



An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

the E-newsletter of the W3R-US -- January 2010

edited by Ralph D. Nelson, Jr., DEpatriot@aol.com



Ten Videos on the W3R

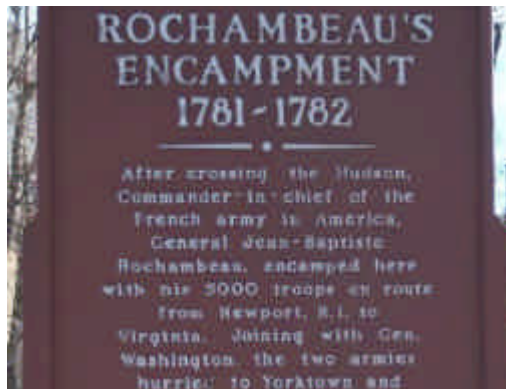
Rich Borkow, Village Historian of Dobbs Ferry (and a member of the W3R-US) has posted video clips (two to nine minutes long) of his interviews with historians David Hackett Fischer, Thomas Fleming and Mary Sudman Donovan on the following topics.

- The American Cause
- George Washington at 'Head Quarters Dobbs Ferry'
- George Washington: Character and Leadership
- George Washington's Officers
- The Mounted Troops of Colonel Sheldon
- The French Vision for North America
- The Decision that Won the War
- The Revolutionary War in the Hudson River Valley - Two Great Turning Points
- Victory on the Hudson River at Saratoga (1777)
- The Washington-Rochambeau March (1781)

Links to the Youtube videos are currently posted on the W3R-US home page. These interviews have been made possible through a grant awarded to the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society by the New York Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



In December 2009 Carl Nittinger (Treasurer of the W3R-US) played Revolutionary War-era tunes on the harpsichord at the 1719 William Trent House, Trenton NJ. Rochambeau stayed here on the way to Yorktown.



Marker placed by the Suffern NY Chamber of Commerce -- photo by W3R member Carolyn Suffern Johnson --

Lafayette: Symbol of Franco-American Friendship

was the topic of a lecture by Alan R. Hoffman to the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston on 2010 Jan 27. Alan is chair of the W3R-MA, which is developing a trail to follow the path of Lafayette from Boston MA to Morristown NJ as he brought news to General Washington about the assignment of General Rochambeau to lead a the French Expeditionary Force to the United States in 1780.

Teleconferences a Success!

During January we held four hour-long teleconferences on the structure of the W3R. Participants called in from as far away as CA and SC. Topics and summaries are posted on the W3R website at www.w3r-us.org/w3r-us/teleconf.htm. The Bylaws Committee will now formulate amendments for final discussion and vote at the Annual Meeting.

U.S. General Louis Duportail

was a French engineering officer who was given leave from his military service in France from 1777 to 1783 so that he could join and aid the Continental Army, in which he was assigned to be Chief Engineer. The W3R-US, in conjunction with the SAR-France, is publishing English and French versions of a brochure on his career in the U.S. Copies will be available to the public at the Duportail House in Chesterbrook PA, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point NY, the French Army Engineering Academy in Mézières, France, and selected park sites and W3R meetings.

December 2009 Highlights

by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent for the W3R-NHT

- Provided information on the W3R-NHT for an article to appear in the Dec. issue of *France-Amérique*.
- Sent information about W3R and how it could be incorporated into BLM management plans to the person developing BLM areas in VA.
- Provided updates on our trail projects. Provided updates on our trail projects to Don Briggs, Superintendent of PHNST and met with John Wilson and Lisa Gutierrez of the MD Div. of Natural Resources. We discussed how we could coordinate with the state trails, byways and water trails activities outlined in the Maryland Outdoor Recreation Plan. There are opportunities to (1) coordinate "signage" and "media"; (2) provide for sustaining trail planning, operations and stewardship; and (3) consider an agreement and "contracting" with the state to obtain their help and build capacity. The state is planning a "trail summit" and would like our participation and any financial and technical help we can provide. State priorities are focused on War of 1812, Harriet Tubman and Civil War themes at this time.
- John Maounis organized a meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Office on Dec. 1 to help W3R-NHT coordinate with the Gateways Network, John Smith NHT and Star Spangled NHT. All of these efforts are completely reliant on "partnership". Some common areas we can work on together are GIS coordination and mapping; comprehensive management planning; and on agreements with the states. We will coordinate and collaborate on all of our trail efforts. At minimum, we will acknowledge each effort as part of the other so that the NPS and National Historic Trail brand is prominent.
- Began planning with Ralph Nelson and Roseanna Gorham a RI-MA-CT workshop on strategic planning. We will develop lists of participants with a balance of government and private interests. We plan to schedule one meeting for Friday and perhaps one for Saturday to accommodate both people who must and people who cannot attend during weekday working hours.
- Confirmed that we have \$30,950 available to W3R from the National Trails System Challenge Cost Share program in FY10. We also submitted two proposals for competition in the Northeast Challenge Cost Share Program. The proposals are aimed at building citizen involvement and engagement in RI and carrying out some early action projects in Southeastern PA urban areas. We need to develop the proposals a bit more and gather letters of support.

- On Dec.09, met with the VA DCR to provide information on PHNST, RTCA, and W3R programs and priorities for FY10; learn about DCR trail, water trail, and greenway initiatives and priorities for FY10 and discuss opportunities for collaboration. Attending for NPS were Ursula Lemanski, Don Briggs and Joe DiBello and for DCR: John Davy, Bob Munson, Jennifer Wampler, Janit Llewellyn and Danette Poole. Usula will also look for opportunities to update the VA subcluster on our activities.
- On Dec. 10, I visited with Jack Warren, Executive Director of the Society of the Cincinnati at the Anderson House in Washington D.C. The society is organized for patriotic, historical and educational purposes especially to perpetuate the memory of the patriots who served during American Revolution. We toured the state of the art library and viewed the outstanding museum and exhibitions. It was inspirational and I highly recommend a visit the next time you are in D.C.
- At the invitation of Kate Litvak, Crossroads of the American Revolution Association and with Randy Turner, MORR, attended a meeting of the Crossroads Management plan Steering Committee on December 18, 2009 to share information about W3R and learn more about the Crossroads process and the proposed alternatives and actions.
- Responding to many requests for information about WARO and what happens next. We are in the very early stages of the next phase of this project. We will be working with parks and partners to develop a strategic plan that will serve as our foundation for a more comprehensive management plan.
- Seeking assistance to develop a unigrid brochure and logo for the new trail to foster continuity and identity and to have material to help share information about the effort. Spoke to Harper's Ferry and we now have a project manager that will help us develop a brochure for the trail. We will proceed cautiously and are looking for confirmation of the FY10 budget. Harper's Ferry is proceeding to design a National Historic Trail logo for us incorporating the existing W3R logo. Park superintendents and their staff have been great in providing guidance, information and support.
- Under the leadership of Tom Davies and with the help of Pat Dantona of the Northeast Region's Interpretation and Education Division, we are establishing an NPS website for the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail.

Calendar of Events

April 10, 2010 - Annual Meeting of the W3R-US at Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY. Perhaps a dinner Friday night, perhaps a tour of the area for people staying for Sunday.