

Society Members Participate in Carrington Bicentennial Tribute 23 June 2018

Seven members of the society, Councilor Charles Belfield; Past President Dennis Fritts; Registrar Hugh Markham; Treasurer, Shane Newcombe and members Mike Weyler and Douglas Powell participated in the ceremony. The color guard members Belfield, Fritts and Markham wore the "Richmond Light Infantry Blues" coat and the Regular Army Infantry Hat with white plume. Information regarding Paul Carrington and photos taken follow

The following is a pending newspaper release

Bicentennial Tribute to Judge Paul Carrington of Mulberry Hill

The Historic Staunton River Foundation paid tribute to the life and legacy of Judge Paul Carrington of Mulberry Hill Plantation in Randolph, Virginia on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Two hundred years – exactly - to the day marked the bicentennial of the passing of Judge Paul Carrington, a successful colonial planter, lawyer, and politician, who helped the colony of Virginia gain her independence, as well as mold a new nation. To honor his legacy as a founder of Charlotte County in the colonial period, to mark his forty-two years as a public servant in the legislature and judiciary, and to commemorate his service as a Virginia Patriot during the Revolution and his influence in the founding of an infant democracy, a granite marker was unveiled to permanently and perpetually recognize his accomplishments in front of his law office on the grounds of his plantation, Mulberry Hill. The Historic Staunton River Foundation began preparations nearly a year before the event this weekend. Their efforts were highlighted with nearly 60 individuals present in the audience; the participation of eight local, regional, and national historical and hereditary societies in the wreath-laying ceremony, and the attendance of several lineal descendants of Judge Paul Carrington.

The Bicentennial Tribute began with a resolution from the Board of Supervisors of Charlotte County that stated, "...be it Resolved, that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize June 23rd, 2018 as Judge Paul Carrington Day in memory of Charlotte County's founding fathers, steadfast patriots, and distinguished gentleman." Individuals as far away as Kentucky and North Carolina attended the event where J. Shane Newcombe and Janet Johnson, trustees of the Historic Staunton River Foundation served as emcees. Rev. Tim Owen of Liberty Christian Church gave the invocation and benediction. The colors were posted, as a joint effort, from the Charlotte County Grays Color Guard (Stanley Foster, Larry Hartsoe, Harvey Wray, Bill Wray, David Moore, Randolph Gilliespie, and Junior Caknipe) and the Richmond Light Artillery Blues (Dennis Fritts, Charles Belfield, and Hugh Markham). A history of Judge Paul Carrington and the military service of his progeniture from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the War Between the States was presented by Ms. Susan Pennington of Kentucky and Trustee from the Historic Staunton River Foundation. A book published by Mr. Stanley Carrington from the Island of Barbados, was presented by Ms. Pennington to the Foundation as a form of gratitude from the Barbadian relatives and

Carrington descendants. From within the audience, descendants of Judge Paul Carrington were recognized and presented a white carnation by Mr. Russell Foster, member Cub Scout Troop 6296; Mr. Cole Foster, member Boy Scout Troop 6516; and their father, Mr. Jason Foster, Den Leader for Arrow of Light Cub Scouts Pack 6296. The granite marker was unveiled from its black shroud by Mr. David Gunners, Park Manager for the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Afterwards, a wreath-laying ceremony and presentation was held with the following individuals and the organizations they represented: Ms. Jeanie Geoghegan, the Descendants & Family of Judge Paul Carrington; Ms. Janet Johnson, the Historic Staunton River Foundation; Mrs. Cora V. St. John, Charlotte County APVA; Mr. Larry Hartsoe, Charlotte Grays Chapter #1963, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Mrs. Darlene Foster, H. A. Carrington Chapter 1055, United Daughters of the Confederacy; Mr. Stanley Foster, Staunton Hill Artillery; Mr. Dennis Fritts, Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and Mr. Mike Weyler, the Order of the Founders & Patriots of America. At the conclusion of the presentation, a gun-salute was performed by the Confederate reenactors from the Charlotte County Grays Honor Guard and the War of 1812 reenactors from the Richmond Light Artillery Blues retired the colors.

