



### *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

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 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.