



FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HALIFAX

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

2026! The Commemorative year is here and we are ready to celebration 250 years of independence at the Historic Halifax State Historic Site with exciting projects and activities throughout the year. Put April 10-12 on your calendar as our three-day celebration of the Halifax Resolves will be worth a visit.

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 10-12, 2026- THE HALIFAX RESOLVES CELEBRATION: The latest schedule is attached to this email but any changes will be posted on our new **WEBSITE:** www.friendsofhistorichalifax.org. This website contains information about the history of Halifax and the buildings at the historic site. In addition, FOHH along with the Halifax 250th Commission contracted with an experienced teacher to craft two lessons for grades 6-12 educators, one tailored to the Revolutionary War/Halifax Resolves and one for the Underground Railroad/Freedom Seekers. These are aligned with the NC State Curriculum guidelines and reference authentic documents. We encourage teachers/educators to use these lessons and to schedule coordinating field trips to the historic site.

The **Naval Stores Industry** will be a focus in April. Tar, pitch, and Turpentine were essential to ship building and so many other area in colonial NC...it is the reason we are the **Tar Heel State!** A presentation by Earl James, a curator at the Museum of History, is scheduled on Friday and a demonstration is scheduled on Saturday showing how turpentine is made from tree sap. We are also the Long Leaf Pine State and there is a story about the reason that have so few long leaf pines left growing. Earl can answer that question.

JOIN US: The mission of FOHH is to support the historic site and we do so with projects and events. We welcome your interest and donations. **You can join or donate on line on our website.**

SOME PROJECTS OF INTEREST:

- Landscaping of the WR Davie House: FOHH has received approval for a plan to spend \$10,000 to grade the area behind the renovated Davie House, replant grass, and new trees. We hope to have this available for you as an event space that can be rented and tented. We are in process of raising another \$15,000 to build new brick sidewalks and a caterer access at the end of the property.
- Liberty Pole: FOHH has received approval to erect a Liberty Pole near the footprint of the original Colonial Courthouse just as they did in 1776. This pole has a cap on top representing freedom, dating from Roman times. Check out to NC State Seal to see an image of a liberty pole.
- Books: FOHH offers two books....the Halifax County Architectural book for \$60 and the WR Davie book by Blackwell Pierce Robinson for \$35 FOHH/HRA member/\$40 nonmember. We anticipate another book later in 2026 that will focus happenings in Halifax in 1776, an important year when the town hosted the 4th Provincial Congress, responsible for the Halifax Resolves, and the 5th Provincial Congress, responsible for the NC State Constitution.

GRANTS: FOHH are pleased to have received grants from John William Pope Foundation, the Society of the Cincinnati, The NC 250th Commission, Halifax 250th Commission, and Halifax Tourism along with donations from many individuals and organizations such as the Sons of the Revolution. We appreciate the support.

OTHER EVENTS IN 2026:



WERE YOU THERE? On December 5, 2025, there was a ribbon cutting to the **renovated WR Davie House**.

It is now open to the public.

Pictured is Jeremy Hicklin of Kings Mountain, NC, a descendent of WR Davie and a mason standing beside Carl Burke, manager of the Historic Halifax State Historic Site.

- Don't miss this! **Kathleen DuVal** will make a presentation on her Pulitzer prize winning book, **Native Nations** at the Halifax Library on Saturday March 14th at 10:00 am. The Native Americans are an important part of the American story and you will learn history that has not been taught in schools. Kathleen worked with Ken Burns on the 12-hour documentary on the *Revolutionary War*.

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Saturday night April 11, 2026, 5 to 8 pm, historic site

Tea and Toddies with George, a George Washington interpreter, colonial dancing, and cherry bounce, a special colonial drink offered at a cash bar operated by Weldon Distilleries.

This is a ticketed event featuring oysters, shrimp, and BBQ sliders. Tickets on Eventbrite. \$50 a person.



- Sunday April 26 – Ticketed tour and reception at **Longview Plantation** in Northampton County. This historic home features old portraits and family history with its connection to Colonel Nicholas Long of Halifax and his descendants. Larry Armstrong will present an overview of the Battle of Great Bridge, Virginia, fought on December 9, 1775, in which Colonel Nicholas Long led the Halifax militia in their first action of the Revolutionary War conflict. And more....we are working on several other events including the NC Symphony playing patriotic music. Stay in touch. Tickets will be on Eventbrite.
- TBA- Planning is underway for an event at the WR Davie House to celebrate Davie and his involvement with the first state university, now University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His committee to education was grounded in the need to have an educated electorate, so necessary for a democracy.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

The ribbon cutting and opening of the renovated visitors center on the historic site is scheduled on Sunday in conjunction with the Halifax Resolves Program at 3:00. Reception will follow. We are thrilled about new exhibits, new technology, and a new store. A special feature is the climate controlled showcase for historic documents....we hope to have the original Halifax Resolves on display!! Another sight to see is the special sidewalk entrance designed by Senora Lynch, an artist of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe.

We are pleased to note support from several grants and groups for our efforts. The Sons of the Revolution, the NCDCCR community 250th grants, the John William Pope Foundation, and the Society of the Cincinnati. We also appreciate you, our members and donors, in helping us help the Historic Halifax State Historic Site tell the stories of the contribution of the county, the town and the people of Halifax County in the development of the United States.

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