



# Morristown Muster

## It's Time for Spring Training!

The official newsletter  
of Morristown National Historical Park

Spring 2012: March, April, May

When you hear the words “Spring Training”, you know warmer weather is just around the corner. But in April 1780, it wasn't spring training for baseball teams; it was time for Washington's army to renew their training for battle.

Drill was not normally a year round task for 18th century armies. In fact, drilling in the winter could ruin the soldier's equipment as well as his health. Springtime, according to Washington “The proper season’ for drill because the men were rested, new recruits had joined the army and the ground had dried out to allow marching and the fighting had not yet begun.

Drill was something a soldier had to do, not something he wanted to do. For new recruits drill was a confusing series of commands and movements that made little sense. For seasoned veterans drill could be just plain boring.

But drill had its purposes. The men needed to know how to maneuver in large groups in order to fight effectively. The repetition helped the soldiers learn. Even the slowest learner could eventually learn the drill if it was practiced long enough. Drill also helped instill discipline in the men.

At Morristown [1779-1780] there was no call for drill during the winter months. In fact the first call for drill did not come until April 4, 1780. This was probably due to several reasons. In the beginning of the winter the men were too busy constructing huts. The severe winter weather also ruled out drill until the ground was dry; especially since the drill they would have to concentrate on was



Park Ranger Eric Olsen inspects re-enactors at Morristown NHP's annual Revolutionary Times Weekend held the second weekend of April. In 2012 this event will be April 14th and 15th at Jockey Hollow. Check [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) for more information and a schedule of events.

the maneuvering in large groups over large areas. Finally at this point in the war the majority of Washington's troops were now veterans who knew the drill and like European armies they could wait until the proper season of drill in the spring.

The times set aside for drill are interesting. They seem to be chosen to provide for the comfort of the men. Drill was usually scheduled early in the morning and/or late in the afternoon. This would have allowed the men to avoid drilling during the hottest part of the day.

At this time General Von Steuben's newly published book of “Regulations” were being distributed to every officer in the Continental Army. This book laid out the entire process for teaching new recruits the drill. First the soldier was taught how to put on his accoutrements and how to stand without holding a musket. Then he was taught how to turn in place, known as the ‘facings.’ Next came instructions

on how to march in the common step of 75 steps per minute and the quick step of 120 steps per minute. Then the soldier was issued a musket and taught how to stand under arms, followed by learning the various positions of holding a musket as well as the loading and firing procedure. This was called “The Manual Exercise.” After mastering all of the skills listed above, the soldier was put into a group of 12 and taught to march together. When these men became “sufficiently expert” in marching, they would be sent to exercise with their company, learning how to march with larger groups of men in more complicated maneuvers. In the process of training new recruits, some men learned faster than others. Slow learners were often put into separate groups known as the “awkward squad” for extra training.

Article is continued on page 8

## Letter from Superintendent

### Dedication to Public Service

As I write this note for the spring edition of the Morristown Muster, I do so with a heavy heart. On New Year's Day, Mount Rainier National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was killed in the line of duty while protecting the resources of the park and ensuring the safety of those that visit them. Ranger Anderson was a dedicated public servant who, according to family and friends, was doing what she loved to do.

We know the risks of being a public servant in today's world, but we are also keenly aware of the satisfaction of a job well done and the importance of protecting the exceptional resources that this country has entrusted in our care. I did not know Margaret Anderson personally, but as the prior Chief Ranger of Mount Rainier National Park, I know those who worked closely with her. I understand the significance of the park and the incredible resources entrusted to the stewards of the National Park Service.

We did not join the National Park Service for the money. We joined this family to be a part of a mission that is larger than ourselves, that will stand the test of time. Whether it is days of chain saw work to remove trees from trails or dressing in period clothing to provide a unique opportunity for learning, everyone here at Morristown has a personal story; a personal reason for being here; and a personal reason for being a dedicated public servant. Please join me in tipping our "ranger hats" to our Morristown team. I am honored to work beside each one of them.

