Historic Staunton River Foundation

2010 Annual Report

Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 1
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HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Friday, June 03, 2011

Prepared by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees:
Janet Johnson, President
Korey R. Snead, Vice-President
Grace Elliott, Secretary
Cindy Nichols, Treasurer, and
J. Shane Newcombe, Trustee

Mission & History:

The **Historic Staunton River Foundation**, a volunteer not-for-profit private organization was formed on December 2, 1994 with the scope and purpose of promoting, developing, and preserving the 1864 Battlefield at the Staunton River Bridge, the Staunton River Battlefield State Park, and the Staunton River and its historical areas. The Foundation also collects artifacts and historical memorabilia for display and works to preserve the integrity of the Staunton River environs and archaeological sites. In addition, the Foundation provides historical, environmental, wildlife, and wetlands education as well as assists in developing programs and events for the general public.

In November 1995, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a determination letter that recognized the Foundation as exempt from federal income tax; indicating that the organization was exempt under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and classified as a public charity under section 509(a) 2 of the Code.

Additionally, the State Corporation Commission certified that the Foundation was a corporation existing under and by virtue of laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and in good standing, with a date of incorporation on December 2, 1994.

Membership

The Foundation is composed of its members, which is a general non-stock class of membership. The annual dues of $15 are required, but entitles the bearer to benefits such as a twenty percent (20%) discount n the gift shop at the Clover Visitors Center, a subscription of the Foundation's quarterly newsletter, the *Sentinel*, and the satisfaction of contributing to a caused dedicated to the promotion, development, and preservation of the Staunton River and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park.

At the end of 2010, the membership roster of the Foundation totaled 65.

A membership form is attached to this report.

Organization & Governance:

The Board of Trustees is the legal entity charged with the management, direction, and administration of the Foundation. The Board provides direction and oversight for the scope and purpose of the Foundation. It meets the first Thursday of every month in the Conference Room at the Clover Visitor's Center. The Board consists of not less than eleven (11) members, nor more than twenty-one (21). Currently, nineteen (19) Foundation members from the counties of Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg with a wide range of interests and backgrounds varying from educators, lawyers, retirees, and homemakers, to administrators, elected public officials, farmers, self-employed business people, historians, genealogists, authors, and veterans form the Board of Trustees. Members of the Foundation elect the Trustees during the Annual Meeting on the first Thursday of September. Trustees are elected for a three-year term on a rotating schedule with one-third (1/3) being elected annually. Terms begin on January 1 and end on December 31. A list of the 2011 Board of Trustees is attached.

Officers of the Foundation include a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers perform the duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Foundation, where the authority is not in conflict with the bylaws. They are elected annually by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, at the November meeting of the Board. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties the first day of January of the following year.

The Foundation's fiscal year runs the calendar year: January 1 to December 31. A written narrative of the Foundation's Annual Audit and a Summary of the Financial Report for the Fiscal Year are attached.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

First Name	*Last Name*	*County Representing*	*Term Expires*
Joey	Bane	Halifax	31-Dec-13
Butler	John	Cumberland	31-Dec-12
Butler	Mary	Cumberland	31-Dec-12
Caknipe, Jr.	James	Mecklenburg	31-Dec-13
Elliott	Grace	Halifax	31-Dec-12
Epps	Ronald	Person (NC)	31-Dec-11
Foster	Darlene	Charlotte	31-Dec-12
Foster	Stanley	Charlotte	31-Dec-12
Geoghegan	Jean	Charlotte	31-Dec-12
Graves	Patt	Lunenburg	31-Dec-12
Graves	Ron	Lunenburg	31-Dec-13
Gregory	Helen	Halifax	31-Dec-12
Johnson	Gerry	Halifax	31-Dec-13
Johnson	Janet	Halifax	31-Dec-12
Newcombe	Shane	Charlotte	31-Dec-13
Nichols	Cindy	Charlotte	31-Dec-13
Owen	Holly	Halifax	31-Dec-12
Snead	Korey	Halifax	31-Dec-12
Ward	Tom	Halifax	31-Dec-12

Designated terms begin January 1 and end December 31.
Total Board Trustees: Fourteen (19).
Quorum: Seven (7) Trustees must be present.

Jim Zanarini, Park Ranger
Liaison on behalf of Staunton River Battlefield State Park (nonvoting)

Otis K. Martin, Chief of Sappony Indian Nation
Liaison on behalf of Sappony Indian Nation, Person County, North Carolina (nonvoting)

Representation by Counties:
Charlotte – 5
Halifax - 8
Cumberland – 2
Lunenburg - 2
Mecklenburg - 1
Person County, NC – 1
Nonvoting – 2

TOTAL: 21 (19 voting + 2 nonvoting)

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The following were *undertakings* of the Historic Staunton River Foundations for 2010. These events, activities, meetings, and programs do not include the 2010 Summer Interpretive Programs and Events put on by the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. All events are open to public and free, unless otherwise indicated.

Spring & Summer

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 16, Clover Visitors Center, 1-3:30PM, $3/child

Children ages 10 and under enjoyed the fifth annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Clover Visitors Center. An estimated 70 children and parents participated in the event. Activities throughout the evening included a traditional egg hunting game, live rabbits to pet, egg coloring, tattoos, visits with the Easter Bunny, and miscellaneous children's games. Refreshments were served. An inclement weather day was available but not needed.

Sappony Archaeological Dig – Thursday, June 3, Clover Visitors Center, 6-8:00PM

Members of the Foundation hosted a dinner in honor of the Longwood University Archaeological Field School and their director, Dr. Brian Bates. This was an expression of the Foundation's gratitude for the hard work, research, and enduring spirit that the Field School has given the Randy W. Wade Archaeological Site on the Staunton River low grounds. Approximately, 30 people enjoyed the social event.

Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge – Friday & Saturday, June 25-26

As with tradition, the Historic Staunton River Foundation in conjunction with the Halifax Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park, held the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. This year marked the 146th anniversary of the Battle. To kick-off the weekend activities, a dusk wagon ride along the low grounds and battlefield was given to guests and visitors and the even came to a climactic ending with a cannon firing demonstration on the earthen fortification of Fort Hill. Saturday's day-long even drew a sizeable crowd of 100+. They day began with a UDC medals presentation (honoring descendants of Confederate soldiers who have served in the armed forces) was held at the monument alongside Fort Hill. It was followed by the Foundation's ceremony with the recognition of descendants of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. Mr. Terrence Carter and his daughter, Leslie, were the special guests of honor to the Foundation's ceremony. The Carter family is descendants of William Henry Dillon. In correspondence between the Foundation, and Leslie, the Board learned of the Carter's quest to learn more about the role their ancestor played in the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. It was soon discovered that the Carters had in their possession a document dated July 1, 1864 of the "Minutes/Orders/Resolutions At a Meeting of the Employees of the Danville Arsenal." This original source document helped shed light on two men, William Henry Dillon and Thomas H. Wilkerson, who gave the ultimate sacrifice of all: their life in the defense of their homeland. Had it not been for the relationship established between the Carters and the Foundation via the Foundation's website and email, this valuable information would have been lost for several more generations. With the love and compassion for history and heritage, the Carter family donated the document to the Foundation at the conclusion of the ceremony where they were presented with descendant medals. Throughout the day, reenactment encampments were setup that provided the public with a glimpse into the everyday life of a Confederate solider and their families during the War. Mr. Bert Dunkerly, a Park Ranger from the Appomattox National Historical Park, presented a

program on "Weapons of the Civil War." Food and drinks were available for purchase from the Sappony Indian Nation.

Figure 1: Janet Johnson, Foundation President (right) presents Descendants Medals to Terrance Carter and his daughter, Leslie Carter during the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.

Fall & Winter

Annual Meeting – Thursday, September 1, Roanoke Station, 6-9:00PM

Members of the Foundation, Board of Trustees, Park Staff, volunteers, and guests were all invited to the Foundation's Annual Meeting. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all. Several brief reports relating to the Foundation and Park were presented. Trustees to the Board were elected by the membership. Mr. Glen Abernathy, a local numismatist and historian, gave an insightful presentation on the subject, "History of Confederate Money." Mr. Abernathy shared several pieces of currency from his personal collection, spoke on currency production methods, the rarities of local county currency, and informed attendees on how to identify counterfeit pieces. Approximately, 43 people were in attendance.

Figure 2: Mr. Glen Abernathy shows several rare pieces of Confederate currency to those in attendance at the Foundation's Annual Meeting.

Halloween Spooktacular – Saturday, October 16, Clover Center, 7-11:00PM, $ varies/event

For the past eighty years, the Foundation and Park have hosted the "Haunted Harvest Hayride." It was decided at the end of the 2009 event that we needed to build more diverse facets into this highly acclaimed event. All agreed that we needed to build on the successes of the past and offer a "haunted harvest" avenue for all ages, and as a result, the 2010 "Halloween Spooktacular" was formed with three related components: Halloween Pirate Adventures (intended for children 0-12); "Haunted Trail" (rated PG-13); and the "Haunted Harvest Hayride" (intended for the whole family). Each integral event had its own target audience, but all shared in the fees.

The "Halloween Pirate Adventures," intended for children 0-12, allowed children to participate and enjoy in pirate themed games, activities, and events. Cost was $3/child. Approximately, 20 children with parents enjoyed the event from 2-4:00 PM.

The "Halloween Haunted Trail," a self-guided and guided tour of the Edgewood Nature Trail, was a big hit with more than 130+ taking part. It was rated PG-13, and children 13 and under were required to enter with a paying parent/guardian. More than 29 volunteers were needed to dress in costume and man the Halloween themed trail. The cost of admission was $5/person and tours began at 7:00PM.

The "Haunted Harvest Hayride," a 90-minute ghost-walk/wagon ride through the low grounds and battlefield, was enjoyed by more than 175 visitors. This guided tour features a narrative and interactive Civil War themed story that incorporates history with local legends and anecdotes. More than 30 volunteers in period dress were dedicated to the success of the event. Re-enactors make the story come to life with the use of safe and well trained/rehearsed black powder firings. These gun and cannon firing demonstrations help the story manifest into a dynamic Halloween thrill, all the while with safety at the core. Stops are prearranged along the ghost walk/wagon ride where visitors encounter interactive scenes and stations that facilitate the telling of the ghost story. The event was intended for the entire family and the cost was $5/person.

In total, 305 enjoyed the seasonal event and total of 898 combined volunteer hours were logged.

Figure 3: General Kautz of the US Wilson-Kautz raid manifested himself during the Haunted Harvest Hayride, where more than 305 people attended and volunteer staff numbering more than 50 logged more than 898 volunteer hours.

Election of Officers – Thursday, November 4, Clover Visitors Center, 7:00PM

The Board of Trustees met to elect officers for the 2011 term. The following Trustees were elected: Janet Johnson, president; Korey Snead, vice-president; Grace Elliott, secretary; and Cindy Nichols, treasurer.

Antebellum Christmas Open House – Saturday & Sunday, December 4-5, Mulberry Hill, $5/person

An Antebellum period Christmas was celebrated at historic Mulberry Hill Plantation. The ancestral home of Judge Paul Carrington and the grounds were open to ring in the holiday season. Re-enactors provided living history demonstrations and campfire cooking in the boxwood gardens. A historic tour of the main house and its dependencies was given by period-dressed docents. Ole St. Nick was on hand to wish one and all a Merry Christmas. Light refreshments were served. Approximately, 50 people were in attendance.

Figure4: Volunteers gather together for a photo following the Antebellum Christmas Open House at historic Mulberry Hill Plantation in Randolph, Virginia.

2011 EVENTS

- **Spring:**

Saturday, April 16: **Easter Egg Hunt**, Clover Visitors Center, 1-3:30PM
Here comes Peter Cottontail, but that's not all, you will have the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny, enjoy story time with Mother Goose, run in a sack race, participate in an egg hunt and race, pet live bunnies, play pick up ducks, get temporary tattoos, and much more. So don't miss out on all the excitement. Bring your baskets and bring a friend. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. and the Easter Egg Hunt will be held from 1:15 until 1:45. Other activities will be held from 2:00 - 3:30. Don't forget you cameras! Cost of admission is only $2.00 per child. Children ages 10 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. In event of inclement weather the rain date will be Sunday, April 17.

Saturday, May 14: **Antebellum Fashion Show & Tea**, Mulberry Hill Plantation, 1-4:00PM. Come enjoy delectable refreshments and tasty tea, served Southern style, as the Foundation and local UDC chapters host an Antebellum and Civil War Fashion Show & Tea. Ladies and gentlemen will present their dresses and uniforms and educate those in attendance on the do's and don'ts of fashion during that time period. Event is free and open to the public.

- **Summer:**

Saturday, June 18 – **75th Birthday Celebration of Virginia's State Parks** complete with cake and ice cream!

Friday & Saturday, June 24-25 – **Commemoration of the Battle**, Clover Visitors Center & Fort Hill (Friday 8-dusk, Saturday 9-3:00PM) Enjoy roasted marshmallows and s'mores, Friday Night, as ghost stories and local legends and folklore are shared by any and all around a quaint campfire. Saturday, we honor the "young boys and old men" who gave so much to defend their bridge on that hot summer day knowing that victory would keep the supplies flowing to Petersburg. There will be a Confederate encampment, musket firing, music, UDC medal presentation, interpretive programs, guest speakers and more. So, if you are a Civil War enthusiast or you would like to know more about our nations' history from a local prospective, come by for a truly eventful day here in Southside. Programs will begin at 9 a.m. and there will be events throughout the day.

There are **many interpretive programs** offered at the Park from May to August. Such events include the history of the battlefield, life as Civil War soldiers, period gardening, bird/wildlife identification on the nature trails and wetlands, and many other environmental and historical programs. Check the local newspaper or our website at www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org for the different programs and times

- **Fall:**

Thursday, September 1: **Annual Meeting,** Clover Visitors Center, 6-9PM
Covered Dish Dinner (meat & drinks provided by the Foundation) Members who attend are asked to bring a vegetable dish, salad, or dessert. Annual Reports Presented, Election of Trustees, Volunteer Recognition, and Special Speaker. Open to all Foundation members.

