

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



August 2014 Highlights



News Along the Trail

Phil Correll, Emeritus Volunteer

Phil Correll, who retired in July 2014 after 21 years with the National Park Service, has signed up with us as an Emeritus Volunteer so he can share his skills and his passion for the NPS and the NHT. He will continue helping us with the design and development of NY wayside exhibits as time permits. Huzzah and welcome back to Phil!

Funding the NHT: NPS Challenge Cost Share

The NPS and W3R®-US continue efforts to get the word out and 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 temporarily refresh and enhance this display and provide additional programs and material in cooperation with INDE and our partners. This short-term fix is needed to introduce the NHT to the local community and to inform visitors, school groups, and teachers about the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT. Thousands of people and school age children walk the route of the NHT in Philadelphia each day without knowing about it. And the NHT physically connects the Delaware River Waterfront, future Museum of the American Revolution, Independence Mall,

the Schuylkill River Trail, and points beyond with many opportunities to experience the outdoors and learn about history. The National Park Service and the Outdoor Foundation made \$390,000 available nationwide. Projects must address one or more of the following three thematic categories: Urban Outreach, Youth Engagement and Connecting People to the Outdoors. Our application with a match by W3R-US will reach tens of thousands by creatively upgrading the display at the visitor center at Independence National Historical Park, improving signage and information in downtown Philadelphia and offering living history programs for kids canoeing, hiking, and biking along the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. Unfortunately, our proposal was not funded this time around but we will continue to pursue the project and look for other sources of funding.

Lanny Patten, Sons of the American Revolution and W3R-US and PA, Ursula Reed, Chair, W3R-US, and Joe DiBello met in Philadelphia on August 14 to discuss efforts in Pennsylvania and the challenge cost share proposal. Lanny noted that The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) have supported first the effort to designate the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as part of the national trail system, and after its designation in 2009 the national society and state societies have chipped in with support on a steady basis. Lanny affirmed his continuing support for the NHT and for matching the challenge cost share as we move ahead.

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 entire 700 mile Washington-Rochambeau NHT. We are working with NPS' Harper's Ferry Center to update the map on the orientation panels. As it stands at the moment, the exhibits should be delivered by the end of 2014.

Fishkill Supply Depot Grant

Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot, New York were pleased to receive a \$24,600 from the American Battlefield Protection Program. This project will create maps that depict archeological features of the Fishkill Supply Depot, which was George Washington's principal supply depot during the Revolutionary War. The maps will highlight the historical overview, archeological inventory, and topographic features. The depot was pivotal for winning the Battles of Saratoga, and is the largest burial ground for Revolutionary War soldiers in the country. The maps will create a baseline of all known features and contribute to increased public awareness and site preservation. This is one of the 21 grants totaling \$1.358 million awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program to assist in the preservation and protection of America's significant battlefield lands. To see more about the program and the projects awarded, visit <http://www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2014grantawards.htm>

D.C. Transportation Alternative Program Application

Gary Scott, D.C. Representative of the W3R-US got the ball rolling on this and suggested that we apply for a DC TAP grant to identify the D.C. resources and features associated with the route taken by the revolutionary forces on their way to Yorktown, VA. in 1780-1783. Washington, D.C. did not exist as a separate jurisdiction at the time and urban development has erased almost all traces of the rural campsites, trails, routes, landscapes and buildings that existed then. But some remain and there are opportunities to visit and experience some of these places and tell the story. In the first phase, we will obtain more details about the specific routes taken and identify specific sites and ways to tell the story at some of the many existing D.C. trails, parkways, bike trails, parks, museums, transit routes, tours, etc. If successful, we will then prepare for a second phase to develop pull offs, create wayside exhibits, design and install route markers, prepare maps and publications, navigation applications, provide public access points and programs that will allow residents and visitors to learn about and experience the NHT. We anticipate that residents and visitors know little about this revolutionary route although many regularly travel the same paths as our revolutionary forefathers did years ago.

Items of Interest

L'Hermione

The arrival of the reconstructed French frigate L'Herminette on its East Coast tour in 2015, is a great opportunity to reach people and tell them about the NHT along her journey and stops in the Northeast which include Yorktown, D.C., Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Newport RI and Boston. The ship, assigned to Lafayette, brought him from France to Boston in 1780. Lafayette then met up with General Washington and rejoined his campaign. The Hermione joined French Admiral de Grasse'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. We need your ideas on how the NPS can maximize this tremendous opportunity to reach the hundreds of thousands of visitors that will see the Hermione. This a great opportunity to showcase not only the NHT but all of our National Parks and Programs, heritage areas, trails, recreation areas, museums, state and local parks the many outstanding natural and cultural resources along the way as well as the National Park Service Centennial.

Don't miss Mount Vernon's new website!

Mount Vernon launched a new and improved web experience. Please sit back and take some time to see the tremendous new videos regarding the Yorktown Campaign here: <http://www.mountvernon.org/animated-washington/yorktown/> You will also find maps of the campaign and some great interactive features when you visit the new website at: <http://www.mountvernon.org/>

Registration of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT Logo

We are still in the process of having Washington-Rochambeau NHT's official logo registered in the Federal Register. We have many requests pending for digital files for use by partners. The registration will help us and our partners when using the logo on signs, publications, exhibits, etc.

Strategic Plan

Many of you have participated in the early phases of our strategic planning effort, and we now have a draft of 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. Peter Iris-Williams, Planner, with the NPS Northeast Regional Office, developed the draft that includes a purpose statement, significance statements, and identifies themes. We hope to share this with you soon.

Future Project Funding

We assembled our plan for the NPS 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.

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. In the summer of 1781, General George Washington faced a crossroads. The Continental Army's resources were depleted; its soldiers disheartened. Two options lay before Washington: attempt to reclaim New York, or head south to defeat a British stronghold in Yorktown. Jack Kelly's book *Band of Giants* describes the circumstances surrounding Washington's important decision to march his troops to Virginia. The successful Siege of Yorktown would break Britain's will to continue the war, although it would be two more years until the final peace treaty was signed. 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>

Check out the new *The American Revolution: A Historical Guidebook*. This is an overview of historic places critical to the story of the American Revolution edited by Francis H. Kennedy, Director of The Conservation Fund's Historic Lands Program. *The American Revolution: A Historical Guidebook* guides general readers and students as well as travelers to 147 historic places in twenty states, presented in general chronological order. The places are drawn from the National Park Service "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States". The book begins with the colonists' protests that led to the British occupation of Boston in 1768, continues through the years of the Revolutionary War, and the ratification of the Constitution. The Conservation Fund dedicates the book to all Americans and its proceeds to the protection of historic places. It is published by the Oxford University Press, available here: <http://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-american-revolution-9780199324224?q=Frances%20H.%20Kennedy&lang=en&cc=us>

National Park Service to award \$1.7 million in grants for maritime history education and preservation projects

The National Park Service, in partnership with the Maritime Administration, has announced the availability of approximately \$1.7 million in grant funding through its Maritime Heritage Program for projects

that teach about and/or preserve sites and objects related to our nation's maritime history. Details of the grant program, including the application process, are available online at <http://go.nps.gov/14n1n8>; grant applications will be accepted through September 23, 2014. The grants are available to state, tribal, and local governments, as well as private non-profit organizations for both education and preservation projects. Education projects will be funded in amounts from \$25,000-\$50,000; preservation projects will be funded in amounts from \$50,000-\$200,000. Education grants can be used for programs such as school curriculum, interpretive programs, and web pages, and preservation grant projects will include the restoration of ships and other maritime resources.

Upcoming Events

L'Hermione Planning

On September 4, Ursula Reed, Chair/ President of W3R-US and Joe DiBello met with Judi Kilachand, Executive Director, Friends of the Hermione – Lafayette in America and others including Miles Young, Worldwide Chairman and CEO of Ogilvy & Mather; Remy Cross, Account Management, Leaddogmarketing; and Robert Lear, Director of Development and Cultural Programs, Friends of the Hermione Lafayette in America. We learned more about details of the itinerary of the Hermione 2015 voyage and the focus of the discussion was on what can we do to highlight the NHT at the stops from Yorktown to Boston and how can we best collaborate.

NHT in Marcus Hook, PA

The Marcus Hook Preservation Society held its 6th annual W3R NHT celebration on September 6. The program began at the historic Plank House, then to the St. Martin's Cemetery for a brief memorial service to honor those who fought in the Revolutionary War, followed by a free ice cream social at the Marcus Hook Community Center.

Crossroads of the American Revolution, N J

Thomas Ross, Superintendent of Morristown and Thomas Edison National Historical Parks, Noreen Bodman, Executive Director, Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA, Joe DiBello, NHT Superintendent, and others will meet on September 18 to discuss Crossroad's way finding and interpretive signage master plan and coordination with the many partners. To learn more about the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and revolutionary happenings in New Jersey, please check out their newly refreshed website at <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/revolutionary-storylines/>

Pedaling through our National Parks and the National Historic Trail in PA

As part of the Schuylkill River Trail Bike Tour Series, *Pedaling through our National Parks* is a two-day event incorporating a ride along the Schuylkill River Trail with visits to three national parks in Southeastern PA. The ride is planned for September 20 & 21, covering about 30 miles per day, with options to participate in one or both days. Day 1 (about 30 miles) will begin on Saturday Sept. 20 at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, with a light breakfast and park tours. Cyclists will travel about 10 miles to the Schuylkill

River Heritage Area headquarters in Pottstown for a catered lunch and a brief program then continue to Valley Forge National Historical Park, for a ranger led program. There will be a bike/passenger shuttle back to Hopewell. Day 2 (about 30 miles) begins with a light breakfast at Valley Forge National Historical Park and follows the Schuylkill River Trail to Philadelphia. Cyclists will stop for lunch along the trail at Schuylkill Banks and hear about the Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail. From there, they will ride into Philadelphia to Independence National Historical Park, where they will be given guided tours of Independence Hall and return back to Valley Forge via bike/passenger shuttle. Joe DiBello will participate in the two day event. For details and registration, go to <http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Detail.aspx?id=5896>

Dutchess Heritage Days in Fishkill, New York

The 5th Annual Revolutionary War Weekend on Sept. 20th and 21st will return to the Van Wyck Homestead and continue the tradition of celebrating Fishkill's Revolutionary War legacy. Get more information and see the Dutchess Heritage Days event flyer here: <http://www.fishkillsupplydepot.org/RWW5.pdf> and pass the news along to family and friends. Dr. Robert Selig will be attending and telling the story of the American and French alliance and the NHT.

Morristown National Historical Park Presentation

The National Park Service at Morristown National Historical Park is pleased to announce that Mr. Robert Shenk, the Senior Vice-President for Visitor Engagement at George Washington's Mount Vernon will speak at the park at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, September 23, 2014. The talk will be in the park's Washington's Headquarters Museum, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, New Jersey. Admission to the program is free. Mr. Shenk's visit is generously sponsored by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Through his presentation, "Now or Never, Our Deliverance Must Come: The Path from Morristown to Victory at Yorktown" Mr. Shenk will explore the Continental Army's improbable path to victory. He will present the difficulties facing the Continental Army in late 1780/early 1781 through to its victory at Yorktown in late October 1781.

Princeton, NJ: A celebration of the American Revolution and New Jersey's 350th Anniversary

Lectures co-sponsored by the Princeton Public Library and Princeton-Area Historic sites made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities include om Fleming Lecture: "The Quest for Justice in the American Revolution," Friday, September 26 – 7pm, Princeton Public Library, Community Room, and the Arthur Lefkowitz Lecture: "Black Soldiers in the American Revolution," Sunday, September 28 – 5pm. Princeton Public Library, Community Room.

Princeton Battlefield Celebrates NJ's 350th Anniversary as part of the Princeton-Area Historic Sites' NJ 350th Celebration; September 27, 2014 – 11:00 am-8:30 pm: Artillery Demonstrations, National Marine Corps Museum Display; 4:30 PM – music for kids performed by the Ministers of Apollo); 6 PM - Shakespeare's Pericles performed through the Princeton Shakespeare Co. (this is also Shakespeare's 450th Birth-

day) - at the Princeton Battlefield State Park, 500 Mercer Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. The Battlefield celebrates New Jersey's 350th Anniversary and you can learn about what happened in 1664; and find out why in 1777 the Battle of Princeton was such a crucial turning point in the American Revolution. A town crier will be alerting visitors of different events; the 43rd's Royal Artillery will be giving demonstrations; learn why artillery was so important in this battle; also see displays from the National Marine Corps Museum; along with military encampment demonstrations-cooking, laundry, spinning, herbal medicine and others; musket drilling for kids – learn how a musket works (musket replicas can be borrowed or purchased); ice cream making & tasting for kids; meet General Washington; book signing with author Mark Di Ionno; take a tour of the Battlefield and the 1772 Thomas Clarke House-witness to the Battle; and much more. If you are attending Shakespeare's Pericles, one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies, please bring a lawn chair, flashlight, and a VERY warm jacket. Free. Sunday, September 28th is rain date. For more information, including an events schedule for the day, please visit www.ThePrincetonBattlefieldSociety.com or www.VisitPrinceton.org or e-mail Kip at princetonbattlefieldsocinfo@gmail.com. Plenty of free parking; FreeB bus loop being planned (11am – 4:00 pm – last run).

Southeastern PA Trail Summit September 30 and October 1, 2014

A two-day summit focusing on planning, building, marketing, and sustaining local and regional trails in Southeastern PA. For information about the trail summit, go to http://www.delawareandlehigh.org/images/library/2014_Easter_PA_Trails_Summit.pdf

North Salem, New York

Jini Jones Vail, author of Rochambeau, Washington's Ideal Lieutenant will speak on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 3:00 pm at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titicus Road, North Salem NY. Jini Jones Vail will introduce Comte de Rochambeau, the general chosen by Louis XVI to bring the French army to the aid of American patriots. Rochambeau led his army through North Salem twice: heading south to join Washington's troops and camping here on the return march to the French fleet in Boston after the victory at Yorktown. Sponsored by the North Salem Historical Society, the NS Town Historian, Susan Thompson, and the Keeler Library, the program is free and open to all with no registration.

About the National Park Service

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees help care for America's national parks, heritage areas, trails, wild & scenic rivers, and other affiliated areas. They work with communities across the nation to preserve natural resources and our shared cultural heritage and to create close-to-home recreational and educational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natl parks service, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice