

President's Corner

I was proud to represent the Society at the kick-off event of the VA 250th Celebration in Williamsburg on May 12. On that day in 1773, the House of Burgesses called for all colonies to form Committees of Correspondence. This began a regular communication and helped unite the colonies in their struggle for independence.

Over the next few years, the Society will have many opportunities to participate in events to commemorate the founding of our country. Amber Hawkins Stigall, who serves on our Board, is Chairperson of Hanover's 250th Committee.



Thomas Jefferson's speech at Raleigh Tavern.

Our June 25 program will feature the Marquis de Lafayette as portrayed by the talented actor, Mark Schneider. By combing history with theater, Schneider is well-known for his entertaining and informative interpretations of historic characters at Colonial Williamsburg and on the international stage. Join us and spend an afternoon with the Marquis as he recalls his experiences in America during the Revolution and on his return in 1824. We will meet in the Bradley Theater at historic Hanover Tavern where Lafayette once stayed. Tickets are free, but seats must be reserved. You may want to make reservations to dine at Hanover Tavern before or after the event which begins at 3 p.m. See page two for details.

Our Gala on Tuesday, September 12 will be an event to remember! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to tour one of the most magnificent 18th-century homes built in Hanover County. Rocky Mills, home to the Symes and the Wickhams, was moved to the Westham area of Henrico in the late 1920s and is now known as Fairfield. Your special invitation is enclosed. Make your reservations soon as we are expecting a record response for this event!

We are working to bring you programs that our members will want to attend and may also want to sign up to volunteer. We would like to include you! If you would like to volunteer, please email hanoverhistory@hotmail.com.

Bob Szabo

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 25, 3:00: Join us at the Hanover Tavern theater to see the Marquis de Lafayette portrayed by Mark Schneider who is well-known in Colonial Williamsburg and on the international stage. You will enjoy a lively presentation of his experiences in America during the Revolution and on his return trip in 1824. This event is free, but seats must be reserved by visiting our website at hanoverhistorical.org/events.



Mark Schneider as the Marquis de Lafayette.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 5:30: Annual Gala and tour of historic Fairfield-Rocky Mills. This magnificent home was built by John Syme II and purchased by Edmund Fanning Wickham in 1819 on his marriage to Lucy Carter of Shirley. Later owned by the Nash family, it was sold in the 1920s to Mr. Nolting and moved to a lovely site on the James River in Henrico County.



Fairfield-Rocky Mills, site of our 2023 Gala.

Our Patrick Henry Leadership Award will be presented to Anne D. Nelson for her preservation work in Hanover and her long-time support of many organizations involved in historic preservation and education.

Tuesday, December 5, 6:00: Annual Meeting & Dinner. Join us for dinner, program and election of officers for the 2024-25 term. Details and the proposed slate of officers will be published in the November *Highlights*.

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Gala & Leadership Award at Fairfield-Rocky Mills September 12, 2023 at 5:30

To purchase tickets online, visit hanoverhistorical.org/events for the link to Eventbrite, or mail your check by **August 21** to HCHS, P. O. Box 91, Hanover, VA 23069.

Tickets: \$50 ea.

I cannot attend, but wish to make a Donation. \$ _____

Name: _____

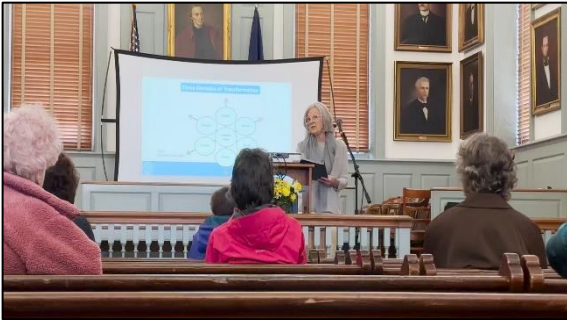
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2023 Spring Events

Your Society is participating in community events, and we would be happy to include you! You can support the Society by attending or helping to host events that are posted on our Facebook page and website. We often have a booth to promote membership, upcoming programs and our publications. Join us in growing the Society!



Elizabeth Kostelny of Preservation Virginia spoke at our March program which was co-sponsored with the Hanover Museum. Her topic, *Women in Preservation*, covered the pioneering efforts to save Mount Vernon and projects that are underway today. Attendees also enjoyed tours of the Jail and a reception at the Museum. Bob Szabo, Amber Hawkins Stigall and Anne Cross coordinated the partnership with Jaime Fawcett of the Museum.

Docent Gary Stauffer regularly opens the Courthouse and Jail on 2nd Thursdays from 10-2 and also by appointment. He has hosted a mock trial and several large groups this Spring. A group of County attorneys recently met Gary at the historic Courthouse for a tour.

Bob Szabo has posted his 2021 video of Judge David B. Caddell Jr. and the late Patrick H. Bynum Jr. discussing a local murder trial which led to a precedent-setting ruling by the Supreme Court of Virginia and a landmark ruling by the U. S. Supreme Court. The film, which was produced by Frank D. Hargrove Jr., Clerk of the Circuit Court, can be viewed on our You Tube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@hanovercountyhistoricalsoc2717>. To see our *Bulletin* article (No. 104, Autumn 2021) for a synopsis of the case, visit hanoverhistorical.org.

Peter Hempfling, the Society's webmaster, has hosted several tours of the Courthouse and Jail, including a large group visiting several of Hanover's historical sites.



Charlie Schmetzer and Deborah Smiley represented the Society at Scotchtown's Fiber Festival. Despite a rainy forecast, the event was well-attended and Bob Szabo recruited several new members.

Amber Hawkins Stigall and Gary Stauffer represented the Society at the June 2nd History & Hops event at Hanover Courthouse. Amber recruited five new members, and Gary estimates 100 people toured the Jail.

On June 3rd for Jack Jouett Day, Pam Hawkins represented the Society at Southern Revere Winery in Louisa. She met several interesting people who would like to work with the Society, including a contact in the Meet the Founders group and Rev. War reenactor, Captain, 1st Light Dragoons, Tarleton's Legion.

Virginia Leads the Charge



Parade in Colonial Williamsburg to kick off the VA 250th Celebration on May 12, 2023.

Informal Virginia Burgesses Committee Meets

March 11, 1773

Several Virginia House of Burgesses members, including Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Dabney Carr, gathered in Williamsburg's Raleigh Tavern to consult on the need for each colony to form a Committee of Correspondence. Their hope was to coordinate a united front in the face of parliamentary taxation and threats to their rights as Englishmen. This informal committee drafted a resolution for the House of Burgesses to form a Committee of Correspondence for Virginia and for the Speaker of the House to invite all of the colonies to do the same.

Virginia Adopts Committees of Correspondence Resolution

March 12, 1773

Thomas Jefferson's friend and brother-in-law, Dabney Carr, presented the resolution on Committees of Correspondence to the Virginia House of Burgesses. The House accepted and adopted the resolution. It also sent copies of this resolution to the assemblies of the other colonies for consideration.

Over the course of 1773, colony after colony followed Virginia's lead and appointed its own Committee of Correspondence. In addition to collecting and communicating information, members discussed strategy with each other and between colonies. By the end of the year, colonists had moved much closer to full rebellion in their struggle for independence.

<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/deep-dives/committees-of-correspondence>