

# News From Red Hill

PUBLISHED BY THE PATRICK HENRY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION — BROOKNEAL, VA



*P. Henry*  
**RED HILL**  
PATRICK HENRY  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL



## MERRIMENT AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

This year Red Hill successfully continued its long running holiday tradition of hosting a Christmas Open House. This past year's event was held on Sunday December 2nd with 275 people in attendance. Like every year on the first Sunday of December, the doors of Red Hill were opened to invite neighbors and visitors in for an afternoon of mulled cider, homemade cookies, complimentary *(continued on page 2)*

## In This Issue...

Cruet Set  
Page 3

What Would  
Henry Say?  
Page 4

Visitation Season  
Kicks Off  
Page 5

Master Gardeners  
Page 5

Recollections of  
Red Hill  
Page 6

## RED HILL ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

Red Hill is excited to announce its 2013 Annual Calendar of Events! These Annual Events are the major highlights in the year and represent the handful of days that account for many of the visitations we receive. In announcing the dates of each of these events, Red Hill looks forward to welcoming in the crowds that will be joining us; we hope that both old and new visitors will start planning their trip to Red Hill to be here for one of these special days. We want to see 2013's crowds surpass even last year's record-breaking numbers!

Over the past two years attendance at these particular

events has increased immensely. In 2011 we were joined at the annual Naturalization Ceremony by 204 people, which went up to 337 in 2012. Attendance for the Independence Day Celebration jumped from 1,593 guests in 2011 to 2,070 in 2012. Our Bluegrass, Barbecue, and Brew Festival also increased significantly from 476 attendees in 2011 to 715 in 2012. We anticipate that this year that trend of momentum will continue and bring even more guests through our gates on these high-attendance days in particular.

Red Hill is especially excited to see numbers increasing for events like *(continued on page 2)*



## MERRIMENT AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE (CONT.)

*Continued from page 1*

admission, and Christmas cheer. The event served as a kick-off to the holiday season, and the house and grounds were festively decorated by the Red Hill Garden Club. Volunteers and staff at Red Hill strived to welcome in visitors as guests, much as Patrick Henry and his family would have welcomed neighbors and friends into their home during the Christmas season.

Returning visitors and new faces alike were received warmly by the sincere and hospitable staff for this event. It is not unusual for this afternoon that Red Hill sees many familiar faces, for whom the Christmas Open House becomes a yearly tradition. While families in other parts of the country might go looking at Christmas lights or attend Christmas pageants, Red Hill's neighbors in the nearby towns surrounding the plantation look forward to the 18th century hospitality, warmth, and cheer offered by the Open House as the official beginning of their Christmas season. This year on the lawn children were invited to make Christmas ornaments—stamped clay or clove oranges—that they could take home as a souvenir.



The afternoon wasn't only beautiful and educational, but delicious as well. In the kitchen volunteers from the Patrick Henry Auxiliary heated and served hot mulled cider and home-baked cookies for all the guests. On the lawn, the Charlotte Lions Club returned for the third year in a row to serve a savory Brunswick stew—perfect for warming the insides on a crisp December day. The event often includes live music, and this year guests enjoyed their cider, cookies, and stew while being serenaded by a cheery group of carolers who strolled around the grounds.


The event has a long tradition at Red Hill, begun in 1987 by the Auxiliary the same year they were founded. Guests were served refreshments, while being serenaded on Henry's violin. Since then, the celebration has evolved (*continued on page 4*)

*“Look to the 18th century hospitality, warmth, and cheer...”*

## RED HILL ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CALENDAR (CONT.)

*Continued from page 1*

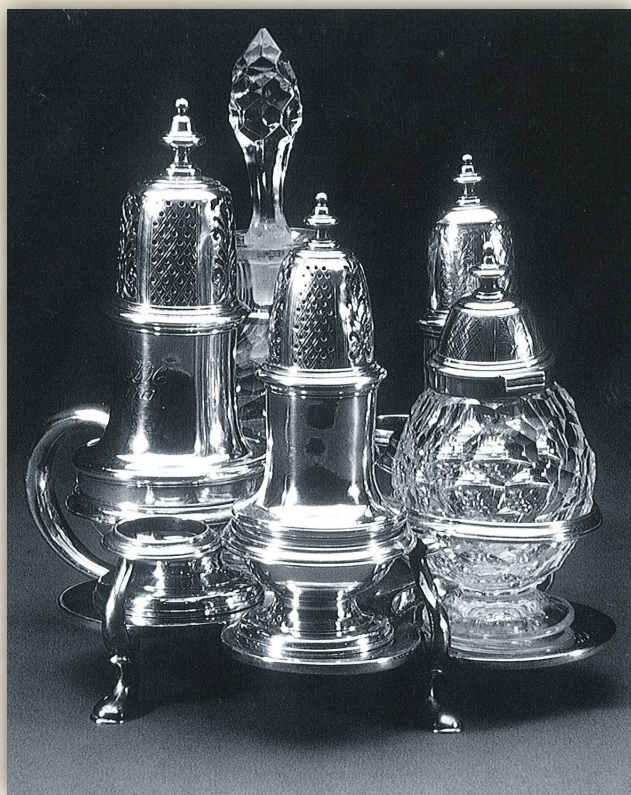
these, because it is on these large-crowd days and holidays that we are most likely to see visitors who are in fact new to Red Hill, and sometimes new to discovering Patrick Henry. While we love the history buffs and students who visit us on a daily basis, it is exciting to introduce new friends to our favorite Patriot. Whether visitors come to Red

Hill for a thrilling Easter Egg Hunt, a moving Naturalization Ceremony, an exceptional fireworks display at our Independence Day Celebration, a relaxing Tastings on the Terrace, or for their love of bluegrass music, barbecue and craft brew, we want them to leave with a newfound knowledge of Patrick Henry, their historical host. 





# From the Red Hill Collection



*Patrick Henry's silver cruet set is on display in the E. Stuart James Grant Museum.*

## SILVER CRUET SET

### Henry Monogrammed, 1777

In honor of Patrick Henry's hospitality, we turn in this issue to one of the items which would have graced his dining table and been enjoyed by guests of the family. This cruet set was made by the London silversmith Thomas Rush somewhere around 1733. Each of the silver casters is stamped with Henry's monogram and the year 1777, which was the year he married his second wife, Dorothea Dandridge. Other pieces in the dining collection carry this same monogram and date, including the silver salt servers, and were possibly acquired together for the wedding, or acquired separately and monogrammed to commemorate it. The set consists of a five-lobed stand with baroque C-scroll feet and handle, holding in all three silver casters and two faceted glass jars. In Henry's day these jars would have held condiments such as vinegar, mustard, pepper, and other strong spices. Early-American dinner guests were used to using heavy seasoning, sometimes to mask the flavor of the meat turning. On an 18th century table a cruet set was a sign of wealth and taste, the more ornate it was the better it reflected on the host's affluence. This beautiful piece would have been an asset to Dorothea and Henry's table as a marker of their high social status.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
MARCH 30	10:00AM-12:00PM	EASTER EGG HUNT
MAY 3	11:00AM-1:00PM	NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
JUNE 1	12:00PM-5:00PM	TASTINGS ON THE TERRACE
JULY 4	3:00PM-9:00PM	INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (FIREWORKS AT DUSK!)
OCTOBER 5	12:00PM-5:00PM	TASTINGS ON THE TERRACE
NOVEMBER 2	11:00AM-5:00PM	3RD ANNUAL BLUEGRASS, BARBECUE, AND BREW FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 1	2:00PM-4:00PM	CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO DECEMBER 8TH)



## MERRIMENT AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE (CONT.)

*Continued from page 2*

and expanded to include tours of the buildings. Activities have been added for children, as well. Costumed docents are available to interpret life at Red Hill as visitors make their way through the plantation. In the slave cabin guests might find costumed

volunteers giving a demonstration of spinning and weaving, processing flax to linen, colonial medicine, pottery making by the carriage house, or hearthside activity in the Henry kitchen, while a blacksmith practices his trade in the blacksmith's shop.

Visitors were delighted to purchase handmade boxwood wreaths and kissing balls made by the Auxiliary. This coming year Red Hill staff and volunteers look forward to inviting friends to be a part of the merriment on Sunday December 1st, 2013! 

“Henry was a good-humored and welcoming host.”

## What Would Henry Say? ~~Do?~~

about hospitality

On the topic of hospitality, we can learn a great deal from Patrick Henry. These lessons, however, come from his daily practices and the way he ran his household rather than any speech or statement he made on the subject. Sometimes, actions do speak louder than words. We know, from stories told by the recipients of his generosity, that Henry was a good-humored and welcoming host. Henry believed deeply in the importance of friends and good company, and while he spent his afternoons in his study, his mornings were reserved for receiving and enjoying the many visitors who came to greet him.


Henry was, in his later years at Red Hill, often engaged in a generous and cordial hospitality which he extended to the crowds of people who showed up at the house each day. According to Edward W. Johnson, who in 1856 collected descriptions and anecdotes about Henry's home life, “those who lived near often

came to breakfast, where all were welcomed and made full... Meanwhile, the master saw and welcomed all with the kindest attention, asked of their household, listened to their affairs, gave them his view, contented all.” The flow of visitors rarely stopped before lunch, and that meal often saw a party of twenty to thirty people gathered around the table to eat together. The meal was not lavish, mostly made up of produce from the Red Hill grounds themselves, but there was always ample food to go around. The meal was seasoned with the witty conversation of their host, “which at table always grew gay and even gamesome.”

Henry was an important and venerated man following his role in the Revolution and formation of the United States. Certainly he could have found plenty of work to occupy his time—law, politics, and much else. But rather than be consumed by his work and leadership, Henry intentionally made time and space for the enjoyment of friends and family.

His attitude toward hospitality is based



in simplicity—friends were always welcome and always left well-satisfied in their appetite for food and conversation. Having campaigned for a freedom to pursue happiness, Henry made sure every day to slow down and enjoy the things that made him happy: good food and good company. For us, living in the product of his, and the other founders of our country's, struggles, we can take Henry as a model and remember to always make room in our lives for home, friends, and good cheer. 

*Edward Johnson's account can be found in Homes of American Statesmen – with Anecdotal[sic], Personal, and Descriptive Sketches.*

*“What Would Henry Say?” will present how Patrick Henry actually addressed a question of his day, so that the reader can consider how Henry's principles might inform today's debates. In this issue, we find Henry is silent in words but can surmise his thoughts from his actions.*



# MASTER GARDENERS PREPARE FOR SPRING

This year, beginning in March, the Master Gardeners will prepare the grounds for spring, getting ready to plant for the upcoming year. They'll discuss how they can better display the plants they already have, and also bring the result of research done in the last few months on plants they would

like to add to their demonstration plot for the first time. The group strives constantly to add to the variety by visiting historical sites and combing through texts to identify 18th century plant life that would be a good addition to the demonstration plot. They will also make sure to update the signage for the garden so that visitors

can identify which plants are which in this year's garden, and learn the significance of each.

Red Hill is fortunate to have a dedicated troupe of Master Gardeners who work with enthusiasm to keep the gardens here at the plantation well-kept and beautiful. In order to *Continued on page 10*



## RED HILL GEARS UP FOR COMING VISITATION SEASON

Last year Red Hill saw record-breaking numbers of visitors, so this year's visitation season is kicking off with plans for all the great things visitors can see and do at Patrick Henry's historic house and grounds. While thousands of visitors flock to Red Hill each year for the highlighted annual events, it is the day to day visitations each year that are the life-blood of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation's mission: to educate the public about the great orator, and inviting them to come and see where he lived and worked. Guests who come to Red Hill on any given day will be greeted first by the sight of the exquisite grounds. The view from the house out over the river valley is pristine and untouched, making it very close to the same vista that Henry would have beheld in the 18th century. The second greeting guests receive is from the friendly Red Hill staff, who delights in making visitors feel welcomed.



Staff members are always enthusiastic about sharing the story of Henry before visitors turn their attention to a tour around the plantation. While everyone starts at the Visitor Center watching an introductory video, exploring the Red Hill Museum housing the world's largest collection of Patrick Henry artifacts and memorabilia, and receiving a personalized orientation to Red Hill, from there everyone is

welcome to explore at their own pace during their self-guided tour the place where Henry lived and worked. With the house and grave, law office and slave cabin, gardens and trails, there is something for everyone to learn and see and do.

Do you want to know more about Henry as a politician? As a family man? As an attorney? Tour guides tailor their tour to what most interests their group, *(continued on page 10)*



# Recollections of Red Hill

By "Miss Ella" Miller

**E**lvira "Miss Ella" Henry Miller, one of Patrick Henry's seventy-seven grandchildren, was the oldest child of William Miller (1824-1923) and Margaret Ann Henry Miller (1827-1881). Margaret Ann Henry Miller was the daughter of John Henry (1796-1868), the youngest son of Patrick Henry, who inherited the western portion of Red Hill on which the Patrick Henry National Memorial now stands, and Elvira McClelland Henry (1808-1873). Elvira Henry Miller, known by all in her later years as "Miss Ella" was, of course, named for her grandmother.

Following the custom of a mother-to-be returning home to have her first child, Margaret Ann Henry Miller gave birth to Miss Ella at Red Hill on the ninth of October, 1850. Thus, Miss Ella was presumably brought into the world under the supervision of her namesake. She was educated in private schools (there being no public schools in ante bellum Virginia) and attended Hollins Institute, founded in 1842, which later became Hollins College and, in 1999, Hollins University.

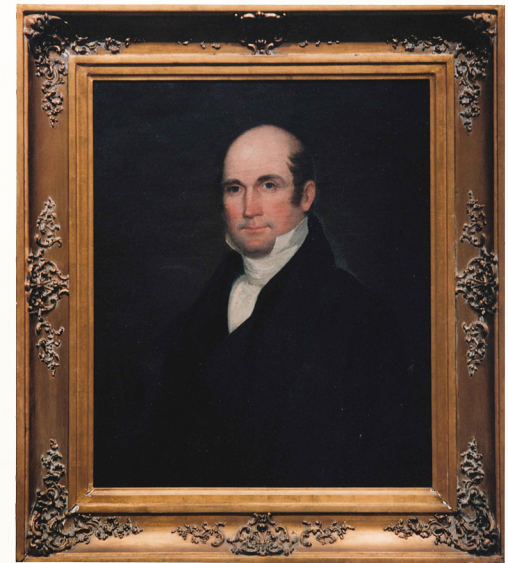
Miss Ella never married. After the death of her mother, she chose to remain at home with her father to assist in the rearing of her five younger siblings and to oversee the management of a large family household. Following the death of her father at age 99, she continued in her capacity of homemaker for her two bachelor brothers. Together they extended year-around hospitality to their visiting brothers and sister and to a myriad of nieces and nephews who came to visit from all over the South. Miss Ella survived all of her siblings, and continued to maintain the family home. During her last years, she was assisted by her niece Susan H. Dabney, who made her home with her aunt until Miss Ella's death in 1955 at the age of 104 years.

As a founding member of the Lynchburg Chapter of the Colonial Dames in Virginia and co-organizer of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Daughters of the Revolution, Miss Ella Miller was keenly aware of her heritage. Her "Recollections of Red Hill," were written in 1946 at the request of her niece, Margaret Henry Dabney Penick (Mrs. S. Barksdale Penick) of Montclair, New Jersey, who was compiling records of her young life in Virginia.

It should be kept in mind that when her Grandpa, John Henry, died, Miss Ella was almost eighteen years old, and when her Grandma, Elvira McClelland Henry, died, Miss Ella was almost twenty-three. The clear firm handwriting of her manuscript gives no indication whatsoever that the author of these recollections was ninety five.



(Top) Miss Ella's grandmother and namesake, Elvira McClelland Henry, holding Miss Ella's aunt, Emma Henry (Ferguson).



(Above) Miss Ella's grandfather, John Henry, youngest son of Patrick Henry

Portraits by George Cooke, ca. 1832





*Margaret Ann Henry Miller gave birth to "Miss Ella" at Red Hill in 1850.*

Grandma Henry [Elvira McClelland Henry] was lovely, both in person and character, about medium height - and just a little fat. Her eyes were brown and her skin soft and white, without any wrinkles. Of course her hair was gray when I knew her; it curled naturally, and she wore it just as in her portraits, a little bunch of curls pinned up over her ears. She wore fancy caps, made of black net and ribbon for every day, but changed to white ones for visitors and special occasions. She always dressed in black, with a black silk fringed scarf around her neck, looped over, under her chin, for she had a small goiter and this way it was not very noticeable. I never saw her do any work but crochet - there was no need, with ten or twelve servants connected with the house and grounds and under her management.

Every morning after breakfast, Grandma sat by the open dining room window and different ones would come for the day's orders or to make their report. As far as I knew things ran very smoothly on the place. There was a large green house on one side towards the river, two of the chamber windows looked into it. This must have been beautiful in winter to look in on orange and lemon trees and other tropical plants in full bloom. I was always there in

summer. Then the plants were rolled out and placed in suitable spots about the yard, thereby adding fragrances, as well as beauty, to the surroundings. These plants were quite large trees in large tubs and were moved on rollers. I especially remember the cape jasmines, covered with lovely fragrant white blossoms.

Many dozens oranges and lemons were gathered from the trees in their season, to be used by the family in various ways. No doubt you recall Grandma's recipe for orange preserves (written in her own handwriting, which began "gather your oranges from your greenhouse") - also her recipe for eggbread that amused us, "break your eggs in a yellow bowl." Anyway, the result was satisfactory.

It was the custom at Red Hill to have "handed supper" in the summer on the porch. Simeon [the butler] would first bring out the "nest" of little mahogany tables, putting one before each of us, then would return with a large silver tray on which were pieces of thin buttered bread and paper-thin wafers (these latter made fresh each day), a light relish jam, tea, and milk. It was said this custom was used to prevent Grandpa from indulging in a heavy meal at night - a thing he was inclined to do. Be that as it may, nothing could be more pleasant than being served in this way in the early twilight beside the box hedges and beneath the shadow of the overhanging holly tree.

I don't know what college Grandpa attended [Hampden-Sydney College], but he was highly educated and said to have been a fine conversationalist. Many distinguished people visited him at Red Hill from time to time, among them William Wirt, who was a personal friend after whom he named his first son. Grandpa was medium height, rather stout, practically bald, and had piercing blue eyes. He wore gray linen suits, his hat a broad brim Panama, and always had a large silk bandanna handkerchief in his jacket. When warm, he would take it out, wipe his bald head, and spread it out on his knees.