Thank you for supporting your National Historical Park.

Jill A. Hawk

## Behind Closed Doors

When many people think of Irish soldiers in America they think of the famous Irish Brigade during the Civil War that fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. However, many Irishmen also fought during the American revolution on both sides. Sons of St. Patrick have always been proud of their heritage and wanted to show it off, whether it be in the annual parade in New York City or their meager belongings they carried with them during the American Revolution.

During the early days of the park in the 1930's, there were many archeological surveys completed through Jockey Hollow. One of the most interesting finds was the clay pipe pictured below. It is your standard pipe of the day for smoking tobacco but one thing sticks out compared to the many others found. That is it has an Irish harp and three shamrocks on each side of the bowl. Smoking was a very popular leisure activity during the war and was one of the few luxuries the men could experience.

There were few diversions for Washington's Army. Most of the soldiers' time was spent in guard duty, training, and camp chores. To break up the monotony of the winter camp and recognize political developments

in Ireland, General Washington gave the soldiers a holiday on St. Patrick's Day. This would be the only holiday the soldiers would get that winter. Not even Christmas was celebrated.

Why celebrate St. Patrick's Day? News had reached camp that told of political changes in Ireland. The Irish Parliament had demanded the elimination of British trade restrictions. However, America hoped that the spirit of rebellion would spread to Ireland. Secondly, a good portion of the American army was Irish. Irish officers included Washington's aide, James McHenry, as well as, Generals Hand, Irvine, and Maxwell. Two Pennsylvania regiments were commanded by Irish born colonels and there were more Irish born soldiers in the Pennsylvania regiments than American born troops. Finally, after a winter of severe cold and snow accompanied by lack of food and pay, the army needed a holiday.

No matter how you plan on spending March 17th, whether it is attending a parade, going to church or having corned beef and cabbage, remember that the Irish have always played an important role in our nation's history and their sacrifices should never be forgotten.

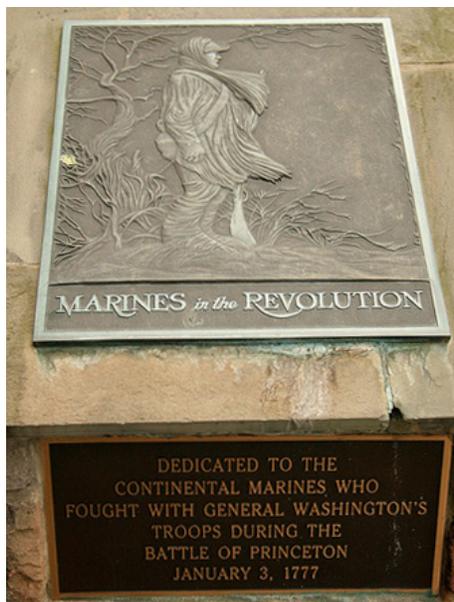


Clay pipe found in an archeological study in Jockey Hollow. Pipe details have an Irish harp and three shamrocks on the bowl. Many Irishmen fought for Independence in America. This is located in our museum collection at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

# Continental Marines: Original Leathernecks

Throughout all the history books about the revolution, one group is left out. One group who, in modern day, has been known for its heroics, bravery and its extreme spirit. This group is of course the United States Marine Corps, which at the time was appropriately called: The Continental Marines.

The famous early American author James Fenimore Cooper was once quoted as saying: *“At no period of the naval history of the world, is it probable that Marines were more important than during the war of the Revolution.”* He was very much correct in his statement. When war broke out in 1775 and 1776, the new nation had no significant Navy to speak of. Their total national fleet consisted of 8 small ships against 270 British men of war. When the Continental Congress commissioned a Navy they also commissioned a Continental Marine Corps on November 10, 1775.



**Historical Marker dedicated to the Continental Marines for their contributions during the Battle of Princeton**

The marines were a continental unit and thus open to men from any of the 13 colonies. However the recruiting was done almost exclusively in the colonial capitol of Philadelphia. The most famous recruiting area was Tun's Tavern. It was a local inn run by a man named Robert Mullan who was named a Marine Captain.

