To Blandy Board of Directors:

I am one of the 6th grade students that came to Blandy from JWMS. We saw a lot of things that day, and we learned some stuff, too. One of the things that we were told to do was to think about this; did Blandy have slaves before the Civil War? My answer is definitely yes.

You might be asking yourself why I chose that answer. I picked that answer because of the evidence we found at Blandy. The first piece of evidence is the appraisal. It showed many slaves and their occupations of it. There were men, women and even children on the appraisal. Plus, they all showed how much they were worth. Men were the most, since male slaves could do the most work. Women and children were less expensive, since they didn’t do as much as men normally. The second piece of evidence that we found at Blandy is when Joseph Tuley, Jr. died. You might be think, why that? Well, when he died, his widow reportedly leased the slaves to the Confederate government in 1860. If Blandy didn’t have slaves back then, then the widow couldn’t have leased them, right? Now, the last piece of evidence is how the Tuley’s house survived the soldiers that were coming to destroy it. There was a slave butler that saved it in fact. The soldiers came and told them to leave because they were going to destroy the house, but the butler showed them out the Great Seal and they left without destroying it, so it still stands today. Now, this is just an extra piece of
evidence, but while exploring the house, we found slave quarters. Why would there be slave quarters if Blandy didn’t have slaves, hmm?

In conclusion, Blandy definitely had slaves before the Civil War. With all the evidence we found and wrote down, how could there not be? It’s clear to see Blandy had slaves, extremely clear. Thank you for taking the time to read this and thanks for letting us come to Blandy.

Sincerely,
Student from JWMS