



# Washington-Rochambeau

## Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

### July 2013



Society of the Cincinnati Headquarters, Washington DC

## News Along the Trail

As you know, the federal budget situation has had an impact on the NPS nationwide. We are feeling the effects on the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. I am sad to tell you that after leaving no stone unturned, we will not be able to re-new Samantha Driscoll's term position as Preservation Planner for the NHT. Her position will end on September 30, 2013, at the end of FY13. Samantha has been with the Washington-Rochambeau NHT since 2010, and has done an outstanding job for the NHT and the NPS. In her short time here, she has performed multiple roles facilitating the growth of the NHT. As a planner, she created NHT maps, coordinated regional plans and objectives along the route, assisted with partnership development, and worked on compliance processes. As a project manager, she designed the NHT logo, oversaw the design of the NPS brochure, created and developed the NHT website, organized historical research and synthesis, assisted in public outreach initiatives, and managed the Transportation Enhancement Program wayside exhibit project in New York State. Samantha also was responsible for grant applications and management, both internally and externally, while providing technical assistance to partners. Samantha managed communications for the NHT, responding to public inquiries, creating the monthly newsletter, managing social media, and utilizing new graphics and technology for NHT presentations. Samantha is job searching and hopes to stay in the Philadelphia area. Needless to say, we will miss her tremendously as we march onward.

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Samantha spent the week of July 8-12 conducting research under a Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati Fellowship at the Society of the Cincinnati Headquarters in Washington DC. She focused her research on two particular topics which she felt were gaps in the Washington-Rochambeau NHT story: the Battle off the Capes and some first-person accounts of soldiers who participated in the Yorktown Campaign. As one of her last projects with the NHT, Samantha will be creating an article summarizing her research. This article will eventually be available on the Washington-Rochambeau NHT website.

Phil Correll has developed a new cooperative agreement between the NPS and the W3R®-US. This new agreement will allow us to continue our cooperative partnership activities for the next five years. Individual task agreements will be put in place as funding and opportunities become available. The first will be for a Connect Trails to Parks project that will enable us to develop a searchable database using GIS and future applications. Phil also helped the W3R®-US establish itself in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) so we can begin processing payments on the FY 2010 Challenge Cost Share Program project.

Nicole Yancey, the NHT liaison in Virginia, has initiated discussions with the state and communities to introduce the NHT and explore its use as a connector and tourism promotion tool. We contacted staff at VADCNR, VDOT, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation to discuss possibilities of linking Revolutionary War sites along the corridor in the state. Samantha is working with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail to review plans for Route 1 and coordinate signs and displays at Mason Neck and Meadowood in Virginia.

We received word that the two American Revolution Grant Applications submitted to the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) were not selected. We will help improve the proposals so that they will be more competitive in future grant rounds. The proposals were seeking funding to evaluate resources and preservation possibilities associated with Gloucester Point, Virginia and the 1781 Battle of the Hook and the 1781 Battle off the Capes. For more info about the program and to see the funded projects, go to [www.nps.gov/hps/abpp](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp)

Janet Burnett (W3R®-US Vice Chair, W3R-NY Director, Highlands Coalition and active participant in numerous other activities in the Hudson Valley) continues to identify opportunities and develop plans for working together on landscape conservation initiatives, incorporating heritage and history in our work and enhancing opportunities for citizen and community connections, experience and tourism associated with the region's outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The Honorable Maurice Hinchey has accepted her invitation to the Washington-Rochambeau Regatta, and the Washington-Rochambeau cup is named in his honor (as the Hinchey Cup). He plans to attend the regatta and the reception on September 27. Janet needs an invitation list with postal addresses, emails and phone numbers if possible, from you so she can send invitations to individuals who should be invited on the Clearwater for the Leadership sail and reception.



The wayside exhibit program for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT in New York is moving ahead. See the map on the website here: <http://www.nps.gov/waro/parknews/index.htm>. The updated schedule has a tentative date for the wayside exhibits to be ready in the early months of 2014. In preparation for this, Phil Correll is developing a general agreement for each of the fifteen destinations on the placement and installation of the outdoor wayside exhibits.

## Updates on the NHT

Planning is critical to the future of the NHT, particularly in the ever-changing environment we face. Many of you have participated in the early phases of our strategic planning effort, and we have begun 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 planning and action. With the leadership and help of Allen Cooper, Chief of Planning, and Peter Iris-Williams, Planner, both with the NPS Northeast Regional Office, we have developed a draft purpose statement, significance statements, and themes. We are holding a series of collaborative work sessions that are moving along, and we hope to share written material and look forward to continuing the process with you.

In 2013, we are the beneficiaries of a Connect Trails to Parks project. We are undertaking a GIS project that will expand the NHT auto route map to include walking, biking, boating, kayaking, and transit routes. We will create additional information layers to show the location of National Parks, National Trails, National Landmarks, National Register sites, National Monuments, Heritage Areas, state parks, and local parks that are related to the NHT. Our goal is to go digital and create an interactive feature that will connect the places and make all of this information easily accessible. Samantha Driscoll is developing a scope of work for the project so please contact her if you have any questions or suggestions.

