

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Martin, Senior Program Manager
Reynolds Homestead
(276) 694-7181, ext. 22
martinlm@vt.edu

REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD REMEMBERS

STONEMAN'S RAID OF 1865

CRITZ, VA (March 27, 2015)—A military campaign during the Civil War, Stoneman's Raid was led by cavalry troops under the command of General George Stoneman. In 1865 they were charged with the duty of destroying the southern regions without fighting battles. Through North Carolina, into Virginia and Tennessee, Stoneman's raiders covered 600 miles and dismantled train and military depots and inspired the classic song "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down."

Gen. Stoneman and his raiders arrived in Patrick County on April 8, at that time in Taylorsville (now Stuart). According to Chris J. Hartley, author of "Stoneman's Raid 1865," "many Patrick County residents lost possessions to the raiders. Among the victims was Hardin Reynolds, the county's wealthiest planter. One of Reynolds's sons was future tobacco tycoon Richard Joshua Reynolds. Fifteen-year-old 'Dick' saved the plantation's horses by hiding them in the woods, but he could not prevent the raiders from looting Rock Spring."

Invent the Future

In remembrance of the 150th anniversary of Stoneman's Raid at the Rock Spring Plantation, the Reynolds Homestead will be hosting a Confederate History Day on Saturday, April 4, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

This free event will host Chris Hartley to talk about the famous raid that helped end the war and salvage the career of Gen. Stoneman. Also speaking will be David Minter and Tom Perry; Perry wrote "Extraordinary Service," the story of his friend Minter's life and family whose military service spanned from the Revolutionary War to the present war in Iraq. On exhibition will also be Minter's collection of Civil War memorabilia. Minter is a Martinsville resident.

Life long Civil War enthusiast and longtime preservation activist Chris Owens of Stuart, will present a talk about the current fight to save and preserve the historic Civil War battlefields in Virginia. Development and modernization has threatened battlefields across the country, where nearly 20 percent have already been destroyed. Find out more about the effort to save this important part of American history.

Also on display will be an exhibition on loan from the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, a series of 10 panels outlining the life and history of Patrick County's own J.E.B. Stuart.

"This will be a great afternoon devoted to the history of Patrick County and the Reynolds Homestead," said program manager Lisa Martin. "It also gives us a chance to honor David Minter, whose life has been devoted to preserving America's military history."

The event is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served. The historic Rock Spring Plantation house will be open for tours which will also be free to those who attend the event.

###

Photo Caption: The historic rifle that was left behind by Stoneman's men during their raid of the Rock Spring Plantation in 1865.