*Red Hill as it appeared in the days when Miss Ella was growing up.*

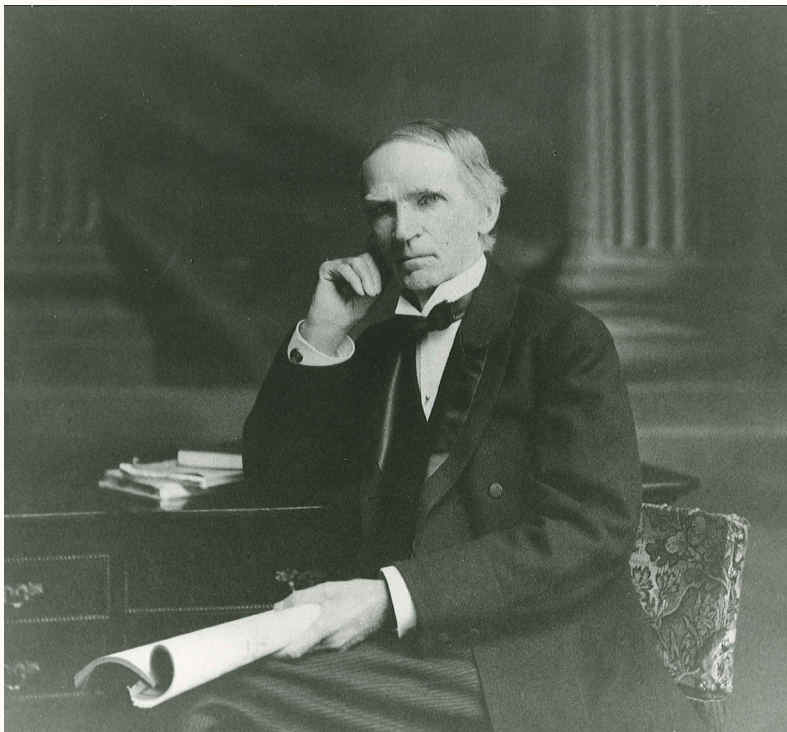


Every morning with his open umbrella, Grandpa took a walk, sometimes to the low-grounds where the overseer and “hands” were at work, then again in the opposite direction to the blacksmith shop situated under a wide spreading oak tree, a favorite gathering place for nearby acquaintances, where no doubt the news of the neighborhood was passed around. Returning warm and tired, he would stretch out on the bed with his pet cat by his side, stroking and fondling it, while talking to Grandma sitting nearby. The cat was the only animal allowed in the house, for Grandma always said the place for dogs was outdoors. Like all the Henrys, he was very fond of cats, especially this one.

One day Robert Taylor [Miss Ella’s first cousin] mistreated his pet and Simeon told on him, so the culprit was called up before the indignant old gentleman. “I understand, young man, you slung my cat around by his tail. If ever I hear of you doing such a thing again, I will give you my stick, “flourishing his gold head cane before the eyes of the frightened boy. I am quite sure that cat was never again so exercised!

Grandpa was very devoted to Grandma, and she had great influence over him. He always called her “My Dear” – he was a lover all the days of his life! I remember one day Grandma sitting in her rocking chair crocheting. I sat close beside her on the crimson-covered couch, watching her pretty white hands as her needle flashed in and out on the “squirrel” tidy she was working on. Grandpa had gotten up and gone into the nursery. He called, “My Dear, come here.” Laying aside her work, she went to him, staying but a very short while. On resuming her seat, I said, “What did he want, Grandma?” She looked down at me and laughingly said, “Just

wanted to kiss me!” Grandpa took very little notice of his grandchildren, and we took no liberties with him.



*Miss Ella described her uncle William Wirt Henry as  
“the most distinguished member of the family.”*

Uncle Wirt [William Wirt Henry (1831-1900), Patrick Henry’s grandson, who inherited Red Hill from his parents, John and Elvira Henry and wrote the three volume Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence and Speeches] was the most distinguished member of the family. He was tall and slim, gentle and retiring in manner with a keen sense of humor and the most engaging smile. He and mother were more like their father in appearance than any of the other children. Uncle Wirt graduated when quite young from the University of Virginia and won the Phi Beta Kappa key, the only member of the family to attain this high honor till your son Barkie [Sydnor Barksdale Penick, Jr.] came along and followed in his footsteps. After his death Aunt Lucy Gray [Lucy Gray Henry Harrison (1857-1944),

William Wirt Henry’s daughter and the last owner of Red Hill] always wore the little gold key on her watch guard, but what finally became of it nobody could tell. Uncle Wirt had many honors conferred upon him. One you failed to mention; he was chosen to make the tercentenary address on Jamestown, which he delivered from the steps of the Capitol at Washington before a large crowd. He was one of Richmond’s most prominent citizens in both religious and literary circles. He was a fine type of a real Virginia gentleman.



The last time Uncle Wirt and Aunt Lucy Gray visited us, on their way home from the White Sulphur Springs where they spent every summer, we were living on Court Street [Lynchburg, Virginia]. Florence [Miss Ella's sister, Florence Miller Dabney] came around to see them, bringing Susie [her daughter, Miss Susan Dabney], about six years old. When he saw her, he put his arm around her, and looking down into her deep blue eyes, said, "You dear little madonna " You can recall what a lovely child she was.

