



# Independence: The Best Park in History

## New Exhibits Open in Kosciuszko Memorial

The Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia has opened its new permanent exhibit to celebrate the life and legacy of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, hero of two continents.

Thanks to an exciting international loan project, the new exhibits feature objects on loan from the Kosciuszko collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Cracow in Poland. Loaned artifacts from the Cracow Museum's Kosciuszko collection include a pistol and sword, a variety of 19th century paintings, and one of the three remaining original copies of Kosciuszko's famous 1794 call to arms against Russian rule. The museum collection is on loan for two years. The park is arranging to borrow Kosciuszko artifacts from other museums in Poland, including the National Museum of Poland.

At the Memorial's opening event on March 20, Museum Director Michal Niezabitowski and curator Klaudia Kaczmarczyk traveled from Cracow, Poland as special guests of the park. Park neighbors, partners and guests gathered for a special ceremony just across the street from the Memorial in historic St. Peters Church. Deputy Superintendent Darla Sidles provided an official welcome and talked about Kosciuszko's important link to 18th century Philadelphia. Also at the opening event were

Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by actor Steve Edenbo) and noted historian and author Gary Nash. A reception sponsored by the Friends of Independence concluded the celebration.

The new exhibits, which replace those installed in 1976, feature four interpretative themes: Kosciuszko's lifelong struggle for liberty for all; his military engineering expertise; his memorialization throughout the world; and his reasons for returning to Philadelphia. An interactive kiosk on the first floor allows visitors to locate monuments, cities, ships, even mountains named in Kosciuszko's honor. The unit includes a virtual tour of the second floor bedroom rented by Kosciuszko. In his bedroom, new spotlights identify objects in the room associated with the Polish patriot, including a tomahawk like the one given to him by Chief Little Turtle of the Miami Nation. Nearby exhibits tell the little known story of Kosciuszko's will, which intended to leave his estate in order to free and educate enslaved African Americans.

The Memorial, the smallest unit in the National Park Service, is now open Wednesday – Sunday 12pm – 4pm. For more information visit: [www.nps.gov/thko](http://www.nps.gov/thko).



IVS Chief Sitarski with Polish guests Kaczmarczyk and Niezabitowski



Displays include a rare copy of Kosciuszko's call to arms against Russian rule



Newlin Grist Mill Blacksmith Kelly Smyth and her volunteer crew forged a replica chain link using a coal-fired forge, ten-pound sledge hammers and an anvil to shape the replica out of old iron. The original link was designed by Kosciuszko during the Revolution.

## President's House Update

The City of Philadelphia and Independence National Historical Park are one step closer to making the proposed commemoration at the site of the President's House a reality.

Work on the commemoration, *The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in Making a New Nation*, is scheduled to start this summer. This work will include digging to re-expose some of the archeological remains that were uncovered during the archeological dig two years ago. The commemoration is expected to be completed in the summer of 2010.



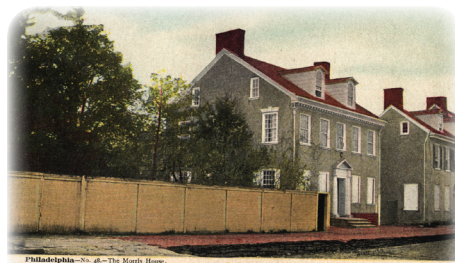
The story of the President's House, at 6th and Market Streets, is a story of many themes: the house and the people who lived and worked there; the Executive Branch of the United States Government; the system and methods of enslavement; African-American Philadelphia; the move to freedom; and, history lost and found.

The commemoration, designed by the Kelly/Maeillo design team, will address each of these themes in creative, educational ways. A major revision in the earlier proposal for the site will be to include a vitrine through which visitors will be able to view the archeological remains of the house, including foundations from George Washington's bow window and the underground tunnel that connected the house to the kitchen.



# The Germantown White House

The Germantown White House is almost ready for its grand re-opening this summer. Independence National Historical Park staff and contractors have been working to renovate the Deshler-Morris and Bringhurst houses and install new interpretive exhibits.



Philadelphia—No. 68—The North House—Painted by J.P. —The original residence of President Washington during portions of 1793 and 1794, with the site of important cabinet meetings.

New exhibits at the Bringhurst House will interpret the outcome of the Battle of Germantown, introduce President Washington's household, including the enslaved Africans who were held by the Washingtons, and link the 300 year history of Germantown with other neighborhood sites and museums. The construction project has included updating the electrical and drainage systems and completing architectural repairs on the original wood and masonry of the houses. In an innovative new feature, geothermal wells have been installed to provide an environmentally friendly heating and cooling system.

