

Red Hill Descendants Group Town Hall

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on the launch of the Red Hill Descendants Group, an affiliate organization of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of African American and Indigenous people associated with Red Hill and Quarter Place. The group's formation follows years of genealogical and archaeological research by Red Hill staff, which has identified 60 of 147 burials at Quarter Place and uncovered artifacts from 19th-century tenant cabins. Committee members and staff presented an overview of ongoing research, including archaeological findings and genealogical connections, while descendants shared their personal ties to the property and expressed interest in future collaboration. The group discussed plans for volunteer opportunities, educational programs, and preserving family histories, with a particular focus on involving young people in archaeological work. The conversation ended with a call for community ambassadors to help spread awareness of the group's mission and upcoming events.

Next steps

- Peighton: Email detailed information about Letty's story to Linda.
- Hope: Send AI-generated summary of the meeting to James and the Red Hill Descendants Group committee for review and editing before final distribution.
- Hope: Post the meeting recording on the Red Hill website for public access.
- All interested descendants: Email **info_RHDG@redhill.org** with genealogy questions, suggestions for the Quarter Place tribute, or to get on the distribution list.
- Michelle: Collect and review suggestions/feedback from descendants regarding the planning and interpretation of the upcoming Quarter Place tribute (via email or other contact).
- Lucia and Margaret: Coordinate with interested descendants regarding volunteer opportunities in archaeology (lab and field) and respond to inquiries about involvement.
- Peighton: Respond to genealogy questions from descendants who reach out via the group email.
- All descendants/committee: Act as community ambassadors by sharing information about the Red Hill Descendants Group with family and community members to encourage broader participation.

- Committee (James, Lisa, Nathalie, Hope,): Synthesize and document feedback, questions, and ideas from the meeting to inform future meetings, priority projects, and the evolution of the group.
- Committee: Develop and communicate an operational structure for the Red Hill Descendants Group, including plans for leadership roles and ongoing engagement.
- Committee: Consider the development of a Red Hill Descendants Group family tree as a resource for connecting descendant families.
- Committee/Staff: Plan and announce future virtual and/or in-person gatherings for the group.
- Committee/Staff: Organize input sessions (virtual/in-person) for descendants to inform future research and programming, especially regarding archaeology and genealogy.
- Committee/Staff: Plan and offer presentations, lab tours, and artifact viewings for descendants interested in archaeology findings.