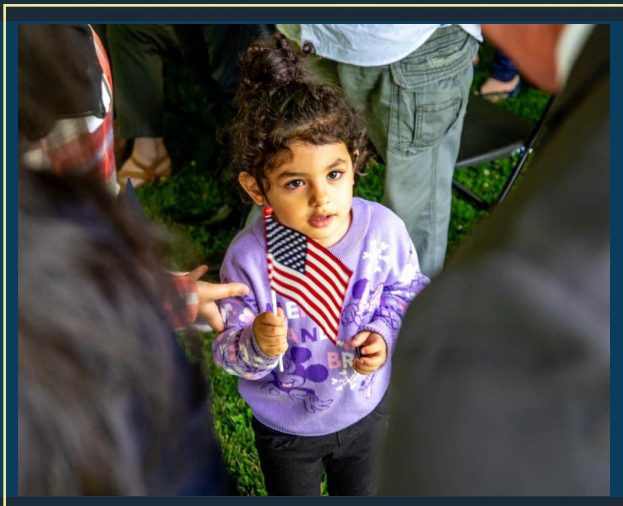


News From Red Hill



Red Hill
Patrick Henry National Memorial

PUBLISHED BY THE PATRICK HENRY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION — BROOKNEAL, VA



NEW U.S. CITIZENS TAKE THEIR OATH AT RED HILL

The annual Naturalization ceremony at Patrick Henry's Red Hill is a highlight event for all who attend, including the staff. In 2024, 30 individuals from 23 countries were naturalized, becoming the newest citizens of the United States. What better place could an event like this take place, than Red Hill, the last home of Patrick Henry, one of the leading founders of this nation? Before the ceremony began, Brookneal Elementary School's Fifth Grade sang a *(continued on page 10)*

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RED HILL ON THE ROAD

While thousands of guests visit Patrick Henry's Red Hill annually in-person, there are other ways people can become familiar with the history of this special place. In addition to on-site events at Red Hill, the staff enjoys participating in a wide variety of off-site events. Expert staff speakers make themselves available for events, conferences, and meetings throughout Virginia and beyond, on a variety of topics, such as archaeology and museum collections at Red Hill, and of course Patrick Henry, his family, the enslaved and free-Black population that lived and labored here, and the ongoing discoveries the land has to offer.

Staff also participate in local or regional community engagement events, such as job fairs,

and community street festivals. Just this fall, staff engaged with over 3,000 schoolchildren at "Career Day" in Lynchburg, VA, and shared about the fascinating and fulfilling world of museum work. Staff also travel to speak on Henry-related topics at DAR, SAR, and Colonial Dames meetings across the state. It was a great privilege to be asked to present at the Revolutionary Educators Conference in Williamsburg, VA to make teachers from across the state aware of how Red Hill can support them as they teach the often-complicated history surrounding the Colonial Period and Revolutionary War. Attendees enjoyed seeing a sample of free virtual tours, online exhibits, and Liberty Trunk activities, all of which *(continued on page 3)*

SMILES AND FIREWORKS LIGHT UP THE 4TH

A smattering of light rain showers throughout the day did not dampen the mood of those who celebrated at Red Hill during the annual July 4th Independence Day event. All told, we hosted 2,300 visitors who enjoyed Patrick Henry’s “garden spot” for a day that included plenty of history, food, fun, and—of course—fireworks!

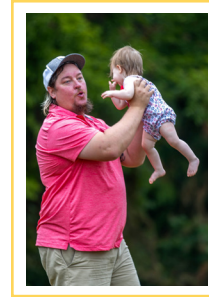
The buildings were staffed with interpreters and guided tours were given along the historic Quarter Place Trail, and many came early in the day in order to enjoy touring the historic buildings, museum, and gift shop. Families with children had plenty of fun activities to keep everybody busy. Face painting provided by our own Jacklyn Harris, colonial games like stilts and hoops, and cornhole were just a few that kept the kids occupied for hours.

Still, many other visitors simply enjoyed sitting in lawn chairs and visiting with one another. Live music was provided by The Brown Brothers, who are always a crowd favorite. A variety of food vendors were on hand to provide the hungry crowd with barbeque, kettle corn, ice cream, and other delicious treats throughout the day.

Later, the celebration continued with Patrick Henry’s powerful “Liberty or Death” speech, once again delivered with expert zeal by Henry

descendant Patrick Henry Jolly. Following the speech and a reading of The Declaration of Independence, the evening concluded with a spectacular fireworks display, which naturally is the best way to wrap up the July 4th festivities at Patrick Henry’s Red Hill. For our “VIP Experience” this year, guests were treated to cupcakes and lemonade and were offered prime seating with the best view of the fireworks display at the Eugene B. Casey Education Center.

