

# Washington-Rochambeau

## Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



## September 2014 Highlights



Participants of the *Pedaling through our National Parks* Event September 20 and 21

## News Along the Trail

### **Pedaling (and Finding ) our Parks and Trails**

The Schuylkill River National Heritage Area (SCRV) recently collaborated with four national park areas and a variety of community groups and public agencies for a bicycle tour in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The event was part of the Schuylkill River Trail Bike Tour Series. National Park Service (NPS) staff, interns, and volunteers from Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (HOFU), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VAFO), Independence National Historic Park, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary route National Historic Trail (WARO) and partner staff from the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area (SCRV) hosted “Pedaling through Our National Parks” on September 20 and 21. The collaboration among NPS units, partners and sponsors covered about 30 miles per day from Morgantown to Philadelphia. The event began at HOFU with a welcome from Superintendent Edie Shean-Hammond. Among the riders were WARO Superintendent Joe DiBello and VAFO Superintendent Kate Hammond. The riders then pedaled along the Schuylkill River Trail about 10 miles away to SCRIV headquarters in Pottstown for a riverside lunch before beginning the second leg of the day’s journey to VAFO for an introduction by the

Superintendent Kate Hammond, followed by a ranger-led interpretive program. Day two began at VAFO and Joe DiBello accompanied the riders along the Schuylkill River Trail to Philadelphia. The cyclists stopped for lunch at the Schuylkill Banks where Joe, joined by Ursula Reed, Chair of W3R-US and Sal Lilienthal, Bike Tour Operator and Author, gave an overview of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. The final leg of the journey ended at INDE with a greeting from Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and a tour of Independence Hall.

## **NHT Display in Philadelphia**

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, Schuylkill River Trail, and points beyond with many opportunities to experience the outdoors and learn about history.

## **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. 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.

## **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. Unfortunately, it was determined that this proposal was primarily research and not eligible. We hoped to complete the research and 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. Please let us know if you are aware of any sources that may be interested in funding this needed research.

## Dutchess Heritage Days in Fishkill, New York

History came to life during the fifth annual Revolutionary War Weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday September 20 and Sunday September 21 at the Van Wyck Homestead on Route 9 in Fishkill. Over 1000 visitors were registered and experienced what 18th-century life was like for the thousands of soldiers, families and workers who lived at the Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment during the American Revolutionary War. The free family-friendly event was sponsored by the Fishkill Historical Society and the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot. The two groups conceived the event as a way to showcase local history and raise awareness about the military base, which served as a supply depot for the Continental Army and George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. It has been documented that as many as 10,000 troops lived at the encampment from 1776 through 1783. Dr. Robert Selig attended the event on behalf of the NPS, NHT and W3R-US telling the story of the American and French alliance.



U.S. Representative Sean Patrick Maloney for New York's 18th congressional district, Dr. Robert Selig, and Lance Ashworth, President of the Friends of Fishkill Supply Depot, learn more about the largest known Revolutionary War cemetery with potentially up to 1,000 gravesites. So far 85 Continental Army soldiers from 10 of the 13 original states have been identified as being buried there.

## Crossroads of the American Revolution, N J

Thomas Ross, Superintendent of Morristown and Thomas Edison National Historical Parks, along with Anne Degraaf and Vanessa Smiley, Noreen Bodman, Executive Director, Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA, Joe DiBello, NHT Super-intendentent, and Leslie Bentley, Director of Morris County Tourism met 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 website at <http://www.revolutionarynj.org/revolutionary-storylines/>

# Items of Interest

## 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 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. NPS, NHT and W3R-US will be joining the Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America as strategic partner. 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.



L'Hermione (Photo courtesy of Ranulf 1214, Flickr Creative Commons)

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.

## 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. 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.

## 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>

# Upcoming Events

## North Salem, New York - October 5

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.

## Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - October 6

Nathalie de Gouberville (*Rochambeau*), her husband and a friend will be in the states in early October to plan the visit of members of the association "Les Amis de Rochambeau" next June to see the *Hermione*. They are also planning a special trip "On Rochambeau's steps" and show places where people can see and learn about American and French History. On October 6 they plan to be in Philadelphia and Ursula Reed W3R US, Board Chair and W3R, PA have arranged for a group to meet them for lunch at City Tavern and a stroll to See the new Museum of the American Revolution and Independence Hall.

## Delaware River Valley - October 4-19

On Saturday, Oct 4 until Sunday, Oct 19 the Canoemobile will be 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 October 7: (8:45am to 6:00pm) Delaware River, Wiggins Park Marina, Camden, NJ School groups & after school programs will enjoy programs including Camden Children's Garden—Plant Nutrient Game, Joe Becton—Revolutionary War History on Delaware River, NJ DEP & the NJ Watershed Ambassadors—Enviroscape, NJ Center for Aquatic Sciences—WQ Testing, Camden Environmental Education Working Group—Resource guide for teachers. On Oct 16 and October 17 at Barry Bridge Park, Chester, PA Joe Becton will be presenting Revolutionary war History of the Delaware river along with Pa Sea Grant—Watershed Modeling & WQ Testing and John Heinz Wildlife Refuge—River Wildlife & Ecology. The events and the cooperating partners will reach hundreds of school children and many teachers with nature and history programs and experiences in this urban area.

The general public is also invited to join in on one (or more!) of the four community Canoemobile events:  
CAMDEN: Saturday, October 4: 11:00am to 4:00pm

Community Canoemobile Day + Environmental Education Fair . This will be on the Delaware River at Pyne Poynt Park (Erie St & N 7th St), Camden, NJ 08102

WILMINGTON: Saturday, October 4: 11:00am to 6:00pm

Brandywine Village Fair, Brandywine Mills Park, Wilmington, DE 19802

CHESTER: Sunday, October 12: 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Community Canoemobile Day Delaware River, Barry Bridge Park, Chester, PA

PHILADELPHIA: Sunday, October 19: 11:00am to 4:00pm

Harvest Festival + River Adventure Day Schuylkill River, Bartram's Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19143 Paddle trips start at 11am Harvest Festival starts at 1pm

## **Yorktown, Virginia - October 18-19**

On Saturday October 18 the W3R-US will hold a board meeting meeting in Yorktown at the Yorktown Visitor Center. You should have received a notice and agenda from Board Chair, Ursula Reed.

The 2014 Yorktown Day celebration is Sunday October 19 with events sponsored by Colonial National Historical Park and the Yorktown Day Association. Events begin at 10:00am with a commemorative ceremony and wreath laying ceremonies followed by a lunch at Grace church and of course, the Yorktown Day parade at 1:30.

For those of you visiting for the weekend, there will plenty of additional activities and things to do including visiting the town of York, the NPS visitor center, the Waterman's Museum and more.

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

There is a free and open to the Public Symposium focusing on Allen Mc Lane Unknown Hero of the Revolution, OCTOBER 25, 2014, 9:00am – 3:30pm at Wesley College, Peninsula Room 206. duPont College Center, 120 North State Street Dover, Delaware 19901.

The symposium is partially funded by a Grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum. Co-sponsors include 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 include Bob Selig, Glenn Williams, John Nagy & Chuck Fithian!

For Registration Information Contact Co-Chairs Tom Welch at (302) 632-1803 e-mail: allenmclane@gmail.com or Kim Burdick at (302) 543-5723 e-mail:Halebyrneshouse@aol.com.

## **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](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)