



# Independence: The Best Park in History

## Independence NHP Celebrates Freedom Week

Independence National Historical Park and the City of Philadelphia celebrated Independence Day 2011 with pomp and parades.

Gearing everyone up for the holiday, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops performed in front of Independence Hall on July 3 for a large audience. The Pops once again welcomed Thomas Jefferson for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Despite threats of rain, this free, outdoor concert of patriotic American music was a crowd-pleaser. The City of Philadelphia and Congressman Robert Brady, through the Board of the Greater Philadelphia Traditions Fund, provided funding for this event to ensure visitors a wonderful celebration.

On the Fourth of July, events included the Celebration of Freedom ceremony in the morning, the Independence Day Parade, the Let Freedom Ring ceremony in the afternoon and the annual ceremonial tapping of the Liberty Bell. All of these events are traditional celebrations at Independence NHP, but this year they included a few new elements; for the first time, the Friends of Independence joined the Independence Day parade, with a creative interpretation of the Liberty Bell made out of green leaves and flowers.

After the parade, the real Liberty Bell was once again symbolically “tapped” by young descendants of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. This year these young Americans were joined by two brand new Americans – two new citizens who had been naturalized earlier that day. This celebration of citizenship echoed an event a few days earlier, when Independence NHP hosted a naturalization ceremony in Congress Hall for 30 individuals.

the world because of the strength of our citizens, a strength that grows with our diversity.”

The week-long festivities also included Wawa Hoagie Day on Independence Mall, complete with a mile-long hoagie, and a military change of command ceremony. Throughout the weekend guests enjoyed a colonial-era encampment that allowed visitors to interact with costumed characters and see what an 18th century encampment may have looked like.

Even after the Fourth, Independence NHP was ready to commemorate America’s freedom with the annual re-enactment of the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8. The date marks the first public reading of the Declaration in 1776. Visitors joined Colonel John Nixon and costumed park rangers at Independence Square to listen



Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod makes a speech during the Celebration of Freedom ceremony

to the words proclaiming our country’s independence.

In a speech that also thanked the Friends of Independence for the handsome scrim decorating the scaffolding around Independence Hall, Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod invited the audience to “celebrate all of our nation’s citizens – from all of our founders and early settlers to our nation’s newest citizens. . . . Our nation stands today as the greatest nation in

As the birthplace of the nation, and the country’s most historic square mile, Independence National Historical Park celebrated the Fourth of July this year with as much enthusiasm and celebration as in years past, and we hope next year is just as fun!

# Independence Hall Tower Rehabilitation

This summer, Independence NHP staff and contractors caught a glimpse of architectural history. In the process of removing the wood cladding from the Independence Hall Tower, workers exposed the structural framing of the tower at the clock face level. This was the first time anyone has seen the tower

framing exposed in this manner since the wood portion of the tower was added in 1828.

Funded by \$4.4 million in stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the rehabilitation project began last July and is expected to be completed later this year.



Contractors set the new stainless steel spindle on Independence Hall Tower on June 1.

On June 1, contractors installed the new stainless steel spindle, which supports the weather vane, ball, and crown, in addition to the highest lightning rod aerial. A crane lifted the 30-foot-long, 700-pound spindle approximately 240 feet into the air to center it for the drop in, working with only 5/8" clearance to navigate the spindle down through the spire framing and anchoring it properly.

Today, the tower of Independence Hall is covered in a decorative scrim donated by the Friends of Independence, hiding the elaborate scaffolding that went up last September. The rehabilitation project gained momentum after an April 2007 investigation revealed significant deterioration, largely due to driving rain that rusted the iron rods securing the walls from within, damaged the thick wood siding and left the tower in need of a facelift.

Work is progressing from the top down,

and visitors will see the scaffolding come down in stages as portions of the project are completed. The scaffolding has been lowered to expose the upper portion of the spire, approximately 52 feet. Work will continue from the bell level downward in upcoming months.

“For a structure built back in the 1750s, Independence Hall is in relatively good shape,” said Charlie Tonetti, chief historical architect for Independence NHP. Much like a house that needs a replacement roof every 20 years, historic buildings also require cyclic maintenance, he explained.

In addition to swapping the corroded iron rods for stainless steel and replacing the weathered wood and bricks, workers will touch up the paint, refurbish the copper urns, install new lights and stabilize the large clock face. The goal is to arrest and correct decay of tower’s exterior skin and structural framing.

Reconstructed in 1828 after the original was deemed structurally unstable, the tower visitors see today is one of America’s earliest examples of colonial revival architecture.

The building where the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, the Articles of Confederation adopted in 1781, and the U.S. Constitution drafted in 1787, Independence Hall, inside and out, has been restored whenever possible to its original late-18th century appearance.

## Tower Renovations



Carpenter installing wood shake roof.



Level 2 round windows have been dissembled and evaluated for preservation.



Close inspection of the carved pilaster capitals after paint removal reveal that they will need to be replaced.



Exposed structural framing for Independence Hall Tower at the clock face level.

# Churn Ice Cream like Dolley Madison

In the dog days of summer there's nothing better to quench the heat like ice cream. But, it's no modern-day love affair with chilled treats. Dolley Madison, the first lady of the United States and wife of James Madison, fifth president of America, gets credit for popularizing ice cream in the White House.

Chef Walter Staib, proprietor of City Tavern Restaurant in Old City Philadelphia met up with Dolley recently at her home in Montpelier, Va., to learn her tricks to make the best ice cream. Staib filmed episodes of his Emmy Award winning show, *A Taste of History*, at Montpelier for season three, due out nationwide on PBS channels in just a few weeks.

During the days of Dolley, ice cream was made by hand churning in ice, but Staib's recipe, which is the same that 18th Century people would have eaten, works just as well



in a modern ice cream maker. It's true that Dolley preferred oyster ice cream, but you can stir in other toppings at the last moment, such as cookies or fresh berries, or enjoy on its own.

If making your own ice cream seems too cumbersome in the summer heat, stop by City Tavern to enjoy a scoop and step back to the 18th Century.

City Tavern is open from 11:30 a.m. daily. Try combining your visit to the City Tavern with a tour of the Todd House, Dolley's former residence. Stop by the Independence Visitor Center to sign up for a free guided tour of the Todd House.



## French Vanilla Ice Cream

From *City Tavern Baking & Dessert Cookbook* ©2003 by Walter Staib

[Makes 1 quart]

- 1 vanilla bean
- 2 cups whole milk
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 6 large egg yolks

- \* Prepare an ice bath in a large bowl
- \* Using a paring knife, slice the vanilla bean in half lengthwise and scrape the seeds from the pod with the back of the knife.
- \* In a medium saucepan, add the vanilla seeds, pod, milk and sugar. Stir to combine, and bring the mixture to a boil. Remove the vanilla bean pod with a slotted kitchen spoon.
- \* Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together the honey and egg yolks.
- \* Temper the egg yolk mixture by adding ¼ cup at a time of the hot liquid to the yolks, whisking constantly. When all of the hot milk has been added, return the custard to the saucepan and cook, stirring constantly, over low heat until the mixture thickens and reaches a temperature of 185°F on a candy thermometer.
- \* Strain the mixture back into the medium bowl and set the bowl in the ice bath. Once the mixture has cooled, place the mixture in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour, or overnight.
- \* Add the cream to your ice cream machine, churn and freeze according to your machine's instructions.

## The President's House Site

The open-air commemoration that now stands, thanks to an eight-year collaboration between the National Park Service and the City of Philadelphia, marks the site where the nation's first two presidents, George Washington and John Adams, served portions of their terms of office and began to shape the executive branch of government. Through a series of signs, videos and exhibits, the memorial showcases, specifically and particularly, the enslaved men and women of African descent who lived and toiled on this site.



A small sample of the signs depicting and paying tribute to the nine enslaved at the President's House Site.



This original foundation is what remains of the president's house and can be viewed from street level.



Memorial wall depicting the names of the nine enslaved Africans at the President's House Site.

# INDE Welcomes New Management Team Members

## Chief Ranger

**Patrick Suddath** has been enamored with the idea of the National Park Service since he was a kid. “I visited many national parks as a child, and was always fascinated by the incredible treasures that the park service has been trusted to protect, as well as the enthusiasm and dedication of the people in the uniform,” he explained.

Over his 22 years with the NPS, Patrick worked his way from fire lookout at Mesa Verde National Park to, most recently, branch chief of ranger activities at Glacier National Park. This June, he embarked upon his first “urban park” experience as the new Chief Ranger for Independence National Historical Park.

“I have always wanted to experience the excitement and challenges that come with an urban park,” he said. “The environment will be very different than where I have worked in the past, but I suspect there will be a lot of similarities.”

A self-admitted “literature nut,” Patrick says he looks forward to immersing himself in the rich history of Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation.

“I am very excited to have the opportunity



to be a part of the preservation of the [Revolutionary] era,” he added.

Patrick’s career began at Mesa Verde NP in Colorado, followed by seasonal work in Grand Canyon NP, Dinosaur NM and

Mount Rainier NP. His first permanent position was as back-country ranger in Grand Canyon NP, stationed at Phantom Ranch. After a detail as Grand Canyon’s fee program manager, he accepted a district ranger position in Joshua Tree NP, where he also served as the emergency services manager.

He started in Glacier NP in 2003, serving as a district ranger on both the east and west side of the park, before becoming the Branch Chief of Ranger Activities. He oversaw Glacier’s public safety and law enforcement programs, including wilderness and wildlife management, back-country permits and dispatch operations.

Patrick has a BA in English and a minor in Archeology from New Mexico State University. The new Chief Ranger began his assignment at Independence NHP in mid-June.

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## Chief of Asset Preservation & Maintenance

**Steven Sims**, on his way from the current nation’s capital to the birthplace of our country, is eager to start his new position at Independence National Historical Park.



“The opportunity at Independence was too hard to pass up,” Steve says. “What the park stands for, the history behind it...to be part of a park that protects and holds all that history is just tremendous.” Steve served as an Army Engineer for six

years before officially starting his National Park Service career. Since February 2007, Steve has been working at the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C. He began there as a Civil Engineer and later became the Branch Chief for Facilities Maintenance at the park. In 2009/10, Steve graduated from the NPS Facility Managers Leader Program.

As much as he enjoyed his time in Washington, Steve and his family are looking forward to the move to Philadelphia. After visiting and enjoying the park as a guest, Steve is excited about INDE. “When you go to Independence, that’s America,” said Steve, proud to be part of the park team.

Steve is also positive about the nature of his new position and the staff at INDE. “I’m hopeful and expecting to really bond with the folks at the park, not only with the maintenance division, but across the board.” He knows that the people you work with make your job what it is and he

is expecting nothing but the best from the Independence staff.

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**“To be a part of a park that protects and holds all that history is just tremendous”**

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At Independence, Steve will be responsible for buildings and grounds maintenance and preservation, including more than 26 buildings and over 54 acres, with a sophisticated chiller plant, historic gardens, and facilities that see over three million visitors each year.

After graduating from West Point Military Academy, Steve went on to obtain his Master’s in Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri). He is also certified as a Professional Engineer. Steve will begin his new position as Chief of Asset Preservation and Maintenance on August 15.

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# Franklin Court Renovations Underway



The underground museum at Franklin Court is undergoing renovations, the first since the biographical exhibit opened its doors for Philadelphia's bicentennial celebration. Its grand reopening is tentatively scheduled for early 2013.

Dedicated to the life, times and legacy of Benjamin Franklin, the revitalized world-class museum facility will feature interactive displays exploring his life as a private citizen and statesman through individual, room-like installations.

The library is intended to be the culminating experience. Designed to invoke the feeling of Franklin's own library, which included not just books but inventions and gifts from high-ranking friends and colleagues, this room will include an animated feature focusing on

Franklin's autobiography.

Other 21st century additions to the underground museum include interactive elements like touch screen kiosks, a computerized version of Franklin's glass armonica—a musical instrument employing glass and water to create sound—and two-minute animated vignettes designed to help visitors understand critical turning points in Franklin's life.

The print shop and other Market Street buildings will remain open to the public, though a construction fence will close off the Chestnut Street entrance to the Court.

The famous Ghost Structures, created by architects Robert Venturi and John

Rauch, with Denise Scott Brown, will be preserved. The "ghost houses" trace three-dimensional outlines of where Franklin's house and print shop once stood.

The courtyard itself will not be affected substantially, as most work will take place below ground, with the exception of the change to the visitor entrance space at the courtyard level. The current southwest area of the courtyard will be enclosed to create a welcoming lobby and gathering space inside, as shown in the rendering above.

The final design plan has been completed by Quinn Evans Architects; Casson Mann is responsible for designing the exhibits. Remer & Talbott are curators and content developers.



# The Return of the ProRangers

The typical internship does not offer opportunities like hosting Philadelphia's Mayor Michael Nutter, celebrity visitors, or the 20-millionth visitor to the Independence Visitor Center, but then again, ProRanger Philadelphia is no ordinary internship and Independence National Historical Park is no ordinary place to work.

Sarah Rutter and Dan Sweeney are two of the 20 Temple University students enrolled in the 10-week partnership program with the National Park Service (NPS) to recruit, train and employ law enforcement park rangers. They are stationed here at Independence NHP for the summer and will rotate between divisions to better understand not only the park's historical significance, but also its inner-workings.

"We are delighted to help train participants in the ProRanger program for a second summer," said Cynthia MacLeod, park superintendent. "Sarah and Dan are both outstanding individuals, eager to learn and help carry the burden when it comes to the behind-the-scenes business of operating a national park."

Thus far they have had opportunities to work with the divisions of Asset Preservation & Maintenance, Cultural Resources Management, and Interpretation and Education, very much the front line of operations at the park. In addition to shadowing National Park Service rangers, controlling the lines and absorbing as much historical information as possible, Sarah and Dan staffed the ranger desk at the Independence Visitor Center.

While there, the duo witnessed the 20-millionth visitor to the center, marked by a big celebration. Mayor Nutter spoke, the Mummies performed and the ProRangers walked away with a new appreciation for the visitor experience.

"Thousands of people walk through these doors every day. For some, it is their first visit to the site where the U.S. gained its independence and, for others, it is a



refresher course from that field trip they took here in 5th grade," said Dan, a senior Criminal Justice major.

Sarah echoed his sentiment, noting many people come to Independence NHP not realizing it is a national park until they see the rangers. "On a school visit you might just see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, but there is so much more," the sophomore nursing major said. As National Park Service ranger interns, they have responsibility to provide excellence in visitor services, and both are excited to see what the rest of the summer holds.

Upon graduation from Temple and successful completion of the ProRanger

program, participants are placed in permanent law enforcement park ranger positions with the NPS.

It is an appealing offer, one that benefits both parties given the state of the job market and the dwindling number of rangers in urban parks across the nation.

"The main thing that drew me to ProRanger Philadelphia was the idea of coming out of college and having a guaranteed position with the government," explained Dan.

Armed with celebrity experience and crisp in their official uniforms, the ProRangers look forward to their next placements within the National Park Service.

## Staff INDEavors: Serving the Homeless

When the second Friday of each month rolls around, you can find members of the Law Enforcement Division serving those less fortunate in the City of Brotherly Love.

Volunteering with "Feeding the Homeless Ministry" at Chosen 300, Jacquelyn Bryant and her entire squad, Mary Town, Dottie Vauls and Keith Manchester, along with Nicole Brenton and Kevin Guiney assist in distributing meals and services to the homeless throughout the Philadelphia region. Jacquelyn has done so every second Friday for the past three years, joined by the others since March.

"We usually interact with the homeless from a law enforcement perspective, so serving in this fashion helps us to support the brotherly love and humanitarian concept," said Bryant.

She plans to return on any given second Friday, in addition to the fourth Wednesday of every month, and invites other divisions to join her in giving back to those less fortunate.



# Friends of Independence



“The Friends enhance what the park provides,” says Maiti Gallen, Program Director for the Friends of Independence National Historical Park.

In the case of the Independence Hall tower, the Friends have enhanced the visitor experience with their generous donation of a decorative scrim. The scrim’s artistic rendering of the tower provides safety during renovations, as well as allowing visitors to the park a more pleasant view throughout the 18-month rehabilitation project. The Friends agreed to raise the funds through fundraising and donations to purchase the scrim.

The scrim, however, is only one of the many contributions by this non-profit organization to Independence NHP. Over its 39 years of service to the park, the Friends have acquired or purchased over 1000 artifacts for Independence. These

artifacts are used as teaching tools to enhance the educational experience. The Friends have also purchased and donated land to the park, including People’s Plaza and Welcome Park.

You’ll also see the Friends at all major park events. Their own volunteers help out during the annual Fourth of July events, including the Philly Pops concert. For the first time this year, the Friends also participated in the Fourth of July parade to show their support for the park. Maiti hopes the Friends will participate next year as well, “with a bigger and better float.”

The Friends also keep everyone updated on the park’s events. Not only do they send out Independence NHP’s quarterly newsletter, they produce their own monthly newsletter that reaches park staff, partners, and other subscribers. In

addition, Friends volunteers offer free Twilight Tours of the park that leave each evening at 6 p.m. (until Labor Day) from the Signer’s Garden. In its 33rd year, these tours are verified and created by the volunteers themselves.

Recently, the Friends have started a new blog segment highlighting its employees and volunteers and why they support the park. Along with Friends and park information, this new segment will be posted each Wednesday. So head to [friendsofindependence.blogspot.com](http://friendsofindependence.blogspot.com) to hear about the Friends and what they have to say about Independence NHP.

For more information about the Friends, visit [friendsofindependence.org](http://friendsofindependence.org)

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## Volunteers and Students Clean Up Washington Square

In a show of civic pride and support for a national park, the Society Hill Civic Association worked with McCall Elementary school on a volunteer clean-up event in Washington Square May 9. The Society Hill Civic Association, with the Society Hill Fund, used the occasion to announce a donation of \$25,000 to Independence National Historical Park for a new irrigation system in Washington Square, home of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War.

One of five original squares in the 1682 plan for William Penn’s city, it was named in honor of George Washington in 1825. The square has, over its lifetime, served as a potter’s field, Revolutionary War burial ground, pasture, market place, site of congregation and burial for free and enslaved Africans, public square, commemorative landscape and urban park.

A statue of Washington marks the site of the memorial tomb, reminding visitors of the words of President Washington, still clearly relevant today: “The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts – of common dangers, sufferings, and success.”

During the May 9 volunteer event, the Society Hill Civic Association and the Society Hill Fund announced a donation to Independence National Historical Park raised through the Washington Square Affair, an event sponsored by the Society Hill Fund and held in Washington Square in 2010.



“Washington Square is so important to our community. It has been my pleasure to volunteer my time to keeping this Square beautiful, and it is my honor today to announce this donation from the residents of Society Hill,” said Sissie Lipton, Vice President of Society Hill Civic Association and Chairperson of the Washington Square Committee for the Society Hill Civic Association.

“Washington Square is such a beautiful part of Independence National Historical Park. Not only is it a square of great historical significance, but it is also a vibrant part of the local community, and the commitment from the Society Hill Civic Association to support the Square really speaks to its important role in providing a green space for residents as well as visitors to the park,” said Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park.

A long-time supporter of Washington Square, Society Hill Civic Association organizes volunteer events in Washington Square every spring, summer and fall. Thanks to the donation of funds raised through the Washington Square Affair, sponsored by the Society Hill Fund, held in Washington Square in 2010, Independence National Historical Park will be installing a new irrigation system in Washington Square. Recent evaluations of the irrigation system have determined that inadequate water is being delivered to the plant beds, most of which are on the perimeter of the Square. Based on further evaluations, additions and upgrades to the system will be designed to provide adequate water to all of the planting areas.



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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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## Summer Programs at Independence NHP

### Happy Birthday to the National Park Service

August 25 - Celebrate the 95th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Events at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Independence Visitor Center

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#### Special Programs at the Second Bank

**"George Washington's Band of Brothers"** – Join a park ranger for a tour of the portrait gallery that introduces Washington and his generals who led America to its independence. *Daily at 1:00 p.m.*

**"Stories of Struggle"** – A park ranger will take you through a slide program highlighting the stories of the people, places and events surrounding the founding and early years of the U.S. *Daily at 4:00 p.m.*

**"Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles"** – Hear the amazing stories of Moses Williams who learned to operate the Physiognotrace to earn his freedom and make a good living making silhouettes in Peale's Museum. *Daily at 4:00 p.m.*

**"Votes for Women!"** - Commemorate the 91st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment by joining a park ranger for a special program highlighting the continuing contributions of women to the founding of this nation. *Aug. 18-21 at 3:00 p.m.*