

# News From Red Hill



*P. Henry*  
**RED HILL**  
PATRICK HENRY  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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## RED HILL USHERS NEW CITIZENS INTO LIBERTY

Since 2006, Red Hill has hosted annual naturalization ceremonies, where immigrants complete the final step in the process of becoming naturalized citizens of the United States. It is one of the most powerful and moving events of the year, since it offers the *(continued on page 2)*

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## CULTIVATION OF VIRTUE IS THEME IN NEW HENRY BIOGRAPHY

Last November, Patrick Henry enthusiasts were treated to the release of *Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots* by Dr. Thomas S. Kidd, the latest in a long history of biographies about Virginia's first governor. The new book investigates Patrick Henry's famous opposition to a powerful Federal government, as well as his stance on virtue and public morality.

Dr. Kidd offers a new perspective on Henry's political positions throughout his life. In the past, some have painted Henry as intellectually inconsistent over the course of his life. Such observers typi-

cally point to his support of the Federalist Party near the end of his life, which on the surface seems to contradict his opposition to the strength of the Federal Government furnished by the Constitution in his younger years. Kidd's new biography tries to account for this shift by examining Patrick Henry's underlying commitment to virtue and how it influenced him over the course of his life.

The book takes a definitively scholarly approach, yet while the research is impeccable, it is designed to be readable by anyone interested in Patrick *(continued on page 2)*

## RED HILL USHERS NEW CITIZENS INTO LIFE OF LIBERTY (CONT.)

*Continued from page 1*

opportunity for people new to the U.S. to grasp the same hope, opportunity, and freedom that Patrick Henry so passionately advocated.

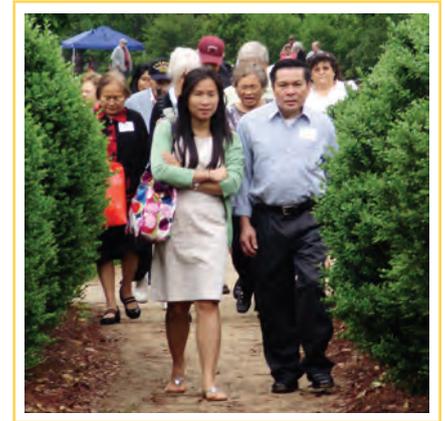
Tears of joy are commonplace as new citizens and their families are welcomed to finally call the United States their home.

“This is the greatest day of my life,” said Nataliya Bishop after taking the oath of citizenship at Red Hill in 2010. Bishop, born in Russia, is just one of hundreds



of new Americans that have had the joyful naturalization experience at Red Hill. The new citizens usually hail from over twenty countries around the globe. Many come to the U.S. seeking refuge from oppressive governments, and are a true testament to the virtue of liberty.

“It seems to me that there’s no better place for a new citizen to be sworn in than at Patrick Henry’s Red Hill,” said Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation Executive Vice President Karen Gorham. Such a view is common. Attendees of the ceremonies are frequently moved to see that new citizens often have the greatest appreciation for the freedom that the United States offers, giving a modern example of the same



passionate desire for freedom that led the founding fathers to risk their lives for liberty. Appropriately, attendees all know at least some Patrick Henry history since one of questions on the naturalization test has been, “Who is the patriot who once said, ‘Give me liberty, or give me death!’”

The ceremony represents the culmination of a process spanning at least five years during which the hopeful immigrants must live in the United States and pass rigorous tests to prove their naturalization. Some new citizens have to give up citizenship in *(continued on page 4)*

“...there’s no better place for a new citizen to be sworn in...”

## NEW HENRY BIOGRAPHY (CONT.)

*Continued from page 1*

Henry or American history in general.

The history of Patrick Henry biographies is a rich and storied one. The first was published in 1816 just 17 years after Henry’s death and was written by William Wirt, U.S. Attorney General from 1817 to 1829. Wirt compiled his biography by interview-

ing Henry’s contemporaries, most notably Thomas Jefferson, Henry’s one-time friend turned political adversary. During two years of correspondence with Jefferson and others leading up to the publication of Wirt’s biography, it is now generally recognized that Wirt was presented

with a less-than-generous picture of Patrick Henry’s life. Since it was the first Henry biography published, some say that it set a negative tone at the commencement of history’s attempt to document Patrick Henry’s life.

Since 1816, dozens of Patrick

# From the Red Hill Collection



## **PETER F. ROTHERMEL'S *PATRICK HENRY BEFORE THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES***

Painted in 1851

Oil on Canvas, 6.5' x 5'

This iconic painting is the centerpiece of the Red Hill collection. It hangs in the E. Stuart James Grant Museum Room, where its tremendous size makes it impossible to miss. It was painted by Peter F. Rothermel in 1851 on commission from the Philadelphia Art Union, which awarded it in a lottery. The painting was eventually acquired by Charles L. Hamilton. The heirs of Mr. Hamilton's estate graciously made sure that it came to the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation in 1959. It is often recognized as the second most well known American history painting, following *George Washington Crossing the Delaware*. The painting depicts Patrick Henry only nine days into his political career as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In the scene, he is presenting his resolutions in opposition to the Stamp Act, drawing looks of shock, admiration, and outrage from the other members of the House. The painting truly embodies the fierce passion that Patrick Henry was known for.

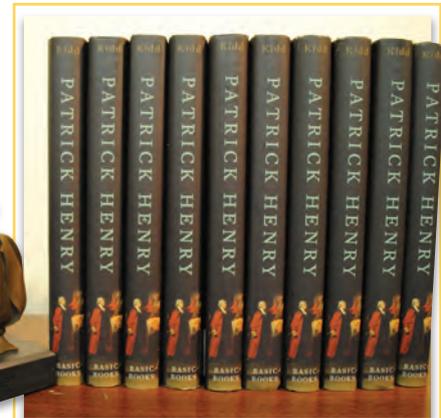
*The painting's huge gilt gold frame was restored twenty years ago. The painting's tremendous size makes it impossible to miss in the E. Stuart James Grant Museum Room at Red Hill.*



Henry biographies have been published, each focusing on unique perspectives of Henry's life. Other notable entries in the annals of Henry biography came in 1890 from Henry's grandson, William Wirt Henry, in 1957 from Professor Robert Douthat Meade, and in 1986 from historian Henry Mayer.

Thus, Thomas Kidd's work

takes its place as the latest in a long series of Patrick Henry biographies, bringing yet another unique perspective on the Voice of the Revolution, and giving greater insight into what made this fascinating man act as he did.



## NEW CITIZENS (CONT.)

*Continued from page 2*

their home countries in order to qualify for citizenship in the U.S., adding to the emotional exhaustion of the process. Yet the difficulty of the naturalization process makes the day at Red Hill all the more sweet.

Each year, the newly inducted citizens are given an

opportunity to address the crowd after being sworn in, and the speeches that take place during this time are routinely emotional and inspiring. At last year's ceremony, a man on staff at



*...They see here...a land on which Providence hath emptied the horn of abundance...*

# What Would Henry Say?

about immigration to America

In October 1783, Virginia was suffering from war debts, a struggling economy and rampant inflation. During a debate in the Virginia legislature about immigration Patrick Henry said the following:

*“People, sir, form the strength and constitute the wealth of a nation. I want to see our vast forest filled up by some process a little more speedy than the ordinary course of nature... [T]hose vast riches...are to be developed and gathered only by the skill and enterprise of men... [Y]our great want, sir, is the want of men; and these you must have, and will have speedily, if you are wise. Open your doors, sir, and they will come in—the population of the old world is full to overflowing—that*

*population is ground, too, by the oppressions of the governments under which they live. Sir, they are already standing on tiptoe upon their native shores, and looking to your coasts with a wistful and longing eye—they see here a land blessed with natural and political advantages which are not equalled by those of any other country upon earth—a land on which Providence hath emptied the horn of abundance—a land over which peace hath now stretched forth her white wings, and where content and plenty lie down at every door! Sir, they see something more attractive than all this—they see a land in which liberty hath taken up her abode—that liberty, whom they had considered as a fabled goddess existing only in the fancies of poets—they see her here a real divinity—her altars rising on every hand throughout these*



*happy states—her glories chanted by three millions of tongues—and the whole region smiling under her blessed influence. Sir, let but this, our celestial goddess, Liberty, stretch forth her fair hand toward the people of the old world—tell them to come, and bid them welcome—and you will see them pouring in from the north, from the south, from the east, and from the west—your wildernesses will be cleared and settled—your deserts will smile—your ranks will be filled, and you will soon be in a condition to defy the powers of any adversary.”\**

While no known evidence for it exists, it is easy *(continued on page 10)*

*“What Would Henry Say?” will present how Patrick Henry actually addressed a question of his day, so that the reader can consider how Henry’s principles might inform today’s debates.*

Liberty University expressed excitement at being able to join his wife and children as citizens, and finally being able to call himself an American.

