

News From Red Hill

Red Hill Patrick Henry
National Memorial

PUBLISHED BY THE PATRICK HENRY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION — BROOKNEAL, VA



NEW EXHIBIT OPENS ON QUARTER PLACE TRAIL

At the entrance of the Quarter Place Trail stands a 19th-century cabin which resembles the structures that once dotted the plantation. With its hand-hewn logs and orange mortar, the cabin was brought from West Virginia to serve as an exhibit space. Last year, this vision was realized with the installation (continued on page 14)

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A STANDOUT SUMMER AND A FULL FALL AT RED HILL

This fall saw a record number of visitors to Red Hill who took advantage of our field trips, tours, events, and lectures. We were excited to host almost 1,000 visitors to these events, in addition to our regular day visitors. We held two Home Educator Days this fall and had three home educator groups visit. Home Educator Days allow families to participate in colonial skills such as spinning and weaving, pottery, tin punching, colonial medicine, and blacksmithing. This fall five different schools participated in our Living History Field Trips, which provide students with a hands-on experience of Eighteenth-century life. These unforgettable field trips brought in almost 400 students. In addition, we sent out four of our Liberty Trunks to schools that could not

travel to Red Hill.

During the fall, we hosted eight events on our historic grounds that were enjoyed by people of all ages. These events included walking tours, lectures, our Annual Tribute to the Quarter Place Community, and Christmas Open House. We also had two private tours, one of which included students from Hampden-Sydney College. The students enjoyed discussions with historians John Coombs and Jon Kukla and tours of the historic buildings, Quarter Place Trail, and our museum. Both tours brought visitors to Red Hill for the first time.

For those who could not travel to Red Hill in person, we hosted virtual lectures about Patrick Henry and Red Hill. We held a virtual lecture, *Patrick Henry and Dying in the Eighteenth* (continued on page 12)

2ND ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO QUARTER PLACE COMMUNITY

On October 15, 2023, Patrick Henry's Red Hill and members of the local African American community came together for the 2nd Annual Tribute to the Quarter Place Community to honor the life and legacy of the enslaved population of Red Hill and their descendants. The event began at 11 a.m. and ran past its end time of three in the afternoon. The event's activities included an introduction and a warm welcome from Hope Marstin (CEO) and Takisha Fowlkes (Director of Community Engagement and Programming), a presentation on the history of Quarter Place by Quarter Place Researcher and Genealogist, Peighton Young, and performances from SlamOne Ensemble and the Kuumba Dance Ensemble. It also featured guest speaker Joseph Mc-

Gill from *The Slave Dwelling Project*, a mighty word from the speaker of the hour, Rev. Joseph Moore, a poem by Darlene Johnson, and Red Hill's ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new exhibition "*The Price of Chains and Slavery*" by Mr. Cody Youngblood, Director of Historic Preservation and Collections. The audience also participated in a hands-on, interactive drumming performance with the Kuumba Dance Ensemble. The event was catered by Favored Flavors of North Carolina. Despite the rainy weather, Red Hill had over 130 people in attendance. Guests, participants, staff, volunteers, and board members look forward to this year's 3rd Annual Tribute to the Quarter Place Community at Red Hill on Saturday, October 5, 2024. 🖋️



“...an exciting milestone worthy of celebration.”

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 3, 2023, felt more like spring than winter, but that did not stop anyone from feeling festive at Red Hill's Annual Christmas Open House! Visitors were invited to tour each building on the grounds, all featuring holiday cheer by way of pre-Revolution inspired plants and floral arrangements crafted by Red Hill's own Bonnie George and Stacy Strickland. Guests also had the opportunity to enjoy homemade baked goods

made by Red Hill staff and auxiliary and wash it all down with hot apple cider prepared in Red Hill's outdoor hearth kitchen!

