

### **Laura Ratcliffe House Placed On National Register**

On March 7, 2007, seven Stuart Mosby Historical Society members attended the hearings of the Department of Historic Resources, of the Commonwealth of Virginia in Richmond.

It is at these hearings, held twice each year, where proposals may be heard for historic properties in the state to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Society members Don Hakenson and Bill Etue spoke to the 14 member panel in support of accepting the Laura Ratcliffe House, known as Merrybrook, to be placed on the National Register.

Laura Ratcliffe routinely provided intelligence during the war to both General Stuart and Colonel Mosby. She once saved Mosby's life by alerting him to a trap that was certain to see him captured, if not killed. General Stuart's fondness for her is well documented in surviving letters of praise and appreciation.

The panel welcomed the efforts of the SMHS to relate the importance of the Ratcliffe House and the role it played in the history of the Commonwealth, and unanimously voted to include the home on the National Register of Historic Places.

A celebration of the National Register achievement was held four days later at Merrybrook with about 40 supporters attending the celebration at the Ratcliffe house.

SMHS members David and Win Meiselman, the residents of the house for several decades, will be hosting the Spring meeting of the Society on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Merrybrook, in Herndon, (Fairfax County) Virginia.



This photo, taken just after the acceptance of the Ratcliffe property to the National Register, includes, from left to right, SMHS members Don Hakenson, Bill Etue, Gregg Dudding, Win Meiselman, David Meiselman, Teresa McCarthy and Terry McCarthy