



Front Royal Gazebo (photo courtesy Town of Front Royal)

to stop for a look at small town life, beautiful architecture, unique shops and eateries.

History buffs will be fascinated with our many museums. Sample the local wines, enjoy world-class golfing, or explore mysterious caverns. The challenge of snow skiing in the wintertime or grass skiing in the summertime, and hiking are a sampling of the many outdoor activities. Browse through the wonderful antique shops and unique gift shops. The music lover will enjoy the summer season of the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival.

Come visit and let us show you our natural beauty, great hotels, and friendly hospitality!

For more information, contact **Shenandoah County Tourism** at (540) 459-6227 or (888) 367-3960. You can also visit our website www.shenandoahtravel.org

WINCHESTER / FREDERICK COUNTY

Scenic **Winchester-Frederick County** is nestled in the northern Shenandoah Valley and provides a wealth of beautiful architecture,

historic sites, farm markets, theaters, and much more. The area is home to outstanding Civil War events, children's events, and the very popular Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, a treat for the entire family every spring.

For more information, please call the **Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau** at (540) 542-1326 or visit www.visitwinchesterva.com

FRONT ROYAL

Front Royal is located in *Warren County 70 miles west of Washington, D.C., near the junction of I-66 and I-81. The North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River join here to form the main stem of the Shenandoah River.*

We invite you to come out and experience our small town charm. While here you can explore historical sites, hike through the Blue Ridge Mountains along the Appalachian Trail and paddle the tranquil waters of the Shenandoah. Search for the perfect gift on Main Street in historic downtown, then take a break for a taste of Virginia wine

and enjoy a meal at one of our delightful restaurants.

The origin of the name "**Front Royal**" remains uncertain. There are currently two versions as to its source of origin. One being that, in early decades of European settlement, the area was referred to in French as "le front royal," meaning the British frontier.

However, the more colorful and legendary origin has it that during colonial days, a giant oak tree - the "Royal" Tree of England - stood in the public square where Chester and Main Streets now join. It was there that the local militia, composed of raw recruits slow to learn military commands and maneuvers, were drilled. On one occasion, the sorely tired drill sergeant became so exasperated by the clumsy efforts of his troops and their failure to follow his command that he hit upon a phrase that all could understand and shouted, "front the Royal Oak!" Among the spectators was a Mr. Forsythe who had been a professional soldier. He was so amused by the officer's coined order that he and his friends found much sport in telling the story, repeating "front the Royal Oak" until **Front Royal** was the resulting derivation.

Whether you are a resident or guest, stop by the **Front Royal-Warren County Visitor's Center** located in the old train station at 414 East Main Street in historical downtown **Front Royal**.

Call (540) 635-5788 or (800) 338-2576 for more information, or visit our website www.frontroyalva.com

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

RICHMOND REGION... EASY TO LOVE

Located in east central Virginia.

Residents and visitors to the **Historic Richmond Region** continue to call it easy to love. Home to museums, breathtaking architecture and a vibrant arts community, the Region entertains and enlightens. Historic buildings and world-class museums nestle next to new structures designed to harmonize with the past even as they define the future. **Richmond** - fun, affordable and accessible - offers the benefits of a big city and the warmth of a small town. There are trendy areas and endless pockets of discovery - all in a historic setting that reminds us of who we are as Americans.

Located on the James River fall line, **Richmond** was founded in 1607 by Captains Christopher Newport and John Smith of Jamestown fame. Patrick Henry lit the fires of revolution when he delivered his "...give me liberty or give me death..." speech at **St. John's Church** in 1775. You can still visit St. John's, and during the summer enjoy the reenactments of Henry's famous speech.

Richmond replaced Williamsburg as capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1780. The State Capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson and is one of the most visited sites in the city.

Visitors to the **Richmond Region** find the traditions of history and culture alive today. Historic homes and neighborhoods, Civil War and Revolutionary War sites and museums, gardens and nature centers, science & art museums, sports teams and the James River offer a myriad of activities throughout the Region. Combined with excellent shopping and excellent dining, these attractions are enough to create several fun-filled weekends.

The **Richmond Region** is rich in historic homes and famous folk. Henricus Historical Park recreates the New World's second successful English settlement, the 1611 Citie of Henricus. The John Marshall House, Edgar Allan Poe Museum, Maggie Walker National Historic Site, Meadow Farm and Scotchtown all interpret the lives of distinguished people.

The Virginia Historical Society and Museum covers Virginia's history from Native America to the

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present day.

If Civil War is an interest, be sure to visit the National Park Service's Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. The rangers can direct you to surrounding battlefields as well as familiarize you with the impact the war had on **Richmond**.

Once known as the Harlem of the South, the Jackson Ward neighborhood is home to a museum, the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and a statue of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, a tap dancer famously popular in the 1930s. Every fall the neighborhood is hopping at the annual Second Street Festival with people, food, jazz, gospel music and a market. The hands of time are turned back to the 1920s-40s when the street was the heart of the Region's African American community.

Richmond can also boast a splendid natural resource in the James River – one of the only urban settings for class III and class IV white water rapids as well as fishing and canoeing. For a more tranquil experience try bird watching at Dutch Gap Conservatory, or cycling on Belle Isle. You may choose to spend time strolling along the historic Canal Walk conceived by George Washington. It winds 1.25 miles along the James River and takes you through historical moments in **Richmond's** history. The restored canal offers boat rides and tours.

Sports fans have plenty to choose from year round. From Richmond RiverDogs hockey in the winter to Richmond Braves baseball in the summer, sports in **Richmond** run the gamut. There's the Richmond Kickers professional soccer team and perhaps the



Richmond's beautiful skyline overlooking the James River decorated and lit up for the holiday season. (photo courtesy Jeff Greenberg, Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau)

most popular—NASCAR. Richmond International Raceway is the only track in the nation to hold both its NASCAR Sprint Cup races at night.

Richmond is also a great place to have a meal. There are more than 400 restaurants to choose from. Around the Region you can forgo the usual and experience a variety of ethnic cuisines and world-wide influences. You could spend a weekend just sampling food!

The Region is very easy to love if you are a beer fan. Several mi-

crobreweries serve excellent beer along with delicious food.

Nightlife and performing arts are vibrant throughout the Region.

Around every corner of the **Historic Richmond Region** there is a pocket of discovery like Hollywood Cemetery – where two U.S. presidents are buried along with many Confederate notables. Or Carytown, one of **Richmond's** earliest shopping areas, now home to a wide range of eclectic shops and eateries.

Whatever your interests are, there is something for you to discover in the **Historic Richmond Region**. For a complete listing of all the Region has to offer, call (888) RICHMOND for a free Visitors Guide. And visit soon to see for yourself why **Richmond** is easy to love. Stop in the **Richmond Region Visitor Center** at 405 North 3rd Street or visit our website <http://visit.richmond.com> to learn about the variety of places to visit.

ROAD TO REVOLUTION HERITAGE TRAIL

Your family will enjoy exploring the life and times of Patrick Henry, the Voice of the American Revolution, at the wonderful historical sites in Virginia located on the **Road to Revolution Heritage Trail**. Your path will take you to the historic Richmond Region, beautiful Hanover County, to the campus of Hampden-Sydney College, and to Red Hill, located in Charlotte County. The trail can be explored in segments or as a whole. Please visit the website, www.roadtorevolution.com for maps and information.

Patrick Henry (May 29, 1736 – June 6, 1799) was the leading Virginia statesman in defending the Virginia colonists' individual rights and liberties and the colony's fundamental right to representation. John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson in November 1813, that "In the Congress of 1774 there was not one member, except Patrick



Thomas Jefferson's Rotunda, University of Virginia (photo courtesy Wikimedia)



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Henricus Historical Park (photo courtesy Heather L. Hugues)

Henry, who appeared to me sensible of the Precipice or rather the Pinnacle on which he stood, and had the candour and courage enough to acknowledge it."

During his lifetime, Henry became the first elected governor of Virginia, a devoted father of 17 children, and the most famous orator of his day. Born in Hanover County at Studley Plantation, he attended Polegreen Church as a young man. Henry credits the Rev. Samuel Davies with influencing his oratorical style.

Henry married Sarah Shelton at her family home, Rural Plains. The newlyweds lived at Pine Slash, a 300-acre tobacco farm, where Henry tried his hand at farming. After their house burned, the young couple later lived at Hanover Tavern while Henry studied for his law exam.

Henry made a name for himself as a young lawyer when he challenged a royal decree in the Parson's Cause at Hanover Courthouse in 1763. Two years later, his resolutions against the Stamp Act articulated the basic principles of the American Revolution. In March 1775 Henry traveled from his home at Scotchtown to **St. John's Church** in Richmond for the Second Virginia Convention. There his masterful argument to his

fellow delegates George Washington and Thomas Jefferson summoned Americans toward independence from Great Britain with the immortal words, "Give me liberty or give me death." Henry's speech had national implications, for Virginia's support of independence prevented the American Revolution from becoming a regional conflict.

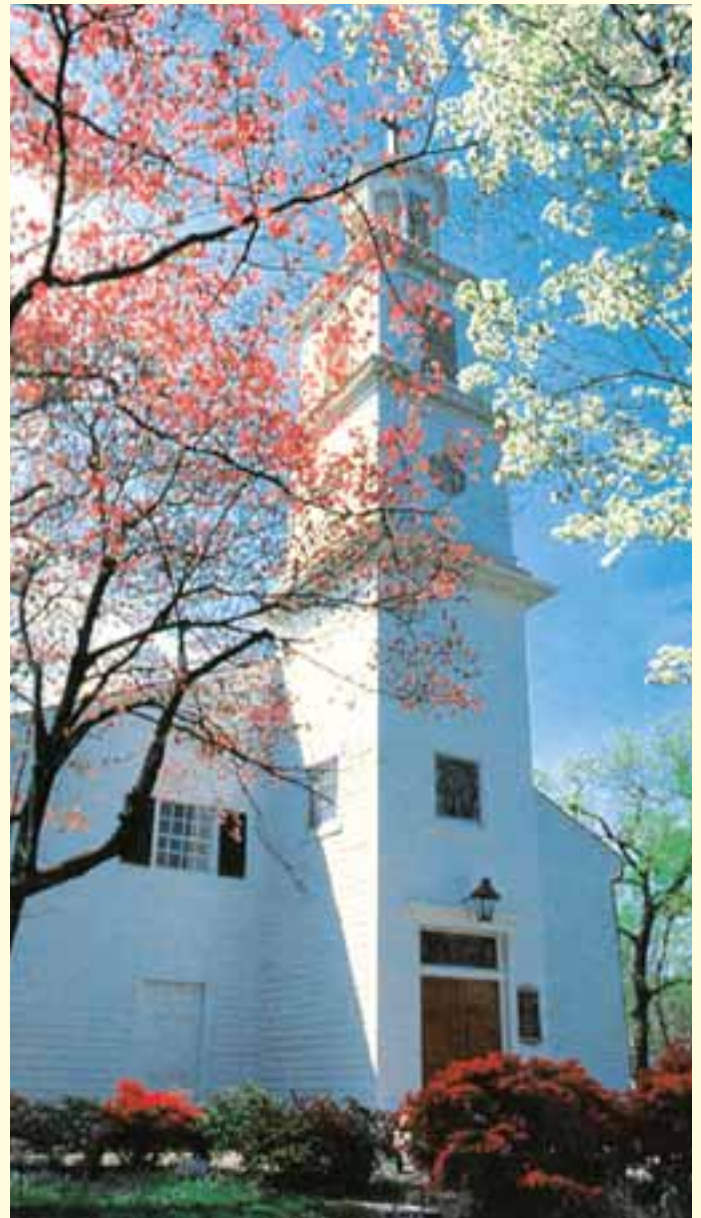
Henry's career in the Virginia legislature from 1765 to 1791 straddled the American Revolution. He helped draft the Virginia Constitution of 1776 and it's Declaration of Rights. He then served five terms as governor of the independent commonwealth. A leading critic of the Constitution in the ratification debates of 1787-1788, Henry strongly influenced the creation of the Bill of Rights.

Following his death on June 6, 1799, Henry was buried at his final home, Red Hill, in Charlotte County, now the site of the Patrick Henry National Memorial. American soldiers of the Revolutionary War marched into battle carrying "Liberty or Death" flags. More recently, student protesters in China's Tiananmen Square carried signs emblazoned with Henry's enduring words. Known as the "Voice of the Revolution," Patrick Henry's words have inspired generations around the world.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

St. John's Church became famous as a living memorial to American liberty when over 100 Virginia colonial leaders, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, and Peyton Randolph, met in the church during the Second Virginia Convention of March 1775. Patrick Henry defended his provocative resolution to put the colony into a state of defense before his fellow delegates.

The delegates convened at the Henrico Parish Church, now known as **St. John's Church**, in order to organize their protests against the British government. In order to avoid the wrath of Royal Governor Lord Dunmore,



St. John's Church (photo courtesy St. John's Church Visitor Center)



the delegates met in Richmond. **St. John's Church** was the only building in the small town large enough to hold the delegates.

Patrick Henry's famous speech in defense of liberty occurred on 23 March 1775 inside the church. His oration sparked the fire of revolution in the colony. Henry's timely resolutions passed by a narrow margin and he became a visionary the following month when shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, marking the beginning of the American Revolution. Henry's impassioned plea, "Give me liberty or give me death," has endured as the most famous cry for freedom in the world.

You can explore the historic significance of **St. John's Church** through guided tours, performances of Patrick Henry's speech, and through a permanent exhibition in our Visitor Center that features information on the political climate of Virginia and Patrick Henry's career as a great orator who defended the rights of the colonists. The gift shop is a must see, featuring colonial souvenirs, books, and gift items.

(see advertisement this page & inside back cover)

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

*Closer Than
You Think!*

Smith Mountain Lake in Central Virginia is an amazing region covering three counties, Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania. People from all walks of life, nearby and from far away have found **Smith Mountain Lake** to be the ideal place for a short get-away or to 'set their anchor' for a lifetime. With a clear glistening lake covering 500 miles of shoreline, four breathtaking seasons of color in a moderate climate, surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains and central to the metropolitan areas of Roanoke, Lynchburg and Martinsville, what's not to love? **Smith Mountain Lake** provides the perfect setting for every interest and lifestyle, be it wall-to-wall activities or just plain quiet and relaxing.

Visitors to the area have so many options, they often return time and again to experience every adventure. A warm welcome and genuine hospitality are just part of the ambiance of visiting **Smith Mountain Lake**. A diverse selection of dining options provides the ideal setting. Choose from a



Revolution Reenactors (photo courtesy St. John's Church Visitor Center)

casual lakeside burger and fries to an elegant candlelight dinner and there is a world of options in between. Recreational opportunities come in all forms, shapes and sizes. With five golf courses, three miniature golf courses, hiking, biking, sailing, kayaking, wake boarding, incredible fishing and all the other options, choosing between activities is the only dilemma.

Those who relish history gravi-

tate to the area with the multitude of historical sites including the U.S. D-Day Memorial, Booker T. Washington National Monument and much more. Civil War re-enactments are just some of the unique, interactive historical events offered. Art lovers appreciate the beauty and quality of shops and galleries throughout the area. Shoppers have an array of options with quaint gift shops, antiques,

St. John's Church
 Hanover Courthouse
 Hanover Tavern
Scotchtown
 Red Hill
 Polegreen Church
 Studley
Rural Plains
 Pine Slash
 Hampden-Sydney College

Road to Revolution
 Heritage Trail

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