November 2015 NHT Highlights

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Find Your Revolutionary Park

Each month we will be highlighting one of the many National Parks that share the story of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT. See the Places to Go section of the website to find your Revolutionary War park.
From December 1779 to June 1780, the Continental Army encamped in Morristown, New Jersey. The soldiers endured the coldest winter of the war to emerge as a cohesive and disciplined fighting force. A month after the encampment, French reinforcements under the command of General Rochambeau arrived in Newport, Rhode Island.
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.

Join the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation as we kick off a nationwide campaign to celebrate the National Park Service Centennial.

Dedication of Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail wayside exhibits at Steamboat Riverfront Dock, Verplanck’s Point, 19 November 2015. Secretary Jeff Canning, Van Cortlandtville Historical Society leads the dedication of the signs for the Town of Cortlandt. The ceremony commemorated the crossing by General Rochambeau’s French Expédition Particulière of the Hudson River at King’s Ferry from Verplanck’s Point to Stony Point in August 1781 and the return in 1782. Hudson River Valley Institute’s Executive Director COL Jim Johnson and President Joe Ryan of the Living History Education Foundation represent Dillon’s Irish 90th Regiment in the service of French King Louis XVI. Commander Jonathan Svibruck and Bill Wienecke represent the 5th New York Regiment as soldiers of General Washington’s Continental Army crossed here as well.
Dedication of Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail wayside exhibits at Old St. Peter’s Church, 19 November 2015. Town of Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi presides over the ceremony dedicating the signs remembering the hospital at Old St. Peter’s Church and the eight French soldiers buried there. Reverend Jan Nunley of the St. Peter’s Episcopal Church blesses the signs. Hudson River Valley Institute’s Executive Director COL Jim Johnson and President Joe Ryan of the Living History Education Foundation represent Dillon’s Irish 90th Regiment in the service of French King Louis XVI. Commander Jonathan Svibruck and Bill Wienbecke represent the 5th New York Regiment as soldiers of General Washington’s Continental Army.

Photos from the events were provided by Marlene Gillis.

Maryland Trails Coordination

Robert Reyes of W3R-US and MD, Robert Selig, Stacy Madalena of Eastern National discussed the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT and the need for printed information about the route. Robert Reyes submitted a proposal to Eastern National for developing an NHT unigrid brochure that will cover Maryland and Virginia and highlight the Yorktown Campaign in the Chesapeake region.

Delaware Trail Coordination

Kim Burdick, W3R-US/DE organized a meeting in Wilmington, Delaware to discuss Delaware’s portion of the NHT. The trail in Delaware will highlight several
The trail in Delaware was laid out and marked in time for the 225th anniversary of the Yorktown Campaign in 2006. Now that the trail has federal designation, Delaware ready to refresh their plan and join their efforts with those of neighboring states.

New Jersey Trail Coordination

In New Jersey, the route follows a series of roadways from the New York border south to Trenton. These roadways were the subject of an extensive study that documented the march of the various military units through New Jersey and identified routes, camp sites, communities, and ‘witness’ sites with remaining historic resources that were present at the time. In New Jersey, the NHT is led by the W3R-NJ Association, a non-profit organization. They hosted a W3R-NJ History breakfast forum on Saturday October 31, 2015.

Go here to see maps of the route in New Jersey.

Please see the information below on the NJ Preservation conference to be held June 8-9, 2016 at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. Tom Ross, Superintendent of Morristown and Thomas Edison National Historic Parks, is organizing a session on the
NPS Centennial and engaging new audiences and welcomes your suggestions, ideas and participation.

Read the full call for sessions here.

Pennsylvania Trail Coordination

Ursula Reed, Chair of W3R-US and Vice President of W3R-PA and Joe DiBello met with Silas Chamberlain, Executive Director, and Laura Catalano, Communications Director, of the Schuylkill River Valley National and State Heritage Area to discuss cross promotion and planning opportunities on November 23. W3R-PA is developing a Pennsylvania brochure using the NPS format and there are plans to mark the NHT route. The Heritage Area will help organize a coordination meeting with state officials to discuss and coordinate trails plans.

Preservation, Virginia

Preservation Virginia is a non-profit organization and statewide historic preservation leader founded dedicated to perpetuating and revitalizing Virginia's cultural, architectural and historic heritage. Visit their website at http://www.preservationvirginia.com and visit some of their sites like the Cape Henry lighthouse at Fort Story.
http://www.preservationvirginia.com/visit/historic-properties/cape-henry-lighthouse

The Museum of the American Revolution

On November 3, 2015, Ursula Reed, Chair of W3R-US and Joe DiBello met with Ziegler Avery, Senior Curator,
and Joe DiBello met with Zee Ann Mason, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications for the Museum of the American Revolution Center to discuss opportunities for sharing information about the NHT and future partnership opportunities.

The Museum of the American Revolution publishes Read the Revolution, a curated collection of excerpts from exciting, thought provoking books about the American Revolution. Read the Revolution is published biweekly to inspire learning about the history and its ongoing relevance. Go here to browse through the archive and subscribe.

The museum is expected to open in 2017 in Philadelphia and will tell the complete story of the American Revolution. To learn more about the museum’s progress and plans, visit the website and Facebook pages.

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Additional Information

The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati

The American Revolution Institute promotes knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence, fulfilling the aim of the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of that vast event. The Institute supports advanced study, presents exhibitions and other public programs, advocates preservation, and provides resources to teachers and students to enrich understanding of our War for Independence and the principles of the men and women who secured the liberty of the American people. Visit their website here.
Let’s Plan Ahead for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

We would like to convene a Revolutionary War discussion that will connect the revolutionary war parks, heritage areas and related programs in the Northeast in anticipation of the NPS Centennial, Call to Action and the Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American War for Independence. Although many events led up to the American Revolution, the fighting started in 1775 at Lexington and Concord and lasted through 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Based on what NPS has learned from experiences of commemorations of the Civil War, War of 1812, Lewis and Clark, Centennial events, etc. we should be able to identify some effective ways to mark the Rev War 250th. The NHT can play a convening role because the Yorktown campaign was the culminating event of the American Revolution and the NHT connects the many revolutionary war parks, heritage areas, national trails and NPS programs in the very urban east. In addition to the obvious NPS participants, we will engage active partners such as the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, Museum of the American Revolution and W3R-US, and reach out to schools, libraries, arts groups, etc. A group called Revolution 250 has already started up in Boston. We propose developing an interpretive plan for the rev War 250th that would include a timeline of the relevant anniversaries; identify commemoration opportunities; brainstorm new ideas for the commemoration and identify roles and responsibilities for future action.

National Park Service Grants Available for Battlefield Preservation
Available for Battlefield Preservation

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service in Washington, DC, has opened its 2016 grants competition. The ABPP awards grants for preservation projects that lead to the permanent protection of endangered battlefield lands. Projects that involve multiple stakeholders are given preference. Non-profit groups, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments may apply. Eligible project types include, but are not limited to, site identification and documentation; planning and consensus building projects; and interpretation or education projects. All project applications must clearly demonstrate that the proposed activity will contribute directly to the preservation of battlefield land or an associated site. Grant funds may be used to procure professional services, equipment, and supplies necessary to conduct the proposed project. Matching funds are not required, although applications that include matching funds and in-kind donations will be given preference. Applications must be received by January 14, 2016 by 4 pm, EST.

The 2016 guidelines and application form are available online at www.grants.gov (click on the "Search Grants Tab" along the top. Then search CDFA # 15.926 on the left) and www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/planninggrants.htm.

For more information about ABPP grants, or to receive paper copies of the guidelines and application, please contact Kristen McMasters, ABPP Grants Manager, at 202-354-2037 or Kristen_McMasters@nps.gov.