



### *A Closer look at Winton with the Winton Manor House Preservation Society*

The Winton Manor House Preservation Society exists to maintain the Winton property for the future to remember the past.

Winton is located at 599 Patrick Henry Hwy, Amherst, VA 24521

Presented in this issue are short biographies of the 18<sup>th</sup> century owners and residents of the property. We encourage you to learn more about these amazing personalities as we can barely touch on them.

George Braxton Jr. (1705-1749)    Carter Braxton (1736-1797)

George Braxton Jr. of Newington, King and Queen County, VA petitioned and received in 1743 a land patent for 25000 acres from King George II of England. This is the land on which Winton plantation would be built. He was a member of the House of Burgesses from 1718 to 1734. George Braxton Jr. and his wife Mary had a son they named Carter in 1736. Unfortunately, Mary died just a week after giving birth to Carter. Carter owned the property from 1749 to 1771. Carter Braxton signed the Virginia Resolves along with Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington. Carter also signed the Declaration of Independence.

Colonel Joseph Cabell (1732-1798)

Colonel Joseph Cabell purchased 1200 acres from Carter Braxton and built Winton in the early 1770's. Colonel Cabell held many positions in public service including vestryman, a lay leader in the Church of England. In the Virginia colony, the vestryman was responsible for supervision of workhouses and recordation of baptisms, marriages, and tithes. He served as a Justice and member of the House of Burgesses while working as an amateur surgeon. Colonel Cabell went on to be elected to the House of Delegates where he represented Amherst County. During the Revolutionary War he commanded a regiment that included many students from William and Mary. After the war was over he continued to serve as a Senator. In 1779 he sold the property to John Powell of Henrico.

### Colonel Samuel Meredith (1732-1808)

Around 1779-1780, Colonel Samuel Meredith, step brother of Joseph Cabell, received the Winton Plantation in lieu of a debt owed him by John Powell. Colonel Meredith, a childhood friend of the Henry family, married Patrick Henry's sister Jane. Colonel Meredith was held in esteem by many due to his impressive service during the French and Indian War. Early in the Revolutionary War he commanded a company in the First Battalion of Minute Men. He resigned his commission as Captain allowing Patrick Henry to lead these same men, in what some sources credit, as the event starting the Revolution. During his ownership of Winton an impressive mantle was built for the Parlor's fireplace. After the war Meredith served in Amherst as a Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff, and Presiding Justice.

### Sarah Winston Syme Henry (1710-1784)

Sarah Henry was born in Hanover County, first married Colonel John Syme (1690-1732) and had a son, John Jr. Her second marriage to John Henry (1704-1773) produced eleven children, including Patrick Henry (1736-1799) the patriot and First Governor of Virginia. Her daughter, Jane (1738-1819), married Samuel Meredith. She was also the great aunt of Dolly Madison, wife of James Madison the fourth President of the United States. Sarah accompanied the Meredith family when they moved to Winton. She was described as a gracious and pious lady. In his adult life, Patrick Henry came to his mother when he was stressed or in need of advice. A rare woman of the time, she taught her children to respect the religious like and beliefs of others and was revered by all her family. In 1784 she was the first burial at the Winton cemetery and at his death; Col Meredith is quoted as saying "When I die, lay my body just here, so that for all time I may lie at the feet of the deeply venerated and beloved mother of my wife."

### REFERENCES:

Sources for the above information are: "The Grave of Sarah Henry, The Mother of Patrick Henry, A Shrine" by Ruth H. Blunt, The Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence by Shelley Cruz, descendant, DSDI 2014, ancestry.com, Historical Facts of Winton at Clifford Amherst County by Greenwood H. Nowlin, Jr., National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Sarah Winston Henry Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities 1988, and "Patrick Henry's Mother" by Jean Cabell O'Neill, Journal of American History, Vol. 6, 1912.

**Next Issue: Winton personalities of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century!**

## Summer Events Calendar at Winton Manor

Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2pm—Architecture of Winton - Come and take an architectural look at the Winton Manor home. We'll discuss its building style and what makes our building unique. We'll also talk about past restoration projects and those to come. Speakers: Sandra Esposito and Alan May. Donation: \$5.00

Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2pm— Virginia during the Revolutionary War - Join us as we listen to an informal talk about Virginia events during the Revolutionary War. Donation: \$5.00

## Restoration Projects

Daniel Harris of Harris Painting did a wonderful job painting Winton. The outside front of the home was completed in April. The outside rear of the house was painted in May and the east side in June. The rest of this exciting project is still ongoing.

## Board of Directors

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**WINTON MANOR HOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Join us in preserving Winton Manor House and its historical grounds and outbuildings!

Your yearly renewable \$25 single person membership will be honored until June 30<sup>th</sup> 1917.

Winton Manor House Preservation Society historic lectures are free to members.

Simply fill out the form below, include your payment and mail it to Winton Manor House Preservation Society, 599 Patrick Henry Hwy, Amherst, VA 24521

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you be willing to volunteer at events or work projects? \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Winton Manor House Preservation Society

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

What events would you like to see us host? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: All proceeds of memberships and events go to preserving Winton.

Your membership fee and any other donations are tax deductible. Winton Manor House Preservation Society is a 501(c) 3 organization.

Additional Contribution/Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Winton - Where we embrace the future by learning from the past*