



JANUARY 2026

NORTHERN NECK

HISTORY

CULTURE

HAPPENINGS

Embark on the Road to Revolution



Photo: Stratford Hall

Stratford Hall recently updated its trailblazer signage.

America's march to independence was tumultuous—rife with risks and only possible by way of significant suffering and—oftentimes bloody—sacrifices.

As the nation approaches its 250th birthday, it's prime time to reconnect with the stories of those who dared challenge the British Empire and the places that shaped the earliest steps toward freedom.

One engaging way to do that is by embarking on the Road to Revolution Heritage Trail, a journey that can begin right here in the Northern Neck.

Repaving the Path

In 2007, the Virginia legislature embraced a simple but powerful idea: create a tourism trail linking sites significant to the story of Patrick Henry, a fiery orator and Virginia's first governor.

With that, the Road to Revolution Heritage Trail was born.

Years later, lawmakers approved another idea: broadening the scope of the trail to other significant players in the nation's liberation and founding. In 2013, the number of trail stops doubled.

Today, there are over 20 trailblazing sites, including four in the Northern Neck:

- Belle Grove (King George)
- George Washington Birthplace (Colonial Beach)
- James Monroe Birthplace (Colonial Beach)
- Stratford Hall (Stratford)

Together, trails sites offer a cohesive and enriched storytelling experience of Virginia's Revolution-era history, bringing life to the founding footsteps.

NNK 250 Signature Speaker Series '26 Begins in February

Dr. Philip Levy will kick off the 2026 NNK250 Signature Speaker Series with "The Declaration at the Birth of Our Nation."



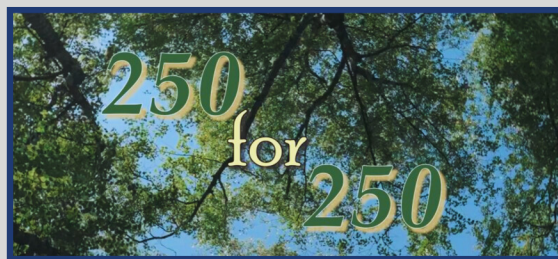
Dr. Philip Levy

He'll present not only the implications of the Declaration's critique of the Empire but also provide a sense of how "America's scripture" was received by a country at war for its independence and in states declaring their own independence well before July 4th.

Dr. Levy is a Professor of History at the University of South Florida and

an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer and author of several books.

This free, year-opening presentation will be on Sunday, February 15, at 2:00pm at the University of Mary Washington's Dahlgren campus / 4224 University Drive in King George.



250 for 250: Planting for Awareness

Virginia is experiencing declining tree canopy.

The 250 for 250 Tree-Planting Project honors the 250th Anniversary by calling attention to the Northern Neck's decline while taking action by adding trees to promote cleaner Virginia waterways.

Sites where trees will be planted include:

- Stratford Hall
- Menokin
- The Fones Cliffs Unit of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Longwood University's Baliles Center for Environmental Education
- New Lancaster High School