

Fort Nathan Hale
Restoration Projects, Inc.
P.O. Box 1981
New Haven, CT 06533



FORT
NATHAN
HALE

Fort Hale Attendance Continues Upward Trend

The Fort was busy again this year, despite bouts of wet and rainy weather. Not all visitors sign the guest book, but we have reviewed the home base of those who did and came up with the following:

Visitors came from 7 foreign countries (Canada, Spain, Chile, Romania, Russia, Columbia and Ireland). People from 26 states (outside Connecticut) and Puerto Rico were represented, with the greatest numbers coming from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, California, Maryland and North Carolina. (Many visitors

said they found us on the web.

In addition, the Fort had visitors from 48 Connecticut towns, representing all four corners of the state, from Mystic to New Milford, from Greenwich to Windsor and everywhere in between. The highest numbers came from New Haven, East Haven and West Haven. Many were first-time visitors and were impressed with the site's history and beauty. We look forward to better weather and even more visitors next year.

— Marge Ottenbreit

Visit us on the web: www.fort-nathan-hale.org

Fort Nathan Hale
Restoration Projects, Inc.

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THE PATRIOT

FORT NATHAN HALE NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2009

Fort's Civil War Re-enactment Deemed A Huge Success

On August 28th through the 30th, Fort Nathan Hale hosted the first multi-faceted Civil War Re-enactment on the East Coast. With the help of The Schooner *John Paul Jones*, and a complement of 200 Civil War re-enactors, the siege of "Port Royal" was staged at adjacent Nathan Hale Park.

Confederate troops who held the high ground with a section of battery (cannons), were able to hold off a Federal assault that left many casualties on Saturday and again on Sunday. The Schooner *John Paul Jones* cruised back and forth before the confederate guns firing on their emplacements with Fort Nathan Hale's 6-pounder gun to "soften up" the landing area for the Union troops, all to no avail.



On both days the Confederate artillery of mountain howitzers and supporting infantry troops repelled the landing of Union troops with heavy losses. Fortunately the *John Paul Jones* was not dam-

aged and will return to fight another day.

As the action took place on the "heights" the Fort's gift shop was open and doing business, as was the Boy Scout Troop at the base of the hill providing hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks to the crowds that came to the event. A U.S. Army National Guard recruiting tent was also a part of the days' events manned with four recruiters who had information to pass out to the public.

The first day started out wet as rain pelted the re-enactors on Friday, the set up day, and

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Civil War...*(continued from pg.1)*

early on Saturday, but cleared in time for the first day's battle scenario.

An "embedded" reporter, Kent Pierce of WTNH Channel 8, was on hand all day to provide coverage of the event via "wireless" visual telegraph for two days running. His reports in "period clothing" were broadcast on Thursday before the event, Saturday during the event, and all day on Sunday. This drew crowds of over 4,000 to Sunday's Sunday's finale. Reporters from the New Haven Independent and the New Haven Register also came to cover the event.

After the event was over



many of the re-enactors stated that it was the best event of its kind and expressed a desire for future events from the Fort Nathan Hale organization. The organization is planning to hold another event in 2011.

Our thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to make the event a success for Fort Nathan Hale.

'Battle of New Haven' Planned for Next Year

Fort Nathan Hale is planning the "Battle of New Haven" for next year, a re-enactment of what actually took place in New Haven during the Revolutionary War. Stay tuned for future information on this and other events.

Volunteers Recognized at Luncheon in New Haven

Brazi's Restaurant in New Haven was the site of an appreciation luncheon hosted by Deb Townshend on October 14th. Fifteen volunteers came and were recognized by the Board of Directors and President Bill MacMullen who praised them for being the "face" of the organization, and for all their dedicated hours to the Fort. Kurt Treiber was honored for his work as the Park's resident ranger the past three years. Kurt is moving on to South Carolina with his wife. He will be missed.

As Volunteer Coordinator it has been my pleasure to work with these wonderful, dedicated and loyal people all summer. We have had visitors from 26 states and 7 countries.

Our website has been a big help this year. The Civil War Encampment publicity was also an excellent tool to reach people who had never visited the area or the actual fort grounds before. People are always surprised to find that an actual battle was fought on this site and that there are people still maintaining the grounds.

Again, I want to thank the many volunteers who worked this summer and if anyone would like to help us next summer, please call me for information.

— Tina Doyle

Nathan Hale Museum Plans On Track

The planning of the future Fort Nathan Hale Museum is on track and progressing. At the "Last Call" of the 2nd Company, Governor's Foot Guard ceremony the Fort Nathan Hale Organization was honored by words from the Foot Guard's Commanding Officer, Maj. Peter Laffin noting the Foot Guard's desire to move to our museum when it is a reality.

Reviews of the plans are still ongoing with the CT National Guard and a foundation is in the works to help with the task of fundraising and long range planning for the museum's future sustainability.

Fort Hale Annual Meeting Slated For November 22

The Fort Nathan Hale Annual Meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm November 22nd, at the Parish House of the Center Church on the Green, at 250 Temple Street, New Haven.

The Commanding Officer, Major Peter Laffin and the Executive Officer, Capt. Gary Stegina of the 2nd Company, Governor's Foot Guard are tentatively scheduled as our guest speakers. We also have a "surprise" bit of entertainment for the members who attend.

Our nominations for officers will be made, and other business of the organization will take place. Refreshments will be available. Please bring a potential member to join!

REMINDER: Yearly dues of \$25 are due at this time so bring your payment with you.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR QUIZ

1. Name the secret group organized to resist the British Authority, sometimes with violent protests.
2. The First Continental Congress attracted 55 delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies. Who failed to send a delegate?
3. Who first used the expression "shot heard 'round the world," referring to the opening of the Battle of Concord?
4. Who was the British general who surrendered at the Siege of Yorktown, leading Parliament to shut down the war effort?
5. Of the 13 colonies, 3 ratified the Constitution by unanimous vote. Who were they?

Answers: 1) Sons of Liberty; 2) Georgia; 3) Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson; 4) Charles Cornwallis; 5) Delaware, New Jersey and Georgia.

**A TRIBUTE:
JULIA CACACE**

Julia (Jewell) Cacace, a staunch supporter of Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects, died Oct. 4th at the age of 89. For fourteen years in the summer, she volunteered as a receptionist at the Pavilion, greeting visitors, selling souvenirs and explaining the mission of the organization.

Jewell was active as well in the East Shore neighborhood as a member of the Nathan Hale PTA, the local Girl Scout troop and the St. Bernadette School parents' group.

She loved to read and discuss novels, cook Italian dishes for her large family and to attend to her energetic husband Vinny, who was a strong asset to the Fort also, helping to construct the exact replica of the Civil War drawbridge over the moat.

Contributions in Jewell's memory should be made out to FNHRP, P.O. Box 1981, New Haven, CT 06533.