

News From Red Hill

PUBLISHED BY THE PATRICK HENRY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION — BROOKNEAL, VA



P. Henry
RED HILL
PATRICK HENRY
NATIONAL MEMORIAL



MUSEUM RENOVATION RECENTLY COMPLETED

In April Red Hill unveiled the new Eugene B. Casey Visitor Orientation Room; this is where visitors begin their tour of Red Hill. A trained staff member educates visitors about Patrick Henry's family, explains the history of Red Hill and then visitors watch a 15 minute informational film before exploring the buildings, grounds and museum.

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RED HILL EXPECTS RECORD SUMMER CROWDS

As days become warmer and summer approaches, Red Hill staff is gearing up for an increase in visitation. With its picturesque location along the Staunton River Valley, the plantation is a site for various outdoor activities and events that offer entertainment for all. For those seeking a refreshing escape from the pressures of civilization, Red Hill bids repose in nature.

On-site trails offer visitors a journey into the wilderness. One of the grounds' most treasured trails is the Quarter Place Trail, which leads visitors down a winding path to an African

American cemetery. There are shorter trails around the plantation, which lead to charming picnic spots. Groundskeeper Bruce Olsen praises the scenic views of these trails, which run through "rolling hills" and lively streams. He also expresses hopes for the future creation of even more trails, which will provide visitors with easy access to the Staunton River. The awe-inspiring backdrop of the forests surrounding Patrick Henry's final home is always available for nature-loving guests to explore at their leisure.

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MUSEUM RENOVATION (CONT.)

Continued from page 1

The new timeline is made up of seven large scale panels. The first piece is the Henry family tree. This six and a half foot panel begins with Patrick Henry's grandparents on both his mother and father's sides, it also includes the grandparents of both wives, Sarah Shelton and Dorothea Dandridge. The lines continue down through Henry's seventeen children and his seventy-seven

grandchildren. The Henry tree is a wide-reaching one; descendants enjoy seeing the family member they are connected to and visitors are stunned by the fact that Henry has so many descendants. This display is a visitor and staff favorite.

The next five panels are dedicated exclusively to the life and times of Patrick Henry, beginning with his birth at Studley Plantation, through the Revolution, to his death at Red Hill. The timeline covers Henry passing the bar exam after studying for only six weeks, his involvement in the 1765 Parson's Cause case, which helped him gain notoriety as a captivating orator and defender of colonists' rights. The 1765 Stamp Act Resolves are highlighted as well as Henry voting to elect George Washington as President during the Second Continental Congress. The journey through Henry's life also includes the patriot's 1775 speech at St. John's Church, during which he famously exclaimed "give me liberty or give me death!" Panels show Henry's terms as governor and his role in the consideration of the United States Constitution. The timeline continues by covering Henry's later years to his eventual death in 1799 at Red Hill.

The final eight foot panel covers the



Senator Frank Ruff, Edith Poindexter and other guests view the new displays.



Trustee and descendant Suzanne Lea views the new timeline panels.

history of Red Hill from its beginnings as a two room home through all of the additions to its final reconstruction in 1957.

In addition to the new timeline, there is also a new television for viewing the orientation video, and new display cases for artifacts from Henry's life. The room also includes a portrait of Eugene B. Casey, whose generous gift in 1955 made Red Hill's renovation possible, and in memory of whom the room takes its *(continued on page 4)*

“the perfect destination for any summer traveler!”

SUMMER CROWDS (CONT.)

Continued from page 1

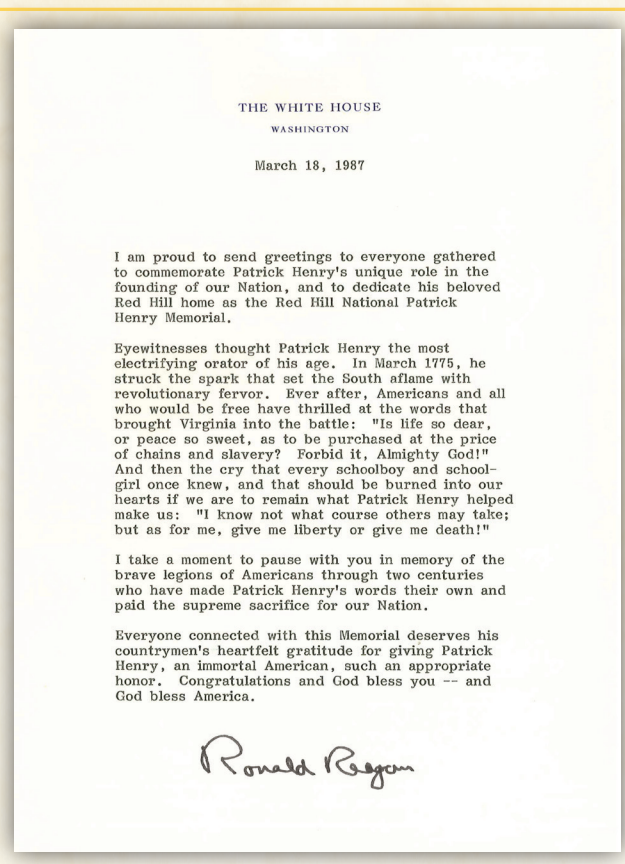
On May 29th Red Hill celebrated Henry's 278th birthday, all patriots (visitors) enjoyed a piece of delicious birthday cake donated by the Gypsy Baker.

It's all staff on deck as Red Hill eagerly prepares for the annual July 4th, Independence Day Celebration. Last year's event broke records by

drawing over three thousand guests. This celebration attracts visitors from miles around, all of whom gather to remember the birth of our nation at the home of one of the men who made Independence possible. This year's event, as always, will feature mouth-watering food, face painting, colonial games, a reenactment

of Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, living history demonstrations, and the spectacular fireworks display that brings guests together after a day of exciting activities. One of the activities included will be the Virginia LOVE works, in partnership with the campaign for Virginia tourism that "Virginia is for

From the Red Hill Collection

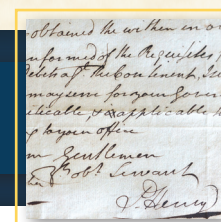


Reagan's Presidential Proclamation is occasionally on display at Red Hill.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

Signed by Ronald Reagan

On March 18, 1987, President Ronald Reagan wrote this letter, which praised the legacy of Patrick Henry, and dedicated his last home and burial place as a National Memorial. He acknowledged "Patrick Henry's unique role in the founding of our nation" and offered his support for the Foundation's effort to preserve the patriot's legacy. He also used this letter to stress Henry's importance in times of revolution and beyond. First, he pointed to the way the "electrifying orator...struck the spark" of the revolutionary fire that would rapidly spread throughout the colonies. More significantly, he closed the letter by acknowledging Henry's contemporary importance, suggesting that his passion for liberty "should be burned into our hearts if we are to remain what Patrick Henry helped make us." This powerful praise and recognition of Henry's historical value marked a satisfying milestone for the Foundation. With President Reagan's dedication and Congress's authorization, the plantation joined the ranks of the Lincoln Memorial and Mt. Rushmore in its classification as an official United States National Memorial. This classification demonstrates the United States government's support for the preservation of Henry's legacy in the present and future. 🍀



Lovers," where visitors can take their picture with Patrick Henry, friends and family.

Whether visitors wish to explore the forests surrounding the plantation, enjoy a patriotic day on July 4th, or simply learn more about Patrick Henry, Red Hill is the perfect destination for any summer traveler! 🍀



MUSEUM RENOVATION COMPLETED (CONT.)

Continued from page 2

name. Casey, who resided in Maryland at the time of his donation, admired Henry greatly and acknowledged his tremendous significance to the American Revolution

and United States history in general. All of these upgrades were made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the Patterson Charitable Trust in December 2013.

Red Hill staff always enjoy the personal

interaction they are able to have with guests and this new exhibit allows them to share more information with each visitor who steps through our doors. The new museum greatly enhances the visitor experience.

“

...summer days playing the fiddle under a tree...

”

What Would Henry Say? Do?

about the outdoors



Patrick Henry was described by one of his contemporaries as “a child of nature.” Though William Wirt exaggerated his subject’s idleness and educational deficiencies as a youth, there was some truth behind his picture of Henry as the “forest-born Demosthenes.” During his childhood and adolescence, Patrick spent many summer hours exploring the woods and fields of Hanover County. According to one of his childhood acquaintances, “he was very fond of hunting and fishing. He discovered great pleasure in angling continuing at the same hole hours without having a single bite.”

One of his cousins, Charles Dabney, remembered how he, and his brother George, used to go canoeing with Patrick Henry on the South Anna River, while Henry lived at Mount

Brilliant. Henry also spent many hours roaming the 630-acre plantation in upper Hanover, attempting “to learn the language of the birds.” This love of the outdoors continued throughout his life. Years later, while living at Pleasant Grove, and Red Hill, he could be caught on nice summer days playing the fiddle under a tree to the delight of his children and grandchildren, and taking morning rides on his horse to look over the progress of his plantations.

In regards to his children, he believed that a sound body was just as important as a sound mind. “Mr. Henry seemed to think,” writes his brother-in-law, Samuel Meredith, “the most important thing is in the first place to give them good constitutions. They were six or seven years old before they were


permitted to wear shoes....they were as wild as young colts, and permitted to run quite at large. He seemed to think that nature ought to be permitted to give and show its own impulse, and then it is our duty to pursue it.”

So, take Patrick Henry’s advice for your health and wellness this summer to get outdoors, breathe the fresh air, and stretch your legs. Make time this summer to explore the natural and historic sites that Virginia has to offer, including Red Hill, which Patrick Henry called, “the garden spot of the world!”

“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.

Now during large event days like the July 4th Celebration, the Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival, and Naturalization when the Visitors' Center is hopping with guests, the staff can direct them to the Eugene B. Casey Orientation Room where visitors can learn about Patrick Henry and Red Hill at their own pace.

The official unveiling of the new museum took place on April 11th. Red Hill hosted a small number of invited guests, which included representatives from the local newspaper, and the mayor of Brookneal, State Senator Frank Ruff and many others. The highlight of this ceremony involved a ribbon cutting, followed by time for

guests to view the new timeline and mingle amongst themselves. With the addition of the timeline, new television, and display cases, the Eugene B. Casey Visitor Orientation Room is sure to appeal to guests as they begin their exploration of Red Hill! 



RED HILL SAYS GOODBYE TO AUTUMN BURCH

The foundation recently said goodbye to Autumn Burch, a staff member whose hard work has been vital to Red Hill's success for the past two and a half years. Autumn served as the marketing and public relations coordinator, a position crucial to the popularity of many of the events held on the grounds. The Independence Day celebration and the BB&B Festival, for example, were largely driven by Miss Burch's efforts. Through her hard work, Red Hill hosted delightful bands,

vendors of delicious food, and most importantly, thousands of guests to enjoy the festivities!

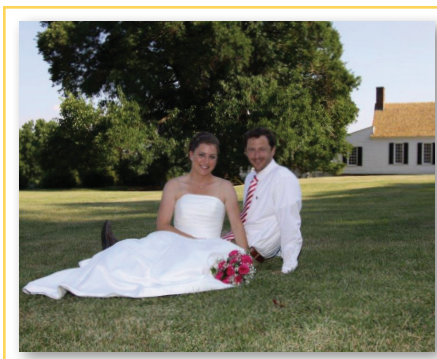
Although staff members at Red Hill will miss Autumn and the tremendous work she did for the plantation, they also wish her success as she opens a new chapter of her life. She will be working as the Admissions/Marketing/Social Services



Director for Heritage Hall in Brookneal. Miss Burch will also be getting married in September, another exciting change sure to bring her happiness. The foundation, staff, and volunteers at Red Hill all wish Autumn future success and joy, and hope that she will look back on her time at the plantation with fondness and love. 

GROUNDS RENTAL NOW AVAILABLE

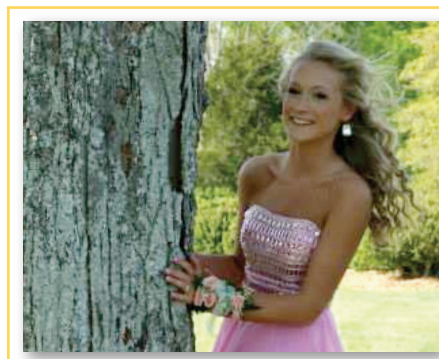
Did you know that you can rent Patrick Henry's Red Hill for a special event? If you are planning on getting married or if you need a unique property for your next meeting or group tour, please consider Red Hill. The grounds are beautiful year-round, particularly from spring through fall. Visitors come and are struck by the property's allure and decide to make Red Hill the backdrop for their weddings and receptions. Many people choose Red Hill and its majestic landscape as the ideal setting for professional portrait sessions. Local teens often decide to take their prom and senior pictures here. If you would like information about



Jackie and Meghan Bolling were married at Red Hill.

renting the grounds for a wedding or photography needs be sure to contact Hope at Red Hill (info@redhill.org).

Whether guests use the grounds for weddings or pictures, Red Hill certainly serves as a choice spot for the creation of lasting memories. 



Bailey Trent poses for a portrait before the prom.

First-Hand Contemporary Accounts As Evidence of Patrick Henry's Oratory Prowess

BY MARK COUVILLON



The impetus for writing a book on Patrick Henry's oratory occurred about a decade ago while I was reading an old biography of Daniel Webster written by the Massachusetts historian, Henry Cabot Lodge, in 1883. In it, Lodge proclaims his subject to be "the greatest orator this country has ever produced," while dismissing Henry's claim to that title by insisting that Patrick Henry's reputation as an orator was based "wholly on tradition."¹ The fact that Lodge gave the title of "greatest American orator" to his subject did not concern me, as I feel it a useless and rather silly endeavor to try to rate one orator over another, due to the time and place in which each lived, the challenges each faced, and the differences between their rhetorical styles.

What did concern me, however, was Dr. Lodge's statement that Mr. Henry's reputation as an orator was based "wholly on tradition." To justify his assertion, Lodge argued that the remarkable accounts of Henry's eloquence, along with his speeches, had been written down by eyewitness-

es years, and in some cases decades, after Henry's death and therefore, could not be taken too literally, due to the passage of time and the likelihood of embellishment. Was this true? Was Patrick Henry's legendary oratory, known to every schoolchild who ever re-enacted his "Liberty or Death" speech in front of his class, just another early American myth, like that of Washington cutting down the cherry tree, or Betsy Ross sewing our Nation's first flag? I was determined to find out.

The popular image we have of Patrick Henry as America's foremost orator and spokesman of the Revolution can be traced primarily to his first biographer, William Wirt, who published his *Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry* in 1817, eighteen years after the patriot's death. Since Mr. Wirt did not have the opportunity to hear his subject speak in person, he had to turn to those who had, while putting together his ground-breaking biography. Wirt's main informants were Thomas Jefferson, who had a close friendship with Henry for twenty years, and who had served alongside him in both the legislature and in the Superior Court of Virginia; Spencer Roane, who sat on Henry's executive council, and who later married his daughter, Anne; Edmund Winston, who was Henry's cousin and close companion; Col. Samuel Meredith, his brother-in-law; Paul Carrington, who served with Patrick Henry in the House of Burgesses from 1765-1776; and Judge St. George Tucker, who had witnessed Mr. Henry deliver his "Liberty or Death" speech at Henrico Parish Church.*

From these men, and others,

Mr. Wirt learned that his subject had the ability to make his audience laugh or cry at will, merely by changing the tones of his voice; that he was able to sway practically every jury he stood before with his use of pathos; that his eloquence often produced a "hypnotic-like" effect upon his listeners which made the auditor lose all track of time; and that Patrick Henry's eloquence was equal, if not superior, to that of the ancient Greek statesman and orator, Demosthenes, who was considered the "lex orandi" (the standard of oratory) by the Roman rhetorician, Quintilian².

When I started looking over Mr. Wirt's papers (which are housed in the rare manuscript division in the Library of Congress), I noticed that he had obtained the accounts for his book from Mr. Henry's contemporaries between 1805-1815, which meant that it had been six years or longer since any of his informants had last heard Henry speak in a public forum and that even though most of these men were still holding important government positions (in the case of Jefferson, President of the United States), most of these men were in their fifties, or above, when they began corresponding with Mr. Wirt.**

While reading these gentlemen's remarkable descriptions of Patrick Henry, I began to wonder whether or not their accounts accurately depicted his skills as an orator, or if, as Henry Cabot Lodge asserted, they were merely the fabrication of aged gentlemen with over active imaginations? Even if these men had tried to be as accurate as possible, as I believe they had, there was still the nagging question of the role time played upon

their memories.

Concerned that Mr. Henry's reputation as an orator was based more on myth than reality, I was determined to find as many contemporaneous accounts concerning his eloquence as possible, before the passage of time had the chance to embellish or distort the listener's recollections. Furthermore, I wanted to know what his political adversaries, including non-Virginians, thought of his abilities as a speaker, as they (in my opinion) would have been less likely to praise or overstate his talents. As I uncovered more and more of these "on the spot" descriptions of Henry's eloquence, I started to notice that they were remarkably similar to those accounts supplied to Mr. Wirt years after Henry's death and that far from discrediting the recollections of Jefferson, Roane, Meredith, and the others, they seemed to uphold their remarkable statements.

Having collected nearly 100 eyewitness accounts of Patrick Henry's power as an orator from his friends, associates, impartial observers, and political enemies, it is my hope that this work will put to rest once and for all the questions still being raised by some historians and writers on American rhetoric as to whether or not Patrick Henry deserves his reputation as a great orator and as the "Voice of the Revolution."

The title of the book, *Patrick Henry, the Demosthenes of His Age*, is based on a passage found in John Adams' diary, under the date of August

28, 1774, in which he had written down the reputations of some of the leading delegates being sent to Philadelphia to attend the First Continental Congress. This comparison of Patrick Henry to Demosthenes when attempting to describe his abilities as both an orator and defender of his country's rights is seen frequently in the letters and journals of his contemporaries.

In comparing Patrick Henry to the great orator and statesman of ancient Greece, these men could have given him no higher honor. By the time of his death in 322 B.C., Demosthenes' name had already become synonymous with eloquence. Throughout the 18th century, his philippics against King Philip II of Macedon, and later his son, Alexander the Great, were still being examined and read in elocution classes as examples of perfect oratory, and his orations could be found in the libraries of most gentlemen of the period, including that of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe, and James Madison. Even Patrick Henry had purchased a copy of Thomas Leland's *Orations of Demosthenes* from a Philadelphia bookstore in 1774, while attending the First Continental Congress. By the 1830's, Demosthenes' orations were being replaced in the classrooms throughout the United States by Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech as the new example of perfect eloquence and patriotism³.

Although *The Demosthenes of His Age* focuses primarily on Patrick Henry as an orator, it is important to remember that his contribution

to American independence and our country's early history was much more than just providing the fledgling nation with inspirational slogans and sound bites. Behind every great speech of his was an important bill, resolution, or agenda he was trying to advance. When Henry proclaimed, "I am not a Virginian, but an American!" during the first meeting of the Continental Congress in 1774, it was, in part, to help remove the distrust the individual delegates held towards one another by uniting them against a common foe. When he declared, "Give me Liberty, or Give Me Death!" at St. John's Church the following year, it was to support a resolution he had introduced before the Second Virginia Convention to put the colony "into an immediate posture of defense," in case war with Great Britain became necessary. And, in 1799, when the aged orator cried out, "United we Stand, Divided we Fall!" to the immense crowd standing before him at Charlotte Courthouse, in what was to be his last public oration, it was to help prevent a clash of arms between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Government over President Adams' divisive Alien & Sedition Acts.

Perhaps George Mason, the author of Virginia's Declaration of Rights, summed it best, when he stated: "Mr. Henry is by far the most powerful speaker I have ever heard. . . But his eloquence is the smallest part of his merit."⁴

¹ Henry Cabot Lodge, Daniel Webster (New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1883), 200.

^{*} In 1775, the church at Richmond where Patrick Henry delivered his most famous speech was known as "Town Church" or "Henrico Parish Church." The Earliest reference to "St. John's Church" appeared in 1829.

² J. S. Watson, *Quintilian's Institutes of oratory; or, Education of an orator*. In twelve books (London: G. Bell, 1910), 10:1.

^{**} Spencer Roane, the youngest of Wirt's informants, was forty-three when he began his correspondence with Henry's biographer. Paul Carrington was the oldest of Wirt's informants, at 82.

³ In 1834, Senator John Roane declared to Patrick Henry's great-grandson, Edward Fontaine, that children were declaiming Patrick Henry's famous speech in classrooms throughout the country. Edward Fontaine, *Patrick Henry: Corrections of Biographical Mistakes, and Popular Errors in Regard to His Character*. Mark Couvillon, ed. (Brookneal, VA: Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation), 1996, 25-26.

⁴ George Mason to Martin Cockburn, *Virginia Historical Register*, 3:27-29.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

On May 9, Red Hill hosted its annual Naturalization Ceremony which is the final step to becoming an American citizen. The day began with the Patrick Henry Chapter of the DAR hosting a breakfast for the new Americans and their families. While waiting to sign their official papers, guests explored museum, experienced living history demonstrations and conversed with staff and docents.