Additionally, volunteer Andi Bradsher hosted guided walking tours of the Quarter Place, teaching attendees what we know about the lives of the enslaved community that lived at Red Hill until emancipation in 1865. The half-mile out-and-back Quarter Place Trail tells the stories of the enslaved

community in part through a reconstructed slave dwelling and interior exhibit (our cover story in this issue), remnants of dwellings for the enslaved, a tobacco barn, and an ordering pit. The final 500 feet of the trail steeply descends to the Quarter Place cemetery. There, observers saw where 147 people, 53 of whom have been identified, are buried.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees were encouraged to enter our

From the Red Hill Collection

FUNDRAISING ROSTER FOR THE PURCHASE OF RED HILL

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, an exciting milestone worthy of celebration. The foundation was formed on October 27, 1944, by James S. Easley and local citizens out of a concern for the protection and preservation of Red Hill. By that time, Patrick Henry's great-granddaughter had died, and the future of Red Hill was uncertain.

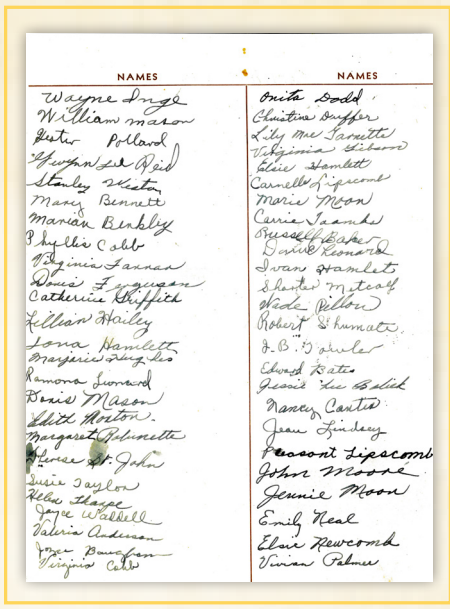
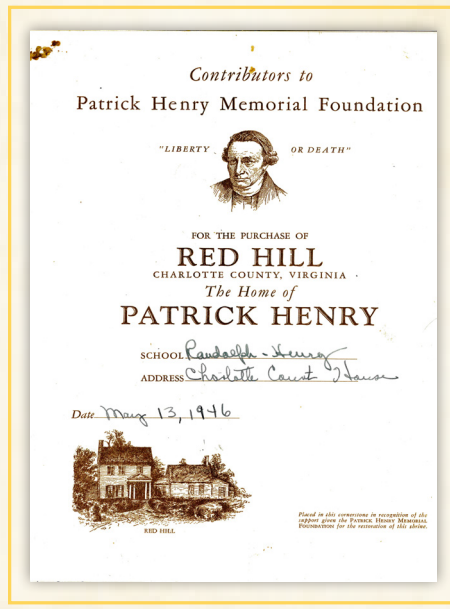
However, so was the future of the newly formed foundation unless it could fund its mission. Its first goal to purchase Red Hill came rather quickly in the form of two loans taken out in April 1945: one for \$25,000 with the Morris Plan Bank of Richmond, and a second one for \$35,000 with the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company – totaling \$60,000. By July 1945, the foundation had successfully acquired Red Hill and about 961 acres by approval of the Charlotte County Circuit Court.

What came next was a slew of fundraising efforts to pay off these loans. Patriotic individuals sent in donations anywhere from \$1 to \$1,000 starting in 1945. Just like today, the foundation got creative in how they raised money. One

such way was a statewide school drive in spring 1945 to raise money for the purchase of Red Hill.

However, foundation trustees were disappointed with the results of the drive in Charlotte County, the county in which Red Hill is located. Trustees had hoped the school quotas of Charlotte County would lead the state. So, they continued the drive locally starting in the Fall school term of 1945 and going through to early spring 1946.

Foundation members encouraged every Charlotte County school to exceed its minimum average of 10 cents per pupil. In the campaign release the Foundation urged, "It should be a matter of pride—as well as patriotism—to (continued on page 4)



raffle, sign up to stay up-to-date on all things Red Hill, and purchase tickets to win a handstitched quilt from our auxiliary. By the time the three-hour event concluded, more than 160 visitors from various Virginia and North Carolina towns and cities joined in Red Hill's open house merriment!



FUNDRAISING ROSTER (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

every school and every citizen in Charlotte if the amount contributed by our schools exceeded every other County in Virginia...."

Although exact numbers are not

known, it seems the schools donated over \$450 averaging 16 ½ cents per child. That equates to \$7,800 today. After completing the drive, the foundation sent blank rosters to

all participating Charlotte County schools, asking teachers to record the signatures of each student donor. The roster seen here is one of twenty-one signed rosters received from schools,

“

...no longer thirteen disconnected colonies...

”

QUOTES →IN← CONTEXT

PART I

(BY MARK COUVILLON)

"I am not a Virginian, but an American!"

Next to Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death!" oration, his "I am not a Virginian, but an American" speech, delivered during the First Continental Congress, is probably the best known. Despite its popularity, the meaning behind this speech is often misunderstood as an early call for a national government. Although Henry firmly believed that the Thirteen Colonies needed to speak as one voice against Parliamentary oppression, the main purpose of his speech was to ensure Virginia was given its proper weight in Congress when it came to voting. Unlike Henry's "Liberty or Death!" speech that had to be pieced together by his first biographer William Wirt

Henry decades after its delivery, Henry's "I am not a Virginian, but an American!" speech was written down the day it was given by two eyewitnesses: John Adams of Massachusetts and James Duane of New York. On September 6, 1774, John Adams wrote in his diary that Mr. Henry rose and declared that "Government is dissolved. Fleets and Armies and the present State of things shew that Government is dissolved. Where are your Land Marks? your Boundaries of Colonies. We are in a State of Nature, Sir. I did propose that a Scale should be laid down. That part of N. America which was once Mass. Bay, and that Part which was once Virginia, ought to be considered as having a Weight. Will not People complain, 10,000 Virginians have not outweighed 1,000 others. I hope future Ages will quote our Proceedings with Applause. It is one of the great Duties of the democratical Part of the Constitution to keep itself pure. It is known in my

Province, that some other Colonies are not so numerous or rich as they are. I am for giving all the Satisfaction in my Power. The Distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers and New Englanders, are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American."¹

On the same day, James Duane wrote in his journal: "The congress met and the first Question debated was whether the Congress should vote by colonies; what weight each colony should have in the determination? Mr. Henry from Virginia insisted that by the oppression of Parliament all Government was dissolved that we were reduced to a state of nature, that there was no longer any such distinctions as Colonies. That he conceiv'd himself not a Virginian but an American."²

Even though government officials in England occasionally referred to the colonists as Americans, it was




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.

including Phenix Elementary, Charlotte Court House Elementary, and Oakdale School. This roster from Randolph-Henry High contains 302 student signatures.



Initially there were plans to place these signatures in the cornerstone of a memorial at Red Hill. For reasons unknown this plan was not carried through. However, the rosters con-




taining signatures from the Fall 1945–Spring 1946 drive are all part of our permanent collection. 



not an expression commonly used on this side of the ocean until after the Revolution. In 1774, when the first Congress met in Philadelphia, colonists did not consider themselves as Americans. At least, they did not view themselves as a continental people. Most colonists viewed themselves as members of whichever town or colony they resided in. By calling himself an American, Patrick Henry was stating that they were no longer thirteen disconnected colonies, but a united people. Henry's remarks were not only a new concept to those who heard them, but also disconcerting to the more conservative members of Congress. By declaring himself an American, Henry was stating that British actions had virtually destroyed constitutional government in the colonies and had placed them in a state of nature. As such, America must provide for her own proper government.³

Along with attempting to unify the colonies, the second purpose of Henry's speech was to insure Virginia, being the oldest, wealthiest, and most populous of the thirteen colonies, was given its proper weight in Congress when it came to voting. The first major question facing the delegates was over the method of voting – whether it should be by colonies, or by population, or by wealth. Henry argued that it would be great injustice if a little colony, like Rhode Island with a population of 50,000, should have equal weight in Congress as a great one, such as Virginia, which boasted a half-million inhabitants. "One of the greatest mischiefs to society," Henry declared, "was an unequal representa-

tion." He then added, "Slaves are to be thrown out of the question, and if the freeman can be represented according to their numbers I am satisfied."⁴ In essence, Patrick Henry was saying to the delegates of the smaller colonies that it was not Virginians who were outweighing you, but fellow Americans. Henry's position was supported by Benjamin Harrison, who stated that his constituents would not forgive the injustice if Virginia "should have no greater weight in the determination than one of the smaller colonies."⁵ Mr. Sullivan of New Hampshire observed that "a little Colony had its All at Stake as well as a great one." Henry and Harrison were also reminded by the delegate from Rhode Island that some counties in Virginia were smaller and poorer than others but all received two representatives in the House of Burgesses.⁶

Due to the inability to procure proper materials for ascertaining the importance of each colony, it was decided that each colony would have one vote. This method of voting continued to be used in Congress until the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1788. Under the "Great Compromise" between the small and large states, each state was to be given the same number of senators, while the number of delegates in the House of Representatives would be based on population. 

1. The Adams Papers, Dairy of John Adams, vol. 2, 1771-1781, ed. L.H. Butterfield. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 1961, pp. 124-126.

2. Paul H. Smith, ed., "James Duane's Notes on the Debates, 6 September, 1774" Letters of Delegates to Congress, Vol. 1, (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1976), 30-31.

3. William Wirt Henry, Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1891), 1: 222.

4. The Adams Papers, 124-126.

5. Duane's Notes, 31.

6. D/JA/22A

PART II

(BY KEITH SCHRUM)

*"Every consideration must give way to the public safety. That admirable Roman maxim, salus populi suprema lex, governed that people in every emergency. It is a maxim that ought to govern every community." (Translation of salus populi suprema lex: "the health (good, welfare) of the people is the highest law.")**

Patrick Henry defense presentation in the British Debts Case, 1791

The courtroom in Richmond was packed on November 25, 1791 when Patrick Henry stood to defend his client, Dr. Thomas Walker. English merchant William Jones filed a lawsuit against Walker to recover pre-revolutionary war debt in a trial that would be *(continued on page 13)*

Thank You

For Giving to Support the Legacy of Patrick Henry

While Red Hill is the National Memorial to Patrick Henry, so designated by the United States Congress and the President, the Foundation receives no government support and depends on the thoughtful contributions of organizations and individuals like those represented on the following pages.

The following is a list of 2023 gifts, grants, and bequests received January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. If your name is not listed, it may be because: we made a mistake; you asked that your gift remain anonymous; or your gift was recorded before or after the dates stated above. Every effort is given to ensure the accuracy of this contributions list. If we have overlooked your name or made an error, please accept our apologies and advise Hope Marstin, Chief Executive Officer, at 800.514.7463 or om@redhill.org.

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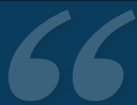
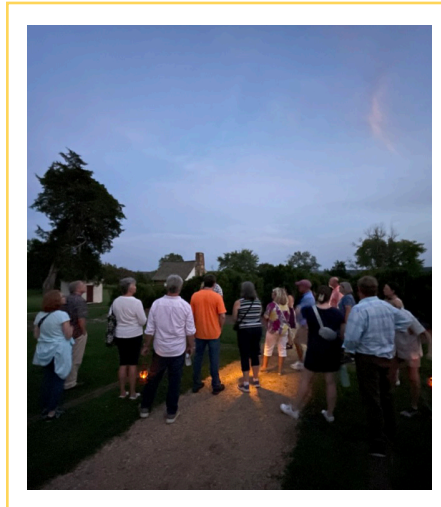
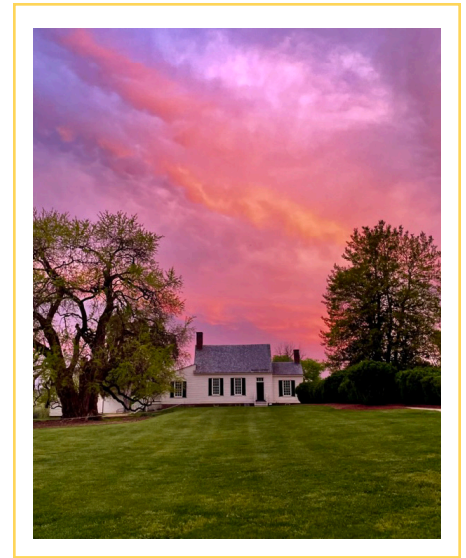
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SUMMER & FALL TOURS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Century, in October to answer questions about Patrick Henry's death. (This lecture series is ongoing—check out upcoming dates and topics on the back cover of this issue, or at redhill.org/events)! In addition to our tours, events, and lectures, we had two civic groups hold their annual meeting at the Eugene Casey Education and Event Center.

We were excited to see all the visitors to Red Hill this fall and look forward to spring and the visitors it will bring. 🍂



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



SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT AT RED HILL

On October 13, 2023, Red Hill welcomed Joseph McGill, founder of The Slave Dwelling Project, to lead a campfire chat and sleep in the restored Coachman's Cabin. Once a slave dwelling, the cabin now looks much like it would have when enslaved and eventually paid employees lived in it. Through research, Cody Youngblood—Red Hill's Director of Historic Preservation and Collections—brought in period pieces, furniture, and other props to show what the building would have looked like

when it was used as a dwelling.

McGill—a historian, author, and Civil War re-enactor—founded The Slave Dwelling Project in 2010 in part to raise awareness about and share stories of the lives of the enslaved, preserve extant structures of dwellings for the enslaved, and engage in conversation about slavery, race, racism, and racial equity as we work towards improved racial relations. McGill travels the country hosting talks and sleeping in dwellings for the enslaved, and has detailed those

experiences, his own life experiences, and professional experiences in his recently published book *Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery*.

While he was at Red Hill, McGill led a campfire chat with an audience of about 30, made up of Red Hill staff and visitors, where we discussed the history and legacy of slavery in the United States, how racism still deeply impacts the nation, and discussed how current events have been shaped by the past. 🍂

QUOTES IN CONTEXT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

labeled the British Debts Case. It was one of many such suits filed after the U.S. Constitution took effect in 1787 and the Judiciary Act followed in 1789 establishing a federal court system and judicial districts within the states.

The British Debts Case was momentous and has been covered by scholars and historians examining its several points of law. Ultimately, William Thomas won, but Henry's defense was noteworthy.

In 1777, the Virginia Legislature enacted a law that allowed her citizens to rid themselves of debt owed to British subjects. War, Henry argued in the trial, created unique and demanding circumstances. Nations in crisis exercised unusual powers and such was the case for the United States in the conflict with England. Enemy property had been confiscated and debt owed to enemies was included. Since the present suit was about repayment of those debts, Henry referred to events from the past to illustrate an important point: the magnitude of crisis faced by a country demanded response by its government to protect the people.

He declared the Romans applied the maxim to meet their needs and

so should the United States. Henry said the nation must have the power to act according to necessity and for "human judgment" to decide the occasions that merit the use of such power.

"Every consideration must give way to the public safety." He followed with "the most illustrious men who have considered human rights, and considered how far a nation is warranted to act in cases of emergency, declare the only ingredient essential to the validity of its measures is that they be for the public good."

*Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches by William Wirt Henry, III, 609-610. The Latin is found in Marcus Tullius Cicero's *De Legibus*, Book III, Part III.

To learn more about Patrick Henry and the British Debts Case, see:

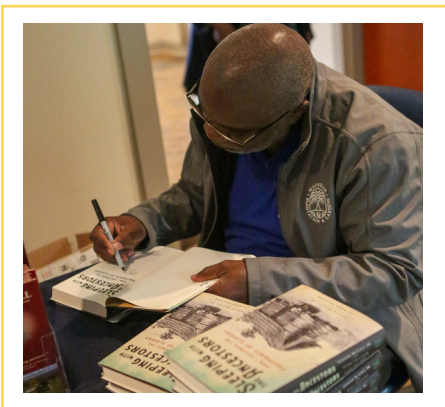
- *Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches* by William Wirt Henry, 3 Volumes. Published by Sprinkle Publications, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1993.
- *Patrick Henry: Practical Revolutionary* by Robert Douthat Meade. Published by J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia and New York, 1969.



MARK COUVILLON



KEITH SCHRUM



NEW QUARTER PLACE EXHIBIT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

of a new exhibit: *The Price of Chains & Slavery: Enslavement, Jim Crow, and the Black Experience at Patrick Henry's Red Hill.*

This exhibit offers profound insight into the history of slavery and resilience among Red Hill's Black community. Drawing on historical documents, archaeological research, and oral histories, *The Price of Chains & Slavery* is the first exhibit at Red Hill to focus solely on its history of slavery and sharecropping. Visitors can connect more tangibly with never-before-seen photographs and archaeological artifacts excavated from the Quarter Place.

The name of this exhibit draws on Patrick Henry's own words proclaimed at St. John's Church on March 23, 1775. While speaking to the Second Virginia Convention, Henry asked:

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

The hypocrisy of these words—spoken by Henry while enslaving doz-

ens of people at his plantations—was not lost on the orator, who expressed his feelings of uneasiness about this “lamentable evil” in a letter to Robert Pleasants in 1773. *The Price of Chains & Slavery* emphasizes this distinction between Henry's words of liberty and the actions of denying that liberty to generations of enslaved Blacks.

Cody Youngblood, Director of Historic Preservation & Collections, wrote, designed, and curated this exhibit with researchers Mark Couvillon and Peighton Young. Visitors can expect to explore how the legacy of slavery affects Red Hill today, thanks to the family histories shared by the living descendants of their enslaved ancestors.



PLAN YOUR LEGACY AT RED HILL

Patrick Henry stated, “It is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope” and believed this to be an essential trait in humans. It is this trait that drives the American Dream through our desire for a better future.

We invite you to consider how you will create your own legacy and help build toward a better future. A commitment to Red Hill today, through careful estate planning and intentional designation of a beneficiary, will have a lasting and important impact for generations to come.

As you plan forward, we hope you will contemplate how you personally

may steward the future and the legacy of Patrick Henry, the communities of Red Hill, and America's stories.

Ways that planning for a gift either during life or at death can benefit you, your family, and Patrick Henry's Red Hill:

- Retirement Accounts
- Bequests and Property
- Life Insurance
- Charitable Remainder, and
- Charitable Lead Trusts

If these ideas interest you or you have other thoughts on how you would like to plan your support, please contact us.



FACES OF RED HILL




WARD BURTON

Ward Burton, who calls South Boston, VA his hometown, is a local in southern Virginia. But when he is recognized at Red Hill, it's often for another reason: his career as a professional stock car racing driver and NASCAR series winner. His membership on the Board of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation has brought him out to several of our most beloved events, including the 4th of July Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization ceremonies, much to the enjoyment of all the NASCAR fans in attendance! But outside of his driving, Burton is best known for his work in conservation. He's been a spokesman for Virginia's state parks since 2003, and is the founder and President of the Ward Burton Wildlife

Foundation, which promotes the sustainability of natural resources through conservation, land management, outdoor outreach, and educational practices.

It's that love for southern Virginia that made such a natural fit for him to join the Board of Directors of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation. "I have enjoyed going to Red Hill as a parent for many years," he said. "Hope Marstin [Red Hill CEO] came to visit to see how the two organizations could partner." In joining the Board, Ward's first project was working to help obtain a conservation easement for Red Hill. Since then, his foundation has continued to partner with us to provide educational stations to youth at Red Hill so that they will

better understand and appreciate our natural resources. Here in what Patrick Henry called "the garden spot of the world," it's easy to see the natural beauty of the land around us, where the river and the rolling green of hills and trees can lend their own brand of gentle persuasion to anyone who sees them. They make a compelling case without any words at all for why protecting this landscape is an imperative piece of the legacy being preserved at Red Hill for the generations to come.

If you'd like to find out more about our ongoing conservation efforts, spring is a great time to come and see the natural beauty for yourself! 

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.

“...important impact for generations to come.”



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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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FREE VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES !

Our free virtual education series "Red Hill Rediscovered" continues with a great lineup for Spring. Join us on April 26th with Mark Couvillon as he discusses the facts and myths surrounding Patrick Henry's first wife, Sarah Shelton. Then return June 13th to find out what we discovered in the first year of Red Hill's archaeology program with Staff Archaeologist, Lucia Butler! Register for free access to this virtual event at redhill.org/events.

Upcoming Events

April 6th & 13th
FROM RESISTANCE TO RESILIENCE: BLACK VIRGINIA'S PATH TO FREEDOM
See website for details.

May 10th
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

May 29th
PATRICK HENRY'S 288TH BIRTHDAY
Come for cake, stay for tours!

July 4th
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION