

Historic Perspectives

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



Fall 2016

Published by the Prince William County Department of
Public Works, Historic Preservation Division

Ghosts of Prince William County

Prince William County is home to many amazing historic sites, each with their own unique stories. Some of these stories include a ghostly nature, perfect for the Halloween season coming up. Here are several spooky stories from our sites along with upcoming programs for you to possibly have your own paranormal experience!

With a chilling history as a Confederate hospital in the aftermath of the Battle of First Manassas, Ben Lomond Historic Site has a long history of ghostly encounters from unexplainable sounds to unexplained shivers. But a Halloween experience told by one Prince William County employee is by far the most chilling to have occurred at the site. During a weekend of Halloween programs at the house, the employee stayed overnight sleeping on a cot in one of the rooms upstairs. A sudden sensation of being dragged by the leg jolted him from his sleep and when he opened his eyes he found he was on the floor at the far end of the bed. One might guess that an enterprising spirit mistook the slumbering employee for yet another deceased body from the recent battle and attempted to pull him to an awaiting grave outside.



Brentsville Courthouse
Image from HPD collection

At Rippon Lodge Historic Site, the beautiful scenic views overlooking the Potomac River belie the creepy past that has followed the site. A 1930's paper supposedly once reported that the house "is so sinisterly haunted that no one will occupy it," and a long standing rumor has it that Route 1 was altered to avoid passing too close to the house. In the 1700's, Mrs. Blackburn angrily struck an unfortunate slave child who then fell against the stone fireplace and died. An inquiry found weeks later proclaimed it an "accident" and many people are convinced they can see a bloody spot where the child's head struck the stone. Others swear they have seen a little girl running towards the woods where it is supposed she's buried.

Injustice and tragedy are sown within the fabric of many histories and historic places throughout the county, but nowhere can it be found more evident than at the sight of the Brentsville Jail at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. It is widely considered to be one of the creepiest and most haunted locations in the county. In 1872, a sensational trial swept Virginia in which James Clark was arrested for allegedly abducting Fannie Fawell, bringing her to Washington on promises of marriage and then leaving her. Before Clark ever received his chance to defend himself in court, Rhoda Fawell, brother of Fannie, shot him dead in his cell. What started as an abduction trial suddenly became a murder trial in which a jury declared Fawell not guilty to thunderous applause from spectators sitting in the courthouse. If indeed it is the shadow of James Clark that haunts the jail where he was killed, few spirits have been more justified in the aftermath of such unbelievable injustice.



Rippon Lodge
Image from HPD collection

Prince William County Historic Preservation is offering a variety of Halloween programs where you can learn about the incredible, spooky and tragic stories at all of our sites.

(Continued on page 6)

**Fall
Program and Event
Guide Inside!**

News from the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation

Dear Members,

Last month in this newsletter you heard from Meaghan Reddick, who inaugurated our new series of letters introducing the current members of the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation's Board of Directors. This month it's my pleasure to take a turn.

Originally from Pennsylvania, I came to the Washington metropolitan area in the early 1980s to earn my undergraduate and law degrees at Georgetown University. Later, I also earned a Masters Degree in History at George Mason University. Today, I am hoping to complete my PhD in History at Georgetown University, and am currently working on my dissertation entitled, "Morocco in the Early Atlantic World."



Earnie Porta
Photograph by Washington Post

Over the years I may have met a number of you through a variety of organizations with whom I have been affiliated, either as a member, officer, or Board member. These include groups as diverse as the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, Patriots for Disabled Divers, Leadership Prince William, and the Lake Ridge Lions Club. Among them are also several organizations that focus on local history, including Historic Prince William and the Occoquan Historical Society.

It was through the latter that I was first introduced to our rich local heritage and became acquainted with history of the Town of Occoquan, where I served as Mayor for four terms from July of 2006 through June of 2014. On the board of the Occoquan Historical Society for more than a decade, I now serve as its Treasurer and webmaster, and have been lucky enough to be involved in numerous activities and events that have helped highlight, preserve, and promote the town's history. In 2010, I published a book on Occoquan's history in Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* Series.

After having served on the Historic Preservation Foundation's Board for several years, I am now the organization's Secretary and webmaster. I believe it is a particularly enjoyable time to be a part of the Foundation, as we are working diligently to raise funds to complete an interesting and exciting collection of exhibits associated with the recently-restored Brentsville Jail. The County's Historic Preservation Division has done an excellent job of designing room displays that will integrate both traditional and more modern museum techniques, and exhibit naming opportunities are available for individuals and businesses of all sizes.

Of course, the Brentsville site is but one of many that the Historic Preservation Division administers and for which the Foundation raises funds. I encourage you to go to the Foundation website where you can find links to information on all of them (and to what we do) – and then I encourage you to go and visit all of them that you can. No matter how many times I have done so, I never fail to learn something new about Prince William County's history. Maybe I will see you at one of our sites.

Thank you for the pleasure of serving on the Foundation Board and thank you for your support in telling the story of Prince William County.

Sincerely,

Earnie Porta
Secretary, Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation

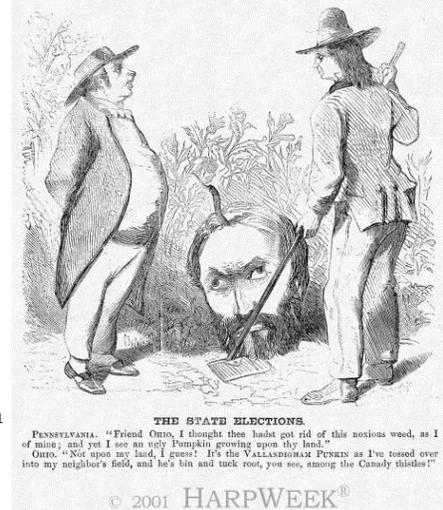
The Battle of Bristoe Station and the Election of 1863

The Battle of Bristoe Station is largely forgotten, even by many Civil War buffs. Students of the American Civil War typically skip over the period between the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 and the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864. The campaigning and fighting in Virginia in fall 1863 has been swept under the rug of history because no large battles were fought. However, the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863 was a chance for the Southern Confederacy to reduce the impact of the twin Confederate disasters at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

While both Union victories helped shore up Northern support for the war effort, just weeks later the first Federal draft was enacted throughout the North. A very polarizing action, protests broke out in many U.S. cities, some of which turned into riots. By the early fall, opposition to the draft and lingering questions about the ultimate consequences of the Emancipation Proclamation strongly divided the North. Although 1863 was not a year in which either Congressional seats or the Presidency were on the ballot, in many Northern states that November gubernatorial and state legislative seats were. While voters would have to wait another year to directly influence the Federal government's role in the Civil War, if the 1863 state elections proved to be a referendum voters had a way to display their opinions on the Civil War.

In the two most populous Northern states, New York and Ohio, some prominent politicians were running months after the victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg on a platform stating that the Lincoln Administration's conduct of the war was criminal, that the war should cease immediately, and that the South should be let go. Instead of being scoffed at as many today believe they should have been, the two gubernatorial candidates that were campaigning this way were polling well with the electorate in the early fall. The stunning Confederate victory at Chickamauga in September added more doubt in many Northern voters' mind about the conduct of the war. It was within this political debate which the Bristoe Campaign was fought in. The decision by the Union army to evacuate their main army in Virginia from around Culpepper to the forts around Centreville turned the Bristoe Campaign into a foot race to Northern Virginia. If the Confederates were able to either destroy or damage part of the Federal army in Virginia, the peace party in the North would be in a stronger position to win elections.

On October 14, 1863, at Bristoe Station, that foot race turned bloody. While a small portion of the Union army was barely able to stave off a Confederate attack, the battle was a close engagement that very well could have been a Confederate victory. With the political unrest in the North, a Confederate victory at Bristoe on the heels of Chickamauga would have seriously endangered the Union war effort. While the war would continue in 1864, if the anti-Lincoln politicians made in-roads in New York and/or Ohio, the Federal government's ability to prosecute the war would be severely hampered. However the Union victory at Bristoe Station, and subsequent battles in Tennessee, took the political wind out of the anti-war candidates throughout the North, allowing the war to be continued and ultimately won in 1865. One could reasonably argue then that the Battle of Bristoe Station had a larger national impact than a battle of its size typically has. To commemorate this battle, this October join park historians for special in-time tours of the battle and a special luminary of the park. For more information, check out our events page or call 703-366-3049.



Harper Week 1863 Image from Harper Week

*By Bill Backus, Site Manager Brentsville Historic Centre and
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park*



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



The Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Street, Manassas
703-792-4754



Lucasville School
10516 Godwin Dr. Manassas
703-367-7872

Schedule of Events

All fees listed are per person unless otherwise stated. All programs are free for children under six unless otherwise stated. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather for outdoor programs. No pets please. Programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Call site phone number for updated information and to make reservations, where required.

October

October 8

Bristoe Station Campaign Bus Tour

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; \$80 per person (lunch included); reservations are required

Join authors Bill Backus and Rob Orrison and enjoy a full day with an in-depth tour of the sites and battlefields that made up the Bristoe Campaign. Stops will include: Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Auburn, Remington and Buckland.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049

October 8th

Potomac Blockade Boat Tour

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; \$45 per person

Cruise along the Potomac River shoreline and view sites that were critical to the Confederate forces' successful blockade of Washington D.C. from September 1861 through March 1862. Local historians will discuss the significance of the Blockade and of the gun batteries and camps that supported the Confederate efforts. The cruise will include the preserved batteries at Freestone Point and Possum Nose, as well as Evansport and Shipping Point. Tour includes lunch and departs from Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. For reservations call 703-792-4754

October 8

Fall Migration Bird Walk at Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve

8 a.m.; Free, Donations accepted

The Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve is home to a diverse bird population. Join local birding experts on a guided walk along the trails and boardwalks. Bring binoculars and guide books. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. No pets please. Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve, 15875 Neabsco Road, Woodbridge, VA 703-499-9812



October 8th, 9th, 22nd, & 23rd

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park Tours

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Tours leave on the hour; Free, donations encouraged

Bristoe Station Battlefield staff and volunteers will provide guided tours of the hallowed grounds that contain camps, cemeteries, and battlefields. Learn about Camp Jones and the battles that took place in 1862 and 1863. Tours begin on the hour and depart from the kiosk in the parking lot on Iron Brigade Unit Avenue. The last tour leaves at 3PM. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Insect repellent is encouraged. No pets please.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, The parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049

October 14

153rd Anniversary Battle of Bristoe Station "In-Time" Anniversary Tours

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Free, \$5 suggested donation

Join Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park staff and volunteers on the 153rd anniversary for specialized in-time walking tours that will make this forgotten battle come to life in vivid detail.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049

October 15-16

Battle of Bristoe Station Anniversary Weekend and Luminary

11 a.m.-4 p.m. daytime demonstrations, Evening Luminary begins at 5 pm; Free, \$5 suggested donation

Join Battlefield Park staff for the 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station. Tour a Civil War encampment, watch artillery firing demonstrations, and tour the site. On Saturday evening, visit the battlefield to see over 2,000 luminary candles for every soldier who died at Bristoe Station.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Parking lot is located off of Iron Brigade Unit Ave., Bristow, VA. 703-366-3049.



October 17th

Museum Kids Monday!

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; \$5 per child ages 4-7

Bring your child to explore history through sight, sound, smell, and touch through hands-on activities and crafts. Topics vary each month and will include subjects such as farming, textiles, or 19th century toys. Adult must be able to participate with

children. Please contact the site to learn about the subject of the month. Reservations required.

Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA 703-367-7872

October 21 -22

Spirits of Rippon Lodge

7 p.m. to 9 p.m., \$10 per person,

(not appropriate for young children)

Rippon Lodge's diverse history is full of truths, myths and rumors, such as the course of Route 1 was altered to avoid its ghostly residents. Come and experience a uniquely haunting tour of the historic house and grounds by candlelight, and hear tales of sadness and triumph.

Reservations Required; Tours on the half hour (7, 7:30, 8, and 8:30.). Call 703-499-9812 for reservations.

Rippon Lodge Historic Site, 15520 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192





Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park
Intersection of Iron Brigade Unit Ave
and 10th Alabama Way, Bristow
703-366-3049



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



Ben Lomond Historic Site
10321 Sudley Manor Dr, Manassas
703-367-7872

October 28

Overnight Stay in Brentsville Jail

8 p.m. - 8 a.m.; \$125 per person, reservations are required

From 1822 to 1893 the brick Brentsville jail housed numerous people awaiting trial, and fate. Spend the night in the nearly 200 year old building and learn about some of the people who were imprisoned here.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA, 20136. 703-365-7895

October 29

Hospital Horrors by Night

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.; \$10 per person

Ben Lomond has a grim history as serving as a Confederate Field Hospital after the Battle of First Manassas. Come experience a unique opportunity to tour the house and grounds in the dark and hear the stories of soldiers, doctors, and loved ones who were forever changed during the Civil War. Bring a flashlight. Guided tours every half hour. Not recommended for children under 12. Reservations strongly recommended.

Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA 703-367-7872



November

November 5

Brentsville Community Reunion

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Free

Have you ever called Brentsville home? Or does Brentsville hold a special place in your heart? Join us for our first annual Brentsville reunion, with a potluck, games, tours, fellowship and much, much more.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA, 20136. 703-365-7895

November 12

Early Days of Prince William County at Rippon Lodge

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Free

Prince William County's rich history begins in 1731 when it was founded by the Virginia House of Burgesses. One of the County's oldest homes will host a special event to highlight the history and culture of Native Americans and the colonial peoples of the area.

Rippon Lodge Historic Site, 15520 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192, 703-499-9812



November 12

Brentsville Campfire

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.; \$5 per person, reservations recommended

Enjoy a warm campfire at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre and learn how Confederate soldiers lived during the American Civil War. Practice drilling with a Civil War soldier, see a musket firing demonstration, and learn about the rations given to Confederate soldiers. Try the cornpone that Confederate soldiers commonly ate during the Civil War and compare it to the s'mores we enjoy today. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA, 20136. 703-365-7895

November 12

Paranormal 101

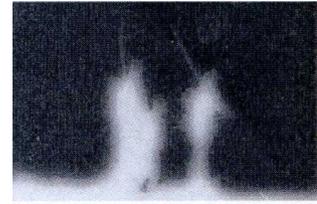
7 p.m. - midnight; \$100 per person for seminar and investigation, \$40 for just the seminar, reservations required

Brentsville has a diverse history from being a County seat for Prince William

County to being a quiet town. Today, many local residents claim that the jail, courthouse and grounds are haunted by spirits from the past. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is partnering with East Coast Research and Investigation of the Paranormal (ECRIP) to host a paranormal seminar and investigation at Brentsville.

Participants will first attend a seminar with discussions about various theories and current techniques. Afterwards, participants will work alongside members of ECRIP in a paranormal investigation. The seminar will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The investigation will be held from 9 p.m. to midnight. Space is limited for the investigation. Reservations are required.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA, 20136. 703-365-7895



(Continued from page 1)

Check out our upcoming Halloween Programs below or call 703-792-4754 for general questions!

Spirits of Rippon Lodge: October 21st & 22nd 7 P.M to 9 P.M., \$10 per person, not appropriate for young children

Come and experience a uniquely haunted tour of the historic house and grounds by candlelight, perhaps encounter the departed spirits of notable residents and neighbors, and hear their tales of sadness and triumph.

Reservations required; tours on the half hour (7, 7:30, 8, and 8:30) Call 703-499-9812 for reservations

Overnight Stay in Brentsville Jail: October 28th 8 P.M – 8 A.M.; \$125 per person, reservations are required

Spend the night in the nearly 200 year old building and learn the stories of the people who were imprisoned there, including James Clark. Keep your eyes open, you never know what you might see in the dark of the jail. Call 703-365-7895 for reservations

Hospital Horrors by Night: October 29th 7 P.M – 9 P.M.; \$10 per person, not appropriate for young children

Come experience a unique opportunity to tour the house and grounds in the dark and hear the stories of soldiers, doctors and loved ones who were forever changed during the Civil War. Bring a flashlight. You never know what spirits you'll run into.

Guided tours every half hour. Not recommended for children under 12. Reservations strongly recommended. Call 703-367-7872 for reservations.



Ben Lomond
Image from HPD collection

By Sean Redmiles, Historic Interpreter, Ben Lomond Historic Site

Bluebird Trails Established at Sites Managed by the Historic Preservation Division

The Virginia Bluebird Society was founded in 1996 to promote bluebirds and other cavity nesters through the creation of bluebird trails. These trails consist of a series of nesting boxes established on a selected property. Beginning a few years ago, the Historic Preservation Division began establishing these trails on our sites. The first trail, at Rippon Lodge Historic Site, included the installation of 12 boxes. The boxes are typically made of wood with exacting specifications for size to suit a bluebirds nesting requirements. The entry hole is round and is just big enough to allow them entry, but excludes other bigger birds that would otherwise compete for use of the box. There are also various guards to prevent the eggs and nestlings from predators such as the black rat snake and raccoons.