See you at Red Hill on Friday, July 4th, 2025! 🦋



“...light showers did not dampen the mood...”



From the Red Hill Collection

INTERPRETING *NANNY HOLDING CHILD*

BY ALYSSA MOORMAN, INTERN SUMMER 2024

Nanny Holding Child is a cased tin-type in the Red Hill collection. While it may appear as an endearing depiction of a young child with a nanny, the photograph prompts deeper reflection on race, slavery, and Reconstruction-era dynamics. The image's context sheds light on the complex relationships Black female nannies, both enslaved and free, had with the white children they cared for.

The child in the photograph is likely a member of the Henry family, related to Margaret Henry Ottarson, a great-great-granddaughter of Patrick Henry. Records suggest the child could be Dandridge Yuille Henry, born in 1869, making the photograph's creation date around 1870. The Black woman in the image was a nanny possibly enslaved at Windstone, a Henry family plantation east of Red Hill. Her identity and age remain unknown due to the lack of documentation on enslaved and freed Black laborers. Dandridge Yuille Henry's daughter, Margaret Henry Ottarson, had possession of the *Nanny Holding Child* tintype until she sold her house to her friend, Pamela Wood Kirchner, who gifted the tintype and other items to Red Hill in March 2023.

The photograph's historical context reveals the fraught social and political conditions following the Civil War. The Reconstruction era saw a reshaping of relationships between Black and white Americans as stereotypes such as the "mammy" caricature gained prominence. The mammy image, emerging circa 1810, solidified during Reconstruction and idealized Black nannies as loyal caretakers devoted to white families.² Antebellum South and supported narratives like the Lost Cause, obscuring the harsh realities of slavery and racial inequality.² The mammy's symbolic headscarf and apron signified her domesticity and subservience, while her supposed loyalty concealed the deep injustices Black women endured.

White memoirs often celebrated the mammy figure, expressing affection for their nannies while ignoring their humanity. Many nannies' names and personal histories remain unrecorded, overshadowed by this perspective. These narratives reduced Black women to surrogate maternal figures while denying their roles as biological mothers.

In addition, studio arrangements centered on the white child, relegating



the nanny to the role of a prop.¹ Her presence represents the Henry family's wealth, as they could afford a caretaker working within the domestic sphere. The image encapsulates power dynamics, with the nanny's labor symbolizing servitude and her inclusion reinforcing the mammy caricature.¹

While these images may evoke warmth, their deeper implications reveal the trou- (continued on page 4)



ON THE ROAD

(Continued from cover)

they could share with their students.

Red Hill is proud to be the National Memorial for Patrick Henry and works in a wide variety of ways to ensure the mission of education and preservation is fulfilled. Staff are passionate about telling the full story of the life of Patrick Henry and the long history of Red Hill, the site of his last home and his burial place.



COLLECTION (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

bling history and erasure of enslaved and freed Black women's identities, presenting them solely as props in service of white families. Symbolizing the labor Black women contributed both

during and after slavery illuminated their integral yet undervalued role in nation-building. This tintype alludes to the reliance of the Henry family on enslaved labor and highlights the continued exploitation of Black indi-

viduals post-emancipation. Questions surrounding the nanny's life—her feelings toward the child, her ability to care for her children, and even her name—remain unanswered, reflecting the broader lack of recorded Black



QUOTES → IN ← CONTEXT



BY GUEST AUTHOR KEITH SCHRUM

“When you give power, you know not what you give.”*

—*Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 9th, 1788*

Patrick Henry cited the words of French philosopher Charles-Louis Montesquieu as debate continued in Virginia regarding the adoption or rejection of the proposed U.S. Constitution (See Note). It was Monday, June 9, 1788 and the Virginia Ratifying Convention assembled in Richmond to decide the matter.

Federalists favored the Constitution. Its adoption would create a central government and strengthen the union of the states. It would establish separate branches of operation with authority to act granted by powers deemed “necessary and proper.” Federalists stated that the nation, the states and the people would benefit.

Henry was a leader of Antifederalists opposed to adoption. They viewed

the Constitution with suspicion and believed it would create a central government too large to control. They claimed there were a number of listed powers that were vague and lacked sufficient detail for people to understand how the new system would function.

Henry and his colleagues felt there were unanswered questions and things left to chance. Many of the delegates had been part of the American Revolution to end British government abuse and oppression. America was free, but Antifederalists feared the proposed Constitution might simply replace one form of tyranny for another. They expressed concern that once the states and their citizens gave power and authority to a large, untested federal government, they might lose their rights. Liberty would be gone.

Regarding any so-called vagueness, Federalists responded that elected members to the new govern-

ment would be virtuous and sort out details for the greater good. However, Henry was a keen observer of human nature and spoke about the frailties of humanity. He stated there may be good people involved, “*but can this be expected of human nature? Without real checks, it will not suffice that some of them are good.*”

A few days earlier on June 5th, Henry mentioned the subject of *power* some two-dozen times. On June 9th, he brought up the subject again. He reminded the assembled delegates of the need to have clear checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power by any individual or branch. Henry asked where these were found in the Constitution. Where was a Bill of Rights to protect citizens’ liberties and the rights of the states? The Constitution had flaws and required amendments and to correct them, and a Bill of Rights was needed to preserve the hard-fought (continued on page 10)

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.

experiences in U.S. history. Ultimately, the photograph underscores the need to interpret such images critically, considering their historical context and layered narratives. 🍃

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1. Emory University, "Framing Shadows: What historical photos can teach us about the lives of African Americans in domestic service," Emory University, March 12, 2019, <https://news.emory.edu/features/2019/03/framing-shadows/index.html>.

2. Wallace-Sanders, Kimberly, *Mammy: A Century, of Race, Gender, and Southern Memory*, University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, 2011. Pgs 4-13.

“...can this be expected of human nature?”

ANNUAL QUARTER PLACE TRIBUTE RETURNS

It was a beautiful Fall day on the grounds of Red Hill to host our annual tribute to the Quarter Place Community. Descendants, volunteers, staff, community leaders, and visitors came together to honor the life and legacy of Red Hill's enslaved population and their descendants. The day began at the Quarter Place Cemetery a half mile down the Quarter Place Trail, where the enslaved lived at Red Hill. Takisha Fowlkes, Director of Community Engagement, welcomed all the guests. This was followed by a performance of singing and playing the harp by Jocelyn Henry-Whitehead. Jocelyn lives near Williamsburg, VA and has been a museum educator. The performance was followed by a presentation and a moving tribute to the enslaved through 'reading of the names' by Peighton Young, Historian & Genealogist of African American History. Peighton began working with Red Hill in April 2020 as a historian and genealogist for the Quarter Place Project. The primary goals of their work are to research the history of slavery and post-slavery Black life at Red Hill.

The crowd enjoyed lunch and

music by Jackson, Pendergrass, and Townsend, a trio featuring Denise Jackson on vocals, Marcus Pendergrass on keys, and Kenneth Townsend on guitar. The band is based in central Virginia and creates original music in the jazz/blues tradition.

After lunch, there was a performance entitled "Crittty: My Bondage, My Freedom" by Valerie Davis. Valerie is an award-winning Djelimusa (Storyteller) and author who uses her talents to teach values and promote awareness of lesser known historical events and people. This was followed by a presentation entitled "Reviving History: Refurnishing Harrison's Cabin" by Cody Youngblood, Director of Historic Preservation & Collections.

Throughout the day, there were African American craft vendors

promoting and selling their wares as well as exhibitors from James Monroe's Highland and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest. The historic buildings, visitor center, museum, and exhibition cabin were open for visitors to explore on their own. It was indeed an inspiring and beautiful day for everyone. One guest commented, "We all learned something I think, both in the head and in the heart." 🍃



PATRICK HENRY'S CHILDREN

This article was originally authored by Edith Poindexter in 1993 while she was the Administrative Assistant and genealogist at Red Hill. It has since been revised and updated by CEO Hope Marstin with assistance from Mark Couvillon and Patrick Henry Jolly.

"Thank you, Miz P, for all of your good work for Red Hill and for being my inspiration for what I do!"

—Hope

Patrick Henry was undeniably the "Voice of the Revolution" and quite possibly, as Thomas Jefferson thought, "the greatest orator who ever lived." He was the first governor of Virginia, serving five one-year terms, and fought, with ultimate success, for a bill of rights to the Constitution of the United States. More than one would-be humorist has also designated Mr. Henry "the father of his country," correctly pointing out that the orator was the parent of seventeen children while General Washington had no offspring. All joking aside, there is no doubt that Patrick Henry took his family responsibilities seriously throughout his life. Strong evidence supports the assertion that he declined the numerous federal posts offered him in the last decade of his life because, in part, he was determined to provide inheritances for his younger children.

The Henry children were born over forty-three years of their father's sixty-three-year lifespan. Patrick married Sarah Shelton when he was only eighteen, and she sixteen. This marriage produced six children. After Sarah died in 1775, Patrick married Dorothea Dandridge in 1777, about the age of his oldest son John, and fathered eleven additional children.

None of the seventeen became famous in their own right. For the most part, they became solid citizens but were often remembered as Patrick Henry's children. Here are short biographies of each:

1. MARTHA "Patsey" (1755-1818): Patrick Henry's oldest daughter, she married John Fontaine, whose mother, Elizabeth Winston Fontaine, was the daughter of William "Lankaloo" Win-

ston and first cousin of Patrick Henry. When her mother, Sarah Henry, became ill, Martha came back home and nursed her mother until her death in 1775, the year of Patrick Henry's "Liberty of Death" speech. Mr. Henry was often away from home then, and Martha became a mother to her younger brothers and sisters.

The Fontaines moved to Henry County, VA when Martha's father finished his initial terms as governor and lived on a plantation—"Leatherwood"—they had purchased from him. John Fontaine died of malaria in 1792. After his death, Martha and her six children lived in her father's home when he lived in Prince Edward County, VA. She only stayed there for a few months before she and her children returned to 'Leatherwood.' There, she managed the plantation and administered the wills of her husband and brother Edward.

Martha's oldest son, Patrick Henry Fontaine, attended Hampden-Sydney College and studied law under Patrick Henry. He later settled in Mississippi. Martha's son, Edward, born in 1776, also attended Hampden-Sydney College but died before graduating. Martha's son, Charles de LaBoulay Fontaine, married Ann Mayo Carrington, daughter of Paul Carrington Jr., of Charlotte County, VA. After serving in the Revolutionary War, Paul Carrington Jr. served in the Virginia House of Delegates and, later, the State Senate. Carrington was also appointed as a judge of the Court of Appeals. Martha's daughter, Martha, married Nathaniel West Dandridge II, the nephew of Dorothea Henry; a son, William, married Martha Hale Dandridge, the daughter of Nathaniel West Dandridge Jr., the brother of Dorothea Henry. Many of Patrick Henry's descendants today descend from these three family members.

Martha is buried in what is known as "the old Tuggle place" a few miles east of Martinsville, VA.

2. JOHN (ca. 1757-1792): Became a lieutenant in the First Regiment of Light Dragoons and later served as a captain in Colonel Harrison's First Continental Artillery Regiment in the Revolutionary War. There is a story about John going "raving mad"

after the Battle of Monmouth and of him being in love with Dorothea Dandridge, which comes from John's grand-nephew, William Spotswood Fontaine. He passed the story on to historian Charles Campbell around 1850. What is known is that John Henry suffered from some ailment shortly after the Battle of Monmouth and resigned his commission in August 1778, two months after the battle.

John married Susannah Walker and had one son, Edmund, born in 1791. John died later that same year in Henry County, VA.

3. WILLIAM (ca. 1763-1798): Became a New Bern, NC resident. He married a widow, Elizabeth Graves Cook. He served as sheriff in Craven County, NC, from 1794 until his death. His will leaves "all my lands in Henry County, VA, to my wife Elizabeth and 1000 acres in Norfolk County, VA, known by the name of Green Sea, given me by my father and 600 acres near Kemps Landing in Virginia to my brother, Edward." The land he received from his father in Norfolk County is now part of the City of Chesapeake. There were no children.

4. ANNE "Annie" (1767-1799): Married Spencer Roane, a lawyer and later a justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. She was married at 'Salisbury' on September 7, 1786.

Anne and Spencer Roane had seven children. Their oldest son, William Henry Roane, served in the Virginia House of Delegates and later in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Anne died at 'Montvale,' the home of her sister Betsey Aylett in King William County, VA, and is buried there in the Aylett cemetery.

5. ELIZABETH "Betsey" (1769-1842): Married Philip Aylett. A story from John Fontaine says that Betsey fell in love with Philip at first sight, and her stepmother Dorothea approved wholeheartedly. But Betsey was not cooperative; she thought Philip too wild and foolhardy. When he came to ask for her hand, Betsey pleaded illness, but Doro-

BY EDITH POINDEXTER, GENEALOGIST

thea insisted on her coming out to meet him. She refused his offer of marriage and then fainted from exhaustion. Poor Philip left, brokenhearted. Not to be outdone, Dorothea talked Betsey into saying "yes" and then brought Philip back, saying that Betsey had been overcome by emotion when she fainted. The marriage turned out to be a happy one.

Philip Aylett's father, Colonel William Aylett, served as the state commissary during the Revolutionary War. He was also a Burgess and served in the Second Virginia Convention.

Betsey had thirteen children. She and Philip's son, General Philip Aylett Jr. (1791-1848), was a member of the Virginia Senate from 1832 to 1833 and the Virginia House of Delegates from 1817 to 1827. He was also an officer in the Virginia State Militia.

