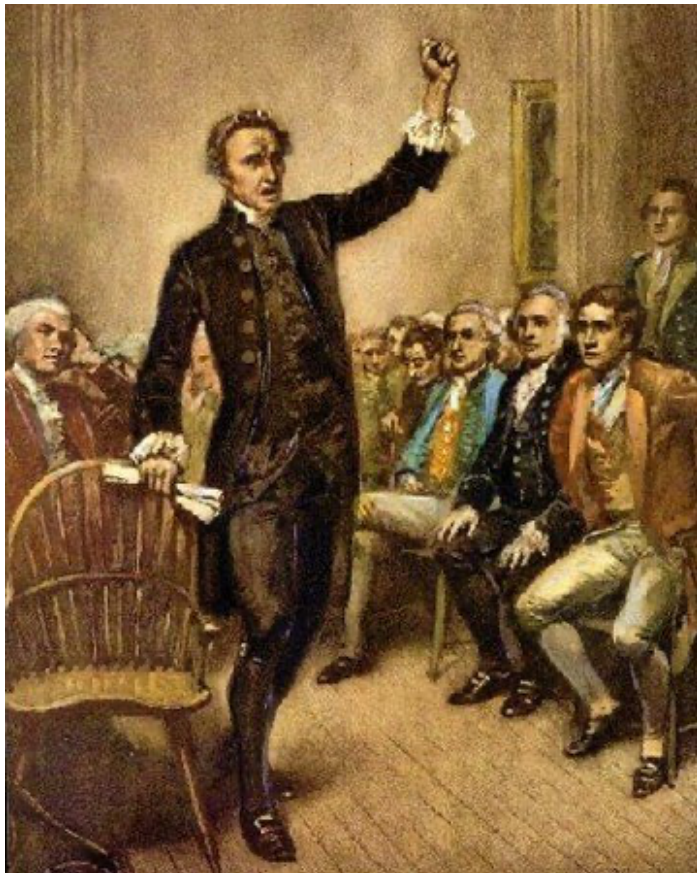


## Patrick Henry's 285<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Red Hill

On Friday, May 28, 2021, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution sponsored a celebration of Patrick Henry's 285<sup>th</sup> birthday at his home, Red Hill, in Brookneal, Virginia. Red Hill was where he was born and where he is buried. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Jeff Thomas, President of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Virginia OFPA Governor Michael E. Weyler brought greetings from the Virginia Society of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, participated in the event's Color Guard and presented the Wreath of the Order at Patrick Henry's grave.



While Patrick Henry may be most remembered for his impassioned “give me liberty or give me death” speech at St. John’s Church in Richmond in 1775, President Thomas also pointed out that he fought for and won passage of the Bill of Rights, and that he was the first Governor of Virginia in 1776, eventually serving five terms in that office.

At Patrick Henry’s grave site, President Thomas spoke of Patrick Henry’s involvement with General Stevens and Colonel Bufford, and the connection between both soldiers, both of whom had been under Henry’s command during his time in command of Virginia Forces.

On April 17, President Thomas had been given soil from General Steven’s grave, Virginia soil blessed by the chaplain, to be carried to and spread on the mass grave of Bufford’s Virginians massacred by the British at the Battle of Waxhaws in South Carolina. Given the relationship that Patrick Henry had to the two officers, President Thomas took a handful of the blessed soil and spread it at the foot of Patrick Henry’s grave, the bulk of the soil he would spread at Waxhaws the next day, May 29.