Paul Carrington, born 16 March 1733 in Cumberland County, was the eldest son of George Carrington and Anne Mayo from the Island of Barbados. They emigrated to the Colony of Virginia in 1723. Very little is known of his early life and education other than the fact that he was educated under a private tutor; however, during the 1750s, Carrington would move to Lunenburg County and settle in the area of what would become Charlotte County in 1765. During that time period, he was employed by his future father-in-law Col. Clement Read in the clerk's office. Within a few years of reading the law, Carrington was admitted to the bar and would serve as the King's Attorney for the counties of Bedford, Mecklenburg, and Lunenburg. [John Randolph would be one of the signers of his law license.] In 1755, he married Margaret Read and within a decade, was elected to the House of Burgesses, where he remained as a prominent member until 1776. While serving his constituents, he was a proponent of resolutions supporting Virginia independence, and helped pen the Virginia Declaration of Rights. He soon rose to be the Chief Justice of the General Court of Virginia in 1780 and by 1789 was appointed as one of the five judges of the Virginia Court of Appeals, where he served until his retirement in 1807. He returned to his beloved Mulberry Hill Plantation to live out his years as a "private citizen." On 23 June 1818, the Richmond Enquirer stated Carrington, "this venerable and highly respectable gentleman was perhaps the oldest of the few surviving Patriots, who took an active part in the counsels of his country, in her first struggle for liberty and independence." He is buried near-by in the Carrington family cemetery and we are here today, the bicentennial of his death, to unveil and dedicate a plaque in his memory as a successful colonial planter, lawyer, and politician, who helped a colony gain her independence, as well as help mold a new nation.

The Historic Staunton River Foundation is a membership-driven 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, based in Randolph, Virginia, that is dedicated to the promotion, development, and preservation of the 1864 Battlefield at the Staunton River Bridge; the Staunton River historical areas and environs; Roanoke Station (Randolph); Mulberry Hill Plantation, the ancestral home of the Carrington family; 44CH62, the Randy K. Wade Archaeological Site; and the Sappony

Indian Nation. For more information about this event and much more, including upcoming events, please visit the Foundation's website at www.HistoricStauntonRiverFoundation.org. The Staunton River Battlefield State Park straddles Charlotte and Halifax Counties. The physical address of the Clover Visitors Center (Halifax entrance) is 1035 Fort Hill Trail, Randolph, Virginia 23962 and the Roanoke Station Visitors Center (Charlotte County) is 6000 Roanoke Station Road, Randolph, Virginia. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation manages the award-winning Virginia State Park System. For more information about Virginia State Park activities, please call 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

PICTURE UNDERLINE:

To mark the Bicentennial of the Life of Judge Paul Carrington of Mulberry Hill, more than 60 individuals attended the tribute sponsored by the Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Pictured behind the newly presented and unveiled granite stone marking June 23rd 2018 as the 200th anniversary of his death and in front of the original law office of Judge Paul Carrington are dignitaries and representatives from many organizations who participated in the event and wreath-laying ceremony. Left to right are **Mr. Tim Vest**, District Manager for State Parks; **Mr. Dennis Fritts**, Past-President of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia; **Mr. David Gunnells**, Park Manager, Staunton River Battlefield State Park, **Mr. Mike Weyler**, Deputy Genealogist of the Order of the Founders & Patriots of America; **Mr. J. Shane Newcombe**, Secretary General Order of the Founders & Patriots of America and Vice-President Historic Staunton River Foundation; **Mr. Stanley Foster**, Cannoneer of Staunton Hill Artillery and Trustee, Historic Staunton River Foundation; **Mrs. Darlene Foster**, Recorder of Military Service, H. A. Carrington Chapter 1055, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Trustee, Historic Staunton River Foundation; **Mr. Larry Hartsoe**, Adjutant Charlotte Grays Chapter #1964, Sons of Confederate Veterans; **Mrs. Cora V. St. John**, Director, Charlotte County APVA; **Ms. Janet Johnson**, Past-President and current Secretary of the Historic Staunton River Foundation; and **Ms. Jeanie Geoghegan**, Trustee of the Historic Staunton River Foundation and representative of the Descendants & Family of Judge Paul Carrington.



Above are the members of the War of 1812 Society that attended L/R: Hugh Markham; Charles Belfield; Douglas Powell; Mike Weyler; Shane Newcombe; and Dennis Fritts. Fritts presented the wreath for the society