



NEWS

from

Colonial National Historical Park

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AMERICA'S DECISIVE REVOLUTIONARY WAR VICTORY AT YORKTOWN CELEBRATED OCTOBER 14-16 AND YORKTOWN DAY, OCTOBER 19

**Weekend Events Feature Military Interpretive Programs at Yorktown Battlefield and
American Revolution Museum at Yorktown With Debut of New Galleries and Films**

Yorktown Day Parade & Commemorative Ceremony October 19 at Yorktown Battlefield

YORKTOWN, Va., October 7, 2016 — The 235th anniversary of America's decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown will be marked October 14, 15 and 16 with historical lectures, tours and artillery demonstrations at Yorktown Battlefield and, October 15 and 16, hands-on interpretive programs, new exhibition galleries and films previewing the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Yorktown Day, on Wednesday, October 19, is a Centennial Signature Event at Yorktown Battlefield, administered by Colonial National Historical Park, featuring a patriotic Yorktown Day Parade and Commemorative Ceremony at the Monument to Victory and Alliance, also known as the Yorktown Victory Monument.

Yorktown Day marks the anniversary of the American-French victory in 1781 over the British. In 1781, following a nine-day bombardment, British forces in Yorktown under General Charles Cornwallis requested a cease-fire and then surrendered more than 8,000 soldiers and sailors to the combined American and French armies commanded by General George Washington. This was the last major military action of the American Revolution, effectively securing independence for the American colonies following a six-and-a-half-year military struggle.

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND PROGRAMS AT YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD FEATURE LECTURES, FIRST-PERSON INTERPRETATION, ARTILLERY, TOURS AND OPEN HOUSES Friday to Sunday, October 14-16

The Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown Battlefield, site of the climactic 1781 siege, will offer a variety of special events in commemoration of the defeat of Lord Cornwallis to the combined forces of Generals Washington and Rochambeau.

A special presentation at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, October 14 — the 235th anniversary of the epic storming of Redoubt #10 — will recall the historical account and feature speaker Rand Scholet of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society (www.theAHAsociety.org). The 1781 evening attack on the British, led by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton, so stunned Lord Cornwallis that it resulted in an immediate communiqué to the British Supreme Commander in New York pleading for help. The help, of course, never came, and the British surrendered five days later. Upon hearing of Lord Cornwallis' surrender, Lord North, the British First Minister, lamented "all is lost!" Mr. Scholet will detail how Hamilton ended up leading the charge that day (a fascinatingly unexpected journey with twists and turns); and how his experience there helped define his future with Washington, right up to the last two days of Washington's life (his last letter from Mount Vernon was to Hamilton).

At 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, Park Ranger Jerome Bridges will deliver a first-person account of Windsor Fry, an African American in the Rhode Island Regiment, offering insight to his heroic acts during the October 14, 1781, attack on Redoubt #10, an event which catapulted the surrender of the British garrison at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, and ultimately the end to British rule of the thirteen colonies.

Yorktown Victory Weekend – 2

The weekend also features demonstrations by the British Royal Artillery on Saturday at 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m., and musket demonstrations and Ranger tours highlighting the surrender on Saturday and Sunday. The Nelson House, home of Thomas Nelson, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, will be open 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. The Moore House, where surrender negotiations took place, will be open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Programs begin at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center, located at 1000 Colonial Parkway at the eastern end of the Colonial Parkway, 12 miles from Williamsburg. Admission on October 14-16 is \$7.00 per adult and under age 16 admitted free. Interagency Passes, including lifetime senior and access passes, are honored. For more information, including times for programs and demonstrations, call (757) 898-2410 or visit www.nps.gov/colo.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PROGRAMS, MILITARY MUSIC & DEBUT OF NEW GALLERIES AND FILMS PREVIEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN October 15 & 16

The Yorktown Victory Center, a state-operated museum transitioning to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown on October 15, will present a variety of hands-on experiences, artillery firings, military music, and a preview of the new museum with the unveiling of a new introductory film and permanent exhibition galleries as part of its annual “Yorktown Victory Celebration” event.

The introductory film “Liberty Fever” and 22,000-square-foot exhibition galleries – and the “American Revolution Museum at Yorktown” name – will debut during the weekend. The Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm will be completed in early 2017, and a grand opening celebration from March 23 to April 4 will officially launch the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

“Liberty Fever,” shown in the museum theater every half hour from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., is narrated by an early 19th-century storyteller who has traveled the country gathering stories about the American Revolution and shares his accounts using a moving panorama presentation of the time period.

Exhibition galleries will engage visitors in the tumult, drama and promise of the Revolution through period artifacts and immersive environments, dioramas, interactive exhibits and short films, including “The Siege of Yorktown,” shown in an experiential theater on a 180-degree surround screen with rumbling seats, wind, smoke and the smells of gunpowder, seawater and coffee.

Military music will be on display both days with Field Musick Virginia performing at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. The Fifes & Drums of York Town will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday. Visitors to the Continental Army encampment can learn the steps leading to the firing of an artillery piece, followed by its firing, during daily programs at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. At 2 p.m. each day, visitors can learn about the terms of surrender of the garrisons of York and Gloucester on October 19, 1781, during a reading of the Articles of Capitulation.

Farm visitors can learn about the typical life of a Revolution-era farming family, including how families produced homespun clothing during the war, and assist in processing plant fibers for cloth at 11:30 a.m. each day. At 12:30 p.m., a daily program allows visitors to lend a hand with 18th-century meal preparation.

Special event activities are presented in part by the York County Arts Commission.

The Yorktown Victory Center/American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, is located on Route 1020 in Yorktown. General admission is \$9.75 for adults, \$5.50 for ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. An American Heritage Annual Pass to Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is available for Virginia residents for \$21.25 for adults and \$10.75, the price of a combination ticket. Residents of York County, James City County and the City of Williamsburg, including College of William and Mary students, receive complimentary admission with proof of residency. For more information, call (888) 593-4682 toll free or (757) 253-4838, or visit www.historyisfun.org.

YORKTOWN DAY – OCTOBER 19
Colonial National Historical Park Centennial Signature Event

The modern-day observance of Yorktown Day traces its roots to 1922, when the Daughters of the American Revolution began an annual wreath-laying ceremony, which set the tradition upon which the current Yorktown Day is based. Today, Yorktown Day commemorative events are co-sponsored by the Yorktown Day Association, comprised of 13 civic, patriotic and government organizations, and the National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park.

In addition to morning wreath-laying ceremonies, the official Yorktown Day Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. The route will follow Yorktown's Main Street and pass in front of the Monument to Alliance and Victory, erected in 1881 to commemorate the military victory a century before. Included in the 35 parade units are representatives of all branches of the U.S. military, fife and drum corps – including The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps – JROTC and NJROTC units, and patriotic organizations.

Patriotic exercises will commence at the Monument to Alliance and Victory at 11:15 a.m. with the annual pageant of flags, a colorful display that includes the American and French national colors, the flags of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the flags of the 13 Yorktown Day Association members. At the conclusion of the patriotic exercises, a wreath will be placed on the monument in memory of those who fought and died during the siege of Yorktown in 1781. At 11:30 a.m., the annual Yorktown Women's Club Brunswick stew lunch will be held at Grace Episcopal Church.

On October 19, admission to Yorktown Battlefield will be free as part of the Yorktown Day celebration. For more information, call (757) 898-2410 or visit www.nps.gov/colo.

VISITING HISTORIC YORKTOWN

Yorktown visitors can take the free Yorktown Trolley to attractions throughout Yorktown, including Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily through October 30. In addition, Yorktown visitors can enjoy schooners Alliance and Serenity at the Riverwalk Landing piers, Yorktown Market Days and Fall Festival on October 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Watermen's Museum "York River Maritime Heritage Festival" October 15 and 16, a Gallery at York Hall "Yorktown Art" exhibit featuring watercolor artist Linda Miller and print-signing event on October 19, and Water Street Grille live entertainment October 14 and 15. For more information on historic Yorktown, call (757) 898-3500 or visit www.visitryorktown.org.

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