



# Staunton River Sentinel

Volume IV, Issue II

HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Spring/Summer 2011 Edition

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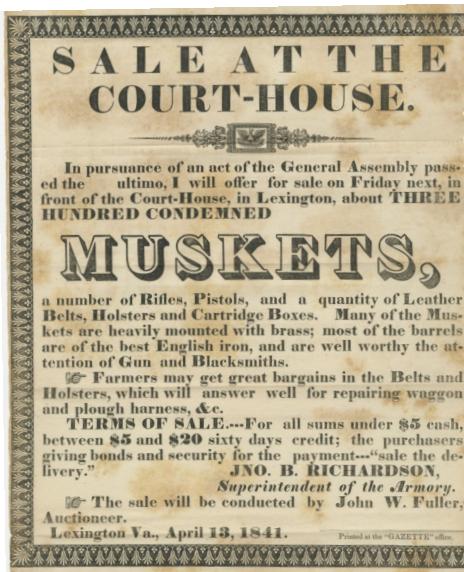
The scope and purpose of the **Historic Staunton River Foundation** is to promote, develop, and preserve: the 1864 Battlefield at the Staunton River; the Staunton River Bridge; Staunton River Battlefield State Park; the Staunton River historical areas and environs; Roanoke Station; Mulberry Hill Plantation, the ancestral home of the Carrington family; the Randy K. Wade Archaeological Site and any future archaeological discoveries in the area of the Staunton River; and the Sappony Indian Nation.

## Parts Of Obsolete Military Firearms May Have Been at Battle

By: J.Tyler Turpin, Henrico, VA

(The following article was penned by Mr. J. Tyler Turpin, a '99 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University. Mr. Turpin is a procurement officer for a state government agency. He enjoys studying and writing business history. A former DCR employee, he enjoys the history and nature of Staunton River Battlefield State Park.)

The CSA had only one functioning military firearms factory at the start of the Civil War, which was the machinery from the U.S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry that had been moved to Richmond and put back into use after the capture of the arsenal from the Union in April of 1861. Some of this machinery was later moved to the Fayetteville, NC firearms repair and storage arsenal that had also been captured from the Union Army in April of 1861. Most privately owned firearms in the CSA had been made in the Union states or built by local gunsmiths who either made all of their own parts or used parts made by several manufacturers who supplied gunsmiths. Gunsmiths made their own barrels and stocks or supervised blacksmiths and woodworkers who made them for the gunsmiths and the gunsmiths would do the final finishing at their own shops. There were some firms in the CSA that were manufacturing firearms for civilian use before the war started and there were some that converted to making firearms. The CSA obtained new and used military firearms from Europe via the CSA purchasing agencies in Europe. These were put aboard blockade runner ships that were often captured prior to reaching ports of the CSA. The CSA never had enough suitable for frontline combat use firearms. Even at the start of the Civil War the states of the CSA conducted appeals for citizens to sell personal firearms to the Confederate government. Units often requested that volunteers bring their personal firearms. By the time of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge the Union Navy blockade fleet was intercepting most blockade runner ships because the Union Navy had a large number of new ships and converted merchant ships to increase its strength from the early years of the war, many ports of the CSA had already been captured by the Union or had their entrances within range of Union artillery. (Continued on page 6.)



The above image is from the collection at the Library of Virginia. "Sale at the Court-House," Auditor of Public Accounts collection (Barcode 1081143, Folder 1840-1841). Used with permission.

# Letter from the President



Dear Members & Friends of the Historic Staunton River Foundation,

I hope that you have survived the cold from this past winter and have not been blown away by the wind that we have had this spring. Events at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park are just warming up.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a success again this year despite having to postpone it from Saturday to Sunday because of the tornado warnings. Sunday was beautiful and sunny. Upcoming events include the Fashion Show & Tea, June Commemoration, Haunted Hayride, Open House at Mulberry Hill and more. See inside of this issue of the newsletter for details. Anyone wishing to volunteer for these events should contact the Park for more information.

Speaking of tornados, do not forget those who have been displaced because of the tornado that occurred in Halifax County. If you have not seen the devastation that happened at Staunton River State Park, go to their website and view the slide presentation.

