

Society Members Participate in History Day Activities June 17, 2017

The Heathsville Farmers Market in Northumberland County on Saturday, June 17th featured a "Living History" encampment. The non-profit Rice's Hotel / Hughlett's Tavern Foundation conducted the event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the grounds adjacent to the Tavern in Heathsville. The Tavern dates back to the late 1700's. It is located just off Route 360 behind the old Northumberland Courthouse in Heathsville. See photo below:



All local "historical" groups were invited to have a presence at this event. The encampment spread out over the Tavern's "Green", which was the grassy area behind the Tavern. The cost was \$10 for each non-profit group, which helped defray the cost of advertising for the Tavern.

The Heathsville Farmers Market drew a large and engaged public from local communities on the Northern Neck of Virginia. Folks came to buy local produce, meat, cheese, baked goods, shellfish and handcrafts. This provided a built-in audience for historical groups to create awareness for their activities and goals.

Three members of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia in addition to being members of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution set up displays hoping to attract new members but with the added goal to provide historical information about the two wars and how it affected local history. Many 18th and early 19th century flags and artifacts were displayed.

Charles Belfield dressed as Colonel James Monroe, George Beckett wore Revolutionary War attire and Hugh Markham wore War of 1812 attire. They answered many questions and entertained a large number of attendees to the event. Two photos taken follow:



From the left is Hugh Markham, Charles Belfield, and George Beckett. Note the large number of flags they displayed



Shown is Hugh Markham and George Beckett talking to a visitor. On the table is a display made by Charles Belfield of the birthplace of President James Monroe that is currently being constructed on his father, Spence Monroe's home site in Westmoreland County. Charles is the supervisor of the building of the boyhood home and the farm's outbuildings.