

# Washington-Rochambeau

## Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



## October 2014 Highlights



Yorktown Monument and in Colonial National Historical Park

## News Along the Trail

### Yorktown Day Celebrations in Yorktown, Virginia - October 18-19

On Saturday October 18th, the W3R-US held a board meeting in Yorktown at the Yorktown Visitor Center. Dan Smith, Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, welcomed the group. Board Chair Ursula Reed convened the meeting. In addition to old business, Joe DiBello discussed planning for the future of the NHT. That was followed new business with the next meeting scheduled around the June 24-28th visit of the Hermione in Philadelphia.

They also attended the 2014 Yorktown Day celebration on Sunday October 19th with numerous events sponsored by Colonial National Historical Park and the Yorktown Day Association. Events began at 10:00am with a wreath laying and commemorative ceremony at the French Memorial, followed by a Brunswick Stew lunch at Grace Church. The well-attended and always colorful Yorktown Day parade kicked off at 1:30pm, followed by patriotic exercises and the memorial wreath laying ceremony at the

Yorktown Monument. Superintendent Dan Smith, who will be retiring at the end of this year, was recognized for his years of support and services. A Proclamation from the Commonwealth of Virginia was presented by Delegate David E. Yancey, 94th House District State representative. Ursula Reed and Blanch Hunnewell also recognized and thanked Dan for his outstanding service and support, presenting him a gift on behalf of W3R-US. We wish Dan all the best and we can all look forward to seeing him when the Hermione arrives in Yorktown on June 5-7th 2015!



Superintendent Dan Smith being recognized for his outstanding service

## Jini Jones Vail in North Salem, New York - October 5

Jini Jones Vail, author of *Rochambeau, Washington's Ideal Lieutenant*, spoke on Sunday, October 5th at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library in North Salem NY. Jini Jones Vail's presentation introduced 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 setting up camp on the return march to the French fleet in Boston after the victory at Yorktown. The presentation was sponsored by the North Salem Historical Society, North Salem Town Historian Susan Thompson, and the Keeler Library.

## L'Hermione Planning in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - October 6



New banner on Second Street

On October 6th, Ursula Reed, W3R-US Chair, and Joe DiBello, Superintendent of the Washington-Rochambeau NHT, met Nathalie Rochambeau de Gouberville, her husband Philipp, and friend Amed who are visiting Philadelphia from France to plan events for l'Hermione's Voyage in 2015. They will be returning to Philadelphia in June 25-28th, 2015 for festivities along the Delaware River, along with members of the association "Les Amis de Rochambeau" next June to see the Hermione. They are also planning to follow Rochambeau's steps and show places where people can learn about American and French History. Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of INDE, hosted a tremendous tour of INDE for our guests and Michael Scullin, Honorary French Counsel. Lanny and Ann Patten, of W3R-PA, and Pierre Lefebvre, sculptor of a bronze bust of General Rochambeau, joined us for lunch at City Tavern. The Philadelphia Old City District, at the request of W3R-US, installed four NHT banners on Second Street and we hope to install others along the route in Philadelphia prior to the arrival

## American Revolution Center in Philadelphia - October 9

On October 9th, 2014, we joined the celebration of the beginning of construction of the Museum of the American Revolution at the official Groundbreaking Celebration. National and local dignitaries joined supporters and Museum leadership to mark the occasion with the ceremonial dedication of “America’s Liberty Tree,” trumpeting the Museum’s goal of preserving the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution for future generations.

Speaker highlights from the ceremony are available on the Museum’s YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCnHa0mBbZfk7rISOVV1OGNC58CmPwrb0>, including CEO Mike Quinn presenting a virtual tour of the Museum’s exhibit plans and Cokie Roberts’ keynote address about women’s contributions to the Revolution. The speakers included H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest, Mike Quinn, Cokie Roberts, Admiral Tom Lynch, Senator Pat Toomey, Senator Bob Casey, and Governor Tom Corbett.

See more information here: <http://amrevmuseum.org/press-releases/museum-american-revolution-dedicates-americas-liberty-tree-recognizes-chairman-and>, and images from the presentation here: <http://amrevmuseum.org/gallery/284>. Articles about the event include the Philadelphia Inquirer: [http://articles.philly.com/2014-10-11/news/54873830\\_1\\_tent-american-revolution-first-museum](http://articles.philly.com/2014-10-11/news/54873830_1_tent-american-revolution-first-museum) and CBS Philly: <http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2014/10/09/tree-at-future-american-revolution-museum-dedicated-to-visionary-founder/>

## Educational Activities on the Delaware River Valley - October 4-19

On Saturday October 4th until Sunday October 19th, the Canoemobile was in the Delaware Valley providing local youth and community members with an opportunity to experience, enjoy, and learn about the ecology, cultural history, and water quality of the Delaware River and its tributaries.

W3R-US arranged for Joe Becton to present Revolutionary War History and the NHT on the Delaware River on October 7th from 8:45am to 6:00pm at Wiggins Park Marina in Camden, New Jersey. School groups and after school programs enjoyed a range of environmental, recreational, and cultural programs, including Joe Becton. On October 16th and 17th, Joe Becton presented Revolutionary War History of the Delaware River along with the many other programs at Barry Bridge Park in Chester, Pennsylvania. The events and the cooperating partners reached thousands of school children and many teachers with nature and history programs and experiences in this urban area.



Joe Becton speaking to students about the Revolutionary War

## **Dover, Delaware - October 25**

There was a free Public Symposium presentation focusing on Allen McLane, an unknown hero of the Revolution on October 25th, from 9:00am to 3:30pm at Wesley College. The symposium was partially funded by a Grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum. Co-sponsors included American Revolution Round Table of Northern Delaware, the Friends of the Delaware Public Archives, the Claymont Historical Society, the Friends of Old Dover, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Friends of Belmont Hall, the Duck Creek Historical Society, and the 1st Delaware Regiment. Some of the featured speakers included Bob Selig, Glenn Williams, John Nagy & Chuck Fithian.

## **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. L'Herminette 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 Hermionette 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 Hermionette. NPS, the Washington-Rochambeau NHT and W3R-US will be joining the Friends of Hermionette-Lafayette in America as strategic partners. 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. Please contact Paul Kenney with questions or ideas at [paul\\_kenney@nps.gov](mailto:paul_kenney@nps.gov) or call 215-597-5823.

### **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 a bit with Phil Correll's retirement. We are pleased that Paul Kenney will be joining us to help us with planning, mapping, and moving this project along. We are working with NPS Harper's Ferry Center to update the map on the orientation panels and as it stands at the moment, the exhibits should be delivered by the end of 2014. 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.

## Interest in Washington, DC

Gary Scott, DC Representative of the W3R-US suggested that we identify the DC resources and features associated with the route taken by the revolutionary forces on their way to Yorktown, VA in 1780-1783. Washington, DC 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. However, some sites remain and there are opportunities to visit and experience some of these places and tell the story. First, we will need to complete some research and obtain more details about the specific routes taken. Then we can then identify specific sites and ways to tell the story at some of the many existing DC trails, parkways, bike trails, parks, museums, transit routes, tours, etc. that will allow residents and visitors to learn about and experience the NHT. Please let us know if you are aware of any sources that may be interested in funding this needed research.

## National Parks Service 2015 Battlefield Planning Grants

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/planninggrants.htm?utm\\_source=October+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=October+2014&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/planninggrants.htm?utm_source=October+Newsletter&utm_campaign=October+2014&utm_medium=email)

## PA State Outdoor Recreation Plan

Pennsylvania's Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2018) is nearly complete, but it needs your voice. If you think outdoor recreation plays a vital role in the health and well-being of our citizens and communities, then please provide feedback on the plan's draft recommendations and action steps. The plan helps determine recreation funding and planning priorities for the next five years. Five identified priorities include: health and wellness; local parks and recreation; tourism and economic development; resource management and stewardship; and funding. Background on those priorities can be found at <http://paoutdoorrecplan.com/priorities/index.htm>. We think National Trails could play a role and should be included in the discussion.

## 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.

## Study cites health benefits of Urban River Parkways

*Urban River Parkways: An Essential Tool for Public Health*, by UCLA's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, suggests that investing in bikeways and greenways can reduce the health costs of physical inactivity in our cities. The report notes that urban river parkways can improve physical, mental, and community health, and that they are particularly important in offering opportunities for "green exercise"-physical activity in the presence of nature." See the report here: [http://ehs.ph.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/Urban%20River%20Parkways%20Full%20Report\\_1.pdf](http://ehs.ph.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/Urban%20River%20Parkways%20Full%20Report_1.pdf)

## 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. Paul Kenney will be helping us develop a draft that includes a purpose statement, significance statements, and identifies themes. He will also be helping us move mapping efforts forward and we hope to share more with you soon.

## 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>

## **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)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Mason Neck, Virginia - November 1**

On November 1, 2014, agencies that comprise the Mason Neck Peninsula Land Management Partnership will participate 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 ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will be held on November 1st between 10am and noon at the head of the Mason Neck Peninsul, adjacent to the Gunston Elementary School located at 10100Gunston Rd, Lorton, VA 22079.

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 - November 8**

A presentation by Dr. Robert A. Selig will be given Saturday November 8th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. 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 was 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 18 De-

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

It will direct visitors and residents to various attractions and amenities in New Jersey. Way finding encompass 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 will be in Trenton at the Old Barracks Museum on November 10th to conduct their preliminary assessment and Joe DiBello will attend one of a series of small stakeholder group meetings that will precede additional public presentations throughout the process.

## **Speaker Sought by Scotch Plains Library**

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail cuts right through Scotch Plains, a central NJ town. They are looking for someone to speak about the trail to the public at their library this winter. If you are interested, or have a recommendation, please contact Pamela Brooks, Head of Adult Services, Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 (908) 322-5007 x204.

## **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/natl parkservice](http://www.twitter.com/natl parkservice), and YouTube [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice)