



GREETINGS May 2025



The Friends of Historic Halifax continues its mission in supporting the Historic Halifax state site.

The Historic Halifax Historic Site hosted a rainy and cold Halifax Resolves Celebration this April 12th, 2025 with encampments of militia, Native American ceremonies, and demonstrations of blacksmithing, distilling, colonial cooking, naval stores, basket crafting, and even a colonial river boat called a periauger. Planning is already underway for next year's celebration. 2026 is the commemoration year for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and we will have three full days..April, 10, 11, 12 to tell the stories of the significant contributions of Halifax County and North Carolina to the founding of our nation

The Visitors Center will be open after its major renovation and we are excited to have a special, climate-controlled, display window to showcase authentic documents such as the minute book of the 4th Provincial Congress, open to the record of the Halifax Resolves.

UPCOMING EVENTS this year:

- July 4th Celebration
- August 1st - Reenactment of the Reading of the Declaration of Independence from the Courthouse Steps by Cornelius Harnett
- Labors of Halifax – September 6
- Holiday Homes Tour – December 5 including a ribbon-cutting of the renovated William Richardson Davie House

FOHH is offering two books with all profits going to the historic site.

- ***The Historic Architecture of Halifax County***, 800 pages of significant buildings in the county for \$60.00. They are available at the Halifax County Library.
- **SOON!!!** A special limited edition of a reprinting of the book, ***William Richardson Davie***, by Blackwell Pierce Robinson will be offered for \$35 to members of FOHH and HHRA and for \$40 to nonmembers. This book was originally printed in the 1950s by the University Press which is associated with UNC-CH. Copies are scarce, often selling on the Internet for \$100. It is a definitive biography of a man who made many contributions to the founding of our country. Davie was an officer during the Revolutionary War, later a lawyer and congressman, a state governor, a peace emissary to France, and the founder of the first state university, now the University of North Carolina. His home, "Loretta" is currently being renovated and will be open to the public this fall. This book is worth reading! Permission to reprint was given to FOHH and HHRA (Historic Halifax Restoration Association) by the family of the author and all proceeds will go to support the state historic site.
- **ANTICIPATED!!!** A book tentatively named ***Halifax 1776*** is in development.



CELEBRATE WITH US!

2026 is America's 250th anniversary!

Plan a weekend in Halifax on April 10-12, 2026

Websites for events:

NC website: [Home Page | america.250 \(nc.gov\)](#)

USA website: [America250](#)

Halifax, NC: [visithalifax.com](#)

Facebook for Friends of Historic Halifax

FOHH PROJECTS AND GRANTS: FOHH searches for grants to support the programming at the historic site. Recently, we were awarded \$15,177 by the NC250th Commission for colonial militia clothing and armaments that will be used by volunteer interpreters during events. We also have applied for a National Park Service grant that will plan walking trails along the Roanoke River. Several other grants are being pursued to support part-time staff at the historic site, educational projects and events.

Halifax has a new **Quill Monument** funded by a 250th state grant to the Halifax County Arts Council with cooperation of the Halifax County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The quill and inkwell has long been the symbol of the Halifax Resolves document.

FOHH PROJECT: Landscaping of the WR Davie House - COME GROW WITH US!

Since incorporation of FOHH, our primary project has been the landscaping of the WR Davie House. Covid and the renovation of the house itself has delayed us for several years even as we slowly collected some much appreciated donations. We current have about \$6000 of the estimated \$50,000 needed for this project. Ground penetrating radar was accomplished last year to locate extinct dependencies so now plantings can be done with disturbing any future archeological explorations. Previous plans include an irrigation system, and plantings of boxwoods, gardens, flowering bushes and trees. Sidewalks will need to be upgraded and a privacy hedges will need to be planted. The plan included allowing an event space in the back yard which could can tented for events. We welcome any donations.

Your membership is needed and we welcome your involvement. These funds directly impact the historic site which attracts tourism from near and far. Contact the site employees if you are interested in being a volunteer. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS can be obtained either at visitors site/Tap Room or by emailing us at address below.

Please encourage your friends and family to join us. We are proud of our history and the part we played in the founding of this country. There are many stories to tell..... the Underground Railroad, the Ram Albemarle, Sir Archie, Andrew Jackson, the Masonic Lodge, Lord Cornwallis, Lafayette, George Washington, Cornelius Harnett, the Native Americans, John Paul Jones, and William R. Davie, the Native Americans, the river trade, the naval store industry, We look forward to seeing you on site!

2025 Board of Directors FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HALIFAX EIN 82-4702120:

Karen Vaughan (chair), Kathy White (vice chair/secretary), Jim Small (treasurer), Larry Armstrong, Joyce Tillery, Pam Ballew, Suzann Anderson, Al Richardson, Dennis Doran, Cheryl Edwards, Reverend Michael Ridic, Sr.

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The Friends of Historic Halifax support the Halifax 250th Commission.

This representative group was selected by the county commissioners in 2023 with the mission of planning projects and events for the commemoration period which began for North Carolina in Halifax during the Halifax Resolves Celebration, April 12, 2024.

2026 is the Semiquincentennial Year and we anticipate Big Happenings!



HALIFAX 250 COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATE is NOW AVAILABLE
Let's Honor Halifax's Role in Our Country's Independence

To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves on April 12, 1776, the Halifax County Semi-Quincentennial Commission announces the availability of a commemorative license plate with options of a standard plate or a personalized plate.

"This is more than a license plate; it is a celebration of our heritage and visible reminder of Halifax's prominent role in American history," stated Michael Wray, Chairman of the Halifax County Semi-Quincentennial Commission. *"We want everyone to display this plate proudly to honor our history and instill pride for generations to come."*

The Commission has partnered with Halifax County Business Horizons, Inc. to offer the commemorative license plate. Halifax Horizons purchased 500 of the plates in advance to comply with the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles. Order promptly to ensure you get this commemorative item.

To purchase your license plate, go to www.halifaxhorizons.com/licenseplate to download, complete, and submit the online form, or you can print the form, complete it and mail with your payment to Halifax County Business Horizons, Inc., 260 Premier Blvd., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870 or bring it to the Halifax County Visitors Center. Please make all checks payable to Halifax County Business Horizons, Inc. Alternatively, You can Scan the code below.

These are not available at DMV.

Proceeds from the sale of these specialty license plates will provide education and commemorative events leading to the 250th-anniversary celebration on April 12, 2026.

Celebrate our historic legacy and order your Halifax 250 commemorative license plate today!