The boxes are monitored weekly from April through July, a period of time which may allow for up to three nesting cycles to occur. Other birds that take advantage of our trails include Carolina Chickadees, House Wrens, and Tree Swallows. Bluebirds can be year round residents in Virginia so the boxes also serve as a warm roosting site in the winter. This year alone fifteen baby Bluebirds were successfully raised at three of our sites, Rippon, Bristoe, and Brentsville.

By Jim Klackowicz, Maintenance Worker



Blue Bird Box
Photograph by Jim Klackowicz

Early Days of Prince William County

Prince William County was carved out of part of Stafford County and King George's County in 1731, though later pieces of the County would form Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fauquier, and Loudoun Counties. The County's history between 1731-1800 is mostly overshadowed by the Civil War conflicts that took place in the county including 1st Manassas, Kettle Run, 2nd Manassas, and Bristoe Station. While these battles shaped later American history, the early days of Prince William County helped shaped the early days of our country.



Map of Dumfries, 1790. Image from Collection

Before European settlers arrived in what is today Prince William County, the area was home to the Doeg (or Dogue) Indians. When Captain John Smith explored the upper Potomac River he noted that there were Doeg villages along the creeks of Quantico, Powell's, and Neabsco where they would fish and grow corn. Though by the 1650s, Europeans began to settle the area and push the Doegs into Maryland. While the Doeg tribe does not exist anymore, they have left us reminders of their heritage. For instance, the Potomac Path (which eventually became King's Highway and later, pieces of Route 1) was an Indian path that settlers used to go north and south in the County. Many of the names of our rivers and areas are evidence of the Doegs some these names include Quantico, Occoquan, and Marumscio.

While the town of Dumfries is a smaller town today, during the County's early days it was a bustling port. Chartered in 1749, it is the oldest continuously chartered town in Virginia. Dumfries port was the main center for Prince William plantation owners to bring their goods to sell and ship out. For fifteen years, Dumfries was a major port in Colonial America receiving tobacco and rivaled the ports of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. This thriving port town met its demise for a variety of reasons including erosion, siltation, and the Revolutionary War. Just north of Dumfries sat the important industrial site, Tayloe Ironworks owned by the Tayloe family. Situated on the banks of Neabsco Creek, the Ironworks was largest producer of pig iron in the colonies. Tayloe Ironworks was so important to both Prince William County and the early republic as a whole that during the War of 1812, the British sent troops to destroy the ironworks, which failed.



Rippon Lodge Historic Site, Image from Collection

Talking about the Colonial days of Prince William County would not be complete without mentioning the men who played roles in shaping the future of the county and nation. In addition to the Tayloe Ironworks, two other prominent families owned land on Neabsco Creek, the Lees and the Blackburn's. Henry Lee II was a prominent Prince William County citizen who along with his neighbor Thomas Blackburn was active in Prince William County's role in the American Revolution. Both men were elected to the Virginia conventions and were responsible for raising money for the Virginia militia. Henry's son, Lighthorse Harry Lee, was an aide to George Washington and later became father to General Robert E. Lee. Thomas Blackburn fought at the Battle of Germantown and was wounded in the leg which ended his military career. Just north of the Blackburn's and Lees lived William Grayson and his family. Grayson was a lawyer in the County who during the American Revolution fought alongside George Washington. He later served as one of Virginia's first United States Senators until his death in 1790.

Want to learn more about Prince William and Virginia's Colonial days? Join us at Rippon Lodge Historic, home of the Blackburn's, on Saturday, November 12th from 11am-4pm for our Early Days of Prince William County family program. Living historians will portray European, American, and Native Americans from our area's earliest history. Cooking demonstrations, firing demonstrations, tours of the house, as well as crafts and games will be available. The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be on hand to talk about the early days of the Marine Corps. This family event is Free to all! For more information call 703-499-9812.

By Kerry Mitchell, Historic Interpreter, Rippon Lodge Historic Site

Meet the Historic Preservation Division Staff

A lot has changed in 6 years, new historic sites, exhibits, programs and many staff changes. Six years ago we highlighted the HPD staff and we thought this year would be a good time to do that again. In this issue of *Historic Perspectives*, we will highlight our Site Staff. We asked each person a few questions to help introduce them and give some personal insight into each person. We hope this shows you the diversity and wide breadth of experience our staff brings to the Historic Preservation Division.



Jessica Maria Alicea, Historic Site Manager: Rippon Lodge Historic Site and Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve, started in 2015

What is your hometown?

New York City, NY

What is your favorite movie?

Stalag 17

Person of the past you would like to

meet? Queen Anne Boleyn or Claude Monet

What do you do in your “down time” for fun? Going out with my 4 year old twin girls, painting, cooking, and going to other museums

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Inspiring others to learn about their local history



Paige Gibbons-Backus, Historic Site Manager: Ben Lomond Historic Site and Lucasville School House, started in 2015

What is your hometown?

Muskego, WI

What is your favorite movie?

North & South

Person of the past you would like to

meet? Right now, Elvis Presley

What do you do in your “down time” for fun? Running and Disney

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The ability to work creatively to create new programs and exhibits to share with the public.



Bill Backus, Historic Site Manager: Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre and Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, started in 2010

What is your hometown?

Rocky Hill, CT

What is your favorite movie?

Grand Budapest Hotel

Person of the past you would like to

meet? Gabriel Processor

What do you do in your “down time” for fun? Mowing

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Talking to people



Kerry Mitchell, Historic Interpreter: Rippon Lodge Historic Site, started in 2013

What is your hometown?

Holtsville, NY

What is your favorite movie?

Little Women

Person of the past you would like to meet?

Rosalie D. Floyd

(Great-Great-Granddaughter of a signer of the Declaration of Independence)

What do you do in your “down time” for fun?

Reading, cooking, and visiting other museums

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Discovering new information and being able to share that to visitors



Lisa Struckmeyer, Historic Interpreter: Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, started in 2016

What is your hometown? Medford, NJ

What is your favorite movie? West Side Story

Person of the past you would like to meet?

Frederick Douglas

What do you do in your “down time” for fun?

Painting and reading

What do you enjoy most about your job?

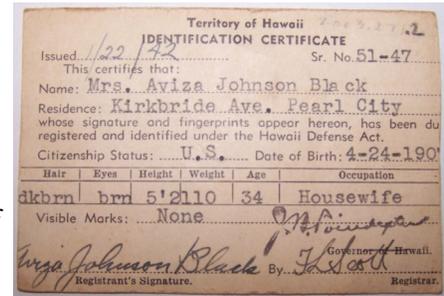
Discovering new things

Interviews by Rob Orrison, Historic Site Operations Supervisor

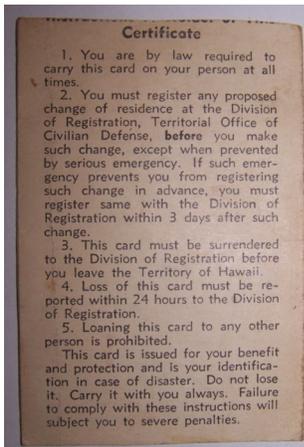
Collections

The Historic Preservation Division is the caretaker of thousands of items that can be seen at our historic sites. Large and small, they include: furniture, paintings, archeological artifacts, plants, photographs, and other items which help to tell the story of our sites. Join us for a journey through collections.

In 1941 Hawaii is not yet a state; it is a territory of the United States. The Islands served as the most important navy base in the Pacific due to the rising tensions with Japan. Hawaii was mostly populated by native Hawaiians, immigrants (many from Japan) and U.S. citizens who had moved there due to a military assignment or because of the climate. The day to day lives of all of these citizens changed on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese launched a surprise attack against Pearl Harbor. The Japanese assaulted the Island at dawn with hundreds of small carrier based Bombers catching the United States Navy completely off guard. In a matter of hours, the Japanese inflicted a horrific loss of life and machinery temporarily crippling the United States Navy in the Pacific.



