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Reveille! Ride! Rendezvous!





Manassas Journal Messenger

Potomac News

Stafford County Sun

July 20, 2000

HISTORIC SITE THE FRIENDS OF BRENTSVILLE HISTORIC CENTRE TRUST
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
Reveille! Ride! Rendezvous!

Dear Prince William County Residents and Neighbors in Manassas,

On behalf of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and the Brentsville Historic Centre Trust, I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to attend REVEILLE! RIDE! RENDEZVOUS! a Civil War Living History Event happening right in your own backyard, this weekend.

For the 1st time ever, two sites — The Manassas Museum and the Brentsville Historic Courthouse — will be symbolically joined together to highlight Civil War history beyond the battlefield.

Saturday morning, visitors to The Manassas Museum System can watch the Hampton Legion drill and prepare to send off the cavalry to Brentsville.

Hampton Legion cavalry will ride down Liberia Avenue/Liberia Extended and Brentsville Road, entering the Town of Brentsville via Bristow Road, perhaps as dramatically as the original Legion may have arrived following the Battle of 1st Manassas in July 1861.

This dynamic ride connecting Manassas and Brentsville is just part of a two-day schedule of Civil War living history demonstrations planned at the Brentsville Historic Courthouse, the 19th Century County Seat of Prince William. Re-enactors from as far away as South Carolina, Maine and England have voluntarily traveled to Prince William County to help raise public awareness and support for the restoration of the Brentsville Historic Centre, comprised of the 1822 Courthouse and Jail, the c1872 Brentsville Union Church and the c1928 Brentsville One Room School House.

On behalf of the Prince William County Supervisors, I congratulate both The Manassas Museum System and the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre for this unique partnership — a collaboration which involved area businesses, local government agencies and the support of local media.

Funded by a grant from the Prince William County /Manassas Conference and Visitors Bureau, The Manassas Museum System and the Friends of Brentsville have worked hard to promote these sites to guests from out of town, from the City of Manassas and across Prince William County.

The result of this history making partnership is an action packed line-up of educational, inter-active and fun interpretive Civil War programs for the whole family. Join us to become a part of this history making day!

Sincerely,
Sean T. Connaughton
Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors

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Potomac News

Weekend events based in history

By The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

Dozens of horses, soldiers and camp personnel will descend upon Brentsville Saturday and Sunday for a living history presentation. Reveille! Ride! Rendezvous! is a joint project developed by The Manassas Museum System and the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre to interpret Hampton Legion troop movement following the July 1861 Battle of First Manassas. The Legion was encamped on the courthouse grounds at "Camp Johnson" during the weeks immediately following the battle.

This re-enactment will depict actual historic events that occurred on the site.

Brentsville was the rendezvous point for several units that arrived late to the July battle as evidenced by an August 3, 1861 letter from James B. Griffin to his wife:

"We are camped on the bank of Broad Run — a large, muddy ugly stream. Our drinking water is scarce and very bad. Can't get any clear water to wash in or to drink. I hope we will be moved from here soon. This is a very poor country. And there have been so many troops about here, that the resources of the Country are well nigh exhausted ... The Artillery of the Legion arrived here together. We now have the whole Legion together except one Cavalry

Company, which I left at Ashland, and will be here in a few days. Oh, if the Artillery (which is a superb company) and the Cavalry had only been in the fight of the 21st — The Legion would have made a reputation indeed."

In Brentsville, the Legion gathered strength as they were joined by Hart's battery and began to interact with the locals.

"We camped two or three days near Brentsville, a small town, and while there, the boys, not having had any meat for several days killed a hog. The owner came to Captain Lee about it, and he told them he was very sorry but the men had not had any meat to eat for four or five days, and in one sense of the word, he could not blame them for killing it. Captain Lee paid him for the hog," according to "Reminiscences of a Color Bearer" by Louise Sherfese Withers.

