



# Independence: The Best Park in History

## Independence Welcomes BJ Dunn as new Deputy Superintendent

Independence National Historical Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod has selected BJ Dunn for the position of Deputy Superintendent at Independence National Historical Park. Deputy Superintendent Dunn will start in his new position on October 25, 2009. As Deputy Superintendent, Dunn will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the park, as well as a number of special projects. Dunn fills the position left vacant by Darla Sidles, who left Independence NHP in June to take the position of Superintendent at Saguaro National Park in Arizona.

“BJ is extraordinarily well-suited to handle the issues and operations of Independence NHP. He brings expertise in resource management, partnerships, and community relations that are specific to a historical park,” said Superintendent MacLeod.

Currently the Superintendent of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, Dunn has been leading efforts with the park’s nonprofit partner to acquire the 48-acre Blow-Me-Down Farm. He recently served as executive producer of *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master of American Sculpture*, a new hour-long documentary film about the sculptor. He also recently produced a large community theatrical performance, *Masque of the Golden*



*Bowl*, as part of commemorative centennial activities recognizing America’s first pageant in Cornish in 1905. He has overseen traveling museum exhibitions of the sculptor’s works and recently successfully led the site through museum accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

“It’s an honor to be entrusted with this important work to serve Independence National Historical Park and Philadelphia.” said Dunn. “As home of two of our national icons, Independence is arguably the most recognizable historical site in the National Park Service, and I am proud to take on the responsibility to preserve and operate this national treasure.”

Dunn has had a long career with the NPS. Dunn began his National Park Service career in 1983 as a seasonal maintenance employee and has since worked as a seasonal park ranger, an administrative officer for

three parks, management assistant, assistant superintendent, and a number of administrative positions within a regional office.

His previous assignments have included posts at Acadia National Park (ME), the former North Atlantic Regional Office (MA), Frederick Law Olmsted, Longfellow and John F. Kennedy National Historic Sites (MA), the Women’s Rights National Historical Park (NY) where he served briefly as acting superintendent, and prior to his current position, he served as the assistant superintendent at the then newly established Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Historical Park (VT).

Dunn is a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Executive Leadership Program and holds a B. S. in Park Management from Granite State College. His personal interests include travel, museums, historic site preservation, dogs, and the environment.

## Friends of Independence Host 2009 Annual Meeting in Congress Hall

On Monday, October 5, 2009, the Friends of Independence hosted their 37th Annual Meeting. This year's topic was Independence Hall.

Charlene Mires, Professor of History at Villanova University and author of "Independence Hall in American Memory" spoke about one of the many themes of her book, the importance of local citizens as the guardians of Independence Hall. Her speech reminded everyone in the room that it was the citizens of Philadelphia who helped preserve the building and square in the 19th century. Independence Square was also a meeting place for many ethnic groups in Philadelphia, who used the public square to express their views on freedom and democracy with a number of civic events.

During the meeting, the Friends presented the 31st Volunteer of the Year award to Linda Abby Fein. Linda has been a Twilight Guide with the Friends for 32 years and has volunteered for many events over the years. To learn more about Linda, her biography can be viewed on the Friends website, [www.friendsofindependence.org](http://www.friendsofindependence.org).

A reception following the meeting was generously provided by Therese Fera and Chef Felix Maietta of the Downtown Club. Every room in the building overlooks Independence Square and provides a beautiful view of Independence Hall. Thanks also go to the beverage sponsors, Chaddsford Winery and Yards Brewery.



# Independence, Hopewell Furnace and Valley Forge Host Ken Burns

## *Rained Out Event Still Draws Large Crowd*



On Friday, September 11, 2009, the Philadelphia area's National Park Service members, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Independence National Historical Park, and Valley Forge National Historical Park, along with WHYY (the local PBS affiliate), hosted renowned filmmaker Ken Burns in Independence National Historical Park. Originally planned as a large, outdoor screening, the event was moved indoors due to weather. Despite the move, the free public screening drew a large crowd eager to see the film and the filmmaker. Burns spoke to a standing-room only crowd, with an overflow crowd seated in a second theater.

Thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation, participants also enjoyed a unique opportunity to see special videos featuring nearby units of the National Park System. Local students created their own video stories about *their* national parks: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Independence National Historical Park and

Valley Forge National Historical Park. Student videos captured scenes of history and beauty in the parks, highlighted the important role of volunteers and interns, and showcased the enthusiasm these students shared for experiencing and preserving the national park system. The student videos can be seen at <http://video.whyy.org/feature/97/>.

Recognizing the solemnity of the day, INDE Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and WHYY President and CEO Bill Marrazzo used the occasion not only to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11, but also to think about the many things that make our nation great – including the National Park Service. By giving minority and underprivileged Philadelphia-area students the opportunity to make use of the WHYY Learning Lab and new video-making equipment provided by the National Park Foundation, this project created new partnerships and teaching opportunities that will have a lasting impact on both the parks and the students.

# Candlelight Tours with Edgar Allan Poe

At 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, the Friends of Poe and the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site will present *Poe's Cask*. Join Edgar Allan Poe as he narrates and brings to life one of his most horrific stories, "The Cask of Amontillado." This is the first time the Friends of Poe have ever told the story of Montresor and his unfortunate enemy, Fortunato, in this perfectly unique and creepy location. In this 45-minute performance, Poe is Montresor, the character who arranges for a memorable wine tasting for his "friend," the unlucky Fortunato. Descend into the basement of the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site with Park Ranger actors as we become part of the story. (Not



for claustrophobics!). Tickets are \$10 per person. Make your reservations online at [www.friendsofindependence.org](http://www.friendsofindependence.org) or call the Friends of Independence at (215) 861-4971.

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, the National Park Service has created new and exciting exhibits at the Edgar Allan Poe National

Historical Site. Considered to be the creator of the modern detective story as well as the master of the horror story genre, Edgar Allan Poe spent some of his most creative and prolific years in Philadelphia. The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site tells the story of Poe's life and works while in Philadelphia with exhibits celebrating the incredible life and literary legacy of this great American poet and author. Exhibits are designed to entertain and educate visitors of all ages, and entrance to this site is free, no tickets required.

The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site is located at 7<sup>th</sup> & Spring Garden Streets, just a few blocks north of Center City Philadelphia. The site is open Wednesday to Sunday from 9 AM – 5 PM, closed Monday and Tuesday.



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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## INDE and VAFO Host Public Meeting

Independence NHP is requesting public comments on the arrangement made earlier this year through which the National Center for the American Revolution will establish the American Revolution Museum on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Streets. Members of the public are invited to send comments in writing and to attend a public information session focused on the land exchange between the National Park Service and the National Center for the American Revolution, which will be held on **November 2, 2009 in the Independence Living History Center, at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Streets, from 4 to 7 p.m.** This meeting is open to the public, and all are invited to attend and offer comments.

Written comments on this undertaking will be accepted through November 6, 2009, at the following address or electronically through <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/inde>.

Independence National Historical Park  
ATTN: American Revolution Center Public Comments  
143 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

More information about the land transfer agreement is available at <http://www.nps.gov/inde/parkmgmt/planning.htm>.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## November is Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the entire month of November being designated for that purpose. Independence NHP has a number of programs coming up to honor and celebrate Native American History Month. Please visit our website, [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde), for dates and times.

***Saturdays at 3pm in the Second Bank of the United States: “Whatever Happened to All the Native People?”***  
This illustrated program tells the story of the original inhabitants of Pennsylvania, their influence and legacy on the founding of a nation before, during and after the American Revolution.

***Sundays at 3pm in the Independence Visitor Center: “Teedyuscung Tells All”***

In this first person presentation, join Chief Teedyuscung in Independence Hall for a council discussing his role in negotiations during the French and Indian War to achieve peace for Pennsylvania and a home for his people. This program begins at the Independence Visitor Center then moves to the 2nd floor of Independence Hall.

***Friday, November 27 at 11am and 2pm: “Shall Not Be Invaded or Disturbed, Did the Trail of Tears Start Here?”***

Did the idea of Indian Removal originate with the Founding Fathers on Independence Square? Join a Delaware Chief for a first person presentation examining the Nations early Indian Affairs.

Additionally, Independence NHP will be presenting a new illustrated program on the Lesser Known Stories of Independence Hall that tells of the Native American presence in the building and their influence on the founding of a Nation.