

News From Red Hill

Red Hill Patrick Henry
National Memorial

PUBLISHED BY THE PATRICK HENRY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION — BROOKNEAL, VA



1ST ANNUAL QUARTER PLACE COMMUNITY TRIBUTE

October 15th, 2022 kicked off the first of what is to become the Annual Tribute to the Quarter Place Community at Red Hill. The event was a huge success, bringing together once again members of our nearby community, descendants, and other guests from—in addition to Virginia—Maryland, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Ohio, Florida, (continued on page 12)

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE DELIVERS ON CHEER

With festive greenery adorning the historic buildings, acoustic holiday music floating around the grounds, and cider mulling on the kitchen hearth, Red Hill was filled with holiday spirit for our annual Christmas Open House. Over 170 visitors joined us for the event, which included tours of the historic buildings and Quarter Place, led by members of the Patrick Henry Auxiliary, as well as hot apple cider and homemade cookies served from the kitchen. The historic buildings were beautifully decorated by the Red Hill Garden Club with wreaths, garlands, and centerpieces of natural foliage. On the lawn, visitors of

all ages played historical games or made decorations with citrus fruits and cloves. It was an afternoon full of merriment, with a few special surprises.

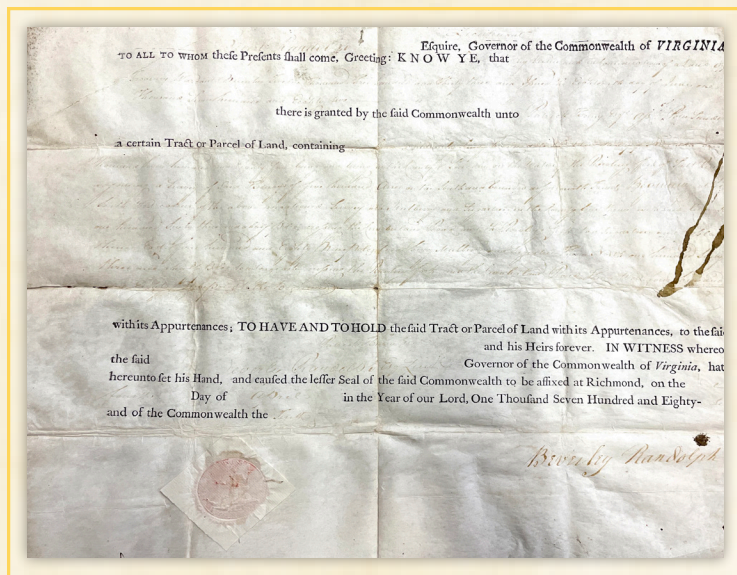
Those who visited the museum room were given a unique opportunity to get up-close with history. For the first time, Red Hill offered guests the chance to hold a Patrick Henry artifact from our collections, which in this case, was Henry's famous paper cutter. After donning nitrile gloves, guests could hold and be photographed with the ivory paper cutter, which Henry himself had clutched while he cried, "Give me liberty or give me death!" in 1775. (continued on page 3)

From the Red Hill Collection

1786 LAND GRANT TO PATRICK HENRY

During Patrick Henry's five terms as Virginia's governor, he signed hundreds of documents known as land grants which gifted real estate by the government to an individual. These grants incentivized colonization of the new Commonwealth, and with the establishment of the Land Ordinance of 1785, encouraged expansion west of the Appalachian Mountains. Veterans often received land grants in return for military service instead of backpay.

Of the thirteen land grants in our museum collection, two are not signed by Henry. One of them is seen here. Upon its issuance to Patrick Henry on April 4, 1786, Henry was serving in his fifth term as governor and could not grant land to himself. Instead, the Lieutenant Governor, Beverley Randolph, signed this grant to Henry. Beverley went so far as to insert a caret and write "Lieutenant" in front of the printed word "Governor."



According to the grant, it was issued to Henry as a reward for his military service in the American Revolution, which began with Henry taking his Hanover County militia company toward Williamsburg in 1775. On April 21st Lord Dunmore had seized gunpowder from the magazine belonging to the government. Outraged Virginians called for action, and on May 2nd Henry arrived near Williamsburg to demand compensation for the gunpowder. A member of the Governor's Council agreed to pay the value of the powder without a shot fired. As a result of Henry's march, Dunmore issued a proclamation against "a certain Patrick Henry, of the County of Hanover, and a Number of his deluded Followers", but this did not stop fifteen county committees from approving Henry's actions.

