

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



Cindy O'Donnell, her students, and Dr. Selig at the Holy Family U. North Philadelphia History Fair event October 26, 2013.

January 2014 Highlights

Thank you for your patience and continued interest in the Washington-Rochambeau NHT! The budget situation has had an impact on the NPS nation-wide and we are still experiencing the effects on the NHT. Samantha Driscoll's term position as Preservation Planner for the NHT came to end in September and we continue to adjust. We haven't updated our website or issued reports for a few months but it doesn't mean we haven't been busy. There were some great events that took place in September in New York and in October in Philadelphia before the federal government shutdown. The W3R-US meeting in Yorktown, planned for October, was postponed until December. During the month of November, we focused on the New York waysides and filled requests from the public. The snowy December W3R-US meeting in Philadelphia was well attended and we are on our way to getting back on track. We look forward hearing from you and continuing to work together in 2014.

News Along the Trail

First Annual Washington-Rochambeau Regatta

Janet Burnett (W3R®-US Vice Chair, W3R-NY Director, Highlands Coalition and active participant in numerous other activities in the Hudson Valley) coordinated the First Annual Washington –Rochambeau Regatta on September 22, 2013. Hon. Maurice Hinchey attended and was honored and the Washington-Rochambeau Cup was named for him. Ursula Reed, Chairman of W3R®-US and Joe DiBello attended the event to represent the NHT. Two days of fun and history started Saturday, September 21, with shore-line activities celebrating the Town of Ossining Bicentennial and culminated September 22 when we sailed from the Ossining waterfront on the Sloop Clearwater to the Hudson Water Club at Haverstraw Marina. Also honored as heroes on the Hudson were Mark Castiglione, Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and National Heritage Area; Dr. James Johnson, Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College; and Ned Sullivan, President of Scenic Hudson, for their excellent service in interpreting history, preserving resources, and conserving the landscapes of the Hudson River Valley.

4th Annual Revolutionary War Weekend, Fishkill, NY

The Fishkill Historical Society and the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot co-hosted the 4th Annual Revolutionary War Weekend at the Van Wyck Homestead and Museum in Fishkill, New York on the weekend of September 21 & 22. Activities included a regimental encampment; re-enactments and demonstrations; musket and artillery salutes; informative talks; and ceremonies at the nearby burial ground. The burial ground is possibly the largest known Revolutionary War cemetery and the subject of a proposed collaborative landscape conservation initiative. On his way to Fishkill's Revolutionary War Weekend, Phil Correll stopped in Mount Kisco where he met with local partners and saw the St. George's Cemetery that had once been the site of both the Old North Castle Church and St. George's Church. The site is linked to the Washington-Rochambeau NHT as the location of campsites for General Rochambeau's troops in July and August 1781.



Re-enactors at the Fishkill Revolutionary War burial site, September 2013

2013 Northeast Philadelphia History Fair at Holy Family University (HFU)

The day of activities was sponsored by the Friends of Northeast Philadelphia History in conjunction with the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US). Phil Correll attended on behalf of the National Park Service. The day's activities included tabletop displays by local historical organizations, a series of talks by local historians, and charming presentations by approximately fifteen young students in Revolutionary War era costumes who were representing a variety of historical figures (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Betsy Ross, African-American poet Phyllis Wheatley, etc.). Cindy O'Donnell, a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher participant from Independence National Historical Park, coordinated the student presentations. There was a brief dedication ceremony for two Washington-Rochambeau banners (one for the W3R-US and one for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT) recently mounted on streetlight poles in front of HFU along Frankford Avenue. Remarks were made by Ursula Reed and Lanny Patten of W3R-US and W3R-PA. HFU is on the site of Encampment #26 along the route followed by French and American troops on their way to Yorktown, Virginia. Our thanks go to Fred Moore and Bob Wetzel of HFU for assistance in getting the banners in place in time for the event. The day concluded with a fascinating talk by Washington-Rochambeau historian and consultant, Dr. Robert Selig, on the nature of the French-American collaboration and the amazing scale of the logistics involved in moving the thousands of troops and their supplies to the successful siege of Yorktown that turned the tide of the war and brought it ultimately to a successful conclusion.

New York State Destinations and Interpretive Signs

The wayside exhibit program for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT in New York is moving ahead. See the map on the website here: <http://www.nps.gov/waro/parknews/index.htm>. The updated schedule has a tentative date for the wayside exhibits to be ready in 2014. In preparation for this, Phil Correll developed a general agreement for each of the fifteen destinations on the placement and installation of the outdoor wayside exhibits.

Charles E. Hunt Selected as Superintendent of the Chesapeake Bay Office

Please welcome Charles E. "Chuck" Hunt as the superintendent of the Chesapeake Bay Office. Charles Hunt has come on board from his position as the regional director in Western Europe for the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). In that role, he managed 23 geographically dispersed sites in France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium. Chuck directed all aspects of management including diplomatic affairs, intergovernmental relations, partnerships, budget formulation and execution, personnel management, resource management, interpretation, and special initiatives. Prior to becoming regional director, Hunt managed the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France, also part of the ABMC, where he oversaw the most heavily visited American diplomatic venue in the world. Chuck's previous National Park Service experience includes assignments as superintendent of Fort Davis National Historical Park from 2006 to 2009. Prior to that, he served as the management assistant at Big Thicket National Preserve for 9 years. Additionally, Hunt has served as a special assistant within the Department of the Interior where he engaged in high-level policy and political issues and providing essential support to the Clean Water Action Plan. Chuck visited with us in Philadelphia in early December and we look forward to working with him. His experience and skill will serve the public, NPS, the Chesapeake Bay, and the NHT very well.

Crossing the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay at Havre de Grace, MD

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a 2,900-mile National Millennium Trail connecting 15 states and more than two dozen major cities throughout the eastern seaboard. The NHT and the East Coast Greenway share a corridor along many portions of the NHT route in the northeast and especially in Maryland. There are many challenges to building the ECG, but one rises high above the rest: crossing the Susquehanna River. Did you know that in the state of Maryland there is no safe way to cross the Susquehanna on foot or by bike? The closest safe crossing is in Pennsylvania, over 42 miles upstream from Havre de Grace. There are presently four crossings in the river's southernmost stretch, two for autos and two for rail, and none permit bikes or pedestrians. One of these (Amtrak's Susquehanna River Bridge) was completed in 1906. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been awarded \$22 million to design this bridge's replacement and if properly designed (and built) with accommodation for walkers and cyclists, this bridge could then host several significant routes, including the East Coast Greenway, the Washington-Rochambeau NHT, and the September 11th National Memorial Trail and be a key link and component in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network which also includes the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail and Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

Please join the East Coast Greenway Alliance as they urge MDOT to build a bridge that will serve multiple modes, connecting communities by rail, bike, and foot and connecting several National Historic Trails. Together we can make our voices heard as we call for healthy and sustainable transportation infrastructure. Visit <http://www.greenway.org/> to learn more about the ECG and sign up for their free monthly newsletter. To see the petition to MDOT, go to <http://www.change.org/petitions/maryland-department-of-transportation-ensure-that-the-new-amtrak-susquehanna-river-bridge-will-accommodate-cyclists-and-walkers#share>

Virginia Wayside Exhibits

Nicole Yancey, the NHT liaison in Virginia, has initiated discussions with the state and communities to introduce the NHT and explore its use as a connector and tourism promotion tool. We contacted staff at Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, VDOT, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation to discuss possibilities of linking Revolutionary War sites along the corridor in the state. We are working with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to review plans for Route 1 and coordinate signs and displays at Mason Neck and Meadowood in Virginia. There is more and more interest in the NHT water route and a proposal to develop a W3R Wayside placed on the Observation Pier of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel featuring the "Battle for the Capes" To learn more about the battle see <http://www.nps.gov/york/historyculture/battle-of-the-capes.htm>

L'Hermione's Upcoming 2015 Voyage to America

On January 27, 2014, Ursula Reed and Joe DiBello attended a presentation at the Philadelphia Club by Miles Young, President of the Friends of Hermione-LaFayette in America, about L'Hermione's historic 1780 voyage which carried the Marquis of Lafayette to America during the American Revolution. L'Hermione was also part of DeGrasse's fleet at the Battle off the Capes. We learned about L'Hermione's upcoming 2015 voyage to America which includes stops in Yorktown, Washington D.C. Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Greenport, NY, and Boston. To learn more about this amazing story, the restoration effort, and the upcoming voyage please visit <http://www.hermione2015.com/>

NHT Updates

Registration of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT Logo

Amanda Jones of the NPS Northeast Regional Office is 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 on their signs, publications, materials, etc.

