

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



April 2014 Highlights



Memorial Plaque Inauguration at Cooch's Bridge

News Along the Trail

Cooch's Farm, Delaware - April 5, 2014

On Saturday morning, April 5th a well-attended ceremony at Pencader and Cooch's Farm in Delaware was held which included the inauguration of a Memorial Plaque dedicated to Rochambeau and the French Army who along with the Colonial Army, camped and passed here. W3R®-DE in collaboration with many partners including the Cooch family; Pencader Historic Society; local, state and county elected officials; Alliance Française de Wilmington; the Association of Teachers of French - Delaware Chapter; and too many organizations and individuals to name here helped organize and participate in the event. The event was supported by matching funds from an NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant from W3R®-US. Two re-enactors from America's March to Yorktown, Rose Morin and David Holloway, travelled from Connecticut to attend. For more news and to see photos of the memorial, speakers, and attendees, please visit http://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/article_4872c8a6-4afb-5856-b5fd-b79444692076.html

Treaty of Paris Celebration, Annapolis, Maryland - April 6, 2014

On Sunday, April 6th, 50 people, including members of W3R®-US, W3R®-MD and others met in Annapolis to celebrate the signing of the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Robert Reyes, W3R®-MD, arranged a guided tour of the Maryland State House, Site of the Treaty of Paris Ratification and where George Washington resigned from the military. We also visited the French monument erected in 1911 and the site of the 37th French encampment of 1781. Congress convened in Annapolis during what is referred to as the Treaty of Paris period of 1783-87. The American Revolution formally ended with the Treaty of Paris Proclamation signed by Thomas Mifflin, then president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation. Each of the 50 people who attended the dinner in the Treaty of Paris restaurant at the Maryland Inn received commemorative lapel pins, courtesy of W3R®-US, with the Washington-Rochambeau NHT logo.



1783 Treaty of Paris Celebration in Annapolis

W3R®-US Meeting, Annapolis, Maryland - April 7, 2014

On Monday, April 7th, W3R®-US Chair, Ursula Reed presided as 26 people attended a Board and Annual Membership meeting held at the Chesapeake Bay Offices in Annapolis at “The Fish Shack”. Chuck Hunt, Superintendent, of the NPS Chesapeake Bay Program office made the space available to W3R®-US, and he attended a portion of the meeting to share his experience and insights into the American and French Alliance. Prior to the Board meeting, Chuck invited Joe to meet the NPS staff from the Chesapeake Bay Program where they discussed the challenges and opportunities for coordinating our Chesapeake Bay activities. W3R PA and US’ Lanny Patten Chaired the Nominating Committee, adding four new Directors, including retired NPS historian, Gary Scott who now represents Washington, DC; Kurt Zwikl, Ex. Director of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, PA; Craig Long, Rockland County Historian, NY; and Teno West, Principal and founder, Pannonne, Lopes, Devereaux and West, Attorneys, NY. After much discussion about Education Programs and plans for the 2015 Voyage of l’Hermione, the Board of Directors unanimously voted Nicole Yancey to Chair the Hermione Committee. Lanny also made a motion to approve Samantha Driscoll’s proposal for communications consulting and the Board unanimously approved. Minutes from the Board meeting will be made available. The next W3R®-US Board meeting will be in Yorktown, VA on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

New York Outdoor Wayside Exhibits

Work continues on the development of outdoor wayside exhibits for fifteen sites in New York selected as destinations for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. Each site will receive two exhibit panels. One will be a site-specific interpretive exhibit linking the site to part of the Washington-Rochambeau story. The second exhibit will be an overall orientation panel about the Washington-Rochambeau NHT with an inset “You-Are-Here” map showing the locations of the fifteen destinations in New York. We see this partnership project in New York as a prototype for wayside exhibits along the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. Draft text and exhibit layouts were sent to each destination. Consensus was reached with all fifteen destinations, a number of national and local historians, NPS Washington-Rochambeau staff, and staff from the NPS Harpers Ferry Design Center. In the coming weeks, we anticipate receiving from the designer revised exhibit layouts that should be very close to final. As it stands at the moment, the exhibits should be delivered by the end of 2014. Phil Correll has been managing this draft exhibit review process along with help from Susan Haines and Neil Mackay from Harpers Ferry.

Phil is also working with the New York destinations to get a General Agreement in place that formalizes the partnership between the NPS and each site. To date, agreements have been signed by the Fishkill Historical Society, Village of Suffern, City of Peekskill, U.S. Military Academy - West Point, and Town of North Salem. We are close to completing agreements with the other ten New York sites that include the Bedford Central School District; Village of Dobbs Ferry; Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site (Newburgh); New York Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Inc. (Odell House, Hartsdale); St. Peter’s Church of Cortlandt, Inc.; North Castle Historical Society; Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site; Town of Cortlandt Manor (Verplanck); City of White Plains; and Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park.

Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan 2014-2018

The Land Preservation and Recreation Plan will help guide land conservation and development of outdoor recreation opportunities over the next five years and builds upon the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative. It serves as Maryland’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and qualifies the state to receive funding through the state side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. The state plan has a stand-alone trail section (Chapter 4: Connecting People and Places) and a section on National Trails is included in the conservation section (Chapter 5: Land Protection and Conservation). Click here and go to page 126 to see the section on National Trails. http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/Stewardship/pdfs/LPRP/Chapter5_Protection.pdf . A discussion of scenic byways is also included in the conservation section and more information on the Maryland Scenic Byways Program may be found here: <http://roads.maryland.gov/index.aspx?pageid=97&d=56>

Independence Visitor Center

One of the immediate project needs is to update the Washington-Rochambeau NHT display now located in the Independence National Historical Park (INDE) Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia. We hope to refresh and enhance this display in cooperation with INDE and our partners. This short-term fix is needed to introduce the local community to the NHT and inform visiting school groups and teachers about the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT.

Encampment Celebrates New Jersey's Role in the Revolution

More than 2,000 people celebrated New Jersey's 350th anniversary and the state's role in the American Revolution during Morristown National Historical Park's annual encampment weekend on April 5th and 6th. The encampment was in the Jockey Hollow area of the park where a veteran Continental Army encamped in the bitter cold winter of 1779-1780, the fifth winter of the American Revolution. "This event is for our community—our neighbors, children, scouts and partners," said Tom Ross, the park's Superintendent. "This region is proud of the history that happened in our backyards, and the encampment brings that history to life." To see more about upcoming events at Morristown, <http://www.nps.gov/morr/planyourvisit/events.htm>

Patriot's Day in Massachusetts

A series of April events was planned to commemorate the opening battle of the American Revolutionary War with parades, reenactments and special ceremonies in Massachusetts. For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/mima/patriots-day.htm>

L'Hermione

We also anticipate that visitors from near and far will want to know more about the NHT in anticipation of the arrival of the reconstructed French frigate L'Hermione on its East Coast tour in 2015. The ship, assigned to Lafayette, brought him from France to Boston in 1780. Lafayette then met up with General Washington and rejoined his campaign. Hermione joined DeGrasse's fleet for the Battle off the Capes on the lower Chesapeake and the siege at Yorktown. The ship then sailed to Philadelphia in 1781 where the Continental Congress visited and paid tribute to her.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign...

There is much interest in "marking" the NHT and pointing out this great asset in communities along the route from Boston, MA, to Virginia Beach, VA. As many of you know, there is clear economic benefit to tourism, preservation, conservation, recreation, trails and parks. We are in the process of developing some guidelines for working with partners interested in marking the route, developing and installing way finding and wayside exhibits, entering into general agreements, providing design guidelines and placement and use of the NHT logo. We are reviewing content for a series of maps, brochures and a kiosk on the Mason Neck of Virginia being developed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that will prominently feature the Chesapeake Bay, Captain John Smith NHT, Star-Spangled Banner NHT, Potomac Heritage NST and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT.

NHT Updates

Registration of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT Logo

Amanda Jones of the NPS Northeast Regional Office and Stephan Nofield and Helen Scully at NPS headquarters are helping us advance the process of getting the Washington-Rochambeau NHT's official logo listed in the Federal Register. This will help us and our partners when using the logo on signs, publications, exhibits, etc. We have many requests pending for digital files for use by partners.

Planning Ahead

Planning is critical to the future of the NHT, particularly in the ever-changing environment we face. Many of you have participated in the early phases of our strategic planning effort, and we have begun the next phase, which is what we call the Foundation Document. Building on the earlier efforts, this document will provide a base or foundation for future NPS planning and action. Allen Cooper, Chief of Planning, and Peter Iris-Williams, Planner, both with the NPS Northeast Regional Office, are developing a draft purpose statement, significance statements, and themes that we hope to share with you soon.

Phil Correll assembled our plan for the Northeast Region Servicewide Comprehensive Call which is a program that develops and refines our 5-year project funding forecast from 2016-2020. The forecast is accompanied by a projected operating budget over the next five years. Keep in mind that this is merely a projection (or wish list) of what could be done and not a commitment that funds will be provided.

The NPS is celebrating its centennial in 2016. The NPS' Call to Action plan offers tangible, concrete ways for us to work together to transform our organization to make sure that we are ready for a future that is so different from our past. Learn more about our mission and please join us in the stewardship of our nation's most incredible places. We need your creativity, innovation and dedication to make these action items real. Please log on and share your ideas at <http://nextcenturyforparks.org/centennial/2016-national-park-service-centennial/>

2025-2034 will mark the 250th Anniversary of America's War for Independence. The NHT not only highlights an important event, but can also serve as a connection or link to NPS units, heritage areas, state and local parks, trails, recreation areas, museums and many outstanding natural resources along the way.

Items of Interest

Website and Google Maps of the NHT

Please visit the NPS website, www.nps.gov/waro to learn more about the NHT. To see the Google maps of the NHT auto route, follow this link to the 'Directions' page of the NPS site and click on the desired state. <http://www.nps.gov/waro/planyourvisit/directions.htm>

Delaware History Trail

The state that started the nation welcomes you to explore the Delaware History Trail, a journey to experience the First State's historical treasures. The trail highlights significant locations statewide that have influenced the history of Delaware and our nation. Check out the website and passport program: <http://www.visitdelaware.com/delaware-history-trail/>

New Markers approved for 2014 in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recently approved 21 new historical markers. Updated approval criteria now requires that marker subjects must have statewide and/or national rather than local or regional historical significance. The majority of approvals were from the City of Philadelphia, with ten total. Philadelphia has more than 250 existing markers, nearly double that of Allegheny County's 150, the second most marked county in Pennsylvania. This is not a surprise as Philadelphia has such a rich history and is such a large city. The Marker Program encourages broad distribution, but often receives nominations with local significance from more rural or less populated areas. To read more: <http://pahistoricpreservation.com/new-markers-approved-2014>

Revolutionary War Tours

Sal Lilienthal, owner of the Bicycle Tour Company, and Mary Collins, Associate Professor at Central Connecticut State University, prepared a series of Revolutionary War themed bike tours in Connecticut. Visit the website and see the Connecticut tours by clicking here: <http://www.revolutionarybattles.com/> Sal has also written *Revolutionary Battles: Experience America's Roads to Independence*. In this recently published book, Sal describes a series of bike tours focused on places associated with the American Revolution. He describes these tours (which you can also drive or walk) and the Revolutionary War history associated with them in detail. For more info about the book, contact Sal at info@bicycletours.com.

Common-place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life

Common-place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life just published a special issue that includes short essays and videos from the American Revolution Reborn conference held last year in Philadelphia. The issue includes essays from distinguished historians writing about the meaning and significance of the American Revolution and imbedded videos that capture some of the most probing questions and comments from the conference. You can see the special issue here: <http://www.common-place.org/vol-14/no-03/>

Read the Revolution

The Museum of the American Revolution issues Read the Revolution, a biweekly newsletter to inspire learning about the history of the American Revolution and its ongoing relevance. To subscribe to Read the Revolution, visit <http://amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution>

To learn more about the Museum's progress and plans for a national museum in Philadelphia that will tell the complete story of the Revolution, visit <http://timelife.americanrevolutioncenter.org/about>

This link is to a noted historical book. You can read some interesting articles by noted historians. http://www.publicbookshelf.com/public_html/The_Great_Republic_By_the_Master_Historians_Vol_II/

And if you'd like to see more articles and videos, please visit: <http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/american-revolution-history/videos>

Upcoming Events

Society of the Cincinnati Free Lecture, Washington DC George Washington's Diamond Eagle - May 13, 2014

The Society of the Cincinnati is the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution. Its mission is to promote knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence and to foster fellowship among its members. Now a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the principles and ideals of its founders, the modern Society maintains its headquarters, library and museum at Anderson House in Washington, D.C. Join the Society of the Cincinnati's curator, Emily Schulz, for a rare look into the history of George Washington's Diamond Eagle, the magnificent diamond-encrusted Society Eagle insignia. Made in Paris in 1784, the Diamond Eagle was a gift to George Washington from officers of the French navy, and has been worn by every president general over the last two hundred years. This lecture will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for questions at the end. For more information: <http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/events/public>

Connecticut National Trails Day Events - June 7, 2014

June 7 is National Trails Day. It is an excellent way to celebrate the NHT and Connecticut, Still Revolutionary. There will be a W3R®-CT meeting in Lebanon, CT, on June 7, 2014, combined with other events and activities. Hans DePold will accompany Eric de Rochambeau and his wife Camilla along the NHT that day and can provide more details about events in CT. You can learn more about National Trails Day and register here: <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

New York Path Through History Weekends

In 2012 Governor Cuomo unveiled New York's "Path through History," a statewide initiative that links historically and culturally significant sites, locations and events throughout New York State. This effort aims not only to showcase the state's history and cultural significance, but also to promote tourism and economic development in communities across the State.

The Path through History Weekends will be held on June 7-8 and 14-15. If your organization is holding an event during this timeframe that connects with New York history, we encourage you to submit the event today. If your event takes place during the week, you will have the option to submit those dates as well. For additional information about the Path through History Weekends, please visit: <http://www.path-throughhistoryweekends.com/Home.aspx>

PA Forum 2014 Philadelphia PA July 16-20, 2014

FORUM 2014 will bring together the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial training program for local preservation boards and commissions with the Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Heritage/Byways to the Past, July 16-20, 2014, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Plan ahead for a fun-filled and information packed program about historic preservation planning and cultural resource management. Learn more here: <https://classic.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1239917>
<http://www.pennbyways.org/>