

Enjoy the W3R in Delaware!

Since 1999 the Washington-Rochambeau Route Association of Delaware (W3R-DE) has focused the efforts of many affiliated groups on creating public resources for research, education, and recreation so you may

- Study the history of France's aid during the American Revolution as posted on the W3R-US Web site www.w3r-us.org.
- Drive the route following the logo-marked roads! Auto tour sheets are posted on the Web; bicycle tour cue sheets are coming soon.
- Study the on-line 200-page summary of the allied march through Delaware and the events of the five-month French Legion encampment in Wilmington.
- Walk a circuit in Wilmington with many historic sites. Hike from Wilmington to Christiana -- Boy Scouts can earn a BSA historic trail patch.
- Meet re-enactors at one of the W3R-DE commemorations of French involvement with the American Revolution -- Alliance Treaty Day, Independence Day, Legionnaire's Departure Day, Lafayette's Birthday, Yorktown Day.
- Visit historic sites along the route: Robinson House, Bellevue, Brandywine Village, Old Swedes Church, Willingtown Square, Canby Park, Hale-Byrnes House, Christiana, Pencader Heritage Museum, and Cooch's Bridge.



Willis Phelps, living historian of Delaware

Regular membership dues for the W3R-DE are \$20.00 per year.

For further information see www.w3r-us.org and click Organizations > DE link or call Ralph Nelson at (302)-239-0409



Three of these marched the whole W3R in 2006

The Washington-Rochambeau Route of Delaware, Inc. (W3R-DE)



coordinates the activities of many historic, lineage, and civic organizations to develop and support this 680-mile National Historic Trail from Newport RI to Yorktown VA and to commemorate the aid that France provided to the U.S. during the American Revolution.

The W3R in Delaware

The King's Highway (now called the Philadelphia Pike) was the main East Coast communications route, and it served the patriots well. Entering Delaware near the Robinson House the route passes through Wilmington, becomes Newport Pike, the Stanton-Christiana Road, and Baltimore Pike.

In September of 1781 Delaware farmers brought meat, wheat, and hay to Wilmington for the armies that were moving south. Spirits (and prices) were high since the 4,000 well-armed French (three times Wilmington's population) paid in silver for their purchases.



Re-enactors of French troops, Newport RI 2006

Many amphibious row-galleys carried Continental troops and artillery to Christiana, were drawn overland to Elkton, and then launched on Chesapeake Bay. Soon Delawareans celebrated the victory at Yorktown. The Continental Army camped here going north in 1781 and the French going north in 1782.

In 1782-3 over 600 French troops and 300 horses of Lauzun's Legion called Wilmington home for five months.



base map ©2005 DeLorme (www.delorme.com)

Did You Know?

- In 1778 the British evacuated Philadelphia because a French fleet under Admiral D'Estaing was on its way to blockade the Delaware River and cut off their supply line.
- In early 1781 Gen. Lafayette ordered 5,000 pairs of shoes for his (U.S.) troops as they passed through Delaware on the way to Yorktown. In 1824 Lafayette returned to Delaware on a tour of the U.S. tour. He attended a wedding in New Castle.
- In December, 1782, Lauzun's Legion needed a stable for 300 horses in Wilmington. The French paid in silver for its construction (on French St. from 8th St. to 10th St.) They gave it to a local merchant when they sailed for France in May, 1783.
- In 1789 one of the founders of the Delaware Medical Society was Dr. Joseph Capelle. He had come to the U.S. as an assistant surgeon in Lauzun's Legion. He married a lady from Maryland and settled in Wilmington. He died in 1796 and is buried in Old Swede's Churchyard.