

Haymarket's role in Civil War history to be recognized with two trail signs

By E. BRUCE DAVIS
Observer staff

Thanks to the work of the Haymarket Historical Commission, a 142-year old portion of Haymarket history will be making news in early November.

Two Civil War trail signs, describing Haymarket's role in the War Between the States and commemorating J.E.B. Stuart's ride through Haymarket on his way to Gettysburg, should be in place. A dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 6, which marks the Nov. 5, 1862 burning of the town of Haymarket.

One sign will honor the 17th and 8th Virginia regiments in which many Haymarket men fought, and 50 men of the 11th Alabama infantry who died in an epidemic while hospitalized at St. Paul's Church after the Second Battle of Bull Run. It will also mention the 1862 burning down of Haymarket by federal troops under the command of General Franz Sigel.

The second sign will focus on Stuart's delay in Haymarket on his way to Gettysburg.

"Jeb Stuart was supposed to be Robert E. Lee's eyes," said Ellie Ivancic, vice chair of the Haymarket Historical Commission. "He got delayed in Haymarket by Northern



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The Haymarket Museum sits across the street from the Red Rooster, which was Haymarket's post office.

General Hancock's troops, so he took another route. He was out of communication with Lee for eight crucial days."

This dealt a severe blow to the chances of the Confederate troops in Gettysburg.

Since 2000, Michelle Neal-Heard has chaired the Historical

Commission, which oversees the Haymarket Museum that opened in 2002. She hopes getting the Civil War trail signs and their subsequent placement on the tourism map will stimulate interest in the historic town and museum.

Neal-Heard and other Historical Commission members plan to

view a small portrait of Haymarket as it was in June or July 1863, after it had burned down. Drawn by Alfred Woad, the portrait is in the Library of Congress. Commission members hope to make a copy to display at the Haymarket Museum. Members Sheila Jarboe, treasurer, and Natasha Sikorsky, secretary, are

town council members as well. The council oversees the Historical Commission.

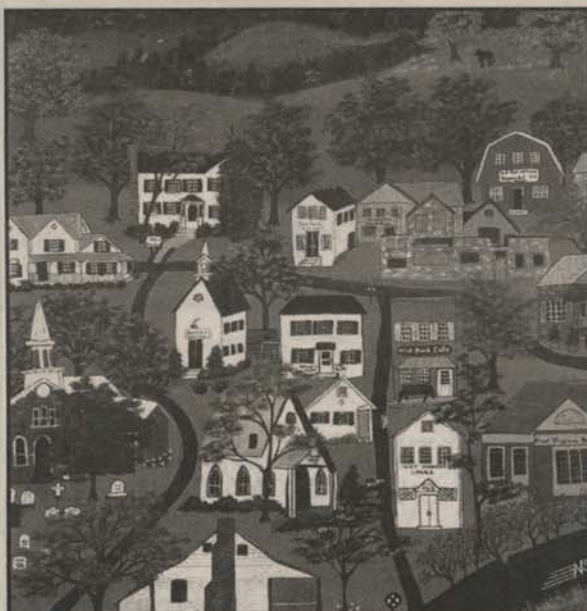
Long-time resident Sarah Turner has accumulated and recorded much of Haymarket's history. Pictures, documents and letters compiled by Turner in the book, "Haymarket, a Town in Transition" tell what is known of the town's story. Haymarket was chartered in 1799 at the Red House at the corner of Carolina Road and the northern section of Dumfries Road.

The museum building is a part of the town's history; it was built in 1883 across the street from Haymarket's old pharmacy and post office, which is now known as the Red Rooster.

The museum building first served as a school as well as town hall. When it was considered town hall and was undergoing improvements, a 2002 fire in the building destroyed many of the town's records. Town hall is now in a newer building across the street.

"I don't know why, but I took the portrait of Mr. William Skinker out of town hall before the fire," Turner said, thus saving one of the museum treasures. In December 1798, Skinker petitioned the Va. General Assembly to establish the

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Increased attention likely to boost museum

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town originally named Hay Market. Skinker's portrait is back in the museum building along with a prized Mary Dulany Carter portrait of two horses, Little Johnny and Enterprise, engaged in an historic 1804 Haymarket race.

The location of the racetrack is still in question, according to Turner. "Since the Red House was the Jockey Club in 1791, some think the track might have been behind there," she said, suggesting the current post office area. Other racetrack location possibilities have been considered. "It could have been near my house," said Turner. "As a horse shoe and stirrup, presently in the Manassas Museum, were uncovered on my property."

Increased attention to Haymarket's Civil War role may increase tourism and interest in the town, which means more artifacts and historical writings will likely be donated to the museum. There are many letters and even some newspaper accounts, including Browning Smith's "Haymarket Beat" from the 1940s and 1950s.

A step inside the museum's front door, located at Fayette and Washington Street, visitors notice a sleigh, donated by the Leaberry family, in the far right corner. Shirley Kapp, wife of the former mayor, contributed the dress perched on the sleigh's seat after she had worn it in a 1993 LaFayette Day celebration.

Glass-topped cases in the middle of the room protect historic writings, while pictures line the walls. There is not a lot of room for artifacts, but the Historical Com-



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Shirley Kapp's dress perches inside a sleigh inside the historic Haymarket Museum.

mission has recently painstakingly inventoried and catalogued the items for future reference.

Turner's contributions to preserving Haymarket's history were recognized by the California consultants who oversaw the town's planning charrette. She is historian of the Historical Commission and served as its first chairperson. Due to her efforts, a caboose was placed on the museum property in September 1992, commemorating Haymarket's Norfolk-Southern Railroad stop.

Historical Commission members also hope to reach beyond the town of Haymarket to collect historical information. The histories of Buckland, Hickory Grove and Catharpin are often intertwined with Haymarket's, so Ivancic, who has a

degree in historic preservation, is looking for information within a one-mile radius of the town. In an effort to garner clues from the past, she also is working with the 1859 tax records and the 1860 census, which lists 700 residents in the greater Haymarket area, 120 resided in the actual town.

"Haymarket, a Town in Transition" is full of town history, lore, pictures and letters. It can be purchased at the museum, along with T-shirts, magnets, trivets and postcards. The Haymarket Museum, open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, can be reached at 703-753-3712, or via the web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~haymarketmuseum/>.

Haymarket Day set for Sept. 18

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foot dinosaur, a number of obstacles and a number of things for youngsters to jump and play on.

For the younger children, there will be a Kiddie Carousel, which has five hand-painted horses that are stationary. The carousel spins at a slow speed so smaller children are not afraid of riding on it.

Parents will also be able to stand in the center of the ride to hold onto their children if they wish.

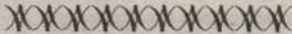
"A number of the vendors are offering face painting, and the Girl Scout Troop will be providing color hair spraying," Sikorsky said.

The Haymarket Day event is free, and several downtown merchants will also be open during that day, including the Red Rooster, which is closing for renovations to the building. Town streets will be closed to traffic. Free parking will be available nearby.

Haymarket Day is held the third Saturday in September.

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