

RECONNAISSANCE

Fall 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE J.E.B. STUART BIRTHPLACE PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.
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Remembering John R. Broughton

It is with much sadness that the Board of Directors of the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust reports the passing of a board-member, past President, mentor and friend, John R. Broughton, Jr. John at age 86, of Pilot Mountain, North Carolina died on April 8, 2019. He was born in Flushing Meadow, New York, and is survived by his wife Pansy, two daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. With the commencement of the Korean War in 1950, John enlisted in the United States Air Force and retired in 1971 with the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. His experience in military radio communications quickly led him to be involved with the telecommunication business in the Triad area of North Carolina, in the industry's infancy. A few years after his second retirement in 1987, John joined the preservation efforts at Laurel Hill, first as a board-member and then as President of the Trust from 1997 to 2005. Not to diminish the contributions of many fine folks to the success of our organization, but a few of John's accomplishments must be noted here. With John's military and business experience he came on board at exactly the right time. He brought structure, a mission and sense of purpose to the Trust. He implemented many improvements to the site, which turned Laurel Hill from a wayside pull-off into a historic park, a direction the Board continues to this day. John was knowledgeable, well-read and could carry on a conversation on most any subject. He was an eloquent speaker and spoke on behalf of Laurel Hill on many occasions. He set a clear path for future boards to follow. He helped to put Stuart's Birthplace on the map. In short, he organized this organization. After he stepped down as president he was made an Board Member Emeritus, and his advice and counsel were still sought out. A number of years ago a granite marker was placed at the main flagpole to honor him, which marker now should be in his memory. It stated, "In appreciation to John R. Broughton, a strong and dedicated leader of the JEB Stuart Birthplace Board." That he most certainly was.

On a final note, many times John would make light of the irony that he was a man born way north of the Mason-Dixon Line, who married a southern girl, settled in North Carolina and became president of an organization dedicated to a southern icon. It proves one thing: A Yankee can be a fine southern gentleman.

Memorial by Ronnie Haynes



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Encampment

The Director's Page



Hello, my name is Mary Theresa Ricigliano Felicito. I have been on the Board of Director's since 2018. My story begins in New Jersey where I was born and raised. I went to college in Tennessee and Kentucky, got married, lived in Ohio then returned to New Jersey to raise my three sons. I was divorced in 1986. Needing a job I applied for and became a New Jersey State Trooper on August 27, 1987, the day my oldest son



State Trooper Mary T. Felicito with her parents, Philip and Patricia Felicito, and her three children, from left, Joseph, Z, Jason, S, and James, S.

New state trooper only female graduate in the 108th class

turned five years old. I met my husband Bob who was also a State Trooper and we were married in 1994. Bob and I purchased 27 acres in Mouth of Wilson, Grayson County, Virginia in 1993. Shortly after 1993 I became ill and retired from the State police in 1995. My husband retired a short time later and we moved to the beautiful mountains of Southwest Virginia in 1996. My three sons attended Grayson County High school and all three graduated from Virginia Tech.

I began to research my mother's family since I knew they were from Virginia. My Grandfather was born on Bent Mountain, near Roanoke, Virginia and my Grandmother was born in Lynchburg, Virginia. They were married in 1925 in Roanoke. Times were hard back then and there was very few jobs available. My Grandfather's brother got my grandfather a job in New Jersey. He moved his family north to continue his employment. In 1933 when my grandmother was pregnant with my mother, my Grandfather sent my Grandmother to her sister's house in Lynchburg, Virginia to have the baby (my mother). In my Grandfather's words "He did not want a Yankee baby". My grandparents terribly missed their home in Virginia and were the happiest whenever our family visited relatives in Virginia.

It is now that I realize the love that one can have for their home and this wonderful state. In 2016 I became a member of the United Daughter's of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis Chapter 2477 in Galax, Virginia. I realized how very little I knew about the War Between the States. My early remembrance from school (in N.J.) was that the war was about slavery and the south lost. It was never talked about. The war was something that happened so long ago and no one cared. It is now since researching my family roots that I am learning about the War Between the States and the reasons the south wanted to secede. I discovered that I have many ancestors who fought and died for the Confederacy. Those family members who risked everything they had for the cause they believed in.



JohnJamesMalikyLandrum



My Great, Great Grandfather, John James Landrum and his brother Samuel enlisted in the 42nd Regiment, Virginia Infantry, Co. "I", (the Campbell Guards). John was soon promoted to Sergeant and was wounded on November 27, 1863 at the Payne's Farm, Mine Run Campaign. John and Samuel were captured near Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864. They were transported to Point Lookout, Maryland and later sent to Elmira, New York. On July 30, 1864 John was released as a part of a prisoner exchange on March 10, 1865. John and Samuel both survived the war. Their father, Burton Landrum, provided material to the cause. The Landrums lived in a small community of Concord, just outside of Appomattox, Virginia. After the surrender General Longstreet was said to have had supper with the Landrums on his way home to Tennessee. My Great, Great Grandfather Daniel D. Martin and his brother William enlisted in the 57th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company B (Franklin Sharpshooters) and both survived the war.

My Great, Great Grandfather James A. Witt and his brothers Samuel L. and Charles W. enlisted in the 28th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company G (The Bedford Grays). James was wounded in Darbytown, Virginia on June 30, 1862. He was part of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, PA where he was taken prisoner on July 3, 1863. He was sent to Fort Delaware and on October 27, 1863 he was taken to Point Lookout, Maryland. Samuel was wounded in Williamsburg, VA on May 5, 1862. James, Samuel and Charles all survived the war. Another brother of James enlisted in the 14th Virginia Regiment, Company B. He was promoted to Sergeant just prior to being killed at the battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862.

My Great, Great Grandfather John Phelps and his brothers Charles and Lenerius enlisted in the 2nd Virginia Cavalry Company H (The Appomattox Rangers). Lenerius was wounded on December 28, 1862 during General Stuart's expedition to Dumfries, Virginia. He would die April 21, 1863 of his wounds. John and Charles survived the war. My Grandson, Henry Jerome Fell is the 4th Great Grandson of Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Blanchard of Louisiana on his mother's side.



My researched has revealed many great uncles and distant cousins who had served the Confederacy. I have also discovered a sixth cousin that is a familiar person to the Birthplace, Ms. Shirley Keene. We share a sixth Great Grandparents James and Mary Kasey of Bedford Virginia. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Director of Jeb Stuart's Birthplace to preserve our Confederate history; and proud of my Confederate ancestors. I pledge to do what I can to so their sacrifices are not forgotten.

The Dellenback Family



*The following is the last of a four part series on the history of the William Letcher site, to the Stuart occupancy and the Mitchell and Dellenback families that followed.
By Ronnie Haynes*



In March of 1949 Charlie Melton Dellenback became owner of the 169 acre tract that was a small part of the original Laurel Hill farm. This land included the farmhouse built in 1895 by William A. Mitchell and his son John. The farm contained structures dating back to the Stuart occupation, and possibly to William Letcher's time. Charlie, (1908 - 1998) a World War II US Army veteran, married Thelma Roseleaf Dennis (1922-2001) in 1943 and together they raised nine children on this self-sustaining farm. Four of those nine children were veterans themselves, three sons served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and one daughter, was in the U.S. Marine Corp during Vietnam, and she was later in the U.S. Army Reserves and U.S. Army Active Guard Reserve.



The main cash crop on this farm was tobacco, other crops included corn, oats, and other hay-crops. A large vegetable garden was always planted and harvested to provide for the family. Hogs, chickens, and dairy cattle were part of this farming operation. The old Volunteer Gap Road and another farm road intersected the property and was used extensively by the family and others to move goods out of the area. It can rightfully be said that the Dellenbacks were one of the first preservationist of Laurel Hill.

In the early 1950's descendants of William Letcher wanted to move his remains elsewhere. Charlie Dellenback stated "that the grave was on the farm when he bought it and it would remain there", and so it has. Described by the family as 'the finest man we ever knew who will live forever in our hearts', Charlie Melton Dellenback died in 1998.



Charlie, Walter Lee, Thelma, and Charlie Jr.

Today, the Dellenback family continue to farm this fertile bottomland along the Ararat River. In 1995 a member of the family sold a 3 acre tract which included William Letcher's grave, the Mitchell/ Dellenback home and the probable site of

the William Letcher's cabin. It is believed that the foundation of Letcher's cabin was discovered in 2009 by archaeology work conducted by Radford University. This land, along with the site of JEB Stuart's birth, totals 75 acres and is a small part of the original 1500 acre Laurel Hill farm which is now owned, maintained, and interpreted by the J.E.B.Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc.



1997

JEB Portrait



The JEB Stuart Birthplace Trust recently received a donation of a very unique portrait of General Stuart from the family of one of our longtime supporters. This special rendition done in black, white and gray was painted from the upper part of the most famous of the Stuart photographs, the "Stuart of Legend" photo. Some years ago Waller Austin painted the portrait and gave it to his cousin, Wesley Straw. Both of these men are great, great, great, grand-sons of JEB Stuart, descending from the surviving daughter of the General, Virginia Pellem Stuart. Deep appreciation to Wesley for thinking of the Trust as a permanent home for this painting and many thanks to the family of Michael and Claudia Straw, parents of Wesley, for their continued support of Laurel Hill.

In Memory of John R. Broughton



J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Trust

Annual Civil War Encampment & Living History Weekend

October 5 & 6, 2019

1833-1864

Laurel Hill

Birthplace of
Major General J.E.B. Stuart, CSA

1091 Ararat Highway Ararat, VA 24053

Opens at 9:00 am Free Parking

Admission \$8/person - 12 & under Free



Battle Scenes on Sat & Sun
Saturday Night Dance
Sun Morn Church Service
String Music & Civil War Sutlers
Food & much more



*Bring the entire family to meet
the Civil War Generals*



Email: laurelhill@jebstuart.org

Call: 276-251-1833
276-930-2546

Visit: www.jebstuart.org
www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust



Walk Back In Time...Come Join Us...Experience the Simple Life

The JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust is an all volunteer non-profit organization and all proceeds go to the preservation of Laurel Hill