Typhoid and measles ran rampant through soldiers' camps following First Manassas. The sick of Hampton Legion were nursed back to health by Brentsville families. The makeshift hospitals set up in local homes were a way for Brentsville residents to supplement their income as evidenced by this excerpt from "While Chained to Virginia, South Carolina Bleeds," by Henry Woodbury Moore, M.D.:

"Measles Lodge, Sept. 9th 1861 ... The Dr. and Lieut. Broughton have both gone to

camp and left me here by myself, and as the family are generally busy, I have to pass the time principally in reading and writing ... I hardly know how I shall get along with the fat pork and hard biscuits, after staying here and living on the fat of the land for four weeks ... the people are exceedingly kind, and I have all the attention I desire. Capt. Screven left camp yesterday to lay up at a private house ... Most of the troop have gotten over their sickness and returned to camp, we have been very fortunate in that respect."

Moore continues, "The long expected Paymaster made his appearance ... That will be sufficient to pay Mr. Cockrell, and have a little balance for pocket money. Mr. C charges me twenty dollars — eighteen for myself and two for horse which was very reasonable considering the scarcity and high price of provisions. The family were very kind indeed — and I lingered there as long as possible."

The Cockrell residence, known as "Measles Lodge," is still standing as a private home near Brentsville.

At Brentsville, Hampton incorporated the Claremont Rifles and the South Carolina Zoave Volunteers into his battalion.

This July 2000, with the same determination and dedication to a mission that led the original Hampton Legion to Brentsville, South Carolina re-



Photo courtesy of Hampton Legion

Hampton Legion calvary re-enactors fire caution shots to warn off Federal troops.

enactors will arrive committed to help the Friends of Brentsville

Historic Courthouse Centre raise public awareness and financial contributions to restore the site. In addition to troops arriving from South Carolina, other members of the Legion from London, England and California are also expected to rendezvous with their command in Brentsville.

"This max effort designation is more than we ever dreamed possible a little over a year ago when we extended our first invitation to the group. 'Max Effort' means that the Hampton Legion leaders are urging their members to make every effort to attend our event

in Brentsville; that if they can only make one event the entire year, make it Brentsville," said Pam Sackett, Chairman of the Brentsville Civil War living history weekend.

"We know the Brentsville Historic Centre is a site that is appealing to re-enactors because the rural setting appears to be much the same as it was before the Civil War," Sackett said. "We're working hard to ensure that when the re-enactors arrive to volunteer their time and service to Brentsville, they will be given a warm welcome and a reason to come back year after year. The support of the history community is vital to the success of this restoration project."

Troops muster to take Brentsville again

By PAMELA MYER SACKETT
Friends of Brentsville Courthouse
Historic Centre

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They will be accompanied by foreign press reenactors, all

for more information.

Hampton Legion will assemble for reveille on the grounds of

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Scouts communicating with Hampton Legion, 1st Minnesota Co. D, 1st Maine, Co. A, 6th Louisiana and 49th Virginia report that troops have mustered and are ready to move out to rendezvous at Brentsville in force.

Reports from the field also indicate that Brentsville will be visited by members of the U.S. Sanitary Commission and the Hampton Legion Ladies Auxiliary. A message intercepted from across the Atlantic Ocean provided details of travel for a Hampton Legion member from England to join his command at Brentsville.

Word was also received predicting the imminent arrival of an entourage of foreign observers venturing to Brentsville to study military

strategy.

They will be accompanied by foreign press reenactors, all from the Mid-Atlantic Societe d'Europe. In the One Room School House, a Massachusetts school marm will use period books and slates to educate children and soldiers on Saturday.

This 19th Century Prince William County seat is anticipating the arrival of President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. The President has scheduled a press conference for children and local reporters to ask questions at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Mrs. Lincoln will graciously host a three-course tea on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. for visitors to the historic 1822 Brentsville Courthouse. There will be a modest fee of \$20 for what is promised to be a sumptuous treat. Reservations are required for the tea. Call (703) 361-2318

for more information.

Hampton Legion will assemble for reveille on the grounds of the Manassas Museum Saturday at 9 a.m. to drill infantry, cavalry and artillery. Orders to ride through Manassas and Prince William County to rendezvous at Brentsville will be given at 11:30 a.m. According to troop reports, Legion cavalry will then proceed to Brentsville via Sinclair Mill Road to Liberia Avenue/Liberia Avenue Extended, no doubt stopping traffic and spectators briefly as this unique parade passes through the heart of Prince William County, advancing down historic Brentsville Road and entering the Brentsville Historic Centre via Bristow Road. This is a route the original 1861 Hampton Legion traveled.

When the cavalry parade

arrives in Brentsville, all re-enactors will be welcomed officially at a brief outdoor ceremony by the chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, Sean T. Connaughton, and some special guests at approximately 1:30 p.m. Period music will entertain visitors.

Battle plans indicate that infantry, cavalry and artillery drills are planned for both Saturday and Sunday on the Courthouse green. Living history demonstrations will include medical displays, ladies' fashion show, Hampton Legion history lessons and mourning customs. The Brentsville Courthouse and the One Room Schoolhouse will be opened to the public.

Saturday afternoon highlights include a re-enactment of a Civil War-era wedding at 5 p.m. in historic Hatcher's Church. At 6 p.m., Hatcher's

will host the second annual 1860-Style Revival Service delivered by the Rev. Alan J. Farley of Lynchburg.

At dusk, re-enactors have organized a "Lantern Tour" of the Brentsville Courthouse camp beginning at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Visitors will make several stops in camp, led by guides lighting the way with lanterns. Along the way, guests will be treated to a series of short vignettes performed by re-enactors. The mini-scenes are designed to be windows into the past to help guests understand what life in camp may have been like following the Battle of First Manassas in July 1861.

Although reports indicate that the camps and the town of Brentsville will quiet down at 10 p.m. Sunday, a full day of activity is planned for July 23 as well.

A horse-eye view of local history

By TAMMY MINNIGH
Staff Writer

First-hand accounts of war are often touching and revealing, but perhaps none has so unique a viewpoint as one written by a horse.

When Pamela Sackett, member of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Centre, began researching on the Internet in the spring of 1999 for more information on Brentsville's history, a few clicks of her mouse led her to a rare book entitled "Autobiography of Arab."

The book, authored by E. Prioleau Henderson, tells the story of Henderson's adventures during the Civil War as part of Hampton's Legion through the eyes of his beloved horse, Arab. In addition to details of day-to-day activities, the book also includes previously undiscovered bits of Brentsville history.

The remarkable find came when she contacted Joseph Matheson, a re-enactor with Hampton's Legion in South Carolina. Since Hampton's Legion spent a great deal of time in and around Brentsville during the war, she hoped modern re-enactors might have information to share.

Matheson put her in touch with another re-enactor, J.J. Fox, and sent her a copy of the book. Fox had it reprinted, saving it from near-oblivion after an intensive search found a badly damaged copy at the Library Society of Charleston.

"I just went crazy when I got the book," Sackett said. She quickly read it cover to cover several times, and documented each mention of a person, place or event connected to Brentsville. While it may seem odd to read a book from the perspective of a horse, the noble animal played a critical role in the war between the states.

'Arab' tidbits

The book revealed several facts about Brentsville during the war which had been lost, including the following:

- Hampton's Legion arrived shortly after the First Battle of Manassas and stayed in the area on and off for several years. The troops caught the measles and were treated in homes in Brentsville.

- Details of a skirmish at the corner of Bristow and Old Church roads are revealed. The battle was a Confederate victory.

- The book tells of a soldier buried in Brentsville with a description that may lead modern-day researchers to his grave.

- Brentsville was used as a recruiting and training station for some units of the Confederate army. Then, Richard Ewell's guard was formed on the courthouse grounds to protect the home front.

- A family named Shepherd had two sons enlist in the 2nd Carolina regiment and go on to ride with Mosbey's Rangers. Descendants of that family still live in the area today.

- A group of people from New Jersey settled in Brentsville and were Union sympathizers.

Sackett said. "I think Prince William County has been handed back part of their history on a silver platter. It is an invaluable source of information."

Not only did the discovery of the book and Sackett's contact with Fox and Matheson uncover missing history, it also led to the Civil War living history event taking place at Brentsville this weekend.

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As Arab put it, "What would the rider be without the steed?"

Sackett was especially pleased because the book tells how everyday people who lived and worked in Brentsville coped with soldiers from both sides coming through their homes and fields, often bringing fear and devastation.

Arab tells of a wounded Southern soldier who stayed at the Cockrell's house and was treated by a doctor from Bristow, putting the family in some danger when Yankee troops came to search the town for Confederates. The soldier was nursed there by Miss Sallie Brawner, described by Arab as "a noble Virginia woman, and a true and tried friend to all the scouts."

Other accounts tell of bullets flying through the street to riddle the walls with holes, and young girls who risked their own lives to hide Arab's master under their mattress.

"That's the kind of history we don't have here, that people can relate to,"

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Not only did the discovery of the book and Sackett's contact with Fox and Matheson uncover missing history, it also led to the Civil War living history event taking place at Brentsville this weekend.

"It's been the driving force behind this whole first event to get the Legion up here, because the Legion wanted to see the area where this book took place," Sackett said. "About 50 people are coming up Thursday and their plan is to retrace Arab's steps through history in Prince William."

Fox gave exclusive rights to the Friends to market and distribute the book in Virginia, and the group receives \$12 for every copy of the \$30 book sold. Barnes and Noble sells the book in its Manassas store on consignment for the Friends.

"The Friends are delighted to offer copies of this book for sale to local readers because 'Arab' is a wonderful collection of reminiscences of cavalry excursions and skirmishes throughout Brentsville and Prince William County," Sackett said.

"Autobiography of Arab" will also be sold at the living history event at Brentsville this weekend, and if visitors walk around the camps, they may find Fox and be able to get his autograph.

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Internet brings Brentsville history home

By PAMELA MYER SACKETT
Friends of Brentsville Courthouse
Historic Centre

Stories of people who actually lived and worked in Brentsville are invaluable resources to researchers. They help to create a picture of what life was actually like in this 19th century Prince William County Seat. Old buildings can be preserved, but history makes them come alive.

Anyone who has dabbled in family genealogy knows that research often leads one down many paths at once, while other paths are blocked, such as courthouse records destroyed during the Civil War. Seemingly unconnected tidbits link together to become valuable, documented pieces of the past.

The search for Brentsville's history is proving to be no different and the Internet is an invaluable tool.

So far, via the Internet, members of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre have made contacts with descendants in Virginia, Arizona, Iowa, New Jersey and Michigan. In researching families connected to Brentsville, researchers are also picking up bits and pieces about the town itself.

Last fall, an e-mail from one Brentsville descendent of the King family yielded a copy of an unpublished letter, dated Washington, Sept. 29, 1842, describing financial hardship in the area: "I am told most of Prince William is broke ... there are several applications for the Bankrupt Law."

This letter was sent to a former Prince William resident who had moved to Ohio.

E. P. Henderson's 1907 book "Autobiography of Arab" was initially obtained through an Internet connection to Joseph

Church in Brentsville, now present day Hatcher's Memorial Baptist. Towles was central to many Brentsville families' lives. For example, he performed marriage ceremonies for two of Dr. James MaCrae's daughters in the MaCrae home.

MaCrae's son, Lee, was a best friend of Towles brothers Robert and Vivian, sons of the Rev. Towles, according to research compiled by Kehlbeck.

Robert and Vivian Towles and Lee MaCrae joined the 4th Virginia Cavalry and were recruited at the Brentsville Courthouse in 1861. However, during the Civil War, the Rev. Towles moved his family to Lancaster County, where the family had relations.

Most of the surviving letters are addressed to the brothers' younger sister, Ella. As they tried to spare her the graphic depictions of the war they witnessed, some of their letters mention news of their neighbors.

A May 20, 1863 letter from Vivian states: "I have written in Mother's letter an accurate account of the late misdoings of the Enemy in Pr. Wm. in which some of our best friends, ladies distinguished for piety, virtue and all goodness have been made to taste almost the last dregs of the bitter cup of War's horrors."

Sadly, letters that the brothers wrote to their mother were destroyed by federal troops in Lancaster, making the letters that did survive even more valuable.

In one 1864 letter, Robert described his life as a bushwhacker around Brentsville, including a hut he made using a haystack for a shelter three miles from the railroad. He writes "We are convenient to the houses of several friends and suffer for nothing."



Photo courtesy of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre are raising money to restore the courthouse and other buildings on the property.

Brentsville life during the Civil War:

"Yankee Cavalry swept through the old neighborhood and ran the scouts out. They caught three of our Co. in bed at Effingham and took horses from Mr. Howison the third or fourth time. Your friend Bettie H. has grown much and is very pretty

Uncovering the past

■ The Friends have obtained copies of more than 35 photographs of Brentsville or its residents from donors. These are displayed on the "Wall of Remembrance." In addition, volunteers continue to correspond with genealogists searching for any clue, however seemingly small, about Brentsville citizens or history to help fill in the gaps destroyed during the Civil War.

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E. P. Henderson's 1907 book "Autobiography of Arab" was initially obtained through an Internet connection to Joseph Matheson, a re-enactor with the Hampton Legion. The book chronicles Hampton Legion activity in Prince William County during the Civil War and mentions many Brentsville area families.

One of the stories of a Prince William County cavalry skirmish can also be verified through another source which has recently been uncovered by the Friends. Brentsville researchers connected online with Keith Kehlbeck, a writer researching and writing a book about his wife's family, the Towles, who are mentioned in "Autobiography of Arab."

Kehlbeck loaned copies of several unpublished letters and a portion of a diary to the Friends for study purposes. These letters reveal some interesting facts about Brentsville during the Civil War.

The Rev. John Towles served as preacher from 1839 to 1867 at the St. James Episcopal

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Robert Towles is also mentioned in "Arab" as one of the local soldiers who joined the 2nd South Carolina Cavalry as a scout. Robert mentions the death of Sgt. Sparks at the Theodore Bodine farm, outside of the Town of Brentsville, in another letter dated Jan. 10, 1864.

These brief words, gained after hours spent online, provide a valuable, second primary source to verify a more lengthy account of Sgt. Sparks' death in "Autobiography of Arab."

In addition to these priceless letters, Kehlbeck also provided the Friends with a copy of a picture of Robert Towles in his uniform. The picture of Robert Towles has joined the "Wall of Memories" in the Brentsville One Room Schoolhouse as a face forever connected to Brentsville.

In another letter written by Vivian Towles, a mere paragraph is chock full of tidbits about



Photo courtesy of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

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Howison and his family are also mentioned in "Autobiography of Arab." The Arab account is a moving story about how Howison tried to keep his home, Effingham, from being burned down by "the enemy," who could have been either the Federal or Confederate troops, depending upon which forces were in control of the Brentsville area at the time.

Sometimes the research actually leads the Friends to another state. For example, about 35 families living near Brentsville in the mid-1800s have a connection to New Jersey.

Information about New

Uncovering the past

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■ As the Friends continue to reconstruct Brentsville's seemingly "lost" history, by researching Brentsville area families of the past, the search is full of surprises. If you or any member of your family have information, or think you might have any information about Brentsville — even just one line in a family letter or diary — please contact the Friends. Also, if you would like to help research Brentsville families or history, the Friends would love to work with you. Each little piece of information builds upon the next, or may help verify something that has already been uncovered. In turn, The Friends promise to share these stories with future visitors to Brentsville for a better understanding of the town's past.

Jersey-born Caleb Deats was uncovered by the Friends using two sources: "4th VA." by Kenneth Stiles, and a May 21, 1915 obituary printed in the Journal Messenger.

Caleb and his younger brother Ellis, despite their northern birth, enlisted and served in Company A, 4th Prince William Cavalry. A third source of information about the Deats family is a July 21, 1863, Towles letter: "Of the young men in our neighborhood, no one has been killed

recently except young Deats of our Co. who was killed fighting bravely."

Caleb, "a well known Prince William County citizen," survived the Civil War, but died due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "It is thought that it was due to a little spell of despondency," according to the Journal Messenger obituary.

The search for Brentsville's history will take researchers down many different paths for many years to come.



Photo courtesy of Hampton Legion

Re-enactors portraying Hampton Legion will stage demonstrations of Civil War life at Brentsville.

Reveille! Ride!

Schedule of events

Times are approximate

Call (703) 79

SATURDAY

9 a.m.

REVEILLE!

Hampton Legion Confederate camp is set-up, but the Legion reenactors will be conducting drills at the Manassas Museum from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

All day

Ongoing demonstrations on the grounds of Brentsville Courthouse include:

- U.S. Sanitary Commission
- Display of authentic cavalry soldiers' gear
- Massachusetts school teacher gives lessons in one room schoolhouse
- Chat with foreign observers studying military strategy
- Mourning customs
- 49th Virginia (original unit was

11:30 a.m.

Union Cavalry Drill

Featuring re-enactors from 1st Maine, Company A

11:30 a.m.

Ride!

From Manassas, Hampton Legion Cavalry receives orders to ride to Brentsville

12:15 p.m.

Hampton Legion

Infantry meal demonstration

12:30 p.m.

Medical demonstration and talk

1 p.m.

RENDEZVOUS!

Hampton Legion Cavalry arrives in

SUNDAY

9 a.m.

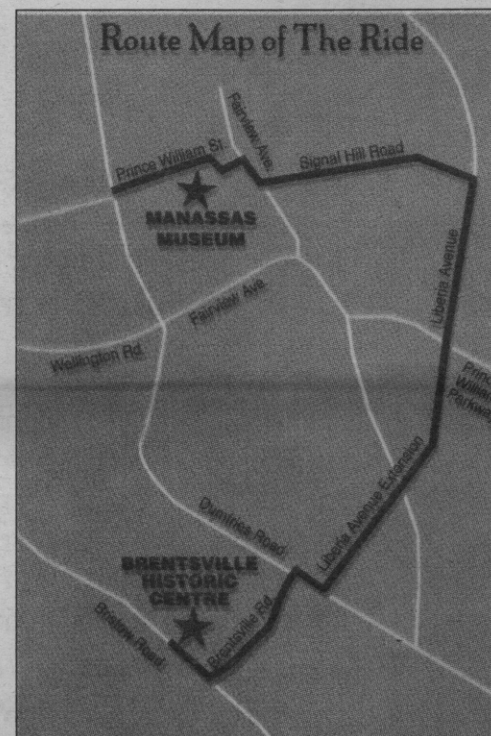
Worship service

1860 Style Church Tent set up by the Rev. Alan J. Farley

All day

Ongoing demonstrations on the grounds of Brentsville Courthouse include:

- U.S. Sanitary Commission
- Display of authentic cavalry soldiers' gear
- Massachusetts school teacher gives lessons in one room schoolhouse
- Chat with foreign observers studying military strategy
- Mourning customs
- 49th Virginia (original unit was



Courtesy map

SATURDAY

9 a.m.
REVELLE!

Hampton Legion Confederate camp is set-up, but the Legion reenactors will be conducting drills at the Manassas Museum from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

All day

Ongoing demonstrations on the grounds of Brentsville Courthouse include:

- U.S. Sanitary Commission
- Display of authentic cavalry soldiers' gear
- Massachusetts school teacher gives lessons in one room schoolhouse
- Chat with foreign observers studying military strategy
- Mourning customs
- 49th Virginia (original unit was recruited in Brentsville, 1861)
- Confer with President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln in his field tent
- 15th NY engineer map-making display
- Traveling pastor's tent — the Rev. Alan J. Farley
- 22nd MA sharpshooter

10:30 a.m.
Union Infantry Drill

Featuring 1st Minnesota, Company D and 9th Indiana

11 a.m.
Kids' Question and Answer Session
President Abraham Lincoln will talk with children

11:30 a.m.
Union Cavalry Drill
Featuring re-enactors from 1st Maine, Company A

11:30 a.m.
Ride!
From Manassas, Hampton Legion Cavalry receives orders to ride to Brentsville

12:15 p.m.
Hampton Legion
Infantry meal demonstration

12:30 p.m.
Medical demonstration and talk

1 p.m.
RENDEZVOUS!
Hampton Legion Cavalry arrives in Brentsville for welcome ceremony