(keep reading below)



(continued from above)

Henry then joined the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in May 1775. While he was away, the Virginia Convention authorized the creation of two provincial regiments on July 17th, called the First and Second Virginia Regiments. Patrick Henry was made colonel of the First Virginia, which was composed of

six musket and two rifle companies. Each company consisted of sixty-eight enlisted men, for a total of almost 550 men under Henry's command. In September, Henry was further placed in charge of all of Virginia's forces.

Henry did much to recruit troops, and even organized a navy; however, Henry saw no action himself

and some feared he was too radical to be a military leader. In February 1776, Virginia's forces were accepted into the new Continental Line authorized by Congress, with Henry being placed under the command of a former subordinate. Feeling slighted by this demotion, Henry resigned his commission and returned to the

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Keep an eye out for opportunities to hold an artifact at future Red Hill events!

Another surprise came in the form of a generous gift from Don and Dianna Jones: a new tin kitchen, handcrafted in Colonial Williamsburg. Tin kitchens, also called reflector ovens, were used in 18th-century hearth cooking to more efficiently roast foods by reflecting the fire's heat on all sides. Auxiliary members working in the kitchen that day were pleasantly surprised when Mr. and Mrs. Jones walked in and presented them with the new cookware. We are grateful to the Joneses for their gift, which is sure to become a treasured

new part of Living History cooking demonstrations.

As our final event of 2022, Christmas Open House closed out a busy year on a note of cheer and celebration. With plenty of events planned for 2023 (including some new ones!), we are looking forward to what the new year has in store. 🖋️



“

...a note of cheer and celebration.

”

Virginia Convention the following spring.

Ten years after his service, this land grant was finally issued to Henry. It was printed on vellum (calfskin) which was considered a high-quality material of the day. The original wax seal containing the embossed seal of the Commonwealth is still in won-

derful condition. Unfortunately, the document was at one time framed and on display by a previous owner which caused the ink to fade, making much of the handwritten information illegible. Technological means may be used to help decipher these words in the future.

The collection at Red Hill is

proud to steward this and many other documents owned by Patrick Henry; however, many of these are almost 250 years old and require professional stabilization. If you are interested in supporting Red Hill through the conservation of our priceless letters, land grants, or artworks, please let us know! 🖋️

INDEPENDENCE DAY TRADITIONS

The July 4th event for 2022 was another great success! Visitors enjoyed the various offerings of the day at Red Hill, which included plenty of

food, live music by The Brown Brothers, lots of history, and—of course—one of the largest fireworks displays in the area. Visitors were also invited

to experience the beauty and history of the Quarter Place with docent-led tours on the scenic trail, through the sites of the African American

“...one of the largest fireworks displays in the area!”

QUOTES →IN← CONTEXT



“Reader, whoever thou art, practice virtue yourself and encourage it in others.”

—Patrick Henry's will,
November 20, 1798

A sealed envelope was found with Patrick Henry's will. Inside was a copy of the resolutions he presented to the Virginia Assembly in 1765 concerning the Stamp Act. On the back was a note he wrote describing his actions leading to the resolutions and the colonies' (states) ultimate decision to pursue independence from Great Britain. The final paragraph expressed caution:

"Whether this will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use

our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed upon us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary nature, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation. Reader! Whoever thou art, remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue yourself and encourage it in others."

Henry was dedicated to the cause of American liberty and, for him, a critical key to preserving it was virtue. Other Founding Fathers had a similar view.

In the struggle for independence, they believed a "virtuous people" could endure the hardship of conflict and create an American republic. In their estimation, virtue

had to exist in two areas, private and public. On the personal level, individuals needed to be morally upright to face dire challenges, withstand temptation, make wise decisions and oppose actions that would cost them freedom. At the same time, there was need to express "public virtue," a willingness to put self-interests aside in order to contribute to the common good. Common good was a common theme.

In the decades following the war for independence, Henry was dismayed at what he saw as the decline of both private and public virtue. Ideals that once created bonds among people yearning for freedom had given way to (continued on page 14)

Quotes in Context is a recurring newsletter feature in which we explore the historical, political, and cultural context that helps to inform the meaning and significance of some of Patrick Henry's famous quotes.

community at Red Hill.

As one of our longest-running annual events, attending Red Hill's Independence Day is a tradition for

many of our neighbors, as well as for folks from much further afield who travel in to celebrate the holiday Patrick Henry-style. What many don't

realize as they enjoy the festivities is that there are several months of work that go into making sure the event comes together *(keep reading below)*



(continued from above)

and delivers all the things that make it special to our guests year after year! The dedicated volunteers and Red Hill staff are nothing if not detail-oriented—from the moment a carful of visitors arrive to the final crescendo of the fireworks show. They take pride in making sure every year improves on the last, while always providing that familiar Red Hill magic for those who have come to view it as part of their own family tradition for the day.

The event has certainly grown since those years when the “Liberty or Death” speech was delivered in the courtyard of the Visitor's Center! Patrick Henry Jolly has participated, giving tours and delivering “Liberty or Death” as Mr. Henry, since joining the popular event in the early 2000's. He says, “It's exciting to hear how many folks make July 4th at Patrick Henry's Red Hill an annual family tradition.” Hats off also to local

and state law enforcement and local first responders who were present throughout the day! No matter how the event has grown over 40 years ago, the peace and serenity of the “garden spot,” which Patrick Henry and his family enjoyed over two centuries ago, still exists today. We're already looking forward to making the 2023 celebration the best ever! It's one of our favorite traditions—consider making it one of yours! 🖋️



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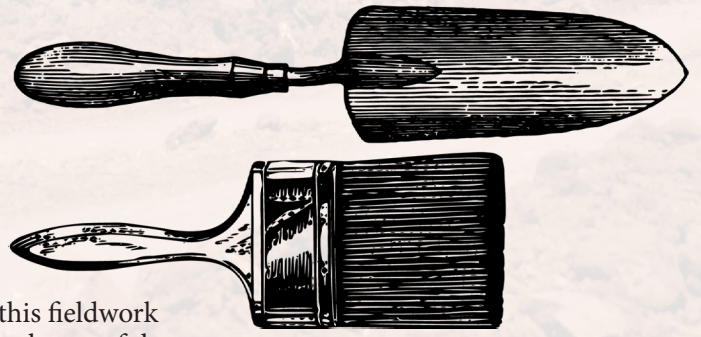
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Digging

INTO THE HISTORY



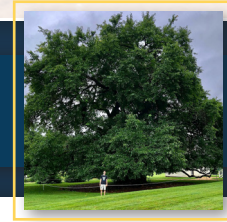
Have you ever wondered what secrets and stories the red soil of these grounds might be harboring, just waiting to be discovered? The history of Red Hill is one with many chapters, not all of which have been preserved equally over the centuries and decades. That's why, starting this May, we're excited to begin taking a closer look at what there might be to uncover with an on-site archaeological excavation and research! This

summer, we will focus this fieldwork on exploring an area northwest of the Henry House, where several 19th and early 20th century structures used to stand.

The structures included a domestic building, an ice house, and a kitchen—each of which could yield new information about the people who lived in and used these spaces. By starting our archaeological research in this area, we hope to produce find-

ings from the project that will help to expand and fill in the Red Hill narrative to include more information in particular about the sharecroppers who lived here until the mid-20th century.

Digging deeper into Red Hill's history will require some extra hands—and you may be surprised to hear that yours are qualified! We are



QUARTER PLACE TRIBUTE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

and North Carolina. Gratifying for all involved in planning the program of the day was praise from many of the descendants, who expressed their approval of the event and of “what Red Hill continues to do to honor [their] ancestors.” This praise was echoed by Shawn Barksdale, host of the podcast “Ten Minutes of Truth,” who shared his

thoughts on the tribute concluding “if soil could speak our ancestors would be proud of this day.”

The program for the day began in the Casey Education Center with opening remarks by CEO Hope Marstin, Director of Community Engagement Takisha Fowlkes, and Shawn Barksdale. The audience also enjoyed the return of the Kuumba Dance Ensemble of Lynch-

burg, Virginia, who first performed at the Quarter Place Trail dedication ceremony a little over a year ago. Several songs were performed by Ms. Morgan Gafford. The audience watched a recorded presentation by Veronica Jackson of Jackson Design Group sharing her artistic design for a memorial at the Quarter Place Cemetery. This was shared in order to receive feedback from the audience about the design. Next there was a presentation by Curator Cody Youngblood on the upcoming Enslaved Cabin Exhibition.



opening volunteer opportunities to participate in the dig to anyone interested in learning more and engaging in some hands-on archaeology under the supervision of our dig team. During the summer, volunteers will help with the physical excavation and recovery of artifacts. In the winter, when the weather puts a pause on outdoor activities, volunteer work will turn toward processing the artifacts. Equipment and guidance will be provided by professionally trained archaeologists, so have no fear if this would be your first experience with this type of endeavor!

