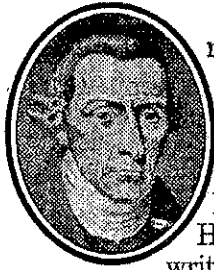


Patrick Henry's Buildings



There are two reasons why we don't know a lot about Patrick Henry.

First, when not serving as governor, he was practicing law. He did not take time to write as many letters as

Thomas Jefferson and George Washington did.

He also never held a national office. Washington asked him to serve as secretary of state and chief justice of the United States, but he did not accept either offer.

His boyhood

Patrick Henry was born on May 29, 1736, near Richmond, Va.

We don't know much about his boyhood except that he was not much of a student and that he loved being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. His father had been educated in England and taught him at home. We don't have any buildings to remind us of him as a young boy.

However, we can look at these historic buildings and find out about his life. All of them are in Virginia, except Carpenter's and Independence Hall.

As a young man



Hanover Tavern was where Henry, his wife and three children lived in 1760 after their house burned down. Patrick had married the inn owner's daughter, Sarah, in 1754.

Patrick had tried farming and shopkeeping, but was not a success. He helped run the tavern and often played the fiddle. Patrick loved music and a good time.



As a young lawyer



Hanover Courthouse near Richmond, Va.

Henry won a court case in 1763 at Hanover Courthouse. The case brought him praise, fame and clients. He had studied law and gotten his license in 1760.



This is a painting of Patrick Henry arguing the case.

attributed to George Cooke, © 1820; courtesy The Virginia Historical Society

Henry's fame and family grow



The Scotchtown house was one of more than a dozen houses Henry lived in during his lifetime. Sarah died here in 1775, leaving him with six children. During this time he was active in politics and was speaking out against British rule.

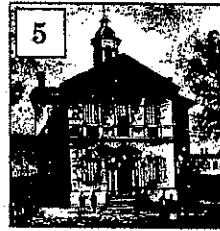


As a lawmaker



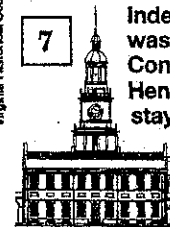
Henry was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1765. As a member, he made the laws for the Colony. He made his speech against the Stamp Act here in the capitol building in Williamsburg.

As a rebel and patriot



Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia was the site of the first Continental Congress in 1774. Patrick Henry was a delegate. It was here that he said, "I am not a Virginian, but an American."

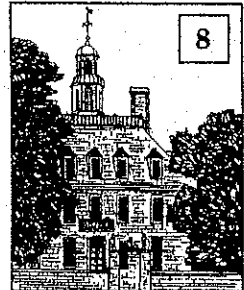
At St. John's Church in Richmond, Va., Henry made the "Give me liberty or give me death" speech on March 23, 1775. He was made commander in chief of the Virginia militia. He later resigned.



Independence Hall in Philadelphia was the site of the Second Continental Congress in 1775. Henry was a member, but did not stay long. He was back in Virginia helping write the state's constitution. He did not sign the Declaration of Independence.

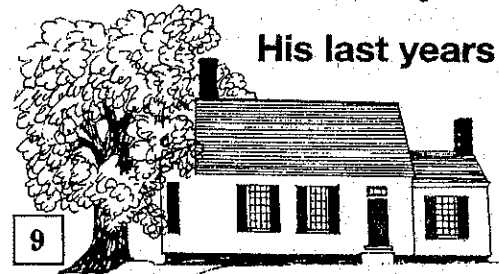
As a governor

In 1776, Henry was elected the first governor of Virginia. He married his second wife, Dorothea, in 1777. He was so popular that he was elected for five terms. He resigned in 1786.



The Governor's Palace in Williamsburg.

His last years



Red Hill, near Lynchburg, Va., was his last and favorite home. It was in the mountains of Virginia. He and Dorothea had 11 children, bringing his total to 17. He had become a very successful and rich lawyer and landowner. He died on June 6, 1799.

The Mini Page thanks Dr. Jon Kukla, executive vice president and CEO, Red Hill-The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, for help with this issue.

Next week, learn all about Pennsylvania, the state that will host the upcoming Republican National Convention.