

Collector's Journal

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2017 George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter - Indiana

Fortieth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The fifth and final America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2017 honors George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Indiana. The coin was also the 40th in the series and completes the eighth year of the collection. Eventually, the series will feature a National Park or other national site in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

Five new coins are issued each year, and the series will continue in 2018 with coins for Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin, Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia, and Block Island National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island.

The coin series was authorized by the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act that was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 23, 2008. The series began in 2010, and coins are issued at the rate of five per year.

Each Quarter is struck for circulation in a limited edition of about 10 weeks at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark on the obverse under "In God We Trust."

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park commemorates the American victory over the British at Fort Sackville in southwestern Indiana during the American Revolution on February 25, 1779. George Rogers Clark led the Americans on a grueling mid-winter march of over 150 miles to the fort at Vincennes next to the Wabash River. For much of the journey, Clark's men waded through areas flooded with icy water.

Clark's capture of the fort was one of the most significant events of the American Revolution, since it struck at the heart of the Brit-

ish occupation of the American Midwest. By defeating the British, Clark restricted the British influence in the frontier lands and bolstered U.S. claims to what became the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota).

The George Rogers Clark Memorial, which was dedicated in 1936, is the largest federal monument outside of Washington, D.C. It features a bronze statue of Clark by Hermon A. MacNeil and seven 28-foot-tall murals by Ezra Winter that honor Clark's capture of the fort and its importance to American history.

The reverse of the 2017 George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter features Clark leading his men to Fort Sackville. They are wading through the flooded plains around the fort, with muskets at the ready.

In preparation for the coin, the U.S. Mint's artists submitted 13 design suggestions. Four designs showed different images of the park's memorial and the statue of Clark; five depicted Clark in 1779 with Fort Sackville in the background; two highlighted just the park's memorial; and the final two – including the design that was used on the coin – were dramatic renderings of Clark leading his men into battle at Fort Sackville. Representatives of George Rogers Clark National Historical Park assisted with the selection of the coin design.

The George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in November 2017.

