to Petersburg.

*Supply Depot at Brandy Station, Va.*

*Stoneman i.e. Brandy Station, Va. on Acquia i.e. Aquia Creek and Fredericksburg R.R. [Photographed between 1861 and 1865, printed between 1880 and 1889] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <[www.loc.gov/item/2012650171/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2012650171/)>.*

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1864, members of the USCT assignment to Brandy Station marched out to Culpeper Court-House. One can only imagine what it must have been like for those who once were slaves to return to the fields they once toiled from can-to-can't or witness family members being sold to parts unknown. They proudly wore the blue uniforms in their pursuit of freedom for all the enslaved, despite knowing their fate if captured by the Confederate Army.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the men returned to Brandy Station and, for many, it would be the last time they would gaze upon the place of their birth. Grant's lead regiments had departed for the Wilderness and it was time to set fire to the Quartermaster's stores and join the rest of the Army. The men of the 23<sup>rd</sup> would "see the elephant" for the first time and distinguish themselves at Alrich Farm during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. They would become the first African-American soldiers to fight in direct combat against the Army of Northern Virginia. By the end of the Civil War, over 120 soldiers in the Union Army identified Culpeper, Virginia as the place of their birth including William Lightfoot of the well-known 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. May their service never be forgotten.



**Spirits of the Graffiti House, October 24, 2020**

Jayne Ramirez, Amy Warmack, Kim Lillard, & Paul Warmack of

Culpeper Paranormal

Brandy Station Foundation's "Spirits of the Graffiti House" on October 24th with Culpeper Paranormal will include treats and ghostly stories at the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Rd., Brandy Station, VA. Come meet the Culpeper Paranormal Team, as they will be on hand to share their findings from previous investigations at the Graffiti House, and other locations. The event runs from 5PM-9PM. Culpeper Paranormal will also have equipment demonstrations and evidence for presentation. This event is family friendly and FREE with donations to the Brandy Station Foundation welcomed. Please visit the BSF website at [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com), for additional information and any updates on this event, or visit our Graffiti House Facebook page.

**Remembering Edwin F. Gentry**

Edwin F. (Ed) Gentry was a former Vice President of the Brandy Station Foundation who served on the BSF Board Advisory Committee for many years. Ed passed away on Friday, March 13, 2020 at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA. He was born on October 31, 1947 in Durham, NC. From his obituary, we learned that “Ed grew up in Charlottesville, VA. He graduated with his undergrad and law degree from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC. Ed was a jack of all trades. He was an attorney, substitute judge, and very well-known caterer in Culpeper. Ed became a Civil War preservationist and worked faithfully with the Brandy Station Foundation”.

Ed worked for eighteen years to honor the wishes of Confederate Captain William D. Farley to be buried in his home state of South Carolina in the event of his death. Farley, a 27-year-old law graduate of the University of Virginia, was mortally wounded in the Stevensburg area during the the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863, but was buried in the private Ashby family plot in Culpeper’s Fairview Cemetery.

As reported in an article titled “Confederate Captain is finally going home” by William Branigin in *The Washington Post* on April 7, 2002: “Shortly before his death, according to a contemporary account, Farley give his new uniform coat to "a lady of Culpeper" and told her, "If anything befalls me, wrap me in this and send me to my mother." Although the request has been mentioned in several history books, the lady in question has never been identified ... The story captured the imagination of Gentry, who located Farley's grave and began researching his life in 1984. Gentry obtained permission from Farley's closest living relative, a great-great-niece in South Carolina, now 90 years old, to exhume his remains. But he was not able to find a descendant of the family that owned the Culpeper burial plot until January last year [2001]. Once permission was obtained from that family, Gentry enlisted the help of Douglas Owsley, a forensic anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution, and Malcolm Richardson, an archaeologist and historian from Reston, to excavate Farley's grave and write a report for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.”

Thanks to Ed’s persistence, Farley’s remains were reinterred in his home town of Laurens, SC next to his parents and three brothers.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com)