



An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

the E-newsletter of the W3R-US -- August 2009



Regional W3R Meeting in Lebanon CT

On August 29 as Hurricane Danny pelted the area with rain thirty-five members and friends of the W3R-US met at the Lebanon Historical Museum to inspire, acquire, and inquire. They talked about what they had done to develop the W3R-NHT, read or listened to reports from other states, and participated in an hour-long Q&A session with Joe DiBello, our newly appointed National Park Service Superintendent for the W3R-NHT.

W3R-NY hosted French Ambassador Pierre Vimont for three celebrations (in one day) of the W3R's designation as an NHT -- at Newburgh (Washington's 1782-3 headquarters), the Boscobel House (across the Hudson from West Point), and Dobbs Ferry (start of Washington's march to Yorktown) -- see our Website for photos. The Boscobel House [see www.boscobel.org] displayed David Wagner's series of illustrations of events along the W3R and liked them so highly that they arranged to display the collection through December 2009.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area received from the NY Dept. of Transportation a Transportation Enhancement Program grant of nearly \$300,000 to make exhibits and signs for the W3R-NHT in New York.

W3R-RI is working with John Hattendorf, a noted scholar of naval history, and Cathy Abbas, a marine archaeologist to understand allied naval movements related to the 1778 and 1781 battles near Newport. Sandra Redding of the RI Dept of Transportation has been reviewing the 1781 reports and maps of the march and early maps of RI to get a better understanding of where the troops marched or sailed in that state. This led to a discussion of the need to (1) research and map the historic trail network and (2) describe and publicize one or more recommended heritage tourism auto routes in each state.

Joe DiBello noted that part of his role as Superintendent for the W3R-NHT is to help the volunteer organization identify and apply for federal and state resources. He cited a number of examples from the National Park Service, Department of Energy, and state departments of transportation and tourism. He will also help us set priorities and find development partners (such as museums and parks).

W3R-CT Hans Depold (CT) said that U.S. Representatives distribute millions of dollars in Heritage Area development aid each year through grants to groups such as the W3R-US.

Life Membership certificates were presented or mailed to Serge Gabriel, J. Robert Lunney, Jacques Bossiere, and Blanche Hunnewell. Alice Wayland, historian for Lebanon CT, was presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for her success in making local arrangements and inviting many local non-W3R participants on relatively short notice.

Biosketch of a W3R-DC Leader

Acquanetta Anderson is currently the chairman of the Washington-Rochambeau American Revolution Association (W3R-DC) and the chair of the DCDAR Program Committee. Anderson lives in Washington, D.C. Anderson holds a degree in political science with a minor in history and studied paralegal studies at George Washington University. She also participated as a political analyst for *Diversity Magazine*. She is a former co-host of Educationally Speaking a call-in radio talk show where she discussed education and community issues. Ms. Anderson has worked for several members of Congress and the Senate---at the White House.

Anderson has served on several boards including the Washington, D.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Anderson is a public speaker who encourages college students and high school students to excel. She was a keynote speaker at the National Society of Black Engineers Conference and was a recipient of the National Coalition of Women, Inc., Northern Virginia Chapter's Ebone' Image Awards for Outstanding Achievements in Public Policy and Public Service. She has received several awards in education and community service. Anderson works for BHS—she is the former Chair of the DCDAR National Defense Committee.

WWW.W3R-US.ORG

Recent Progress on the W3R-NHT

by Ralph Nelson (Chair, W3R-US) -- DEpatriot@aol.com

Remember to add NHT !! Now that the W3R has been designated a National Historic Trail we should refer to the trail as the W3R-NHT. Our national organization is the W3R-US, and state groups such as W3R-CT, etc.

Joseph DiBello named as W3R-NHT Superintendent

Joe will help us develop the trail while he develops a Comprehensive Management Plan for the W3R-NHT. That document will guide later development to achieve high value for the people using the trail. Contact Info: JoeDiBello@nps.gov or 215-597-1581 or 200 Chestnut St. - 3rd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

An Alliance Museum for Philadelphia?

W3R-US Directors John Welsh and Win Carroll are cataloging the artifacts available for a proposed exhibit in Philadelphia on U.S. diplomatic negotiations in France during the American Revolution. Tourists from Europe are more numerous in the U.S. now, and that they enjoy seeing items that link the U.S. with Europe.

State Designation Celebrations have been held in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York, with plans underway for Delaware and Virginia. See our Website link to *Events: 2009,2010*. Other states are encouraged to plan similar events to thank the legislators who supported the W3R's designation as an NHT, to inform the public of the designation and to strengthen ties with affiliated organizations.

A Full-route Guidebook for Heritage Tourists The Society of the Cincinnati (SofC) has offered to work with the W3R-US in developing a who wish to drive along the W3R and learn of the events of 1781 as they stop at museums and sites along the way. The SofC has produced high-quality historical brochures, and we are delighted to work with them on this project.

The W3R Speakers Bureau includes both members of the W3R-US and others. See our Website link to Speakers Bureau. Some speakers are credentialed historians who charge for speaking, and others are simply interested in the history or the development of the W3R and speak free of charge. We have already provided talks for DAR, SAR, and local historical societies. We'd like to have speakers from each state along the route, so please volunteer to give a talk in your state or recommend a non-member who gives presentations related to W3R themes. We can provide you with a basic PowerPoint® and script or help you find graphics and text for an exhibit.

Route? What Route? Now that people are more aware of the W3R as an NHT they want to drive along the route and learn about it. In several states the route is marked and/or has interpretive signs at significant sites along the way. Other states are still developing these resources. Please check our Website link to *Tour the W3R* for your state and let us know how it should be changed to give the best experience for tourists to your area.

Merchandise related to W3R history or current trail use is now being advertised on our site. There are few items there now, but the list will grow as we develop the trail. Please let the editor know if your state has W3R-themed items for sale or if you can recommend a book on the W3R that is not listed on our Web page.

Bring W3R-US brochures to every event or meeting where you might find people interested in learning more about the W3R. The brochure can be read later, passed on to others, and gives our Web address, the doorway to full information on the W3R. On our home page click on "Main Brochure" to view and print the brochure.

Biosketch of a W3R-MA Leader

Alan Hoffman, recently named as the chair of the W3R of Massachusetts and a Director of the W3R-US, is President of the Massachusetts Lafayette Society and First Vice President of the America Friends of Lafayette. Founded in 1932, the organization is dedicated to the memory of General Lafayette and to the study of his life and times in America and France

This year the Massachusetts Lafayette Society meetings included an event at which the French Consul awarded Legion of Honor medals to World War II veterans, a re-enactment of Lafayette's arrival in Boston in 1824, the dedication of a Liberty Tree on Boston Common near the Lafayette Monument, a lecture on Lafayette's anti-slavery activities by Lafayette College's Diane Shaw, and a panel of scholars -- including David Hackett Fischer -- who discussed the role of Lafayette and France in the American Revolution.

Alan got his BA in History from Yale University and a JD from Harvard Law School. He practices law in Boston but found the time to translate the first-hand account of Lafayette's farewell tour, written by his private secretary, Auguste Levasseur. The title of this 2007 publication is **Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825**. See www.lafayetteinamerica.com