

# Washington-Rochambeau

## Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



## March 2015 Highlights



## News Along the Trail

### L'Hermione Voyage 2015

In 2015, the National Park Service (NPS) will bring together national parks, national heritage areas, national trails, national rivers and national programs in the Northeast Region to share the revolutionary story as the reconstructed French frigate L'Hermione arrives for its East Coast Tour. The voyage begins this April, when L'Hermione will set sail for America. The journey will start from the mouth of the River Charente, in Port des Barques, where Lafayette boarded on March 10th, 1780. The transatlantic crossing is expected to take 27 days in total, before making landfall at Yorktown, Virginia.

In May of 1780, L'Hermione brought Lafayette from France to Boston where he then met with General Washington informing him of the alliance with France and the impending arrival of Rochambeau. On September 10, 1781, the frigate left Boston with 6000 pounds of powder for the artillery and joined French Admiral de Grasse's fleet on the lower Chesapeake and the siege at Yorktown on September 28, 1781.

As the Hermione moves up the eastern seaboard this spring and summer, it will be accompanied by a range of pier-side activities. These include, in some ports, a traveling exhibition and a heritage village that will be accessible to the public. The Hermione Voyage 2015 is part of an expansive outreach program with

cultural events, exhibitions, and educational programs that celebrate the trip and mark its progress. A robust digital activation for the voyage expands the reach of the project to millions of people.

Thanks to support from the Northeast Region, we are providing funding to develop a mobile NPS display, provide publications and educational materials, and to have NPS staff stationed at ports where the L'Hermione will dock. This is a great opportunity to reach a diverse group and tell them about not only the NHT, but all of our National Parks and Programs, the NPS Centennial and the many outstanding natural and cultural resources along the way. L'Herminoine's East Coast Tour will stop at the following ports:

### **JUNE**

June 5, 6, 7-Yorktown, VA  
June 9-Mount Vernon, VA (ship at anchor)  
June 10, 11, 12-Alexandria, VA (city dock)  
June 16, 17-Annapolis, MD (city dock)  
June 19, 20, 21-Baltimore, MD (adjacent USS Constellation & Pride of Baltimore)  
June 25, 26, 27, 28-Philadelphia, PA (with Tall Ships America/Independence Seaport)

### **JULY**

July 1, 2, 3, 4-New York, NY (with educational ships from U.S. east coast)  
July 6, 7-Greenport, NY (with Tall Ships America )  
July 8, 9-Newport, RI (with Oliver Hazard Perry – Fort Adams)  
July 11, 12-Boston, MA – (Rowe's Wharf)  
July 14, 15-Castine, ME  
July 18-Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

The NHT, W3R-US and Friends of the Hermione are developing a partnership agreement. We plan to link websites, create informational materials and coordinate activities at each of the sites. We will update you soon with details about the events and activities planned. We welcome your ideas as to how we can maximize this tremendous opportunity to reach out and we hope to see you dockside later this year!

## **Tall Ships and Hermione Sailing the Delaware**

The tall ships and the Hermione will be docked in Philadelphia from June 25-28. W3R US will celebrate the six year anniversary of the designation of the NHT and hold its 2015 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on June 25th. A program is planned at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia in anticipation of the afternoon arrival of the ships. The NHT, Independence National Historical Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park and First State National Park (based in New Castle DE) are exploring opportunities to showcase NPS and share our stories with visitors to the event. Learn more about First State National Park <http://www.nps.gov/frst/index.htm>. Those paddling with the Delaware River Sojourn will also be spending their last two days in the Tidal Delaware while the ships are here. For more information on the sojourn visit [DelawareRiverSojourn.org](http://DelawareRiverSojourn.org). We are also working with Fort Mifflin and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area to maximize this opportunity to share our heritage.

## **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 is well underway. Our Harpers Ferry Center (Susan Haines) is providing us with technical assistance and managing this project for us. The final edits were conveyed to the contractor and we expect to see the proofs in two weeks. We will look them over quickly and anticipate that they will be fabricated and shipped by the end of June. Sooner if possible! We know you are anxiously waiting to have the waysides developed and shipped to you for installation. 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 Washington-Rochambeau NHT.

## **Exhibition at the Anderson House in Washington D.C.**

Lafayette and L’Hermione: Symbols of French-American Friendship Exhibit can be seen April 3 - September 6, 2015. In the summer of 2015, a replica of the frigate L’Hermione—which carried the marquis de Lafayette back to America with the news that France would send troops to support the revolutionaries—will visit Yorktown and Alexandria in Virginia before sailing to Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Long Island, Newport, and Boston. The exhibition Lafayette and L’Hermione examines Lafayette, the French alliance, the role of the French army and navy in America, and the twenty-one year project to reconstruct the vessel that carried the young marquis back to America with the news. Please visit <http://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/exhibit/current> to read more and see highlights from the exhibition.

## **Christopher Newport University (CNU), Public History Center, Newport News, VA**

CNU is hosting a panel discussion, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 6 pm, at the Gaines Theater. The topic is the French Revolutionary Tall Ship, Lafayette’s Hermione - Visits Yorktown, VA. The Panelists include Brian Fuller: Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Manager, York County; Dr. Robert Selig: National Park Consultant for Washington-Rochambeau Route; Michael Steen: Director of Education Programs, Waterman’s Museum; and Dr. Sheri Shuck-Hall: Director, Public History Center, CNU. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Thomas Hall, Associate Director, Public History Center, CNU. All CNU students and faculty/staff are welcome to attend. For more information, visit <http://cnu.edu/publichistorycenter/events/>. Learn more about the Hermione at the official Hermione 2015 website, <http://www.hermione2015.com/#home>.

## **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 about the March to Victory: Washington Rochambeau and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781.

## **March to Victory: Washington Rochambeau and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781**

March to Victory: Washington Rochambeau and the Yorktown Campaign of 1781 was recently reprinted and released to the public. This is Dr. Robert Selig's concise historical narrative that explains the entire Yorktown campaign that led to the final victory in the Revolutionary War. It's available at <http://www.amazon.com/March-victory-Washington-Rochambeau-Yorktown/dp/B003ARSN9A>

## **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown**

With the completion of an 80,000-square-foot building – a distinctive new Yorktown landmark – the Yorktown Victory Center has reached a midpoint milestone in its transformation into the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Museum operations transitioned from the existing facility to the new building where visitors are welcomed in an expansive two-story entrance lobby, with access to a museum gift shop and a café. Before entering the ticketed area, visitors can watch a new Yorktown Victory Center orientation video and find information about other area attractions. In the 170-seat museum theater, until the premiere of new introductory film in 2016, three films will be shown on a rotating basis, each prefaced by a 60-second preview of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. “The Road to Yorktown,” which debuted with the opening of the Yorktown Victory Center in 1976 during the national Bicentennial, and “A Time of Revolution,” shown daily since 1995, focus on the 1781 Siege of Yorktown and events that led up to it, with emphasis on the perspectives and personal stories of those involved. “Liberty's Call,” a new film produced by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's video production team to be added to the rotation this spring, combines period images with present-day interviews to explore the American ideal of liberty from its inception to the establishment of a national government, and across time to today. Construction of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown began in mid-2012, and the entire project is planned for completion by late 2016. The Yorktown Victory Center is located at Route 1020 and the Colonial Parkway (200 Water Street) and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information, visit <http://www.historyisfun.org/>.

## **Dig planned at Revolutionary Site in New Jersey**

Researchers are digging into the New Jersey site of a major Revolutionary War battle at Red Bank Battlefield Park in the southern New Jersey town of National Park. The effort - funded with a \$46,200 grant from the National Park Service - will be detailed in a free public program at 7 p.m. April 9, 2015 in Room 500 of the Health and Sciences Building at Rowan College at Gloucester County in Sewell, NJ. To learn more, click on this article: <http://mobile.philly.com/news/local/?wss=/philly/news/local&id=297950371>.

## National Endowment for the Arts and National Park Service Team Up

“Art is the child of Nature,” said American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. A new grant initiative created in partnership by the NEA and the National Park Service celebrates the intersections between the two in honor of the NEA’s 50th anniversary in 2015 and the National Park Service’s centennial in 2016. “Imagine Your Parks” will provide \$1 million in funding through the NEA Art Works grant category to projects that use the arts to engage people with memorable places and landscapes of the National Park System. The National Park System includes not only national parks, but also national historic sites, trails, rivers, seashores, landmarks and national monuments, heritage areas, preserves, battlefields, recreation areas, and more. “Imagine Your Parks” will support art projects that encourage the creation of and greater public engagement with art about the National Park System. Funding will encourage partnerships with park areas or programs. “Imagine Your Parks” will also support projects that promote public engagement in urban environments, or that engage younger generations with the National Park System. Projects may take place at and around the National Park System, or may take place elsewhere in the United States with a focus on the work and mission of the National Park Service. “Imagine Your Parks” is funded through the NEA Art Works grant category, and guidelines are available at <http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/grant-program-description>. Projects in all art disciplines are eligible for consideration for the “Imagine Your Parks” funding. Please let us know if you are interested in preparing a proposal related to the NHT and we will help you.

## Find Your Park

In advance of next year’s National Park Service Centennial, the Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>) and the National Park Foundation (<http://www.nationalparks.org/>) kicked off a nationwide campaign to encourage people to learn about and connect with the 407 national parks by launching a one-of-a-kind interactive installation that invites them to share their stories about their favorite parks and discover new parks and public lands they might want to visit. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, National Park Foundation Interim President Dan Wenk and Centennial Ambassador Bella Thorne to unveil the Find Your Park Virtual View Kiosks, which will connect people in New York City and several other cities to national parks across the country over the coming weeks. This marks the beginning of the Find Your Park campaign to educate people about and connect them to their national parks in preparation for next year’s National Park Service Centennial celebration. See more here: <http://www.findyourpark.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, 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. 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)