By the winter of 1776, the Marines were set to join Washington's army. However due to bad weather they did not arrive in time for the Battle of Trenton. A few days later the Marines helped win the battle of Princeton when they reinforced the army and charged headlong into the British line, eventually forcing the British to retreat.

After these heroic deeds the two marine battalions were ordered to undertake the role of artillery. They were soon incorporated into the army. The Marines then marched with Washington and camped in Morristown that winter.

While in the later years of the revolution new Continental and State Marine battalions would be formed. The true glory days of the Continental Marines had gone by. Who would think that this one small organization of American patriots would grow into the world's most effective fighting force? Who knew that out of this small group of men would come a great birth, the birth of United States Marine Corps!



**Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area**

The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area was established by Congress in 2006 to raise popular appreciation of the historical significance of New Jersey in the American Revolution. The heritage area encompasses 213 cities and towns and all or parts of 14 counties from Bergen to Gloucester and offers a forum for new citizen initiatives on education, natural resource preservation, historic conservation and interpretation, and heritage tourism.

To learn more about the history of the American Revolution in New Jersey,

visit [www.RevolutionaryNJ.org](http://www.RevolutionaryNJ.org).



## Volunteer Spotlight: The Wick Garden

### Putting Flavor in History

Join a Special group of volunteers who provide visitors with a peek at the 18th century from the ground up. The Wick Garden is managed by a joint agreement with the Herb Society of America- Northern New Jersey Unit and National Park Service Volunteers. We need *your* help to continue this unique experience. Become a part of our team today and support your national park!

Consider joining our team! Your contribution of time and energy will help us to protect the magnificent natural and cultural areas entrusted to us, and you'll go home with a sense of pride at having participated in something worthwhile.

**For further information or volunteer opportunities contact:**

Phone: 973-539-2016 ext 230

E-mail: [MORR\\_VIP@nps.gov](mailto:MORR_VIP@nps.gov)

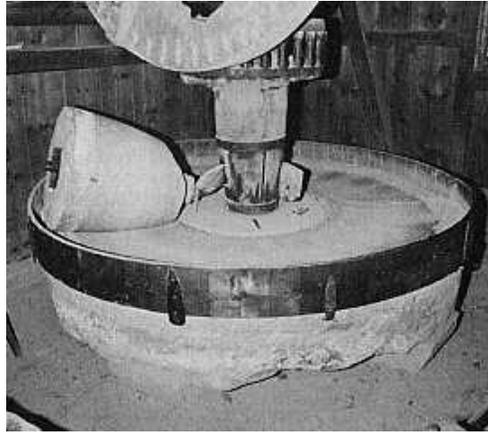


**Volunteer Jean Bohn working the Wick Garden during Revolutionary Times Weekend**

# Hemp: Fibers of 18th Century Life

When George Washington chose a home to stay in during the 'Hard Winter of 1779-80,' it needed to be of sufficient size to house not only the General, but also the plethora of servants, aides and guards that accompanied him. There were only a few people in the Morristown Area that possessed such a property and thus, he requested boarding in the mansion of the late Jacob Ford Jr.

To own a house of the size that the General required, Mr. Ford would have to gain wealth through a variety of business practices. In a developing Morristown, iron was king and the Ford family exploited this natural resource which was in rich supply in Northern New Jersey. Iron was not the sole source of the Ford family wealth however. Ford also realized the need for a consistent supply of materials for textiles and paper, and so he opened his own hemp mill.



A hemp press from a mill located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania that dates back to 1742.

During the colonial period, hemp was vital for producing many products used in a seafaring world. Sailcloth and cordage were in great demand from the Royal Navy as a large warship could use 60 tons of hempen canvas and rope in a single journey. It was highly valued as the fibers displayed great strength and

a natural resistance to rot. To ensure a steady supply, England promoted hemp growing in America, and some colonies, like Massachusetts, even subsidized these operations. Hemp was processed in a similar fashion to flax, another viable material of the era. By hand, a worker might process 100 pounds a day, but hemp mills, like Mr. Ford's, could turn out several hundred pounds daily.

Hemp was vital to the colonies' fight for independence. In 'Common Sense,' Thomas Paine wrote: "*In almost every article of defence we abound. Hemp flourishes even to rankness, so that we need not want cordage.*" Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson even allowed hemp's use in paying taxes, as it far exceeded the value of the worthless Continental dollar.



Washington Association of New Jersey

The Washington Association is the fund-raising arm and advisory body for Morristown National Historical Park who's current project is the renovation and expansion of the Washington's Headquarters Museum with a 5,000 square foot addition and a total fund-raising goal of \$8,000,000.

If you would like more information about the Washington Association, how you can help, or to become a member, please visit their website at [www.wanj.org](http://www.wanj.org) or write to: PO Box 1473, Morristown, NJ 07962, or call 973-292-1874

Washington Association of New Jersey



In Partnership since 1933 with  
Morristown National Historical Park

## Revolutionary Times Weekend: April 13th to 15th



The Continental Army encampment comes to life! Join us the weekend of April 13th to the 15th as soldiers, their wives and children return to Jockey Hollow for *Revolutionary Times Weekend*. It's an event full of activities for the whole family.

Morristown National Historical Park will host Revolutionary Times Weekend, beginning April 13th, in an effort to promote the importance of Morristown and New Jersey to the American Revolution.

All of the weekend activities will be held at sites within the Morristown area. Most of the events are free and open to the public.

Event topics are diverse, with the intent of encompassing most elements of 18th Century life. Participants can learn firsthand how food was prepared during the time period, as well as take part in traditional spinning and weaving demonstrations.

For additional information: [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) or [www.morristourism.org](http://www.morristourism.org)



# Ranger Led Activities Schedule for Spring 2012



## March

**Saturday, March 3rd: Morristown's Other Army** - During the Great Depression of the 1930's another army camped in Morristown. Join a Park Ranger at the Washington's Headquarters Museum for a 45 minute PowerPoint slideshow presentation to discover the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and how these 'Soil Soldiers' transformed Morristown NHP and other public lands. 10:00am, 12:00pm & 2:00pm at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

**Sunday, March 4th: In the Footsteps of Presidents** - When you hike around Jockey Hollow do you see the work of Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover or even Richard Nixon? Join a Park Ranger on this 2.25 mile round-trip hike on the Yellow Trail to discover the role these Presidents and others played in shaping Jockey Hollow. 10:00am at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Sunday, March 4th: Tempe Wick: Truth & Legend** - Did Tempe Wick really hide a horse in the Wick House? Hear the legend and find out the truth as you explore the Wick House and look for potential hiding spots. 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm at the Wick House

**Thursday, March 8th: Guest Speaker: Michael Adelberg** - Join the National Park Service and the North Jersey American Revolution Roundtable as we welcome author and historian Michael Adelberg to speak about his newest book 'The American Revolution in Monmouth County'. 7:00pm at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

**Saturday, March 10th: Feeding the Army** - Though corned beef and cabbage is the choice next week, Washington's army did without. Join a Park Ranger to observe the gourmet meal a soldier was issued. Yum! 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, March 11th: Ladies of the Camp** - Meet one of Washington's aides during a Ford Mansion tour and learn about the role of women, both upper and lower classes, in the armies of the Revolutionary War. 1:00pm, 2:00pm & 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, March 17th: Soldiers Celebrate St. Patrick's Day** - Learn about the life of a common soldier during the winter encampment and how they would have celebrated St. Patrick's Day in 1780 as you visit the replica soldier huts of the Pennsylvania Line. Call 9730543-4030 for further details. 1:30pm to 4:00pm at the Soldier Huts.

