

The Annual Giving Fund

Your generosity greatly enhances this organization's ability to advance its mission. As the pages of this newsletter attest, much is happening at Polegreen. In recent years the Foundation expanded its resources for families, tourists, teachers and schools, civic and other special audiences, including:

- In-service teacher training and lesson plans;
- A cutting-edge web site and online networking outlets;
- Multimedia presentations for visitors including cell phone-based site tours;
- Special group presentations;
- Seasonal events for families and residents; and
- A range of collaborations with regional organizations such as the Road to Revolution State Heritage Trail honoring Virginia's First Governor Patrick Henry who worshipped at Polegreen as a young boy.

At this moment the Foundation is commencing construction of its first welcome center which will house a library, meeting space for Foundation events and visitors as well as the Foundation's permanent office.

With your support, the awareness and appreciation of the American movement for civic and religious toleration will be sustained. The Foundation asks you to help us memorialize this defining period so that it is not forgotten. Please consider

one of the three major donor recognition levels as described on the enclosed remittance envelope.

You may also give on-line giving at our website www.historicpolegreen.org. Any gift you make will be matched dollar for dollar by The Cabell Foundation who has generously provided a challenge grant towards the completion of our new support building and enhanced educational programming. On the website you will also find information on how to become a member.

Yes! Please accept my gift to preserve Polegreen and to help develop programs celebrating its significance in our American heritage of religious and civil liberty. You may charge your gift online at www.historicpolegreen.org/give.

Your Support is needed. Please give to The 2009 Annual Giving Fund:

- Samuel Davies Society for gifts of \$500/\$1,000/\$2,500+
- Patrick Henry Circle for gifts of \$250 - \$499
- Samuel Morris Meeting House Club for gifts of \$100 - \$249
- Friends of Dissenters for gifts up to \$99
- Please contact me regarding a tax-wise gift of securities or estate planning.
- I would like to help Polegreen as a volunteer. Please contact me!

Fall/Winter 2009
Newsletter



NEWS FROM POLEGREEN



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Moving Forward with our Educational Programming

School bells have been ringing since our last newsletter and much has happened in our educational programming. At the beginning of the summer, Virginia Commonwealth University's Dr. Farrah Graham, who was hired by the Foundation to coordinate education outreach, worked with Alicia LeRoux, a social studies teacher from Hanover County's Oak Knoll Middle School, to design six lesson plans tying the Polegreen story to the Virginia Standards of Learning from the 4th to 11th grades. After completing the initial drafts, Polegreen staff convened the Foundation's first Education Advisory Council on July 13, 2009 to review lesson plans as well as the overall education program strategic plan. Council members provided excellent feedback regarding promoting and supporting the plans. Dr. Graham also met with Hanover's Superintendent, Dr. Stewart Roberson, and his staff to discuss distribution. Dr. Roberson and his staff enthusiastically supported our efforts and provided the plans to Hanover County teachers through the administration's intranet.

To promote the lesson plans Dr. Graham and Foundation staff attended two state-wide education conferences: the Virginia Social Studies Educators conference in October and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools conference in November. Both conferences provided an opportunity to talk with teachers from public and private schools from across the state. Teachers received examples of the lesson plans and offered back positive feedback.



Additionally, Polegreen is partnering with Preservation Virginia - Scotchtown, the Hanover Tavern Foundation and the Parson's Cause Foundation to provide day-long field trips to Hanover County students starting this school year. Oak Knoll Middle School will serve as the pilot location with the goal making the trip available to all eighth graders. To promote the field trip as well as each of the historic sites, the partners provided a half day development session for Hanover County teachers at Hanover Tavern on November 3, 2009. The session was well-attended and oriented the teachers to the lesson plans that will be used for the student field trip.

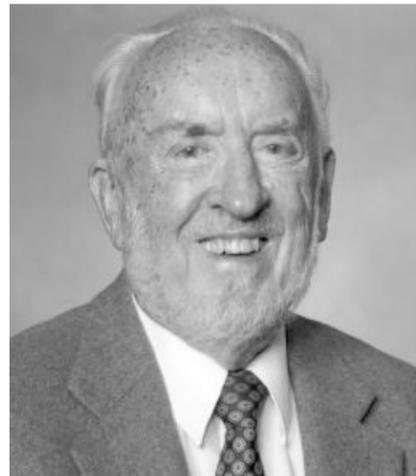
Polegreen's lesson plans and resources created for field trips will also be used for outreach to the Metro Richmond area at-risk youth. Polegreen is pleased to announce a new partnership with the William Byrd Community House to provide learning activities and a site visit for the students in their programs. The initial trip is scheduled for Spring 2010 and the Foundation hopes to provide another opportunity during the summer.



President's Message

Dear Friends:

Since the historic archeological site was enhanced by the erection of the symbolic structure in 2001, we have had hundreds of visitors come to visit this special place. Early on I became very interested in what kind of reaction was being experienced by those who visited. As the circumstances of these visits varied I began to inquire selectively as to the reaction of our visitors. Perhaps all of the readers of our newsletters have, by now, come to know what the site looks like at present.



The choice of words and phrases employed by visitors, many of whom we had never known, has been very revealing. "I appreciate the spiritual quality of what is here." "It is 'ghost like' in the best sense." Or, "I feel a quiet peacefulness here."

Allow me to share a special moment. The date was September 11, 2002, which was the first anniversary of our national disaster. I arrived at Polegreen at 8 a.m. to do some leaf raking at the cemetery in preparation for the ground penetrating radar team that was arriving the following day. A half an hour later, I noticed a lady drive up, park her car in the open field next to the church site, and entered the frame structure. She sat on the brick floor, leaned against the steel upright and began to pray or at least it appeared so.

Wishing to provide her privacy should she desire it, I moved out of sight. The crucial moment arrived at 8:47 a.m., the time the first tower in New York City was struck. At 9 a.m. she walked toward her car, saw me near the old tool shed, and approached me saying, somewhat apologetically, "I hope it was alright for me to be here. I have seen this place many times, but have never stopped. I just wanted to be here on this special day in our country's life. Also, I lost my father six months ago and I have grieved a lot ever since." I tried

to reassure her that she would be welcome any time to visit. As she drove off I thought "this makes leaf raking a whole lot easier."

Within the past month, another person in grief wrote me a letter expressing appreciation for her two-hour experience at Polegreen.

It appears that Polegreen's history is still being made.

I hope very much that all who over the years have given Polegreen support of any kind will feel rewarded as I do at how others view our preservation efforts.

Thank you for your support.

Robert Bluford, Jr.

Education Advisory Council Members

- **Ms. Jennifer Hurst**
Preservation Virginia
- **Mrs. Kay Peninger**
Patrick Henry Foundation
- **Dr. William Boshier**
Commonwealth Education Policy Institute
- **Mrs. June Lehman**
St. Catherine's School
- **Ms. Jenny Cote**
Author
- **Mr. Mark Greenough**
Virginia State Capitol
- **Dr. Jamelle Wilson**
Hanover County Schools
- **Mrs. Nora Wheeler**
Hanover County Schools
- **Dr. Mathias Bergmann**
Randolph-Macon College

Advisory Board Member Publishes Hanover History!

Former Polegreen Director and current Advisory Board Member Sumpter Priddy organized a group of citizens in 2004 to form the Heritage and History of Hanover County, Inc. This non-profit entity's charge was to publish the first, comprehensive and objective history of Hanover County, Virginia. Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory: The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia, was released on August 30th, 2009 at a public event held at Hanover Courthouse. The thoroughly annotated history begins with the story of the county's first inhabitants, the American Indians, and their relationship to the geological setting in which they lived. It ends with the mid-twentieth century, when construction of Interstate 95 opened the county to new development, irrevocably impacting the course of its history. The book draws upon primary sources, includ-

ing manuscripts currently in private hands and makes use of information contained in archaeological reports and National Register nominations. The hardback volume consists of 408 pages and has 168 photos and illustrations, 11 of which are in color.

Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory: The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia is available for \$45 plus \$5 shipping and handling, from Bell, Book, and Candle Bookstore, 106 1/2 S. Railroad Avenue, Ashland VA 23005-2076; phone: (804) 798-9047. Order information can also be found at <http://historichanover.org>.

The author is Martha McCartney, a Virginia native with roots in Hanover County. Since 1986, she has been an independent scholar, providing research support to Virginia's archaeological and historic preservation community. She is the author

Christmas Ornaments Available

Polegreen's ornaments are designed and manufactured by T.R.C. Designs, Inc., a small Mechanicsville company wholly owned by Glenn A. Crider who has been perfecting his craft of making nutcrackers for over 25 years. Glenn is one of only a handful of people in the United States that practices the age-old German craft. In 2008, his work was recognized by the United States Postal Service and was featured on four Christmas Stamps especially designed by Glenn. His work is now featured in several museums around the world including the Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth Washington, the Postal Museum in Pottstown Pennsylvania, and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. When asked... "What is it that your company makes?" Glenn loves to respond with... "Memories! We make memories!" Learn more about Crider's designs at <http://www.trcdesignsinc.com/>.



Ornament designed by Glenn Crider Nutcracker USA

Available While Supplies Last!
The Culmination of 5 Years of Preparation
— a Must for Every Hanover Home.

NATURE'S BOUNTY, NATION'S GLORY
The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia
Martha W. McCartney

A scholarly research presentation of Hanover County's rich heritage and history 1720 - 1950.

- 408 pages (10 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch size)
- 168 photos and illustrations (11 in full color)
- Handsomely hard-bound.
- Comprehensive 12-page Index and 10-page Bibliography.
- Published by Heritage and History of Hanover County, Inc. (non-profit)
- \$45 per book (plus \$5 shipping & handling)
- Commemorative leather-bound edition, signed by the author, \$100 each.

HOW TO ORDER
Fill in the number of copies you wish of the standard \$45 edition and the number of copies you wish of the \$100 leather-bound edition.

Provide us your name, mailing address, and phone number.

Add \$5 per book for shipping and handling, unless you prefer to arrange to pick up your book(s) in person.

Send us your check or money order payable to "HHHC, Inc." (Major credit cards also accepted by phone or in person.)

MAIL TO: HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF HANOVER COUNTY, INC. 126 1/2 SOUTH RAILROAD AVE., ASHLAND, VA 23005

See the reverse side for a representative sampling of the photographs and illustrations included in the book.

of six books, including three county histories, numerous published essays and reports, and has received five historic preservation awards. Her book, Jamestown: An American Legacy, sponsored by the National Park Service, was chosen "best in the field" in the book/cultural history category.

Congrats Sumpter!

Call the Foundation office at (804) 730-3837 to order your Polegreen ornament for the holidays! Retail price is \$15 payable to the Foundation.



Free Sunday Tours of Historic Site

On each Sunday in October, President and Founder of the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation, Dr. Bob Bluford, donated personal tours of the property from 2 – 3 p.m. In 1990 the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation began its work to preserve the site now marked by the well-known steel skeleton outlining the original dimensions of the meetinghouse. Due to the enthusiasm of the local residents as well as the state historical community, the mission of this non-profit has grown.

“Over the past 18 years there have been faithful individuals and groups who believed in what we were doing, and have invested their time, energy, and money to memorialize two of our nation’s most important values – religious and civil liberty. The Polegreen site is rapidly

becoming a DESTINATION. At some point in the near future we hope to have persons on site daily to welcome visitors and assist in orientation and education,” said Dr. Bob Bluford, Jr. In fact, construction for a support building for visitors will be completed soon with an anticipated Spring dedication ceremony.



Polegreen Online

People are a Twitter for Polegreen @Polegreen is new Foundation User Name

According to Wikipedia, Twitter is a “free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author’s profile page and delivered to the author’s subscribers who are known as followers. Since its creation in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Twitter has gained notability and popularity worldwide. ...A February 2009 Compete.com blog entry ranked Twitter as the third most used social network based on their count of 6 million unique monthly visitors and 55 million monthly visits.”

The Historic Polegreen Church Foundation joins millions of web-based networkers to reach a new and younger audience. Polegreen will use the social networking site to expand its audience and share the unique story of the historic Polegreen Church with the millions of “tweeters” worldwide. Polegreen’s Twitter account provides a new medium for quick communication with a new and broader audience and is another outlet for posting events, news releases, photos, and videos. If you are on Twitter or are curious about joining, please go to www.twitter.com and search for Polegreen or type [[@Polegreen](https://twitter.com/Polegreen)]. Polegreen also maintains over 100 friends on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you online!

Upcoming Events 2009 & 2010

9th Annual Governor Henry Lecture
Tuesday, Nov 17th, 5:30p
The Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

Colonial Christmas Illumination Event
Friday, December 4th, 7 p.m.
Polegreen Site

AARP Bus Tour
April 2010

Covenant Woods Lecture
February 2010



Christopher K. Peace, Esq.
Executive Director

With very few dollars thousands of residents and tourists have learned about a significant part of our history and better understand its relevance in this post-modern era. The “first freedoms” inspired at Polegreen by Samuel Davies and the Hanover Dissenters, articulated by Patrick Henry and later memorialized in our United States Constitution provide the world with hope and a framework for liberty.

Since 1990, the Foundation has preserved over 110 acres of land around the original church site. Over the past year, the Foundation enhanced the archeological site’s public area, which is open sunrise to sunset, with dedicated parking, a flagpole and a brick and granite timeline of the history of religious freedom. Foundation staff engaged other relevant historic organizations and in the spirit of collaboration presented several joint programs. These programs include but are not limited to weekend series called Holidays

From the Desk of the Executive Director

in Hanover and Historic Haunts of Hanover. Together with the National Park Service, living history events interpreted the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek with encampments and infantry presentations at Rural Plains and Polegreen.

During the winter of 2008, the Foundation adopted a strategic plan for educational outreach, as you have read, and in the summer of 2009 implemented the plan. After hiring a “master teacher,” the Foundation assembled an Education Advisory Council comprised of teachers, authors, historians and notably local School Board representatives. A public middle school teacher designed six high-quality lesson plans for all ages tying the materials to the Standards of Learning. These lessons were distributed to local schools and statewide to social studies teachers in all jurisdictions. Partnering with Preservation Virginia and the Hanover Tavern, for example, these materials were also used in a teacher in-service training day for a Hanover middle school.

The partnerships and benefits to our metro community continue in the areas of economic development and tourism through alliances with Offices of Economic Development, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and the Greater Richmond Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. This network helped achieve a comprehensive rewrite of Hanover County’s Heritage Map and most importantly the successful application for federal

highway funds which will be used to develop infrastructure for the Road to Revolution State Heritage Trail and provide financial resources for enhancing the Historic Hanover Courthouse. Moreover, this year the Foundation will construct a support building/visitor’s center and seek increased visibility from it as well as the addition of Trail signage and participation in the state LOGOS interstate attractions signage program.

While Polegreen has a plan for sustainability the Foundation cannot do this good work without your continued support. With your assistance, the Foundation can continue to maintain its expansive property and offer quality programming for residents and tourists. The Foundation provides a tremendous return on investment for donors to our Annual Fund.

Thank you for being willing to partner in advance of our mission, which is to preserve the historic Polegreen Church site and commemorate the struggle for civil and religious freedom in Colonial Virginia by Rev. Samuel Davies and the Hanover Dissenters. By 2018, the 275th Anniversary of the founding of Polegreen Church, the Foundation will be recognized for its leadership in the historic interpretation of civil and religious freedom in Colonial Virginia through preservation of the site, community outreach and educational programs.





Civil War Encampments

On Saturday, June 27th, Polegreen's living history volunteers created a civil war living history encampment. The program made a big impression with the nearly 70 visitors who stopped by the site. Visitors explored the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek through infantry reenactments, cooking demonstrations, and period music. A similar event took place on November 7, 2009.



Infantry Demonstration at Polegreen

Polegreen's Living History

Shelton House-Patrick Henry's Wedding Site

On Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 2009, Richmond National Battlefield Park tourists for a special living history and ranger-led program weekend at the Shelton House also known as Rural Plains. During the weekend living history volunteers portrayed General Winfield Scott Hancock and his staff as they were headquartered on the lawn of the Shelton home. Costumed interpreters portraying Federal artillerymen demonstrated artillery firing demonstrations and discussed the dramatic role of artillery in the battle of Totopotomoy Creek, minutes from Polegreen.

Park rangers provided tours of the home's first floor and presented battlefield tours following each artillery demonstration. The public was also invited to visit the historic Polegreen Church site which figured prominently in the Civil War story of Rural Plains. Guests to Polegreen were encouraged to use the new cell phone amenity available at the welcome kiosk. Personal tours were available on Sunday, Sept. 13th with Mr. Christopher Peace, Polegreen's Executive Director.

Polegreen and Parsons Cause Foundation Collaborate for Free Henry Reenactment

Two venerable Hanover historic groups offered the public a free re-enactment of the "Parsons Cause" case that propelled

Patrick Henry to fame Saturday, August 1, 2009 at the historic Hanover Courthouse. The courthouse served as the real-life setting for the event. Henry's arguments in the "Parsons Cause" took place on December 1, 1763. During this case, Henry thundered against the King of England's disavowal of a law passed by the Virginia House of Burgesses. The case transformed Henry from an obscure country lawyer to a political leader and established a foundation for the American Revolution. But the "back story" of the famous case leads the



curious directly to Polegreen where the "new light" Presbyterian dissenters worshipped. Several jurors were area dissenters.

On August 1, the re-enactment was staged by The Parson's Cause Foundation Inc., a non-profit corporation whose mission is to sponsor re-enactments of and promote the historical importance of The Parson's Cause. The Historic Polegreen Church Foundation was proud to co-sponsor the event. Mr. Christopher Peace, Executive Director, shared the mission and vision of Polegreen with the over 80 visitors packing the historic courthouse. Attendees were asked to participate by serving as jurors, parties to the case, gentlemen justices or parsons. Each attendee rendered his or her verdict by way of ballot. For more information about The Parson's Cause Foundation Inc., call 804-837-4900 or visit www.parsonscase.org.

Historic Sites On Full Throttle with Area Attraction Offer for NASCAR Fans

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, NASCAR brought the Sprint Cup's "Race for the Chase" or end of season championship to the Metro Richmond community. While NASCAR fans from all across the nation arrived to enjoy Richmond's southern hospitality leading up to the Chevy Rock & Roll 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Richmond International Raceway visitors also had the opportunity to visit area attractions at discount rates.



Participating attractions were the Virginia Historical Society, James River Cellars Winery, Museum of the Confederacy, St. John's Church, Meadow Farm Museum, Valentine Richmond History Center, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, The American Civil War Center at His-

toric Tredegar, Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center, Cold Harbor Battlefield and Visitor Center and the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation.

Historic Haunts of Hanover

On Saturday October 24, 2009, Polegreen participated in the first Historic Haunts of Hanover event. Guests were encouraged to visit the Cold Harbor National Battlefield, then the Historic Polegreen Church site for a first hand accounting from a real ghost chaser, followed by refreshments at the Historic Hanover Tavern and concluding with haunted house tours of Scotchtown hosted by Preservation Virginia. Each site received dozens of visitors interested in good ghost stories or just generally curious about the paranormal.

Richmond Investigators of the Paranormal (www.ghosttraps.com) recently compiled an Investigative Report

for the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation. From personal experiences, two investigators performed voice / video recordings and dowsing rod measurements. Through a still camera's view finder, the archeological site appeared to light up with "thousands of little lights. The best description of this event would be if someone were shining a flashlight and several people took hands and threw hands full of silver sparkles... into the air," according to R.I.P. reports. The investigators also claimed witnessing a large amount of "orbs" with the naked eye. The final assessment stated that while "several unusual personal experiences did occur, and several unusual photos were taken not enough

Cedarfield, AARP & Covenant Woods!

The Foundation hosted a bus tour from Cedarfield retirement community with over a dozen residents. Several familiar friends graced the grounds and all had a wonderful time. This tour was arranged by Ms. Virginia Ellett who heard Mr. Peace's talk and video presentation earlier in the year at an adult forum at the residential facility. Polegreen continues to include a wide audience and has plans for an AARP and Covenant Woods resident tour for next year.



evidence and/or personal experience would lead us to believe ... the property is haunted."



Richmond Investigator Ken Ballos Speaking with Polegreen Visitors