



Highlights

2025-1

March 2025

President's Corner

Our Spring membership meeting is in just a few weeks! Plan to join us on Sunday, April 6 to hear author and historian John Pagano of Henricus speak about the Gunpowder Incident from the perspectives of Royal Governor Lord Earl Dunmore, Patrick Henry and the Militia Company that marched on Williamsburg. We will consider a valid question ... which side would you have been on? Seating at the historic Courthouse is limited, so reservations are required. See page two for details.



Over 60 members and guests attended our Annual Meeting & Dinner in December. Our speaker, Tom Hobbs, spoke about his archeological work at the Mahixon site and showed some of those artifacts for the first time. His talk was educational, entertaining and enjoyed by all! We are happy to announce that Tom will speak about his work at Broadus Flats at this year's Annual Meeting on December 4. Please save the date and plan to attend!

Our Gala at Lombardy Farm in September was a great success! Eighty members and guests enjoyed the evening on the beautiful grounds with tours of the historic home restored by our hosts Jake and Emily Martin. This year, our event will be held on September 9 at Greenlands, early home of the Fortunatus Green family. The property features an original dwelling which has been significantly enlarged in the English country manor design, an 1840 kitchen and a lovely garden. More details to follow.

Save the date of Sunday, June 22, for our Summer program at the Courthouse. Speaker TBA.

The 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death speech and the Gunpowder Incident will be celebrated this month. On March 15, Scotchtown will host Henry's Ride for Liberty as he prepares to travel to St. John's Church for the Second Virginia Convention where he will proclaim "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!" The March 23 reenactments of the speech at St. John's are already sold out, but the 1:30 p.m. performance will be livestreamed. Instructions to view the livestream can be found at historicstjohnschurch.org/events/250th-anniversary. At 2 p.m., the Richmond SAR will commemorate the event beginning with a grave-marking ceremony for Col. Edward Carrington, who requested to be buried on the spot in the church yard where he witnessed Henry's speech.

You'll want to make note of these upcoming events: The Society's program on Lord Dunmore's Gunpowder Theft on April 6; History & Hops at the Courthouse on April 12; Scotchtown's Fiber Festival, also on April 12; Gunpowder Incident at Scotchtown on May 3 and A Revolution in Art Expo from June 21-July 31 in Ashland. Visit va250.org/hanover-county for details.

With such a busy year planned, please consider volunteering to help at our events! Greeting guests who visit our booth is the immediate need, especially in the next couple of months. If you can volunteer some time, email me at hanoverhistory@gmail.com.

Our thanks to everyone who responded to our email blast with renewal reminders. If you have not renewed yet, we look forward to hearing from you!

Bob Szabo

***“This First Publick Insult”
Lord Dunmore’s Gunpowder Theft***

**John Pagano
Author & Historian,
Henricus Historical Park**

**Sunday, April 6, 2:30 p.m.
Historic Hanover Courthouse**

In the middle of the night of April 20, 1775, Royal Governor Lord Earl Dunmore, followed the precedent of other Crown leadership in Massachusetts and chose to send Royal forces ashore to confiscate Virginia’s gunpowder stored in the publick magazine at Williamsburg. Excepting a few like Patrick Henry, many Virginia leaders were very moderate and hoped for continued peace, but this act flew many Virginians under arms to rally against the governor. To many who shouldered their muskets, it was “this first publick insult” that made them consider a form of rebellion as a protest against unfair governmental policy. This was days before they knew of the shots fired in Massachusetts on April 19. Once that news reached Virginia, there would be no turning back!

We will ask a valid question ...
which side would you have been on?

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This event is free of charge, but
reservations are required.

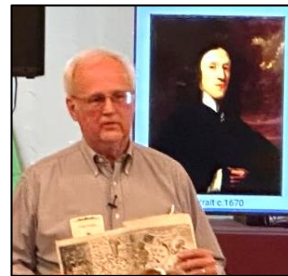
Visit hanoverhistorical.org/events
for the link to Eventbrite.

Society Has New Archives Page!

At hanoverhistorical.org/archives, you will find items of interest such as “Discovery of Ancient Chapel Under Fork Church Revealed,” *H-P*, Mar. 30, 1957. (See Alastair Macdonald’s article on Fork Church in the *Bulletin*, p. 5.) There is also a link to digital images of the *Herald-Progress*, at Virginia Chronicle, Library of VA.

2024 Annual Meeting & Dinner

Over 60 members and guests attended our Annual Meeting in December. President Bob Szabo greeted everyone and recapped the Society’s busy year.



Tom Hobbs spoke about his archeological work at the Mahixon site, a 1672 land grant to Col. John Page. Mann Page II laid off 100 acres in lots at Page’s Warehouse on the Pamunkey which later became known as Hanover Town.



Artifacts that Tom has donated to the Society were on display for the first time; some of these are now on display in our exhibit case at the old stone Jail at Hanover Courthouse.

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