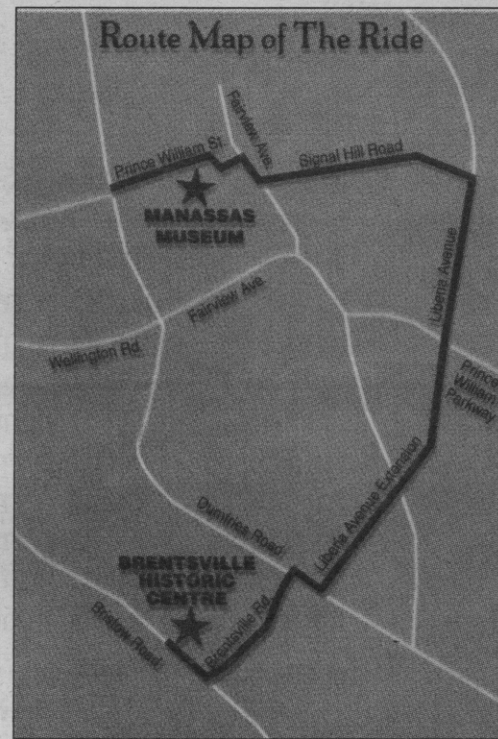
- Sean T. Connaughton, Chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, Master of Ceremonies.
- Congressman Frank R. Wolf, 10th District, guest speaker.

2 p.m.
Ladies Fashion Show

2:30 p.m.
Legion Infantry Drill

3 p.m.
Legion Artillery Drill

3:30 p.m.
Legion Cavalry Drill



Courtesy map

4 p.m.
Hampton Legion Talk

5 p.m.
Wedding
Renewal of vows in a Civil War-era style ceremony

6 p.m.
Worship Service
Authentic 1860 Civil War-era church revival service conducted by the Rev. Alan J. Farley

8:30 p.m.
Torchlight Tour of Campsite

SUNDAY

9 a.m.
Worship service
1860 Style Church Tent
the Rev. Alan J. Farley

- All day**
Ongoing demonstration grounds of Brentsville Courthouse include:
- U.S. Sanitary Commission
 - Display of authentic cavalry soldiers' gear
 - Massachusetts school teacher gives lessons in one room schoolhouse
 - Chat with foreign observers studying military strategy
 - Mourning customs
 - 49th Virginia (original recruited in Brentsville, 1861)



ide! Rendezvous!

ents for July 22 and 23

ce and subject to last-minute changes.
-6191 for more information.

■ Confer with President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln in his field tent

■ Traveling pastor's tent — the Rev. Alan J. Farley

■ 15th NY engineer map-making display

■ 22nd MA sharpshooter

9:30 a.m.

Legion Cavalry Drill

Legion Ladies Camp Social

10 a.m.

Legion Artillery Drill

(non-firing)

10:30 a.m.

Legion Infantry Drill

11 a.m.

Union Cavalry

11:30 a.m.

Union Infantry Drill

Noon

Legion Infantry Meal Demonstration

12:30 p.m.

Blue Gray Maneuvers Begin

1:30 p.m.

Medical Demonstration and Talk

1:30 p.m.

Tea With Mrs. Lincoln

Reservations required; \$20 per person

2:30 p.m.

Union Infantry Drill

4 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

Re-enactor Matt Al talks to Joshua Sackett. This weekend's events will include several demonstrations geared specifically for children.

Demonstrations for children

Blue/Gray

What's the difference? Recruitment drills let you give it a try. Ongoing throughout the weekend

Who is that tall man in the stove pipe hat?

Ask him yourself in a kid's question and answer session with the President. 11 a.m. Saturday

What in the world is under there?

A lesson in ladies' dress

Where did soldiers get their food if there was no drive-thru fast food place?

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Union Infantry Drill

4 p.m.

Camps break down



Photo courtesy of Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

Re-enactor Matt Al talks to Joshua Sackett. This weekend's events will include several demonstrations geared specifically for children.

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Ask him yourself in a kid's question and answer session with the President. 11 a.m. Saturday

What in the world is under there?

A lesson in ladies' dress reveals all. 2 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday

Where did soldiers get their food if there was no drive-thru fast food place?

See troops fix an authentic front line lunch. 12:15 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

What happens if you had the correct answer, but erased your slate?

A teacher in the one-room school house sets you straight. Saturday 9:30 a.m. to noon and 3 to 4 p.m.

Who put the Band-Aid on the boo boos?

Visit a real surgeon's field tent and witness a medical demonstration. 12:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday

Who told you to wash your hands everyday, even though your Mom was back home?

Visit the U.S. Sanitary Commission tent to find out. Ongoing throughout the weekend

If you lost your horse, how did you get back home?

Talk to cavalry soldiers from both sides of the Civil War about saddlin' up. Ongoing throughout the weekend



Hampton Legion re-enactors sometimes portray Union soldiers as well as the Confederates of their namesake.

Photo courtesy of Hampton Legion

Preserving more than 180 years of history

Residents, government join forces to uncover and restore town's past

By WILKIE LEITH

Chairman, Brentsville Historic Trust

This year marks the 180th anniversary of Brentsville, a town created as the Prince William County seat by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1820.

Situated on 24 pristine acres in rural Prince William County, the Brentsville Historic Centre is comprised of the 1822 Brentsville Historic Courthouse and Jail, circa 1872 Brentsville Union Church, tavern lot, 1928 one-room schoolhouse and a recently acquired early 19th century log cabin.

These buildings stand today in the geographic center of Prince William as a visual link to nearly two centuries of the county's history.

In 1835, just 15 years after the county seat was created by the Virginia General Assembly, Joseph Martin's Virginia Gazetteer describes the town:

"Brentsville was located around the new courthouse in 1822 ... The Courthouse, clerk's office and jail are handsomely situated on the main street, in a public square of three acres. Besides them, the village contains 19 dwelling houses, 3 miscellaneous stores, 2 handsome taverns built of brick and stocked, 1 house of entertainment, 1 house of

130 persons, of whom 3 are attorneys and 3 regular physicians." (as quoted in "Prince William: Its People and Its Places.")

The restoration and preservation of the Brentsville Historic Centre is a project administered by the Brentsville Historic Trust, a unique partnership between the county government, the Prince William County Park Authority and a nonprofit citizens' group, the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

The Brentsville Historic Centre Trust has been able to work on the master plan and to commission a limited archaeological study of the entire 24-acre site with money already raised. The Trust has benefited from grants received from the Virginia General Assembly, federal funds received in three TEA-21 grants and an individual donation of \$10,000 to kickoff the restoration process.

In addition, the Friends and the Manassas Museum System also received a grant for \$10,000 from the Prince William County/Manassas Conference and Visitors Center Bureau to promote this weekend's Civil War living history event to help raise public awareness and support for the restoration of these buildings.



Photo courtesy of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

Both Confederate and Union soldiers camped at the Brentsville courthouse during the Civil War.

Brentsville Historic Centre. The amount needed to restore the courthouse alone (without interior furnishings) is estimated to be \$1 million.

This fall, the Trust has scheduled repair of the Courthouse cupola, installation of an HVAC system, repointing of masonry and stabilization of the Brentsville Union Church, in danger of collapse.

The Brentsville Historic Centre depends upon financial support from the community, businesses, corporations, grants and individual citizens who choose to invest in the restoration and preservation of this 19th century



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Prince William County Park Authority and a nonprofit citizens' group, the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

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In addition, the Friends and the Manassas Museum System also received a grant for \$10,000 from the Prince William County/Manassas Conference and Visitors Center Bureau to promote this weekend's Civil War living history event to help raise public awareness and support for the restoration of these enduring buildings.

Although the community has been generous in supporting this project, the Brentsville Historic Trust is a long way from achieving its goal of total restoration of the five structures and preservation of the grounds of the



Photo courtesy of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

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On this 180th anniversary of the establishment of the Brentsville Courthouse, the Friends welcome everyone to this historic site for the first Civil War living history event, "Reveille! Ride! Rendezvous!"



Photo courtesy of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

Joseph Matheson of Hampton Legion helped the Friends uncover pieces of Brentsville's history.

\$2.00 OFF

your purchase of \$20 or more merchandise sold by the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre.
(Does not include food or "Tea with Mrs. Lincoln")

The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 volunteer organization working to raise funds to restore the Brentsville Historic Centre.

Your patronage of this event and support of fundraising activities helps to ensure that Prince William County's history is preserved for generations to come.

Thank you for your support.