The annual ceremony typically marks the naturalization of about 40 new citizens, and draws a crowd of nearly 200 family members and friends of Red Hill from hundreds of miles around. A continental breakfast served

by the Daughters of the American Revolution precedes the ceremony, and it is followed by a lunch reception hosted by members of the Patrick Henry Auxiliary and the Brookneal Woman's Club.

This year, the ceremony will take place at Red Hill on May 11th at 11am, preceded by living history demonstrations at 10am. Red Hill will be open to the public free of charge, and everyone is welcome

to join the new citizens and their families at the ceremony, and for lunch at the following reception. It is recommended that attendees arrive by 10:30 to be sure of seating. 



## GOVERNOR HENRY LECTURES BRING HENRY SCHOLARSHIP TO MODERN AUDIENCE

Since 2001, the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation has delivered the Governor Henry Lectures, a series of talks that aims to enlighten the public through contemporary scholarship about Patrick Henry in relation to his contemporaries and the political climate of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. From inception, the Library of Virginia has joined the Foundation in sponsoring this series; in 2009, Hampden-Sydney College opened its doors as a venue and joined in sponsoring the lecture. During the last ten years of the series, esteemed scholars from across the country have presented their findings of what shaped Patrick Henry and his era as well as the challenges he faced.

The most recent lecture by Dr. Thomas S. Kidd was the eleventh in the series. Dr. Kidd expounded on part of his work from his new Patrick Henry biography, examining



*The Library of Virginia and Hampden-Sydney College hosted lectures this fall by Dr. Kidd.*

the influence of Samuel Davies and the Great Awakening in Virginia on Henry's life and political attitudes.

The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation will publish the lectures in a collective volume following the final lecture in the series. The Foundation is currently looking for underwriters to sponsor the publication of the Governor Henry Lectures. 

### **Past Governor Henry Lecturers**

2001	Dr. Don Higginbotham
2002	Dr. John P. Kaminski
2003	Dr. Thomas E. Buckley, S.J.
2004	Dr. Charles F. Hobson
2005	Dr. Cynthia A. Kierner
2006	Dr. Carol Berkin
2007	Dr. Jon Kukla
2008	Dr. Kevin J. Hayes
2009	Dr. C. Jan Swearingen
2010	Dr. Kevin R. Hardwick
2011	Dr. Thomas S. Kidd

# Excerpt from *Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots*

by Thomas S. Kidd

Patrick Henry's 1765 speech denouncing the Stamp Act is shrouded in myth and embellishment. Accounts of his famous address rely on ill-remembered retellings given decades later, after Henry had entered the pantheon on patriotic heroes. But one person in attendance, an anonymous French traveler, did record the scene for posterity: "One of the members [of the House of Burgesses] stood up and said he had read that in former times Tarquin and Julius had their Brutus, Charles had his Cromwell, and he did not doubt but some good American would stand up, in favor of his country." The speaker's implication was unmistakable, radical even treasonous: Patrick Henry was implying that the king should be assassinated.

When Henry made that outrageous assertion, murmurs from members sitting on straight-backed benches floated across the wood-paneled chamber. The speaker of the House, John Robinson, instantly grasped the gravity of the freshman Burgess's statement. He stood from his canopied armchair and declared that Henry had spoken treason. Henry immediately recanted his not very oblique call to kill the king, but he did not shirk from his central assertion – the need to defend liberty. He would, he said, "show his loyalty to his majesty King George the third, at the expense of the last drop of his blood, but what he said must be attributed to the interest of his country's dying liberty which he had at heart." The speaker accepted his apology and the grumblings in the chamber abated, though eyebrows presumably remained raised.<sup>1</sup>

A dubious tradition holds that Henry defiantly responded to the speaker's charge of treason with the rejoinder that "if this be treason, make

the most of it!" The line, the second-most famous utterance that history has ascribed to Patrick Henry, is almost certain apocryphal. Its original source is uncertain, but the motive behind the myth is understandable: the words seemed like something the Patrick Henry who is known to history would indeed have said. Yet we do not need to insert this line to appreciate the audacity of Henry's oration. Opposing the Stamp Act's edict that Americans would have to pay taxes on a host of printed goods, he sought to push the legislators further than they would go, then halfheartedly retracted his brazen words, citing his overwrought passion for America's liberty. Some thought Henry had cleverly played "on the line of treason, without passing it," as Edmund Pendleton would later write to James Madison. Without a doubt, at a time when Americans were just starting to articulate opposition to the Crown's aggressive laws, if not to the Crown itself, Patrick Henry's deep sensitivity to threats against liberty had already radicalized him, well before most other Revolutionary leaders.<sup>2</sup>

Present that day for Henry's incendiary, history-making speech was Thomas Jefferson. The twenty-two-year-old William and Mary law student stood at the door of the chamber and watched "the splendid display of Mr. Henry's talents as a popular orator. They were great indeed; such as I have never heard from any other man." Jefferson remembered vividly how the cry of treason rang from the chamber, and how Henry cleverly backed away from his comparison of George III to Julius Caesar, and thus "baffled the charge [of treason] vociferated." Jefferson regarded him with admiration and perhaps trepidation. This man, he thought, could say nearly anything and get away with it.<sup>3</sup>

How had American and Britain arrived at this unprecedented level of tension? The crisis over the Stamp Act



emerged from wrenching changes brought about in both Britain and America by the Seven Years' War. That conflict had begun eleven years earlier, in 1754, when George Washington unwillingly presided over the massacre of French troops in western Pennsylvania. The Seven Years' War had saved British American colonists from the French threat in North America. But it had created a crushing debt for the British government. Such paralyzing obligations can lead to drastic measures. The national debt in Britain soared from 72 million pounds sterling in 1755 to 130 million in 1764.

In the aftermath of the war, the British also maintained an expensive standing army in America, to fend off possible new attacks from the French as well as from Native Americans. In 1763 an outbreak of violence associated with Pontiac's Rebellion – attacks by the Ottawa Indian leader on British installations – showed the wisdom of the continuing British military presence. With the end of the French political influence in the Great Lakes region, the British had adopted a more belligerent policy toward Native Americans, curtailing the "gift giving" of essential supplies that had traditionally soothed relations between Native Americans

and Europeans in the backcountry. The reduction pushed some Indians into desperate measures. Allied Indian forces attacked British forts across the Great Lakes region. Pontiac's forces besieged Fort Detroit, slaughtering men, women, and children they found nearby. In one battle, the Indians shot a British commander dead, then cut out his heart, decapitated him, and placed his head on a pike in their camp. Such killings steeled the British determination to keep an army in America to face these fearsome threats – even as the 10,000 troops required would drain an additional 220,000 pounds sterling a year from British coffers.<sup>4</sup>

British officials understandably looked to the American colonists to share some of the financial burden. Historically, the colonists had largely owned customs duties, not taxes, to Britain. Through bribery and smuggling, Americans often evaded those duties on imported goods. Resistance to British taxation had already been building for some years. Before the Seven Years' War, the colonial assemblies (including the House of Burgesses) developed independent streaks. They did not take kindly to parliamentary mandates, especially regarding money – an attitude that pointed to how much the nature of the British government had changed since the founding of the earliest colonies, especially Virginia, in the seventeenth century. Most notably, the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89 had affirmed Parliament's supremacy in England, but Parliament's authority in the colonies was never as clear. Decades of relative inattention by the British government had allowed the American legislatures' pride and stubbornness to grow unchecked.

The funding crisis left by the Seven Years' War brought into the open the latent tensions between Parliament and the colonial assemblies. British Prime Minister George Grenville, convinced that Americans were not paying their fair share for the protections and upkeep of the colonies, tried to shut down the elaborate system of corruption existing within the customs network. In the Sugar Act

of 1764, Parliament imposed a new set of duties on imported cloth, sugar, coffee, and wine. The act's biggest effect was to reduce the duty on West Indian molasses from sixpence to threepence a gallon. Grenville anticipated that the lower duty on molasses, combined with effective enforcement of the law, would discourage smuggling and generate revenue for the British treasury.

Although the Sugar Act was explicitly intended to raise tax revenue, colonists interpreted this legislation as a regulation of trade across the empire, a power that most of them would agree belonged to Parliament, not to colonial legislatures. But Parliament was also considering a stamp tax – that is a duty on all manner of printed goods used in the colonies, including court documents, college diplomas, land deeds, contracts, playing cards, pamphlets, newspapers, and almanacs. Each of these would now have to be produced on paper bearing a stamp of the British treasury. That paper would be sold by stamp agents.

This prospect elicited the cry of “no taxation without representation”: colonists from New Hampshire to Georgia declared that only their representatives, in their own assemblies, had the right to tax them. The House of Burgesses, for example, asserted in messages to the king and Parliament in 1764 that “it is essential to British liberty that laws imposing taxes on the people ought not to be made without the consent of representatives chosen by themselves.” Despite the moderate protests against the Sugar Act, Grenville and British politicians did not appreciate the colonists' obstinacy. The Americans showed insensitivity to the budget crisis, and resistance to Parliament's supremacy. Yet while rumblings of resistance had begun, in 1764 the reaction to the Sugar Act remained relatively quiet. Grenville suggested that the colonists might avert a direct tax in 1765 if their assemblies raised sufficient revenue on their own, but he doubted the colonies would follow through on their obligation to help. By 1765, the stamp tax had become as much a test of British authority as a way to address the empire's budget deficit. Ben Franklin, recently arrived in London as an agent for Pennsylvania, commented that “we might well have hindered the

sun's setting” as prevented the act's adoption.<sup>5</sup>

The colonists had defenders in Parliament. One of the most articulate, Colonel Isaac Barré, replied indignantly when another member suggested that the colonists were acting like ungrateful children. Barré, a veteran of the Seven Years' War, declared that the American “Sons of Liberty” has established flourishing colonies in America despite Britain's neglect of them. “They have nobly taken up arms in your defense,” he proclaimed, “have exerted a valor amidst their constant and laborious industry for the defense of a country, whose frontier, while drenched in blood, its interior parts have yielded all its little savings to your emolument. And believe me, remember I this day told you so, that same spirit of freedom which actuated that people at first, will accompany them still.” Barré represented a minority opinion in the chamber, however and in early 1765 Parliament easily passed the Stamp Act.<sup>6</sup>

The consequences of the act would reverberate throughout the colonies, with most people feeling the pinch. The Stamp Act's rates were not extraordinarily high, but they were intrusive, a literal and daily mark reminding the colonists of Parliament's authority over their finances. The act also provided for enforcement of taxation through British admiralty courts, which had no juries. Parliament was asserting the right to tax the colonists without their direct consent and try them without the benefit of a jury of peers if they refused to pay. Many colonists, after enjoying decades of relative independence, saw the Stamp Act as a disturbing assault on their rights. A headline in a Boston newspaper screamed “THE STAMP ACT!!!!!!” with a notice below it demanding that all persons with outstanding debts to the paper's publisher pay up before the act went into effect in November.<sup>7</sup>

As the storm approached, the staid House of Burgesses slumbered. In theory, the colonies' most venerable elective assembly represented the interests of the people of Virginia –

or at least the planters – against the power of the British government, an authority embodied in the person of Virginia’s royally appointed governor, but by 1765, it had become something of a clique with a select number of wealthy planters typically dominating the chamber’s proceedings. Its elite were not inclined to challenge the authority of another legislative body, especially a House of Commons whose procedural rules and very meeting hall were the model for their own. Sometimes the chamber’s business was less than scintillating: among the first statutes the House passed when Patrick Henry entered the body in May was a bill “to prevent the raising of hogs, and suffering them to run at large, in the town of Richmond.” But the House was starting to simmer with new political talent, as well: from northern Virginia, Richard Henry Lee and George Washington, both four years older than Henry, were elected to the House in 1758. In the coming years, the two men would develop enduring (though not untested) political friendships with Henry, as they all helped lead Virginia – and the nation – forward against Britain.<sup>8</sup>

In the House, Henry dove right into controversy over the prospect of new taxation and the issues it presented. Even before the Stamp Act was debated, he opposed a plan offered by the Speaker to establish a public office that would offer low-interest loans to financially strapped tobacco farmers. Henry viewed the loan office as an attempt to bail out rich planters who had recklessly gotten themselves in debt by spending on luxuries. “Is it proposed, then,” Henry asked, “to reclaim the spendthrift from his dissipation and extravagance, by filling his pockets with money?” According to Thomas Jefferson, Henry attacked the idea with “bold, grand and overwhelming eloquence,” but the upstart delegate was unsuccessful in blocking the bill. Henry saw no need for reticence, despite his freshman status in the august body. To him, the public loan office represented corruption and cronyism, just at the time when Virginia needed the moral courage to stand against the Stamp Act.<sup>9</sup>

Henry recalled that he wrote Virginia’s resolutions against the Stamp Act “alone, unadvised, and unassisted, on a blank leaf of an old law-book.” He introduced them on his twenty-ninth birthday, May 29, 1765. Strangely, no one knows exactly how many resolutions Henry wrote against the Stamp Act, but we can be sure of at least five. During his lifetime, Henry made little attempt to preserve most of his personal papers, but presumably because he proudly recognized the role in inciting the American Revolution, he did leave behind a copy of the five resolutions, preserving alongside his will. The first four, which are also recorded in the journals of the House, essentially restated the colonists’ opposition to taxation without representation. The two initial resolutions asserted that the colonists enjoyed the same “liberties, privileges, franchises, and immunities” as the people of Britain. Their colonial status did not imply inferior rights, the document declared. The third and fourth resolutions argued that accepting levies enacted by one’s own representatives alone “is the only security against a burdensome taxation, and the distinguishing characteristic of British freedom.” To Henry and the colonists, not only did the Stamp Act impose a burdensome tax, but it also represented an offense against their liberty as Britons.<sup>10</sup>

Henry’s fifth resolution, which appears to have passed the House of Burgesses by the narrowest of margins, was more provocative. It contended that “the General Assembly of this colony have the only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes and impositions upon the inhabitants of this colony and that every attempt to vest such power in any other person or persons whatsoever other than the General Assembly aforesaid has a manifest tendency to destroy British as in tax law was so bold that it generated second thoughts among the delegates, and the legislature subsequently rescinded it.

All of Henry’s resolutions faced opposition from the established leaders of the House, including Speaker John Robinson, Richard Bland, and George Wythe, who apparently felt that the first four resolutions were unnecessary because they restated arguments made in the petitions of 1764; the fifth resolution they may have viewed as too

inflammatory. They also resented Henry’s brash leadership. As the governor of Virginia wrote, Henry had led the “young hot and giddy members” to overwhelm the old-time gentry, at least for the moment.<sup>11</sup>

The senior leaders of the House managed to repeal the fifth resolution the day after it passed, when Henry had apparently left Williamsburg to return home. The freshman legislator may have assumed, naively, that the debate was settled. The House also considered two other resolutions by Henry and other radicals, but they were not adopted, probably because even the fifth had proven so difficult to pass. But all the resolutions, including the sixth and seventh, ended up reported in regional newspapers, which tallied differing numbers of resolutions introduced by the young delegate: five, six, or even seven.

The sixth and seventh resolutions Henry put before the House, as reported in the Maryland Gazette, were nothing short of revolutionary. The sixth asserted that the colonists were “not bound to yield obedience to any law or ordinance whatsoever, designed to impose any taxation upon them, other than the laws or ordinances of the General Assembly.” The seventh declared in capital letters that anyone who promoted the right of Parliament to tax the colonists should be “deemed, AN ENEMY TO THIS HIS MAJESTY’S COLONY.” The resolutions called for open resistance against the Stamp Act, and called the act’s defenders traitors.<sup>12</sup>

Henry’s resolutions electrified the colonies, especially when newspapers printed all seven of them. Most of the other colonies crafted resolutions similar to those that Virginia adopted or considered. In Massachusetts, the Virginia resolutions shamed the colony’s radical patriots into assuming a more assertive stance. A Boston editorial praised the Virginians and denounced Massachusetts’s pro-British conservatives: “The people of Virginia have spoke very sensibly, and the frozen politicians of a more northern government say they have spoke treason.... These dirty sycophants, these ministerial

hacks, would fain have us believe that his sacred Majesty, ever loved by his American subjects, would be displeased to hear their murmurs at the sight of chains!" Many Americans like this radical Boston editorialist blamed the crisis on the bureaucrats within the British government, not the king. They believed that colonial protests would elicit sympathy from George III, who was still widely revered among Americans in 1765.<sup>13</sup>

The organized outcry against the Stamp Act ultimately led delegates from nine of the thirteen colonies, inspired by hope of relief from the king, to meet in New York City in October 1765, in what historians call the Stamp Act Congress. Henry did not attend. Indeed, Virginia did not send delegates at all, because the governor refused to convene the House of Burgesses to elect representatives to the Congress. Even as protests arose in colonies from Massachusetts to the Carolinas, the thirteen resolutions the Stamp Act Congress issued took a relatively moderate tone, affirming the colonies' allegiance to King George and their "due subordination" to Parliament. At the same time, they asserted that the colonists had the same rights as the people of Britain, saying that no one should impose taxes on them but their own representatives, and called for the repeal of the Stamp Act.<sup>14</sup>

The Stamp Act Congress exhibited nearly unprecedented unity among a majority of the colonies. But the Congress also reflected a broad, restrained consensus, not Henry's revolutionary zeal. And the Stamp Act Congress did not force the repeal of the Stamp Act. The Americans' most effective resistance to the act came through violence and rioting in the cities, instigated by new patriot organizations called the "Sons of Liberty," a name derived from Isaac Barré's speech in Parliament. In August, a mob in Boston burned in effigy the newly appointed stamp agent, Andrew Oliver, and destroyed his home. Because the act was not scheduled to take effect until November 1, Oliver had not even begun his duties yet. Oliver was no fool; he promptly informed London that he would not

collect the taxes.<sup>15</sup>

...  
What led Henry to make his inflammatory stand against the Stamp Act? Certainly he was disposed to view encroachments against the colonists' liberties in the worst possible light. Throughout his career, Henry's brilliant speeches would paint grim scenarios of the desolation awaiting those who would not stand up for their freedom. Patriots must act while they still could, he proclaimed. For him, accepting small infractions against fundamental rights represented a headlong path toward tyranny.

Henry himself saw his stand against the Stamp Act as a defense of both liberty and virtue. On the back of his copy of the resolutions against the Stamp Act, he wrote that resisting the tax galvanized the colonists against taxation by Parliament, where they had no representatives. This fundamental disagreement with Parliament, which Henry first exposed to public controversy, would ultimately lead to war and independence. Henry did not know whether Americans would finally benefit from their independence, however; it was up to succeeding generations to avail themselves of "the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed upon us. If they be wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable." Citing a well-known bible passage from the book of Proverbs, Henry concluded that "righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation." A virtuous people would resist – even to the point of blood – those who sought to under their liberty.<sup>16</sup>

In the prelude to the Revolution, Patrick Henry embodied the emerging American zeal for independence and integrity that he helped kindle during the middle decades of the eighteenth century. Those years saw both the maturation of the House of Burgesses as a semiautonomous legislature and the spiritual fires of the Great Awakening. The era summoned heroic personalities like his, men who were called to defend America's liberties with political and moral fervor. In 1765, the twenty-nine-year-old Patrick Henry responded, ultimately becoming one of the greatest patriots of all.

## Footnotes

1. "Journal of a French Traveler in the Colonies, 1765," *American Historical Review* 26, no. 4 (July 1921): 745.
2. "Line of treason" quote in Edmund Pendleton to James Madison, April 21, 1790, in *The Letters and Papers of Edmund Pendleton, 1734-1803*, ed. David John Mays (Charlottesville, VA, 1967), 2:565; Richard R. Beeman, *Patrick Henry: A Biography* (New York, 1974), 37 – 38.
3. "Heard" quote in Thomas Jefferson, "Autobiography," 1821, at [www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/jeffauto.htm](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/jeffauto.htm); "baffled" quote in Thomas Jefferson to William Wirt, August 14, 1814 in *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, ed. Albert E. Bergh (Washington, DC, 1907), 13:169.
4. Edmund S. Morgan and Helen M. Morgan, *The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to the Revolution*, rev. ed. (New York: 1962), 36-37; Fred Anderson, *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766* (New York, 2000), 547-48.
5. John Pendleton Kennedy, ed., *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1761-1765* (Richmond, VA, 1907), 303; Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 58, 87-88; Walter Isaacson, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (New York, 2003), 233.
6. Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 93-94.
7. *Boston Evening Post*, May 27, 1765.
8. Kennedy, *Journals*, 345. On the qualities of the most powerful House members in the eighteenth century, Jack P. Greene, "Foundations of Political Power in the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1720-76," in Jack P. Greene, *Negotiated Authorities: Essays in Colonial Political and Constitutional History* (Charlottesville, VA, 1994), 238-58.
9. Thomas Jefferson to William Wirt, in S. V. Henkels, ed., "Jefferson's Recollections of Patrick Henry," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 34, no. 4 (1910): 388; T. H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution*, 2nd ed. (Princeton, NJ, 2001), 189-90.
10. George Morgan, *The True Patrick Henry* (Philadelphia, 1907), 100; Kennedy, *Journals*, 360.
11. Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 125; Kennedy, *Journals*, lxxviii.
12. *Maryland Gazette*, July 4, 1765, in Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 128-29.
13. *Boston Gazette*, July 8, 1765; Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 135.
14. Morgan and Morgan, *Stamp Act*, 142-44.
15. *Ibid.*, 161-64.
16. Morgan, *True Patrick Henry*, 100.

# PATRICK HENRY SOCIETY REINVENTS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership in Red Hill's Patrick Henry Society now has more benefits than ever before! After an overhaul of membership benefits that went into effect on January 1, 2012, members of the Patrick Henry Society now have access to a variety of new benefits, including unlimited general admission to Red Hill, invitations to special members-only events, and a 10% discount in the Red Hill Museum Shop.

In addition, the new member benefits program allows members who donate more to Red Hill to receive greater benefits.

Patrick Henry Society memberships have always been a vital source of funding for Red Hill since the Society was launched in 1983. Since it is designated by Congress as the National Memorial to Patrick Henry, Red Hill doesn't receive any federal funding, which is almost certainly how Governor Henry would have wanted

it. Of course, this leaves Red Hill without a secure source of state funding, but Patrick Henry Society memberships enable the Foundation to keep Red Hill alive and thriving.

Patrick Henry Society memberships help fund the day to day expenses at Red Hill, since they are non-designated donations. This gives the Foundation great flexibility in paying for whatever unexpected expenses come up in a given year.

Previously, membership in the Patrick Henry Society at the \$100 or more level meant members received a book from the Red Hill Museum Shop. After reviewing this incentive, the Foundation found it to be wanting when compared to other historical sites. So, for the first time since the So-



ciety was formed, the Foundation has revamped the membership benefits package to provide more attractive incentives at each tier of membership.

Memberships start at just \$25 for an individual and \$50 for families. Truly passionate members can donate increasing amounts to receive greater benefits until reaching the highest level of membership, the \$2,500 Founding



## WHAT WOULD HENRY SAY? (CONT.)

*Continued from page 4*

to imagine Henry's words being the inspiration for the Statue of Liberty gifted to the United States over 100 years later, or for Emma Lazarus' poem *The New Colossus* mounted inside the statue and which contains the famous line:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to*

*breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming  
shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost  
to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

\*William Wirt Henry, Patrick Henry: *Life, Correspondence, and Speeches* (New York, 1891), 2:195.

## TRUSTEE MEETING

On May 18th and 19th, the 2012 meeting of the board of trustees will take place at Red Hill. Twenty-five trustees will converge from around the country to discuss challenges, opportunities, and plans that lie ahead for Red Hill in the coming year. Meetings like these allow the Red Hill staff to gain a clear vision for bringing Patrick Henry's legacy to an ever greater audience.

Father level, which includes benefits such as complimentary admission for two guests when visiting Red Hill, complimentary tickets to special annual events, and a personal guided tour of Red Hill, among many other benefits.

Memberships can be purchased not only for oneself, but can also be given as gifts to family and friends to spread the message of liberty.

The Society has always attracted membership from those near and far who want to help keep the ideas and legacy of Patrick Henry alive through Red Hill's educational programs and historical authenticity. The Foundation expects that the new membership benefits will attract even more people from across the country to join the Patrick Henry Society, allowing the mission of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation to be advanced further than ever before.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Patrick Henry Society today, call Myra Trent, Development Coordinator, at (800)514-7463, or log on to [www.RedHill.org](http://www.RedHill.org). 



*The Red Hill staff met with Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell on February 6th to discuss the importance of Red Hill as an historical site in Virginia. Governor McDonnell is a great proponent of Patrick Henry's legacy and history. Here, Governor McDonnell glances at the newest Henry biography presented to him by Red Hill.*

*Membership now starts at just \$25 for individuals...*

**10%  
Off**

**Signed Copy of Thomas S. Kidd's  
Patrick Henry:  
First Among Patriots**

**from the Red Hill Museum Shop**

coupon expires 3/24/11 and must be presented at time of purchase

## FIND RED HILL ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP TO DATE!

You can 'like' Red Hill on Facebook to get the latest updates about events, articles, and other news at Red Hill! To find us, just search for "Red Hill" and we'll pop right up. By liking us on Facebook, you can help us spread the message and legacy of Patrick Henry to the world of the Internet!

## Upcoming Events

**March 24th**

**KITE DAY AT RED HILL**

Bring kites to fly from 10am-3pm

**April 7th**

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

For children at Red Hill, 10am-12pm

**May 11th**

**NATURALIZATION  
CEREMONY**

Ceremony begins at 11am at Red Hill

**May 29th**

**PATRICK HENRY'S  
BIRTHDAY AND WREATH  
LAYING CEREMONY**

2pm at Red Hill

## Red Hill the Patrick Henry National Memorial

1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, Virginia 24528

Phone: 434-376-2044

Toll Free: 800-514-7463

www.RedHill.org

Email: info@redhill.org

*The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation is a charitable non-profit corporation devoted to education and historic preservation. The Foundation promotes educational and research programs about the life, times, philosophy, and legacy of Patrick Henry. As part of that mission, the Foundation maintains and interprets Red Hill, Patrick Henry's last home and burial place, as a historic site and museum. A copy of the Foundation's most recent financial statement is available from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23206.*

### Officers of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

President: Gene Dixon

Executive Vice President: Karen Gorham

Vice President: Nancy Rowland

President Emeritus: Thomas Gregory Ward

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