



Historic Resources

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE:

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Detective Work: Solving the Mysteries of Civil War Graffiti

Groundbreaking symposium November 2 at Blenheim, covers the history of Civil War graffiti and the technical expertise used to reveal and preserve these unique artifacts in our own backyards.

Fairfax City, Va. —On November 2, The *Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail* will host **“Beneath the Paint: Civil War Graffiti Symposium”** at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center to examine the history of Civil War graffiti. This day of talks will examine the history of Civil War graffiti and the stories that unfold from the soldiers enduring writings. The conservators who have worked endless hours at the member sites will discuss the technical skills utilized to reveal and preserve these historic gems. New technological methods that have been employed will be highlighted. **Registration and fee required. Details below***

The history-filled and intriguing day, which includes a light breakfast and lunch, will cover:

- 9:30-10:00 am -- Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 10:00-10:30 am -- Welcome, Site Introductions
- 10:30-11:30 am -- Kim O’Connell, “History of Civil War Graffiti”
- 11:30-11:45 am -- BREAK
- 11:45-12:45 pm -- Conservator Chris Mills, “The Technical Side of Graffiti Recovery and Conservation”
- 12:45-1:15 pm -- LUNCH
- 1:15-1:45 pm -- Conservator Kirsten Travers Moffitt, “Uncovering Blenheim’s Graffiti”
- 1:45-2:00 pm -- Andrea Loewenwarter, Historic Blenheim, “Multispectral Imaging Discoveries”
- 2:00-3:30 pm -- Tours of Blenheim House, Gallery, and Site

This event is perfect for history buffs, scholars, conservators, and preservationists who want to learn more about the history of Civil War graffiti and the technical applications used to reveal and preserve these invaluable artifacts. The in-depth examination of this fascinating subject is also appropriate for high-school and college students.

***Details**

“Beneath the Paint,” November 2, 2019

Registration, \$15; lunch, \$10

9:30am-3:30pm

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center

3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va.

703.591.6728

Lunch will be a sandwich and chips (choose meat or vegetarian option)—only available with pre-registration.

Online registration:

<https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Home> (Under Activities, search Civil War.)

Mail registration:

Mail a check made out to City of Fairfax and mailed to Graffiti Symposium c/o 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030. *Designate meat or vegetarian option if ordering lunch and include an email address for confirmation.*

The *Northern Virginia Civil Graffiti Trail* members are: Historic Blenheim, City of Fairfax; Ben Lomond, Prince William County; Liberia, City of Manassas; Mt. Zion Historic Park, Aldie; Graffiti House, Brandy Station; and the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, Winchester.