



Staunton River Sentinel

Volume IV, Issue III

HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Fall/Winter 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.

Capt. Farinholt's Descendant Speaks at Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Historic Staunton River Foundation took place on Thursday, September 1, 2011 promptly at 6:00 P.M. at the Roanoke Station Visitors Center in downtown Randolph. Approximately, 52 Foundation members, Trustees, friends, guests, and Park Staff members attended the annual gathering.

A delicious pot luck supper was enjoyed by all in attendance. The keynote speaker for the meeting was Mr. Seldon Richardson, a longtime Foundation member and most notably the great-great-grandson of our very own, Captain Benjamin L. Farinholt, the commanding officer of the Confederate forces at the Staunton River Bridge. Mr. Richardson's presentation was entitled "*Road to Halifax.*" The informative talk covered Farinholt's service in the Confederate Army - leading up to the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. Those in attendance learned about Farinholt's unbelievable escape from Yankee prisons, his love of his home and family, and his love of speaking to any listeners following the end of the War. Mr. Richardson generously donated one of Capt. Farinholt's original calling cards to the Foundation. It currently is being carefully framed and will be proudly displayed to honor the famed soldier, husband, father, countryman, and hero.



Mr. Seldon Richardson, great-great-grandson of Capt. Benjamin L. Farinholt, was the guest speaker at the Foundation's Annual Meeting.

Our guest speaker was trained as an architectural historian and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond. He is a resident of Richmond. He is the author of one book and many articles on the architecture of his native city. Formerly the Archivist for Architectural Records at the Library of Virginia, Richardson is involved with several preservation groups to save some of Richmond's historic buildings. He lives with his wife, Karri. Their daughter, Lelia, is named after her great-great-great grandmother, Lelia Farinholt, who was Col. Farinholt's wife.

At the conclusion of Mr. Richardson's presentation, several brief reports from the Board of Trustees and Park were presented and nominations to the Board of Trustees were and approved by the Foundation's membership.

Letter from the President



Dear Members & Friends of the Historic Staunton River Foundation,

Another year is rapidly coming to an end. This is a time when we review the past year and remember for what things we are thankful. I want to thank all of you for your support as we continue to carry out the mission and goals of the Foundation. A special thanks go to the Mt. Laurel Ruritan Club for making a stew and donating the proceeds to the Foundation.

At the beginning of the 2011, the Board of Trustees set four goals: 1) continue to raise money for the Overseer's Fund, 2) make the Foundation more visible, 3) create a database of Civil War documents, and 4) partner with similar organizations to promote common interests. Even though we may not have completed all of these goals, we have made great strides toward accomplishing them in the near future.

A new event held this year was an Antebellum Fashion Show and Tea. The dresses were beautiful, but the weather was not. It rained, but everyone who participated enjoyed the event. The refreshments were provided by Scuffletown Bakers, and we are grateful to them for helping us with many of our events.

Every June, the commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge is an event that allows each of us to reflect on the sacrifices that our ancestors made for us. Each year, we have had very interesting and informative speakers. This year was no exception. Our speaker was L. B. Taylor, Jr., author of a series of books on ghosts of Virginia. Mr. Taylor also got a chance to sit around a campfire and listen to stories of ghosts that you have encountered.

It was another successful year for the Haunted Harvest Hayride. Many people commented that they liked the mixture of scary scenes with the hilarious scenes. As we end 2011, we are preparing for the Open House at Mulberry Hill. The house is only open once or twice a year. This is a great time to visit. Also, come to find out more about the Overseer's Quarters and how you can help with the renovations.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2012, and volunteers are always needed to make our events a success. For more information of membership, volunteering or special events, visit the website historicstauntonriverfoundation.org.

Hope to see you at the Park!

Janet E. Johnson

President

Volunteer

The Sentinel is published by the
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Staunton River Battlefield State Park

P.O. Box 1
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www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org
info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org

The Foundation has teamed up with other non-profits and schools across the nation to help **recycle** empty laser & inkjet cartridges, cell phones, and more! By collecting and recycling these products, the Foundation, as a non-profit entity, receives **CASH!** A fun and easy fundraiser—but **YOUR HELP** is needed! Please save and collect

- Inkjet (printer) cartridges & laser cartridges
- Cell phones (any and all pieces acceptable)
- Video games and consoles

Bring them to the Visitor Center or give them to a Trustee!

Cartridge Recycling Program

Help the environment and the Foundation!
Recycle = Cash!

Congratulations

Congratulations to our 2012 Officers:
Pres. Janet Johnson **Vice Pres. Shane Newcombe**
Secretary Grace Elliott **Treasurer Cindy Nichols**



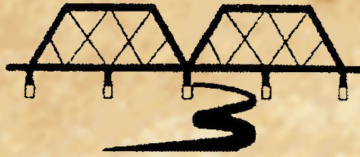
Help the Foundation purchase a **Hewlett-Packard computer, scanner, and printer system** that will be used to scan, catalog, index, and file documents and photographs pertaining to the Battle for Staunton River Bridge, Mulberry Hill Plantation, and related family histories and genealogies. Once purchased 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!



Antebellum Christmas Open House



Historic Staunton River Foundation

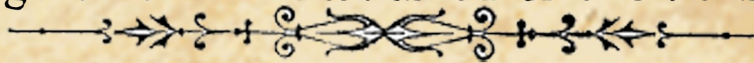


Antebellum Christmas Open House

Mulberry Hill Plantation

in historic *Randolph, Virginia*

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 3-4, 1:00-4:00 p.m., \$5/person
proceeds go to the **Friends of the Overseer's Fund**



- Tour the plantation and dependencies
 - View a Confederate encampment
- Oval Box-Making Demonstration (Dr. Charles S. Davis)
- Enjoy period refreshments (Scuffletown Bakers & More)
- Visit with Judge Paul Carrington (Stephen Walker, costumed interpreter)
 - Learn about the efforts to raise funds to restore the Overseer's Quarters
- Welcome in the Christmas Season!

*Receive free admission when you bring a paying guest and mention this ad!

Parking is available at the Roanoke Station Visitors Center, Randolph, Virginia; a shuttle will transport guests between sites. Call 434-454-4312 or email info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org for questions.



STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD
State Park



Event Sponsored by: the Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

Historic Staunton River Foundation P.O. Box 1 Randolph, Virginia 23962 • www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org





Virginia's Ghost Writer Speaks at Park



The Historic Staunton River Foundation was pleased to host Mr. L. B. Taylor, Jr., the highly acclaimed and noted Virginia author of *The Ghosts of Virginia* series, during the annual Commemoration Ceremony held on Saturday, June 15. This year marked 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 Foundation included information about Virginia's ghosts, Civil War ghosts, and local hauntings and stories through a series of slides, ghostly humor, folklore, interviewed experiences, and his own personal findings and encounters. Following his presentation, he was available to answer questions, to share stories, and sign autographs. Several of Mr. Taylor's books, that specifically mention Charlotte & Halifax Counties are for sale in the gift shop. We hope to host Mr. Taylor for future events.



Foundation's Stew Sale a Success



Thanks to the efforts of the Mt. Laurel Ruritan Club the Foundation enjoyed a bountiful stew fundraiser. A lot of hardwork, time, and preparation went into making and selling the stew. The stew pot had a capacity of 95 gallons, and that helped translate into 357 quarts of stew that could be sold. Thanks to the members of the Foundation, the Mr. Laurel Ruritan Club, and the community. All of the quarts were sold, and the proceeds went to help the Foundation fulfill its mission.



Trustee Jerry Johnson keeps the stew at a constant temperature, while his sister and Foundation President Janet Johnson tends to the marketing and sales.

Walking Stick Medallion by: L. W. Bristol, Classics



- ANTIQUED GOLD
- RECESSED METAL
- BLACK
- ✦ CUT OUT

1-3/4"

ARTWORK MUST BE PRINTED TO SCALE
ONCE APPROVED IT IS FINAL!

Collector's Edition
Walking Stick Medallions
Walking Medallions are increasingly popular in the World Forum and have been a long standing tradition in Europe.
This medallion may be gently shaped to fit on walking sticks. Medallions are pre-printed blank for the recipient with a recommended outline for your medallion. They can also be engraved and great in 925 and other fine surfaces.

Back of Staunton River Bridge
The Staunton River Bridge is a historic landmark in Staunton, Virginia. It was built in 1866 and is the longest covered bridge in the world. The bridge is a beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture and is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The bridge is surrounded by lush greenery and is a great spot for a walk or a picnic.

NOW AVAILABLE! **\$6.00 EACH!**
Great for walkers and supporters of the Battlefield!



1886 Letter to Colonel Farinholt



Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Seldon Richardson, great-great-grandson of Capt. Benjamin L. Farinholt, Confederate commander at the Battle of Staunton River Bridge, we are able to share a letter written to "Colonel Farinholt" on March 3, 1886 from Mr. H. Eaton Coleman of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Office in Washington, D.C. Mr. Richardson shared copies of several of Capt. Farinholt's personal papers with the Foundation. We have transcribed this letter below and a digital copy is provide herein.

U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Office
Washington, D.C. March 3" 1886

My Dear Colonel,

I have never seen until very recently, the Report of Wilson & Kautz of our engagement at Staunton River Bridge, Virginia, and the statements are so different in them from my recollection of occurrences, that I write to you to verify my account, or correct it.

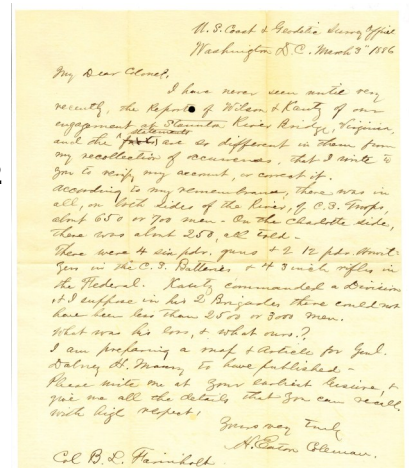
According to my remembrances, there was in all, on both sides of the River, of C.S. Troops, about 650 or 700 men. On the Charlotte side there was almost 250, all told.

There were 4 sin pdr. Guns & 2 12 pdr. Howitzer in the C.S. Batteries, & 4 3 inch rifles in the Federal. Kautz commanded a Division & I suppose in his 2 Brigades there could not have been less than 2500 or 3000 men.

What was his loss, & what ours?

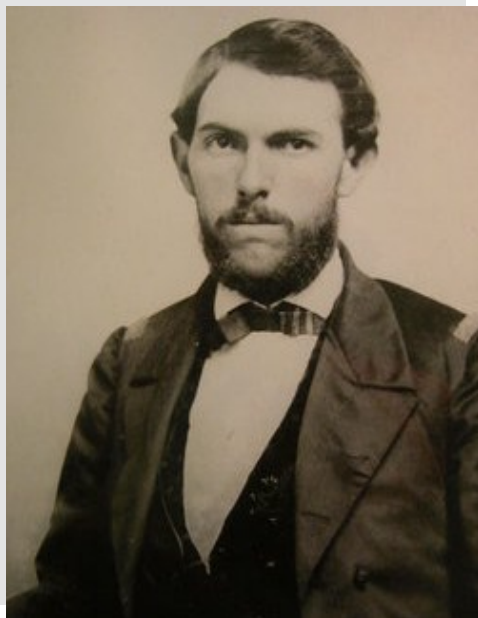
I am preparing a map and article for General Dabney H. Maury to have published. Please write me at your earliest leisure, & give me all the details, that you can recall with high respect,

Yours very truly,
H. E. Coleman



The U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Office, now known as the National Geodetic Survey, a federal agency that defines and manages the national coordinate system, providing the foundation for transportation and communication, mapping and charting, and a large number of applications of science and engineering. As of 1970, it was a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Its formation began back to 1807 when President Thomas Jefferson signed, "an act to provide for the surveying the coasts of the United States." Its purpose was to provide nautical charts for our young nation, establish boundaries that helped support commerce and provide defense. It was renamed the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (C&GS) in 1878. The best and brightest scientists and naturalists were sought after to work for the Office. Since its beginnings, the C&GS has served "hydrographers, artillery surveyors, cartographers, army engineers, intelligence officers, geophysicists, scientists, and engineers. Today, the Office of Coast Survey continues its traditional commitment to employing the highest levels of science and technology to improve marine safety and to tackle the new challenges of the 21st Century." (Wikipedia.org)



Today, the Office of Coast Survey continues its traditional commitment to employing the highest levels of science and technology to improve marine safety and to tackle the new challenges of the 21st Century." (Wikipedia.org)

H. Eaton Colman states the he was "preparing a map" for General Dabney H. Maury to be published. General Maury (1822-1900) was born in Fredericksburg, VA. He studied law in his hometown and later graduated from the University of Virginia. In 1846, he graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point) and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Regiment of Mounted Rifles. He later severed in the Mexican-American War and became a Major General in the Confederate States Army. At the end of the war, he remained in his home state and formed the Southern Historical Society in Richmond. There he helped compile and document Southern military and civilian stories and views of the War. Later that collection was published in "52 volumes of articles written by Southern soldiers, officers, politicians, and civilians" (Wikipedia.org). We can see from this letter that the remembrances and recollections of H. Eaton Coleman and Capt. Benjamin L. Farinholt were added to General Maury's compilation.

Halloween Spooktacular A Spooky Treat for All



This past October marked the tenth consecutive year of the Haunted Harvest Hayride, now known as the Halloween Spooktacular with the expanded day event for children and the Haunted Trail for guest 13 years and older. The Foundation would like to thank ALL volunteers for making this another successful event that was enjoyed by all – we even had people as far as Lynchburg come out to enjoy the night of spooks and tales.

The day of Saturday, October 15, began with about a dozen children enjoying a Pirate-themed party and scavenger Treasure Hunt. Those in attendance were encouraged to dress as pirate and to come search for a hidden treasurer. The day gave way to darkness and the festive spooks set in. The Foundation's Haunted Harvest Hayride drew a crowd of 174. This year's theme, "Mrs. McPhail's Tales," centered around Mrs. McPhail, the lady of Mulberry Hill and wife of Capt. John B. McPhail, and her plight to take a wagonload of civilians (event spectators and visitors) from the onset of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge, through the woods and settings of the village of Randolph, stopping briefly at a Confederate Encampment, strolling along a combined post-office-bath-house-funeral-home-sutler outpost, and pausing alongside the pains and operations of a medical tent. All in a last-ditch effort to reach the safety of her beloved Mulberry Hill, only to find that it had been unexpectedly occupied by Union forces, which of course, required her and her followers to return back to the safety and security of Capt. Farinholt and his Confederate troops at Fort Hill. Ghostly encounters, tales, images, sounds, and sight offered for a "spooky" yet "whimsical" stroll/ride along the low grounds of the Park during this Harvest time of the year!

The Haunted Trail, situated on the Edgewood Natural Trail, behind the Picnic Shelter, offered a scarier taste to visitors seeking for heart-throbbing adventures. More than 60 people braved the PG-13 rated haunted trail. The Foundation is thankful to ALL OF ITS VOLUNTEERS who helped make the night safe and rewarding!



Two young pirates enjoy the Pirate Treasure Hunt. Trustee Cindy Nichols poses for a sunset shot of her Randolph Village scene complete with a bath house and post office and Trustee Grace Elliott wheels an antique wheel chair as she played the role of the Weeping Widow on the Bridge.

Foundation Exhibits at Sesquicentennial Event



The Charlotte County Sesquicentennial Committee hosted a Civil War Seminar at the Bacon District Fire Department on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Area organizations and hereditary groups were asked to provide informational displays or provide exhibits. The keynote guests included Mr. Glen Abernathy, who spoke on Civil War Currency; the St. Level Combined Choir, who provided a musical intercession of period negro spirituals; and Mr. J. C. Jackson, who shared artifacts and stories of his Union ancestors. Other exhibitors at the Seminar included Charlene Skelton-Breedlove, Lucille Purcell, Drakes Branch Museum, Charlotte County Preservation Virginia (APVA), Charlotte Grays Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps 1964, H. A. Carrington United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter 1055, the South Central Virginia Genealogical Society, and the Foundation.



Foundation Lays Wreath to Honor Randolph

The Virginia Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) recently held its Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 29. The event began with a Grave Marking Ceremony in historic Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia, followed by a dinner and presentation at the 2300 Club in Richmond. Approximately, sixty people were in attendance for each.

The Virginia Society OFPA, the Richmond Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society for the War of 1812 in Virginia, the Claiborne Society, and the Historic Staunton River Foundation joined together to honor and remember three individuals who are buried in Hollywood Cemetery. Lt. Col. Thomas Claiborne, a Virginia Founder; Nathan Bell, a Revolutionary War Patriot; and John Randolph of Roanoke, a War of 1812 Veteran were honored, remembered, and recognized with the reading of their biographical sketches, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony for each.

John Randolph of Roanoke is a familiar to many Charlotte County individuals: the town of Randolph is in his namesake and so too is Randolph-Henry High School. John Randolph of Roanoke was born June 2, 1773 in what is now Hopewell, Virginia. His distinguished political career started at an early age with a debate with the infamous Patrick Henry in Charlotte County, Virginia. Randolph would go to serve as an elected and appointed official for nearly 35 years. He is known for his eccentric character, sharp wit and opinion, and love of debate. Randolph was an avid statesman and a voice of liberty. He lived alone in his plantation on the Little Roanoke River in present-day Randolph, Virginia and died on May 24, 1833 in Philadelphia. He was later reinterred at Hollywood Cemetery and according to his own instructions was buried facing west, so that he could "keep an eye" on his old enemy, Henry Clay. Randolph was recognized by the Virginia Society OFPA and the other organizations as a War of 1812 veteran based on his important, but brief, appointment by Virginia Governor Barbour as an engineer that performed reconnaissance below the confluences of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers. Mr. J. Shane Newcombe, secretary and treasurer for the Virginia Society OFPA and trustee for the Historic Staunton River Foundation provided remarks about Randolph and Mr. Corey R. Snead, vice-president of the Historic Staunton River Foundation presented the Foundation's wreath at Randolph's gravesite in Randolph's honor and memory.



Following the ceremony, all present gathered together at the 2300 Club for dinner, induction of new OFPA members, and a presentation on John Randolph of Roanoke given by Mr. David Johnson, Virginia's Deputy Attorney General for the Health, Education, and Social Services Division and researcher of Randolph. Mr. Johnson's new biography on Randolph will be released in May 2012. The Virginia OFPA is a hereditary society dating back to 1896. Membership in the Order is open to any man 18 years or older who is of good moral character and reputation, a citizen of the United States, and lineally descended in the male line of either parent from an ancestor who settled prior to May 13, 1657, in any of the colonies now included in the United States of America; and one or all of whose intermediate ancestors in the same line lived in the period of the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783 and adhered as patriots to the cause of the colonies. Members are called Associates. More information can be obtained by visiting www.founderspatriots.org.

Pictured at the gravesite of John Randolph of Roanoke are (left-right) Trustees Corey Snead and Shane Newcombe.



Current & Upcoming Events

Many Summer Events & Activities!

Call 434.454.4312 for details.....

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

www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org.

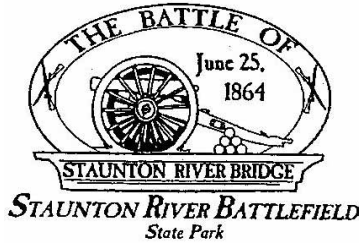
Please volunteer !

*Foundation and Park Supporter Tyler Turpin, a '99 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and an procurement officer for a state government agency, is pictured presenting Park Manager Jim Zanarini a framed original print from the *Album of Virginia*, which depicts a scene of the Virginia & Tennessee Railway. The print dates to 1858 and will compliment the Park's collection of Civil War era railroad memorabilia.*



Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

Post Office Box 1
Randolph, Virginia 23962



Find us on Facebook
Historic Staunton River Foundation
www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org



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

Please note that if your name is **highlighted** then your dues are up for renewal. We hope you will renew your membership and invite a friend

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

Volunteer: YES / NO

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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

Randolph, Virginia 23962

E-mail Address: info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org