

# RECONNAISSANCE

NEWSLETTER OF THE J.E.B. STUART BIRTHPLACE PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.  
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## J.E.B. Stuart 2020 Birthday Party



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## Such Fun!





# *The Director's Page*

By David Lusk

For all the great things our country has accomplished throughout our history, there are many events that are not a source of pride. One of the things that makes this nation different from so many others is we don't whitewash or gloss over those events of which we are not proud. Our "dirty laundry" hangs on the line for all the world to see. It is part of our history, and therefore a part of who and what we are today. From our treatment of the original inhabitants of our country, witch trials, confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the use of Napalm during the Vietnam war are just some examples of things that were done that are not on our top 10 list of proud accomplishments.

And so it is true of the Civil War. The conflict that claimed over 700,000 American lives. A conflict that resulted in a nation where all people were free people. Where we learned how to rapidly build and supply an army, develop weapons to defend, clad ships with iron, build and deploy submarines, and develop tactics to win battles. Where we learned how to reduce the spread of disease, treat the injured, and respectfully and honorably deal with the dead. All of the things we learned that served us well and made us the winners in future conflicts.

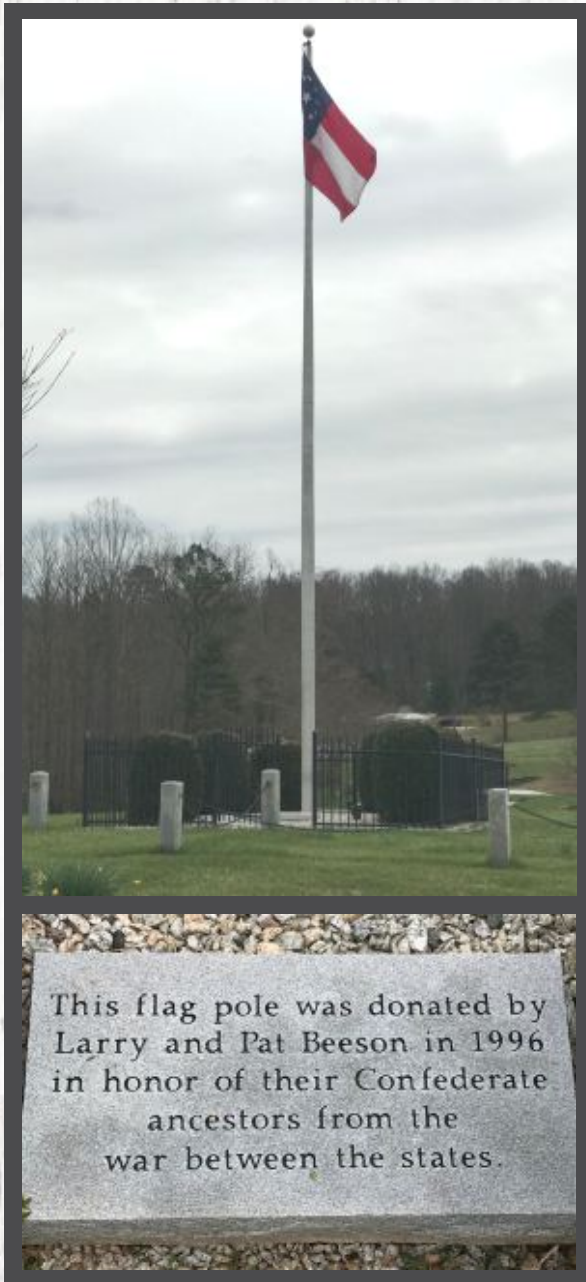
Thousands of letters that were written by soldiers from the battlefields have been published in books about the Civil War. Almost none of the letters make reference to the reason for the fighting. Once a soldier reached the battlefield, the reason for the war became secondary, and the objective became to win the battle the war. The one common thread in nearly every letter, whether North or South, was the desire for the fighting to be over, and to go home. Even JEB Stuart remarked what a joy it would be to return home to Laurel Hill.

Those who fought, regardless on which side, shared characteristics that we most admire in our fellow Americans. Bravery, loyalty, dedication, endurance, strength, and love of family, friends, comrades in arms and country. No one is truly gone as long as someone is left who remembers them. We chose to remember those who fought with statues, memorials and dedicated national cemeteries. We do this because through their lives and deaths, in one way or another, all contributed to what we are today, a great country.



# *In Memory of Larry Beeson*

By Ronnie Haynes



This flag pole was donated by  
Larry and Pat Beeson in 1996  
in honor of their Confederate  
ancestors from the  
war between the states.



Former board-member,  
Mr. Larry E. Beeson, age 78 of  
King, North Carolina passed away on  
February 19th 2020 after a brief illness.  
Larry, along with his wife Pat joined the  
board of the JEB Stuart Preservation  
about 1995 and remained with the Trust  
for several years. Larry worked at  
Western Electric/Lucent Technologies  
for most of his career. He had a strong  
interest in the War Between the States  
and the preservation efforts at Laurel Hill.  
Probably one of the first things people  
notice when they visit Laurel Hill  
is the large flag pole on the highest point  
on the property proudly flying the  
Confederate 1st National, Stars and Bars.  
That addition to Laurel Hill was made  
possible by the generous donation of  
Larry and Pat in 1996.

JEB Stuart IV spoke at the dedication at  
the site of his ancestral home during the  
annual encampment on October 5th, 1996.

The Board of Directors of the  
JEB Stuart Preservation Trust extends  
our condolences to the Beeson family.



# WHERE GLORY NEVER FADES

By David Chaltas, Wayne and Pam Jones



David Chaltas (Lee), Lucas Wilder (Stuart) and Wayne Jones (William Alexander Stuart)

Rarely are we privileged to walk where glory never fades. Seldom do we get an opportunity to revisit the past. Hardly ever are we able to get a glimpse into the past. On October 5-6, 2019, we were able to do just that!

The 28th annual Civil War Encampment and Living History held at Laurel Hill Plantation provided those in attendance a chance to reflect upon our grand American legacy. Held on the hallowed soil of Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart's birthplace, this event characterized the love of our American history and heritage. The ancestral home of Archibald and Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart was built around the third decade into the eighteen hundreds. The Stuarts had eleven children, seven of whom were born on the fifteen-hundred-acre estate. James Ewell Brown Stuart (affectionately known as James by his family) was born there on February 6, 1833. He left his boyhood home to attend college at Emory and Henry at the young age of fifteen. From there he received an appointment (denied on his first attempt to join the military for being too young) to West Point in 1850. He graduated in 1854, having been a cadet under Robert E. Lee (September 1852-55). He ranked thirteen out of forty-eight. Fitzhugh Lee (R.E. Lee's nephew) and George Washington Custis Lee (R. E. Lee's son) were classmates. Ironically, JEB and O.O. Howard were roommates and friends.

In the winter of 1847-48, a fire destroyed the Stuart home. Then after the death of Archibald in 1855, Elizabeth decided to sell the property. In 1859 to two gentlemen from Mount Airy bought the property from her. The land was subdivided and the area where the proud Stuart house once stood became in disrepair. In 1991, the JEB Stuart Birthplace Trust was formed when they purchased seventy-five acres in an effort to preserve the farm for future generations. Their insight and vision continues, as plans are being made to erect a granite monument with bronze plaques to commemorate the history of this hallowed ground.

This was the setting of Saturday and Sunday events. At 10:00 a.m., a solemn grand review Flag raising ceremony occurred at the large flagpole at the apex of the hill. Sam Winkler portrayed William Terry, a soldier and congressmen who served under General Stuart. He was wounded three times and drowned attempting to ford a river. Musicians (Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers, Laurel Hill String Band, Herbert and Tina Conner) entertained the spectators and passersby. A wondrous Ladies Tea was held as William Alexander (Alec) Stuart (Wayne Jones) welcomed them to Laurel Hill. General J.E.B. Stuart (portrayed by Lucas Wilder) graciously offered his welcoming comments and General Lee offered the invocation after the introduction of Mrs. Flora Stuart (Pam Jones). The tea was well organized and extremely informative on the topics of life of women during wartime and the use of herbs for treatments of ailments.



The General's Council of War was an impromptu performance by J.E.B.'s older brother William Alexander, General Lee and General Stuart and his wife Flora. The highlight of the event was General Stuart's presentation and he did not disappoint. A ladies fashion show was held and after the swift action of the battle, and a Black Rose Memorial Service was held to wrap up the daytime activities.

The large crowd meandered around sutler's row talking and asking questions of the reenactors and living historians. The Blacksmith pounded on his forge as he talked and demonstrated his skills. A medical tent was set up with the staff talking to those interested in the practices of the day. Gregory Newson had his art display available along with his books. He shared the story of the Black men and women who remained with the south because it was their homeland. Chaplain Alan Farley and Faith had their USCC tent set up next to the only existing coffee wagon replica. The original coffee wagon was built in 1861. The replica was built in 1961 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the War Between the States. The Virginia Flaggers had a tent with flags set up and shared their story with those stopping to talk. Several sutlers had their wares available and the food vendors went above and beyond. The JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust was well organized and friendly with a large tent of items relating to JEB for sale. Mark Kinan had several pieces of silver that belonged to the Stuarts as well as a flag that was sewn by Flora for her husband. Jo Stuart Pais and her cousin Sharon Stuart McRae, both great, great granddaughters of General Stuart were also in attendance to greet and talk about their ancestor with the public. The day's activities concluded with an evening dance that was well attended and everyone went away content but tired.

The next morning Herbert and Tina Conner sang hymns as everyone prepared for Chaplain Farley's service. They did not go from the service untouched. His sermon pertained to all and several went to his area to talk to him after the service. The schedule repeated itself and this fielder left the homeplace confident that the land where glory never fades would continue to grow and be a beacon to those who love our American legacy.

The following is letter written by Stuart while on the frontier to his West Point room-mate and friend, Oliver Otis Howard. When secession came, Howard went North, Stuart went South.

Old Point Va.  
June 17th, 1854

My Dear Howard,

I met with James Reed here from whom I was gratified to learn that you were accomplishing so much good in a Christian's sphere at West Point. I wish you from my heart, God Speed. I devoutly trust that we both may be in our day and generation, be instruments of good. I have for some time been desirous of being on duty at West Point in the Cav. 7th Dept., though I have not made my official application for it, nor do I like to do so, till a vacancy in that Dept. is likely to come. I presume it is a place much sought for and not knowing Col. Hardee beyond a casual introduction my chances are perhaps not so good, as others better known. I would like to take with you some of those rambles we once took around Flint Station. My time has been spent entirely on the frontier since we parted, and I have heard very little of you, but have neglected no opportunity to inquire how and where you were.

Poor Emily! How sad! How desolate! She says you have become dreadfully (?) good, I trust you will be the means of making her equally so. Do write me at " Wytheville Va." what the chances are for a vacancy in the Cav. 7th Dept. and who is likely to fill it. I have been recommended to Hardee by such as Lee and Cooke. Tell me all about yourself.

With high regard  
Yours Truly,  
J.E.B. Stuart





## NEW MONUMENT Coming Soon

A solid granite monument is to be placed on the grounds near the crest of the big hill. It will display two cast bronze plaques. The upper oval has a raised bas relief sculpture image of Jeb as a boy and the lower plaque cast with his own written quotes of how he loved his boyhood home.

Your contributions can be made by contacting us at the info listed on the next announcement page.

2020 JEB Stuart Officers



2020 JEB Stuart Board Members



## Gun Raffle Tickets Available

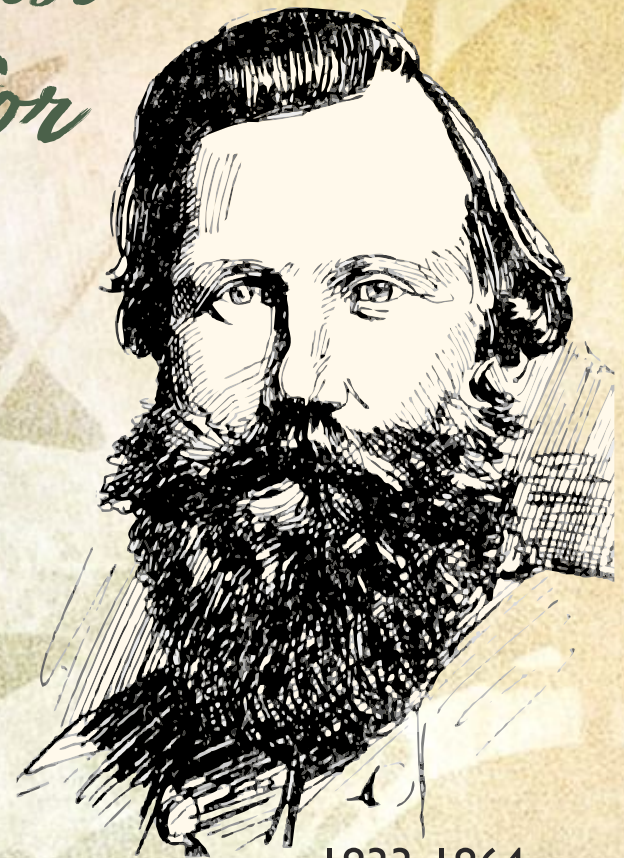
Drawing will still be held & proceeds go to the Building Fund

Name _____		No. 1491	JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust Raffle	
Phone _____			<b>"LeMat" Double-Barrel Pistol</b>	
Email _____			Top Barrel fires 9 rounds of 44 caliber cap & ball Bottom Barrel fires 1 round 20 gauge buckshot (reproduction like JEB carried-estimated value \$1,400.00) Drawing to be held on 30th Anniversary Annual Civil War Encampment - Oct 2020 <b>Donation \$10.00 per ticket or 3 for \$25.00</b> Need not be present to win All proceeds go to JEB Stuart Bldg Fund	



# *J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust Announcement for Laurel Hill*

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



1833-1864

All of our Trust Board Members  
are truly regretful that our  
29th Annual  
Civil War Encampment  
and Living History Weekend  
for Fall 2020 has been  
cancelled due to  
the Covid concerns.  
Only one other time in 2015  
was this event cancelled  
due to heavy rains, flooding,  
mud slides and washed out  
roadways causing a  
state of emergency  
in Patrick County.

*You are welcome to contact us anytime*

Email: [laurelhill@jebstuart.org](mailto:laurelhill@jebstuart.org)  
[rshaynes59@yahoo.com](mailto:rshaynes59@yahoo.com)

Call: 276-251-1833

Visit: [www.jebstuart.org](http://www.jebstuart.org)  
[www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust](https://www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust)

*P.S...All our ladies are a bit flustered  
that they won't be in their new  
2020 dresses this year...LOL*





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[www.jebstuart.org](http://www.jebstuart.org)



[www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust](https://www.facebook.com/JEB.Stuart.Trust)



## MEMBERSHIP

### J.E.B. STUART BIRTHPLACE PRESERVATION TRUST, INC.

If you would like to become a member of the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace please let us know. Write to us at J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace, P.O. Box 1210, Stuart, VA 24171, or email us through our website at [www.jebstuart.org](http://www.jebstuart.org). Memberships begin at \$25.00.

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

*(Please check one)*

- ☐ GENERAL'S CLUB - \$500.00
- ☐ SUSTAINING - \$250.00
- ☐ PATRON - \$100.00
- ☐ SPONSOR/FAMILY/BUSINESS - \$50.00
- ☐ INDIVIDUAL - \$25.00

**MAKE A PRESENT OF HISTORY! MEMBERSHIP IS A  
PERFECT GIFT FOR THE HISTORY LOVER IN YOUR LIFE.**

#### RETURN FORM TO:

J.E.B. STUART PRESERVATION TRUST  
P.O. Box 1210  
STUART, VA 24171

#### MEMBER INFORMATION:

*(Please print)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_