



<https://millstonevalley.org/>

Celebration

of the 240th Anniversary of the Victory March
to Yorktown - and American Independence
Saturday August 28th, 2021 - 10 AM – 4 PM

8 Miles of Canal Road Reserved for Walking, Biking, and Revolutionary War Reenactors

The Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition (MVPC) is teaming up with Franklin Township on August 28th to commemorate the 700-mile victory march of American and French troops along the Millstone River 240 years ago. Thousands of troops under the American General, George Washington, and the allied French General, Comte de Rochambeau marched through New Jersey in August 1781 on their way to the final major victory in the Revolutionary War in October at Yorktown, Virginia.

The march is memorialized by the National Park Service's Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail that stretches from New England to Virginia. The trail follows public roadways such as River Road in Hillsborough and Montgomery, and Canal Road in Franklin Township. Troops crossed the river twice, at the one-lane Griggstown Causeway bridge, and again at Route 518 near Rocky Hill.

In the morning, a Trenton-based group will interpret the First Rhode Island Regiment, a mixed-race American unit that marched the trail and fought at Yorktown. In the afternoon, two reenactors will interpret the French Officers Rochambeau and Chastellux, who led allied French troops who played a crucial role in the American victory.



French officers will be reenacted by two New York school-teachers known as Mr. Reilly (l) and Mr. Buccheri, who will reenact generals Chastellux and Rochambeau, respectively.
Photo by Julie Diddell.



Algernon Ward leads a group that reenacts the First Rhode Island Regiment.

(OVER)

For this event, Canal Road in Franklin from Amwell Road to Route 518 will be closed to through traffic from 10 AM to 4 PM on August 28 to encourage walking and biking on the narrow road. A half-mile section between Butler Road and the Griggstown Causeway will remain open as usual to permit east-west traffic to cross the Millstone River.

This is a great opportunity for local residents and others to enjoy a scenic and historic roadway without the danger of fast-moving cars on the narrow road. MVPC, is the sponsor of the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway that follows the same route.

Franklin Township will be hosting its occasional [“Walk and Roll”](#) event along the route between Amwell Road and Route 518, and Franklin police has organized a “Bike with Cops” event. In addition, reenactors will be present in the Griggstown village.

The Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway Center on the Griggstown Causeway will be open during the event. The Center is located in the 1834 Bridge-Tender’s House and features an information room and a museum room, which has been restored to as it would have been in the 19th Century, as well as interpretive garden areas.

The event will be one of several 240th anniversary events organized in conjunction with the National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association ([W3R-US](#)), a non-profit partner to the National Park Service, and its local [New Jersey chapter](#). Also on August 28, the [William Trent House](#) in Trenton will be hosting a large American and French reenactor event. Both events will occur throughout the day, and organizers encourage the public to spend the morning at one event and the afternoon at the other.

The Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition operates in central New Jersey where we work to preserve and enhance the historical, cultural, recreational, scenic and open space assets of the Millstone Valley through monitoring government agencies and commercial interests and designing and implementing public awareness and educational programs. The MVP Coalition supports the work of area historical societies, environmental, recreation, and civic organizations. Visit its website: <https://millstonevalley.org>

MVPC also is the nonprofit sponsor of the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway, which is designated by the New Jersey and Federal Departments of Transportation as an important scenic and tourism asset. MVPC Maintains the Visitor Center in the historic village of Griggstown. The Center is normally open to the public weekends from 2-4 PM between April and October. The Center is on Griggstown Causeway at the R&R Canal.



SIGN



GRIGGSTOWN BRIDGE-TENDER’S HOUSE (1834)
(THE MILLSTONE VALLEY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY CENTER)