

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



July 2014 Highlights



Ursula Reed, W3R-US Board Chair, Phil Correll, NPS, and Tom Ross, Superintendent of Morristown and Thomas Edison National Historic Parks in NJ.
(Photo by Gabe Gluck/ County of Union)

News Along the Trail

The NHT in Union County, New Jersey

Union County, New Jersey dedicated a portion of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route on July 14, which is also Bastille Day. The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders officially marked the Union County portion of the march that helped win the American Revolution with a sign at the entrance to Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak noted the Freeholders commitment to identifying and preserving the historic route and taking pride in raising awareness about the NHT. Ursula Reed from W3R-US attended and recognized the efforts of Gabriel Gluck, Director of Public Policy and Community Outreach for Union County and presented him with an NHT logo pin. Tom Ross, Superintendent of Morristown and Edison National Historic Parks and Phil Correll attended for NPS. During the ceremony, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski read a message from Bertrand Lortholary, Consul General of France in New York.

The official statement read:

“While an extremely busy schedule this day--when we French celebrate our ‘Bastille Day’--prevents us from attending this morning ceremony, I would like to congratulate the County of Union on becoming the first County in New Jersey to recognize and mark the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail. France and the United States have a long history together, a history that has stood for Freedom since the beginning. It is a source of great pride that at this critical juncture in American Colonial history, France played a pivotal role in assisting General Washington and his army in securing independence for the then 13 colonies. While our two nations see

our citizens increasingly immersed in the “now,” constantly connected to the Internet and focused on the moment, we cannot overstate the importance of the past. Indeed, to fully understand the world around them today, our citizens must understand the historical forces that brought them to this place. Just as we recognize in France the countless sacrifices made by Americans, we take pride in this Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail for its recognition of the role French forces played in helping your young nation to become independent, a nation that would rise, and grow, and become one of our most steadfast allies. As you may know, 2014 is a key year for the Franco-American relationship, marked by very powerful anniversaries: the centenary of World War I and the 70th Anniversary of the Allied landing operations in France. These seminal moments have highlighted, on two occasions during the 20th century, the strength of America’s involvement alongside France, in the name of our shared values. So while I express my deepest apologies for not being here this morning for this auspicious occasion, please accept our sincere Congratulations for your accomplishment today. Vive l’amitié franco-américaine! Vive la France! Et vive les Etats-Unis!”

This project has sparked much interest in “marking” the NHT. There are clear economic benefits to tourism, preservation, conservation, recreation, trails and parks and letting people know about it. We are in the process of developing some guidance and we will try to help partners interested in marking the route, developing and installing way finding and wayside exhibits and using the NHT logo.

Phil Correll retired on July 31, 2014

After 21 years with the National Park Service, Phil hung up his hiking shoes. Most recently, Phil has guided long-term planning for the NHT and the design and development of NY wayside exhibits. The NY project included developing agreements with partners at the 15 sites which have agreed to recognize and



Union County Freeholders Bruce Bergen (second, left) and Bette Jane Kowalski joined Phil Correll of the National Park Service (left), of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and Mark Hurwitz of the 3rd New Jersey Regiment ‘Jersey Blues’ in unveiling the new sign officially marking the historic Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. (Photo by Jim Lowney/County of Union)

commemorate the NHT by installing and caring for the outdoor exhibits. He also managed the cooperative agreement with W3R®-US, the main NHT partner organization. We will do our best and try to pick up the slack now that Phil has moved on.

“The Maryland Leg of the Yorktown Campaign”

Joe DiBello and Ursula Reed attended a presentation “The Maryland Leg of the Yorktown Campaign” by Dr. Robert Selig at the Historic Hale Byrnes House in Delaware on the evening of July 26. The event was sponsored by the American Revolution Round Table of Northern Delaware. Attendees heard about the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route with a focus on MD in Bob’s outdoor presentation.



Fort Howard, Maryland

Robert Reyes, representing W3R® –MD (and a number of other activities in MD) organized a meeting of federal, state, local, and private representatives to discuss open space, educational, and public access opportunities that might be available along the Patapsco waterfront at Fort Howard. The NPS Chesapeake Bay Program Office hosted the June 26 Annapolis meeting which was attended by Wink Hastings, Abbi Wicklein-Bayne and Joe DiBello. The meeting was informative and we left with the sense that the developer sees the open space and historic resources as assets for residents and visitors. They are interested in managing and allowing public access to the proposed development at Fort Howard. We discussed Chesapeake Bay Gateways, the NHTs, historic preservation, boat access (particularly for rowing) and linking the proposed development to the regional trail network. Wink offered to be the NPS point person because he knows the area and is conducting a nearby RTCA project. We will pass on our suggestions for signage, public access and any other ideas to Wink and he will convey them.

Independence National Historical Park (INDE) Visitor Center

The NPS and W3R®-US continue efforts to 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 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. We have prepared an application to the NPS Challenge Cost Share program that will help reach out to youth, communities and international visitors. Thousands of people and school age children walk the route of the NHT in Philadelphia each day without knowing 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.

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>

Challenge Cost Share Application

The National Park Service and the Outdoor Foundation are making \$330,000 available nationwide. Projects must address one or more of the following three thematic categories: Urban Outreach, Youth Engagement and Connecting People to the Outdoors. We have prepared an application with W3R-US to upgrade the display at the visitor center at Independence National Historical Park, improve signage information in downtown Philadelphia and offer living history programs for kids canoeing, hiking, and biking along the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. These funds are crucial for moving the NHT forward and leveraging partner funding and contributions. Traditionally, 1/3 of these funds were made available to National trails but that is no longer the case so it will be very competitive. The application must be submitted by an NPS staff person by August 11th and we expect to hear word if our proposal was selected by the end of August.

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 visitor know little about this revolutionary route although many of them may travel the same paths as our revolutionary forefathers did years ago.

Items of Interest

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.

Planning Ahead

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 in the near future.

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.

NPS Centennial

The NPS is celebrating its Centennial and L'Hermoine in 2016. The NPS' 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. With the arrival of the reconstructed French frigate L'Hermoine on its East Coast tour in 2015, we anticipate a great opportunity to reach people to tell them about the NHT and the NPS parks along its journey and stops in Yorktown, D.C., Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia 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 we can help. Please contact us or share your ideas at <http://nextcenturyforparks.org/centennial/2016-national-park-service-centennial/>

War for Independence Anniversary

2025-2034 will mark the 250th Anniversary of America's War for Independence. The 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.

Website and Google Maps of the NHT

Please visit the NPS website, www.nps.gov/waro to learn more about the NHT. To see the Google maps of the NHT auto route, follow this link to the 'Directions' page of the NPS site and click on the desired state. <http://www.nps.gov/waro/planyourvisit/directions.htm>

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.

Hudson River Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants

The Hudson River Valley Greenway announces the availability of \$50,000 in matching grants for the 2014 Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program. Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. The program offers funding for trail projects, including: planning and design; construction and rehabilitation; and education and interpretation. Applications can be downloaded from the Greenway website at <http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/GrantFunding/TrailGrant.aspx> or requested by calling (518) 473-3835 or emailing the Greenway at hrv@greenway.ny.gov. All applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, September 5, 2014. Late, incomplete or faxed applications will not be accepted.

Upcoming Events

Pedaling through our National Parks September 20-21

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): The trip 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): The second day of the ride 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 and a program 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. To go to <http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Detail.aspx?id=5896> to register.

Crossroads of the American Revolution, New Jersey

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 in early September 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/>

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