



Staunton River Sentinel

Volume III, Issue IV

HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Winter/Spring 2010 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.

Friends of the Overseer's Quarters Group Formed

The Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce that Commonwealth Architects from Richmond, Virginia was contracted by the Staunton River Battlefield State Park and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to assemble an "architectural and engineering team to document, analyze, and propose rehabilitation recommendations for the Overseer's Quarters, an important component of" Mulberry Hill Plantation in Randolph, Virginia. The Overseer's Quarters, located directly behind the main house, is in great dilapidation and in dire need of repair. Nathaniel David Dickerson and wife, Nancy Green Moses, with their family, occupied the small structure between 1845 and 1850. It is the hope of the Historic Foundation to aid in the grant-writing process to help secure the monies needed to rehabilitate the structure. The Descendants of Nathaniel David Dickerson have also supported this project through a recent family reunion. Their upcoming family newsletter efforts to save the Overseer's Quarters.



Following their recent visit, representatives from Commonwealth Architects submitted a report with written recommendations and measured drawings; this assessment report will aid in the guidance of the work needed, as well as estimate the associated costs. The report is in two parts: Part I "includes existing conditions analysis for exterior and interior, and existing conditions architectural drawings for exterior and interior," and Part II "includes both general and specific recommendations for rehabilitation for exterior and interior, cost estimates by proposed repair, and a summary table of the cost estimates." The report further states, "overall, the building stands in fair condition. The quality and care of its initial construction has resulted in a building that has withstood years of use. Unfortunately, high levels of moisture and insect damage are severely impacting the building." Several standards from the Secretary of Interior will be enforced that will ensure that the property will "be used for its historic purpose...in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building," and the "historic character of the property shall be retained and preserved." Every effort will be made to ensure and maintain the building's historical, architectural, and cultural value.



Letter from the President



Dear Members & Friends of the Historic Staunton River Foundation,

Welcome to 2010! There are many new and exciting events taking place at Staunton River Battlefield State Park this year. Check out the calendar of events in this issue and reserve these dates to visit the park.

Congratulations on a job well done this past year by both park employees and volunteers who help make the park a success. All across Virginia, the number of people who are visiting state parks is increasing. A record number of 7,534,960 people attended in 2009. SRBSP had an attendance of 18,974. The reason for the increase is that state parks provide an economical way for families to spend time together. Volunteers are doing their part by giving of their time. Last year, 1392 hours were given to the park by volunteers. Across the state, more than 235,000 volunteer hours were reported.

The park and HSRF could not continue to bring you these special events without the support of you and the public. Please renew your membership and encourage family and friends to join. Every October, there is a dinner meeting for all foundation members and volunteers. Annual reports are given, and new trustees are welcomed.

You do not have to wait for a special event or special meeting to visit the park. 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

Hope to see you at the Park!

President

Are you willing to 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
info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org

2009 Attendance Numbers Staunton River Battlefield State Park:

Overnight Attendance: 0
Day Use Attendance: 18,974
Total Attendance: 18,974
Economic Impact: \$303,584

Local Park: Staunton River

Overnight Attendance: 21,199
Day Use Attendance: 175,932
Total Attendance: 197,131
Economic Impact: \$4,204,837

Statewide Totals:

Overnight Attendance: 932, 299
Day Use Attendance: 6,602,661
Total Attendance: 7,534,960
Economic Impact: \$175,565,001



Pictured are members of the **Board of Trustees** and **Foundation** Members: (front row, l-r) Ronald Epps, Helen Gregory, Patt Graves, Grace Elliott, Otis Martin, Shane Newcombe; (back row, l-r) Joey Bane, Ron Graves, Mary Butler, Cindy Nichols, Janet Johnson, Holly Owen, Jeanie Geoghegan, and Korey Snead. Not pictured are Darlene & Stanley Foster, John Butler, James "Junior" Caknipe, and Tom Ward.

Overseer's (continued from front cover)

The rehabilitation process is inclusive of every element of the building from the ground-up. The procedures listed in the report include the rehabilitation of the masonry (open mortar joints, spalls, flaking, scaling, crumbling, cracking, oxide jacking, and repair); the plaster (identification, patching, replacement, cracks, delaminated coats, missing plaster, and repair); the metal roofing (evidence indicates original roof of wood shingles; install a historically appropriate standing seam tern-coated metal roof similar to existing one, install gutters and downspouts); the wood (treatment of unpainted surface, removal of individual units, pretreatment and patching compound, component replacements removal of deteriorated paint, surface preparation, painting, and repair); the windows (replace glazing and repair); and the site (proper landscaping, drainage, and traffic sealant). Cost estimates are available for each location and recommendation, and each are given a priority level of 1 to 4 (1 for immediate attention, 2 for conditions that need to be addressed within a year, 3 for low priority that does not threaten the integrity of the building, and 4 for materials or features that require routine inspection and require action for many years). The assessment report estimates the project total at \$80,000. It is the hope that a grant can be obtained to secure these funds. However, a majority of grants require the applicant to hold a percentage (ranging from 10% to 20% percent) of the project total. In this scenario, the Foundation would need to have between \$8,000 and \$16,000 in matching funds in order to meet the requirements set forth in the grant application.

The Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc. stands behind the commitment in repairing the Overseer's Quarters. Just as Captain Benjamin Farinholt made an urgent plea to the citizens of the surrounding counties to defend the Staunton River Battlefield from the 1864 invaders, so too, does the Foundation make a plea to the public in financially supporting the rehabilitation of the Overseer's Quarters. As a 501(c) 3, tax-exempt organization, the Foundation will act as the "fiscal agent" for this project. An account has been set-up for the strict financial benefit for the "Friends of the Overseer's Quarters of Mulberry Hill Plantation."

Founded in 1995, the Historic Staunton River Foundation, Incorporated, a tax-exempt, private organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, was formed to act as the "citizen-support organization" for the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Its mission is to "promote, preserve, and develop the 1864 Battlefield at the Staunton River Bridge, the Staunton River Battlefield State Park, the Staunton River and its historical areas, the Wade Archaeological Site, and Mulberry Hill Plantation. The Foundation shall also collect artifacts and historical memorabilia for display and work to preserve the integrity of the Staunton River environs and archeological sites. The Foundation will provide historical, environmental, wildlife, and wetlands education, as well as assist in developing programs and events for the general public." The Foundation is governed by a seventeen member Board of Trustees and its at-large membership. Membership is available for \$15 and entitles the bearer to a 10% discount in the Clover Visitor Center Gift-shop; a subscription to The Sentinel, the Foundation's newsletter; and invitations to special lectures and events. More information about the Foundation, membership, the Staunton River Battlefield State Park, and an array of special events held at the Park can be found by accessing www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org.

Contributing to this worthy cause could not be simpler: see the accompanying "Donor Form" for the "Friends of the Overseer's Quarters of Mulberry Hill Plantation." Please make checks payable to Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc., and mail your donation to Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1, Randolph, Virginia 23962. Donations made during the year of 2009 have end-of-the-year tax benefits. Feel free to contact Jackie Grey, a Dickerson descendant at 434-542-5526 or email at jgray@pure.net or Shane Newcombe, Foundation Trustee, via phone at 434.603.1021 or email info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org for further information, questions, or concerns.



Interior (left) and exterior (right) views of the current-dilapidating state of the Overseer's Quarters at Mulberry Hill. A group, the Friends of the Overseer's Quarters, has been formed under the auspices of the Historic Staunton River Foundation, with the support of the Dickerson family descendants, and public supporters of this worthy cause.



Golf Cart Donated to Foundation

The Foundation has greatly needed a mobile and versatile personal-utility transport. The Park already is in possession of a bus, but something smaller, that is able to squeeze along the trails and scurry across the fields was needed. For several years, different Trustees and Foundation members would bring attention to small vehicles (either electric or gas powered) that would serve the mobile needs of the Foundation during different Park events and activities.



Finally, this past summer, Trustee Shane Newcombe discovered "Pappy's Golf Carts" in North Carolina (just over the State line). This golf cart shop was then brought to the attention of Trustee Kory R. Snead. Within a couple of weeks, Snead, with four volunteers in stead, headed to North Carolina with a trailer in pursuit and the Foundation purchased a Club Car golf cart. The Club Car, painted in a Harley-Davidson, blue-color scheme, can comfortably seat 3 people, while carrying a full load of miscellaneous items. The cart arrived at the cusp of the annual Haunted Harvest Hayride, where it was properly christened for a Foundation event!

That night, the cart was used to transport actors and volunteers all throughout the trail and fields to scare and entertain the visitors during the Haunted Hayride! In addition, it carried the load of supplies, props, and items needed to carryout the event. The next day it was used as a "clean-up vehicle," where its supported the weight and load of a mock coffin filled with haunts and spooky decorations. Several Foundation volunteers, members, and trustees commented, "we do not know what we did [before] without this little golf cart! At the November Board meeting, Mr. Snead announced his intentions of donating his half of the purchase price of the golf cart to the Foundation!

2009 Visitation Reaches Record High

(RICHMOND) Despite a struggling economy, Virginia State Parks set a new attendance record in 2009, with 7,534,960 visitors, a four percent increase over 2008. In 2008, more than 7.2 million people visited Virginia State Parks, down slightly from the previous record high of 7.4 million visitors in 2007. "Millions of people continue to look to Virginia State Parks as a vacation destination in these uncertain economic times," said Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks Director Joe Elton. "These past three years have seen the highest state park attendance in our 74 year history because people continue to see the value and



benefit of visiting our parks. Year after year, generation after generation, visitors return to our parks to camp, hike, swim, fish, bike, or simply relax in a cabin or family lodge." In 2009, 253,116 visitors stayed in a state park cabin or lodge, and another 646,506 visitors spent the night in a state park campground. While Virginia State Parks are a primary vacation destination for millions of people from around the country, state parks also are an economic stimulant to local economies. The estimated economic impact of Virginia State Parks last year was \$175 million. The estimated economic impact in 2008 was \$168 million, and in 2007, with the slightly higher attendance, the estimated economic impact was \$171 million. "The contribution of Virginia State Parks to state and local tourism is significant and can be especially important in the current economic climate," Elton stated. "Overnight guests in 26 of Virginia's 35 state parks contribute to local economies, as well as to the state economy. Last year, more than 899,000 people stayed in cabins, family lodges or campsites located across Virginia," he said. Continued on page 7.



2010 Calendar of Events



Spring:

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 27: Clover Visitors Center, 1-3:30P.M.; \$3/child

Children ages 10 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. Here comes Peter Cottontail and he has brought lots of goodies to share. Join us at Staunton River Battlefield State Park's Clover Visitor Center, as the Historic Staunton River Foundation, along with the park staff presents an Easter Egg Hunt. But that's not all; you will have the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny, pet live bunnies, participate in a wide-array of games and activities, and much more. So don't miss out on all the excitement. Bring your baskets and bring a friend. Registration will begin at 1P.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 your cameras. In event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday, March 28.

Summer:

Sappony Indian River Festival: Saturday, June 5, Clover Visitors Center

Enjoy a day on the Staunton River.....more information to follow. Check out our website!

Antebellum Fashion Show: TBA, Dress in your "hoop skirt" or uniform or just come on out and sit a spell to enjoy the promenade of Southern Belles and Gents in an Antebellum Fashion Show. More information to come! Check out our website often!

Dinner in honor of Longwood University Archaeology Field School & Dr. Bates: Thursday, June 3, Clover Visitors Center

Foundation members are invited to join in with a pot-luck dinner to thank the LU Archeology students under the skilled direction of Dr. Brian Bates for all of their hard work and research at the Randy K. Wade Archaeological Site.

Commemoration of the Battle: Friday, June 25: Clover Visitors Center, (Dusk); Free

Come out as the sun sets to enjoy a wagon ride through the low grounds alongside the hallowed grounds of the battlefield to enjoy the serene beauty and sounds of nature. At dusk, enjoy a cannon-firing demonstration in Fort Hill.

Commemoration of the Battle: Saturday, June 26: Clover Visitors Center, (9A.M.-Until); Free: A day-long event where we honor "old men and young boys" 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, United Daughters of the Confederacy medal presentation, interpretive programs, guest speakers, cannon-firing demonstrations, 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 historic Southside Virginia. Programs will begin at 9A.M. and there will be events throughout the day.

Fall:

Annual Meeting: Thursday, October 7: Clover Visitors Center, 6-9PM; Pot Luck Supper

Annual Dinner Meeting and Special Speaker/Lecture/Presentation. Want to know more? Become a member. Information will be mailed to members in early September.

Haunted Harvest Hayride: Saturday, October 16: Clover Visitors Center, 7:00-Until; \$5/person

Come and enjoy our 9th annual Haunted Hayride. "Spooky" fun intended for the whole family. Enjoy local ghost stories and legends while you are riding on a hayride through the battlefield and low grounds. Tour lasts approximately 90 minutes; it is a part walking and part riding ghost tour. After you register for the Haunted Harvest Hayride, enter "if you dare" our Haunted Trail with optical illusions, witches and specters at every dark corner, and many other "hair-raising" special effects! Please bring a flashlight and be ready to be spooked with our local myths, legends, and scary tales! \$5 per person, children 5 and under free. RSVP in advance! Call 434.454.4312.

Winter:

Christmas at Mulberry Hill: Sat. & Sunday – December 4 & 5, Randolph, 1-4PM; \$5/person

Come and enjoy an Antebellum period Christmas at Mulberry Hill Plantation, the ancestral home of the Carrington family. Enjoy touring the historic home and grounds, joining in with Confederate re-enactors in the historic boxwood gardens in campfire cooking and living history demonstrations. Light refreshments are served with the hopes of a visit from Ole St. Nick.



A Job Well Done !

Congratulations to all of our volunteers on a job well done. In 2009, 1392 volunteer hours were recorded for the Staunton River Bridge State Park. Tiffany Snow, Program Support Technician for the park, also reports that in 2008 we had 1,385 volunteer hours, but in 2007, we had 2,413. She says "I would like to beat the 2007 record in 2010. If we all work together and strive to meet this goal it would be great for the park." To recognize our faithful friends who support the park by giving of their time, they are listed below.



Gaston Rouse, the State Park Director of Volunteer Services, sent out an email in which he made the following statement: "The last three years has seen a 70 % increase in volunteer hours in State Parks. Total volunteer hrs for CY 09 was 235,546 Hrs, which translate to 4.8 Million dollars about 1/3 of Parks' operational budget. The hours also equates to 147 individuals working for Parks, about 1/4 of authorized personnel. To use a common phrase "You did good" and you are making a difference! By looking at these statistics, the contributions of our volunteers are vital to the operation of our park. Many of the activities being offered would not be possible without their help. If you would like to volunteer in 2010 for one of our upcoming events, contact the park at 434-454-4312.

Hazel Bayers
 Chuck Bolger
 Liz Bolger
 Christine Boutwell
 Charlene Breedlove
 Safford Breedlove
 Pam Bunn
 John Butler
 Kora Marie Butler
 Mary Butler
 James "Junior" Caknipe
 Jamie Caknipe
 Jessica Caknipe
 Hunter Cash
 John Comeford
 Dakota Conner
 Kade Conner
 Kyla Conner
 Lorrie Conner
 Steven Conner
 Travis Conner
 Tyler Conner
 Willis Conner
 Jimmy Cox
 Colby Cunningham
 Lynn Daniel
 April Edmonds
 MaKayla Edmonds
 Scott Edmonds
 Grace Elliott
 Jessica Elliott
 Jonathan Ervin

David Everett
 Darlene Foster
 Stanley Foster
 Colin Freistas
 Randolph Gillespie
 Patt Graves
 Ron Graves
 Jackie Gray
 Austin Harris
 Robin Hooper
 Alex Johnson
 Janet Johnson
 LeAnna Johnson
 Zelous Johnson
 Cecil Jones
 Morgan Jones
 Sherri Jones
 Mike Karnitz
 Julie Lewis
 Luke Ligon
 Amanda Martin
 Lawrence Martin
 Jim McDorman
 David Newcombe
 Jenny Lou Newcombe
 Shane Newcombe
 Cindy Nichols
 Glen Nichols
 Ralph Nichols
 "V" Nichols
 Vicky Nichols
 Holly Owen

Jared Owen
 Tim Owen
 Tyler Owen
 Alice Powell
 Douglas Powell
 Martie Roberts
 Keith Russell
 Walter Shepherd
 Liz Smith
 Korey Snead
 Ronnie Snead
 Sue Snead
 Mark Snow
 Tim Thorpe
 Ryan Throckmorton
 Janet Ward
 Tom Ward
 Lauren Wilmoth
 David Wilson,
 Mary Zandarini, and
 Nick Zandarini

Special thank you to:
 Otis Martin
 For providing goods and services
 at some of our events in 2009 &
 those helping him:
 Ronald Epps
 Ronald Hazel
 Shirley Martin Hazel
 Johnny Martin
 Linda Martin

Top 10 Reasons to Support our Park

1. Visit at least 1 new park in 1010 and spend more time in State Parks.
2. Join the Virginia Association for Parks (www.virginiaparks.org); associate membership is free!
3. Visit www.virginiaoutdoors.com
4. Get 5 friends or family members to sign up for the Virginia State Parks eNewsletter at <http://bit.ly/vspenews>. Visit our blog at <http://blog.virginiaparks.org>. Look us up on www.facebook.com/virginiastateparks, or follow us on Twitter @vastateparks and @virginiaparks.
5. Write Congressman Periello and Senators Webb & Warner and thank them for supporting full funding of the Land & Water Conservation Fund state side grant program that has helped fund local & state park projects in every congressional district.
6. Write State Delegate Edmunds & State Senator Ruff to let them know you appreciate their support for state parks
7. Meet & greet other park visitors! Greet them with a smile!
8. Thank our staff & volunteers for doing so much with so little
9. Help promote conservation and practice it daily
10. Volunteer, Volunteer, and Volunteer !

Record Numbers (continued from 4)

"In addition to the park accommodation fees paid to the state, most of those visitors bought food or ice nearby, visited local attractions or restaurants, and filled up the gas tank before driving home. Because our parks are primarily in rural areas, the economic impact is especially important in rural counties throughout Virginia, including Southside, Shenandoah Valley, central Virginia and the Eastern Shore," Elton said. "Virginia's urban areas, such as Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia and Richmond, also benefit from visitors to our parks in those areas. The increase in attendance is an indication that state parks remain an affordable and attractive choice for visits, vacations and relaxing recreational opportunities. Last year, Virginia State Parks won nearly 90 awards from private and public groups, and the record high attendance is just one more indicator that our state parks are among the best in the nation," Elton said.

Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and offer dozens of festivals and concerts and thousands of educational programs across the state.

"Virginia State Parks allow the people of Virginia the opportunity to protect our natural resources and cultural treasures, while providing affordable and unique recreational opportunities," Elton said. "We help connect children and families to nature, great outdoor recreation opportunities and a healthy lifestyle. In addition to a new attendance record, 2009 also brought a record number of volunteers. More than 235,000 hours of service were given by citizens helping park staff. Some help collect fees, some give nature and history programs, others help with maintenance projects," said Elton.

There are opportunities for anyone to have fun while helping make our state park system even better. For more information about state park activities and amenities, or to make reservations in one of the 25 parks with camping facilities or 18 parks with cabins or family lodges, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.



Current & Upcoming Events

Many Summer Events & Activities!

Call for details.....

Commemoration—Fri., June 25, dusk, cannon firing; and Sat., June 26; 9AM-til; Free; Visitors Center, Fort Hill, etc
Commemoration —Fri., June 25, dusk, cannon firing; and Sat., June 26; 9AM-til; Free; Visitors Center, Fort Hill, etc.

Haunted Harvest Hayride— Sat., Oct. 16; 7PM-until, VC

Many other events like nature walks, bird watching, river runs, and other interpretive programs will be offered through the coming months. Call the Park for details.

Be sure to check us out on the web, with our re-designed and up-to-date website at: www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org.

Don't forget to renew your membership. Foundation membership runs the calendar year. Dues are just \$15 with so many benefits included!

The Clover Visitor Center is open Monday thru Saturday from 9:00 AM til 4:30 PM., and on Sundays from 1:00-4:30 PM. Hours for Mulberry Hill and Roanoke Depot can be arranged by calling the Park Office.

Be sure to mark your calendar with these important dates! Check our website for more upcoming and exciting events!

Call the park for exact program details and times.

Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

Post Office Box 1
Randolph, Virginia 23962



Check out our website:
www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org



Have you remembered to renew your membership?

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 for \$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 10% discount in the gift shop.

Miss/Mr./Mrs./ _____

Address: _____

City

State

Zip code

() _____

Phone

_____ E-Mail

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

Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1

Randolph, Virginia 23962

Staunton River Battlefield's Web Address:

www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org

E-mail Address: info@stauntonriverbattlefield.org