



The Bulletin

The monthly newsletter of The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association

FEBRUARY 2022

On the Web: www.w3r-us.org

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Travel App Moving Ahead

Contracts to develop a travel app for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail have been finalized and work has begun. Funded by the National Park Foundation and through W3R-US' Task Agreement with the Trail, the app will serve as a trip planner and feature a number of themed itineraries with seven hours of narrated stories and interviews associated with approximately 70-100 high-potential sites along the Trail. Trail Administrator Johnny Carawan is finalizing the long-awaited official Trail list of high potential sites. Secondary sites and other points of interest may be part of the app text but will not be narrated. The finished product will incorporate all the sites on the W3R-US Web site's interactive map that meet the criteria set in the National Trail System Act of 1968.

Historians Dr. Iris de Rode and Dr. Robert Selig will write the scripts for the narrated stories associated with the selected sites. Lantern, the app developer, is providing storytelling training and support for them so these historical narratives will capture the attention and imagination of prospective visitors. Both scholars will utilize primary sources in diaries and journals to tell the stories, with Dr. de Rode telling many stories through French eyewitness accounts. Dr. Selig will also draw from many eyewitness sources and focus on the lesser known stories of the water trails, especially the Hudson River and Chesapeake Bay. STQRY will provide the app platform for the audio tour.

Envisioning the Future of W3R-US

A four-part series of values/vision/strategic planning workshops with the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) will enable members of the Board of Directors and Leadership Council to plan more effectively for the future of W3R-US as the Association sharpens its focus and sets its priorities. Discussion topics during the series, which began Nov. 30, 2021, and concluded Feb. 2, 2022, included target audience; long-term impact; conditions needed to attain short- and



long-term outcomes; organizational values; mission statement; vision statement; strategic goals; measures of success; human, material and financial resources needed to reach these goals; and next steps. DANA will review all the discussion and input during the four sessions and provide a draft strategic plan to the Board in advance of a fifth and final session, to be scheduled in March, with a goal of finalizing its approval. Of the 57 Board and Leadership Council members invited to participate, 34 attended at least one session and 12 attended all four.

Candidates Sought for Officers, Board of Directors

The terms of all five officers of W3R-US and 11 members of the Board of Directors will expire at the 2022 Annual Meeting (details to be announced), tentatively scheduled Saturday, April 23. While many are willing to continue in office, others have indicated that they are ready to move on to other forms of service. So, we are looking for some members in good standing who are passionate about the Trail and are willing to work hard and get their hands dirty on its behalf (no wallflowers, please). If you are interested in helping preserve a great, but little-known, piece of our history, or you know somebody who might be, please email name and contact information to Executive Director Ellen von Karajan, evonkarajan@gmail.com, for an information packet on board service requirements, and a member of the Nominating Committee will be in touch. Any member of the organization can recommend a potential candidate but please request the information packet first. Thanks in advance.

The 2022 edition of the Committee, appointed by National Chair Larry Abell, includes Bill Conley, Shauntee Daniels, Elaine Lawton, Dave Meredith and Ingrid Wood, with me as Chair and Larry and Ellen *ex officio*. Thanks to Janet Lee Burnet, Julie Diddell and Blanche Hunnewell for their previous service.

– *Jeff Canning, Nominating Committee Chair*

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The definition of volunteer – an individual or group freely giving time and labor for community service. W3R-US is no less in need of volunteers than any other organization and, in many ways, with nine states and the District of Columbia (DC) as our extended community, W3R-US needs a variety of talented, experienced, energetic and enthusiastic volunteers!

To start our year off, we send many thanks to all the volunteers who have participated in the many events across our nine states and DC along the Trail. Our new year has started off with a very nice showing of volunteer hours; some people reporting 30, 60 and 100+ hours during January! Kudos! Great job! Many thanks!!

Please continue to send your volunteer hours to me each month at memogroup1127@gmail.com by the fifth of the following month.

– *Sam Meredith, Volunteer Hours Committee Chair*



Re-enactors from the 1st Rhode Island Regiment.

Membership Memo

During this Black History Month, we honor the brave patriots of African descent who helped secure our country's liberty.

Welcome to all who join and renew membership in W3R-US. Your membership helps to support the work to celebrate this story.

To join or renew, please go to: [W3R-US Membership](#) or print the Membership Form and mail it: [Individual Membership form W3R-US](#)

– Julie Diddell, National Membership Committee Chair

An Invitation: Visit Our Online Store

Director Sam Meredith, Chair of the Earned Income Committee, invites shoppers to visit the W3R-US online store. The newest merchandise includes logo shirts and pens. Suggestions for merchandise should be sent to Sam at memogroup1127@gmail.com

To visit the online store: <https://w3rus.qbstores.com/a/login>

In another online shopping matter, you can support W3R-US when you shop at Amazon. Here's how. Instead of going to amazon.com:

1. Enter smile.amazon.com in your browser address bar.
2. Shop and place your order.
3. Amazon will donate a percentage of your order to W3R-US.

New Brochure to Engage French Audiences

The Franco-American Committee plans to create a brochure in French, geared to French audiences, about W3R-US and the Trail and is looking for events such as Les Journées du Patrimoine (Heritage Days) to distribute copies. Agreements have been received from the Rochambeau estate and the City of Vendome, the general's birthplace.

We are also communicating with the Domaine de Montmarin near Saint Malo on the English Channel; classified as a Historic Monument, it is known for its 18th century shipyard where some of the Bougainville boats were built. It sponsors annual historical events with re-enactors, among them the Corps Royal de la Marine, which sailed to Newport, RI, in de Ternay's fleet. Yorktown at Montmarin is the theme of the 2023 production.

Thanks to Blanche Hunnewell for funding the printing of the brochures.

Les Journées du Patrimoine allow visitors to see buildings and monuments that are usually closed to the public. The Days were created in 1984 by the French Ministry of Culture and take place annually during the third week of September, attracting 12 million visitors each year. For more information, please visit:

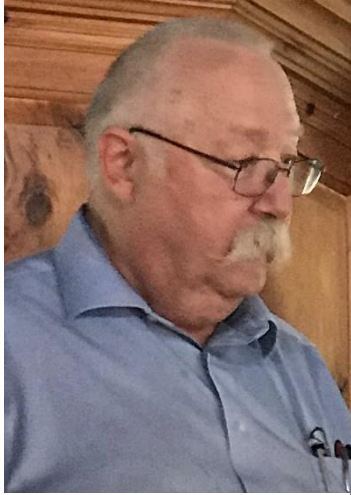
<https://francetravelplanner.com>

and <https://www.europeanheritagedays.com>

– Nicole Yancey, *Franco-American Committee Chair*

W3R-US Historian to Receive French National Order of Merit

Dr. Robert Selig, W3R-US Historian, has been nominated for the rank of knight in the French National Order of Merit. This prestigious honor recognizes his eminent work in the development of the Washington-Rochambeau Trail. The nomination was published in a decree signed by



Dr. Robert Selig. Photo by Julie Diddell

French President Emmanuel Macron Feb. 7, 2022, and the French Consul General has informed Nicole Yancey, Chair of W3R-US' Franco-American Committee, that Dr. Selig will receive an official letter.

The French National Order of Merit (Ordre National du Mérite), founded in 1963 by President Charles de Gaulle, honors distinguished civilian and military achievements by French citizens and foreign nationals. The medal is tentatively scheduled to be presented to Dr. Selig during this year's Yorktown Day ceremonies in Yorktown, VA, Oct. 19.

Two years ago, Dr. Selig was one of the recipients of La Renaissance Française medal but the award ceremony was canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The award is now scheduled to be presented in early May at the Washington residence of the French Ambassador. La Renaissance Française, founded in 1916, recognizes persons who, in their countries, have promoted French language, culture, arts and science. It is awarded under the high patronage of the French President. Dr. Selig is recognized as a leading authority on France's major contribution in helping the United States win its independence.

"Huzzah! or, in French, Pip-pip Hurrah!" Nicole said.

From the Editor

I hope you continue to enjoy *The Bulletin* and find it helpful in keeping abreast of the activities of The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association on numerous fronts. Thank you for your assistance, suggestions, comments and other kind words. To keep up with all news of our Association, please check our Web site regularly: www.w3r-us.org

State leaders are invited to provide information (by the end of each month for the following month's edition) about their activities, which are presented in a separate section of *The Bulletin*. (Please see the reports beginning on Page 10.)

