

Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!

STAFFORD *Virginia*



Stafford's 350th Anniversary

Aquia Landing circa 1864



Stafford 350th Special Anniversary Edition

Board of Supervisors



Chairman

Susan Stimpson

Falmouth District

Phone: (540) 834-6092

Email: ssimpson@staffordcountyva.gov



Vice Chairman

Robert Thomas

George Washington District

Phone: (540) 724-1702

Email: bthomas@staffordcountyva.gov



Jack Cavalier

Griffis-Widewater District

Phone: (540) 207-5317

Email: jcavalier@staffordcountyva.gov



Paul Milde

Aquia District

Phone: (540) 845-1880

Email: pmilde@staffordcountyva.gov



Ty Schieber

Garrisonville District

Phone: (540) 220-1099

Email: tschieber@staffordcountyva.gov



Gary Snellings

Hartwood District

Phone: (540) 371-6293

Email: gsnellings@staffordcountyva.gov



Cord Sterling

Rock Hill District

Phone: (540) 604-1610

Email: csterling@staffordcountyva.gov

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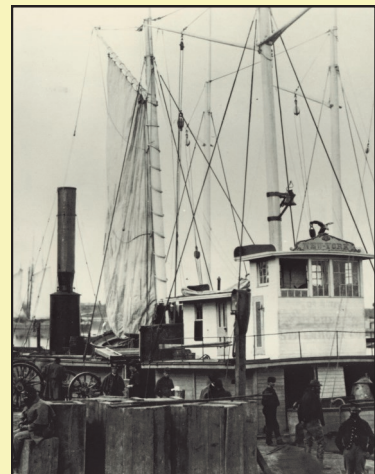
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On the Cover

From 1862 to 1864, Aquia Landing was one of the busiest transportation centers on the U.S. East Coast. Hundreds of ships, such as the "New York," brought millions of pounds of food, fodder and munitions daily to the Union forces. Supplies were transferred to rail cars for distribution to the vast army deployed between the landing and



Falmouth. In 1862 and 1863, more than 12,000 escaped slaves traveled to the Capital Region. Military wounded and sick were evacuated to Alexandria and Washington hospitals. Politicians, soldiers and civilians came and went continuously via ship and train. Prisoners of war were transported north and south. Belle Plain provided similar support on Potomac Creek.

*Information and Photo Contributed by Stafford Historian
Al Conner*

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to this special 350th Anniversary Edition of the Stafford Magazine! Stafford County will celebrate its 350th anniversary in 2014, and we have many wonderful events that we have planned throughout next year to highlight our past, present and future.

Stafford's history is America's history, and if you look back through the last 350 years, you will see how the people, places and events that took place here helped to lay the foundation of our great nation. Names such as Pocahontas and George Washington; places such as Aquia Landing and the Trail to Freedom, which follows the route of thousands of slaves as they journeyed to independence; or Government Island, where stone was quarried to build the White House and the U.S. Capitol; are all part of America's heritage, and you can find vestiges of all of them right here in Stafford.

But our 350th anniversary celebration is also about our present and our future. Our events are family friendly, and many are focused on our youth, such as the Founder's Day Parade and the Stafford Public Schools Fine Arts Festival in May, and the geocaching projects that are being coordinated by the Central Rappahannock Regional Library staff. Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices to find hidden items. Our children represent the future leaders of America, and our 350th anniversary celebration rightly recognizes their potential.

We could not bring you such a significant celebration without the leadership of our 350th Anniversary Blue Ribbon Commit-

tee, headed by former Board of Supervisor member Harry Crisp, and consisting of members from the Board of Supervisors, Stafford County Public Schools, businesses, the Stafford Hospital, the Sheriff's Office, the George Washington Foundation, and other community organizations. For the past year and a half, he has led this group to create a memorable celebration and a legacy that will last beyond 2014.

I invite you to learn more about Stafford's 350th Anniversary by reading through this magazine. You can also get the latest information online at www.Stafford350.com, or on Facebook at "Stafford County 350 Anniversary" and Twitter @StaffordCo350. Be sure to sign up for our free e-newsletter on any of these sites.

Our 350th anniversary is just around the corner, and our celebration will be a true community-wide event that will last all year long. We hope you will be able to join us during our celebration of this great county and the people throughout our history and today who make Stafford County such a special place!

Susan B. Stimpson

Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors



Then and Now, Info Contributed by Al Conner, Local Historian

Stafford County has changed a lot over the years. In the very first Federal Census in 1790, there were 9,588 people in the County. Today, Census estimates show 134,352 citizens and Stafford is still growing! In the early days of Stafford, there was only one main road, a former Native American trail. Today, we have I-95, Route 1, and Route 17, plus myriad other roads crisscrossing the County. The County included the land that falls in modern day King George, Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. Stafford County stretched all the

way to the Ohio Valley! In 1664, the majority of citizens were Patowomecks. Today, Native Americans make up less than one percent of the County's population. Then, court was held in church and it had to be an Anglican Church. In modern times, courthouses serve that function and there is a firm separation of church and state. Perhaps the biggest change is education. In the 1600s, only the children (mostly boys) of the very wealthy were educated. Today, all children are welcomed and educated by Stafford schools.





Stafford 350th Special Anniversary Edition

Major Events of 350th Anniversary

Here's a quick look at the major events planned in 2014 to celebrate Stafford's 350th Anniversary:

January 4 — Celebrate Stafford 350! This event in North Stafford will officially launch the year's celebration.

May 3 — Founder's Day Parade. The parade, historical reenactments and the Stafford County Public Schools Fine Arts Festival will be located in the Stafford Courthouse area.

June 25th — Celebration Stage will be constructed at Pratt Park and will provide a lasting legacy and permanent location for programs, events and performing groups.

October 18 — "Wings and Wheels." This event at the Stafford Regional Airport will commemorate Stafford's proud military heritage with flight demonstrations, military exhibits, and a motorcycle and antique car show.

November 1 — "Trail to Freedom Tour." Explore and honor the African American story in Stafford through a tour that commemorates the lives, strengths, personal stories and struggles of Stafford's African American citizens.

Legacy Film. This film will focus on Stafford's central role in American history and will include historical reenactments. Date TBD.

350th Fundraisers Working Toward \$1 Million Goal

Thanks to the generosity of Stafford's residents and businesses, Stafford County continues to raise funds for its 350th Anniversary in 2014, but more help is needed to create a memorable celebration.

"Stafford County's people and businesses are the reasons why we've made so much progress in the last 350 years," said Harry Crisp, chairman of the 350th Anniversary Blue Ribbon Committee and former member of the Stafford Board of Supervisors. "But our work is not yet over, and we are calling on the whole community to help create a celebration with memories that last far beyond 2014."

Three major sponsors joined the campaign early this summer. The Free Lance-Star earned "Founder" status, with its agreement to provide \$100,000 of in-kind media support to assist the committee's efforts in marketing and publicizing the events in 2014. Silver Companies and their partners were designated "Commanders" for providing a generous gift of \$50,000, while Atlantic Builders became a "Benefactor" sponsor, agreeing to provide \$25,000 toward the anniversary. Other "Benefactors" are Geico with a \$30,000 donation and NSWC Federal Credit Union with \$25,032. Hilldrup pledged \$10,000 to become a "Patriot" sponsor.

Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret.), has led the fundraising efforts. "There is so much pride in our community for all that Stafford County has accomplished in the last 350 years," he said. "Becoming a sponsor is one way that citizens and businesses can show their pride and help engage others to make our anniversary a true community-wide celebration."

There are many opportunities for sponsorships including several major events (see box at left) and programs that will take place year round. For details, visit www.Stafford350.com



Stafford's 350th Anniversary Booth has been making the rounds in 2013, including visiting the July Fourth celebrations at Ferry Farm this summer.

Stafford 350th Special Anniversary Edition



Meet Your 350th Blue Ribbon Anniversary Planning Committee!

Planning for Stafford's 350th Anniversary is being led by the 350th Blue Ribbon Committee, which was established by the Stafford Board of Supervisors in June 2011. Four subcommittees are responsible for strategically planning the celebration. They are: Marketing and Public Relations; Financing and Fundraising; Programs, Events and Logistics; and Education and Legacy.

Members are (from l to r): **Cathy Yablonski**, Senior Vice President and Administrator of the Stafford Hospital; **Dan Chichester**, Commonwealth's Attorney (retired); **Michael Lovitt**, Chick Fil-A owner and president of the Stafford branch of the NAACP (2008-2010); **David Kerr**, a Stafford resident and former Stafford School Board member; **Harry Crisp**, Chairman and Former Member, Stafford Board of Supervisors; **Michael Neuhard**, Vice Chairman and President of the North Stafford Community Improvement League; **Robert Gibbons**, member of the Planning Commission and Rockhill Supervisor from 1992 to 2008; **Gary Snelings**, Member of the Board of Supervisors, Hartwood District; **James Schwartz**, D.D.S dentist and businessman; **Sheriff Charles E. Jett**; **Cessie Howell**, a South Stafford resident and a George Washington Foundation Regent.

350th Blue Ribbon Anniversary Mission Statement

The 350th Anniversary observance shall create a stronger sense of community, enhance tourism and promote continued economic growth and prosperity in Stafford County.

2014 Year Round Activities

In addition to the major events planned for 2014, there will be a number of on-going programs celebrating the 350th:

Tell Your Stafford Story — The George Washington Foundation will videotape Stafford residents who want to tell their Stafford story. Stories will be broadcast on the 350th website at www.stafford350.com

350th Lecture Series. The Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) System will offer lectures by authors and historians focusing on Stafford's unique — and often challenging — past.

Geocaching Youth Project. CRRL will identify sites throughout Stafford that participants can search for using GPS units.

History Adventure Packs. These packs will include materials reinforcing SOLs for Virginia history and will be available at Stafford libraries.

Schools Video Project. Stafford students will film short video segments of historical facts to be used by museums, schools, public access television and the 350th website.

Passport to History. CRRL will provide "passports" with Stafford historical sites for users to get stamped at the various locations.

For more information, visit www.stafford350.com



Stafford 350th Special Anniversary Edition

Make a Lasting Contribution to the 350th Anniversary

One of the most endearing and fascinating features of the programs and commemorative books from Stafford's Tricentennial in 1964 are the ads of sponsors. Some of the businesses listed are still around 50 years later! And the names read like a "Who's Who?" of the Stafford County business community. Their support ensured the 300th was a celebration to remember and made an enduring and lasting impact.

Are you one of those leaders who can help the 350th be a momentous event? Are you an individual who would like to donate? You won't regret it; 50 years from now, people will still be talking about you! Different levels of sponsors are recognized in various ways but all donors are recognized on the 350th website at www.stafford350.com.

Sponsorship levels are: Legacy Partner - \$250,000; Founder - \$100,000; Commander - \$50,000; Benefactor - \$25,000; Patriot - \$10,000; Champion - \$5,000; Patron - \$1,000; Friend - \$500; and Sponsor - \$150.

Businesses or individuals can also help by purchasing a personalized brick for \$350 for the Rowser African-American History Wall. Churches that make a \$3,500 or more contribution will be specially recognized at the county-wide legacy display

Another opportunity is to donate "in-kind" materials. Everything from portable toilets to private recording space to banners are needed.

Visit www.stafford350.com for more information and thank you for helping Stafford make history again!

Partners Integral to the Success of the 350th

One of the biggest resources Stafford has for the 350th Anniversary is its wonderful partners. Many groups have stepped up to advise, plan and host exciting and memorable events for citizens and visitors.

At print time, partners included the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Friends of Chatham, the George Washington Foundation, the NAACP - Stafford Branch, the Professional Artists/Artisans Association of Stafford County, Via Colori, the Patawomeck Tribe, the Stafford Education Foundation, the North Stafford Rotary, the Stafford Historical Society, Stafford County Public Schools, and the Lions Clubs of Stafford County.

Stafford County appreciates the assistance of all its partners but particularly the NAACP, the Patawomeck Tribe and the Stafford Historical Society. These three groups have given countless hours to consult on events and to help ensure historical accuracy. Their research and assistance also will result in Stafford gaining 15 new historical markers.

The Lions Clubs, the North Stafford Rotary, and the Stafford

Rotary have been invaluable in planning the three big events for the year, Celebrate Stafford 350, Founder's Day and Wings and Wheels.

A tremendous amount of thought and creativity helped the CRRL plan many programs for the 350th such as a geocaching project for youth, a history lectures series, and a "history in a trunk" program designed for the schools.

The Stafford County Public Schools filmed short video programs for use on the 350th website, Stafford's cable channel and other outlets. Always highly anticipated, the schools "Fine Arts Festival" will be held in conjunction with Founder's Day.

These are just a few of the offerings by 350th's wonderful partners. Other events may be viewed on the 350th website at www.stafford350.com. The Blue Ribbon Committee and Stafford County thank all of their partners. Because of their help and support, Stafford's 350th anniversary will be unforgettable!

Stafford 350th Special Anniversary Edition



Volunteer for the 350th!

Needed: *Enthusiastic individuals with diverse skills to staff an event that will live on in history and the memories of Stafford County citizens and visitors.*

If this describes you, then the 350th anniversary could use your help! 350th Anniversary staff are looking for individuals to staff events for the celebration. It's ideal for those looking to be more involved in the community. Hours will be granted to school children looking to fulfill community service hours as well. Volunteers can help with a variety of events including the Founder's Day parade, geocaches searches, and the Rowser African American History wall.

Visit the 350th Volunteer page of the 350th website at www.stafford350.com and sign up online. You may also call Cody Sexton at (540) 658-8601. It's a once-in-a-lifetime to help Stafford celebrate a landmark birthday. Don't miss out on the party!

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**Area 11
Special Olympics**
Formerly Stafford Volunteer Fire Department

**FINEST CHRISTMAS
ARTS & CRAFTS
SHOW**
HAND CRAFTED GIFT IDEAS

November 23, 2013
9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Brooke Point H.S.
Route 630 East (Courthouse Road)
Stafford, Virginia
Exit 140 from I-95

SNACK BAR – DOOR PRIZES

Lots of hand crafted gift ideas!

VISIT WITH SANTA – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Admission \$2 (children 12 and under free)

If interested in being a vendor contact Tim Doyle, 540-219-3340, tpdva01@yahoo.com

All proceeds benefit Area 11 Special Olympics



www.stafford350.com

350th Anniversary Online

Official Website—www.stafford350.com

Includes a calendar of events, lists of sponsors and partners, how to get involved and volunteer, resources and many other features to help you stay in the loop for the 350th Anniversary.



Facebook—Stafford County 350 Anniversary

Provides an interactive option for users to learn more about the 350th Anniversary. Followers can post photos, have questions answered and keep abreast of all the events and happenings.



Twitter—@StaffordCo350

Twitter is one of the quickest ways to get up-to-the-minute quick facts and information about the 350th.

Did You Know?

There is an official commemorative coin for the 350th? Jason Breidenbach, a Stafford artist, won a contest to design the coin. Breidenbach's design depicts a Powhatan chief, an airplane, and the Stafford Courthouse.



"Stafford has a long and proud history. It was important to me to recognize that with the Powhatan chief in my design. But I also wanted to show all that the County has accomplished and the bright future ahead of it," said Breidenbach. One of the 350th's Blue Ribbon Committee's partners, the Professional Artists Association of Stafford, chose the design because of its representation of Stafford's past, present and future. Coins may be purchased from Stafford's Citizens Assistance Office, located at the George L. Gordon Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road in Stafford. Call (540) 658-4516 for more information.

Back page - The photo on the back page is Aquia Landing during the Civil War. The photo is from the collection of the Stafford County Historical Society.

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Founder Level - \$100,000



Thank You
to the
Generous Sponsors
of Stafford's
350th Anniversary!

Benefactor Level - \$25,000



Patriot Level - \$10,000



Champion Level - \$5,000

