

*GREETINGS to all*

November 2022



The **FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HALIFAX** continues their work in supporting the Historic Halifax State Historic Site.

FOHH leadership has been involved for the past couple of years with several other organizations including the Historical Halifax Restoration Association and Halifax County Tourism to develop a comprehensive **10-year VISION** for the historic site. With the assistance of Michael Wray, \$5.2 million of state funding will support the renovation of the visitor's center and the completion of the Davie House project. Funds have also been obtained to enhance the Underground Railroad experience and to support development of an old school site. The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources will assist in building walking trails along the Roanoke River at the northeast side of the historic site which will increase access to the Underground Railroad trail and the riverfront.

Leadership from the **FOHH** will continue to develop cooperative relationships with such organizations such as the Society of the Cincinnati, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution, the Colonial Dames, as well as the town and county of Halifax. The Town of Halifax has recently initiated a project of replacing the sidewalks with commemorative brick pavers.

Sample of Upcoming Events being planned:

December 2, 2022: **Yuletide by Lantern Light** featuring carriage rides and decorated houses. Colonial refreshments will be offered at the WR Davie House.

January/February 2023: **Bites of History** will be scheduled with possible topics such as African American Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, WR Davie.

April 12, 2023: The annual **Halifax Resolves Day** commemoration will be hosted by the HHRA featuring a program with guest speaker, and a wreath-laying program hosted by the SAR. The following Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the site will host **The Road to Yorktown**, a living-history event commemorating the battle of Halifax and the British occupation of Halifax in 1781.

April 12, 2024–December 2026: Various commemorations for the **250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**.

February 2025: Celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Lafayette's Farewell Tour**

The **FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HALIFAX** is a nonprofit, support group for the historic site. **Your membership and donations will directly contribute to fund diverse projects at the site such as living-history, landscaping, lectures and gardens.** We strive to commemorate the significant history of Halifax.... the Revolutionary War, the Halifax Resolves, and American independence, the Underground Railroad, the free black jockey Austin Curtis and the famous racehorse, Sir Archie, visits from George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and John Paul Jones, the occupation of town by Lord Cornwallis, jailing of the loyalist, Alan MacDonald, and more.

One of the prominent residents of Halifax was **William Richardson Davie** who married Sarah Jones, daughter of General Allen Jones, brother of Willie Jones who lived here from 1785-1805 during which time he was a military officer, lawyer and statesman, founding father of the US, a peace envoy to France, and the father of the first state university, UNC-CH. His wife is buried here. A baby sapling from the original Davie Popular on the campus of UNC-CH has been planted on the grounds.

**We welcome your membership and your involvement. We strive to make Historic Halifax a premier site that will impact our local tourism industry. More importantly,** the story of freedom is a relevant story and it is beneficial to remind all of us to be mindful of the contributions that formed our country.

**FOHH communications are through emails and at least two newsletters. Events are posted on Facebook and the state website.** We look forward to continuing to offer events safely as the epidemic resolves. Tours are offered daily. Plan a visit. We welcome your comments. Our email is [FOHH1776@gmail.com](mailto:FOHH1776@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support.

Karen Vaughan, Chair of Board of Directors

Board of Directors:

Larry Armstrong, Kathy White (secretary), Joyce Tillery, Bentley Mohorn, Ada Shields, Suzann Anderson, Napoleon Hill (vicechair), Chris Lehman (treasurer), Jim Small, Al Richardson, Ex-Officio: Dudley Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi Tribe), Pamela Pate (Colonial Dames)

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