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome. Please email me at historicaljeff@aol.com

– Jeff Canning, National Recording Secretary

Resolutions Note How Spain Blocked Aid to Cornwallis

The importance of French aid to the infant United States may not be widely known but the critical work of Spain in North America and the Caribbean is even less familiar. General Bernardo de Gálvez, commander of Spanish forces in Louisiana during the Revolutionary War, captured a British force in May 1781, preventing those troops from going to the aid of British General Charles Cornwallis and, in the process, dismantled a supply chain between the British ►

*MARYLAND STATE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2 ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY
HISPANICS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE*

Drafted by Hector L. Diaz

Chairperson of the HISPANICS IN HISTORY CULTURAL ORGANIZATION Inc.

Approved by the State Legislature on March 31, 1997

Signed by Governor Parris Glendennning on April 8, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Independence of the United States was achieved not only due to the efforts of American patriots, but also to the assistance of foreign governments, soldiers and individuals who supported them, and

WHEREAS, in spite of being an important factor in the victory, the participation of Hispanics in the War of Independence is not mentioned in the history textbooks of this nation, and

WHEREAS, thousands of Hispanics fought the British and their allies during the American Revolution in what today is the United States, winning crucial battles which eased the pressure of the Crown's forces against the armies of General George Washington, and

WHEREAS, Spanish Louisiana Governors' Don Luis de Unzaga and Don Bernardo de Gálvez provided assistance to the revolutionary governments of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia in the form of arms, war materiel, and funds to wage campaigns and protect themselves against the British, and

WHEREAS, this assistance allowed American General George Rogers Clark to wage his successful campaigns west of those colonies and also was instrumental in preventing the British from capturing Forts Pitt and Henry in Pennsylvania and Virginia respectively, which guarded the last leg of the only remaining major patriot supply route at the time, that which originated in Spanish New Orleans, traversed the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and ended overland in Philadelphia, and

WHEREAS, Don Juan de Miralles, a wealthy Spanish merchant established in Havana, Cuba, was appointed as the Royal Envoy of King Carlos III of Spain to the United States in 1778, and while travelling with his secretary, Don Francisco Rendon, to the revolutionary capital of Philadelphia, he initiated the direct shipment of supplies from Cuba to Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; and Philadelphia; aside from making significant stopovers in Williamsburg, Virginia, and in North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, after Spain declared war on Britain in June, 1779, the victories of General Don Bernardo de Gálvez in the lower Mississippi and at Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola dismantled British resupply of close to 10,000 Native-American Warriors who were a major concern for General Washington because of the raids they had been carrying out in the western areas of the colonies, and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Loyalist Regiment, a force comprised of Marylanders from the eastern shore, was also defeated and captured during the campaigns of General Galvez, and

and their Native American allies, according to Hector L. Diaz, who portrays Gálvez. Mr. Diaz, who participated in a Bike and Kayak Tour ceremony in Baltimore in August 2021, drafted a resolution adopted by the Maryland Legislature in 1997 (please see Pages 6 and 7) about the importance of Hispanic efforts. With the help of Robert Reyes of W3R-Maryland, he shared this resolution, and a resolution drafted by educator Frank de Varona and adopted by the Florida Legislature in 1990 (Pages 8 and 9), with *The Bulletin* in response to a request from W3R-Delaware Chair Bill Conley for material to share with the Wilmington area's Hispanic community about the role of Hispanics in the war for U.S. independence. (Please see the State Report from Delaware for more information.)

WHEREAS, the victories of General Gálvez resulted, additionally, in the capture of four other British Regiments including; the Pennsylvania Loyalists, the elite British 60th Foot also known as the Royal Americans, the British 16th Foot, and the German Waldeck Regiment, and

WHEREAS, fighting under the command of General Gálvez were men from Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, as well as from the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland and from Native American Nations such as the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek, and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has recognized that the actions of those men and their brave commander were very important for the triumph of American efforts in the Carolinas and Georgia, and also for the final victory against Lord Charles Cornwallis in Yorktown, Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the success of the French and American armies at Yorktown would have been difficult to achieve without the donation of 500,000 pounds tournois that were collected in six hours by prominent citizens of Havana, Cuba, for the campaign, and without an additional 1,000,000 pounds that were subsequently donated by King Carlos III of Spain for the same purpose, and,

WHEREAS, the Yorktown Campaign not only consisted of a siege by land but also by sea, undertaken by the French Fleet under Admiral de Grasse, whose ships had been readied and supplied with 100,000 pesos from the Spanish colonies of Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico that were handed over by Spanish authorities to the French for said purpose, and

WHEREAS, an important element in the French naval victory at the Battle of the Virginia Capes, which sealed the fate of Lord Cornwallis army at Yorktown, was the numerical superiority enjoyed by Admiral de Grasse's fleet, which resulted from a Spanish Naval Squadron taking over the protection of the French colonies in the Caribbean to allow the Admiral the benefit of maintaining his fleet intact, and, thus, obtain the superiority in numbers deemed necessary to defeat the British, and

WHEREAS, hardly any of these Hispanic contributions to American Independence are mentioned in the current history textbooks of this nation, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Maryland acknowledges the pivotal role of Spain and Spanish America for the triumph of the American Revolution, and also recognizes General Bernardo de Gálvez and his men for their significant contributions and achievements in this respect, and, be it further

RESOLVED that the Legislature of Maryland hereby urges historians nationwide to a deeper examination and dissemination of the role played by Hispanics in the accomplishment of American Independence as well as in the development and progress of the United States in general, and that the study of these contributions be made an integral part of the Social Studies and History courses taught in the State.

Contributions of General Bernardo De Gálvez Recognized by Florida Legislature

In an effort to encourage writers and publishers of United States history textbooks to include Hispanic contributions to the nation, Frank de Varona, Associate Superintendent of Dade County Public Schools in Miami, Florida, drafted a concurrent resolution recognizing General Bernardo de Gálvez and the role of Hispanics in the American Revolution. Mr. de Varona's efforts were inspired by the Honorable Eric Martel, Consul General of Spain in Miami, who informed de Varona of a similar Texas legislative resolution regarding General de Gálvez. The resolution was approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Florida during the 1990 legislative session. Through the resolution, the Florida Legislature urges the Florida State Board of Education to adopt textbooks that include the significant contributions of Hispanics and encourages the sixty-seven school districts throughout the state to include Hispanic contributions in the present courses of study in kindergarten through the twelfth grade.



Encounters is published four times a year. *Encounters* is sponsored by The Latin American Institute of The University of New Mexico and The Spain '92 Foundation of Washington, D.C.



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WHEREAS, The valuable and significant contributions of Hispanics fighting under the flag of Spain to the American Revolution have been totally omitted or barely mentioned in United States history textbooks used in colleges, universities, and schools throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, The name of General Bernardo de Gálvez is virtually unknown in our country in spite of his heroic deeds and crucial military campaign against the British forces in the Mississippi Valley and the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, One looks in vain for any reference to the many battles fought by Spanish, Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Venezuelan, and other Hispanic soldiers under the command of General Gálvez in United States history textbooks; and

WHEREAS, The reasons for this historical omission are puzzling in light of the United States history textbooks accounts of the aid rendered by France and of other non-Hispanic foreigners who fought for American independence; and

WHEREAS, The 1.4 million Hispanics living in Florida and the twenty million living in our nation today have a right to know that their ancestors also bled in the fight for independence and contributed to the establishment of the first democracy in the modern world; and

WHEREAS, The entire nation should be aware of the Hispanic participation in the American War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, King Charles III of Spain donated more than two million pounds to the American colonies; and

WHEREAS, Bernardo de Gálvez was appointed Governor of Louisiana by Charles III on New Year's Day, 1777, at the age of twenty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Bernardo de Gálvez upon his arrival in New Orleans began to assist the American revolutionaries with money, guns, munitions, medicine, food, blankets, clothes, and other essential supplies; and

WHEREAS, Bernardo de Gálvez's assistance was crucial to the success of the campaign of General George Rogers Clark in the west as well as the Virginia campaign in the east; and

WHEREAS, After Spain declared war on Great Britain on June 21, 1779, Governor Gálvez with barely 1,450 men and without waiting for reinforcements from Cuba and Mexico, captured the five British forts along the Mississippi Valley: Manchak, Baton Rouge, Panmure (Natchez), Thomson, and Amith; and

WHEREAS, General George Washington congratulated Juan de Miralles, the Spanish agent in Philadelphia, on Gálvez's successful campaign ending British control on the Mississippi Valley; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez, with the assistance of soldiers and supplies brought from Cuba, captured Mobile on March 14, 1780, after twenty days of siege; and

WHEREAS, The King of Spain promoted Bernardo de Gálvez to Marshall of the Army and named him Governor of Louisiana and Mobile for his victory at Mobile that resulted in the capture of three hundred British soldiers; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez attacked Pensacola, a city defended by 2,500 British and Indian soldiers, with an army of 7,000 men: 4,000 from Cuba, 2,000 from Mexico and the rest from Puerto Rico, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Venezuela, and New Orleans; and



WHEREAS, There were Cuban-born soldiers both black and white who fought bravely during the battle of Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez in an act of supreme heroism entered the well-protected Pensacola harbor under heavy fire from a British fort virtually alone aboard a small ship to set the example for his army and navy; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez was wounded during the battle of Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez was ably assisted at the battle of Pensacola by Cuban-born General Juan Manuel de Cagigal and his aide-de-camp the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda, who is called the precursor of South American independence, as well as Spanish Admiral José Solano and Spanish General José de Expeleta; and

WHEREAS, After two months of heavy fighting, the British surrendered Pensacola on May 8, 1781, losing their last stronghold in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Even though current United States history textbooks do not mention the battle of Pensacola, this was one of the most decisive battles of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez's campaign along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico broke the British army's will to fight and prevented the British from gathering a strong army to battle General George Washington at Yorktown; and

WHEREAS, General Gálvez's military exploits together with 1.2 million pounds raised by the ladies and merchants of Havana for the armies of General Washington and General Rochambeau were of utmost importance in the defeat of British General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 31, 1781; and

WHEREAS, The King of Spain changed the name of Pensacola Bay to Santa María de Gálvez and to commemorate the daring entrance to the bay under the heavy fire, awarded General Gálvez a coat of arms showing Gálvez on a ship with the inscription *Yo Solo* or *I Alone*; and

WHEREAS, General Bernardo de Gálvez was a hero and friend of the American people and is deserving of recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that the Florida Legislature pay tribute to his role and that of Hispanic soldiers in the American Revolution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Florida Legislature acknowledges the importance of the role of Spain and other Hispanic countries in winning American independence and recognizes General Bernardo de Gálvez for his decisive military campaigns and his significant contribution toward American history; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Florida Legislature hereby urge historians and publishers of United States history textbooks to include the significant contributions of Hispanics to the American Revolution, and the Florida State Board of Education request such recognition in the state-adopted history textbooks; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Florida Legislature encourage school districts across the state to include the contributions of Hispanics to the American Revolution and to the growth and development of our country from 1492 to the present in courses of study in kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Florida Legislature encourage the Board of Regents and the Junior College Boards across the state to promote research and publication of the materials regarding the Hispanic contributions to our great nation.

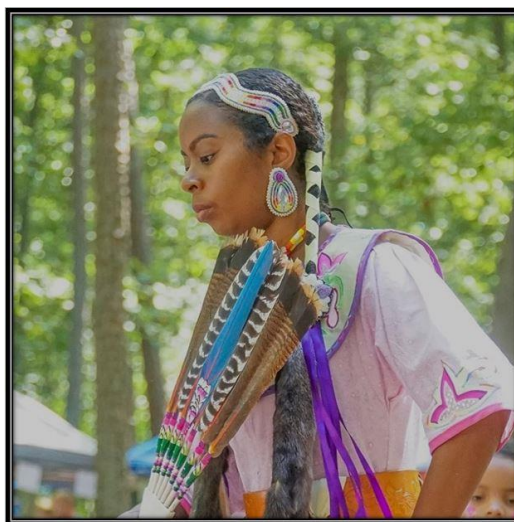


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State Report

New Jersey: Nanticoke Tribe in Spotlight at Trent House

For W3R-NJ and our partners, February has been chock-full of educational and event planning and coordinating Zoom meetings. One Zoom was offered by The Trent House Association, which works in cooperation with the City of Trenton with programming, research and stewardship of the William Trent House Museum, an important site on the Trail. They produced a wonderful program Jan. 23, *Ties That Bind: Nanticoke and Lenape Language and Revitalization*, presented by Karelle Hall, a member of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe. Ms. Hall, a graduate student in anthropology at Rutgers University, is working to research and revitalize the ancient Nanticoke language. “Her methods to fill in the gaps



Karelle Hall.

and her laser-targeted effort to string together the all but lost Nanticoke language is cutting-edge and significant to the history of these first inhabitants of the land upon which the Trent House sits,” said W3R Leadership Council member and Trent House Association Treasurer Sam Stephens. Ms. Hall’s presentation offered a fresh and unique perspective for an audience that might thirst for knowledge about the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Tribal Nation, its traditional language and the scholarly initiative to prevent it from becoming extinct. Check out the Trent House’s Web site: www.williamtrenthouse.org. Learn more about Karelle Hall on YouTube: [Karelle Hall’s Foot Prints: Language Journey](#)

MARCH TO YORKTOWN DAY, WESTFIELD, AUGUST 28, 2022

Committee Chairperson: Julie Diddell

Four of our chapter members marched in this special parade last year carrying our DAR Chapter banner.

They helped to commemorate the August 29, 1781 march of Continental troops through Westfield on the way to meet other troops in Princeton, then continue on to Yorktown, VA to besiege British General Lord Cornwallis. His surrender led to American liberty. Our chapter supports this historic march and hopes we will get participation again this year.

W3R-NJ is proud to share a snip-it from the recent Westfield Chapter DAR Regent’s annual report. which was submitted to the New Jersey State Society of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. W3R-NJ Chair Julie Diddell is also the 250th Committee Chair for the Westfield Chapter DAR.



*Galina
Chernikova*

Huzzah to W3R-NJ Treasurer Galina Chernikova! For the past several months, Galina has taught herself how to make updates to the W3R-NJ Web site, www.W3R-NJ.org. Her work takes visitors to a 2022 Web site rather than one that was stuck in 2019.

Her work continues and Galina says, “I’ll be making some more minor changes, creating updates about upcoming events and posting photos of our events.”

Join us in thanking Galina for her perseverance to help W3R-NJ shine!

In other news, the W3R-NJ Board holds monthly Zoom meetings to work on details for 2022 events, have some hearty laughs and stay connected as a team that supports a vision to preserve and commemorate the important French-American alliance story that occurred in New Jersey. We welcome new members, sponsors and supporters. Stay tuned for event announcements in future editions of *The Bulletin* and on www.W3R-NJ.org.

– Julie Diddell, State Chair

New York: Odell House Focuses on Archeological Study

The Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters (OHRH) is launching its landscaping plan with an archeological study of the grounds in Hartsdale. “To design outdoor spaces, we need to know more about the early days of the property, from John Tompkins’ days in 1732 – ‘surrounded by friendly Indians’ – to 1781, when the house served as General Rochambeau’s residence, to the period of John Odell’s ownership, there are many things we could learn,” said Susan Seal, President of the Board. “We may find Native American artifacts, French regimental buttons, or even French wine bottles. From 1800 to 1820 the census listed enslaved people on the Odell farm. Where did they live? Are there remnants of their living quarters and daily lives?” Work will begin as soon as the weather allows.

Meanwhile, Steve Tilly and Associates is working on the final plan for the physical restoration of the house. The first step is a new roof and the restoration or replacement of windows and doors. The Boards of OHRH and the Town of Greenburgh (which includes Hartsdale) recently held a joint meeting to discuss a vision for a state-of-the-art museum.

Thanks to Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky, OHRH has been awarded county funding to study slavery at the site. Emily Yankowitz, the Ph.D. candidate at Yale who created the finding aids for Odell family documents now at the Westchester County Historical Society, will work with OHRH. Census data from 1790 to 1850 are being studied as well as the effect of the manumission laws on enslaved people and their descendants. A report is expected by the end of the year.

Historian Norm Desmarais, a member of the W3R-US Leadership Council, has identified the names and regiment (Royal Deux Ponts) of the four French soldiers who died while camped in Greenburgh. The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, USA, has pledged funding to erect a memorial to these soldiers at OHRH when the grounds are ready.

Scholar Dr. Iris de Rode, who is translating some never-before-seen letters from the Marquis de Chastellux, is scheduled to visit New York sites, including OHRH, in March.

Research is beginning on the Native American presence in Greenburgh, particularly in the area around OHRH. Still in a storage container on the OHRH property are wooden bowls and other items supposedly originating with the indigenous people.

– Susan Seal, Board President, Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters

Also in New York



The monument to the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. File photo

Westchester County's *African American History and Heritage Guide* features 14 sites in the county, including the monument in Yorktown to the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. "Erected in 1982 as a result," the text reads, "of the pioneering research and activism of John H. Harmon, this monument is dedicated to the valiant and courageous soldiers of the First Rhode Island Regiment, which was composed predominantly of enslaved African American soldiers who had enlisted in the American Continental Army to earn their freedom. During the American Revolution, these men fought courageously to defend American liberty against the aggressions of British tyranny. Several dozen soldiers of the regiment were killed and wounded at the Battle of Pines Bridge in Yorktown on May 14, 1781." The monument stands on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church on U.S. Route 202.

To read or download the guide, please visit [https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-](https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/history/african-american-history/)

[to-do/history/african-american-history/](https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/history/african-american-history/)

To order a free copy, please visit <https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/plan/order-free-guide/>

► The online *Journal of the American Revolution* includes a Feb. 3, 2022, post, *Prelude to Yorktown: Washington and Rochambeau in New York*, by Benjamin Huggins. The post explores in detail the summer 1781 reconnaissances the generals conducted of the British defenses around New York City, which helped lead to the decision to go south to confront Cornwallis in Virginia instead of besieging Clinton in New York. The reconnaissances also gave the French and Continentals valuable experience in conducting joint operations – a key to the success of the Yorktown campaign. To read the post, please visit <https://allthingsliberty.com/2022/02/prelude-to-yorktown-washington-and-rochambeau-in-new-york/>

– Janet Lee Burnet, State Chair

Delaware

W3R-DE had a very successful January as we spread the group’s mission across the state.

- We are continuing discussions with St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in inner-city Wilmington about a November 2022 ceremony highlighting the contributions of Wilmington veterans. We are excited that our planning team has added several enthusiastic minority members as a direct result of our 2021 Wreaths Across America ceremony.
- We have met with the Chairman of the Delaware Military Order of the World Wars and the event coordinator of the Delaware Military Heritage Museum to explore events in which they are eager to participate. Like W3R, they are both very interested in an expanded diverse and multicultural membership and we can greatly assist.
- Vice President Peg Tigue is finalizing our plans for a group trip Aug. 10, 2022, to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.
- We continue to meet with the new leadership of the historic Cooch home on the Trail in Newark regarding shared events and Web site information.
- Peg Tigue has conducted meetings with duPont family members on potential support for the pending May 11, 2022, visit to Wilmington by the French Ambassador. The Embassy has acknowledged receipt of our request and is monitoring the Ambassador’s schedule.
- Plans for a fall speaker series continue to firm up as we have enlisted Tom Welch, who will share the stories of Washington’s cavalry commander, Col. Allan McLane, who moved to Wilmington after the Revolutionary War.
- We have successfully met with the director of Old Swedes Church in inner-city Wilmington regarding the use of its conference room for a potential presentation in March by a re-enactor of Martha Washington.

In other developments:

- After our successful inaugural Wreaths Across America ceremony in December 2021, we are planning for an even bigger event in December 2022. One of the primary goals of

W3R-DE is to share American history with urban children, and the wreath ceremony is a fantastic vehicle for that mission. The mission of National Wreaths Across America Day, observed annually in December, is to remember fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve and teach children the value of freedom.

- We are developing a plan to reach out and engage our Hispanic community along the Trail, especially in Wilmington, as we march toward 2026. We have contacts but we need material about the contributions of Hispanic Americans during the Revolutionary War to share, especially with teachers – such as the Maryland and Florida resolutions reprinted on Pages 6-9.
- We will make a presentation to Wilmington area Hispanic leaders this spring as part of our efforts to bring all the cultures along our Trail into the W3R sphere of influence by 2026.

– *Bill Conley, State Chair*

Maryland

W3R-MD is working with the Mount Clare and Bush Tavern sites to design and develop wayside marker concepts.

– *Robert E. Reyes, W3R-Maryland* ■