



RURAL HILL NEWS RELEASE

Contact: 704.875.3113 or office@ruralhill.net

New Year's Day First Footin' Event and Five Mile Trail Race at Historic Rural Hill

December 9, 2015

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: Start the New Year right and come to Historic Rural Hill for First Footin' - our annual walk and celebration of Hogmanay (Scottish New Year) and the First Footin' Five Mile Trail Race! The Race begins at 10 AM while the traditional New Year's Day event begins at 11 AM with the First Footin' walk around the farm. After the walk, there will be common meal, the telling of the parable "Stone Soup," and a time of fellowship. Race registration is \$25 per runner until December 30. The traditional First Footin' event is free and open to all ages. Participants are asked only to bring something to contribute to the meal.

The Five Mile Trail Race course's challenging terrain varies and includes plenty of hills, roots, rocks, grass, uneven surfaces, and gravel. Packet pickup begins at 8:30 AM. Sorry, no race day registration will be accepted. Registrations may be made by calling 704.875.3113 or online at www.ruralhill.net.

Rural Hill's First Footin' is an annual walk/hike and celebration of Hogmanay, or Scottish New Year. Pronounced "Hog-muh-nay," the Scottish New Year is a celebration of good will and good fortune, and includes the old ritual of a walking the town limits to restate or reclaim the boundaries of the township. Traditionally, the fulfillments of Hogmanay's rituals and folklore have assured good crops, good health, and good fortune in the coming year.

For the traditional First Footin' event, wear good walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the season. This will be a vigorous walk around the farm's 2.25 mile trail, event, and historic sites, stopping along the way to discuss history and folklore. If you do not think you are physically able to do the walk, please come anyway. It's a great time for fellowship at the Rural Retreat Cabin Site.

The traditional Rural Hill First Footin' event is free and open to the community, and Rural Hill encourages everyone to bring something for the luncheon meal. Items needed include fresh or canned vegetables for the soup, bread, dessert, soft drinks, tea, or your favorite beverage, and bowls, plates, napkins, and eating utensils. Complete details are available at ww.ruralhill.net.

Celebrating more than 250 years in history...Rural Hill is located at 4431 Neck Road (off Beatties Ford Road) in Huntersville, 28078. The former homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson, the 265 acre site is maintained and promoted by Rural Hill and features annual events such as the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, the Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze and the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials. Rural Hill Inc. is a non-profit organization supported through membership and donations, and with proceeds from its events utilized for the preservation of historic Rural Hill and its education efforts. For more information on events or for financial support accepted securely online, please visit www.ruralhill.net.

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Rural Hill – Where History Springs Alive

Location: 4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

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