We are continuing to move ahead cautiously in these times of reductions and constraints. We are working to develop partnerships, to get the word out about the NHT and to diversify the source of funds to help finance and carry out trail related projects and initiatives. Please let us know if you have suggestions or know of opportunities for us to work together.

Speaking of planning ahead, 2025-2033 will mark the 250th Anniversary of America's War for Independence. The American Revolution is a national and international story that has broad educational and tourism interest. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT not only highlights an important revolutionary 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. We can work together and plan ahead to create a spectacular commemoration.



# NPS: *A Call to Action*

The National Park Service is nearing its 100th Anniversary in 2016. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis has announced A Call to Action to move the NPS into a new century. A Call to Action calls for creative and innovative ways to interpret, experience, communicate, protect, and educate the parks, trails, sites, and resources of the National Park Service.

See the plan at: [http://inside.nps.gov/calltoaction/pdf/C2A\\_report.pdf](http://inside.nps.gov/calltoaction/pdf/C2A_report.pdf)

## **The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail will work with communities along the route to:**

- Reach new audiences to tell the story of Generals Washington and Rochambeau, the allied armies, and the people impacted by this event.
- Connect the national, state, local parks, trails, heritage areas, and greenways on the route and add cultural resource preservation and interpretation to the natural and recreation resources along the route.
- Offer rich, interactive, up-to-date content in a user-friendly web platform that supports online and mobile technology including social media.

## **Website and Google Maps of the NHT**

With the NPS website now up and running, [www.nps.gov/waro](http://www.nps.gov/waro), the Google maps of the NHT auto route are more accessible. Please 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>**

Like' us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all NHT news!

**<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary-Route-National-Historic-Trail/126419804105006>**



# Items of Interest

## **The Surprising ROI of Trails**

Trails do not have to be in the middle of nowhere, connecting communities. Trails can be, and often are, in the middle of communities connecting neighborhoods, parks, business districts, and the countryside. PTA and Rails to Trails explains the benefits of investing in trails, and describes successful efforts in several cities. <http://www.transportationissuesdaily.com/the-surprising-roi-of-trails/>

## **2013 Greenway Conservancy Small Grant Program**

### **Applications due Friday, September 13, 2013**

The Hudson River Valley Greenway announces the availability of \$50,000 in matching grants for the 2013 Greenway Conservancy Small 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/ConservancyGrant.aspx> or requested by calling (518) 473-3835 or emailing the Greenway at [hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov](mailto:hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov).

## **Cultural Resources Geographic Information System Re-launch**

In PA, there was the August 2013 re-launch of the Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS). For the last nine months the CRGIS staff has been working closely with PennDOT's development team from Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI) to make major changes to the CRGIS and AskReGIS system. <https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/ce/Application/ASP/Security/Index.asp>

## **Author Jini Jones Vail at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum**

On Sept. 19, the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, 211 Main St. Wethersfield, CT, will host a presentation by Jini Jones Vail, the author of *Rochambeau, Washington's Ideal Lieutenant, A French General's Role in the American Revolution*. The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a wine reception (by donation) at 6 p.m. and followed by a book signing.

<http://www.courant.com/community/wethersfield/hcrs-77569-wethersfield-20130717,0,961155.story>

## **The Yorktown Victory Center's Revolutionary War Lecture Series**

**September 14:** "To, Through, and Beyond Virginia," by James C. Kelly

**September 28:** "The Tyranny of the People': A Loyalist Perspective on the American Revolution," by Holger Hoock

**October 5:** "Painters and Paintings in the Early American South: 1735-1800," by Carolyn J. Weekley



The Yorktown Victory Center's Revolutionary War lecture series returns this year with guest scholars speaking at 7 p.m. Saturdays, September 14 and 28 and October 5, in the museum's Richard S. Reynolds Foundation Theater. Admission to the lectures is free, and advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or e-mailing [rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov](mailto:rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov). The series is supported with private donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.

**“The Men Who Lost America” An Evening with Historian Andrew Jackson O’Shaughnessy**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2013 7:30pm, Philadelphia**

The author evaluates the role of British leadership in the outcome of the Revolutionary War. It was a war that Britain seemingly should have won as a major military power. It is therefore commonly assumed that failure must have been due to the incompetence of the commanders and the politicians who are ridiculed in fiction and in movies. Although less crudely presented, such caricatures even permeate scholarly literature. The talk will challenge the stereotypes and offer a very different explanation of why Britain lost the American War of Independence. See more at: <http://menwholostamerica.eventbrite.com/>

**Washington and Rochambeau in Liberty’s Kids  
Episode #36 “Yorktown”**

Liberty’s Kids is an animated educational historical fiction television series originally broadcast on PBS Kids from 2002 to 2003. The following links will take you to Part 1 and Part 2 of Episode #36 entitled, “Yorktown.” The Washington-Rochambeau NHT is explained in conjunction with the siege of Yorktown, resulting in a very entertaining cartoon!

*EPISODE 36: “Yorktown”*

PART ONE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzAyaPP95zw>

PART TWO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBCdzPtfVdU>