



Staunton River Sentinel

Volume V, Issue I

HISTORIC STAUNTON RIVER FOUNDATION

Winter/Spring 2014 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.

Answer the Plea... Battle of Staunton River Bridge 2014

The Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park in January of 2013 created a Steering Committee to help organize, plan, and oversee the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge on June 21-22, 2014. Since that time, the Committee has worked hard at publicizing the event, updating the website, and spreading the word about the Commemoration to mark the 150th Anniversary of this little known, but extremely important Battle.

The Committee is expecting at least 600-800 reenactors, several dozen vendors and sutlers and spectators in the thousands to mark this milestone!

Expenses for the event are expected to be near \$10-12,000 and earlier in 2013 an urgent plea went out for donors, friends, members, and business to donate to the cause. More than half of that money has been raised to date, but a lot more work still must be done. **Donations are still needed and volunteers in the dozens and dozens are needed** to man and help put on this event. If you are interested in donating or helping as a volunteer, please reach out to the Park Office at 434-454-4312 or email info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org. Donations can also be made online via the Foundation's PayPal account. Everyone hopes that this reenactment and Commemoration event will be an economic boom to Southside Virginia, particularly for the counties of Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg, and the Town of Randolph and South Boston. Just as Captain Benjamin L. Farinholt sent out an urgent plea in June of 1864, so too does the Foundation and the Steering Committee send out an urgent plea for donations, volunteers, and reenactors to participate in this big event!

The 150th Commemoration will take place on Saturday June 21 and Sunday June 22, 2014 almost 150 years to the date that the infamous 492 "Old Men & Young Boys" from Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg Counties answered the plea to defend their "hearth and home" against overwhelming odds with an advancing Union cavalry force of 5,000. The Commemoration will include "tactical demonstrations, living history exhibitions, period music, cannon firing demonstrations, tours of the Battlefield and historic Mulberry Hill Plantation, and much more! Activities are extensively planned for both Saturday and Sunday (a tentative schedule of events is included in this newsletter). So **ANSWER THE PLEA** and **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for a **DAY TO REMEMBER!**

**The Battle of
STAUNTON RIVER BRIDGE**
June 21-22, 2014
150th Anniversary

managed by the Virginia Department of
Conservation & Recreation

www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org

Letter from the President



Dear Members & Friends of the Historic Staunton River Foundation,

Welcome to 2014. It is going to be an exciting and special year for the Foundation. We have been preparing for almost two years for the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge that will take place on June 21-22, 2014. More information can be found in this newsletter, and details of upcoming events are located on the Foundation's website.

Are you or do you know someone that is a descendant of a soldier or one of the "old men and young boys" that participated in the 1864 Battle of Staunton River Bridge? As one of its goals for 2014, the Foundation is gathering information to create a database of the participants. The Foundation would like to recognize as many people as possible at the June commemoration. If you are a descendant, please email us at info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org and give your contact information as well as your ancestor's name and pertinent information.

Even though, much of the Foundation's time and energy have gone into the preparation for June, other events for the year have been planned. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place this spring at the park, the Annual Meeting will be held in September, and the Mulberry Hill Christmas Open House will be in December. To make these events successful, volunteers are needed. Please volunteer!

Good News! The Foundation is growing. We have been given a gift of land and a building in Randolph. Over the past several years, documents and other artifacts have been also been donated. It is one of our goals to restore this building so that they will have a permanent place. Read more about it in this newsletter. **Please remember to renew your membership for 2014 as well as encourage your 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.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org.

Hope to see you at the Park!

Janet E. Johnson

President

Volunteer

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info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.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 2014 Officers:

Pres. Janet Johnson Vice Pres. Shane Newcombe
Secretary Grace Elliott Treasurer Cindy Nichols



The Foundation's Southern Railway Push Cart was beautifully restored by David W. Newcombe of Scuffletown. Stop by Downtown Randolph to take a look at this piece of unique railroad memorabilia!



Schedule of Events



Battle of Staunton River Bridge 2014

June 19 – Thursday	Check-in – 12:00 noon to 10:00 pm Reenactors, Sutlers, Vendors
June 20 – Friday	Check-in – 9:00 am to 12:00 midnight Reenactors, Sutlers, Vendors <u>Park opens to spectators – 9:00 am</u> Reenactors must carry their provost pass at all time. Park closes to spectators – Dusk
June 21 – Saturday	Reveille – 7:00 am Check-in – 7:00 am to 10:00 am Reenactors, Sutlers, Vendors <u>• Park opens to spectators – 8:00 am</u> <u>• Camps open to spectators – 9:00 am</u> <u>• Military Service Awards presented by the United Daughters of the Confederacy Halifax Chapter 1321 – 9:00 am to 9:30 am</u> <u>• Recognition of the Soldiers, Old Men, and Young Boys of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge – 9:30 am</u> Wreath Laying at Fort Hill Photograph of the Descendants of the Soldiers, Old Men, and Young Boys <u>• Tour of Mulberry Hill – 12:00 noon</u> Hosted by the H. A. Carrington and Halifax Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Union Communication Signal Corps <u>• Living History (throughout the day)</u> <u>• Tactical Demonstration – 2:00 pm</u> Arrival of Colonel Henry E. Coleman <u>• Battle of Staunton River Bridge (scripted) – 3:20 pm</u> Selden Richardson to give initial command Great-great grandson of Captain Benjamin L. Farinholt Pass and Review <u>Camps close to spectators – 5:30 pm</u> <u>• Civil War Music – 8:00 pm</u> <u>• Night Cannon Demonstration – 9:00 pm</u> <u>• Park closes to spectators – 10:00 pm</u> Taps – 11:00 pm, all quiet
June 22 – Sunday	<u>• Park opens to spectators – 8:00 am</u> Camps open to spectators – 9:00 am <u>• Living History (throughout the day)</u> Church Service – 9:00 am, Spectators are welcomed to attend Camps close to spectators – 12:00 noon <u>• Battle of Staunton River Bridge (scripted) – 1:00 pm</u> Final Pass and Review Park closes to spectators – Dusk



Stew Raises Funds for Commemoration



The Historic Staunton River Foundation was thankful to the members of the Mt. Laurel Ruritan Club for cooking a stew to help raise funds for the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge! The Stew took place on Saturday, September 28 at the Mt. Laurel Ruritan Club House and many members of the Foundation were in attendance to help prepare, stir, package, sell, and deliver the delicious stew. All of the monies raised from the selling of the stew quarts will go to the special fund established for financing the upcoming Commemoration! Plans are underway for another stew in the Fall of 2014!



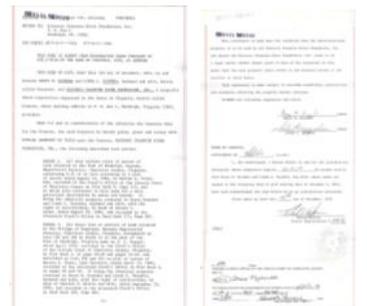
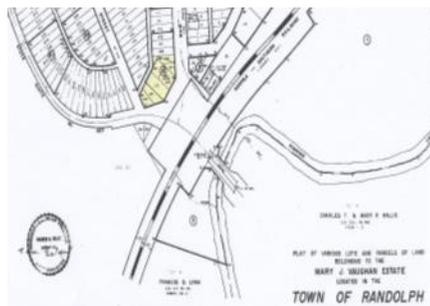
(L-R) Holly Owen prepares quarts, Janet Johnson answers questions and reviews orders, and Mt. Laurel Ruritans prepare stew.



Land Donation with Bright Future



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the recent donation of several parcels of land in downtown Randolph through the generosity of "Bo" and Linda Dzyndra, and their daughter Nadia Dzyndra DeMuth. Lots 100-105 complete with the "old post office" and "old general merchandise store" were deeded over to the Foundation on December 3. It is the hope of the Dzyndra family and the Foundation to completely restore this historic building back to its former glory! The building has not been used in several decades; however, once the Dzyndras acquired the properties in 1995 they worked effortlessly in remodeling and stabilizing the structure. Sadly, several hurricanes slowed the process and the elements of Mother Nature have begun to reclaim some pieces of this historical and vital piece of Charlotte County history. Several visions for the rehabilitated structures would be a permanent office space for the Foundation, a permanent archive for all records pertaining to the Battle and Descendants of the Battle, a small museum and gift shop in a period setting. Ideally, it would be imperiously effective if a section of this property can be opened during the upcoming 150th Commemoration (reenactment) in June! **If you are interested in helping the Foundation restore this historic structure, would like to donate materials (wood, plywood, paint, brushes, furniture, desks, filing cabinets, etc.), would like to help work the cleanup day to be scheduled on a Saturday in January and February (weather permitting), or would like to donate money to the cause,** please contact Shane Newcombe at 434-603-1021, (tax deductible donations) can be made online at our website via *PayPal*, or checks can be mailed. Pictured following the signing of the Deed of Gift are (left to right) **Nadia DeMuth, Linda and "Bo" Dzyndra, Janet Johnson, President, and J. Shane Newcombe, Vice-President,** with the recently donated property in the background.





Fall 2013 Annual Meeting



This past September 7th marked another Annual Meeting for the Foundation. This year the Foundation was pleased to host **Chief Otis Martin** of the Sappony Indian Nation as the guest speaker. He provided an insightful presentation about the rich history and heritage of the Sappony Indians, the High Plains School and Community, and demonstrated the traditional regalia, tools, and weapons used by his ancestors. He also gave an in-depth history of the infamous Fort Christiana and the ongoing efforts of Dr. Brian Bates and the Longwood University's Archaeological Field School study and dig at the park that continues to uncover relics,

historical artifacts, and mysteries of the past 3,500 years! The presentation was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance. Prior to his informative presentation, the Foundation's Annual Meeting began with a delicious pot luck supper and approximately 50 people were in attendance. Following the social, supper, and presentation, several brief reports about the Foundation were given and **Park Manager Jim Zonarini** gave the audience some vital information about the current status of the park and the upcoming efforts surrounding the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge in June 2014.

During the Meeting, (pictured bottom row 1-r) **Ron Graves** was elected to server another 3-year term on the Board; Foundation **President Janet Johnson** was presented a "Thank You" Medal by **Park Manager Jim Zonarini** and **Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Hatcher**; and Foundation **Vice-President Shane Newcombe** was presented with a "Volunteer Award" for the Most Overall Hours. The Annual Meeting was noted as another success and all look forward to 2014!



Sappony Chief Otis Martin in full regalia.



Don't miss
**The Battle of
 Staunton River Bridge**



Saturday & Sunday, June 21-22, 2014

Staunton River Battlefield State Park, Randolph, Virginia

www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org • Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Save the date and bring a friend!

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

• **MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE !! PLEASE RENEW, INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN AND DONATE** •

Battle Billboard Goes Up...



Shortly after Christmas, Shane Newcombe, Vice-President of the Foundation and CEO of Accessories Abroad, a furniture and home accessory wholesaler sponsored a billboard for the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. The billboard is located on Hwy. 58 near Boston Lumber company and is located in a prime location and is highly visible as travelers go to and from Danville, South Boston, Clarksville, Roxboro, and nearby cities, towns, and other areas of destinations. Pictured is a photo of the billboard and President Johnson and Vice-President Newcombe.



Current & Upcoming Events

Many Summer Events & Activities!

Call 434.454.4312 for details.....

Please see the

2014 Calendar of Upcoming Events

on our website:

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 and become a member !

June 21-22 (Saturday & Sunday) - 150th Commemoration of the Battle (all day events planned) !

Saturday, 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.

Visit our website for photos, updates, and more!

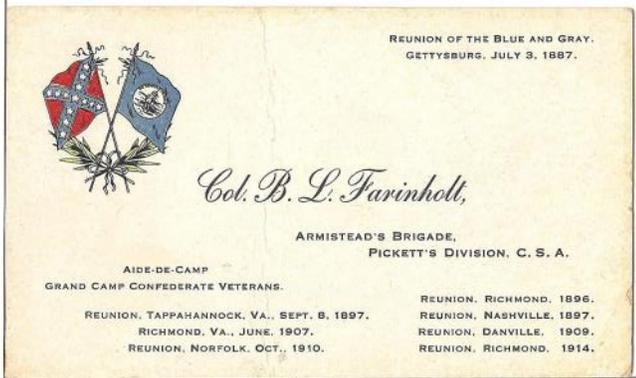
www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org/150th

Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.

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Facebook.com/
historicstauntonriverfoundation



Calling card of Col. (Capt.) Benjamin L. Farinholt, Commander of the Confederate Forces during the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.



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 payment for my **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. Please look on the reverse of this page for the Giving Levels

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.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF A SOLDIER??

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