The ceremony began with the sweet sounds of Phenix Elementary fourth

graders singing patriotic songs. Hope Marstin, PHMF Administrator, welcomed everyone to Red Hill. Board of Trustee member, Rev. Dr. Lee Hahnlen led the invocation and Patrick Henry Jolly addressed the crowd with comments on immigration as Patrick Henry in 1783.

The court was opened and members of the Junior ROTC from Chatham High School had a Presentation of Colors. The seventeen new citizens then took their oath of citizenship and were



The Honorable Norman K. Moon administers the oath of citizenship to new citizens at Red Hill.



NATURALIZATION CEREMONY (CONT.)

presented with certificates. After the Honorable Judge Moon spoke to the citizens, Foundation President and Henry descendant Mark Holman delivered the keynote address, congratulating the new citizens on their accomplishment. He welcomed them to the ranks of Americans and inspired them with words spoken by Henry himself. His speech, along with the ceremony itself, left new citizens feeling excited and hopeful as they begin the next chapter of their lives as Americans.

The ceremony ended with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the national Anthem, led by Lloyd Holt and Michelle Singleton. Woodman of the World members gave the new citizens copies of *The American Patriot's Handbook*. Following the ceremony, attendees joined members of the Patrick Henry Auxiliary and the Brookneal Woman's Club for a luncheon on the grounds.

This day marked a joyous completion of the naturalization process. After

residing within the United States for five years, and completing a rigorous study of American history and government, these new citizens are happy to finally call the United States home. One new citizen, Alexandria Kratt of South Korea, said the day was like her birthday. "I have been an American for four years and working to become a citizen for the past three years. I will go get a bottle of wine to symbolize this day. It is a way for immigrants to celebrate." 🍷

“

As they begin the next chapter of their lives...

”

Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees

This past April, Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation's Board of Trustees gathered at Red Hill for their annual business meeting. Over three days the board was able to discuss upcoming projects for Red Hill and celebrate those which were recently completed. Friday's meeting began with a living history tour. Board members tagged along with a local school group who was here on a class fieldtrip. Trustees valued the opportunity to meet these young visitors, and they were able to experience Red Hill from their perspective and experience hands-on learning for themselves.

Molly Ward, Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources, also came along for the tour, and afterward she convened with several trustees to discuss the protection of Red Hill's beautiful view shed. Following the living history tour trustees, guests, staff and volunteers enjoyed a hearth cooked lunch prepared by Patrick Henry Auxiliary members.



Trustee Bob Sexton listens to docent Betsy Hamner during a living history presentation

After lunch board members met in the new Eugene B. Casey Visitor Orientation Room to hear Mrs. Edith Poindexter enlighten everyone about the extensive artifact collection here at Red Hill. In her remarks, she enthusiastically introduced

new items to be accessioned and the steps that staff members will take to preserve these historical relics. Following the presentation, trustees headed outside to further discuss plans for the view shed.

Saturday morning marked an exciting moment for trustees and Red Hill staff members alike. Trustees, staff and invited guests gathered for the dedication of the new Eugene B. Casey Visitor Orientation Room followed by a delightful brunch at the Nuttle House. A formal business meeting was held after brunch to hold elections and conduct other business. The weekend concluded with trustees further exploring Red Hill's beautiful grounds to discuss trail projects, and future plans for the property.

Trustees will meet again in early August at Red Hill and in October in Hanover, Virginia. The next annual meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at Red Hill in April 2015. 🍷

EASTER EGG HUNT DRAWS MANY LOCAL FAMILIES TO RED HILL

The day before Easter, Red Hill opened its grounds to the community for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Although morning rain showers almost stopped the event, the weather quickly turned into a sunny spring day. A little over one hundred children, ages 0-12, clutched their baskets and diligently scoured the property, hoping to catch glimpses

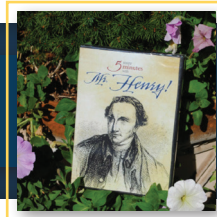


of the brightly colored hidden eggs. The grounds were divided into three sections, where children of different age ranges searched for eggs. Once the children filled their baskets they turned their eggs in to receive bags full of goodies and treats.

In order to prevent local wildlife from consuming these treats, volunteers hid empty eggs that were later used to redeem goodie bags. Volunteers also manned crafting stations for the children in attendance. This year's activity was make-your-own bunny ears, which left Red Hill swarming with 100 little Easter bunnies! Children proudly donned their rabbit ears posing for pictures with a poster of the Easter bunny. Members of two local churches were also in attendance. Children gathered around volunteers at 10:30 and 11:30 and listened attentively to recitations of the Easter



story. Living history docents were also available for tours and questions any curious visitors might have had about life during colonial times. Despite the event's rainy start, Red Hill's annual egg hunt ended on a sunny note, and was once again a success! 🐣



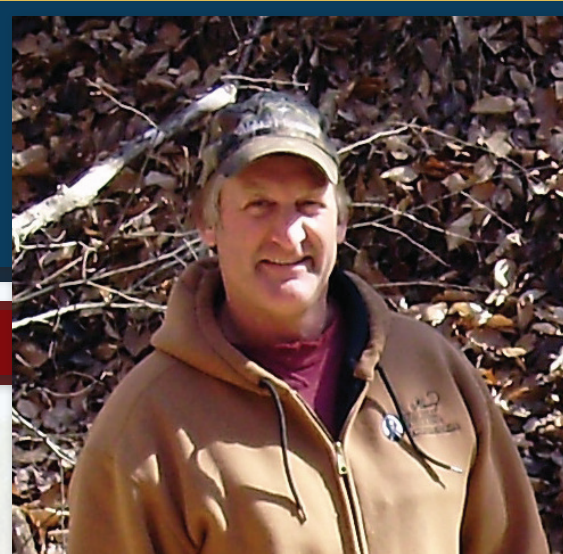
READER'S DIGEST MENTIONS RED HILL

Reader's Digest recently took interest in Red Hill's Osage Orange Tree. Their website released a feature story about the American Forests' 2014 National Register of Big Trees, including specific recognition of Red Hill's aboreal treasure. The Osage Orange Tree, which has been on the register since 2011, is listed among 129 rare and historic trees throughout the United States, 68 of which are right here in Virginia. On your next visit to Red Hill, be sure to take a moment to check out this historic tree, one of many of the plantations picturesque natural sites! 🌳



FACES OF RED HILL

BRUCE OLSEN




In honor of summertime and the great outdoors, this issue features Bruce Olsen, the grounds-keeper who singlehandedly maintains the beautiful scenery, facilities, and trails around Red Hill. Staff members say that the one thing visitors always comment on are the beautiful grounds at Red Hill. “How many people do you have to maintain the grounds?” visitors ask. They are often shocked to discover that the beautiful landscape at Red Hill is maintained by only one grounds keeper: Bruce Olsen.

In 2000, Olsen arrived to

Virginia from New York, eventually finding work at Red Hill in 2001. He describes his grounds keeping job as perfectly suited to his personality and past experience working outdoors. During his thirteen years at Red Hill, Olsen has enjoyed exploring and maintaining Patrick Henry’s former backyard. He particularly appreciates the property’s view shed, which displays breath-taking arrays of colors during the spring and autumn months.

Olsen also maintains trails

around the property, allowing guests to explore the nature surrounding Red Hill. The landscape of Henry’s Red Hill is crucial because it transports visitors back to the rural nature of colonial Virginia.

Bruce Olsen and the care with which he maintains the grounds are invaluable in ushering these modern guests back in time. 

In an effort to recognize the individuals whose devotion and passion keep the site running, the Newsletter will now feature a “Faces of Red Hill” series that introduces readers to the individuals that keep Red Hill running.

“...maintaining Patrick Henry’s former backyard.”

THE DEMOSTHENES
OF HIS AGE

10%
Off

Accounts of Patrick Henry's Oratory by His Contemporaries
MARK COUVILLON

Mark Couvillon's
The Demosthenes of His Age

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HOSTING AN EVENT? CONSIDER RED HILL.

Red Hill is home to some of the most beautiful scenery that Virginia has to offer, nestled in the Staunton River Valley. With the pristine views and carefully tended grounds, the estate makes a lovely and unusual option for hosting an outdoor event. If you are interested in renting the grounds for a wedding or event, please contact Hope Marstin at om@redhill.org.

Upcoming Events

July 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

3:00pm to 9pm gates are open to visitors

7:00 Patrick Henry's speech

9:15 Fireworks display on 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

Email: 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.

Officers of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

President: Mark Holman

Vice President: Ron Rogers

Secretary: Cassel Adamson

Treasurer: Bob Sexton

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