



Independence: The Best Park in History

National Park Service Names Dennis R. Reidenbach as Northeast Regional Director

NPS Director Mary Bomar has announced the selection of Independence National Historical Park (INHP) Superintendent Dennis R. Reidenbach as the new Regional Director for the Northeast Region, which is headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He succeeds Bomar, who was sworn-in as NPS Director in October, 2006.

As Northeast Regional Director, Reidenbach will oversee an area that covers 13 states and serves over 55 million park visitors each year. Stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ohio River and from Maine to Virginia, the Northeast Region is home to a third of all NPS museum collections, a quarter of all historic structures, almost half of the country's National Historic Landmarks and more than half of the National Heritage Areas.



“Dennis Reidenbach has proven himself as an effective leader, and I am excited to announce that I have selected him to take the reins as the Northeast Regional Director,” said Director Bomar. “Dennis has a wealth of experience and is highly respected not only in the Northeast Region, but throughout the NPS. He focuses on getting the job done and his willingness and ability to look at issues through new perspectives in the regional office will be an asset. I know that the Northeast Region will be managed successfully and with a high level of innovation.”

Reidenbach has been with the National Park Service since 1983. He was appointed Superintendent of INHP in November 2005, after serving 12 years as Deputy Superintendent. As Deputy Superintendent, he supervised all day-to-day operations of the park, working with then-Independence Superintendent Mary Bomar. During this time, he had the lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the \$300 million Independence Mall Redevelopment Plan that resulted in new facilities and park partnerships that still work to strengthen the many offerings available to visitors at INHP. Reidenbach joined INHP as Administrative Officer in January 1988, transferring from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office where he had served as the Regional Chief for Contracting and Property Management for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Park Service since December 1983. Prior to that, he held a number of Contract Specialist positions since he joined the federal government in 1976, first with the Department of Defense then with the General Services Administration.

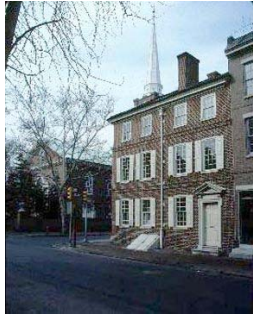
“I have been fortunate to work with some tremendous people both within and outside of the park service during my tenure at Independence,” Reidenbach said. “I look forward to the opportunity to build even stronger relationships throughout the Northeast Region.”

As Regional Director, Reidenbach will make finding a new Superintendent for INHP a top priority. Until a new Superintendent is in place, Darla Sidles, who has been Deputy Superintendent since March 2006, will serve as Acting Superintendent.

Reidenbach is a native of Pennsylvania and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration and Political Science from Grove City College. He lives in Glenside, PA with his wife Kristine, and they have two adult sons.

Inconspicuous in Society Hill: New Exhibits at Kosciuszko NM

The Harpers' Ferry Center and I&VS staff are finalizing plans for the installation of new permanent exhibits at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial (THKO) in 2008. The memorial successfully competed for \$281,000 in project funding through the NPS fee demo program in 2004. The new exhibits will support the revised THKO Long Range Interpretive Plan themes that emphasize Kosciuszko as a life long champion of freedom and human rights.



The new exhibit expands the story beyond Kosciuszko's important contributions as a brilliant military engineer during the American Revolution to include his valiant efforts to free Poland from Russian rule. Park Ranger Andrew McDougall and a team of INHP staff worked closely with the Harpers' Ferry Center to develop the exhibit text and select the best graphics to help interpret Kosciuszko's life and legacy. Visitors will also be introduced to the story of Kosciuszko's American Will, which stipulated that after his death, proceeds from his estate be used to purchase the freedom and education of enslaved Africans. Kosciuszko asked his good friend, and then Vice President, Thomas Jefferson to be the executor of his Will. After a lengthy legal battle that ended up in the U.S. Supreme Court, Kosciuszko's estate went to his relatives.

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Finding our History in Germantown



General Howe at the Dresher Morris House

The NPS has announced a multi-million dollar contract to renovate and preserve the Dresher-Morris and Bringhurst Houses in Germantown. The year-long project will start in October 2007 and will update the HVAC, electrical and drainage systems and complete architectural repairs on the original wood and masonry of the houses. New exhibits at the Bringhurst House will interpret the outcome of the the Battle of Germantown, introduce President Washington's household, including their enslaved servants, and link the 300 year history of Germantown with other neighborhood sites and museums.

There's still time to see the Dresher-

Morris House before it closes for this project on October 7! The site is free and open to the public Friday through Sunday, 1 – 4 pm. Call 215-597-7130 for information.

On October 6, 10 am to 4 pm, the site will feature former resident, British Commander General Howe, during the annual Revolutionary Germantown Festival. General Howe used the Dresher-Morris House as his temporary headquarters after the battle in 1777. The Germantown White House also sheltered President George Washington. In October 1793, the President found refuge in Germantown during the Yellow Fever epidemic. The next summer, the house provided a welcome retreat for the First Family. Located at 5442 Germantown Avenue, the site is operated by the Dresher-Morris House Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers.

Little Known Facts

The Liberty Bell was sent from England on the ship Hibernia, captained by William Child.

The strike note of the Liberty Bell is E-flat.

Independence National Historical Park has approximately 3 million artifacts in the Park collection. As of August 2007, there were exactly 2,957,387 artifacts.

Independence Hall is 168 feet 7 ¼ inches tall. There are 7 National Historical Landmarks in the park.

The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial – located in the rotunda of The Franklin Institute Science Museum – is one of the 391 National Park Service units.

The first Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park was Melford O. Anderson. The fifth Superintendent of INHP, Mary A. Bomar, is now the Director of the National Park Service. The sixth Superintendent, Dennis R. Reidenbach, is now the NPS Northeast Regional Director.



Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, Franklin Institute

Hidden Histories Brought to Light: Work Progresses on the President's House Commemoration

The park's most recent exhibit at the President's House site at 6th and Market Streets has now entered its next phase. The archeological dig of the site has been temporarily covered over to protect the architectural findings while a task force evaluates options for incorporating the archeological findings into the design plan for the commemoration. After further research, a final report with recommendations will be prepared for Mayor Street and the park. Until construction of the commemorative installation gets underway, the site will remain open to visitors, who will be able to review information posted on the viewing platform and view photographs of the dig. Artifacts unearthed during the dig will be analyzed and eventually displayed for the public at the Archeology Lab in the Independence Living History Center at 3rd and Chestnut Streets.



Levin and LaRoche speak during the event

The team of archeologists that brought to light these authentic reminders of the nation's complicated beginnings hosted an event for the closing of the site. Jed Levin, NPS Northeast Region archeologist, and Cheryl LaRoche, archeologist with the URS Group, spoke about what the dig has uncovered, what this project has meant to them personally, and why it is important to cover the fragile resources in order to protect them. Michael Coard, a member of the Oversight Committee tasked with determining the best way to commemorate the site and also a founding member of

the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC), movingly referred to the continuing efforts made by ATAC to ensure that the National Park Service uses this opportunity to recognize the enslaved Africans who lived in this house.

The ceremony then recognized and honored the enslaved Africans who were kept in the house by President Washington. Ayoka Quinones, a Yoruba priestess, and Mukasa Afrika led the ceremonial elements of the event, which included songs, prayers and libations to honor all ancestors brought from Africa to America in bondage, and requested the blessings of African deities on the temporary site closing. These ceremonies specifically honored the nine enslaved Africans held by Washington at the site - Hercules, Oney Judge, Paris, Richmond, Austin, Moll, Joe, Giles and Christopher Sheels. Nine brass plaques donated by the Philadelphia Fire Department and inscribed with the names of the enslaved were buried at the site as Oversight Committee member Karen Warrington (representing U.S. Congressman Robert A. Brady) read aloud each name.

Over 300,000 visitors have witnessed this extraordinary place, learned from the archeologists, and interacted with each other on important topics such as race and slavery in the United States. To learn more about the site, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/inde/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm. Public reaction signals that the President's House site has the potential to become a major national icon in the heart of the City.

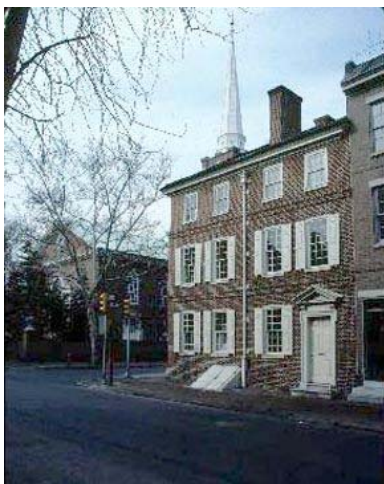


LaRoche watches the ceremonial acts of Quinones and Afrika. Photo Courtesy of City of Philadelphia

**Inconspicuous in Society Hill:
New Exhibits at Kosciuszko NM
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The new exhibits will include some interactive elements to engage younger visitors, including a video that highlights the many monuments dedicated to Kosciuszko, along with dozens of towns, streets, bridges, parks and mountains named after this Polish Patriot. For example: did you know that Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciuszko, Mississippi? A very special feature of the new installation will be a custom-designed case to exhibit original Kosciuszko artifacts from six major museums in Poland. In 2005, Chief I&VS Steve Sitariski traveled to Warsaw and Krakow in Poland to meet with museum officials and identify potential original artifacts for temporary loan. The Memorial hopes to feature each one of the Polish museum Kosciuszko artifact collections annually for the next six years.

Once the new permanent exhibits open in 2008, the Memorial hopes to draw many more visitors to the corner of 3rd & Pine Streets to learn about the man Thomas Jefferson called "*As pure a son of Liberty as I have ever known*".



INHP's Independence Park Institute Offers New Programs for Families and Children This Fall!

Wednesday Preschool Classes (Ages 3-5) \$120. Young children and their parents will discover history together. Oct 3- Nov 28. No class Thanksgiving week (Nov. 21) 1:00-2:30.

Friday After School Classes (Ages 6-8) \$100. The week is now "history", so why not learn some too! Challenging, fun, and age appropriate activities complement short outings into Independence National Historical Park. Oct 5- Nov 30. No class Thanksgiving week (Nov. 23) 3:30-4:45.

Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required and fees are non-refundable unless the IPI cancels the class. Call (215) 597-2760 to reserve your spot!

NEW! Saturday HISTORY Time!

(Ages 4-8) \$10 per session.

Kids and their parents enjoy a picture



book read by a ranger and participate in craft projects in the IPI learning labs. Hear a new story every week! October 6- November 17. 10:00-11:00 AM

Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required and fees are non-refundable unless the IPI cancels the class. Call (215) 597-2760 to reserve your spot!

INDE Finds Hidden Treasure in Interns

Elisa Ho was INHP's summer 2007 Cultural Diversity Intern. Her work included organizing part of the Park's archival files, mending shards to form vessels from the National Constitution Center excavations, and creating an archeological exhibit on Carpenter's Court. Elisa's internship was sponsored by the Park and by the Student Conservation Association.

Elisa is a native of the Los Angeles area and a 2007 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a dual major in Anthropology and Political Science. Part of her undergraduate experience was a year in Athens at the International Center for Hellenic and Mediterranean Studies. At Berkeley, she worked and interned (as the Getty Multicultural Undergraduate

Intern) at three museums, the Hearst (formerly Lowie) Museum of Anthropology, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Chinese American Museum. Her experience includes: research; inventory and processing of images, books, periodicals, objects; fundraising; library operations; docent; and writing and editing. In the Bay area, she was involved in various community services including youth education, homeless assistance, and environmental clean-up.



Unsung Heroes: INHP Invites Neighbors and Partners to Join in Planning for Washington Square

Washington Square, originally known as Southeast Square, has a long and intricate history. As a result of the Square's lush meadowlands (caused by a branch of the Dock Creek that traversed the block), the square was leased out for cattle pasture from 1706-1727. Throughout this time, however, and lasting long past the use of the Square as pasture, the Square was also used as a Potter's Field, or Strangers' Burial ground.

From the outset, Southeast Square served as a burial ground for the town's African-Americans, free and enslaved. According to historians, the Square also served as an early meeting place for the living.

African-Americans would gather in the Square to commemorate and celebrate, especially at holidays and times of festival. By the 1730s, the square adjoined a burgeoning African-American community.

During the American Revolution, the military confiscated the newly built



Washington Square, Eternal Flame

Walnut Street prison on the corner of Walnut and Sixth Streets. When an inmate died, he was carted across the street to the Potter's burial ground, which, for the duration of the war, doubled as a military cemetery. Burials at the Potter's Field also came from a temporary military hospital a block away.

Today, people pay their respects to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Washington Square, marked with an Eternal Flame. Gradually, the square was transformed from a burial ground to a

place of recreation, personal refreshment and repose. Since 1815, local civic involvement can be credited with the change of focus, a tradition that continues even today as local neighborhood and business associations work closely with INHP to develop and improve the Square.

INHP is currently developing policy for appropriate usage of Washington Square. We hope to continue the Square's long tradition of civic involvement, while respecting the history of the Square. We encourage all our neighbors and partners to work with us as we move forward on these plans. A public meeting will be held on this subject later this fall. If you have any concerns, ideas or suggestions, please contact INHP Public Affairs Officer Jane Cowley at 215-597-0060.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Public Lands Day is September 29!

Join INHP as we participate in the largest hands-on volunteer effort to preserve America's lands, the 14th annual National Public Lands Day! National Public Lands Day is an annual day to honor all land maintained and preserved by federal, state and local governments. Events at INHP will be held on Independence Mall, outside the Independence Visitor Center, from 10am – 1pm on Saturday, September 29. Registration for the volunteer activities starts at 9:30am.

Join us on Independence Mall (corner of 6th and Market Streets) for an **Art in the Park** exhibit. INHP will host an exhibit of art created by artists who have signed on as volunteers in the park. The exhibit will offer an interpretation of the park as seen through the eyes of an artist, merging art, history and the land. Park beautification activities will include maintenance and paint projects throughout the park. Park Rangers will be coordinating and presenting activities for children throughout the program, from 10am – 1pm.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Beverly Morris at 215-597-1293 or just walk up. Registration and other activities will be held on Independence Mall, outside the Independence Visitor Center. September 29, 2007, should be an exciting and fun filled day for volunteers and for the park's many visitors who will have the opportunity to view beautiful artwork and participate in volunteer activities.



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Independence National Historical Park
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Off the Beaten Path: Robert Morris Statue gets a Facelift



Treatment was recently completed on the Robert Morris statue, which is located on Walnut Street, behind the Second Bank. The statue was washed and waxed and a new interpretive wayside was installed (above).

Right, INDE Museum Techs Jonathan Miller and Joseph Angemi work with a metals conservator, Adam Jenkins of Milner + Carr Conservation, to wash the Robert Morris statue prior to waxing.



Above, INDE Museum Techs Jonathan Miller and Joseph Angemi prepare the newly cleaned Robert Morris statue for a coat of protective wax.

Above left, INDE Museum Tech Jonathan Miller buffs the newly waxed Robert Morris statue.