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 planning and action. Under the leadership of Allen Cooper, Chief of Planning, and Peter Iris-Williams, Planner, both with the NPS Northeast Regional Office, we are developing a draft purpose statement, significance statements, and themes. We hope to share some of the written material with you soon.

Phil Correll has assembled our plan for the NER Servicewide Comprehensive Call which is a program that develops and refines our 5-year project funding forecast from 2016-2020. The project funding forecast is accompanied by a projected operating budget over the next five years. One of the immediate project needs is to update the Washington-Rochambeau NHT display located in the Independence National Historical Park Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia.

The NPS is celebrating its centennial in 2016. The NPS's 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 with us at <http://nextcenturyforparks.org/centennial/2016-national-park-service-centennial/> and share your ideas with us.

Speaking of planning ahead, 2025-2034 will mark the 250th Anniversary of America's War for Independence. The American Revolution is a national and international story that has broad educational and tourism interest. The Washington-Rochambeau 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. We can work together and plan ahead to create a spectacular commemoration. Let us know if you are interested in hosting or participating in a discussion about this.

Upcoming Events

Hike the Hill - February 8-12, 2014

The American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System are co-sponsoring the “Hike the Hill” week to advocate for all trails, beginning on February 8th. There are a series of events planned for the week and Ursula Reed, Chairman of W3R-US, will be in DC to participate. Joe DiBello will attend some of the federal interagency and NPS meetings being held on February 11th and Feb 12th.

Cooch’s Farm, Delaware - April 5, 2014

On April 5th there will be a ceremony at Cooch’s Farm in Delaware. W3R-DE is planning the event, which includes the inauguration of a Memorial Plaque. W3R-DE is collaborating with the Alliance Francaise de Wilmington and the Association of Teachers of French - Delaware Chapter. Veronica Meid will provide additional details soon.

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

On April 6th, members of W3R-US and others will be meeting in Annapolis to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Robert Reyes, W3R-MD, is finalizing arrangements and he will be sending out more details.

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

On April 7th, a W3R-US meeting will be held at the Chesapeake Bay Offices in Annapolis. An agenda and more details will soon be made available by Ursula Reed, Chair, W3R-US.

Items of Interest

NPS Teaching Tools

Teachers across the country have a new tool to help them engage their students in classroom and place-based learning. The NPS has launched an online service to bring America’s national parks into neighborhood classrooms. The new “Teachers” section of the NPS website provides a one-stop shop for curriculum-based lesson plans, traveling trunks, maps, activities, distance learning and other resources. All of the materials draw from the natural landscapes and places preserved in America’s national parks and from NPS programs such as the National Register of Historic Places. The website is just one part of the Park Service’s ongoing commitment to education. Every year, National Parks offer more than 57,000 educational programs that serve nearly 3 million students in addition to 563,000 interpretive programs attended by 12.6 million visitors. The NPS is working with partners and educational institutions to expand programs and encourage the use of parks as places of learning. The NPS has partnered with the Department of Education to integrate national park resources into core curriculums. Each summer, teachers across the country are hired to work in parks to develop curriculum-based programs based on park resources through the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program. To learn about the NPS education programs, visit the website www.nps.gov/teachers.

Society of the Cincinnati American Revolution Master Teacher Seminar

At the close of our Revolutionary War, the officers of the Continental Army formed the Society of the Cincinnati to preserve the memory of the achievement of American independence. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati pursues this goal through educational programs focusing on the transformative significance of the American Revolution. The Society also maintains a premier library of printed and manuscript materials relating to the people and events of the American Revolution. The Institute invites middle and high school teachers to participate in its third American Revolution Master Teachers Seminar, June 23-28, 2014, at Anderson House, the Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Interested teachers should submit a Revolutionary War lesson plan of their own that spans two class periods, corresponding to their state's standards and one or more of the Society's Revolutionary War literacy topics. Participants will receive scholarly instruction and generous time in the library to research and improve their lessons with primary source materials.

The best of these lessons will be posted on the Society's website, credited to the master teachers who created them. The week will close with a visit to historic sites on Virginia's Northern Neck, including Stratford Hall and George Washington's Birthplace. Teachers will receive 60 hours of professional development. Travel expenses, room and board will be provided.

Application deadline is February 14, 2014. Applicants should submit the following:

- Lesson plan using one or more Society Revolutionary War literacy topics
- Brief outline of lesson purpose and key points
- Resume, including state, school and school district
- Cover letter, including benefit participation will bring students

Contact Eleesha Tucker, Director of Education, at etucker@societyofthecincinnati.org with questions.

The Society of the Cincinnati hosts a variety of engaging, educational events that are open to the public, including lectures and book signings, concerts, themed wine tastings, and children's programs, exploring aspects of the American Revolution, the Society's history, and Anderson House. You can visit their website and sign up for their newsletter at <http://societyofthecincinnati.org/events>.

National Park Foundation Grants and Programs

The National Park Foundation (NPF) is currently accepting applications for three grant opportunities -- A Ticket to Ride, Active Trails, and America's Best Ideas. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Hill, NPF director of grants and programs, at 202-354-6471 or Chill@nationalparks.org.

Active Trails

The Active Trails program promotes healthy living by literally getting people out and active -on trails, whether through hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, or volunteering. This NPF signature program also provides opportunities to develop a community engagement platform through restoration work, recreational activities, and large-scale kickoff and celebration events. The Active Trails program aligns with Healthy Parks/Healthy People initiatives and with National Trails System goals, which, leading up to its 50th anniversary in 2018, encompass increasing public awareness, building and enhancing trails, and enhancing management capacity by federal agencies. **Applications due: Friday, March 7th.**

Park Stewards

The Park Stewards program gives high school teachers and students the opportunity to explore the relevance national parks have on their lives and enables them to become civically engaged stewards of parks, sites, and trails. Through the program model, high school teachers and park rangers team up to develop curriculum and service-learning activities that tie to the national park and to applicable state standards. The curriculum and service-learning activities are then implemented throughout the year. Through service-learning activities, students apply academic knowledge and critical thinking skills (in addition to physical skills as appropriate) to address genuine needs of the park. **Applications due: Friday, March 14th.**

America's Best Idea

The America's Best Idea grants program is meant to engage diverse audiences in meaningful and relevant ways with national parks and inspire participants to become stewards of our National Park System. The original goal of the program was to capitalize on the 2009 Ken Burns film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, as a catalyst for connecting under-represented audiences with their national parks. This program has evolved into a successful model for national parks to engage multi-cultural, multi-ethnic groups of all ages, and to inspire future stewardship of our national treasures. At its core, it is a community engagement program with an emphasis on underserved youth. **Applications due: Friday, March 21st.**

For information on all foundation grants and programs, including Parks Climate Challenge, Web Ranger, African American Experience Fund, Impact Grants, Electronic Field Trip, American Latino Heritage Fund, and Transportation Scholars, please visit <http://www.nationalparks.org>.

A Federal Grant Opportunity

If your trail project links with a federal, state or local park area, your project may be eligible for some financial help. For more information, follow this link and share it with your partners. <http://www.epl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/federal-lands-access.aspx>

DAR Article based on the work of Jini Jones Vail

In the January/February issue of the American Spirit Magazine of the DAR, there was an article about Jini Jones Vail's book [Rochambeau, Washington's Ideal Lieutenant](#). The article is titled "America's Debt to Comte de Rochambeau. For more information about upcoming talks by the author, please visit www.jinijonesvail.com. She also has a blog, www.revolutionaryrochambeau.com, that you can sign up for on the site.

Revolutionary Connecticut

Follow the story of the American Revolution in Connecticut like never before! Please visit www.ctamericanrevolution.com for nine themed bicycle friendly tours in this guide to history and travel in Connecticut. Visit the website to study the lovely handmade maps and pick a route to drive or bicycle, or a bit of both!