Betsey died in 1842 at 'Fountainbleau,' King William County, VA, and is buried at 'Fairfield' in the Aylett cemetery in King William County. She outlived her husband and eleven of her thirteen children.

6. EDWARD "Neddy" (1771-1794):

Was the youngest son of Sarah, and showed the most promise of any of Patrick Henry's sons of being an outstanding lawyer. He was the only child of Patrick and Sarah to attend Hampden-Sydney College. Neddy fell in love with his first cousin, Sarah "Sally" Campbell, daughter of General William Campbell, and Elizabeth Henry Campbell (Patrick Henry's sister). His father disapproved because he felt that he would jeopardize his chances of becoming a self-made man if Neddy married into this wealthy family. Neddy hoped to impress Sally by qualifying to become a lawyer, but he was not quick enough. He qualified in February 1793, but Sally married General Francis Preston in January.

Very shortly after, Patrick Henry gave Neddy 949 acres of land on Smith's River and Leatherwood Creek in Henry County, VA, near the land of his sister Martha Fontaine, a widow by this time. Neddy became a Freemason of the Marshall Lodge in Lynchburg, VA, about a year before his death. Neddy died in 1794 at 'Winton,' the home of his aunt Jane Henry Meredith, in Amherst County, VA. Overwhelming evidence

indicates that he is also buried at 'Winton.' Patrick Henry wrote to the court in Henry County, VA, stating, "I consider the right of administering the Estate of my son Edward Henry dec'd to belong to me. But do waive the right and do hereby desire and request that administering the estate of my said son-Edward be granted to my daughter Martha Fontaine..." showing Patrick Henry respected and recognized Martha's intelligence and abilities. In memory of Neddy's passing in 1794, Patrick and Dorothea renamed their son Winston, Edward Winston, who was born in the same year.

7. DOROTHEA Spotswood "Dolly" (1778-1854):

Was the oldest child of Patrick Henry's second wife and named for her mother. Dolly was the last child born at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg, VA. She was described as "a charming woman, possessing a gift of language worthy of her eloquent sire."

Dorothea was married at 'Red Hill' in 1795 to her second cousin, George Dabney Winston, son of Judge Edmund Winston. Judge Winston later married his daughter-in-law's mother, Dorothea Henry, widow of Patrick Henry. Patrick Henry had asked Judge Winston to be one of his executors; perhaps Winston felt marriage was the best way! After her husband's death, Dolly lived with her nine children in Mississippi, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee, where she died in 1854.

8. SARAH "Sallie" Butler (1780-1856):

Was married in Charlotte Court House, VA. She married Robert Campbell and lived at 'Seven Islands' in Halifax County, VA, near 'Red Hill,' which had been given to her husband as a dowry. Sallie's husband died after five years of marriage; there were no children.

In 1811, Sallie was at a theater in Richmond, which caught fire. Alexander Scott, a widower from Fauquier County, VA, rescued her. A romance ensued, and they were married in 1813. There were three children from this marriage. Sallie died in 1856 and is buried at 'Seven Islands.'

9. MARTHA Catharina "Kitty" (1781-1801):

Married Edward Hugh Henry, son of Judge James Henry, at 'Red Hill.' The story of how she fell in love with Edward after he rescued her when she fell overboard from a boat in the Chesapeake Bay was told by her nephew, William Wirt Henry. Martha Catharina was an accomplished poet; many of her poems and songs survive today. She died in 1801 at the age of nineteen. Her only daughter, Dorothea, died in 1813.

10. PATRICK Jr. (1783-1804):

Attended Hampden-Sydney College. He married Elvira Cabell, daughter of William Cabell of 'Union Hill' in Nelson County, VA, in February 1804. He died in the same year at 'Union Hill' and is buried there. Patrick and Elvira's only child, Elvira Ann Patrick Henry, was born four months after his death. Patrick, Jr., had inherited half of his father's Long Island, VA estate, but it is doubtful that he ever lived there. It was inherited by his daughter and stayed in the family until 1904.

11. FAYETTE (1785-1812):

Was named in honor of Marquis de Lafayette, whom Patrick Henry had met a year earlier. Fayette attended Hampden-Sydney College and, like his father, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates.

Fayette inherited half of the Long Island property, but it is unknown if he lived there. However, the will and settlement of his estate list him as being of Campbell County, VA, where Long Island is located. He married Anne Elcan, and they had one child who died at birth in March 1808. Anne died while on a visit to 'Red Hill' in May 1808. Fayette died in 1812 after serving only one season in the Virginia House of Delegates. There are no stones to mark the graves, but all three are assumed to be buried at 'Red Hill.'

Fayette's will indicated that he had become quite prosperous in his twenty-eight years. It provided for all his property to be sold at public auction. Half the proceeds were to be given to his mother, Dorothea, and the other half was to be divided between his sisters, Sallie Campbell and Dorothea Winston.

PATRICK HENRY'S CHILDREN (CONT.)

Dr. George Cabell, Patrick Henry's physician and the father-in-law of Alexander Spotswood Henry (see below), purchased the Long Island property.

12. ALEXANDER Spotswood (1788-1854):

Also attended Hampden-Sydney College. He was known to be a scholarly gentleman with a large library but a poor business manager, which he attempted to resolve by selling enslaved people. He inherited half of his father's 'Saura Town' lands in North Carolina, which he sold to his brother-in-law, George Winston.

Alexander Spotswood married Paulina Cabell, daughter of Dr. George Cabell, and they lived at 'Shady Grove' in Campbell County, VA, for an undetermined length of time. It is believed that the property was Paulina's dowry. Alexander Spotswood and Paulina had ten children. Paulina died when the youngest child was a year old, and Alexander Spotswood never remarried. He died destitute at the home of his son, Dr. Patrick Henry, in Charlotte County, VA, and is buried at 'Red Hill.'

Alexander Spotswood's oldest son, George Lafayette, served in the Confederate Army. His daughter, Marion Fontaine Cabell, edited *Housekeeping in Old Virginia*. His youngest daughter, Marie Antionette, was the first schoolteacher in Big Lick (what is now Roanoke, VA).

13. NATHANIEL West (1790-1851):

Has been described as a spirited lad. He was so spirited that he was suspended from New London Academy and Hampden-Sydney College, where he was on the debating team. Later, he got in trouble at Washington College (later Washington & Lee).

Nathaniel inherited the other half of his father's 'Saura Town' property and settled down sufficiently to conduct an academy for boys in Leaksville, NC. He and his wife, Virginia Woodson, had six children. Their oldest son, Captain Patrick Miller, was a sergeant in the Mexican-American War and a Washington War Department clerk. Their youngest son, William Robertson, was a sheriff of Bexar County, TX, and was

killed in a gunfight on Powder House steps in San Antonio, dueling over who would be captain in a company of Confederate troops.

According to Nathaniel's obituary: "Died destitute at an Inn in Floyd County, VA, without money, friends, or resources of any kind. The keeper of the tavern applied to the overseers of the poor for payment of his board and funeral expenses but was refused. Nathaniel died of dropsy of the chest. His last occupation was teaching." (*Martinsville Gazette*, June 28, 1854) His obituary also stated that he had inherited much of "the sprightliness and vivacity" of his father.

14. RICHARD (1792-1793):

Died in Long Island, VA, at seventeen months old.

15. EDWARD Winston (1794-1871):

Was born at Long Island and inherited half of the almost three thousand acres of 'Red Hill.' He named his half 'Windstone,' perhaps to show his resentment at being renamed (see Edward, number six, above).

Edward married Jane Yuille and lived at 'Windstone' all his life. He was sheriff of Charlotte County, VA, and a planter and enslaver. They had nine children. The property stayed in the family until Edward's grandson, Dandridge Yuille Henry, died in 1950. His son, Dr. Thomas Yuille Henry, served in the Confederate Legislature of Florida and helped draft the constitution for the Confederate State of Florida. Thomas began breeding hounds from a direct offspring of a famous Irish hound called Mountain. The Henry Hounds breed was renowned for their speed and endurance and was much sought after by hunters.

16. JOHN (1796-1868):

Like his brother, Edward Winston, was named for a deceased brother (see number 2). He attended Hampden-Sydney College and returned to 'Red Hill' around 1815. He married Elvira Bruce McClelland (a niece of Patrick Jr.) in 1826. John and Elvira built a two-story addition to the Patrick Henry house, and Elvira supervised many improve-

ments to the surrounding landscape.

John and Elvira are buried at 'Red Hill,' and one of their six children, Laura Carter, is also buried there. Their daughter, Emma Cabell, was an accomplished pianist. Their son, William Wirt Henry, bought out his siblings' interest in 'Red Hill' after the death of their parents. William Wirt's daughter, Lucy Gray Henry Harrison, bought out her two brothers' and one sister's portion of their 'Red Hill' inheritance.

Lucy enlarged the house into a twenty-one-room mansion around 1911. In 1919, the house burned to the ground. At that time, Lucy had one living child, Louise, who was suffering from schizophrenia and was institutionalized in Baltimore, MD. Lucy, a widow, lived out the last quarter century of her life in the 'Red Hill' law office, which at the time had a two-story addition attached to it.

In 1944 the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation was formed and purchased the remaining 921 acres of John Henry's 'Red Hill.'

17. JANE Robertson (born 1798):

Lived only a few days and is buried in an unmarked grave at 'Red Hill.' 🕊️

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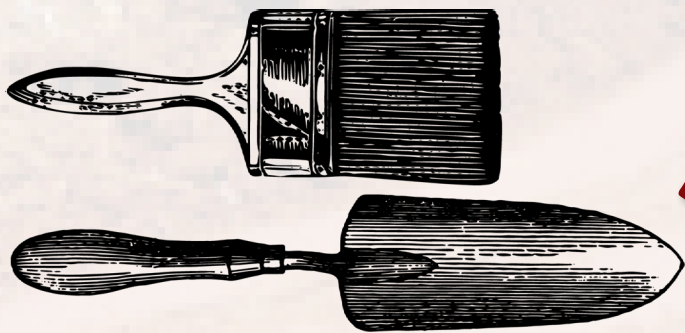
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Digging

INTO THE HISTORY

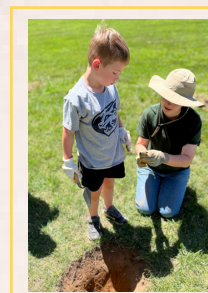
In 2024, Red Hill's archaeology program started its second year with an investigation of the original site of Patrick Henry's law office. For more than a century, the law office stood in the back yard of the Henry House, which, at the time, faced south toward the Staunton River. The structure may have been built before Henry purchased Red Hill from Richard Marot Booker in 1794, and Henry used it as a multipurpose space for studying his legal cases and providing overflow sleeping space for his sons and guests.

When Lucy Gray Henry Harrison took ownership of her great-grandfather's plantation in the early 20th century, her extensive renovation plans included transplanting the office further south to stand in between the house and the Henry cemetery. Five decades later, the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation endeavored to relocate the office to its original site, relying on the memory of architect Stanhope Johnson, who had assisted with Mrs. Harrison's earlier renovations in his younger days as an architect's assistant. The plans for a period-

accurate placement of the law office were hindered by the existence of a state road that encircled the property, with a right-of-way that fell over the spot which Johnson recorded as the law office's original location. Unable to get the Highway Department's permission to build on the right-of-way, the Foundation placed the restored structure as close as possible, about 75 feet south of the original location, where the building sits today. Today, the state road is gone from the landscape, allowing the potential

for the office to be moved back to its original location and for archaeological research to reveal more about the structure.

Before any plans could be made to move the law office, an archaeological investigation of its original site was needed *(continued on page 11)*



"GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

On March 23, 1775 Patrick Henry held an ivory paper cutter aloft as he said some of the most memorable words in American history. Each paper cutter available from Red Hill is handmade from bone and has its own unique color variations. A true one-of-a-kind tribute to the "Voice of Liberty".

NOW FOR A LIMITED TIME **ON SALE FOR \$17.75** IN HONOR OF HENRY'S FAMOUS SPEECH

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NATURALIZATION (CONT.)

(Continued from cover)

selection of patriotic songs. Hope Marstin, CEO of Patrick Henry's Red Hill, welcomed everyone. The Patrick Henry Chapter Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors. Patrick Henry Jolly, Patrick Henry's 5th great grandson spoke about Henry's thoughts on immigration. The Honorable Norman K. Moon, Senior United States District Judge, presided and swore in America's newest citizens. Guest speaker was Mike Madden, Vice Chair of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, who spoke about his wife's journey to become a naturalized citizen. Dexter Gilliam, Chair of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff and the Patrick Henry Auxiliary served lunch after the ceremony to all the new citizens, their families and friends, and all guests who attended the important event.

Throughout the years that the event has been held at Red Hill, new citizens and visitors who come to watch consistently talk about how special the ceremony is. A common sentiment among attendees is every natural-born American should witness a Naturalization ceremony to remind us of what we may take for granted.

Red Hill is very proud to be a host site for this very special, life-changing event for new American citizens. 



“ The potential for power abuse was on his mind. ”


QUOTES IN CONTEXT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

freedoms won in the war for independence. The *new* government being created was an *experiment* that might fail.

Henry believed so much was at risk and knew even good people “*will have a natural weakness. Virtue will slumber. The wicked will be watching.*” The potential for power abuse was on his mind. Twice in his speech that day, Henry stated that once someone acquired power, he or they, would not voluntarily let go of it. As he neared the end of his speech, Henry cautioned the delegates, “*Human nature will never part from power.*”

Note: Henry and other Founders

were influenced by Montesquieu's work, *The Spirit of Laws*. Montesquieu stated that, to have an effective republic, there needed to be a separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial functions. The separation provided necessary checks to prevent any branch from gaining too much power. To remove checks and balances, or to merge branches of government, was to invite despotism. 

**Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence, and Speeches* by William Wirt Henry, Vol. III. Published by Sprinkle Publications, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1993 (pp. 490, 501)

To learn more about Patrick Henry, see:

Patrick Henry: Proclaiming a Revolution by John A. Ragosta. Published by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York, 2017 (pp. 90-96)

Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, Vol. III by Jonathan Elliot. Published by J.B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, 1861 (pp. 150-174).

The Spirit of Laws by Charles Baron De Montesquieu. Published by Prometheus Books, Guilford, Connecticut, 2002. [The book is widely available from several publishers.]

FACES OF RED HILL

FRAN WYDNER



When Fran retired from her career as an educator, a friend knew just what she was going to need when she inevitably started to miss working with students—a gig as a Red Hill volunteer! “Next thing you know, I was visiting Red Hill and attending a Patrick Henry Auxiliary meeting,” she says. But it wasn’t a tough sell. “I was hooked and have been volunteering ever since. From not knowing what Red Hill was all about to volunteering for Living History, I have found my Happy Place!”

That was eleven years ago, and since then Fran has worn many hats as a volunteer for us. After her years as a teacher and then a principal, it was easy to step into the role of

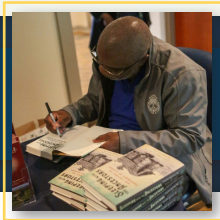
Docent and guide. She’s worked as Docent for the Patrick Henry House, Docent for Patrick Henry’s Red Hill Museum, Orientation leader for visiting school groups, and led children in both the Pottery and Flax to Fiber living history stations! And that’s not to mention event days and living history days, which number too many to count on her Red Hill resume.

As for Fran’s favorite time of year at Red Hill, she shares that hers is always the Christmas season, “when it is all decorated and festive-looking for the holidays.” Lots of her favorite memories though come from past years’ Naturalization ceremonies. “The new citizens speak about the trials and sacrifices they have made to come to

America, and my heart fills with pride for them. They value their citizenship, have earned this right, and have accomplished their goal.”

With all those hours under her belt, it’s no wonder volunteering eventually became a family affair! Fran’s husband is a volunteer too—one you might meet if you ever chance to hitch a ride on one of our golf carts during events. It’s the people who they have spent so many memorable days working and volunteering alongside that she thinks make Red Hill so special—not just to her, but to everyone who walks through the doors. 🍂

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.



ARCHAEOLOGY (CONT.)

(Continued from page 9)

to determine whether any features from the first construction, such as foundations or builder’s trenches, still existed and could corroborate Johnson’s record of the original location. The investigation began in the summer with a Ground Penetrating Radar survey by Chartrand Geospatial Solutions, which detected several features below the ground surface in the vicinity of the office’s original location, but none of which indicated foundations.

One of the smaller features, however, caught our archaeologists’ (Lucia Butler and Craig Rose) attention for

its rectangular shape and an orientation similar to that of the other historical buildings. With the help of hard-working volunteers, our team excavated the southern half of the feature, encountering clusters of un-laid brick and charcoal among sandy, mottled soil. Our archaeologists are still working to identify what this feature is.

The location and shape led to early conjectures that it could be the remains of the office’s chimney, but the loose, un-laid bricks encountered thus far cannot confirm that. In the search for any other features, the topsoil in

this area was carefully stripped using a mini excavator. The mechanical stripping revealed no traces of the office’s foundations, which means they may have been removed and reused at some point.

The investigation will continue with further excavation of the feature and artifact analysis in the winter months.

Volunteers of any age or experience can help with this work! Information on volunteering is available at www.redhill.org/archaeology. 🍂



Red Hill

Patrick Henry National Memorial



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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.

Officers of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

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RED HILL REDISCOVERED: DIVING DEEPER INTO THE HISTORY

Join us for one of our Red Hill Rediscovered talks: a fun, FREE educational series hosted by Cody Youngblood, our Director of Historic Preservation & Collections! Now available with all new dates for 2025! Join us online to learn something new in the New Year. Register (for free) at redhill.org/events.

Upcoming Events in 2025

January 14th

RED HILL REDISCOVERED: FRENCH AID DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Free, virtual event. Join from anywhere!

February 11th

RED HILL REDISCOVERED: CRITTY AND HER KITCHEN

Free, virtual event. Join from anywhere!

March 4th

RED HILL REDISCOVERED: PATRICK HENRY'S 'LIBERTY OR DEATH' SPEECH 250 YEARS LATER

Free, virtual event. Join from anywhere!