Also inside of this edition of the newsletter is an important notice for all Foundation members regarding the annual meeting. Please read the proposed amendment to the Bylaws on page 3. Please renew your membership and encourage family and friends to join.

The park is open daily so that you may enjoy the hiking trails or stop at the Visitor's Center. For more information about hours, volunteering, or special events, contact the park at (434) 454-4312 or visit the website [www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org).

Hope to see you at the Park!

President

Remember to keep a record of your volunteer hours and email them to **Tiffany Snow**,

Administrative & Program Specialists III at  
**[Tiffany.Snow@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Snow@dcr.virginia.gov)**.

# Volunteer

*The Sentinel* is published by the  
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A non-profit 501 (c) 3 - citizen support organization for the  
Staunton River Battlefield State Park

P.O. Box 1  
Randolph, Virginia 23962  
434.454.4312  
[www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org)  
[info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org](mailto:info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org)



**Record Numbers**

**Park Attendance for 2010 was 30,039 !  
The average for the last five years is 24,677 !**

Help the Foundation purchase a Hewlett-Packard computer, scanner, and printer system that will be used to scan, catalog, index, and file documents and photographs pertaining to the Battle for Staunton River Bridge, Mulberry Hill Plantation, and related family histories and genealogies. Once purchased and documents and photographs are worked, this valuable information will be available to any and all visitors to the Park.



The cost of the system is approximately \$1,200.00. If you are interested in **donating** to this worthy cause please mail your **tax exempt check**, earmarked "computer system," to **HSRF P.O. Box 1, Randolph, Virginia 23962**. Thank you for your support and help with this project!



# Proposed Amendment

In 2010, the Historic Staunton River Foundation annual meeting was held in September instead of October because of a scheduling conflict that would have caused many of our UDC members to miss the meeting. Many people commented that they like having the meeting earlier in the year before it gets so dark. We were also able to enjoy dinner outside. The proposed amendment changes the annual meeting from October to September. Voting on this amendment will take place during the regular July meeting. Any foundation member may attend to discuss this change and to vote.

## ARTICLE IV, SECTION K, Board of Trustees

K. In June of each year, the President of the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of Foundation members. This committee shall present at the annual meeting in ~~October~~ September a slate of nominees to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

## Hikers Share Rewards



Foundation Trustee **Joey Bane** and his wife, **Angela**, recently shared their hiking experiences during a Board meeting and have helped create more awareness about the healthy and fun hobby. Joey explained, "My love for walking and hiking started with my mother. She and I used to go walking quite a bit when I was a child." Joey and Angela brought their "hiking sticks" along with them to the meeting. However, those present noticed something extra special about the Bane's hiking sticks – they were covered with medallions. The quarter and half dollar size medallions are pictured with icons, text, and images of dozens and dozens of historical, natural, and places of interest. They are used to commemorate the places that they represent.

"We pick them up in gift shops and stores from the different places that we visit and hike at. They secure easily to our hiking sticks and are nice souvenirs and mementos of the places that we have visited over the years," stated Angela. In all, the Bane's have visited nearly 100 State Parks and recreational parks across the South.

"We are interested in the Staunton River Battlefield joining in on this growing hobby," exclaimed Joey, "I even made

my own hiking stick, well this is the my first one. I have two others at home. Now, Angela's stick we purchased at one park we visited several years ago." Joey's self-made American Hornbeam walking stick include an etching of date of 2001 and features a self-carved eye. "I walked in the woods one day, selected the right tree, and made my own walking stick," stated Joey.

The Banes walk not only for the health benefits but also for the joy of the outdoors. When asked about the beautiful places they have been, Angela quickly flipped open her cell phone and proudly shared her background photo, which was taken at Hungry Mother State Park. "That is probably my favorite place, the scenery was breathtaking," declared Angela. "I don't know how many miles we have walked, but we have walked a lot," explained Joey, after being asked how far the couple have been. "We love the outdoors and we love to walk and we hope others will too. So go make you a hiking stick or buy one and start walking and along the way you can start to collect the medallions to remember all of the places you have been," shared the Banes.

The Foundation is currently contacting *L. B. Bristol*, a manufacturer of high quality hiking medallions. The Board envisions its medallion to feature the iconic "Old Men & Young Boys" logo what so well represents the Battlefield. Be on the lookout in our gift shop for these walking medallions and walking sticks that will be personally made and carved by Joey and Angela Bane!





## Fashion Show & Tea Adorn Mulberry

The Antebellum Fashion Show & Tea, held on the front law of historic Mulberry Hill Plantation, on Saturday, May 14, was not only beautiful and memorable, but also breath taking and delicious! Those in attendance enjoyed an array of ladies and gentlemen dressed in period dresses, clothing, and uniforms of the Antebellum and Civil War periods. The effort was jointly hosted by the **Historic Staunton River Foundation**, the **Staunton River Battlefield State Park**, the **H. A. Carrington Chapter** and **Halifax Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy**.

In preparation of the oncoming rains predicted for that weekend, members of the Board, Foundation, and Park, pulled together on Friday the 13th to assemble tents, courtesy of **Sappony Indian Chief Otis Martin**; arrange tables and chairs, rented by **Awesome Party Supplies** in Farmville, VA and delivered by **Korey Snead** and **Snead Trucking**; unloaded by **Gerry Johnson**, **Korey Snead**, and **Shane Newcombe** and plan for table decorations, prepared by **Jeanne Geoghegan**, **Grace Elliott**, and members of the UDC; and finalized the menu of refreshments, prepared and donated by **Cindy Nichols** and **Jenny Lou Newcombe** of **Scuffletown Bakers and More**. A special thank you is extended to all you helped decorate and prepare.

On Saturday as the clouds rolled in, prayers were answered and the rains held off long enough for Antebellum Fashion Show & Tea to begin! **President Janet Johnson** welcomed all present and read Governor Bob McDonnell's regrets for being unable to attend as he was attending an overseas conference. President Johnson and **Trustee Shane Newcombe** shared the Foundation's quest to raise donations for the rehabilitation of the Overseer's Quarters. A new "fundraising thermometer," which will be mounted and displayed in front of the historic plantation, was unveiled and presented to those present. The Foundation aims to raise between 20-50% of the necessary \$80,000 to restore the Overseer's Quarters. With a percentage in hand, the Foundation can then move forward in receiving a matching grant to secure all monies needed for the project. Emcee **Beverly Ramsey** took the podium to begin the Fashion Show. She provided historical and regional glimpses into the components and functions of clothing, dress, and fashion from the Antebellum and Civil War periods. A total of 13 models were on hand to sport their period clothing. Ushers **Joey Bane**, **Lawrence Martin**, and **Barry Ramsey** helped escort the ladies down the front steps of Mulberry Hill and onto the front lawn, from which point they promenaded amongst the crowd. Lady models included **Louise Adams**, **Angela Bane**, **Hazel Bayers**, **Grace Elliott**, **Patt Graves**, **LeAnna Johnson**, **Judi McParland**, **Angie Milstead**, **Holly Owen**, **Carol Williams**, **Laurel Williams**, **Liz Wooding**, and **Tammy Wooding**. The ladies sported dresses from daily homestead life to very formal and dressy occasions. As an intermission, those in attendance were invited to partake in the wide array of delectable sweets, fresh fruits and vegetables, and teas and lemonade from a beautifully decorated refreshment table. Gentleman models on had in their Confederate regalia were **James "Junior" Caknipe**, **Jason Foster**, **Stanley Foster**, **Ron Graves**, **Tom Ward**, and **Lawrence Woosley**. The grand finale of the Fashion Show was the grand entrance of **Angela Bane** adorned in a period wedding dress with her husband, **Joey Bane**, as her groom. A Confederate sword salute and arch greeted the couple onto the front lawn, and a light drizzle of rain ensued into a heavy downpour as soon as they were presented to the crowd. As the clouds thickened, Judge Paul Carrington, former owner of Mulberry Hill, manifested himself, with some help and prose from **Stephen Walker**, to entertain and inform those present of his findings and actions in Richmond as a representative of the Virginia Constitutional Conventions.

The Foundation and Park staffs were pleased the rains held off for the event. Despite a cloudy day and a rainy afternoon, all those present at historic Mulberry Hill Plantation enjoyed tasty refreshments served with Southern charm, friendly fellowship, and learned of the clothing and outfits of their ancestors and heroes of days gone by.





