

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



April 2015 Highlights



Photograph from http://www.hermione2015.com/history.html#press_area

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.

Save the dates! 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 hope to have roving interpreters 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'Hermione'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 to 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 morning program featuring a presentation by Dr. Robert Selig, open to the public, 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 Delaware-RiverSojourn.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

The outdoor wayside exhibits for fifteen sites in New York selected as destinations for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT are being fabricated. Our Harpers Ferry Center is providing us with technical assistance and managing this project for us. We are making arrangements to have the signs shipped by the end of June. Sooner if possible! 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. This partnership project in New York will be a prototype for wayside exhibits along the entire Washington-Rochambeau NHT.

Scotch Plains, New Jersey and the NHT

On Thursday, April 9 a group heard about the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT in Scotch Plains. Did you know that this historic trail goes through Scotch Plains? The routes taken by General Washington and General Rochambeau to their victory at Yorktown go right through the community, including Raritan Road and Lamberts Mill Road. Sal Lilienthal, author of *Revolutionary Battles: Experience America’s Roads to Independence* shared the story behind this historic trail at the Scotch Plains Library.

Exhibition at the Anderson House in Washington D.C.

Lafayette and L’Hermione: Symbols of French-American Friendship Exhibit can be seen April 3rd to September 6th, 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 hosted a panel discussion, Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the Gaines Theater. The topic was the French Revolutionary Tall Ship, Lafayette's Hermione - Visits Yorktown, VA. The Panelists included 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 was moderated by Dr. Thomas Hall, Associate Director, Public History Center, CNU. The turn-out was about 100 people; the event was recorded and will be available on-line at CNU's website. 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>

Dr.Selig recently completed his latest publication "Rochambeau in New Jersey: The Good French Ally" in: *The American Revolution in New Jersey: Where the Battlefield Meets the Home Front* edited by James J. Gigantino II (New Brunswick: Rutgers U Press, 2015), pp. 85-105.

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/>.

Cape Henry Lighthouse by Don Harrison

Cape Henry Lighthouse, stands on the edge of First Landing State Park and the Fort Story military base in Virginia Beach. Erected in 1792, the intricately chiseled, 90-foot stone tower was commissioned by George Washington and its construction overseen by Alexander Hamilton. The Cape Henry Light stands at the juncture of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, a nautical hub which leads into the harbors of Coastal Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.

An excerpt of the article notes the history of the site:

“It would have been the ideal place to witness the battle of the Virginia Capes,” Hurst-Wender says with a smile. The decisive 1781 Revolutionary War sea battle, also known as the Battle of the Chesapeake, saw the French navy successfully blockade English ships from trying to resupply their troops in Yorktown. “This is the reason Cornwallis had to surrender,” she says. “And so this battle is the reason we won the war and independence.”

To see the entire article, please go to <http://www.coastalvirginiamag.com/February-March-2015/Cape-Henry-Lighthouse-is-Finally-Getting-Fixed/index.php?cparticle=1&siarticle=0#artanc>

Path Through History Weekend in New York

In 2012 Governor Cuomo unveiled New York’s “Path Through History,” a statewide initiative that links historically and culturally significant sites, locations and events throughout New York State. This effort to highlight our rich heritage aims to not only showcase the state’s history and cultural significance, but also promote tourism and economic development in communities across the State. The Path Through History Weekend will be held this year on June 20- 21. If your organization is holding an event during this time frame that connects with New York history, we encourage you to participate. Click here to register your event: <http://www.iloveny.com/events/submit-your-path-through-history-event/#.VSvFp9zF8XY>

National Park Service 2015 Battlefield Planning Grants

The National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Grant Program is now accepting proposals for 2015. Non-profit groups, academic institutions, and local, regional, state, and tribal governments are encouraged to apply for funding to support archaeology, cultural landscape inventories, cultural resource documentation, GIS mapping, National Register nominations, and preservation plans. For more information, please visit the program website at <http://www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2015grants.html>

Tall Ship L'Hermione: Lafayette's 1780 Voyage to America

Enjoy a presentation by Miles Young, President of Friends of Hermione-Lafayette in America Worldwide Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ogilvy & Mather at an afternoon tea on June 7, 2015 from 3-5 P.M. at the Kalmar Nickel's Copeland Maritime Center, 1124 E. 7th St., Wilmington, DE 19801. The cost is \$35 per person and RSVP is required. For More Information Please e-mail GeoWashingtonSoc@aol.com or call Kim Burdick, President (302) 543-5723. for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/George-Washington-Society/140896772630326>

15th Biennial National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference in Franklin, Tennessee

The Natchez Trace Parkway Association and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association will host this year's conference themed, "Find Your Trail: Planning and Making Pathways into the 21st Century". Saturday, June 27, 2015 - Wednesday, July 1, 2015 in Franklin, Tennessee. To learn more and register, visit The Partnership for the National Trails System website at <http://pnts.org/new/2015conference/>

"Ship of all Trades: The *Hermione* in Virginia Waters, 1781-82" by Dr. Robert A. Selig

Dr. Robert Selig will offer a free public lecture called "Ship of all Trades: The *Hermione* in Virginia Waters, 1781-82" on June 6, 2015 at 3:00 pm. The lecture will take place at York Hall, in the 2nd Floor Board room, at 301 Main Street, Yorktown, Virginia 23690. The French frigate *Hermione* is best known for her role in taking the Marquis de Lafayette to the United States in the spring of 1780. However, her many other contributions to the siege of Yorktown and victory in the American War of Independence are virtually unknown and unrecognized. This public presentation will highlight some of the diverse tasks performed by the *Hermione* in 1781 and prior to her return to France in January 1782. Tickets are not required, but seating is limited. The event is sponsored by the York County Historical Committee. For more information, please call 757-890-3508.

National Park Service Conducting Reconnaissance Survey of Washington Trail – 1753

U.S. Representative Mike Kelly (PA-03) requested the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Washington Trail – 1753 in Western Pennsylvania, which will determine if the trail resources “merit further consideration as a potential unit of the National Trails System.” The NPS’s response to Rep. Kelly can be viewed here: <http://kelly.house.gov/sites/kelly.house.gov/files/documents/Wash%20Trail%201753%20-%20USDOI%20letter.pdf>

Kelly stated, “I am wholeheartedly appreciative of the NPS’s decision to conduct a reconnaissance survey of this revered historic trail. The trail serves as an exciting bridge to pre-revolution America and commemorates George Washington’s first-ever military and diplomatic venture. All Western Pennsylvanians should be proud that this special landmark is now one step closer to being officially recognized as a National Historic Trail.” For more information about the Washington Trail – 1753, please visit: <http://www.washingtonstrail.org/>

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, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparbservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice