

### Pemberton Hall - 1741

One of the earliest dated brick gambrel roofed houses in Maryland, Pemberton Hall was built for Col. Isaac and Anne Dashiell Handy and is typical of a mid-eighteenth century Eastern Shore plantation house of its class. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the house is under restoration by Pemberton Hall Foundation, Inc., a community based non-profit organization. The house is open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 1 - 3 p.m., May through October, 2026, and by appointment. Pemberton Hall may be rented for receptions and special occasions.

### Pemberton Hall Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors:

Sylvia Bradley  
Terri Chiddenton  
Mark Cotter  
Shirley Kerns  
Joan Matyiko  
Ed Otter  
Mike Scott  
Pat Taylor  
Bill Wilson, Emeritus

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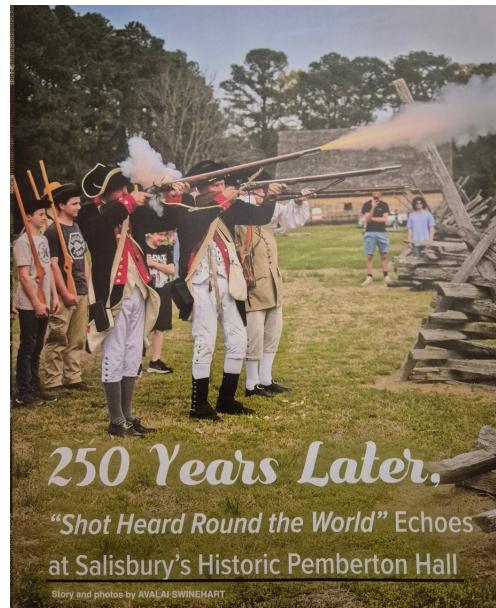
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**Volunteers welcome!**

**Donations are appreciated!**

### NOVEMBER 2025 NEWS LETTER



### 250 Years Later,

*“Shot Heard Round the World” Echoes  
at Salisbury’s Historic Pemberton Hall*

Story and photos by AVALAI SWINEHART

**THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD** echoed at Pemberton Hall on April 19, 2025, commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775. At Lexington and Concord on that eventful day, a skirmish between the Colonists and British troops set the stage for a revolutionary conflict that changed world history forever. The bridge to America’s independence began there. The Pemberton Hall event featured colonial food and beverages, colonial music led by Meri Holden, and militia reenactments including the firing of muskets in honor of the anniversary. Pemberton volunteers led tours of the house. Event guests Bill Wilson, Ron Howard and Bill Voight provided Salisbury Scout Troop 817 with a

hands-on experience with muskets enriching their historical engagement. Tim Robinson, Adjunct Faculty II/History at Salisbury University, recounted the history of the Lexington and Concord battles. This commemoration also paid tribute to Henry Handy, owner of Pemberton during the Revolution, who was appointed Ensign in the Somerset County Militia on the Eastern Shore. This event was a precursor to the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration to be held at Pemberton in 2026.

(Photograph & article by Avalai Swinehart, May 2025 Metropolitan magazine)

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On Friday, April 16, the milkhouse was damaged by a tree blown over during a windstorm. Expert House Movers and volunteers took the tree limbs off the milkhouse, cleaned up, put the tree trash and limbs over the fence, and sawed the rest of the tree into manageable pieces. County Maintenance contributed a huge service by hauling the debris to the landfill. After much research to locate fabricators who would honor historical parameters for repair, the roof was repaired and the interior mold was remediated while plastering is still needed to complete the project. With the donation by Expert House Movers and insurance reimbursement, most of the repair costs should be covered.





**SPLIT RAIL FENCE PROJECT** - Dave & Terri Chiddenton, Bill Wilson, JC & Pat Taylor, Mark Cotter, Jerry & Joan Matyko, Ric & Marsha Bloodsworth, Iris Powell, and Salisbury Scout Troop 817, along with troop leaders have been renovating the split rail fence intermittently for more than 4 months. Recently, the scouts worked tirelessly for two solid days, completing most of the work under Dave and Bill's guidance. Grant money purchased 600 rails enabling the scouts to rebuild approximately 78 sections in addition to the 16 sections completed the previous year. The renovation included an area from Mulberry Wharf to the parking lot. Additional sections were rebuilt from the chicken coop to the pathway under Dave Chiddenton's direction. Next year the scouts will be completing approximately 60 more sections to finish their scout badge requirements.

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Visitors from Deal Island



Pat Taylor with Handy descendants Parker & Kyle Thomas who gifted Pemberton 10 copies of the Handy Annals, a treasured genealogy reference



A lovely fall wedding at Pemberton



Meri Holden interprets Pemberton Hall for fifth grade visitors from Prince Street Elementary School.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS 2026



On May 3, 2026, 1-4 p.m., the opening day of the Pemberton Hall house tour season, Pemberton Hall will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Year of National Independence with an event featuring colonial, food, beverages, colonial reenactors, and musket firing. The event will focus on the July 26, 1775 Declaration of the Association of the Freemen of Maryland. This official declaration, signed a year before the Declaration of Independence, asserts that the British government was subverting the rights and freedoms of the American colonists. In response to what they saw as tyrannical acts, the Freemen of Maryland pledged to unite and resist British rule with force if necessary. Signers from Somerset County included Samuel, John C. and Levin Handy. These men, along with Henry Handy of Pemberton Hall and his cousin Colonel George Handy of Handy Hall, descended from Samuel Handy, Progenitor (died 1721). Each contributed in a meaningful way to the patriot cause.

On Sunday, January 4, 2026, 2 - 4 p.m., Pemberton Hall invites the community to a celebration of Twelfth Night which traditionally marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas. Colonial food, beverage and music will be provided with a small admission of \$5. Join us for good cheer on a wintry afternoon!