# Memories of a Spring Fashion Show



# Commemoration of 147th Anniversary of Battle



Friday, June 24, 2011

## 8:00 P.M.-Dusk: Ghost Stories of the Civil War

**Living History Encampment by Cumming's Cape Fear Light Artillery** in Fort Hill. Please join the Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park as they host a "ghost campfire" in conjunction with the upcoming 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a flashlight. Please come to share a "scary ghost story" or "spooky legends of a long time ago," or just sit and relax to the tales and anecdotes and enjoy roasted marshmallows (to be supplied or you can bring your own!). Please arrive at Fort Hill.

Saturday, June 25, 2011

**9:00 – 9:45 A.M.: Military Service Award Ceremony** at Fort Hill near UDC monument, presented by the Halifax Chapter of the **United Daughters of the Confederacy** and the Historic Staunton River Foundation. These service awards are presented to veterans who are lineal descendants of Confederate Veterans.

**9:45 – 10:30 A.M.:** The **Historic Staunton River Foundation** will present commemorative medals to recognized descendants of the participants of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.

**10:30 A.M.: Guided Battlefield tour and narration** will begin at the Staunton River Battlefield Bridge. Parking is available at Roanoke Station in Randolph and the Clover Visitors Center.

**12:30 – 1:30 P.M.: L. B. Taylor, Jr**, author of Civil War Ghosts in Virginia, will present a program about ghosts of the Civil War. The lecture will be held in the Conference Room of the Clover Visitors Center.

Hotdogs, BBQ, chips and beverages will be available for purchase at the Picnic Shelter at the Clover Visitors Center. **Members of the Saponi Indian Nation** will be serving lunch. In addition, Saponi merchandise will be available for purchase.

**Throughout the day:** Living History Encampment presented by Confederate re-enactors from the **Cumming's Cape Fear Light Artillery**, the **14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co. K** and **Oliver's Battery, 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia, Co. C** will be located next to Fort Hill. Prisoner demonstrations and confederate cooking will be shown for public participation.

This is a "tentative schedule" and every effort has been made to maintain and keep it accurate. If you or someone you know is a descendant, please inform a representative from the contacts below. Let us know if you are interested in helping plan or volunteer for this or one of the Foundation and Park's many other events held throughout the year. For more information of the Battle Commemoration and upcoming events, please visit the Foundation's website at

## Military Firearm Auction



(Continued from front cover.)

Tactics of the blockade operation had been refined. Some of the defenders of the bridge may have used their personal firearms made from firearms sold to gunsmiths at auctions of obsolete Federal or state military unit firearms in the years before the Civil War. The gunsmiths re-barreled the rifles with modern barrels in various civilian use calibers made in their own shop or purchased by them from a large manufacturing firm and fitted in their shop. The converted rifles often had the stocks and buttplates modified by gunsmiths to resemble civilian ones. Gunsmiths purchased obsolete military firearms and parts at auctions to obtain stocks, trigger mechanisms, and firing mechanism to install on guns of their own designs too. Non gunsmiths bought intact guns and parts at government auction to take to their gunsmiths for conversions too.

Auctions like the one in the advertisement on the cover no longer occur. In the modern era of fully automatic military firearms and the potential for former military firearms to be used by criminals, and terrorist organizations in the United States and abroad and rebel movements in other countries modern policy and laws of the Federal Government and state National Guard units require that government owned firearms including handguns, and shotguns and their parts may only be sold or donated to other government agencies at the Federal, State, or local levels or sold or donated to foreign allies. Arms unsuitable for reuse by other government agencies are stripped of any usable parts and ground up for scrap.

# Ghost Writer to Speak Hauntingly at Battlefield

**N**oted Virginian author of *The Ghosts of Virginia*, **Mr. L. B. Taylor, Jr.**, will speak on Saturday, June 25 from 12:30-1:30 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Clover Visitors Center at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Admission is free and many different events will be held to commemorate the 147th anniversary of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge.

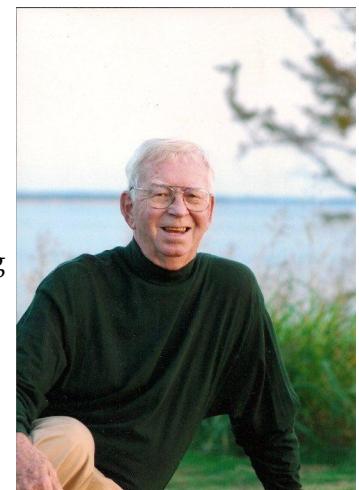
Mr. Taylor is the author of more than 300 national magazine articles and over 50 nonfiction books. His research for the book *Haunted Houses*, published by Simon & Schuster in 1983, stimulated his interest in the area of psychic phenomena and led to the publication of *The Ghost of Virginia* series.

*The Ghosts of Virginia* is a nonfiction and Virginia history series focusing on the paranormal and ghostly occurrences in the Commonwealth. Its publication is now in 13 statewide series, 5 regional series, 1 Civil War and 1 humor themed editions. Mr. Taylor photographs many of the individuals, artifacts, and old homes and plantations himself, and his penned works are accompanied with detailed illustrations by **Ms. Brenda Goens**.

The ghost writer is a native Virginian, born in Lynchburg, and has a degree in journalism from Florida State University. He has written extensively about America's space program, for NASA, and aerospace contractors. In 1974, he moved to Williamsburg where he became the Public Affairs Director for the BASF Corporation. He officially retired in 1993 and continues to pursue his love of researching and writing.

Mr. Taylor's presentation for the Historic Staunton River Foundation at the Staunton River Battlefield will include information about Virginia's ghosts, Civil War ghosts, and local hauntings and stories. Following his presentation, he will be available to answer questions, to share stories, and sign autographs. Books will be available for purchase.

The presentation, *The Ghosts of Virginia* by L. B. Taylor, is part of the ongoing educational and entertainment series offered and sponsored by the Historic Staunton River Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and preservation of the Randolph, Mulberry Hill, Roanoke Station, Sappony Indian Nation, Randy K. Wade Archaeological Site, and the Staunton River Bridge, Battlefield, and Park, in commemoration of the 147th Anniversary of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. For more information, please visit [www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org)



## Current & Upcoming Events



### Many Summer Events & Activities!

\*\*Call 434.454.4313 for details.....\*\*

Please see the [2011 Calendar of Upcoming Events](#) on our website,

[stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://stauntonriverbattlefield.org).

Please volunteer !

**Jerry Johnson**, trustee, recently shared this photo of his 1971 Pontiac LeMans. Jerry is an avid fan of "Bracket Racing." Several months ago, Jerry was approved to proudly display the Battlefield logo on his race car. He became involved with this racing hobby in 1992 and has been drag racing ever since in his car. Jerry currently races in Roxboro, NC and is looking forward to other races at Farmington, Dinwiddie, and Rockingham. Jerry's LeMans will top a speed in excess of 90 mph in 7.69 seconds in his modified class. The Foundation extends safe and well wishes to this racing fan.



## **Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.**

Post Office Box 1  
Randolph, Virginia 23962



**Historic Staunton River Foundation**  
[www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org)



Have you remembered to renew your membership?  
Membership runs the calendar year!  
Share it with a friend or family member!

## **Join the Foundation Today! Invite a FRIEND!**

You are invited to join the **Historic Staunton River Foundation**. The mission of the Foundation is to promote, develop, and preserve the 1864 Battlefield and to preserve the integrity of the Staunton River environs and archaeological sites. **Donations and monetary contributions are tax deductible.**

**Yes**, I would like to join the Foundation. Enclosed is my check/payment for the **\$15.00 for annual dues**. Please add my name to the mailing list of the Staunton River *Sentinel* Newsletter and I look forward to receiving my **20% discount in the gift shop**. Dues run the calendar year.

**Miss/Mr./Mrs.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Renewal: YES / NO**

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer: YES / NO**

**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: (*checks payable to Historic Staunton River Foundation*)

**Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.**

**Foundation's Web Address:**

P.O. Box 1

[www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org)

Randolph, Virginia 23962

**E-mail Address:** [info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org](mailto:info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org)