

Ghost Watchers to conduct paranormal investigation at Brentsville jail

By HEIDI M. BAUMSTARK
Observer staff

"Get out! Get out of here!" What a way to welcome a crowd. However, that's what ghost watchers at the old 1822 Brentsville jail reportedly heard.

Fi cable channel show about ghost hunting.

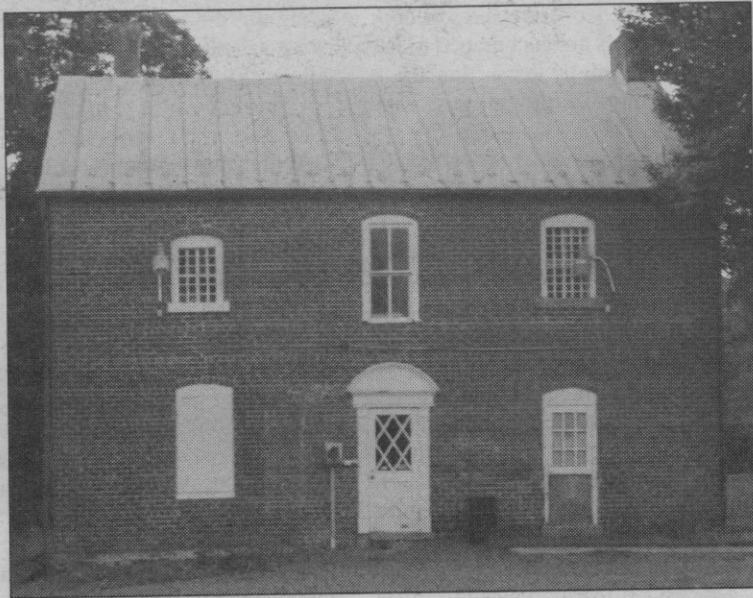
Warfield's group of volunteers held a two-day investigation on Aug. 29 and 30 at the Brentsville jail and courthouse. This was the anniversary of a famous murder that

lawn near the Haislip-Hall Cabin, which will be open with displays of a makeshift interior hospital. This program gives people a chance to witness the technology and methodology behind ghost investigations. At the cabin, visitors will be transported back in time to experience the sights and sounds of a Civil War

field hospital on a typical farm in Prince William County. Perhaps the screams of "Get out of here!" will only be heard by the "others." A demonstration of a soldier's burial after being killed in battle is also planned.

The program is not recommended for children under 6. Ad-

mission is \$5. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is at 12229 Bristow Road in Brentsville. To volunteer call Rob Orrison at 703-365-7895 or email historicpreservation@pwcgov.org. To learn more about Brentsville, visit the county's Web site at www.pwcgov.org/brentsville.



The 1822 Brentsville jail will be one of the sights at the first Haunted Brentsville Oct. 25 program. Courtesy photo

On Oct. 25, the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre will host its first Haunted Brentsville program for visitors to discover whether "others" are visiting the site as well.

took place in the jail, Warfield discovered. After researching the jail's history, Warfield learned that a man named James F. Clark, who was a former Prince William County Commonwealth's attorney, was im-

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The Prince William County Historic Preservation Division manages the site, which includes the Brentsville courthouse and jail, both built in 1822, the ca. 1880 Union Church, the 1928 Brentsville School, the 19th century Haislip-Hall Cabin and a winding nature trail near the Broad Run waters.

Rob Orrison, site manager, said, "We're hoping this will be the first of many Halloween programs to come." Orrison has mobilized an army of volunteers to help with this first-time event from 5-9 p.m. with tours every 30 minutes. Refreshments will be served near the courthouse, which will be open for people to see.

At the Brentsville jail, the DC Metro Area Ghost Watchers will set up video equipment inside the jail to monitor any "unusual" activity. A television screen will be set up outside the jail for the public to watch what's going on inside the upper and lower level of the two-story jail. The metro investigators outside the jail will explain to visitors what is going on inside. The jail is not open to the public due to the unstable structure and the building's current condition.

"We'll be doing a legitimate paranormal investigation demonstration during the evening, asking questions to the spirits and filming. We'll have eight cameras running," John Warfield, chief of operations of the watchers, said. The all-volunteer group conducts free investigations; the group is affiliated with the Sci-

prisoned at Brentsville for abducting a 16-year old girl, named Miss Fannie Fewell. This caused a huge uproar in the community.

According to a document on the trial, Fannie's father came into the Brentsville jail and pointed a pistol at Clark through his cell door. Fewell killed Clark.

When the ghost watchers returned home from the jail investigation, they set up their audio recordings and clearly heard a male voice recording say, "Get out! Get out of here!" Warfield explained. Was this perhaps Clark telling Fewell to get out?

Another event will take place at the historic centre. A Civil War field hospital scene will be set up on the

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