Identification Card Information
Photograph by Ike Copperthite

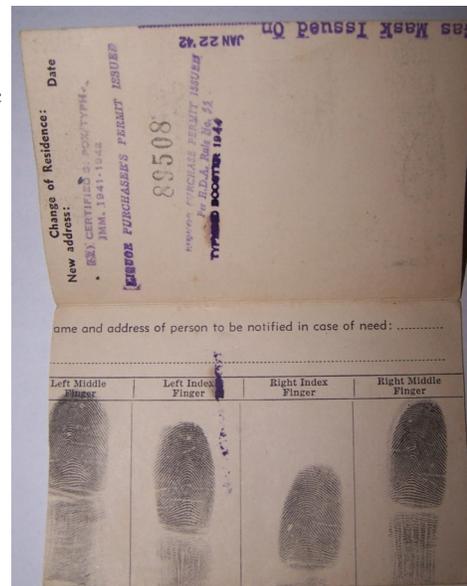


Certification Information
Photograph by Ike Copperthite

The governor of Hawaii, Joseph Poindexter, declared martial law on the Island within a few hours of the attack. As soon as the military was in command of the island, they made a number of changes including issuing ID cards and suspending the right to a trial by jury; all court cases were controlled by the military. At the time it was believed that the Japanese would invade the island in the near future. The Islands of Hawaii remained under martial law for the majority of WWII until October 24, 1944. This is the longest amount of time that a number of Americans have been subject to martial law and it caused a great deal of debate about the legality of the action, at the time and for years to come.

On January 22, 1942 an ID card was issued to Aviza Johnson Black by the Territory of Hawaii. The card is in excellent shape and contains details about Aviza's physical appearance and occupation on the cover. It describes her as a 34 year old woman who is U.S. citizen with dark brown hair, 5'2 tall weighing 110 pounds. It is folded once and on the inside are Aviza's fingerprints as well as stamps certifying that she received her vaccines and was issued a Gas Mask on January 22, 1942.

This ID card that Aviza Black saved gives us insight into one of the darkest times in American History and brings to light some of the reactions the Americans had to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Aviza's Fingerprints and Residence Changes
Photograph by Ike Copperthite

By Ike Copperthite, Collections Assistant

HPD on Social Media

Over the last couple of years, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has made leaps and bounds in joining the social media world. In 2012, the Historic Preservation Foundation launched it's own Facebook and Twitter pages. This spring an Instagram account was created. Followers can learn about the Division's many events that we hold throughout the year as well as interesting facts and tid-bits about Prince William County history and those who lived here. Visitors can continue to follow the adventures of William, the American Paint Horse, on these outlets.

Facebook: PWHistoric

Twitter: @PWHPF

Instagram: PWC_History

Follow us today!!



Become a Member of the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation!

The Foundation supports efforts to preserve our past and fund projects that restore county-owned historic properties and structures. As a member of the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation members will learn about specific projects .

Join now for FREE!

Benefits include:

- Our Quarterly Newsletter
- 20% off Gift Shop Merchandise
- \$1 off Admission

Signing up for membership is easy, just visit one of our four sites (Ben Lomond, Brentsville, Rippon Lodge, or Williams Ordinary) and fill out your information. Staff will give your membership card to you on the spot.

For more information about the Preservation Foundation please call
703-792-4754.

Become a Junior Preservationist!

Do you love history?
Do you enjoy giving back to your
community?
Are you between the ages of 13-18?



Then Join the
Historic Preservation Division's
Jr. Preservationist Program!

Jr. Preservationists can earn community service hours for school, scouts, or other organizations. Get a introduction to the fields of history, historic preservation, archeology, museum education and more.

Time commitments are flexible to fit the busy schedules of teens.

Contact Kerry Mitchell for more information at
703-499-9812 or kmitchell2@pwcgov.org

Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation Memorial and Recognition Gifts Tree Donation Program



The Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation is proud to support Prince William County's efforts to preserve our past and fund important work that restores county-owned historic properties and structures.



Your gift to the Tree Donation Program will help to preserve the historic landscapes of Ben Lomond Historic Site, Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Rippon Lodge, Lucasville School, William's Ordinary, and the Old Manassas Courthouse.

For more information on the tree donation program please call 703-792-4754 or send an e-mail to historicpreservation@pwcgov.org

Historic Property Rentals

Host your next special occasion, corporate retreat or business meeting at one of our historic sites. From stunning views of the Potomac River to the intimacy of a small church, we are sure to have the perfect venue to showcase your event!



Rippon Lodge Historic Site
15520 Blackburn Rd
Woodbridge, VA

With stunning views of the Potomac River, the vast lawn and outdoor garden set a memorable stage for larger events.

The Old Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Street
Manassas, VA

Located in the heart of the historic City of Manassas, the courthouse offers a convenient and ideal venue for both personal and business events of all kinds.

Union Church
Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre
12229 Bristow Rd
Bristow, VA

Nestled in the heart of historic Brentsville, Union Church is perfect for small intimate weddings and services.

Call 703-792-5546 or
visit www.pwcgov.org/rentals
for more information



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Department of Public Works
Historic Preservation Division
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(703) 792-4754

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