



Independence: The Best Park in History

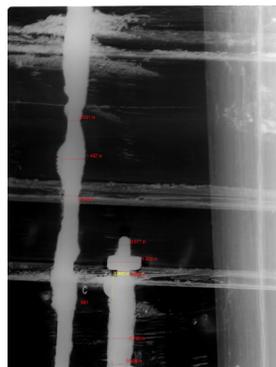
Independence Hall Tower Rehabilitation Underway

In July, work began on the 14-month rehabilitation project of Independence Hall Tower. Earlier this year, the National Park Service awarded a \$4,394,000 contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Daniel Keating Company, a general contractor and construction management firm based in Narberth.



Park neighbors and visitors will have noticed the scaffolding that went up in September. In early November, this scaffolding will be covered by a decorative scrim made possible through a donation from the Friends of Independence. The scrim, which will show an image of Independence Hall Tower, will help ensure the safety of construction workers and the public during restoration, while enabling residents and visitors to view an architectural image of the tower.

The rehabilitation project was the result of several years of planning. A 2007 materials investigation of the tower revealed significant deterioration. William Strickland's 1828 design for the tower sheathed it in 2" thick wood siding doveled together with iron rods bolted top to bottom. Over the years, driving rain penetrated through the siding's wood joints, exposing the rods to moisture. In April 2007, the investigation using non-destructive radiography (rather than cutting the siding to expose the rods) captured images of the degree of decay. The technique is similar to that used for scanning packages and luggage at airports or other security checks.



A beam of radiation was directed through the wood siding at rod locations and captured on film creating images of the iron rods.

The rehabilitation project includes a wide variety of other repairs and replacement work on the Tower, including the brick masonry, wood shingle roofing, window sashes and frames. The project also requires installing new clock faces and/or bracing at all building elevations, refurbishing historic copper urns, and replacing the supporting weathervane structure. The purpose of this rehabilitation is to arrest and correct decay of the tower's exterior skin and structural framing.



Independence Hall Tower is a critical element of the Independence Hall World Heritage site as both a landmark and focus of the park's interpretive themes. Designed by William Strickland, the present tower replaced the original one which had been removed in the late eighteenth century due to structural instability. Strickland's tower is one of America's earliest examples of colonial revival architecture.

Girl Scouts Spruce Up Independence

On September 25, National Public Lands Day brought together volunteers across the nation to improve and restore our public lands. As part of the volunteer events at Independence NHP, First Bloom Girl Scouts hosted a fall clean-up event in the native garden located at the Dock Creek Bridge, behind Carpenter's Hall.



Troops 21133 and 2610 of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania were on site to lead volunteers in the proper care and maintenance of the garden. Volunteers pulled weeds, conducted soil pH tests, gathered seeds from the native plants, cleaned out leaves for compost and laid mulch. The Girl Scouts also had an unexpected treat. After a trip to the *Butterflies!* exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Girl Scouts worked together last year to design and plant a garden that would attract birds, bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. When they came to volunteer in September, it was too early for the seed pods on the butterfly milkweed plants, which should have still been too green to collect. However, the unusual 90 degree weather over the previous few days caused two seed pods to open up. The girls collected the seeds and will let them dry over the winter. In the spring, they hope to germinate new butterfly milkweed to plant in other areas of the park.

“Here in Philadelphia, it is hard to imagine a vast natural experience,” said Holly Johnson, First Bloom program leader for INHP. “First Bloom allows these scouts to immerse themselves in an outdoor, hands-on experience with nature, while giving something back to the local community.”

Programs Provide Glimpses of Lesser Known Stories

What happened in the lives of Philadelphians during the British occupation in 1777? What role did the occupation play in the outcome of the American Revolution? This September, almost 300 visitors had these questions – any many more – answered through the British Occupation of Philadelphia Walking Tour. Independence NHP offers a series of walking tours and programs throughout the year, and this fall's tour was particularly successful.



Ranger Daniels talks to visitors about Carpenter's Hall

The British Occupation walking tour was offered eight times, Saturdays and Sundays in September. Tour participants were guided by an Interpretive Park Ranger to five stops within the park of particular significance during the occupation.

“The British occupation of Philadelphia was a crucial moment of the American Revolution, and also a little-known moment,” says Tom Daniels, an Interpretive Ranger who coordinated the tours and led four tours himself. Of the September 26, 1777 to June 1778 occupation, Daniels says, “It

was a short occupation, but significant because Philadelphia was the heart of the American revolution.”

Independence NHP offers special programs year-round that take visitors beyond the well-known history of the revolution and focus on lesser known stories. These programs give visitors a chance to step beyond what they already know – or even what they are comfortable with – and learn something new. For example, many visitors may already know that the house of Benjamin Franklin was taken over during the occupation, but on his tours, Daniels introduces visitors to individuals like Joseph Galloway to help explain how individual's decisions affected their lives during and after the revolution. Galloway chose to remain loyal to the British crown throughout the occupation and maintained a network of spies in the city. As a consequence, Galloway ended his days in exile in England.

The stops at Independence Square and Washington Square can be particularly meaningful to visitors. Many of the people who died during the occupation – both British and American – are buried in Washington Square. Visitors may learn for the first time that the second floor of Independence Hall was used as a prisoner's hospital for wounded American officers, the same building in which only a year previously the Continental Congress had declared our Independence.

Independence NHP offers special programs throughout the year to help visitors see a little bit more in the park and explore the places they might not otherwise get to visit.

Congratulations to Dick Dyer

Congratulations to Seasonal Park Guide Dick Dyer for 50 years of service at Independence National Historical Park!

In his time here, Dick has been part of many changes and improvements at the park, including the redevelopment of Independence Mall, the move of the Liberty Bell (twice!), visits of 11 U.S. Presidents, and the comings and goings of 7 park superintendents.

When Dick started his career at Independence NHP on June 27, 1960, Dwight Eisenhower was still President, an average new house cost less than \$13,000, a gallon of gasoline cost 25 cents, and Chubby Checker was doing *The Twist!* Six months before Dick arrived at Independence NHP, four black college students in Greensboro, NC began a sit-in at a



segregated Woolworth's lunch counter. Three months later, the U.S. announced that 3,500 American soldiers were being sent to Vietnam. Several days after his arrival to Independence, the new 50 star flag of the United States first officially flew over Philadelphia (probably at Independence Hall).

Dick graduated from LaSalle College (now University) with a BA in History, and has a Masters in History and Education from Niagara University. When Dick started his

seasonal career at Independence, his "other job" was teaching high school at Bishop Kenrick (now Kennedy-Kenrick) in Norristown. Later, he taught at Methacton High School in Eagleville, PA.

Through the years, Dick has worked at almost every building at Independence NHP. He continues to make the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site come alive for visitors. Dick also serves as an interpreter at the historic site of another renowned American poet: the Walt Whitman House in Camden, NJ. Here is to another 50 years!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Independence National Historical Park

143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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President's House Site Commemoration Opening Scheduled

The City of Philadelphia and Independence NHP have announced a December 6 ribbon cutting for the new exhibit, "*Freedom and Slavery in Making a New Nation*" on the President's House site. A joint initiative of the City and the park, the historic project commemorates the site of the executive mansion of the first two United States presidents, George Washington and John Adams, and exhibits tell the long-obscured story of at least nine enslaved Africans who toiled at the house during Washington's presidency.

"From its inception, this project has generated conversation and discovery, and we hope it will continue to do so. Benefiting from

the voices of citizens and guiding legislation from the U.S. Congress and the collaboration between the City of Philadelphia and the National Park Service, the project is a welcome addition to Independence National Historical Park," said Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod.

The final few months of construction and design work will include erection of the memorial to the enslaved; preparation of the glass vitrine that will allow visitors to view the archeological fragments that were unearthed in 2007; and installation of porcelite panels, videos and illustrated glass that will provide the context for the history of the site.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Fall Programs

Special Program at the Germantown White House

American Historical Theater actor Steve Edenbo will portray Thomas Jefferson to commemorate cabinet meetings held in November, 1793, at this house. Saturday, November 27, from 1 to 3 pm.

Special Programs at the Second Bank

“The Forgotten (Native) Americans” This 30-minute, Ranger-led program commemorates Native American History Month. Saturdays and Sundays in November, 3:00pm.

“Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles” In this 15-minute program, hear the amazing story of Moses Williams who learned to operate the Physiognotrace to earn his freedom and a good living making silhouettes in Peale’s Museum. Wednesday through Sunday, 2:00pm.

“Stories of Struggle” As the nation began to develop, not all people achieved what Thomas Jefferson described as “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Enslaved Africans, women seeking equality and the right to vote, and Native Americans who were forcibly removed from their lands, decimated by war and disease are just some of these Stories of Struggle. Join a Park Ranger for a 30-minute illustrated program in the Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank. Wednesday through Sunday at 4:00pm.