In October 1793, the President found refuge in Germantown during the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia and held four cabinet meetings here. The next summer, the house provided a welcome retreat for the

First Family near Philadelphia, then the Federal Capital. The new exhibits will teach visitors about the nine enslaved Africans kept by Washington while he resided in Philadelphia, continuing the story currently being told at the President's House site at 6th and Market Streets. The exhibits will include the story of the house through the eyes of three women occupants: Martha Washington, granddaughter Nellie Park Custis, and enslaved African Oney Judge.

The Deshler-Morris House gets its name from its first and last owners. David Deshler constructed a small summer house here in 1752. Twenty years later, he built a three story, nine room addition to the front of the house. Isaac Franks, a former Colonel in the Continental Army, purchased the house after Deshler died in 1792 then rented it to Washington. Franks later sold the house to the Morris family who purchased it and retained ownership until Elliston P. Morris donated it to the National Park Service in 1948.

Located at 5442 Germantown Avenue, the site is staffed with the help of the Deshler-Morris House Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering at the House may contact the park at 215-597-1293. An announcement about the grand re-opening for the site will be circulated soon. For now, visit [www.nps.gov/demo](http://www.nps.gov/demo) for more information about the site.



# Volunteer Opportunities Available at INDE



Volunteers from the Deshler-Morris Committee



CRM Archeology Lab Volunteers

INDE relies on its dedicated crew of Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs), who help the park in all divisions. Volunteers in I&VS greet visitors and offer tours of historic buildings around the park. Volunteers in the division of Cultural Resource Management help catalogue archeological artifacts in the Independence Living History Center, research the history of the park and its buildings, and work with museum artifacts. Volunteers in the Maintenance Division help maintain and improve gardens throughout the park, including Washington Square, the Edgar Allan Poe House, and the Rose Garden.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the park can contact VIP Coordinator Beverly Morris at 215-597-1293 for more information.



Maintenance Staff and Volunteers



CRM staff and Friends volunteers



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

## Independence National Historical Park

143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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**

NPS Photographers:  
Park Staff

Comments? Write to:  
**Jane Cowley, INHP**  
143 S. Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Phone: (215) 597-0060  
Fax: (215) 597-0042  
Email: [Jane\\_Cowley@nps.gov](mailto:Jane_Cowley@nps.gov)

## Staffing Changes at INDE



On January 31, Supervisory Park Ranger (Interpretation) Joe Becton retired after 21 years of service as both a front line interpretive ranger and later a Supervisory Park Ranger. Joe's unflagging devotion to interpretation and the park story was an inspiration to us all. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

INDE is pleased to welcome the following new staff to the park (left to right): Brian Przystawski, Park Ranger, Resource and Visitor Protection; Nicole Brenton, Park Ranger, Resource and Visitor Protection; Katie Morris, Dispatcher; and, Heather Honnold, Park Ranger, Resource and Visitor Protection (not pictured).





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park  
143 S. Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Spring Programs

**The park will offer a variety of free, ranger-led programs this spring and summer.**

*Glass Armonica Demonstrations at the Franklin Court Museum.* This 15-minute demonstration is given on Saturdays and Sundays at noon and 2:30 pm. Listen to the story of Ben Franklin's musical invention that started with water glasses.

*Barnacles and Bullets at the New Hall Military Museum,* Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 pm. Enjoy a 15-minute program to learn about life for the average sailor and soldier during the Revolution.

*Junior Ranger Induction Ceremony at the Independence Visitor Center.* Meet the Ranger at the Information Desk on Saturdays and Sundays at 4-4:15 pm. A Park Ranger conducts a special ceremony for all the children who have completed our Junior Ranger booklet.

**The following programs are offered in the Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank**

*Hidden History.* Ask a park ranger for a card Wednesday –Sunday, 2-4:30 pm. Kids follow clues to uncover the special people in the exhibit, and then get a reward.

*Moses Williams: Cutter of Profile.* Wednesday - Sunday, 2:15- 2:30 pm. Hear the amazing story of Moses Williams who learned to operate the Physiognotrace to earn his freedom and a good living making silhouettes in Peale's Museum.

*The Underground Railroad in Philadelphia.* Saturdays only, 3:30- 4:15 pm. Learn how Philadelphia's free black population helped the enslaved to seize their freedom on the "Underground Railroad."

*Untold Stories of Independence Hall.* Sundays only, 3:30-4:15 pm. Join a park ranger to hear about little known events that took place in Independence Hall after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Learn about the fugitive slave trials, the huge mastodon bones assembled in Peale's gallery on the second floor and more.