



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Rendezvous & Crossing, 1781

Commemorating American and French armies in Trenton on their march to Yorktown

Trenton, NJ (For immediate release) — The Trent House Association is hosting its 6th annual commemoration of the 1781 encampment in Trenton of American and French troops on their march to Yorktown. The free event will be held on the grounds of the William Trent House Museum on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 12 noon to 4 pm. The Museum is located at the intersection of Market Street and William Trent Place in Trenton, New Jersey. Free parking is available in the lot behind the Museum property off William Trent Place.

In 1781 General George Washington and Le Comte de Rochambeau, commander of the French regiments sent to aid the Americans in their fight against the British, led their troops along with artillery and supply wagons through New Jersey to the town of Trenton. There they prepared to cross the Delaware River and continue another 350 miles to Yorktown. For several days at the end of August and early September, Trenton with its approximately 500 residents was surrounded by thousands of soldiers, teamsters, and accompanying civilians.

On August 29, 1781, Generals Washington and Rochambeau stayed in the home of Colonel John Cox, then called Bloomsbury and now the William Trent House, before proceeding to Philadelphia. On the same date 245 years later interpreters of the two Generals, of soldiers in several Continental regiments, and of civilians with the troops and residents of the town will gather at the Trent House to commemorate the 1781 crossing of the Delaware.

Visitors can meet with the Generals and hear them discuss their partnership and strategic decisions. Muskets, rifles, and other weapons of the Continental Army will be displayed and discussed. A new poster illustrating the 1781 march through Mercer County will be shown for the first time. Women of the town will serve mint and chamomile tea instead of the China tea that precipitated the Boston protest against British taxes along with shortbread cookies and berry fool.

At 3 pm cast members of the new musical “The Crossing,” will perform a selection of songs. The musical is about the 1776 crossing of the Delaware River as Washington led troops into battles in Trenton and Princeton that turned the tide of the Revolution. One of the characters in the musical is Jacob Francis, a free Black man who was with Washington during the Crossing and served throughout the war. Larry Kidder, author of a biography of Francis, will talk with the audience after the performance about this man’s remarkable life.

For more details on the schedule of the day, see the William Trent House website at <https://www.williamtrenthouse.org/upcoming.html>.

The William Trent House Museum is a National Historic Landmark in the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The Museum is dedicated to sharing the authentic history of the house, property, and people with our communities, connecting the past with today and tomorrow. Owned by the City of Trenton, it is operated by the Trent House Association, which is supported by the generosity of its donors; by grants from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the Bunbury Fund and the New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation; and by contributions from NJM Insurance Group and Orion General Contractors. For more information, visit www.williamtrenthouse.org.