



NORTHERN NECK 250

*Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the
American Revolution in Virginia's Northern Neck*

PRESS CONTACT

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AT A GLANCE

Northern Neck 250



Northern Neck 250 (NNK 250) is the regional coalition coordinating Virginia’s Northern Neck commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Anchored by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission and a steering committee of seven institutional partners, NNK 250 delivers programming throughout 2026 – from a Virginia 250 Signature Event at Stratford Hall to a regional symposium at the close of the commemorative year.

<p>250</p> <p>YEARS</p> <p>Of American independence, 1776–2026</p>	<p>5</p> <p>COUNTIES</p> <p>Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRESIDENTS BORN HERE</p> <p>George Washington, James Madison, James Monroe</p>
<p>7</p> <p>STEERING COMMITTEE PARTNERS</p> <p>Plus dozens of coalition partners region-wide</p>	<p>1</p> <p>VA250 SIGNATURE EVENT</p> <p>Virginia Resolved, June 6–7, 2026</p>	<p>400+</p> <p>YEARS OF SHARED HISTORY</p> <p>Indigenous, European, and African experiences woven together</p>

QUICK FACTS

Coalition lead: Northern Neck Planning District Commission • **Founded:** 2022 • **Region:** Northern Neck of Virginia, the peninsula between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers • **National Heritage Area:** Northern Neck National Heritage Area • **State affiliation:** Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) • **Web:** nnk250.us

ABOUT

Northern Neck 250



BOILERPLATE · Approved for use in news coverage and partner publications

Northern Neck 250 (NNK 250) is the regional coalition coordinating Virginia’s Northern Neck commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Convened by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, NNK 250 unites historic sites, museums, tribal nations, county governments, and cultural organizations across Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and King George counties – the birthplace of three U.S. presidents and the home of Richard Henry Lee, whose 1776 resolution called for American independence. Through inclusive programming grounded in the experiences of European, African, and Virginia Indian peoples, NNK 250 honors the Northern Neck’s essential role in the founding of the nation and the ongoing American experiment. Learn more at nnk250.us.

Purpose

In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The NNK 250 Coalition was created to coordinate this commemoration for the Northern Neck region of Virginia, engaging multiple perspectives in recognizing and honoring the Northern Neck’s essential role in the founding of our nation and the ever-evolving American experiment.

Guiding Principles & Values

INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities on whose ancestral lands our region’s history rests.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Recognize and proactively engage traditionally underrepresented communities of the Northern Neck.

ACCESS & ACCESSIBILITY

Provide equitable opportunities and access for all in our commemoration activities.

TELL A COMPLETE STORY

Ground programming in the experiences of European, African, and Virginia Indian peoples.

RELEVANCE

Create personally relevant experiences in which all visitors find their place in our nation’s story.

PARTNERSHIPS

Support a culture of collaboration with both existing and non-traditional partners.

Interpretive Themes

POWER OF PLACE

The Northern Neck is a powerfully historic place, home to sites and stories essential to the American story.

WE THE PEOPLE

We are a democratic nation of diverse people whose differences drive both tension and growth.

AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Engaging diverse voices in discussion about our democracy’s highest ideals strengthens our understanding and inspires action.

PRESERVATION & COMMEMORATION

The way natural and cultural landscapes have been valued and managed has evolved over time.

CONTEXT

Why the Northern Neck



A Richard Henry Lee interpreter at Stratford Hall. Lee's June 1776 resolution before the Continental Congress called for the colonies to declare independence. Photo courtesy Stratford Hall.

A Cradle of the Republic

The Northern Neck is the peninsula formed where the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers reach the Chesapeake Bay. Its five counties — Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and King George — hold a density of Revolutionary-era history rivaled by few American regions: the birthplaces of George Washington, James Madison, and James Monroe; the family seat of the Lees of Virginia at Stratford Hall; and Menokin, the home of Declaration of Independence signer Francis Lightfoot Lee.

The Resolution for Independence

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Westmoreland County rose before the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia and moved “*That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.*” Lee’s resolution — drafted at the instruction of the Fifth Virginia Convention — set in motion the formal break with Great Britain and the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. The Lee Resolution was adopted on July 2, 1776; the Declaration followed two days later. NNK 250’s Virginia Resolved event marks the 250th anniversary of this moment on the very weekend it occurred.

A More Complete Story

The Northern Neck’s Revolutionary history cannot be told without the indigenous, enslaved, and free communities whose labor, knowledge, and resistance shaped the region. The Rappahannock Tribe — federally recognized in 2018 and a member of the NNK 250 Steering Committee — has been continuously present in this landscape for centuries. Sites across the region, including the A.T. Johnson Museum and Menokin’s ongoing interpretive work, foreground the African American experience. NNK 250 programming is grounded in the principle that a complete commemoration must engage the experiences of European, African, and Virginia Indian peoples alike.

FEATURED EVENT • VA250 SIGNATURE EVENT

Virginia Resolved 2026



WHEN	WHERE	ADMISSION	EXPECTED ATTENDANCE
June 6–7, 2026	Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County, VA	Saturday Free • Sunday \$10–\$15	800+

Virginia Resolved is NNK 250’s flagship public commemoration and a designated **Virginia 250 Signature Event**. The two-day celebration at Stratford Hall – ancestral home of the Lees of Virginia and birthplace of Robert E. Lee – marks the 250th anniversary of Richard Henry Lee’s Resolution for Independence on the weekend it occurred.

<p>SATURDAY, JUNE 6 • FREE • 6–9:30 PM</p> <p>An evening of music, ceremony, and fireworks on the Stratford Hall Great Lawn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States Navy Concert Band • Keynote by Carly Fiorina • Richard Henry Lee living history speech • VA250 Mobile Museum • Wine, beer, and food trucks • DJ music • Fireworks finale over the Great House 	<p>SUNDAY, JUNE 7 • \$10–\$15 • 12–4 PM</p> <p>A daytime program of living history, demonstrations, and community programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragoon cavalry drills & SAR musket volleys • USCIS citizenship ceremony • Lee Family interpreters & Great House tours • Patawomeck eel pot demonstrations • Historic kitchen cooking & chocolate making • Colonial games, music & student art show • Community booths & food trucks
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Sons of the American Revolution musket volley at Stratford Hall, June 7, 2025. Photo courtesy Stratford Hall.

Free admission Sunday for ages 5 and under, Westmoreland County residents, Friends of Stratford, Blue Star Families, and Museums for All participants. Full schedule and registration at StratfordHall.org/VirginiaResolved.

PROGRAMMING

2026 Signature Events



NNK 250 anchors its 2026 commemoration with two signature events that bookend the year – a public celebration in early summer and a scholarly symposium in the fall. Additional programming from steering committee partners and coalition members runs throughout the year across the region.

JUN 6–7**VIRGINIA RESOLVED**

VA250 Signature Event · Stratford Hall

A two-day celebration marking the 250th anniversary of Richard Henry Lee’s Resolution for Independence, on the weekend it occurred in 1776. Saturday evening features the U.S. Navy Concert Band, a Carly Fiorina keynote, and a fireworks finale; Sunday afternoon offers living history, demonstrations, a citizenship ceremony, and family programming.

NOV 8–9**NNK 250 DISCOVERY SYMPOSIUM**

The American Experiment · Northern Neck of Virginia

A regional symposium engaging scholars, partners, and the public on the theme of the American Experiment – examining how the ideas, people, and places of the Northern Neck shaped the nation’s founding and continue to shape its democratic future. Programming details and registration at nnk250.us/event/nnk250-discovery-symposium-the-american-experiment.

Additional Programming

Steering committee partners host year-round commemorative programming throughout 2026, including exhibits, lectures, and living history events at Stratford Hall, Menokin, the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, the A.T. Johnson Museum, the James Monroe Birthplace, and Rappahannock Tribe events. **For the current calendar visit nnk250.us/events.**

RESOURCES

Brand Assets & Media Contact

Visual Identity



The NNK 250 logo is available in full color (shown), single-color blue, single-color red, and reversed (white) variants. A horizontal banner version is also available for web headers and video bumpers. To request media-approved logos and high-resolution images, email sarah@sarahcoster.com. Please preserve clear space around the mark equivalent to the height of the “N” and do not alter the proportions or colors.

Color Palette



Press Photo Library

High-resolution photographs are available for editorial use, including imagery from Stratford Hall, Menokin, the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and prior NNK 250 events. To request press-approved imagery, email sarah@sarahcoster.com. Please credit the originating institution as noted in each file’s caption. Photos used in this kit are courtesy of Stratford Hall.

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Northern Neck 250 – Where the American Experiment Began.