

## *President's Corner*

### **Greetings to All!**

Our Spring membership meeting on March 27 was a great success on two fronts... the Society hosted Patrick Henry at the historic Courthouse and the Old Jail was open for tours of new exhibits.

John Tucker of the Parsons' Cause Foundation portrayed Patrick Henry and gave a first-person account of his life and philosophy. Our Chief Docent Gary Stauffer also gave an overview of the history of the Courthouse and Jail. Many thanks to John and Gary for addressing the Society. Our thanks also go to Charlie Schmetzer for opening the meeting in my absence and to Bob Szabo who videotaped the program and has made it available for viewing on [facebook.com/hanoverhistorical](https://www.facebook.com/hanoverhistorical).



After the meeting, members and guests visited the Jail to see newly-exhibited accessions and items on loan. We will be changing the exhibits from time to time along with our exhibit case in the Administration Building lobby. I'd like to thank Judy Lowry for leading the effort to reorganize the Jail spaces and install exhibits. Thanks also go to Charlie Schmetzer and Bob Szabo for loaning artifacts, Pam Hawkins and others who helped with clean-up and Facilities staff under Eric Huff and Scottie Sauls who rearranged the exhibit cases and relocated some items for us.

For some, you will recall that our latest Bulletin included a notice that dues needed to be paid. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership and stay with us. You are a valuable part of the Society! Please pass the word and invite friends to join us. We are still offering new members a copy of *Nature's Bounty* with a two-year membership. Become a part of the Society and enjoy learning more about Hanover's history through print and seeing some tangible parts of her great history.

Another reminder, tours of the historic Courthouse and Jail are offered on the second Tuesday of every month between 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Our docents are there to share history that most don't know. Mark your calendar and come on by!

We have a great program lined up for June 26 at St. Paul's Church, just around the corner from the historic Courthouse Green. Charles F. Bryan, Jr., a V.M.I. grad, past-President of the Virginia Historical Society and columnist with the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, will discuss his books, *Imperfect Past: History in a New Light*. Books will be available for purchase and author's signature.

We are also still in need of volunteer help with many areas in our Society. Assistance with accessions and exhibits, publicity and greeters at meetings are needs that come to mind. Please think of how you might help, and email us at [hanoverhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:hanoverhistory@hotmail.com).

See you on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the St. Paul's Church, just around the corner ....

*Art Taylor*

---

Join us!

Sunday, June 26 at 3:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*A Conversation with Charles Bryan*

Author of *Imperfect Past: History in a New Light*

In his essays, Bryan challenges many assumptions about the past. Once simplistic stories have become more complex, but at the same time, more compelling and provocative.

Charles F. Bryan Jr., well-known to Richmonders, is a noted Virginia historian, featured columnist for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and former President of the Virginia Historical Society (now Virginia Museum of History & Culture).

Arrive early as seating is limited.

Light refreshments will be served after the program.

St. Paul's is located at Hanover Courthouse at the intersection of Rts. 301 & 54.

The Old Stone Jail on the Courthouse Green will be open after the program.

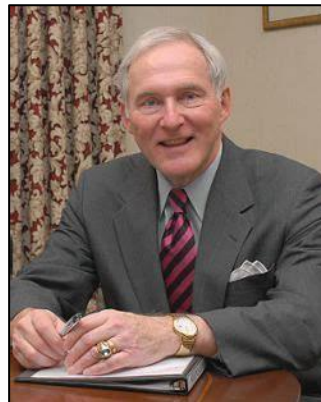
Stop by to see our newly-designed exhibit space!

---

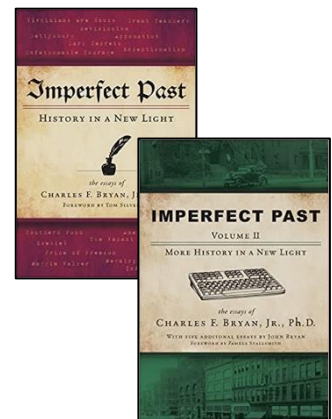
**Save the Date! Sept. 13**

Plan to attend our Member-Guest Social on Tuesday evening, Sept. 13. We will honor a deserving recipient with our Patrick Henry Leadership Award!

Special invitations will be mailed prior to the event. Location TBA.



Author Charles F. Bryan Jr.





## Patrick Henry Visits Hanover Courthouse

In March, the Society hosted Patrick Henry, portrayed by **John Tucker**, who gave a riveting overview of the patriot's life and philosophy. His stirring views on freedom and liberty were eloquently spoken once again within the Courthouse walls.

Visit [facebook.com/hanoverhistorical](https://www.facebook.com/hanoverhistorical) to view our March 27 program videotaped by **Bob Szabo**.

The Society's Chief Docent, **Gary Stauffer**, also gave an overview of the history of the Courthouse and Old Stone Jail. The Courthouse and Jail are open on the second Tuesday of each month between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Gary, **Peter Hempfling** or other docent from the Society will be on site for tours. Stop by to learn more about the Courthouse and Jail! Contact the Society at [hanoverhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:hanoverhistory@hotmail.com) to schedule a group tour.



After the program, members and guests visited the Jail to see newly-installed exhibits. Artifacts from the Society's collection as well as loaned items were on display in the two first-floor rooms.

**Charlie Schmetzer**, our Program V-P, shows artifacts recovered from County sites to **Anne Cross** of the Program Committee. **Lindsay Ryland**, also of the Program Committee, and Society Historian **Judy Durant** provided refreshments after the meeting.

The reproduction uniform and sword which can be seen in the background is typical of those worn by the Virginia Regiments of the Continental Line. Thanks to Lion Heart Filmworks for loaning the uniform for the exhibition opening.

## Jail Break!

Did you know that in the 1930's three prisoners escaped from the old jail by pushing out one of the blocks on the second floor? They used spoons to scrape the mortar from a block on the side facing the library. One escaped prisoner returned later in the day because "he had nowhere else to go." Eventually the other two were also returned. That limestone block can be seen outside the jail by the directional sign which faces Rt. 301.





## Society Accessions & Collections

Upstairs at the Jail, we have been making progress with storage solutions for our accessions and inventory of publications. Acquiring steel shelving and moving excess furniture freed up a large work space in the office to better organize our papers and artifacts.

The Society's Curator **Amber Hawkins** has updated our Past Perfect database program and is continuing to catalog accessions with the help of **Pam Hawkins**, our Membership V-P, and Editor **Judy Lowry**.



Moving our publications inventory to the second floor opened up exhibit space downstairs and gives easier access when filling book orders. While the Society has been moving toward print-on-demand for our latest publications, we still have plenty of copies of the *Bulletin, Vol. I & II*, and *Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory*. Remember, our books make great gifts!

## Recent Acquisition: Alexander Collection

A donation of a variety of household items has been received from Frances Gaines Alexander Bales and Martha Venable Alexander Duval, daughters of Willard Evander Alexander and Martha Gaines Talley, of Lama (pronounced "Leemay"). Various artifacts currently on display came from the Hanover homes of Fairfield, Powhite, Egypt, Little Egypt and Lama. The original 1832 plat of the Powhite property, which was previously donated, has been restored by the Society.