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Dedication of Friends of New London Museum and Unveiling of New London Monument

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**Dedication of Friends of New London Museum and Unveiling of New London  
Monument  
July 13, 2019 – 2 P.M.**

PRELUDE: Nellie S. Knight, former pianist of the New London Methodist Church South (NLMCS)

WELCOME: Friends of New London Chairman, Randy Lichtenberger

INVOCATION: Led by The Rev. Schooler, former pastor of the NLMCS

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by The Rev. Schooler

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES: Chm. Lichtenberger

ACKNOWLEDGE TEASS FAMILY

ACKNOWLEDGE BILL AND CAROLE GLAHN

ACKNOWLEDGE FRIENDS OF NEW LONDON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW LONDON: Chm. Lichtenberger

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

INTRODUCTION OF TEASS FAMILY SPEAKER

ADJOURN TO UNVEILING

## New London History

In 1754, Bedford County was formed from the division of Lunenburg County. William Callaway donated 100 acres of land for creation of the new county seat of New London. Situated near the intersection of the Great Wagon Road and the Wilderness Road, the town was an important stopping point for settlers traveling west. During the colonial period the young town grew to include at least 80 dwellings, including stores, taverns, blacksmith shops and a tannery.

It was in the courthouse located in New London that Patrick Henry delivered his famous "beef" speech during the John Hook trial. Other prominent historical figures with connections to New London include Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson constructed his retreat, Poplar Forest, near New London in Bedford County. New London was also home to a Revolutionary-era Continental Army arsenal. In 1781, Bedford County was divided in two, forming Campbell County. The county seat was then relocated, and the former bustling commercial center declined.

In the 19th century, the rising popularity of mineral springs sparked a brief revival. The Bedford Alum Springs Hotel, located in New London, drew visitors seeking the benefits of the nearby natural springs. The town sought to capitalize on this attraction and briefly changed its name from New London to Bedford Springs.

New London is home to several historic structures and many important archaeological sites. Mead's Tavern is the sole remaining building from the colonial era, but several historic buildings from the later period are still standing. These include the former Bedford Alum Springs Hotel, the office of Dr. Nicholas Kabler, the W.W. Driskill General Store, two Methodist churches, and the Holt-Ashwell House. The New London Academy, which is located one mile west of the village, is still in operation today as an elementary school.

In 2005 the Friends of New London nonprofit organization was incorporated to preserve, study and promote New London history. The Friends now own three historic properties and host an annual New London Day in October as well as smaller events throughout the year.

In 2015, the Friends sold the 1763 Mead's Tavern to Liberty University. The university has used the property to provide hands-on learning opportunities. Students currently are working with professional archaeologists and architectural historians to uncover new information about the building, the town, and the people who lived and worked there. The university recently purchased the Bedford Alum Springs Hotel and is continuing its partnership with the Friends of New London to research and promote New London history (Wikipedia: New London, Virginia).