

French ship *Hermione* to visit Yorktown June 5, 6, 7 Ship is a replica of 18th-century ship used by Marquis de Lafayette

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This month marks the 235th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's departure from France to bring his nation's support to George Washington and the Continental Army fighting for American independence. The ship that carried the Marquis was a 213-foot light frigate – *Hermione*. The crossing took 28 days, with the Marquis reaching Boston in April. France's support turned the tide in the fight for American independence and cemented the foundation of the United States of America.

In 1997, a group of intrepid individuals in France became determined to build an exact replica of the *Hermione* with the dream of sailing her to America. Their long journey will culminate this April as the *Hermione* sets sail for her voyage across the Atlantic. The ship will make port in Yorktown Friday, June 5, and will remain docked and available for deck tours that weekend, departing early on the morning of Monday, June 8.

"We are excited to welcome the ship and our friends from France," said Brian Fuller, York County's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Manager and the event's coordinator. "We have a group of county employees and dedicated volunteers working to plan a weekend of events that should contain something for everyone."

As her first port of call, Yorktown is planning a full three-day event that will include a variety of programs and activities for the public: deck tours and ship events, a Heritage Village traveling exhibit, entertainment, educational programs, and more. A full schedule of events will be publicized over the upcoming months as the ship prepares to leave France in April and cross the Atlantic to Yorktown.

In preparation for the ship's arrival, the York County Public Library has planned four programs being held in May.

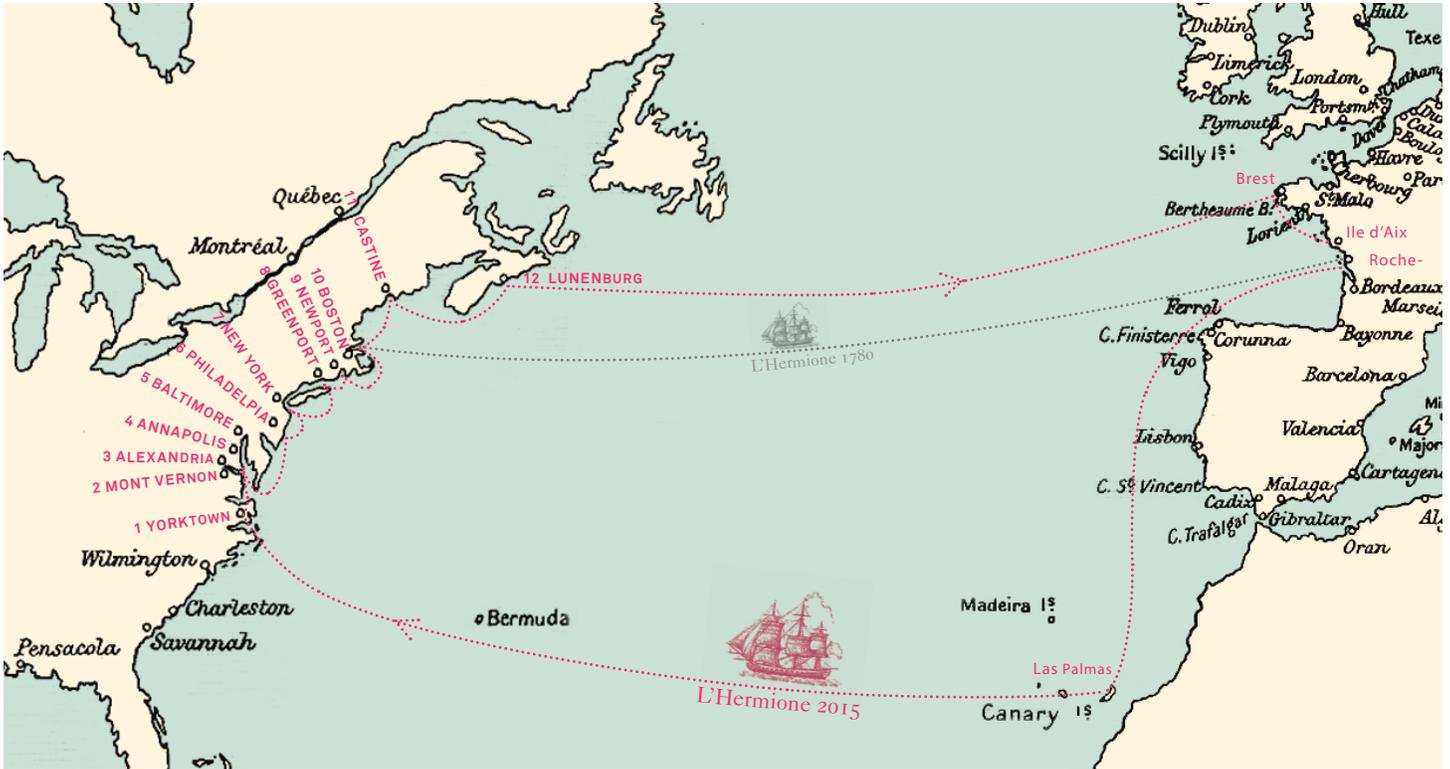
"The York County Public Library's Yorktown branch is holding four educational and exciting programs at the library about the ship, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the voyage," said Kevin Smith, Manager of Library Services. "The programs will be held each Thursday, are free, and are open to the public. Specific details will be available in the coming weeks."

Information about all events associated with the *Hermione*'s visit will be available on the county's event website as well as on Facebook (www.facebook.com/yorkcountyyva) and Twitter (@yorkcountyyvagov). Social media posts associated with the *Hermione* visit will be tagged with #Hermione2015. The event website will be launched in the coming weeks.

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Voyage 2015



JUNE

Yorktown, VA	June 5, 6, 7
Mount Vernon, VA	June 9
Alexandria, VA	June 10, 11, 12
Annapolis, MD	June 16, 17
Baltimore, MD	June 19, 20, 21
Philadelphia, PA	June 25, 26, 27, 28

JULY

New York, NY	July 1, 2, 3, 4
Greenport, NY	July 6, 7
Newport, RI	July 8, 9
Boston, MA	July 11, 12
Castine, ME	July 14, 15
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia	July 18