Whether you come dig with us for a single day or volunteer on a weekly basis, you'll have the chance to engage hands-on with history and help uncover more of Red Hill's story.


Keep an eye out for upcoming information about how to get involved! If you are visiting Red Hill or Virginia in general for vacation this summer, you could join us and volunteer for an unforgettable and unique experience with your family. Children under 15 are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

The project is headed by Dr. Brian Bates, who has over two decades of experience teaching Archaeology at the Longwood Institute of Archaeology, Longwood University, Farmville, VA. Co-heading the dig will be J. Craig Rose, an archaeologist and principle investigator for Dominion Research Group in Midlothian, VA, working to identify and assess historic properties in the Greater Richmond area. From the Red Hill



PHOTOGRAPH OF ONE OF THE NORTHWESTERN STRUCTURES, CIRCA 1912.

Staff, Lucia Butler will be taking the lead in project coordination alongside Bates and Rose.

This project is made possible by funding from the E. Stuart James Grant Charitable trust. 


“...help uncover more of Red Hill's story.”

The morning session ended with Joshua Augustus Clemons—a guest author at the surprising and impressive age of 8 years old—giving a reading of his book *Clemons Van Forer's Freedom* about an enslaved man's pursuit of freedom through the love he shares with his family. During the mid-day lunch break, Joshua stuck around for a meet-and-greet and signed copies of his book for guests to purchase. Face painting, tours, and colonial games gave everyone a casual chance to continue exploring more of the

grounds, before resuming the afternoon program at the Quarter Place Enslaved Cemetery with remarks by Dr. Gloria Braxton, a descendant of the enslaved population. A final Kuumba performance closed out the day.

All of the festivities were captured by Ernest Richardson, CEO of I Work You Play, LLC. Not only did he video the entire event, but he also videoed podcast segments with Shawn Barksdale and a variety of guests in attendance, such as Peighton Young, Red Hill's researcher for

Quarter Place, child-author Joshua Clemons and his grandmother, staff members, and many other attendees. More photos were taken by Tonya Nicole Photography.


You can find videos of the event, more history of Red Hill's enslaved community, as well as episodes of “Ten Minutes of Truth” featuring Hope Marstin, Takisha Fowlkes, and Patrick Henry Jolly. Check them all out at redhill.org/quarter-place, and make plans to join us later this year for the 2nd Annual Tribute to the Quarter Place Community! 



QUOTES IN CONTEXT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

individual selfishness. Even public officials used their positions for personal gain. Near the end of his life, he watched contentious political parties emerge that he believed would divide and weaken the nation.

Christianity influenced Henry's life and practice of virtue. His public speeches often contained biblical references and he told his daughter that he considered religion to be of greater value than politics. In January 1799, he wrote a letter to Archibald Blair in which he stated that "virtue, morality and religion" formed armor that would protect them. This combination was important to Henry and his vision of American society and the republic. 

FOR MORE ON THIS QUOTE, SEE:

Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches by William Wirt Henry, Vol. I, pp. 81-82.

"What Would Henry Say About The Need for Virtue" by Mark Couvillion, Patrick Henry National Memorial Newsletter, Winter 2017.

TO READ MORE BY PATRICK HENRY, SEE:

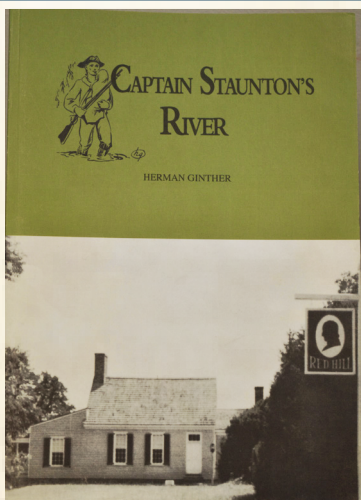
Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches by William Wirt Henry, 3 Volumes. Published by Sprinkle Publications, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1993.

Patrick Henry in His Speeches, Writings and in the Words of His Contemporaries. Compiled and Annotated by James M. Elson. Published by Warwick House Publishers, Lynchburg, Virginia, 2007.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This edition of "Quotes in Context" was written by guest-author Keith Schrum. Keith is a retired state history museum curator (Colorado) and supporter of Red Hill who seeks to keep Patrick Henry's legacy alive. Keith and his wife strive to educate people on Henry's words and wisdom so that readers can become informed, engaged citizens who actively serve their communities. Keith first visited Red Hill several years ago and since then has conducted research, like this article, on Henry's words and their significance.



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Captain Staunton's River

BY HERMAN GINTHER

Historic points of interest from the past that were near the Staunton River in Charlotte & Campbell counties.

VALID THROUGH APRIL 30, 2023

FACES OF RED HILL

CODY YOUNGBLOOD



15

This issue, we're delighted to introduce you to Cody Youngblood, Red Hill's Curator! As curator, Cody presides over the museum collection—and so much more.

After starting out as a Visitor Center Associate, where he first got a taste of things here at Red Hill, Cody found himself becoming more and more fascinated specifically by the unique and varied artifacts in the museum collection. Cody followed that interest, spending more and more of his time working on the collection and improving the management and cataloging of items until it only made sense to make the work official by naming him to the role of Curator! It's the fulfillment of a longtime love and pursuit of history for Cody. He comes to us with an impressive educational background preparing him for

his current position, holding a B.A. in Historic Preservation and Museum Studies from the University of Mary Washington, and an M.A. in the Conservation of Historic buildings from the University of York in England.

Since becoming curator, he's catalogued and added a whopping 250 objects into the collection, and led the design of new exhibitions telling the story of Red Hill and the many who lived here—including the development of an upcoming exhibition for the Enslaved Cabin.

Asked about a favorite memory (so far) of his work at Red Hill, Cody shared a moment that occurred only a few months back. "While conducting a tour of the cemetery to an elementary school teacher," he said, "I noticed she began to tear up. She said

"This is just amazing. So powerful.' After taking some photos, she told me that 'every student needs to see this. I'm going to show all my classes these pictures and encourage them to visit.' I was moved by her emotions, which reminded me that the work we do to not only to preserve, but to interpret this site, is so important. I hope everyone who comes to Red Hill and the Quarter Place feels the same way."

Cody's passion for his subject is palpable when he speaks about what makes working at Red Hill such a special opportunity. His favorite view is from the Law Office, taking in the reconstructed Henry house, the fig trees planted in the 1830's, the 350-year-old Osage Orange, (keep reading below)

“...not only to preserve, but to interpret is so important.”

(continued from above)

and the open fields beyond. His favorite season is Fall, when the colors light up the grounds in red and orange. And it is all underscored by a respect and admiration for the man himself, Patrick Henry, that goes beyond his most famous moments. In fact, Cody says, it is the humanity of Patrick Henry that intrigues him most. "Patrick Henry was human," Cody says. "Yes, he was a Founding Father, an incredible orator, and a skilled politician, but he was also a complicated man with internal struggles.

Many of his early biographers placed Henry on a pedestal of mythical proportions, but in reality, Henry was just like us. This flawed yet accomplished person did more than say 'Give me liberty or give me death.' He was also a husband, a father (of 17 children), a grandfather (of 77), and an enslaver of people. I hope America can see Henry in this way."

We're certainly lucky to have someone with Cody's talent and enthusiasm working hard to interpret the history of Red Hill for our visitors. In each new exhibit, Cody pours hours of thought and care and

research, always making sure that we are improving in how we tell visitors the narrative of Red Hill, and do justice to the legacy of Patrick Henry. Come see the fruits of his labor and let him convince you, too, to become fascinated with a museum collection that he calls "one of the strongest collections relating to a Founding Father. Everything from Patrick Henry's telescope to his desks and even a door lock he purchased with funds received from a murder trial are here.

Where else can you get all that in one place?"

In an effort to recognize the people whose devotion and passion keep the site running, the Newsletter features a "Faces of Red Hill" series that introduces readers to the individuals who help Red Hill to thrive.



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The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation is a non-profit corporation devoted to education and preservation. The Foundation will promote through education and research programs the life, character, times, philosophy and contributions to posterity of Patrick Henry. As part of that mission, the Foundation is charged with maintaining and interpreting Red Hill, Patrick Henry's last home and burial place, as an historic site. A copy of the Foundation's most recent financial statement is available from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23206.

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LIVING HISTORY DAYS AT RED HILL !

Looking for a hands-on way to learn about colonial life and the Founding Fathers? Our Living History Days are a great way for kids of all ages to get a glimpse of what life was like in a way that will create lasting memories. To get in touch with us about bringing your group please email us at info@redhill.org!

Upcoming Events

March 20th
[VIRTUAL] ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVENTURES: DIGGING UP NEW STORIES ON THE QUARTER PLACE

See website for details.

April 12th
[VIRTUAL] LUCY HENRY HARRISON: THE EDWARDIAN AGE COMES TO RED HILL

See website for details.

April 21st
HOME EDUCATOR'S DAY
Advance registration required.