Morrow to Deliver Governor Henry Lecture on the Private War Between Patrick Henry and Lord Dunmore

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George Morrow II, the author and publisher of a book series entitled "Williamsburg in Character," will deliver the annual Governor Henry Lecture at the Library of Virginia on Tuesday, November 13, at 5:30 PM and at Hampden-Sydney College’s Crawley Forum on Wednesday, November 14, at 7:00 PM. Entitled “We Must Fight!: The Private War Between Patrick Henry and Lord Dunmore, the lecture will focus on the personalities at play as Virginia moved toward breaking with Great Britain.

Virginia's Revolution was less the result of events than of personalities; less the product of a misunderstanding than of a mutual conviction that "After all, we must fight." Those were Patrick Henry's words, and when they are compared to Lord Dunmore's December 24 reply to the king's rebuke, "these Virginians should be made to suffer the misery of which they themselves are the author," it is clear that Henry and Dunmore were of one mind about the inevitability of war. Had it not taken weeks for the governor's letters to reach London, he might have been stopped. Had Henry not been an oratorical force of nature, Virginians might have given peace a chance. But both men were effectively beyond recall, and what they achieved together, revolution and war—though it would later be ascribed to political differences—was actually the result of irreconcilable similarities in character aggravated by contempt on one side and a bottomless need for revenge on the other.

The lecture is jointly sponsored by the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Hampden-Sydney College, and the Library of Virginia. The lectures are open to the public at no charge. Free parking is available, and a reception follows each event.

The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation (www.PatrickHenry.com) owns and operates Red Hill, the patriot's last home and burial place overlooking the Staunton River in Charlotte County, Virginia. The Library of Virginia (www.lva.virginia.gov) holds the world's most extensive collection of material about the Old Dominion and has been a steward of the commonwealth's documentary and printed heritage since 1823. Founded in 1775 as a private liberal arts college for men, Hampden-Sydney College (www.hsc.edu) is the tenth oldest in the United States.

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