

# Historic Perspectives

News About the Preservation of Prince William County's Historic Resources



Summer 2010 Volume 6, Issue 2

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## Enjoy Programs at Prince William County's Historic Sites



Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas (703) 367-7872



Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Brentsville (703) 365-7895



Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow (703) 792-5546



Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Avenue, Manassas (703) 367-7872



Rippon Lodge Historic Site, 15520 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge (703) 499-9812

## Why is the Grass So Tall?

Rebecca Super, Site Manager



Meadow at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.  
Photo by Rebecca Super

Why is the grass so tall at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park? From the perspective of historic preservation, the answer is not simple. Stewards of historic places are obligated to preserve a site's historic structures, archaeological resources and the natural resources, historic landscapes and viewsheds.

Restoring the historic landscape at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is among the Historic Preservation Division's goals. The emerging unmowed meadows are a critical element of that landscape.

*We came on an open field in front of a belt of woods to the left of the railroad near Bristoe Station...*

Capt. Owen Murphy, 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry, New York, 1862

The 19th-century landscape at Bristoe Station contained farm fields, meadows and wooded areas, in addition to the railroad station. An advertisement in the 1853 *Alexandria Gazette* offered 775 acres of the Bristoe Tract for sale and described it as "now divided into six fields, besides two meadows separately enclosed."

Ten years later, during the middle of the Civil War, the landscape of Prince William County had changed. Fences were burned. Livestock and farming equipment were destroyed and the farm laborers were gone. During the Civil War, our research shows that the people who owned the land where the park now exists probably abandoned their farm and sought refuge in Maryland. Agricultural fields lay fallow, slowly returning to meadow. And the meadows were slowly reverting to forest.

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# News from the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation

Mark A. Trbovich, President

PWHPF Members,

As you may have heard, May has been recognized in Prince William County as Historic Preservation Month. In that spirit, I hope all of you have received your 2010 annual membership renewal letters in the mail and are considering donating and remaining a member this year. We truly value you and your family's membership and love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

I encourage everyone to also reach out to others and invite them to join. We have revised our web site at [www.pwhpf.org](http://www.pwhpf.org) by adding more information and project updates. Our **Facebook** page has increased to nearly 130 fans in less than two months, which is outstanding. If you haven't seen the page or all the information and pictures posted there, I strongly encourage you to take a look and become a fan also. Just go to the Facebook site and type in "Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation" and it will take you directly to it.

This year we have a special free *Preservation Pass*, a \$15 value which has been graciously offered by our PWC Historic Preservation Division just for renewing your membership. It includes one free 2010 admission to the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Ben Lomond Historic Site and Rippon Lodge Historic Sites. Please renew today and we will quickly send that to you.

Our precious sites are in need of our support and, as always, you can designate which project or site you want your donation to support. The Rippon Lodge Visitor Center project, the Brentsville Courthouse Jail Restoration project and the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park project are just in their beginning phases. I am proud to say your funding has enabled split rail fencing to be purchased for the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. We will need much more than the initial purchase of \$7,000. to get that battlefield completely fenced as the Manassas Battlefield already is. At Bristoe Station, part of the



The Foundation's web page has been updated.

Foundation's \$175,000. projected funding plan is to support a \$75,000. cemetery archaeological survey on the property. We have not yet been able to begin to fund this critical survey, but with your help and support, we surely can.

Plans are being made to build the much-needed bathroom facility at Rippon Lodge Historic Site as a water and sewer line plans are being finalized. At Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, plans to restore the Jail are already drawn, but the restoration project needs a strong community funding effort to get started.

Financial times are tough for the county and it's citizens. There isn't much county money to do anything but keep the sites opened and staffed. As the Foundation, we have to do the rest. Let's all be a part of it and give our generous donations because our cause is just and we have a vision for our precious historic sites. With the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration coming next year, thousands of tourists will be visiting our sites. Now is the time to get projects accomplished. Together, with corporate and citizen financial support, WE CAN DO IT!

Sincerely,

## Upcoming Programs

All fees listed are per person. Programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Call site number for updated information. Historic site addresses are listed on page 1.

### June 5

**1st Annual Community Picnic**  
Bring family and friends to enjoy crafts, vendors, games and music. Learn about 4-H and other community programs and services. Bring a picnic and tour ca. 1747 Rippon Lodge. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities are free; house tours \$5. (703) 499-9812.

### June 5

**Rippon Lodge Nature Walk**  
Take a stroll, locate historic trees, and learn about native and introduced trees and plants. 11 a.m. to Noon. Rippon Lodge Historic Site. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 499-9812.

### June 6

**Rose Garden Tours and Garden Work Day**  
Explore the Old Rose Garden and learn about its antique roses. House tour included with admission. Tours at 9 a.m., Noon and 2 p.m. Or, volunteer to clean and maintain the garden from 10 a.m. until Noon. Ben Lomond Historic Site. \$5; tour reservations required; work day volunteers receive free admission. (703) 367-7872.

### June 12

**Park Restoration Day**  
Help remove trash and shrubs, maintain trails to restore Bristoe Station Battlefield. Bring gloves and come dressed to work; tools provided. Please, no pets. 10 a.m. to Noon. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. Free. (703) 792-5546.

### June 12

**Ecology of a Battlefield: Beginning Birding**  
Observe the spring migration of song birds and learn to identify their calls and habits. Bring binoculars and a guide book. Please, no pets. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.

### June 12

**Garden Work Day**  
Volunteer to clean and maintain the Old Rose Garden from 10 a.m. until Noon. Ben Lomond Historic Site. Volunteers receive free admission. (703) 367-7872.

### June 13

**Victorian Sunday: Garden Tea**  
Explore religion's importance during the 1860s by joining a recreated 19th-century Christian worship service at 11 a.m. Tea and activities begin at 1:30 p.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site. House tour \$5; Tea \$10, reservations required. (703) 367-7872.

(Continued on page 3)

## Why is the Grass So Tall?

(Continued from page 1)

From a natural resources perspective, native grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the Mid-Atlantic region. Historically, the Virginia piedmont contained vast acreages of native grassland and savannas with scattered trees and shrub cover, which were maintained by fire. Fires resulted from acts of nature like lightning or were deliberately set by American Indians for agricultural purposes. Today, natural acreages like Bristoe have been replaced by non-native grasses (e.g., tall fescue, orchard grass and Bermuda grass), agricultural crops, forest cover and suburban development. As a result, wildlife present before and during the Civil War are no longer here or survive in greatly diminished numbers.

### Bristoe's Wild Residents

The tall grass that enables us to interpret the battlefield as it looked to the soldiers who fought here and shelters wildlife also provides a home for things that scare us. Yes, there are ticks and snakes. With the right information you can learn to identify and avoid them. These often unwelcome creatures are part of the food chain that makes a healthy habitat.

Tick larvae feed on field mice which in turn are eaten by the black rat snakes (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*). Black rat snakes and green garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) are the most common snakes at the park. Both varieties are harmless. There are ticks in the grass. This is a reason we closely mow the edges of all trails. By keeping yourself and your pets on the path, you will greatly reduce your chance of coming into contact with ticks.

**Virginia Department of Health**  
[http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Vectorborne/#Tick\\_born\\_diseases](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Vectorborne/#Tick_born_diseases)

**Virginia Herpetological Society**  
[http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/reptiles/snakes/snakes\\_of\\_virginia.htm](http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/reptiles/snakes/snakes_of_virginia.htm)



The landscape near Bristoe Station, ca. 1863. Library of Congress

Native warm season grasslands provide cover for species such as bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, field sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, indigo bunting, prairie warbler, dickcissel, eastern meadowlark, loggerhead shrike, American kestrel, northern harrier and others. Tall grass provides cover from predators and places for ground nesters to raise young. Many species that depend on this type of habitat are listed by Virginia as threatened or endangered due to habitat loss.

Historic place protection and habitat protection are integral components of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division's mission. As you visit and learn about the rich history of our sites, we encourage you to learn about our rich natural history. Often the natural history of a site is deeply connected with the events that took place there. Every county historic site offers opportunities for nature and history lovers alike to learn and explore. 🦅

Northern Harrier Hawk(right)

Black Rat Snake(left)



### Historic Preservation Online

County Historic Properties information:  
[www.pwccgov.org/HistoricSites](http://www.pwccgov.org/HistoricSites)

Historic Preservation Division events:  
[www.pwccgov.org/HistoricEvents](http://www.pwccgov.org/HistoricEvents)

Historic Perspectives digital archive:  
[www.pwccgov.org/HistoricPerspectives](http://www.pwccgov.org/HistoricPerspectives)

## Upcoming Programs

(Continued from page 2)

### June 26

**Bristoe Station Battlefield Tours**  
Join historians and walk where the 1862 Battle of Kettle Run and the 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station occurred. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing. Tours start on the hour. Please, no pets. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.

### July 5

**Rippon Lodge Nature Walk**  
Take a stroll, locate historic trees, and learn about native and introduced trees and plants. 11 a.m. to Noon. Rippon Lodge Historic Site. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 499-9812.

### July 10

**Ecology of a Battlefield: Wildlife**  
Learn about deer, foxes, snakes, birds and other battlefield residents. Dress to walk. Please, no pets. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.

### July 10

**Garden Work Day**  
Volunteer to clean and maintain the Old Rose Garden from 10 a.m. until Noon. Ben Lomond Historic Site. Volunteers receive free admission. (703) 367-7872.

### July 11

**Victorian Sunday: Lawn Games & Tatting**  
Explore religion's importance during the 1860s by joining a recreated 19th-century Christian worship service at 11 a.m. Games and tatting class begin at 1:30 p.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site. House tour \$5; Games \$2; Tatting class \$8, reservations required. (703) 367-7872.

### July 12-16

**Rippon Lodge Summer Camp**  
Campers ages 9-12 learn about 18th-century culture, customs and everyday living skills. 9 a.m. to Noon daily. Rippon Lodge Historic Site. \$100; reservations required. (703) 792-5546.

### July 24

**Bristoe Station Battlefield Tours**  
Join historians and walk where the 1862 Battle of Kettle Run and the 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station occurred. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing. Tours start on the hour. Please, no pets. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.

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## Education Day a Success

On April 9th, 2010 over 600 6th-grade students from four different Prince William County middle schools participated in a two-hour-long intensive field trip to Manassas National Battlefield Park. The Education Day program was co-sponsored by the National Park Service, Prince William County Public Schools, Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the Prince William-City of Manassas Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. The program featured nine historic vignettes through which the students rotated and featured infantry, cavalry, artillery, 19th-century music, medicine, civilian life, slave life, Civil War spying and railroads. At each stop, small groups of students did hands-on activities and interacted with living history educators. The Education Day was a huge success. All sponsoring partners hope to repeat the program next spring to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Battle of First Manassas (July 21, 1861). 🌿



David Born speaks with students during the Education Day.

## Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre Now a Certified Wildlife Habitat

The Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre (BCHC) is proud to announce its new status as a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation! The National Wildlife Federation, America's largest conservation organization, offers many resources that make conserving and preserving wildlife simple for all. BCHC's nature trail, which runs parallel to Broad Run, serves as a

natural habitat for several species of plants and animals. Because this area provides food, shelter and water for local wildlife in a sustainable matter, BCHC meets the criteria for a Certified Wildlife Habitat. By partnering with the National Wildlife Federation, BCHC is joining millions of other members who also strive to protect and restore wildlife habitats.

This spring, make sure to stop by and see the plants and animals that make Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre a rich natural resource in Prince William County. 🌿



To learn how to certify your wildlife habitat, see <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx>

## Upcoming Programs

(Continued from page 3)

### July 24 & 25

#### *Pringle House Hospital*

Discover how the Pringle House—also known as Ben Lomond—was used as a Confederate hospital after the battle of First Manassas in July 1861. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site. \$5. (703) 367-7872.

### July 26-29

#### *Historic Brentsville Summer Camp*

Campers ages 8-13 learn about local history by holding a mock trial in the 1822 courthouse, cooking in the 1850s log house and attending class in the one-room school. 9 a.m. to Noon daily. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. \$90. (703) 499-9812.

### August 7

#### *Rippon Lodge Nature Walk*

Take a stroll, locate historic trees, and learn about native and introduced trees and plants. 11 a.m. to Noon. Rippon Lodge Historic Site. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 499-9812.

### August 7

#### *Garden Work Day*

Volunteer to clean and maintain the Old Rose Garden from 10 a.m. until Noon. Ben Lomond Historic Site. Volunteers receive free admission. (703) 367-7872.

### August 8

#### *Victorian Sunday*

Explore religion's importance during the 1860s by joining a recreated 19th-century Christian worship service at 11 a.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site. House tour \$5. (703) 367-7872.

### August 9-13

#### *Basic Civil War Summer Camp*

Campers ages 8-13 actively learn about everyday soldiers' lives during the American Civil War and travel to Manassas National Battlefield Park. 9 a.m. to Noon daily. Ben Lomond Historic Site. \$90; reservations required. (703) 367-7872.

### August 28

#### *Bristoe Station Battlefield Tours*

Join historians and walk where the 1862 Battle of Kettle Run and the 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station occurred. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing. Tours start on the hour. Please, no pets. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.

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## Thanks to Our 2010 Park Day Donors

On Saturday, April 10, dozens of volunteers participated in Park Day at Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. Park Day is a nationwide event co-sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and the History Channel that promotes the preservation of hallowed ground through volunteerism. Volunteers at Bristoe Station picked up trash, mulched trails and helped clear a historic road bed. HPD especially thanks the students, staff and parents from All Saints Catholic School who worked so hard that day.

The Historic Preservation Division also thanks all of the generous donors who helped to make this day a success:

Bartlett Tree Experts  
Harris Teeter  
JL Tree Service  
Mitchell Tree Service  
Ross Tree Service  
Target Stores



Volunteers place mulch on a walking trail during Park Day.

## Meet the HPD Staff

Preservation is our job. The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) is responsible for administration, site management, construction and maintenance, and cultural resource management of County-owned historic properties. Here's who we are:



**Brendon Hanafin**  
Division Chief

9 years with PWC; began HPD in 2005  
BA in History, The Catholic Univ.;  
MBA, George Mason Univ.



**Ashley Berry**  
Historic Interpreter

6 months with HPD  
BA in Interior Design, Marymount Univ.; MA in Historic Preservation, Univ. of Georgia



**John Daymude**  
Maintenance Mechanic  
3 years with HPD  
Past career in building construction



**David Born**  
Site Manager, Ben Lomond  
5 years with HPD  
BS in Grassland Ecology, Abeline Christian Univ.;  
MS in Range Management, Colorado State Univ.



**John "Dutch" Ferrell**  
Laborer  
3.5 years with HPD  
30 years in elevator construction

## Upcoming Programs

(Continued from page 4)

### July 21 & 22

*"Hard Tack and Coffee": Brentsville Civil War Soldier Camp*  
During this overnight camp, find out first-hand how farmers learned to be soldiers in 1861. Meals are included. 10 a.m. Saturday until 10 a.m. Sunday. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. \$125 for campers age 16 (with adult) and older; reservations required. (703) 365-7895.

### August 21

*Garden Work Day*  
Volunteer to clean and maintain the Old Rose Garden from 10 a.m. until Noon. Ben Lomond Historic Site. Volunteers receive free admission. (703) 367-7872.

### August 22

*Victorian Sunday*  
Explore religion's importance during the 1860s by joining a recreated 19th-century Christian worship service at 11 a.m. Ben Lomond Historic Site. House tour \$5. (703) 367-7872.

### August 23-26

*Advanced Civil War Summer Camp*  
Campers ages 8-13 build on skills learned during the *Basic Civil War Summer Camp* (see August 9-13). They drill, explore officers' duties, meet Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and visit Manassas National Battlefield Park. Campers MUST have attended the *Basic Civil War Summer Camp*. 9 a.m. to Noon daily. Ben Lomond Historic Site. \$110; reservations required. (703) 367-7872.

### August 28

*Battle of Kettle Run Special Tours*  
Follow in the footsteps of soldiers who fought the 1862 Battle of Kettle Run. Historians lead this detailed tour. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing. Tours start on the hour. Please, no pets. 9 a.m. to Noon. Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. \$5; free for children under 6. (703) 792-5546.



(Continued on page 6)

## Meet the HPD Staff

(Continued from page 5)



**Ray Goodrow, AIA**  
**Engineer II**  
6 years with HPD  
Registered Architect  
MA in Architecture and Architectural  
History, Univ. of Virginia



**Adrienne Lee**  
**Administrative Assistant III**  
7 years with Prince William  
County, 5 of those with HPD  
Associates Degree in Sociology



**Shantora Stuckman**  
**Historic Interpreter**  
6 months with HPD  
BA in History, College of  
Charleston; Archival Studies  
Certificate, Western Archives  
Institute



**Heather Hembrey**  
**Preservationist**  
4.5 years with HPD  
MAA in Historical Archaeology,  
Univ. of Maryland; MA in History and  
Certificate in Historical Agencies and  
Administration, Northeastern Univ.



**Sean McRunnel**  
**Building Operations Supervisor**  
3 years with HPD  
Master Electrician, State of Virginia



**Rebecca Super**  
**Site Manager, Bristoe**  
2 years with HPD  
BA in History, George Mason Univ;  
Associates Degree in Horticulture  
Technology, NOVA; Historical  
Landscape Institute graduate,  
Univ. of Virginia



**Jim Klakowicz**  
**Laborer**  
5 years with HPD  
BS in Forestry, Virginia Tech;  
30 years with Virginia State Parks



**Rob Orrison**  
**Site Manager, Brentsville**  
4 years with HPD  
BA in History, Longwood  
College; MA in Public History,  
George Mason Univ.



**Bill Taplin**  
**Maintenance Mechanic II**  
6 months with HPD  
10 years as a materials contractor



**Fritz Korzendorfer**  
**Maintenance Supervisor**  
5.5 years with HPD  
30 years as a professional  
building contractor



**Mike Riley**  
**Site Manager, Rippon Lodge**  
4 years with HPD  
BA in History, Shepherd  
University

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**General Preservation Information**  
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