



# HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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## Harrisonburg’s Semiquincentennial Commemoration Begins March 2

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg community is invited to step back through history and learn more about the nation’s founding, and Harrisonburg’s role in it, through a series of events kicking off soon.

The Harrisonburg VA250 Committee, working in partnership with Rockingham County’s committee, has planned numerous events across the area to recognize the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the historic events surrounding the founding of America. Events, which begin March 2 and span the next several months, include numerous exhibits and demonstrations about the nation’s history with a focus on the Shenandoah Valley.

“Our commemorative activities highlight 250 years of area history with the theme of ‘Our History is America’s History,’” Harrisonburg Tourism Manager Jennifer Bell, the Harrisonburg VA250 Committee chair, said. “Participants will be able to watch a historic movie, tour the mobile museum that’s coming to Harrisonburg High School, listen to academics discuss the importance of the founding and much more, all for free.”



(Above) The VA250 Mobile Museum that will be coming to Harrisonburg High School in March.

Kickoff week of America’s Semiquincentennial will include a number of exciting community events, such as:

- March 2 – A new Harrisonburg History Trail (pictured right) will be launched with brochures available at major historic sites and online at [www.VisitHarrisonburgVA.com/history](http://www.VisitHarrisonburgVA.com/history) and at the Hardesty-Higgins Visitor Center, 212 S. Main St.
- March 2 – A collaboration between Harrisonburg VA250, Virginia Public Media (VPM) and James Madison University (JMU) to host Freedom and Revolution: America 250-Then and Now. This is a panel discussion event at JMU which includes snippets from Ken Burns “The

HISTORIC SITES • MUSEUMS • BATTLEFIELDS • CEMETERIES • MONUMENTS • TOURS & MORE ...

**HARRISONBURG HISTORY TRAIL**

Step into the stories that shaped the Shenandoah Valley along the Harrisonburg History Trail, a self-guided journey through Harrisonburg and Rockingham County: from battlefields and caverns to historic homes, mills, and museums, each stop invites you to explore, engage, and experience the places that bring the past to life.

**HARRISONBURG**

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Rockwood History 387 N. Main St., Dayton	8 Port Republic Battlefield 7055 One Coast Rd., Port Republic	15 Valley Temple Museum & Civil War Observation Center 212 S. Main St., Harrisonburg
2 Virginia Cuth Western 2200 Sweet Lane Rd., Dayton	9 Blue Ridge Heritage Project Monument 2009 W. Main and Gold St., Elton	16 Court Square & Spring House 90 Court Sq., Harrisonburg
3 Fort Harrison 133 Main St., Dayton	10 Millers Hope House Museum 310 F. Rockingham St., Elton	17 Larry W. Sisk Hunt Fire Museum 121 N. Main St., 2nd floor, Harrisonburg
4 Bridgewater Historical Society Museum 100 S. Main St., Bridgewater	11 Long’s Chapel 1342 Fridays Gap Rd., Harrisonburg	18 Lacy Simms & Simms School Exhibit 620 Adams Ave., Harrisonburg
5 Bridgewater College 402 E. College St., Bridgewater	12 Mulhoad Caverns 6429 N. Valley Pike, Harrisonburg	19 Eastern Mennonite University 1200 Park St., Harrisonburg
6 Cross Keys Battlefield 5044 Battlefield Rd., Harrisonburg	13 Shenandoah Tunnel Mill 6007 Turnpike Rd., Harrisonburg	20 Bridwell & Menzies Heritage Center 1201 Heritage Center Way, Harrisonburg
7 Port Republic Museum 8991 Water St., Port Republic	14 Phoenix Historic Memorial Museum 178 N. Main St., Timbaville	21 James Madison University 215 S. Main St., Harrisonburg
		22 Turner Family Museum 1164 Turner Alley Ln., Harrisonburg

American Revolution” film. Panelists include two JMU history professors, Patrick Campbell from Montpelier and Jayme Swain, president of VPM, as moderator. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. at JMU’s Wilson Hall (doors open at 5:30)

- March 5 – Religious Communities during the Revolutionary War event. A Community Conversation on the Mennonite and Brethren experience in the Shenandoah Valley during the Revolutionary War. Featuring Dr. Carl Bowman, distinguished historian of the Church of the Brethren; Elwood Yoder, leading expert on Mennonite History and interim Executive Director at the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center; and Dr. Robert Browne, professor of religion at James Madison University. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. at JMU Memorial Hall.

- March 4 to 6 – VA250 Mobile Museum at Harrisonburg High School. A hands-on, interactive and immersive “museum on wheels,” the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience titled “Out of Many, One” is housed in a large tractor trailer that is traveling throughout Virginia. The mobile museum highlights key stories of Virginia’s history. Learn more at <https://va250.org/mobile-museum/>. Times: Wednesday, March 4, and Thursday, March 5, from 3 to 7 p.m. and Friday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- March 6 – Film screening of "The American Constitution" at JMU Grafton Stovall Theater. The film, set in 1787 Philadelphia, features a superb cast of actors who bring the framers to life. Best-selling authors and leading historians masterfully reveal how George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin and a cadre of unsung delegates crafted a document that changed the world. Time: 5 p.m.

More information about upcoming events is available at <https://visitharrisonburgva.com/VA250/>. More information on JMU activities can be found at <https://www.jmu.edu/civic/programs/virginia-250.shtml>.

***The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

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