

Organizational History of the W3R®-US

Acronyms:

W3R®-US refers to the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, a 501(c)3 educational organization.

WRRR refers to the 1780-1784 historical events involved with the French Expeditionary Force in the United States during 1780 - 1784.

WARO was chosen by the National Park Service (NPS) to refer to the Congressionally-designated Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail and their efforts to develop that trail.

Efforts to Commemorate French Aid began in 1926

On July 4, 2010, Mrs. Charles G.L. de Barcza, Board Chair for the W3R®-US, gave the keynote presentation to the Washington Campground Association on *The March to Achieve Independence; History of Establishing the W3R®-NHT* -- The history for the W3R® effort from 1926 to 2010. See the second half of the item - 2010 speech by de Barcza

Marking the Trail in the 1950s

Archives of Maryland -- Session Laws 1953, Volume 606, Page 1846 - No. 11 (Senate Joint Resolution 24) Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a Commission to mark a certain route and to designate such route as Rochambeau Route.

WHEREAS, General Rochambeau led the Armies of the French King through the State of Maryland, and the adjoining states to aid the forces of the American colonies in the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, The route followed by General Rochambeau's forces has been marked in the states adjoining Maryland; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the exploits of these French forces should be memorialized in the State of Maryland; now therefore be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor of Maryland be and is hereby requested to appoint a Commission of not more than five citizens of the State of Maryland to mark the route followed by Lieutenant-General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, of the armies of the French King in Maryland on his way to the battle of Yorktown, to be known as the **Rochambeau Route**. Such Commission shall arrange with other states, through which the route passes, for a celebration of the anniversary of the march of the Rochambeau forces. An appropriation shall be made to the Commission for necessary expenses, including the cost of markers, not to exceed \$500. 00.

-- Approved May 6, 1953.

Re-awakening of Interest in Connecticut in the 1990s

The early research on and development of the WRRR was carried out primarily in Connecticut during 1991 through 1999. See the Item - 2009 letter by Bossiere.

Spreading out in 1999 to Form a Whole-trail Base

In December 1999 representatives of history groups from several states met to develop a plan to develop the W3R® in all nine states along the route. A small leadership group focused on developing a large E-mail list of interested people and organizations and through an E-newsletter informed them of the historical aspects of the WRRR and the National Park Service's progress in conducting the evaluation of the proposed trail as mandated by Congress. These covered the historic/social justification, feasibility, tourism and environmental impact, and alternatives for management and development of the WRRR as a National Historical Trail.

Building toward Incorporation in 2004

In early 2007 several members of W3R®-US wrote short histories of the development of this organization before its 2004. These are titled: 2007 article by Nelson, 2007 article by de Pold, 2007 article by Bossiere.

The first few years (2003-2006, Phase 2) of the development of the WRRR were summarized by 2006 Kim Burdick for a Congressional hearing as an "Alphabetic Photographic Retrospective:.". See the Item - 2006 Testimony by Burdick.

See the Menu Item "Passing the Legislation".

In 2009 Congress designated the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a National Historic Trail, to be administered by the National Park Service.