

# Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



## November-December 2014 Highlights



Memorial for Revolutionary War Soldiers at Fishkill Supply Depot

## News Along the Trail

*We wish you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday Season and a great new year!*

### Revolutionary War Cemetery in Fishkill, New York

On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2014 the owner of a 10.4 acres parcel of land in Fishkill, NY held a ceremony that marked a significant step in the effort to preserve what the National Park Service (NPS) recognizes as the Revolutionary War's single largest cemetery. The land owner placed a permanent stone marker that reads, in part, "Near here lie buried Revolutionary War heroes." Dr. Robert Selig, a researcher studying the route of march that the Continental Army and its French Allies followed to Yorktown in 1781, identified a French soldier who perished at the Fishkill Supply Depot: Jean Bonnaire, a fusilier of the Saintonge Regiment of Infantry. Per French military records, Bonnaire died in the hospital in "Phisquil" on October

31, 1781. This discovery raises the total number of identified soldiers to 86 and serves as a vivid reminder of France's participation and sacrifice during our War for Independence.

In late 2007, an archaeological team rediscovered the cemetery on privately-owned land just south of the Van Wyck Homestead along U.S. Route 9 some 60 miles north of New York City. The Van Wyck Homestead served as the headquarters for what was George Washington's principal supply depot during the Revolutionary War and is the site's only remaining structure. Shortly after the rediscovery, the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot formed to advocate for the preservation of the entire historic site. To learn more about the Fishkill Supply Depot, visit [www.fishkellsupplydepot.org](http://www.fishkellsupplydepot.org).

## **The Campaign 1776 Program**

Also on Veterans Day, the country's largest Civil War battlefield protection group, the Civil War Trust, announced that it is enlarging its mission to also preserve the battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati also entered the field of battlefield preservation in a new alliance with the Civil War Trust. Together, they announced a partnership to conduct *Campaign 1776* — a program to preserve the battlefields of the Revolutionary War. The new partners launched *Campaign 1776* at a special event held at the Princeton Battle Monument. Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer and American Revolution Institute Executive Director Jack Warren were the main speakers. The event was covered by news services, local television, and a wide range of newspapers, including the *Washington Post* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as by online news outlets. For more, visit [http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/11/historians\\_preservationists\\_announce\\_national\\_battlefield\\_preservation\\_initiative\\_in\\_princeton.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2014/11/historians_preservationists_announce_national_battlefield_preservation_initiative_in_princeton.html).

## **Natural and Cultural Resources Kiosk in Mason Neck, Virginia**

On November 1, 2014, agencies that comprise the Mason Neck Peninsula Land Management Partnership participated in the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for a roadside kiosk that will orient the public about the natural and cultural resources in the area. The Mason Neck peninsula is approximately 18 miles south of Washington, D.C. located in Lorton, Fairfax County, Virginia. The Mason Neck Peninsula Land Management Partnership is comprised of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lower Potomac Field Station; the National Park Service (NPS) Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge; Virginia State Parks Mason Neck State Park; Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Pohick Bay Regional Park and Golf Course; and Gunston Hall (a National Historic site containing the colonial home of George Mason). The many government agencies, along with the Friends of Meadowood, collaborated on this project. This wayside exhibit provides an opportunity for visitors to learn about the many historic, environmental, and recreational opportunities available on the peninsula and the kiosk will serve as a major trailhead for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. A network of existing and planned trails will enhance the visitor experience by facilitating access to Gunston Hall, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Mason Neck State Park, Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, and Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.

## **General Rochambeau and the French Army in Rhode Island**

A presentation by Dr. Robert A. Selig was given Saturday November 8th, in the Rochambeau Library Community Room, located at 708 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906. Dr. Robert Selig is the world's foremost authority on the French military during the American War of Independence. Dr. Selig the project historian for the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), which traces the route of the march that the allied armies took from Newport, RI to Yorktown, VA. He is currently researching the route of the Marquis de Lafayette in America from his arrival in Boston on 28 April 1780 to Virginia in the early summer spring of 1781 and his departure from Boston for France on December 18th.

## **The Crossroads of the American Revolution's Way Finding Program**

The Crossroads of the American Revolution is embarking on a new way finding program that will direct visitors and residents to various attractions and amenities in New Jersey. Way finding encompasses a variety of tools that help guide people to their destination. This includes signage, maps and digital tools. The Crossroads of the American Revolution has hired MERJE, a nationally recognized way finding expert, to guide the process. MERJE was in Trenton at the Old Barracks Museum on November 10th to conduct their preliminary assessment and Joe DiBello and Tom Ross attended one of a series of small stakeholder group meetings that will precede additional public presentations throughout the process.

## **Washington Rochambeau NHT Comes to Longfellow House National Historic Site**

Dr. Robert Selig, Ph.D., and primary researcher for the Washington Rochambeau NHT, delivered a lecture titled "Journey of Instruction", to visitors and host organizations - The Lafayette Society of Massachusetts, and the Society of Cincinnati - on Thursday, December 11th at the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Mass. The Longfellow House National Historic Site preserves the home of Henry W. Longfellow, one of the world's foremost 19th century poets and it also served as Washington's Headquarters during the siege of Boston. The lecture highlighted the productive relationship between French General Rochambeau and General George Washington throughout the most active phases of Franco-American military operations during America's War for Independence. Dr. Selig focused on Rochambeau's ability to adapt to the way the war in America differed from typical combat operations in Europe. He also highlighted the genuine respect both commanders of both armies had for each other, and for the Marquis De Lafayette's role in bringing both nations together in fighting the British. Additionally, Dr. Selig focused on the global nature of America's War for Independence, and how alliances with France, Spain and Holland helped free America from Britain's empire. The group in attendance was treated to vivid imagery and humorous anecdotes in describing newfound relationships between Europeans and Americans. Finally, Dr. Selig shined a light on the role wartime Massachusetts played in the 680 mile long Franco-American march to final victory at Yorktown.

## **Superintendent Dan Smith of Colonial National Historic Park Retiring**

As you all know, Dan Smith, Superintendent of Colonial National Historic Park, is retiring and we will miss him. Before leaving us, Dan, an ardent supporter of the NPS and the NHT, enabled the creation of a beautiful panel commemorating the Battle of the Capes. We can look forward to seeing him again at its unveiling and in concert with the arrival of the Hermione in Yorktown in June of 2015.

## **National Defense Authorization Act**

This act also included a provision to extend authority for funding under the America Battlefield Protection Program through 2021 and it allows grants for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield sites. For more information about other NPS provisions visit <http://www.nps.gov/legal/2014%20DOD%20NPS%20Summary.html>. We are awaiting word on the FY 15 budget for the NHT and we will update you as soon as we hear more.

## **National Park Service 2015 Battlefield Planning Grants Deadline is January 15, 2015**

The National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Grant Program is now accepting proposals for 2015. Non-profit groups, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments are encouraged to apply for funding to support archaeology, cultural landscape inventories, cultural resource documentation, GIS mapping, National Register nominations, and preservation plans. For more information, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2015grants.html>.

## **New York Outdoor Wayside Exhibits**

Work on the development of outdoor wayside exhibits for fifteen sites in New York selected as destinations for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT has slowed with Phil Correll's retirement. Paul Kenney is pitching in to help us move this project along. We are working with NPS Harper's Ferry Center to update the map on the orientation panels and provide the final version of the text to the contractors. The exhibits should be delivered by early spring of 2015. 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 Washington-Rochambeau NHT.

## **Hudson River Valley NHA 2015 Heritage Development Grant Deadline is 4:00 PM, Friday, February 6, 2015**

The mission of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area program is to recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the Nation. The goals include:

- Freedom and Dignity (Colonial Period, Revolutionary War, Social and Political Issues, Great Americans);
- Nature and Culture (Landscapes and Gardens, Architecture, Art and Artists, Hudson River School, Parks and Environment); and
- Corridor of Commerce (Transportation, Industry and Commerce).

The HRVNHA has established this grant program to fund projects that further the goals and mission of the HRVNHA. These grants are intended to provide seed money to organizations for the purposes of: programming, interpretation and marketing that support the mutual goals of the HRVNHA and applicants. A total of \$50,000 is available through this grant program. A 1:1 local match is required, and may be provided in the form of in-kind or monetary contributions.

The grant guidelines are located at [http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF\\_s/2015\\_Heritage\\_Development\\_Grant\\_Guidelines\\_FINAL.sflb.ashx](http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF_s/2015_Heritage_Development_Grant_Guidelines_FINAL.sflb.ashx)

The application is located here [http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF\\_s/2015\\_Heritage\\_Development\\_Grant\\_Application\\_FINAL\\_Fillable.sflb.ashx](http://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Libraries/PDF_s/2015_Heritage_Development_Grant_Application_FINAL_Fillable.sflb.ashx)

Applications may also be requested by calling (518) 473-3835, or by emailing the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area [hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov](mailto:hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov).

## **Award-Winning Map Brings Old Colchester, Virginia Up To Date**

Take the “A Cultural History Tour of Old Colchester Park and Preserve” virtual tour and view the map of a park that’s been a home to people for thousands of years. It recently won the county’s Best Use of GIS (Geographic Information System) for Public Outreach Award. Visit the site here <http://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=30f2ef6e8cf044d3b7a4e7d27a452046&webmap=629b9816879844b2a39eea4aeee6d476>

## **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/>

## **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>

## **March to Victory: Washington Rochambeau and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781**

March to Victory: Washington Rochambeau and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781 was recently reprinted and released to the public. This is Dr. Robert Selig’s concise historical narrative that explains the entire Yorktown campaign that led to the final victory in the revolutionary war. It’s available at [http://www.amazon.com/March-victory-Washington-Rochambeau-Yorktown/dp/B003ARSN9A/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1414521362&sr=1-1&keywords=march+to+victorywww.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/March-victory-Washington-Rochambeau-Yorktown/dp/B003ARSN9A/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1414521362&sr=1-1&keywords=march+to+victorywww.amazon.com)

## A Digital Bibliography

Janet Burnett, W3R-NY encouraged a 7th grader to create a digital bibliography of links to the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route to meet a curriculum requirement. We will try to make this available for everyone's review. It looks like a good start to a useful web bibliography which could be further refined and developed.

## Upcoming Events

### Preservation Act Celebrates 50 years

Please join the preservation community in Delaware for lunch on Wednesday, January 7 from noon until 2 pm at the historic Hale Byrnes House on (old) Stanton-Christian Road, Stanton, Delaware 19713. The 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016 (<http://www.achp.gov/docs/nhpa%202008-final.pdf>) is right around the corner, and there is an opportunity to celebrate preservation and get people excited about its future. We've come a long way since Ann Pamela Cunningham kicked off America's preservation movement in the 1850s when she led the fight to save Mount Vernon. The National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 was a major step forward, creating the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation Offices, all to preserve our country's most meaningful historical and archaeological sites. Join in generating ideas for activities to help celebrate the anniversary. And in addition to the National Historic Preservation Act, keep in mind that the National Park Service will be celebrating its 100th anniversary that same year, which could provide a chance to demonstrate the connection between saving our natural and cultural heritage. Please rsvp by to Kim Burdick by e-mail at [kimrburdick@aol.com](mailto:kimrburdick@aol.com).

### L'Hermione

The arrival of the reconstructed French frigate L'Hermione, on its East Coast tour in 2015, is a great opportunity to reach people and tell them about the NHT along her journey. L'Hermione will stop in Yorktown, Virginia (June 5-7), Mount Vernon, Virginia (June 9), Alexandria, Virginia (June 10-11), Annapolis, Maryland (June 15-17), Baltimore, Maryland (June 19-21), Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania (June 25), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with Tall Ships America (June 26-28), New York with Tall Ships America (July 2-4), Greenport, New York (July 6-7), Newport, Rhode Island with Tall Ships (July 8-9) Boston, Massachusetts (July 11-12), and Castine, Maine (July 14-15). 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. NPS, the Washington-Rochambeau NHT and W3R-US will be joining the Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America as strategic partners and we are working to see how we can work together to 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, the NPS Centennial, heritage areas, trails, recreation areas, museums, state and local parks, the many outstanding natural and cultural resources along the way. Please contact Paul Kenney with questions or ideas at [paul\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:paul_kenney@nps.gov) or call 215-597-5823. Nicole Yancey shared

these beautiful pictures of the Hermione. The Hermione ended her sea trials and is returning to Rochefort with a stop in Bordeaux, for more information visit <http://www.sudouest.fr/2014/10/07/en-image-l-arri-vee-de-l-hermione-a-bordeaux-1696526-6078.php>.

## 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, related areas and programs. 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](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice), Twitter [www.twitter.com/natlparkservice](http://www.twitter.com/natlparkservice), and YouTube [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice)