



President's Corner

Greetings Fellow Members and Friends,

Hope this finds everyone well. We sincerely hope that you and yours have all escaped the worst of coronavirus. I want to thank all of you who renewed memberships this year. I want to especially welcome our new members. While these times are certainly a challenge and in-person meetings are not recommended, the Society is still planning for the future.

As you know, our March meeting was cancelled, and we have cancelled our upcoming June 21 meeting as well. As plans stand now, our March speaker, Dr. Ginger Young, will present *A Jamestown Bride Leaves England & a Hanoverian Returns Home* at our Annual Dinner meeting on December 2 at Covenant Woods. Our June program may be rescheduled for later this year or early next year. The annual Patrick Henry Leadership Awards Gala is still scheduled for September 15, at historic Cedar Grove. These latter two events are contingent on the status of things as we get back to routines. Time and circumstance will be our guide to making sure our members can gather safely in a group setting.

I'll add that the Hanover County 300th Anniversary celebration, of which we are a part, has altered its plans for the countywide celebration. The May event at Scotchtown has been postponed. Ashland's Strawberry Faire was cancelled and the decision has been made to cancel the Tomato Festival. As of this writing, the Grand Finale opening of the Hanover County Museum of History and Culture and the Autumn Fest at Hanover Tavern are still scheduled for October 17.

With fewer events to attend, this is a perfect time to do some reading! There is no better way to learn more about Hanover history than to purchase books through our online bookstore! Your book purchases serve several purposes: education for the mind, energy for the spirit and support for the Society. It is simple. Just visit hanoverhistorical.org/index to build your local history library.

And... last month the Governor designated May as Historic Preservation Month in Virginia citing the role of Virginia's women in starting and sustaining our preservation of history. See the Certificate of Recognition on page two.

Stay safe, stay tuned and be sure to stay up-to-date through our website and Facebook page. And, as our moms always told us, "Wash your hands and keep them away from your mouth and eyes." I hope you are all safe and virus-free. See you soon!

Art Taylor

Upcoming 2020 Meetings

Tuesday, September 15, 5:30 pm

Annual Patrick Henry Leadership Awards
Member & Guest Social
Historic Cedar Grove
(Invitations go out in August)

Wednesday, December 2, 5:30 pm

Annual Meeting & Dinner
Covenant Woods

Ginger Young, Ph.D.

*A Jamestown Bride Leaves England
& a Hanoverian Returns Home*

Help Recruit New Members

The Society has a great incentive package...

New Member Special

New members who sign up for **two years** at the Individual level *or* as a Life Member will receive a **free copy** of

Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory...

Great way to learn more Hanover County history and add to your library!

The Society Needs Your Help – Join Us!

Membership: Maintain records in spreadsheet format with Past Perfect software.

Public Relations: Prepare press releases and assist with outreach efforts.

ArcGIS: Initiate Society's participation in this mapping and analytics program.

Contact Art Taylor at 804-449-6702 or tee1776@hotmail.com.



Please Renew for calendar year 2020 if you have not already done so.

Your support of the Hanover County Historical Society is vitally important as we continue our publishing efforts, conserve our archives and develop exhibits.

___ Individual: \$20.00 ___ Couple \$35.00 ___ Life \$400.00 Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Visit hanoverhistorical.org to renew your membership.

or

Mail your check to HCHS, Inc., P. O. Box 91, Hanover, VA 23069-0091.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

WHEREAS, Virginians have long realized the value of good stewardship for the Commonwealth and the nation of its historic resources, which span nearly 16,000 years (or more); and

WHEREAS, we can thank the grassroots efforts of women in preserving so much of our historic legacy, beginning with the preservation of George Washington's Mount Vernon by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Jamestown by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (today's Preservation Virginia) – again largely through the steadfast diligence of women; and

WHEREAS, that tradition of leadership by women arose during an era when the study of history largely focused on “Great Men” and their achievements, decades before women obtained the right to vote and many decades before the achievements and contributions of women to our cultural legacy became a natural and rigorous part of scholarly and historical inquiry; and

WHEREAS, without the pioneering, foundational work women accomplished, we would not have the broad-based support preservation has earned today as it continues to help all Virginia's citizens and localities to recognize, protect and rehabilitate private homes and public buildings and historic sites for enduring community benefit; and

WHEREAS, those women in partnership with forward-thinking men established the merits of preservation and gave the Commonwealth a leading role in creating a nationally esteemed historic rehabilitation tax credit program, preservation easements and a first-in-the-nation historical marker program that today promotes the significant people, places and events of all Virginians including women, African Americans, Virginia Indians and other previously under-represented voices; and

WHEREAS, preserving the historic buildings, sites, battlefields and other tangible reminders of Virginia's great history provides the raw material to revitalize our communities, create jobs, encourage new business, attract millions of visitors to our cities, towns and rural area and to educate our children, connecting them with a rich heritage and promising future; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened our awareness of how essential our historic legacy is to our economy and our communities and that rehabilitation of historic buildings will leverage private investment in our communities by helping put Virginians back to work; and

WHEREAS, scholars, historians, archaeologists and others routinely use DHR's Archeological Collections of more than six million artifacts and the DHR Conservation Lab to research Virginia history and prehistory; and

WHEREAS, the National Trust of Historic Preservation co-sponsors Preservation Month 2020 with the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which extended voting rights to women, thereby increasing public support for policies and initiatives that promote and sustain historic preservation;

THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize May 2020 as **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

Governor Designates May as Historic Preservation Month in Virginia

The Governor's proclamation highlights the pioneering "grassroots" role that women played in historic preservation, beginning at George Washington's Mount Vernon and continuing statewide with Jamestown during the 1800s. The proclamation's focus on women coincides with the 100th anniversary this year of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, and, presumably, boosted additional support for public policies supporting preservation.

The proclamation cites a legacy of historic preservation in Virginia, with the first national preservation organization, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, forming in the 1850s. In 1889, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (today's Preservation Virginia) became one of the earliest private statewide preservation organizations in the nation. In the 1920s, Virginia also saw the earliest state historical highway marker program in the U.S. as well.

The Governor's proclamation states that "the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened our awareness of how essential our historic legacy is to our economy and our communities, and that rehabilitation of historic buildings will leverage private investment in our communities by helping put Virginians back to work," as the state re-emerges from the pandemic.

Virginia's historic legacy has driven heritage tourism in the Commonwealth.

For instance, a 2017 study by Virginia Commonwealth University found that heritage tourists in Virginia spend more than \$7.7 billion annually. Moreover, that yearly spending, plus more than \$430 million spent by heritage tourism sites for operational expenditures, rippled throughout the state's economy, giving an additional boost of \$6.5 billion to the economy and generating \$1.3 billion in taxes, according to VCU's analysis.

Additionally, Virginia's state historic rehabilitation tax credit (RTC) program, managed by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), also contributes significantly to the Commonwealth's economy.

A 2018 study, also conducted by VCU, revealed that between 1997, the year the program began, and 2017, the \$1.2 billion in tax credits the program issued to proponents of RTC projects stimulated \$4.5 billion in private investment. Although the \$1.2 billion in tax credits represents revenue not immediately realized by the Commonwealth, much of the \$4.5 billion of private investment may not have otherwise occurred, according to that study.

"Virginia consistently ranks annually among the top tier of states for the number of individual sites and historic districts listed on National Register of Historic Places," said DHR Director Julie V. Langan, "Virginia's homeowners, businesses, and communities connect with their history and know the tangible and intangible benefits it brings to their lives. DHR's programs will help Virginians rebound economically through continued investment in our historic resources," she added.

From www.dhr.virginia.gov.