Aunt Laura [Laura Henry Carter (1836-1856)] was sweet and lovely, said to be Grandma's favorite child. Like her two sisters, she also was musical. When quite small, Mother said, when they had beaux, she would come in the parlor and, sitting on one of the ottomans would sing songs, accompanying herself on the guitar. *[She was highly talented with her needle, as samples of her work still in the family, testify. She not only did this exquisite embroidery, but drew her own designs, so she must have been talented in drawing also. She lived only a year after marrying Dr. James Carter, died of tuberculosis at the early age of twenty, and is buried in the family graveyard at Red Hill.]*

*[After John Henry's death in 1868, Elvira Henry lived with her son William Wirt Henry at "Villevue" in Charlotte County for a time, then with her relatives in Lynchburg. Miss Ella Miller added this remembrance of her grandmother's final months in the cover letter to her "Recollections of Red Hill."]*

Dr. Owens operated on Grandma for cancer, taking off her breast. It was done at our house [in Lynchburg], with three other surgeons helping him, of course before the day of trained nurses. I slept in her room and did most of the nursing, with Aunt Violet [a servant] helping. Grandma did not want to leave us, but Uncle Wirt, who had then moved to Richmond, insisted on her returning to his home, so she did. She lived about a year there, the cancer returned in her stomach, and she gradually faded away, suffering no pain.



*Miss Ella's 100th birthday celebration  
including candlelit cake*

Uncle Wirt carried Grandma's remains to Red Hill. The weather was very bad, and it was impossible to find a minister, so Uncle Wirt himself read the Episcopal service over her. Her death was a great sorrow to us in Lynchburg, for we all were greatly attached to her after living in our family for several years. I remember Dr. Owens saying, "She was a beautiful specimen of a real lady." I never knew any of her descendants or any of the colored people on the place but what spoke of her with love and respect. "To live in the hearts of those who knew us is not to die!"

*The foregoing was originally published by the Foundation as part of this series of essays and first printed in 1999. Edith C. Poindexter, Curator-Genealogist emerita, provided the biographical introduction and annotations. No portion may be reprinted without written permission from the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation.*



## MASTER GARDENERS PREPARE FOR SPRING (CONT.)

*Continued from page 5*



have attained the title of “Master Gardener,” the men and women who help out at Red Hill undergo a rigorous 100-hour course, includ-

ing volunteer hours, under the local state extension agent of Virginia Department of Agriculture. After they are certified, a program must be established to educate the public about local plant life. One group (many of whom were already Patrick Henry Auxiliary members) decided that their focus would be in the Gardens at Red Hill.

The Charlotte County Master Gardeners began a demonstration plot on the grounds in 2002. In this plot they grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, and small crops that existed during Patrick Henry’s time. Because there are no explicit records that have survived detailing what was grown in the kitchen garden during Henry’s lifetime, the Master Gardeners do meticulous research to determine what belongs in their

plot, piecing together information from various historical and local sources. Some of the plants that end up in the plot are familiar to us today, like marigolds, watermelon, and cotton. But many of the fruits and vegetables look very different from what a modern visitor would find in the local grocery store, grown without the benefit of hybridization or artificial help. Everything produced in the garden is grown in the way of the 18th century — with sunshine, soil, water, caring hands, and little else.



## RED HILL GEARS UP FOR COMING VISITATION SEASON (CONT.)

*Continued from page 5*

be it children, homeschoolers, seniors, or veterans. There are a myriad of things to see and do around the property, and the Red Hill staff is committed to bringing the world of Patrick Henry—and therefore the world of the American Revolution and early years of Republic—to life.

“Our mission is to educate the public on Patrick Henry’s life and work, and we want to encourage everyone and anyone to come without being deterred

by price,” says Karen Gorham, Executive Vice President of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation. Tickets are sold for \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for AAA members, and \$2 for students of any age. Guided tours can be arranged for groups of ten or more with two weeks advance notice. On any given day of 2013, Red Hill will be ready to welcome visitors of all ages to Patrick Henry’s “garden spot of Virginia” because any age is the best age to discover the history of America’s birth! 🌿

## OUR NEIGHBOR’S LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Patrick Henry Family Services is improving their portion of the road that leads into Red Hill. Last year the winding, wooded approach—which leads first to the Boys’ and Girls’ Homes campus and then to Red Hill—was stripped bare along the side of the road to develop a walking path landscaped with flowering trees. The Boys and Girls Homes tell us the approach should be manicured by July 4, 2013. 🌿






Besides the table vegetables, which are intriguing for their odd looks compared to what we eat, the other plants of remarkable interest are the crop plants, including tobacco, cotton, and flax. Tobacco is a highly controlled crop in Virginia, and therefore the Master Gardeners group goes to great lengths to get permission to grow it, for the sake of its historical interest. Cotton is also grown in the plot, although in Patrick Henry's day the growing of cotton in the region was found to be unprofitable in comparison to the climate-friendly region further south. Still the diligence of the gardeners means that the plot pro-

duces enough cotton that it can be harvested and used for demonstrations. Visitors get to enjoy seeing the entire process from plant to spinning wheel. Flax is grown too, and was an important crop in the 18th century for making linen. Before Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in the 1790s, linen was among the common fabrics used in the making of clothing. After that time cotton began to take over as a predominant fabric, but Henry, family, and others at Red Hill would often have been seen wearing linen clothes made from the flax plant identical to that grown in the plot now.

This April for the first time members of the Patrick Henry Society will be invited for an exclusive Garden Party at Red Hill. Party guests and other visitors during the spring months can expect to see in bloom both native and cultivated plants such as vinca, viburnum, iris, dogwood, lambsear, yarrow, laven-

der, and rosemary. The Nancy C. Kelly Memorial Herb Garden, the Charlotte County Master Gardeners' plot, and the other gardens and the grounds all will be abloom with most of these plants during the garden party.

From the buds and blooms of spring, to the harvest of late summer and fall, to the spare beauty of winter, the gardens will display a wonderful slice of uniquely Virginian beauty that will enhance any visit to Red Hill. 



*...a wonderful slice of uniquely Virginian beauty.*

**50%  
Off**

**Admission for 2 Guests  
Monday - Friday**

coupon valid until 5/31/13 and must be presented at time of purchase



## SET UP A TOUR FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR GROUP

The Red Hill staff is eager to serve students and adults of all ages in their discovery of Patrick Henry. We are happy to tailor a tour to your specific interests and needs, whether it is a docent-led tour or hands-on history program. Call ahead and schedule a group tour today; ten person minimum required. For more information, contact Hope Marstin at (800) 514-7463.

## Upcoming Events

**May 3rd**

**NATURALIZATION CEREMONY**

11am to 1pm on the Red Hill Grounds

**May 29th**

**PATRICK HENRY'S BIRTHDAY**

10 am to Noon on the Red Hill Grounds

**June 1st**

**TASTINGS ON THE TERRACE**

Noon to 5pm on the Red Hill Grounds

## Red Hill the Patrick Henry National Memorial

1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, Virginia 24528

Phone: 434-376-2044

Toll Free: 800-514-7463

[www.RedHill.org](http://www.RedHill.org)

Email: [info@redhill.org](mailto:info@redhill.org)

*The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation is a charitable non-profit corporation devoted to education and historic preservation. The Foundation promotes educational and research programs about the life, times, philosophy, and legacy of Patrick Henry. As part of that mission, the Foundation maintains and interprets Red Hill, Patrick Henry's last home and burial place, as a historic site and museum. A copy of the Foundation's most recent financial statement is available from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23206.*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BROOKNEAL, VA  
Permit No. 1

**Return Service Requested**

### Officers of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

President: Nancy Rowland

Executive Vice President: Karen Gorham

Vice President: Mark Holman

President Emeritus: Gene Dixon