Saturday – October 15: **Halloween Spooktacular**, at the Fort & Bridge, 7-11:30PM
Come and enjoy our 10th annual Haunted Harvest Hayride. Enjoy local ghost stories and legends while riding on a hayride through the battlefield and low grounds. Tour approximately lasts about 90 minutes; it is a part walking and part riding ghost tour. Please bring a flashlight and be ready to be spooked with our local myths, legends, and scary tales! $5 per person, children 6 and under free. In addition, The Edgewood Nature Trail has been converted into a PG-

13 Haunted Trail complete with optical illusions, ghosts, goblins, and spirits. $5/person, and children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

- **Winter:**

Saturday & Sunday – December 3 & 4: **Christmas at Mulberry Hill,** Randolph, 1-4PM Come and enjoy an Antebellum period Christmas at Mulberry Hill Mansion during the evening. Enjoy touring the historic home, refreshments; even enjoy a visit from Santa Claus.

2011 OBJECTIVES

1. **Continue to raise money for the Overseer's Fund.**

This fund was established in December 2009 to raise money to renovate the Overseer's Quarters at Mulberry Hill. The amount of $80,000 is needed for the project.

2. **Make the Foundation & Battlefield Park more visible.**

Marketing the Foundation will make the public aware of the efforts that the Foundation does to support the Staunton River Battlefield State Park and its surrounding environs. The development of a brochure is being discussed.

3. **Create a database of Civil War documents.**

By creating a database at Staunton River Battlefield State Park, local citizens of Halifax, Charlotte, and Mecklenburg counties can research the history of their ancestors. A computer, scanner, and printer are needed for this project. It also is in conjunction and honor of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

4. **Partner with similar organizations in the area.**

Becoming partners with an organization such as The Friends of the Ft. Mitchell and Keysville Depot, Inc. will enable both groups to promote a common interest. The railroads played a significant roll in the history of Southside Virginia.

CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS OF OPERATION

Historic Staunton River Foundation
Post Office Box 1
Randolph, Virginia 23962

434.454.7157
434.454.6219

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Staunton River Battlefield State Park
1035 Fort Hill Trail
Randolph, Virginia 23962

434.454.4312
434.454.4313 (fax)
james.zanarini@dcr.virginia.gov

Clover Visitor's Center, Hours of Operation: Battlefield & Trails open til dusk
Monday-Saturday 9:00AM-4:30PM Sunday 1:00PM-4:30PM

Roanoke Depot, Randolph, Hours of Operation:
Saturday 9:00AM-4:30PM Sunday 1:00PM-4:30PM

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & FIGURES

During the calendar year of 2010, the Historic Staunton River Foundation **raised $6,408.00**

This figure includes membership dues, donations, gift shop sales, and admission fees (when applicable).

The Foundation dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and development of the Staunton River Battlefield State Park **expended $5,849.36** during the 2010 calendar year. Expenses include the miscellaneous costs of hosting and operating the many events held at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park (advertising, supplies, props, etc.) and donations made directly to the Park by the Foundation.

$ 6,408.00 (deposits)
- $ 5,849.36 (expenses)
$ 558.64

Despite a rough economic year, the Foundation was able to operate fiscally sound and ended the 2010 year with **$558.64** in the black.

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

For 2010, the attendance numbers at the Staunton River Battlefield Park totaled to **30,039**.

The average attendance figure for the last five years totaled to 24, 677.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Friends, Members, Trustees, and Volunteers, of the Historic Staunton River Foundation logged approximately **2,079 volunteer** (combined) hours for 2010.

Based on the Virginia Officer of Volunteerism "volunteer value" of $19.72/hour, the volunteer efforts channeled through the Foundation contributed **$40,997.88** to the Staunton River Battlefield State Park; saving valuable tax payer's dollars and contributing to the betterment of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Federal Tax & Employer ID Number: 54-1742829
Commonwealth of Virginia Corporation ID Number: 0437467-4
Commonwealth of Virginia Tax ID Number: 001725399-9

End of 2010 Annual Report

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Developing, Promoting, and Preserving:

- *1864 Battlefield at Staunton River;*
- *the Staunton River Bridge;*
- *the Staunton River historical areas and environs;*
- *the Roanoke Station;*
- *Mulberry Hill Plantation, ancestral home of the Carrington family;*
- *44CH62, the Randy K. Wade Archaeological Site and any future discoveries; and*
- *the Sappony Indian Nation.*