

VA250 Media Highlights

January 1 – February 27, 2025

Total media impressions: 437 million (up 17%)

2024 Cumulative: 2.89 billion



January 2, *Prince William Living* reported the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Local History and Genealogy's (RELIC) most significant milestone in 2024 was receiving the Virginia Commission for the Arts VA250 Grant. This funding supports a series of workshops and classes showcasing the evolution of traditional 18th-century fiber arts into modern expressions of creativity. RELIC is thrilled to celebrate the artistry that links our colonial roots to today's vibrant cultural landscape. Looking ahead to 2026, RELIC is already planning events to commemorate Prince William County's role in colonial American history as part of the VA250 celebrations.

- Unique daily visitors to Prince William Living (combined average): 9,000
- Localities mentioned: Prince William County

January 3, *TheRoanokeStar.com* published our media advisory for the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions

- Unique daily visitors to TheRoanokeStar.com (combined average): 12,000
- Localities mentioned: Roanoke, Wythe County

January 6, *Virginia Mercury* reported that the VA250 commission and its mission have inspired several localities to establish local historic markers that spotlight people and places in Virginia that are significant to America's origin story. And the commission is hosting a series of signature events through July 2026. The next one will be a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions,

“A Salute to Southwest Virginia,” at the O. Winston Link & Roanoke History Museum on Jan. 18. The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience will launch on the same day.

- Unique daily visitors to Virginia Mercury (combined average): 161,000
- Localities mentioned: Botetourt County, Hampton, Northampton County, Roanoke

January 8, *Smyth County News & Messenger* (paywall) reported that Wytheville will take part in our Fincastle Resolutions commemoration, beginning with a short history of the Fincastle Resolutions by Michael Gillman, manager of Historic Sites/Homestead Museum Operations for the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums. After a reading of the Fincastle Resolutions by Gillman, staff and visitors will be traveling to Hotel Roanoke for parade and commemoration of this important moment in history of Southwest Virginia.

- Unique daily visitors to Smyth County News & Messenger (combined average): 18,000
- Localities mentioned: Wytheville, Roanoke

January 9, *Loudoun Now* reports author Barbara VornDick will discuss her new book, “Eliza’s True Story,” and the effort to repatriate President James Monroe’s eldest daughter’s remains from Paris to the Monroe family cemetery in Richmond on Jan 26 at Oatlands. The event is supported by a grant from the VA250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities and is among the programs highlighting the significance of the nation’s 250th anniversary.

- Unique daily visitors to Loudoun Now (combined average): 59,000
- Localities mentioned: Loudoun County, Richmond

January 7, *Rappahannock Record* (paywall) reported that the 2025 Northern Neck 250 Signature Speaker Series will open at 2 p.m. January 26 at the University of Mary Washington Dahlgren Campus, 4224 University Drive, King George. UMW Dahlgren will host Dr. Woody Holton of the University of South Carolina. He will present “Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia.”

- Unique daily visitors to Patch (combined average): 8,750
- Localities mentioned: King George County

January 15, *Cardinal News* published an article promoting our January 18th event in Roanoke commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions and the debut of the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience.

- Unique daily visitors : 144,000
- Localities mentioned: Augusta County, Botetourt County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Roanoke, Williamsburg, Wythe County, Yorktown

January 15, *WVTF-FM* published a web and radio story with VA250 commission member Eric Monday promoting our January 18th event in Roanoke commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions. It says “the VA250 website is extensive and impressive.”

- Unique daily visitors : 36,000
- Localities mentioned: Roanoke

January 15, [WFIR-AM/FM](#) mentioned our January 18th event in Roanoke commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions in their roundup of the local events coming up this weekend and in the near future.

- Unique daily visitors : 5,500
- Localities mentioned: Roanoke

January 15, [The Patowmack Packet](#) reported the VA250 Commission is a multi-year initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of American Independence, focusing on Virginia's significant role in the Revolution. Led by figures like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Virginia played a crucial part in the movement for independence, from early representative assemblies to the Declaration of Independence itself. The commission organizes numerous events across the state, aiming to spark greater interest in American history and provide a more balanced perspective than the often Massachusetts-centric narrative. While challenges like political divisions and a decline in patriotism exist, the commission hopes to foster national unity and inspire future generations through these commemorative efforts. Cheryl Wilson is quoted.

- Unique daily visitors: 37 million (34,700 estimated views)
- Localities mentioned: Richmond, Roanoke, Williamsburg, Yorktown

January 15, [VPM News](#) reported that filmmaker Ken Burns will be coming to Richmond's Altria Theater to help promote his new film, *The American Revolution*, on Sunday, Mar. 23 at 7 p.m. Burns will spend two days in Virginia beginning on Sunday, Mar. 23, when Ken will join others at St. John's Church in Richmond for a reenactment of Patrick Henry's famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, timed to the 250th anniversary of the speech. Monday, Mar. 24, Burns will join PBS CEO Paula Kerger at A Common Cause to All, the largest gathering of nationwide organizers of the anniversary of America's founding, hosted by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and VA250. Tuesday evening, Burns will close out his time in Virginia when the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation hosts a special outdoor preview of *The American Revolution* for the general public.

- Unique daily visitors: 85,000
- Localities mentioned: Richmond, Williamsburg

January 15, [The Hampton Roads Messenger](#) reported Suffolk Tourism and the Suffolk VA 250 Committee, in cooperation with the American Friends of Lafayette (AFL), will commemorate Major General Lafayette's American Farewell Tour through the United States, and more specifically, Suffolk, February 24 – 26, 2025.

- Unique daily visitors: 2,000
- Localities mentioned: Suffolk

January 15, [Smyth County News & Messenger](#) reported on Monday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. Smyth County Public Library's Marion branch will host a portrayal of the Rev. Charles Cummings by Michael Henningsen. Cummings was known as the "Fightin Parson" for his vigorous defense of Virginia's frontier, of religious and civil liberties, of his Presbyterian faith, and of the interests of Southwest Virginia. The event will launch the Smyth County VA250 Committee's commemoration of local contributions to the American Revolution. The VA250 series of events will include additional events focused on Madam

Elizabeth Russell, John Broddy, domestic life during the Revolution, and the early industrialization of Virginia.

- Unique daily visitors: 18,000
- Localities mentioned: Smyth County

January 16, WDBJ-TV reported that in Wytheville, an event commemorating the Fincastle Resolutions is scheduled Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Homestead Museum. And then at 2:00 p.m. in Roanoke: A Salute to Southwest Virginia: 250th Anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions. That event will include dramatic readings, keynote remarks from VA250 Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina, a new musical fanfare written for the VA250 events by Broadway Music Director and Arranger David Chase and performed by the brass and drum ensemble from the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and the debut of a new mobile museum experience that will travel across the state. For more information, visit the VA250 website. VA250 commission member Eric Monday said the VA250 events are celebrating a journey that began 250 years ago and continues today. And this weekend, Southwest Virginia is at the center of this observance. Commission chair Del. Terry Austin said The Fincastle Resolutions were the very beginning of the documentation that we'll support the Continental Army and continental force as we move forward to eliminate the British trade and separate ourselves from the King. The story also quotes Commission Vice Chair Sen. Mamie Locke and commission member Chief Stephen Adkins from the VA250 Fourth of July video.

- Unique daily visitors: 1 million
- Localities mentioned: Botetourt County, Richmond, Roanoke, Wythe County

January 16, WVVA-TV in West Virginia republished WDBJ-TV's report about VA250's commemoration of the Fincastle Resolutions in Wytheville and Roanoke. That event will include dramatic readings, keynote remarks from VA250 Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina, a new musical fanfare written for the VA250 events by Broadway Music Director and Arranger David Chase and performed by the brass and drum ensemble from the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and the debut of a new mobile museum experience that will travel across the state.

- Unique daily visitors: 67,100
- Localities mentioned: Richmond, Roanoke. Wythe County

January 17, The Roanoke Times (paywall) published a column by Salem historian, writer and educator John Long about the importance of the Fincastle Resolutions and reported that on Saturday, at the History Museum of Western Virginia, the state's VA250 organization will mark the occasion of Southwest Virginia's declaration of proto-independence from 2 to 4 p.m. at the O. Winston Link & Roanoke History Museum, located at 101 Shenandoah Ave. in Roanoke.

- Unique daily visitors: 163,000
- Localities mentioned: Botetourt County, Roanoke, Williamsburg

January 19, NRV News reported Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth have been awarded grant funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund is one of many opportunities for organizations across the Commonwealth to prepare for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the start of the American Revolution.

- Unique daily visitors: 16,100
- Localities mentioned: Accomack County, Botetourt County, Campbell County, Charles City County, Chase City, Fairfax County, Fluvanna County, Fredericksburg, Galax, Gloucester County, Grayson County, Hanover County, Highland County, Hopewell, Isle of Wight County, King Williams County, Montgomery County, Northampton County, Onancock, Pulaski County, Richmond, Richmond County, Roanoke, Staunton, Surry County, Washington County, Westmoreland County, Williamsburg, Winchester

January 20, [WDBJ-TV](#) reported that the multi-year observance of Virginia's role in the American Revolution made a stop in Roanoke Saturday, January 18. The event recognized a pivotal moment in American history and introduced a new mobile museum that will travel across the Commonwealth. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission organized the program at the Roanoke History and O. Winston Link Museums. "This was a nation that was built on ideas and ideals, and we are losing touch with those when we lose touch with our history," VA250 National Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina said in an interview following the ceremony. "And so we hope by having engaging educational events, such as we had here today, that Virginians will get interested in learning about where we come from and who we come from."

- Unique daily visitors: 1 million
- Localities mentioned: Roanoke, Wythe County

January 20, [WFXR-TV](#) and [yahoo!news](#) reported that the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke hosted the VA250 commission, a group committed to commemorating Virginia's contributions to American independence and the Revolutionary War. At the group's "Salute to Southwest Virginia," event Saturday afternoon, they celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolution, when 15 Virginians first declared a desire for independence from the British. "We're marking the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions," said VA250 Commission executive director Cheryl Wilson. "The first time that colonists ever declared independence was a cause worth dying for happened right here in Southwest Virginia." "America was made in Virginia," said Carly Fiorina, VA250 honorary chair and keynote speaker at Saturday's event.

- Unique daily visitors: 136,000 and 66.7 million respectively
- Localities mentioned: Floyd County, Roanoke

January 20, [Patch.com](#) (link expired) reported that the Roanoke History/O. Winston Link Museum opens its doors on Saturdays, offering free admission and new exhibits. The museum, located in Roanoke will host the VA250 Commission's event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions.

- Unique daily visitors: 10 million
- Localities mentioned: Roanoke

January 20, [onX](#) Judge Les Adams posted he had a wonderful time representing the Colonel George Waller Chapter of the @VirginiaSAR1776 in Roanoke on Saturday evening to celebrate this year's landmark anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions with @VARevolution250. He shared a photo of himself with Executive Director Cheryl Wilson and a link to [WDBJ](#)'s story about the event.

January 20, [Kevinsrevolutionarywarchronology.com](https://kevinsrevolutionarywarchronology.com) blog posted on this day 250 years ago, the freeholders of Fincastle County, Virginia met to elect a Committee to enforce the Continental Association and to govern the County in place of Royal authority. Fincastle County in 1775 was a huge territory that comprises multiple counties in southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia as well as all of Kentucky. Although it was subsequently claimed that the Fincastle County meeting occurred at the Chiswell Lead Mines, the more likely location for the meeting was at James McGavock's Ordinary in Fort Chiswell, in present-day Wythe County, Virginia. On January 27, 2025, Smyth County, Virginia will host a celebration and reenactment of Rev. Cummings' role in adoption of the Fincastle Resolutions .
<https://va250.org/event-detail/?id=1425>

- Unique daily visitors: unknown
- Localities mentioned: Smyth County, Wythe County, Yorktown

January 20, [on X](#), Delegate Chris Obenshain posted it is great to see the Virginia 250 fund working to preserve historic resources across our Commonwealth. Congratulations to the @montgomerymus for receiving this grant as we prepare to celebrate not just America's 250th birthday - but also Montgomery County's 250th next year!

January 21, [Cardinal News](#) published a Cardinal 250 article and [podcast](#) about the age of the Founding Fathers and how they were not as old as people think. The Founding Fathers were actually young or middle-aged. They were able to command the respect of the population because they were middle-aged. They were also able to keep their finger on the pulse of the people. The Founding Fathers were also concerned about how to grow old. They were the first generation to be concerned about how to grow old. They were also concerned about how to make their long life as healthy as possible.

- Unique daily visitors: 144,000
- Localities mentioned: none

January 21, [Cardinal News](#) published a Cardinal 250 article about how a now-defunct county in Southwest Virginia became the first to declare its willingness to fight Britain
This month marks the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions, in which leaders in the now-defunct Fincastle County crossed a line on the way to independence.

- Unique daily visitors: 144,000
- Localities mentioned: Augusta County, Botetourt County, Montgomery County, Pittsylvania County, Pulaski County, Russell County, Smyth County, Washington County, Williamsburg, Wise County, Wythe County

January 21, [Cardinal News](#) published a Cardinal 250 article about the debut of VA250's Mobile Museum Experience that will be touring the state to tell the story of Virginia's role in the American Revolution. It features interactive exhibits, a hologram, and videos. It also highlights the roles of women, Black Virginians, and Native Americans in the Revolution. Cheryl Wilson, executive director of the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission, shows off the inside of the mobile museum.

- Unique daily visitors: 144,000
- Localities mentioned: Pulaski County, Roanoke

January 21, *Cardinal News* published a Cardinal 250 column about how the 1775 economic boycott of Britain helped Virginia farmers get out of debt as tensions simmer. For the first time in a long time, many Virginians are now economically independent of Britain. What will the political consequences of that be?

- Unique daily visitors: 144,000
- Localities mentioned: Augusta County, Bedford County, Dinwiddie County, Fairfax County, Orange County

January 21, *The Hampton Roads Messenger* reported that Governor Glenn Youngkin announced 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth have been awarded grant funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. Last year, Governor Youngkin and the General Assembly established the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund in the Commonwealth's 2024-2026 Biennial Budget to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums that anticipate a significant increase in visitation in 2026, the year of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, also known as the nation's Semiquincentennial. The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) will administer the funds from the grant program.

- Unique daily visitors: 2,000
- Localities mentioned: none

January 22, *Gloucester-Mathews Gazette* (paywall) and *Philanthropy News Digest* (paywall) reported nearly \$20 million in grant funding was awarded to 35 preservation projects across Virginia through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund—including two projects in Gloucester County. Last year, Gov. Youngkin and the Virginia General Assembly established the VA 250 Preservation Fund in the state's 2024-2026 biennial budget to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums that anticipate a significant increase in visitation in 2026, the year of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The larger of the two local grants, in the amount of \$600,000, was awarded to the Fairfield Foundation for improvements to the Fairfield Archaeology Park and the Rosewell Ruins and Visitor Center.

- Unique daily visitors: 13,800 and 81,000 respectively
- Localities mentioned: Gloucester County

January 23, *The Farmville Herald* reported on the January 23rd grand opening of a new exhibit at the Heartland Regional Visitor Center called "Celebrating Virginia's History: A Look at Prince Edward County." The project, supported by funding from the Virginia Tourism Corporation and a VA250 grant, celebrates over 250 years of history, showcasing the rich and diverse stories that have shaped Prince Edward County and its contributions to Virginia's legacy. This display is a key feature of Virginia's VA250 initiative, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding.

- Unique daily visitors: 33,300
- Localities mentioned: Prince Edward County

January 23, *Fluvanna Review* and *Philanthropy News Digest* reported Fluvanna's Historic Courthouse Restoration Project has received a \$785,000 grant from the state's Department of Historic Resources Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the grant, one of 35 approved statewide, on Thursday (Jan. 16). The fund was established last year to flow money to historic

preservation projects in anticipation of increased tourism during the Sesquicentennial of the American Revolution beginning in 2026.

- Unique daily visitors: 3,000 and 81,000 respectively
- Localities mentioned: Fluvanna County

January 23, *The Sussex-Surry Dispatch* reported that Governor Glenn Youngkin announced on January 17 that Surry County will receive two of 35 grants totaling \$20 million being awarded through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program. In keeping with the program's commitment to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums as the Commonwealth prepares for the American Revolution anniversary in 2026, Surry County is receiving grants for a fire suppression system at Bacon's Castle and restoration of the Historical Society's porch and ramps deck. The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program was prompted by the expected significant increase in visitation in 2026 at the museums and historic sites across the state during the nation's Semiquincentennial - the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

- Unique daily visitors: 1,000
- Localities mentioned: Surry County

January 27, *Prince William Living* published our announcement, reporting that the National Civics Bee is an exciting opportunity for young minds to explore civic engagement and make a real difference in their communities. This annual competition, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, aims to foster civic literacy and inspire the next generation of leaders.

- Unique daily visitors: 7,000
- Localities mentioned: none

January 24, *yahoo!entertainment* republished *WAVY-TV's* report that the 2025 Virginia International Tattoo is celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, and Friday morning, organizers highlighted what will be new at this year's event. In late April, the Scope Arena will be filled with people to watch more than 800 performers from six nations. New this year, the Virginia International Tattoo is an event for the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250). It was created by the General Assembly to remember Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence.

- Unique daily visitors: 33 million and 1.04 million respectively
- Localities mentioned: Norfolk

January 24, *WVEC-TV* reported this year will be the 28th Virginia International Tattoo. Organizers say it will once again be, as always, unabashedly patriotic. It's a centuries-old tradition, with ceremonial performances of military music by massed bands, highlighted by the signature pipes and drums... plus, military drill teams, Celtic dancers, and choirs presented in cooperation with NATO, the Norfolk NATO Festival, and the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission.

- Unique daily visitors: 500,000
- Localities mentioned: Norfolk

January 25, *Augusta Free Press* reported nearly \$20 million in grant funding has been awarded to 35 projects across the state through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund

was established in the Commonwealth's 2024-2026 biennial budget to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums that anticipate a significant increase in visitation in 2026. The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, also known as the nation's Semiquincentennial, will be recognized next year.

- Unique daily visitors: 251,000
- Localities mentioned: Fluvanna County, Highland County, Mecklenburg County, Pulaski County, Richmond, Richmond County, Staunton, Westmoreland County, Williamsburg

January 27, *The Virginian-Pilot* and *Daily Press* reported every year, Virginia International Tattoo is a flashy pageant of patriotism. And this year's event — honoring the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps and featuring talent from six nations — is expected to be epic.

- Unique daily visitors: 562,000 and 210,000 respectively
- Localities mentioned: Norfolk

January 28, *RealRadio804.com* reported that Stratford Hall Historic Preserve is the recipient of an \$835,000 grant from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program for restoration efforts and to improve accessibility around the circa 1738 Great House. This project is one of only 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth to receive grant funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund, which is being administered by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund grant will allow Stratford Hall to significantly improve accessibility and the visitor experience by updating the public restrooms and pathways around the Great House so they are ADA compliant and replacing three roofs of buildings integral to the history and interpretation of Stratford Hall. Stratford Hall is located in the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, a region steeped in revolutionary history, and is helping to lead local 250th commemorative initiatives in partnership with Northern Neck 250 (NNK250).

- Unique daily visitors: 4,000
- Localities mentioned: Westmoreland County

January 28, *The Progress-Index* reported the city of Hopewell will receive over \$370,000 to support the restoration and preservation of the historic Shiloh Lodge, a landmark of significant cultural and historical importance to the community. The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant is part of the Commonwealth's initiative to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Governor Glenn Youngkin recently announced that 35 preservation projects across Virginia have been awarded funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund, totaling approximately \$20 million. These grants aim to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums in anticipation of increased visitation during the nation's Semiquincentennial celebrations.

- Unique daily visitors: 244,000
- Localities mentioned: Hopewell

January 29, *The News Virginian* (paywall) reported a historic property in Fluvanna County and two in the city of Staunton, including a presidential birthplace, have been awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to further their preservation. The properties were among 35 cultural institutions and historic sites across Virginia awarded nearly \$20 million from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund earlier this month. The fund, established last year, is meant to spur investment in such places to boost visitor traffic

in advance of the country's 250th anniversary next year. Two properties in Staunton received a total of \$766,000: \$250,000 for the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and \$516,000 for Trinity Episcopal Church. In Fluvanna, \$785,000 was awarded to the county's historic courthouse.

- Unique daily visitors: 18,660
- Localities mentioned: Fluvanna County, Staunton, Williamsburg

January 29, *WHRO-FM* reported that the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts is showing "Celebrate Lafayette: Soldier, Statesman, Champion of Human Rights" which details the French general's travels through America from 1824-25.

- Unique daily visitors: 60,000
- Localities mentioned: Suffolk, Williamsburg, Yorktown

January 30, *The Flagship* reported the 2025 Virginia International Tattoo will feature an incredible international cast of more than 800 civilian and military performers from six nations. New this year, the Virginia International Tattoo is a signature event of Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250). Established by the General Assembly to commemorate Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence, VA250 will mark the nation's semiquincentennial by bringing Virginians together to learn more about Virginia's key role in shaping the nation, these signature events are bringing together Virginians, travelers, history lovers and special guests from the state and nation to join events that celebrate and commemorate major moments of 250 years ago leading up to July 4, 1776.

- Unique daily visitors: 21,000
- Localities mentioned: Norfolk

January 30, *The Altavista Journal* reported Governor Glenn Youngkin has announced that 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth have been awarded grant funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. Among the recipients is Patrick Henry's Red Hill, located a few miles outside of Brookneal. Chief Executive Director of Red Hill, Hope E. Marstin shares, "We are thrilled to receive this grant award. As hundreds of thousands of people will have their eyes on Virginia for the upcoming semi quincentennial, we have an unprecedented opportunity to attract increased and more diverse visitation than ever before. During the VA250, increased visitation will benefit our entire area, bringing in much needed tourism dollars for our economy."

- Unique daily visitors: 4,000
- Localities mentioned: Charlotte County

January 30, *Middleneck News* reported Stratford Hall Historic Preserve has been awarded an \$835,000 Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant for restoration and accessibility improvements. The grant will fund ADA-compliant upgrades to restrooms and pathways and replace three historic roofs. The project is part of Stratford Hall's efforts to enhance the visitor experience in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

- Unique daily visitors: 656
- Localities mentioned: Westmoreland County

January 30, *Shore Daily News* reported the newly published "Patriot Stories, Northampton County, Virginia" was gifted to local historians, libraries, and historical societies at the January meeting of the

Northampton County Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Edited by Chapter Regent Katharine Bradford Lehman, this bound book details documented soldiers, sailors, and patriots who served in Northampton County, Virginia, during the American Revolution. The Chapter applied for a DAR America 250! Grant from the national organization and was awarded funds for the printing of the book. The America 250!, the Semiquincentennial anniversary of America's independence, is being celebrated nationwide. Northampton County formed a Virginia250 Local Commission to plan county commemoration activities.

- Unique daily visitors: 56,000
- Localities mentioned: Northampton County

January 31, *Alexandria Living* reported that our country's 250th birthday isn't until 2026, but work on the big event is already underway and Alexandria and Fairfax County will play a big role. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the founding of our nation, and its ongoing pursuit of a more perfect union with a multi-year series of signature events, special exhibits, and interactive experiences that bring history to life for visitors.

- Unique daily visitors: 18,000
- Localities mentioned: Alexandria, Fairfax County, Richmond

February 2, *Virginia Tourism Corporation* released its "What's New in Virginia 2025," the agency's curated guide to what is new and noteworthy for the travel industry for the coming year. This year's guide includes the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the founding of our nation, and its ongoing pursuit of a more perfect union with a multi-year series of signature events, special exhibits, and interactive experiences that bring history to life for visitors.

- Unique daily visitors: 3.460
- Localities mentioned: Richmond

February 3, *River Country News* reported Stratford Hall Historic Preserve is the recipient of an \$835,000 grant from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program for restoration efforts and to improve accessibility around the circa 1738 Great House. This project is one of only 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth to receive grant funding through the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund, which is being administered by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

- Unique daily visitors: unknown
- Localities mentioned: Westmoreland County

February 3, *Leisure Group Travel* published "Give Me Liberty: 250 Years Ago in Virginia" itineraries promoting the homes of presidents & patriots. Four of America's first five Presidents hailed from Virginia—two fought in the Revolution, one penned the Declaration of Independence, and another shaped the U.S. Constitution. Follow in their footsteps as you visit their homes and uncover the legacy of Virginia's role in America's fight for freedom. From Patrick Henry's fiery "Give Me Liberty" speech to the final victory at Yorktown, this tour immerses you in the stories that shaped a nation.

- Unique daily visitors: 8,190
- Localities mentioned: Albemarle County, Alexandria, Fairfax County, Richmond, Williamsburg, Yorktown

February 3, *Leisure Group Travel* published "Celebrate America250 in Virginia with a Journey Through History & Music" itineraries promoting Virginia's historic celebration & the British invasion. From exploring Colonial settlements to witnessing the world-renowned Virginia International Tattoo, this tour brings the past to life. Conclude your adventure with a high-energy tribute to the British Invasion of the 1960s, featuring a special performance by "Martha & The Sons of Liberty."

- Unique daily visitors: 8,190
- Localities mentioned: Albemarle County, Charlottesville, Henrico County, Norfolk, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Yorktown

February 4, *Henrico Citizen* reported the Library of Virginia and the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission are joining forces to launch a three-year project entitled "Ideas in Action: Virginians Petition Their Government, 1776–1786." This initiative aims to educate the public about the significance of a unique collection of over 2,000 legislative petitions submitted by Virginians to their General Assembly during the Revolutionary era. "Ideas in Action' brings the Revolution home, allowing Virginians to explore the concerns and aspirations of their communities," said VA250 Executive Director Cheryl Wilson.

- Unique daily visitors: 19,400
- Localities mentioned: none

February 4, *Alexandria Living* reported that the first Northern Virginia stop of the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience at Mount Vernon is on Feb. 21 and 22. This mobile museum brings the spirit of the American Revolution to communities across the Commonwealth through interactive exhibits, engaging storytelling, and innovative technology. The traveling museum showcases Virginia's vital role in the fight for independence and inspires future generations. Additional birthday celebrations include opportunities to meet General Washington, a Naturalization Ceremony, the U.S. Air Force String Quartet, Music of the Revolution, children's story time, and concessions.

- Unique daily visitors: 18,000
- Localities mentioned: Fairfax County

February 6, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (paywall) reports Manny Alvarez Jr. is returning to Goochland County's government. Alvarez, a veteran civil servant, will be Goochland's interim county administrator, running the government's day-to-day operations, the county announced this week. Alvarez has served on the Goochland County Historical Society and Goochland's VA 250 Committee, which recognizes the anniversary of the American Revolution.

- Unique daily visitors: 501,000
- Localities mentioned: Goochland County

February 6, *Loudoun Now* reports that as the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution approaches, historians are looking deeper into the roots of the nation's founding to highlight under-told stories. That's true of a new exhibit on display at Leesburg's Thomas Balch Library. A partnership between the library's Black History Committee and the Piedmont Heritage Foundation puts the spotlight on the role the Black community played during the war—both as revolutionary patriots and as loyalists fighting to put down the rebellion against the British crown. Committee member Gertrude Evans, a self-taught

artist, brings the subjects to life in a series of paintings. Exhibit Coordinator Alicia Cohen reached out to her as she began an exploration of Black soldiers during the Revolution. As a member of the county's VA250 commemoration committee, Cohen thought about how she could contribute to the group's work telling the story of the nation's founding. She thought about exploring the stories of Black patriots.

- Unique daily visitors: 59,000
- Localities mentioned: Loudoun County

February 7, *Cardinal News* reported the first Black professional football player was from Botetourt County. Charles Follis signed a pro contract with an Ohio team in 1904, long before the National Football League existed. Virginia has no official marker to Follis, although he is mentioned in the new mobile museum launched by the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission. (See our photo tour of the museum and check it out whenever it comes to your community.)

- Unique daily visitors: 143,590
- Localities mentioned: Alleghany County, Botetourt County, Lynchburg, Staunton

February 7, *Kearney Hub* (via Roanoke Times) reports that a historic bell exhibit was officially unveiled in the Montgomery County Courthouse lobby in Christiansburg Friday kicking off the county's Virginia 250 celebration. Along with the rustic bell, the display features four information panels. The bell is thought to be first rung in 1791 and later used in the cupola of the county's former 1909 courthouse. Montgomery County was established in 1776 and is one of only two localities in Virginia celebrating 250 years in 2026.

- Unique daily visitors: 19,000
- Localities mentioned: Montgomery County

February 7, *InsideNoVa* reported the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience will make its first Northern Virginia stop at Mount Vernon on Feb. 21 and 22. This mobile museum brings the spirit of the American Revolution to communities across the state through interactive exhibits, storytelling and technology. It showcases Virginia's role in the fight for independence.

- Unique daily visitors: 404,000
- Localities mentioned: Fairfax County

February 10, *Smyth County News & Messenger* (paywall) reports the first half of Smyth County's VA250 mobile exhibit "The Road to Revolution" is on display at the Smyth County Library's Marion branch. Even more panels will be added later this year.

Throughout the Commonwealth, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the founding of this nation, and its ongoing pursuit of a more perfect union.

- Unique daily visitors: 12,000
- Localities mentioned: Smyth County

February 12, *WRIC-TV* reported on Sunday, March 23 at 7 p.m., VPM will host American filmmaker Ken Burns at the Altria Theater for a special preview screening of his new docuseries "The American Revolution." Burns will be spending two days in Virginia, starting in Richmond at St. John's Church on Sunday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m., with a reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me

Death,” which happens to fall on the 250th anniversary of the speech. On Monday, March 24, Burns will head to Williamsburg for a special outdoor screening of his docuseries and the A Common Cause to All event hosted by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and VA250.

- Unique daily visitors: 1 million
- Localities mentioned: Richmond, Williamsburg

February 12, [*Patch.com*](#) (link expired) republished the WRIC article in its Richmond newsletter.

- Unique daily visitors: 10.6 million
- Localities mentioned: Richmond, Williamsburg

February 12, [*Rappahannock Record*](#) (paywall) reported the second of five talks in the 2025 NNK250 Signature Speaker Series will be held at 2 p.m. February 23 at the Bayne Center at Historic Christ Church, 420 Christ Church Road, Weems. A specialist in the fields of American art and material culture, Dr. Jennifer Van Horn of the University of Delaware, will present “Material Culture and the Making of America.”

- Unique daily visitors combined: 4,020
- Localities mentioned: Lancaster County

February 13, [*Fredericksburg Free Press*](#) reports Stratford Hall in Westmoreland has received an \$835,000 grant from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program for restoration efforts and to improve accessibility around the 1738 Great House. The project is one of 35 preservation projects from across the Commonwealth to receive grant funding.

- Unique daily visitors: 24,000
- Localities mentioned: Westmoreland County

February 13, [*RiverCountryNews*](#) reports Menokin received a grant of \$1.25 million from the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund. Through 2025 and early 2026, Menokin will use this grant money to rebuild key sections of the 1769 home of Declaration of Independence signer Francis Lightfoot Lee.

- Unique daily visitors: unknown
- Localities mentioned: Richmond County, Westmoreland County

February 13, [*Richmond Free Press*](#) reported dozens of immigrants will take the oath of citizenship 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, Presidents Day, at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, marking a milestone in their American journey amid historical artifacts of their new nation. The event is part of the museum’s initiative commemorating America’s 250th anniversary.

- Unique daily visitors: 24,000
- Localities mentioned: Richmond

February 15, [*The Virginian-Pilot*](#) (paywall) reported that on Feb. 23, the Suffolk Visitor Center will commemorate the arrival of Lafayette at the site of the former Nansemond County Courthouse on the same route that the marquis traveled in a horse-drawn carriage 200 years ago.

- Unique daily visitors: 559,000
- Localities mentioned: Halifax, Nansemond County, Richmond, Suffolk, Yorktown

February 16, *WY Daily* and *Philanthropy News Digest* reported Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation has received a Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant for \$390,000 to support vital infrastructure projects around the site of America's Birthplace. As it looks ahead to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, as well as the 350th anniversary of Bacon's Rebellion at Jamestown, the foundation said the funds will help make Jamestown's history more cohesive and more accessible for all guests.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 159,500
- Localities mentioned: James City County

February 16, *The Harrisonburg Citizen* reported that as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution next year, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) is using the occasion to remind people that history is more than the events of 1776—and is, instead, a story of progress, resilience and the communities that have shaped our nation. The statewide VA250 effort aims to encourage reflection on the nation's roots, shared values and vision for the future. Harrisonburg's story, which is one piece of this larger tapestry, will be explored as part of events connected to the VA250 celebration next year.

- Unique daily visitors: 4,350
- Localities mentioned: Harrisonburg, Rockingham County

February 16, *The Boston Globe* (paywall) reported Massachusetts proudly calls itself the birthplace of the American Revolution, but critics say the state's plans for its 250th anniversary might be too little, too late for a celebration that begins in only two months at the Lexington and Concord battlefields. By contrast, legislators in Virginia have appropriated \$27 million to date, primarily for hundreds of local grants. In Virginia, which launched its 250th commission in 2020, hundreds of events already have occurred, and many hundreds more are planned, said Cheryl Wilson, executive director of Virginia 250. Each of its 134 counties and county-equivalents has formed its own 250th commission or works with the state commission. A "world-class" mobile museum about the Revolution has been built to visit every middle school in the state, she said. "Virginia deliberately stepped out in a leadership role," Wilson said. "Virginia led in the forming of our nation, and Virginia leads in the 250th."

- Unique daily visitors: 3.55 million
- Localities mentioned: none

February 17, *The Virginian-Pilot* and *Daily Press* (paywall, article attached) republished Cardinal News's article about most key participants in the American Revolution being young — not elder statesmen.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 812,000
- Localities mentioned: none

February 18, *Culpeper Star-Exponent* (paywall) reported Culpeper continues to put forth grand plans for the bicentennial celebration this summer marking the visit of a revered French patriot. The Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), in addition to fighting alongside the Culpeper Minutemen in the American Revolution, visited Culpeper Aug. 22, 1825, near the end of his Grand Tour of 24 states. A large celebration is planned to mark the event being recorded for perpetuity in the county record. At its meeting earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution from the Culpeper Lafayette Bicentennial Committee declaring Aug. 22–23, 2025 as "Culpeper Lafayette Days."

- Unique daily visitors: 35,410

- Localities mentioned: Arlington, Culpeper, Yorktown

February 18, *Cardinal News* published an article and podcast for its Cardinal News 250 project about the life story of William “Billy” Flora, a Black man and celebrated Revolutionary War hero, who illustrates the paradoxes of America’s founding. The hero of the Battle of Great Bridge, Flora was a sentry who took on an entire British platoon.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 274,000
- Localities mentioned: Portsmouth, Yorktown

February 18, *Cardinal News* published an article for its Cardinal News 250 project about how many Virginia soldiers saw their first action in North Carolina. Their ‘loss’ at Guilford Court House actually led toward victory at Yorktown. Lord Cornwallis overcame three lines of Patriots, including thousands of Virginians, on the northern North Carolina battlefield, but lost a quarter of his men in the process.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 137,000
- Localities mentioned: Botetourt County, Danville, Martinsville, Washington County, Yorktown

February 18, *Cardinal News* published a column for its Cardinal News 250 project about the escalating tensions between Great Britain and the American colonies in 1775. It reports that King George III has declared Massachusetts to be in rebellion, a move that significantly escalates the conflict. It describes the mobilization of British troops, suggesting that war is imminent. This declaration and the subsequent military preparations paint a vivid picture of the growing likelihood of armed conflict between the colonies and the Crown, highlighting the critical period leading up to the American Revolution.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 137,000
- Localities mentioned: Albemarle County, Roanoke, Williamsburg, Wythe County

February 20, *BBC Travel* reports that organizers are hoping the First Baptist Church's restoration will be complete by 2026 in time for its 250th anniversary. Since the United States' founding in 1776, African Americans have gathered at First Baptist Church, making it one of the nation's oldest continuous Black congregations.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 620,820
- Localities mentioned: Williamsburg

February 21, *Alexandria Living* reported the first stop in Northern Virginia of the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience will be at Mount Vernon from Friday, Feb. 21 through Wednesday, Feb. 26. This mobile museum brings the spirit of the American Revolution to communities across the Commonwealth through interactive exhibits, engaging storytelling, and innovative technology. The traveling museum showcases Virginia's vital role in the fight for independence and inspires future generations.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 16,000
- Localities mentioned: Fairfax County

February 21, *Isle of Wight County Schools* produced a YouTube video (they had shared it on Facebook and we reposted it) about how students from Smithfield High School & Windsor High School came together for a unique cross-curricular project blending US History & Creative Writing. Through research,

field trips to historic Isle of Wight County sites, and hands-on podcast production, they brought local history to life in the Revolutionary Roots podcast.

- Unique daily visitors combined: unknown
- Localities mentioned: Isle of Wight County

February 21, *WHRO-FM* reported a museum about Virginia's role in the Revolution is rolling into town. The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience, an expandable trailer with immersive displays, is traveling the state to highlight Virginia's participation in the fight for independence 250 years ago.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 69,000
- Localities mentioned: James City County, Portsmouth, Roanoke, Williamsburg

February 21, *Mount Vernon on the Move* reported Virginia was the setting for the American colonists' victory at Yorktown over the British Redcoats during the Revolutionary War, as well as the homeland of famous patriots like Patrick Henry ("Give me liberty or give me death!"). A little-known fact about that eight-year war is that battles were fought as far north as Quebec and Nova Scotia and as far south as New Orleans, Louisiana. This is just one of the many nuggets visitors can learn about this critical turning point in American history at the free, 11,000-square-foot VA250 Mobile Museum Experience — a museum on wheels at the Mount Vernon Estate's west visitor parking lot until Feb. 26. The two-room museum is part of the state's commemoration of Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence, called the Semiquincentennial.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 8,000
- Localities mentioned: Fairfax County, Yorktown

February 23, *The Patowmack Packet* reported the American Revolution Institute (ARI), one of the few institutions dedicated to the study of the War of Independence and its era, is poised to begin a nine-year commemoration of the war that birthed the United States. While there will be hundreds of 250th events, such as those run by state organizations like VA250 and MA250, ARI's focus on the war itself will provide an in-depth look at the battles and personalities of that "vast event," as the Society's founders called it.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 44.2 million
- Localities mentioned: Yorktown

February 27, *Simply the Best Magazine* published a feature about Abingdon that said Abingdon is proud to participate in VA250, Virginia's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, which highlights the state's critical role in the nation's fight for independence. As a key gathering point for the Overmountain Men, who marched from Abingdon to the pivotal Battle of Kings Mountain, the town holds a special place in Revolutionary history. In 2025, visitors can explore the Abingdon Muster Grounds, where the Overmountain Men began their journey, and attend special events that bring this era to life.

- Unique daily visitors combined: 630,000
- Localities mentioned: Washington County