

Preserving and disseminating the history and traditions of that region known as the Northern Neck of Virginia

# The Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society

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Kathryn Shepherd, Editor

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## Letter from the President



Your Society is off to a busy start in 2012. We have announced our new \$1,000 scholarship award program for high school seniors from a high school in Stafford, King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland and Lancaster Counties.

The scholarship award is specifically directed to be used for continuing education at a two or four college or university, an apprentice program or a business, technical, trade or nursing school.

Plans are also being finalized for the first John Paul Hanbury award for restoration and preservation of an architecturally significant structure in the Society's six-county region. Nominations will be due by March 31, 2012 and the award will be announced at our spring meeting at Stratford Hall on May 9, 2012.

Preparation of the first Northern Neck Historical Marker for the Bluff Point School in Northumberland County is underway. The Society serves as an advisor to any person or organization desiring to have a marker for something of local significance which does not qualify for a state historical marker.

We will have our annual commemoration of the Leedstown Resolution on March 3, 2012 at the Council House at Stratford Hall where we will be treated to a reenactment of Patrick Henry's famous speech as a freshman Burgess in Williamsburg regarding the Stamp Act. Lunch will be available in the Stratford Hall dining room after the presentation. We hope many of you will join us on the 3rd.

You can read more about these programs and events elsewhere in this newsletter.

*R. Page Henley, Jr.*

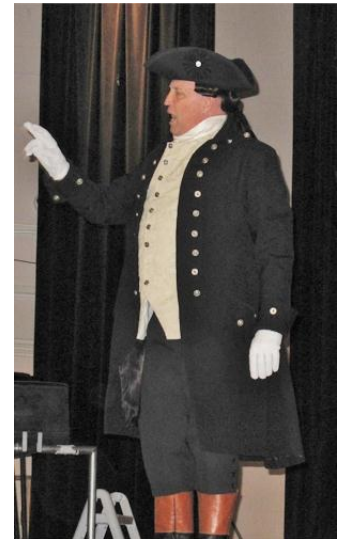
## "If This be Treason, Make the Most of It!"

Hear ye, hear ye – come watch Patrick Henry launch the American Revolution, live in the Northern Neck!

On March 3, 2012 at Stratford Hall, this year's special annual commemoration of the 1766 Leedstown Resolutions will feature a dynamic guest from the past: "Patrick Henry," in the person of professional interpreter Michael Oddenino, who will echo Henry's brilliant and fiery anti-Stamp Act speech from 1765, a speech which inspired the Leedstown action only months later.

Oddenino has performed as Patrick Henry for many years, around the United States. His rendition of the famous Stamp Act Resolutions oratory culminates in the historic line, "If this be treason, make the most of it!" – which roused the House of Burgesses into a fury. The singular power of this speech ignited the American Revolution's spark, and now inspires Oddenino to capture the riveting nature of Patrick Henry's voice.

In a unique homage, this year's event takes place at Stratford Hall, ancestral home of Northern Neck patriot Richard Henry Lee, who was then actually sitting in Virginia's House of Burgesses as a



Michael Oddenino of California, noted for his portrayal of Virginia patriot Patrick Henry

member for Westmoreland County and was greatly moved by Henry's speech. Within less than a year R.H. Lee had organized the Leedstown Resolutions embodying the spirit of the rebellion Patrick Henry preached.

The membership meeting and guest presentation begin at 11:30am, with lunch following. Please see page 4 for the reservation form; tickets are \$20.

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Page Henley

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Russell Brown

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Lynn McFadden – Publicity  
Susan Christopher – Scholarship  
Ammon Dunton – Easements  
Kendall Stoneham – Membership

## NNVHS College Scholarship Award

Our membership has supported a scholarship for Northern Neck students for many years. For 2012 our scholarship has been increased to \$1000, and is available to a Northern Neck high school senior who wins a historical essay contest.

Our many thanks to the indefatigable Susan Christopher, Bill and Donna Elliott and Lynn McFadden for their work on this project. Local newspapers are publicizing the scholarship. Christopher and Elliott personally delivered the application package and met with the high school guidance counselors in the Northern Neck to explain the purpose of the scholarship program. Applications are due back no later than March 31 and interviews with finalists will be held in April. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the May 9 membership meeting at Stratford Hall.

If you know of a high school senior whom you think would be interested, tell him or her to contact their high school guidance counselor for NNVHS Scholarship application forms.

## Genealogy Seminar Returns

Carolyn Jett is back with a four-session seminar on genealogical research this spring. A prominent Northern Neck genealogist, Mrs. Jett will lead the seminar's classes at the NNVHS headquarters in Montross, on four consecutive Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, and 23 of 2012, from 10am-Noon. Attendance is limited to 15 participants. Fee is \$45 for non-members, \$25 for members, and free for new or returning NNVHS Library volunteers. This seminar is a wonderful opportunity to learn the basics and key tools of genealogical research. See page 4 for ticket information.



## Spring Luncheon Features Historic Jamestowne Curator

Beverly A. (Bly) Straube, the Chief Archaeological Curator for the Jamestown Rediscovery Project of Preservation Virginia, will be our guest speaker at the Society's May 2012 membership meeting. Her topic and extensive slide-show for our members will cover some of the remarkable artifacts and historical findings uncovered at Historic Jamestowne.

Bly Straube has served as curator of Jamestown Rediscovery since excavation began in 1994. Previously she has worked at Virginia tidewater sites including Bacon's Castle, Governor's Land at Two Rivers, Jordan's Journey, Boldrop Plantation, Church Neck Wells Site, and Arlington. She also previously was an adjunct professor of history at Christopher Newport University and a research archeologist with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Straube also holds a master's degree

in American Studies from the College of William and Mary, and an undergraduate degree from Chatham College in Pittsburg.

This event promises to be a highlight for NNVHS in 2012. Please see page 4 for reservation information.



*Bly Straube, archaeological curator at Jamestown, surrounded by some of the 1.5 million artifacts in the Jamestown collection*

## Inaugural Hanbury Award

NNVHS is very pleased to announce that we are accepting nominations for our newly-created John Paul Hanbury Award, recognizing outstanding restoration, rehabilitation or renovation (completed within the last five years) of a property of architectural and/or historical interest in the six counties of Virginia's historic Northern Neck.

The Hanbury Award is based on a similar prize, the highly regarded E. Boyd Graves Award of Historic Fredericksburg - and we're excited to launch it this year.

The Award's nomination process closes March 31, 2012. Nomination details are available on the facing page, or online at the Society's website at <http://nnvhs.org/HistoricPreservationAward.aspx>.

The Hanbury Award Committee, which will review the nominations and select the recipient, is chaired by Charles Sydnor and members include Steve Walker, Page and Jane Henley, and restoration contractor Gordon Wilkins, along with consulting architect Rocco Tricarrico, AIA.

This special award is named after the late John Paul Hanbury, founding principal of the internationally-recognized firm Hanbury, Evans, Wright, Vlattas, and Co. in Norfolk. His portfolio included eight National Historic Landmarks and dozens of structures on the National Register of Historic Places. His most celebrated work was the award-winning restoration of the 1813 Virginia Executive Mansion, which is the oldest continuously-used Governor's Mansion in the United States.

We hope this award will encourage responsible restoration of our heritage in the Northern Neck. Please consider a nomination for an appropriate project!

## Upcoming NNVHS Events

- *Leedstown Resolutions 1766 Commemoration*, March 3, 2012, 11:30am at Stratford Hall. Lunch in the Dining Room following a Living History interpretation: Patrick Henry delivers his famous speech denouncing the Stamp Act!
- *Genealogy Seminar with Carolyn Jett*, held on April 2, 9, 16, 23 of 2012. Last year's seminar led by the entertaining Ms. Jett was well received - reserve early!
- *Spring Luncheon & Membership Meeting*, May 9, 2012, Stratford Hall. Business meeting and guest speaker Beverly Straube beginning at 10:30am in the Council House, followed by Southern luncheon in the Dining Hall.

# John Paul Hanbury Award

## Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society

**Recognizing restoration of properties of historic or architectural interest completed in the past five years in Virginia's Historic Northern Neck.**

Nominations must be submitted by **March 31, 2012** to the NNVHS address below (either email or US mail are acceptable). The 2012 award will be announced May 9 at the NNVHS Membership Luncheon at Stratford Hall Plantation.

Nominations must include:

- Name and address of the property, and contact information for the Owner and the Nominator, along with Owner's written consent for the nomination;
- A brief description of architectural and historical interest and reasons the property is qualified (photos and/or website-address are appreciated);
- Dates of restorative work;
- Building type (residential, commercial, industrial, ecclesiastical, or other);
- Architect, contractor, and other project contributors or craftspeople.

*"The Past grows  
by being shared."*



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*Be Part of the Story - Renew Your Membership!*

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✂ Clip and Mail ✂

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - If you have already renewed, thank you very much!**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Single membership: \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting membership: \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Joint membership: \$45 \_\_\_\_\_ Life membership: \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership renewal form also available online, at [www.nnvhs.org](http://www.nnvhs.org).

**RESERVATION FORM FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**March 3: Leedstown Event with "Patrick Henry" (see page 1).**

Email your RSVP to: [nnvhs@live.com](mailto:nnvhs@live.com), or by regular mail using this form. Price: \$20.

Name(s) of those attending \_\_\_\_\_

**April: NNVHS Genealogy Seminar (see page 2). Limited enrollment, Registration required.**

Enclose check payable to NNVHS for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Prices: \$25 for NNVHS members, \$45 for non-members, and free to committed Society volunteers.

Name(s) of those attending (including guests) \_\_\_\_\_

**May 9: Spring Meeting & Stratford Hall Luncheon, with Jamestown talk (see page 2).**

Enclose check payable to NNVHS for \$\_\_\_\_\_; each ticket \$25.

Name(s) of those attending (including guests) \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return by mail to NNVHS, P. O. Box 716, Montross, VA 22520