



# Independence: The Best Park in History

## Pennsylvania Supreme Court Reconvenes in Old City Hall

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held the first day of its September session in the historic Supreme Court Chamber in Old City Hall in Independence National Historical Park. This historic event was part of the park's commemoration of Constitution Week, September 12-17, 2011.

By hearing cases in this historic courtroom, the PA Supreme Court made the site come alive with current meaning and connected the past with today for visitors and participants. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court sat in the courtroom in the building now called

Old City Hall between the years of 1791 and 1802. The U.S. Supreme Court also sat here from 1791 to 1800, while Philadelphia was the new nation's capital. In 1800, the U.S. Supreme Court moved to Washington, D.C., and in 1802, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court moved back into the courtroom in the old State House, what is now Independence Hall.

Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod greeted the Justices, saying that their presence in this historic site was helping the park bridge the gap between history and pres-

ent day. "I appreciate the spirit in which you come here today, bringing history to life for our visitors and court observers... Reading up on your [judicial] history has been fascinating."



Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille and Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court with Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and Park Rangers Dottie Vauls, Steve Medeiros and Jacquelyn Bryant in historic Old City Hall.

MacLeod's welcome was followed by a short interpretive talk by Park Ranger Steve Medeiros who emphasized that in the 18th Century, both the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court brought the law to the people of the new nation not only by allowing the public to sit in on hearings, as they were today, but also by riding the circuit.

Chief Justice Castille noted the historic significance of allowing cameras into a session of the PA Supreme Court. "It seems fitting that our historic first tele-

vised session will take place in one of our nation's most historic sites – the birthplace of independence," Castille said. "My colleagues and I thank Justice Seamus McCaffery who presented us with the idea of hearing arguments in Independence Hall in honor of national Constitution Week, and the Court expresses its appreciation to the National Park Service for making this historic session in Old City Hall a reality."

Members of the public were invited to watch the proceedings and an agreement between the Court and the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) allowed gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Supreme Court's oral arguments. PCN aired the historic Old City Hall session on the evening of September 13, 2011.

A reporter for the Pennsylvania Record noted that, before the justices has taken their seats, a man was overheard remarking to Castille about the significance of Old City Hall, which normally serves as an exhibit space. "Morning chief," the man called over to Castille. "Now you're in a real courtroom."

After the chief's remarks, the court heard oral arguments in a handful of cases, covering everything from aviation law to prescription drug liability.

# Moon Tree Clone Grows in Washington Square

In celebration of our national public lands, gardeners at Independence National Historical Park planted a clone created from the ailing Moon Tree at Washington Square on National Public Lands Day.

In 1971, Astronaut Stuart Roosa carried hundreds of tree seeds to the Moon on Apollo XIV.

On May 6, 1975, one of the trees grown from those seeds was planted in Washington Square, which is now part of Independence National Historical Park. The Washington Square Moon Tree was the first such tree to be planted.

Today, hundreds of Moon Trees are growing around the nation. Information on the Moon Tree program, including a list of all the Moon Trees known to still be growing, can be found at the NASA Moon Tree web page: [http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/moon\\_tree.html](http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/moon_tree.html).

By 2008, the tree was clearly dying and the park moved quickly to perpetuate the genetic stock through growing a clone. Visitors, residents and representatives of the media joined Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod for a ceremony marking the legacy of the original Moon Tree and the planting of the new, cloned Moon Tree. Superintendent MacLeod welcomed Colonel

Christopher Roosa (son of Stuart Roosa) and Anthony S. Aiello, Director of Horticulture and Curator at Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, who joined in the event. Colonel Roosa spoke of his father's pride at planting this tree near Independence Hall and how he first developed his idea for the Moon Tree program. Mr. Aiello spoke about how the

cloned tree was grown by Morris Arboretum from a cutting from the original. For more information on the Morris Arboretum visit their website at: <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/index.shtml>.

Wood from the original tree will be recycled and used in plaques and other memorial items around the park.

Washington Square was one of the original squares in the 1682 plan for the City of Philadelphia as designed for William Penn. It became a Potter's Field or Strangers' Burial Ground in 1706 and also served as a burial ground for the town's free and enslaved Africans. During the Revolutionary war it doubled as a military cemetery. More than 2,000 soldiers – both patriots and prisoners of war – were buried here and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution was established in 1953.



NPS Staff with Col. Christopher Roosa



Gardener Richard DiPietro preparing to remove the original



Col. Christopher Roosa speaking about his father Astronaut Stuart Roosa



Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, with the felled dead Moon Tree in the background



Cynthia MacLeod, Christopher Roosa and Anthony Aiello planting the new tree



Supervisory Gardener Michael Dixon, patting down the soil of the newly planted Moon Tree clone

# Gates Receives Liberty Medal

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates received the National Constitution Center's 2011 Liberty Medal on September 22, in honor of his five decades of distinguished service. In what was a moving tribute to Dr. Gates' role as the "Soldiers' Secretary," Iraq War veteran Anthony Odierno, representing Wounded Warrior Project, and SFC Dana Graham of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, representing the USO of Pennsylvania and Southern NJ (Liberty USO), joined Center President and CEO David Eisner to present the prestigious medal to Dr. Gates. The ceremony took place at the National Constitution Center in Independence National Historical Park.

ABC News Correspondent Bob Woodruff hosted the live event, which also featured presentations by Pennsylvania Governor Thomas W. Corbett. Independence National Historical Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod joined other guests on-stage for the presentation of the award.

Appearing in video tributes throughout the ceremony were President George H.W. Bush, under whom Gates served as Director of the CIA; President Bill Clinton, Chair of the National Constitution Center Board of Trustees; President George W. Bush, who originally appointed Gates to the post of Secretary of Defense in 2006; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, with whom Gates worked closely during his final term as Secretary of Defense under President Obama;



former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who Gates recently succeeded as chancellor of the College of William and Mary; and Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter.

In his five-decade career in public service, Dr. Gates has served eight presidents – in uniform, as the director of the CIA and as the civilian head of America's armed forces. From the era of the Cold War to the complex challenges of the 21st century, he helped transform U.S. intelligence and military operations to meet emerging realities, and advocated for the safety and empowerment of American servicemen and women. Having served both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, Dr. Gates is the only Secretary of Defense in U.S. history to serve presidents of different parties. He retired from the post on June 30, 2011.

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Given annually, the medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe.

# INDE Staff Go Above and Beyond

Ben Franklin, arguably the most famous Philadelphian, is celebrated at Independence National Historical Park for his role as a revolutionary, political leader, statesman and inventor. In 2013, the refurbished Franklin Museum in Franklin Court will open with interactive exhibits that teach visitors of Franklin's many and varied accomplishments. But the park is not the only place with a claim on Franklin's importance.



Park Rangers and Volunteer Firefighters Ed Welch and Bill Caughlin with Franklin at the unveiling

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of INDE Interpretive Rangers and volunteer firefighters Ed Welch and Bill Caughlin, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker has been installed at Grindstone Alley and Market Street (the 200 block of Market Street, outside of the park's boundaries) to commemorate the Union Volunteer Fire Company and its most famous founder, Benjamin Franklin.

The Union Volunteer Fire Company developed the idea of fire insurance and became a model for others across the nation. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recognizes it as the first volunteer fire company in the nation, formed 275 years ago.

# Philadelphia Students Grow with the Junior Ranger program

Urban students have made personal connections to national parks thanks to the Junior Ranger program at Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site. The ten week partnership between the Edgar Allan Poe NHS and Spring Garden Elementary School in North Philadelphia incorporates classroom sessions, guest speakers and field trips to help students learn about the NPS mission and organization. Program leaders worked to instill a sense of confidence in the students as well as a commitment to our National Parks.

Students also learned about NPS career opportunities. National Park Service Rangers serve as role models for youth participating in the program, connecting them to the historical and natural treasures



Students with Virginia Poe (portrayed by INDE Park Ranger Helen McKenna-Uff)

in our national parks.

“The program directly supports National Park Service objectives of resource stewardship, community involvement, education and interpretation and... NPS Associate Director Fern’s emphasis on connecting urban youth in underserved communities to our National Parks and the concept

of shared stewardship in our own neighborhoods and communities,” NPS Ranger Andrew McDougal, program coordinator said.

Participants in the program come from the underserved community of North Philadelphia. Spring Garden is a title one school with over 87% of the students receiving free or reduced price lunch. In 2011, many of the students resided in a nearby Salvation Army shelter and would not have had the opportunities to visit National Parks without the program.

New to the program in 2011 was the use of technology and electronic media to connect Junior Rangers in Philadelphia with Junior Rangers at Badlands National Park in South Dakota. Philly Junior Rangers learned about scenic spaces, wildlife and fossils while those in South Dakota learned about historic sites throughout the Northeast Region.

Over the ten week program, the students were visited by Edgar Allan Poe’s wife Virginia (Portrayed by Park Ranger Helen McKenna-Uff) and an African-American soldier from the Civil War (Retired Park Ranger Joe Becton). The program also included trips to the Walt Whitman House in Camden, NJ, Citizens Bank Park, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Fort McHenry National Shrine in Maryland and Independence National Historical Park.

The program is in its twenty first year and is funded through a grant from the NPS Youth Partnerships Program.



New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail & Cape May Point State Park



Poe Junior Rangers with fellow Junior Rangers in South Dakota



Junior Rangers at the Walt Whitman House, Camden, NJ



Fort McHenry National Shrine in Maryland

# Recipes from City Tavern

With October's cool autumn winds and crisp, colorful scenery, it's time to warm up with comfort foods, and there are many that hail back to the beginning of the nation. In the 18th century tradition, Chef Walter Staib, proprietor of City Tavern Restaurant in Philadelphia uses local, seasonal ingredients. This time of year, he turns to fruits that were as popular hundreds of years ago as they are today – apples and cranberries.

“Colonists found native cranberries similar in flavor to lingonberries, a fruit they ate in Europe. They learned that the cranberry required quite a bit of sweetening, though,” said Chef Staib. In the eighteenth century, cranberries were most often preserved or stewed to sweeten them for use in pies. At times, cooks would make cranberry relish much like the one that graces most Americans' tables for Thanksgiving.

“Apples were extremely important in colonial America,” said Bruce Gill, curator of Harriton House in Bryn Mawr, Pa., who hosts an heirloom apple tasting each October with varieties more than 300 years old. “Apples were eaten ‘out of hand’ or baked into pies or baked by themselves. Sometimes they were cut and dried into ‘schnitz’ for use all winter long or they were converted to cider (hard and soft) and vinegar,” he said.

Chef Staib combines both of these fruits into a cobbler that is perfect for chilly evenings. It is often available on the dessert tray at City Tavern restaurant. He recommends serving it with another traditional cool-weather favorite, spiced wine, or wassail, for a true taste of history. Wassail dates back to the old English custom of wassailing during the Christmas and New Year's season. In those days, a big punch bowl was filled with this spiced drink and everyone gathered around the wassail bowl to toast the season.

## Wassail

Serves 6, Makes 24 Ounces

From the City Tavern Cookbook ©1999 by Walter Staib Running Press Book Publishers, Philadelphia & London

- 2 tablespoons grated orange rind (about 1 medium orange)
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon rind (about 1 medium lemon)
- 10 whole cloves
- 5 sticks cinnamon
- 1 bottle (750 ml) red Burgundy wine
- ¼ cup dark brown sugar
- 2 pinches freshly grated nutmeg

Place the orange and lemon rinds, cloves and cinnamon sticks into a piece of 100% cotton cheesecloth and tie up with kitchen twine to make a sachet.

Pour the wine into a large saucepan.

Place the sugar and sachet in the wine over low heat. Add the nutmeg.

Heat until the wine is very warm. Do not let it boil, as boiling will burn off the alcohol content.

Remove from the heat and discard the sachet.

Serve in a fondue pot or ovenproof punch bowl.

City Tavern serves wassail for the whole season, whenever there is a chill in the air. The restaurant is open 365 days a year serving authentic 18<sup>th</sup> century cuisine and recreating a colonial dining experience. Chef Walter Staib has been proprietor for 17 years and strives to preserve American culinary heritage through the restaurant and his Emmy Award winning PBS cooking show A Taste of History.

## INDE Goes Hi-Tech

The park unveiled its new QR code program in August to help educate visitors on the Independence Hall Tower project. The codes can be found on the informational waysides on Independence Square and near the Chestnut St. side of the Liberty Bell Center.

Don't know what a QR code is? That's okay! Not everybody knows what they are, but these days they are all around us. QR codes appear in newspapers and ads, taxis, buses, and trains. Sometimes they blend into the urban landscape unnoticed.

QR codes are essentially barcodes, but with a little more oomph. QR codes encode data both horizontally and vertically in a grid of tiny squares. Standard barcodes encode numbers and are good for storing and sharing small amounts of data. QR codes actually embed the information in the code itself, and, when read with the proper software, can take the viewer to websites, video, downloads, emails, text messages and other electronic data.

Today, most smart phones can download free applications that will quickly read these codes. Visitors to Independence Hall can scan the code and find out more about the Independence Hall Tower project. Since the park started using these codes, the numbers of visitors viewing the Tower project video has doubled! Scan the one below to try it out for yourself.





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**Independence National Historical Park**

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

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## Fall Programs at Independence NHP

**Groundbreaking Event for the new Franklin Museum at Franklin Court**

Join us on Monday, October 24, at 10 a.m. for a groundbreaking event at the site of the new Franklin Museum at Franklin Court. Details about the event will be publicized shortly, so mark your calendars now!

**Ranger-Led Programs**

**“Dr. Franklin’s Philadelphia”**- Join a Park Ranger to hear about the many contributions of Benjamin Franklin to his city, his country and the world. Meet at the arbor in the Franklin Court courtyard. *Saturdays and Sundays in October at 2 p.m.*

**“Poe’s Legacy: A Discussion”** - A lively discussion about Poe and his literary legacy featuring three Poe scholars: Daniel Hoffman, Robert Regan, and Alvin Holm. *Saturday, October 15, at 2 p.m.*

**“Halloween with Edgar Allan Poe”** - For those looking for a fun and educational Halloween outing, join us for an illustrated program on the Halloween themes in Poe’s literature. This free program will be offered on **Friday, October 28, at 2 p.m.**, in the Second Bank of the United States and on **Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30, at 2 p.m.** at the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site.



Look for us on social media and Youtube!

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