



# Staunton River Sentinel

Volume IV, Issue IV

HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Spring/Summer 2012 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.

## John Randolph of Roanoke Author Speaks

The Historic Staunton River Foundation hosted **Mr. David Johnson**, Deputy Attorney General to the Commonwealth, on Saturday, June 9 at 7:00PM in the Roanoke Station Visitors Center in downtown Randolph to honor his recent publication, **John Randolph of Roanoke**. Approximately, 50 people were in attendance, and following his presentation a reception, catered by Scuffletown Bakers & More was held on the deck of the Station with the gentle trickling sounds of the Roanoke Creek in the background.

John Randolph of Roanoke is a familiar to many local residents: the town of Randolph (Charlotte County) is in his namesake and so too is Randolph-Henry High School.



*Mr. David Johnson, current University Counsel for VCU and former Deputy Attorney General for Health, Education, & Social Services, spoke to the Foundation on John Randolph of Roanoke.*

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.

David Johnson, a native of Richmond, was graduated from the College of William & Mary with a degree in History, and from the University of Richmond School of Law. He was admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 1987 and engaged in the private practice of law for ten years. In 1997, Mark Earley named him Counsel to the Attorney General of Virginia. He was reappointed by Jerry Kilgore, Bob McDonnell, and Ken Cuccinelli, and served as Deputy Attorney General for Health, Education & Social Services. (Continued on page 3.)

# Letter from the President



Dear Members & Friends of the Historic Staunton River Foundation,

Spring has arrived! We seemed to have skipped winter and gone straight to spring. As the temperature rises, so does the price of gas making it harder to travel a great distance. With that, there are many exciting events happening at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. There is no better way to save money than to visit your local state park. Admission is free, and the events are reasonable priced for the entire family to enjoy.

As always, the Board of Trustees is busy working on plans for the annual events: June Commemoration, Haunted Hayride, and Mulberry Hill Christmas Open House. To make these events successful, volunteers are needed. There are many incentives such as mugs, shirts, free camping or free cabin rental provided by the park system for your efforts. If you would like to donate your time and enthusiasm, please contact the Foundation or the Park.

Also, the Board of Trustees is excited to announce the introduction of a new book title *John Randolph of Roanoke* written by David Johnson. Mr. Johnson will present his book to the public on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Randolph. See the article in this issue for more details.

You are reminded to renew your membership and encourage family and friends to join. It is through your membership fees, donations, and support to the Foundation that allows the park to stay open.

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).

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](http://historicstauntonriverfoundation.org).

Hope to see you at the Park!

*Janet E. Johnson*

President

# Volunteer

*The Sentinel* is published by the  
Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

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)

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!



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**



The Park held a "Clean-up Day" at Mulberry Hill Planation during the winter. Several dependencies were cleaned, tidied, and organized. The following Park Employees and Foundation Members participated in the Spring Clean-up project (left-right) **Thomas Lee Duffer, Jr., James Bunn, Cindy Nichols, Holly Owen, Janet Johnson, LeAnna Johnson, Stanley Foster, and Jim Zanarini.**



## Randolph Author Speaks



(Continued from front cover) In that capacity he managed 103 attorneys representing Virginia's colleges and universities, ensuring the proper use of state funds in social service programs, and providing advice on issues of health, child support, and mental health. He is the longest-serving member of the senior staff of the Attorney General.

Mr. Johnson began a second career as an historian in 1994, writing articles on subjects such as the Confederate War Department and the 1840 presidential campaign. While serving as a visiting member of the History faculty of the University of Richmond, he completed his first book, the biography of Douglas Southall Freeman, which was released by Pelican Publishing in 2002. The *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography* hailed the book as "a remarkable feat ... well worth the wait." The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* called it "a gift of grace." His second book, the biography of John Randolph of Roanoke, was released by LSU Press in May 2012. Mr. Johnson lives in Midlothian with his wife, Holly, and three children.

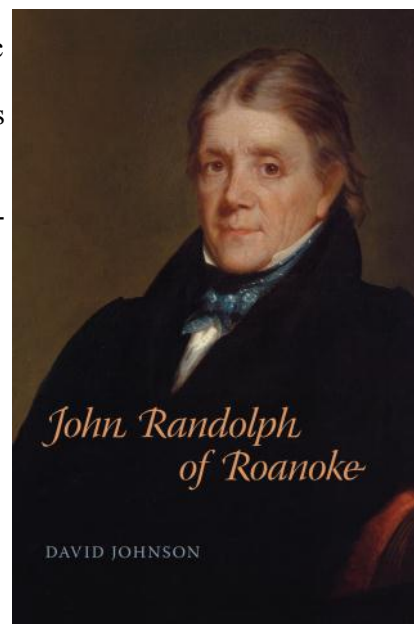
One of the most eccentric and accomplished politicians in all of American history, John Randolph (1773–1833) led a life marked by controversy. The long-serving Virginia congressman and architect of southern conservatism grabbed headlines with his prescient comments, public brawls, and clashes with every president from John Adams to Andrew Jackson. The first biography of Randolph in nearly a century, *John Randolph of Roanoke* provides a full account of the powerful Virginia planter's hard-charging life and his impact on the formation of conservative politics.

The Randolph lineage loomed large in early America, and Randolph of Roanoke emerged as one of the most visible—and certainly the most bombastic—among his clan. A colorful orator with aristocratic manners, he entertained the House of Representatives (and newspaper readers across the country) with three-hour-long speeches on subjects of political import, drawing from classical references for his analogies, and famously pausing to gain "courage" from a tumbler at his side. Adept at satire and uncensored in his verbal attacks against colleagues, he invited challenges to duel from those he offended; in 1826, he and the then-secretary of state Henry Clay exchanged gunfire on the banks of the Potomac.

A small-government Jeffersonian in political tastes, Randolph first entered Congress in 1799. As chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee he memorably turned on President Jefferson, once and for all, in 1805, believing his fellow Virginian to have compromised his republican values. As a result, Randolph led the "Old Republicans," a faction that sought to restrict the role of the federal government.

In this rich biography, David Johnson draws upon an impressive array of primary sources—Randolph's letters, speeches, and writings—previously unavailable to scholars. *John Randolph of Roanoke* tells the story of a young nation and the unique philosophy of a southern lawmaker who defended America's agrarian tradition and reveled in his own controversy.

Mr. Johnson's biography is available for purchase from the Foundation's gift shop for \$35.00 or you can order a copy by emailing [info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](mailto:info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org).



## Commemoration of 148th Anniversary of Battle



Friday, June 22, 2012

**8:00 P.M.-Dusk:** Please join the Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park as they host a wagon ride tour of the Battleground in conjunction with the upcoming 148<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring a flashlight and meet at Fort Hill.

Saturday, June 23, 2012

**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 am – 10:30 am:** The **Historic Staunton River Foundation** will present commemorative medals to recognized descendants of the participants of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. A **wreath-laying ceremony** will be presented by local heritage organizations.

(Continued on page 6.)





## Tribute Paid to Crossing of the Dan



The Historic Staunton River Foundation was honored to lay a wreath in honor of the brave American Patriots who fought during the Crossing of the Dan on Feb. 14, 1781. The 231<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan took place on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2012 in South Boston with an assembly, guest speaker presentation and wreath laying ceremony in The Prizery. The Commemoration followed with a procession down to Boyd's Ferry on the Dan River. Later in the day, a reenactment of the Crossing of the Dan was demonstrated by Revolutionary and British reenactors. The Historic Staunton River Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and development of the Staunton River Battlefield was grateful to the organizing sponsors of the Crossing of the Dan to allow civic and other societies to come together and pay tribute to this historic and patriotic experience. For more information about the Historic Staunton River Foundation, please visit [www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](http://www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org). Pictured (l-r) with the Foundation's wreath are officers, trustees, and friends of the Foundation who attended the commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan: **Grace Elliot**, secretary; **LeAnna Johnson**, friend; **Janet Johnson**, president; **Korey Snead**, trustee; **Patt Graves**, trustee; **Shane Newcombe**, vice-president; and **Ron Graves**, trustee.



## June 2014 Reenactment Planned



The Board of Trustees recently met with **Mr. Paul Smith**, Army of Northern Virginia, 1st Division Headquarters, 4th Regiment North Carolina Militia and **Major Ken Sewell**, Inspector, 1st Division Army of Northern Virginia in connection to hosting a Reenactment of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge in June 2014, the 150th Anniversary of the Battle (Sesquicentennial). On Thursday, May 3, the Board voted to pursue the plans of hosting a reenactment. The 2014 Reenactment of the Battle for Staunton River Bridge will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 21-22, 2014. Outside of the main reenactment attraction, the two-day commemoration will feature living history, firing and drill demonstrations, sutlers, camp life, Church service, dancing, cooking, and much more! Local reenactors are encouraged to help man and participate in several living history and interpretative presentations. Just as the plea went out from Capt. Benjamin Farinholt and his Confederate counterparts to the citizens of Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg to defend the Staunton River



Bridge from an invading force, so too does the Foundation send out an urgent plea to all citizens to help plan, publicize, and participate in OUR history. **If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee or other Committee Assignments, please call Janet Johnson, president at 434.454.7157, the Park Office at 434.454.4312, or email [info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](mailto:info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org).** It is imperative that we, as local citizens, American, patriots, and defenders of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, come together to rally around our rich history and heritage to learn of it together and preserve it for future generations.

**Please take part and answer the Foundation's urgent plea for assistance.**



# Slate Hill Plantation



By: Janet Johnson, President

**Last**, December, **Dr. Charles Pearson** visited Mulberry Hill during its Antebellum Christmas Open House. He was very interested in the history and structure of the house. He was comparing it to the information he had on Slate Hill. Wondering who Charles Pearson is? What is Slate Hill? What is its connection to Mulberry Hill?

**Dr. Charles Pearson** is a professor at Hampden-Sydney College. Each May, he leads a group of students in Beneath This Hill Historical Archaeology Class to the place of the founding of Hampden-Sydney College, the site of Slate Hill Plantation. Student have been working to reconstruct the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscapes at Slate Hill Plantation. This work has included identifying the locations and types of buildings that once existed on the property. This effort is made difficult because no early maps of the plantation exist. All the buildings at Slate Hill were remove many years ago, and all that is visible today are a few foundations. Students rely on primary documents such as original deeds, will, probate inventories, and photographs, as well as oral histories and archaeology.



Nathaniel Venable's office being moved in 1944.

Slate Hill Plantation was a typical Virginia working tobacco plantation. A cluster of buildings around the home served the economic and household needs of the plantation: a detached kitchen, blacksmith shop, ice house, and barns and storage buildings. The Slate Hill Plantation house was built by **Nathaniel Venable** in 1756. A small building on the property served as Venable's office and is where the meeting to form Hampden-Sydney College was held in February 1775. The office was moved to the College campus in 1944 where it is memorialized as "The Birthplace." The Venable house at Slate Hill was dismantled and removed in 1971.

The first student to register for classes at Hampden-Sydney College was **Samuel Woodson Venable**. He was the first child born to **Nathaniel Venable** and **Elizabeth Michaux** Woodson on Slate Hill. Samuel married **Mary Scott Carrington**, daughter of **Judge Paul Carrington** and **Margaret Read** of Mulberry Hill in Charlotte

County. Samuel and Mary were married on August 15, 1781. Thus, a connection between Slate Hill Plantation and Mulberry Hill Plantation was made. The houses on each plantation may also be connected. It is presumed that the two-story frame house at Mulberry Hill was built between 1756 and 1760 around the same time as Slate Hill.

When Dr. Pearson was visiting Mulberry Hill last December, he was very interested in looking at its foundation and structure of the house. Since the house at Slate Hill no longer exists, Dr. Pearson is hoping that he can get some idea of how it was built by researching and examining the house at Mulberry Hill. Therefore, the connection between Mulberry Hill and Slate Hill continues even today. (Information used in this article is from the website of Hampden-Sydney College, [www.hsc.edu](http://www.hsc.edu).)



Venable's office now on the campus of Hampden-Sydney.

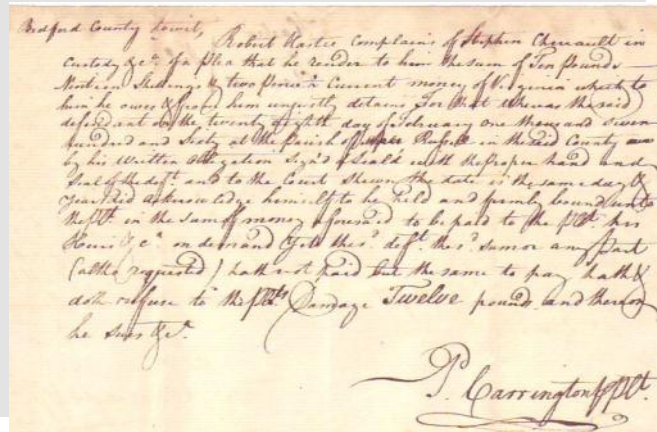


# Signed Carrington Document Discovered



A recent document, signed by **Judge Paul Carrington**, was recently discovered and shared with the Foundation. Vice-President **Shane Newcombe** purchased, at an auction in Greenville, NC, the rare 1760 document written and signed by Carrington while he served as the King's Attorney for Bedford County. The document is a narrative of a lawsuit for a recovery of debt and measures approximately 7" x 5" on laid, rag-content paper, of a mildly age toned with a strong and bold signature of Carrington and is very fine condition. The signature was compared to others house at the Virginia Historical Society and the Circuit Court of Charlotte County and was authenticated.

Carrington, the founder of Mulberry Hill Plantation in Randolph, was born in Virginia on March 16, 1733. In 1756, he was appointed to serve as King George's Attorney for Bedford County. He was made a major of the local militia in 1764, and colonel in 1764. Charlotte County was formed from Lunenburg in 1764. It is presumed that Carrington began construction of his plantation, Mulberry Hill at this time. By 1772, he became a county lieutenant and president justice for Charlotte County, and was serving as a clerk in Halifax during the same year. With the passion of revolution in the air, he became a member of and attended all the conventions from 1774-1776, and was appointment chairman of the Charlotte County Committee, which endorsed the resolutions of the late Continental Congress. In addition, he was a member of the First & Second State Committees of Safety from 1775-76. He was elected judge of the first general court on January 23, 1778 and filled the office until 1807. He died at his home in Charlotte County on January 23, 1818 and is buried nearby. A framed copy of the document was donated to the Foundation and will be made available for the public to see and enjoy



## Commemoration of 148th Anniversary of Battle



(Continued from page 3.)

**10:30 am: 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, and a bus will be provided for transportation.

**11:30 am: Lunch** – Hotdogs, BBQ, chips and beverages will be available for purchase at the Picnic Shelter at the Clover Visitors Center. **Members of the Sappony Indian Nation** will be serving lunch. In addition, Sappony merchandise will be available for purchase.

**12:30pm – 1:30pm: Major Ken Sewell and Paul Smith** with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the Army of Northern Virginia will present a lecture on the plans for a reenactment of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. The reenactment will take place in June 2014 on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. The lecture will be held in the Conference Room of the Clover Visitors Center.

**Throughout the day:** Living History Encampment presented by Confederate re-enactors from 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.

## Roanoke/Staunton River Atlas



The Virginia Canals & Navigations Society has recently published the Roanoke/Staunton River Atlas by **Dr. W.E. "Bill" Trout, III and Nancy R. Trout**. This informative river atlas contains historical, genealogical, and cultural information about the 381-mile river, known locally as the Staunton River, who's headwaters begin in the foothills of Montgomery County and flows through western and Southside Virginia and into North Carolina where it ends at the Albemarle Sound in the Atlantic. Dr. Trout and his wife, Nancy, have worked for more than a decade studying, mapping, charting, researching this historic stretch of one of Virginia's Scenic Waterways. The publication of this atlas marks number 15 in the Virginia Canals & Navigations Society's repertoire.

Copies of the Trout's Atlas can be purchased at the Foundation's Gift Shop in the Clover Visitors Center for \$30.00 or you can email [info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](mailto:info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org) to order your copy today!

### THE ROANOKE/STAUNTON RIVER ATLAS



Rediscovering river history along the Roanoke/Staunton and its branches

Prepared for the Virginia Canals & Navigations Society by W. E. Trout, III and Nancy R. Trout

## Giving Levels Established

The Board of Trustees in February established a series of membership and giving levels to help promote, develop, and preserve the Foundation through its scope and mission. The following levels of membership and giving are now available, and their benefits are spelled underneath. More information will follow.

### Membership Levels

**Student**—\$5.00/individual 21 and under

**General**—\$15/individual or \$25/couple

### Giving Levels

**Friends of the Cause**—\$50-99/individual/family/corporate

Benefits: Membership, Foundation Coffee Cup

**Supporters of the Cause**—\$100-249/individual/family/corporate

Benefits: Same as above plus Foundation Lapel Pin or Walking Stick with Battlefield Medallion

**Advocates of the Cause**—\$250-499/individual/family/corporate

Benefits: Same as above plus framed Mulberry Hill print or Battle for Staunton River Bridge Map, and your name engraved on a plaque to be displayed at the Battlefield

**Leaders of the Cause**—\$500-999/individual/family/corporate

Benefits: Same as above plus framed Judge Paul Carrington print or Battle of Staunton River Bridge Regimental Series Book by Col. Greg Eanes

**Founders of the Cause**—\$1,000 and above/individual/family/corporate

Benefits: Same as above plus Life Membership, Private (behind-the-scenes) Tour of Mulberry Hill Plantation & Battlefield, autographed copy of Staunton River Atlas by Dr. Trout and a recognition reception

## 2012 Goals

To help the Foundation achieve its mission of preserving, developing, and preserving the 1864 Battlefield and numerous other entities, the Board of Trustees developed a list of achievable “goals” for 2012.

- ◇ Continue efforts to raise money for the Overseer’s Fund.
- ◇ Make the Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc. more visible.
  - ◇ Create a database of Civil War documents.
- ◇ Begin planning for the sesquicentennial commemoration.
- ◇ Begin process of acquiring property and historical artifacts.



## Current & Upcoming Events

### Many Summer Events & Activities!

\*\*Call 434.454.4312 for details.....\*\*

Please see the

**2012 Calendar of Upcoming Events**  
on our website:

[www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](http://www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org).  
And check your local papers for the many different and fun programs put on by the Battlefield Park throughout the week and weekends of the Summer. They are intended for the whole family to enjoy!

Please volunteer !

**June 22-23 (Friday & Saturday) - Commemoration of the Battle (all day events planned)**

**Thursday, September 6—Annual Meeting**, Roanoke Station Depot in Randolph. Donors, members, and guests of the Foundation gather for a pot-luck supper and learn about the happenings and policies of the Foundation and State Park, as well as enjoy a dynamic presentation. More details to come.

**Saturday, October 20—Halloween Spooktacular**, 11th Annual Haunted Harvest Hayride, and Haunted Trail . More details to come.

Visit our website for photos, updates, and more!

## 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!

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

Randolph, Virginia 23962

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