**Saturday, March 17th: Women of the Ford Mansion** - Enter the Ford Mansion through the eyes of Mrs. Ford, her daughter Elizabeth, Martha Washington, and the female servants. Explore the roles each of these women played in making General Washington's headquarters more like home. 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm & 4:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Sunday, March 18th: Sons of St. Patrick** Find out about the role of the Irish in the American Revolution as you encounter one of Washington's aides on a Ford Mansion tour. Discover why St. Patrick's Day was the only holiday celebrated by the soldiers during the winter of 1779-1780. 1:00pm, 2:00pm & 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, March 24th: Nature Trackers** - Come take a short walk to explore the details in nature. Bring your curiosity, listening ears and watchful eyes to discover nature's smaller sizes. Call 973-543-4030 for further details. 10:00am at the Trail Center Parking Area.

# Ranger Led Activities Schedule for Spring 2012

## MARCH

**Sunday, March 25th: Myth-Informed: Debunking Myths of 18th Century Life** - Over time guides at historic sites have told all sorts of interesting stories that turn out to be false. Unfortunately those are the stories visitors love. Stories such as: People were shorter in the 18th century, H & L shaped hinges help ward off witches and Washington's wooden teeth. Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the Ford Mansion and discover the truth behind many popular old-house myths. 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, March 31st: From Plant to Pocket** - Did you know you have plants in your wallet or purse? Join a Park Ranger to learn about the cash you spend everyday. 1:30pm, 2:30pm & 3:30pm at the Washington's Headquarters Museum

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 7th: Must Weft to Weave** - One must weft a loom to pull a shuttle through a shed. Confused? Come to the Wick House and learn the basics of weaving. This is a Hands-on demonstration. 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Wick House.

**Saturday, April 7th: Soldier at the Huts** - With the last snow gone, the army can get in fighting shape. Join a Park Ranger to learn of a soldier's life once spring has sprung in camp. Call 973-543-4030 for further details. 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Soldier Huts.

**Sunday, April 8th: A Great Diversity of Faiths** - Presbyterians, Baptists, Anglicans, Quakers, Catholics and Jews were just part of the religious mosaic of 18th century America. Learn about the role played by different faiths as you meet one of Washington's aides during a Ford Mansion tour. 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Friday, April 13th through Sunday, April 15th: Revolutionary Times Weekend** - The Continental Army encampment comes to life! Join us the weekend of April 13th to 15th as soldiers, their wives and children return to Jockey Hollow for Revolutionary Times Weekend. It's an event full of activities for the whole family. Call 973-543-4030 or www.nps.gov/morr for schedule of events and details.

**Saturday, April 14th: Volunteer Kickoff** - Visit the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center to learn how you can become a part of the National Park Volunteer Team. Explore ways to try new hobbies and challenges, while giving back to your national park. 11:00am to 4:00pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Wednesday, April 18th: Benedict Arnold: War Hero to Zero** - We all know Benedict Arnold was a traitor. Join a Park Volunteer as you discover how this 'Action Hero' became a household name for treason and plotted against his country right here in Morristown during the winter of 1779 to 1780. 12:15pm and 2:15pm at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

**Saturday, April 21st: Benedict Arnold: War Hero to Zero** - We all know Benedict Arnold was a traitor. Join a Park Volunteer as you discover how this 'Action Hero' became a household name for treason and plotted against his country right here in Morristown during the winter of 1779 to 1780. 10:00 am at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

**Saturday, April 21st: National Junior Ranger Day** - Join us as we celebrate National Jr. Ranger Day together with special programs and activities for children and adults. Call 973-543-4030 or www.nps.gov/morr for schedule of events. 10:00am to 4:00pm at Jockey Hollow

**Sunday, April 22nd: Stuff & Things** - Do you know what a trammel hook is? Do you know how to use a foot stove? Take a tour of the Wick House and learn about the stuff & things [appliances] of the 18th century. 11:00am, 2:00pm & 3:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, April 22nd: In the Footsteps of Presidents** - When you hike around Jockey Hollow do you see the work of Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover or even Richard Nixon? Join a Park Ranger on this 2.25 mile round-trip hike on the Yellow Trail to discover the role these Presidents and others played in shaping Jockey Hollow. 10:00am at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

# Ranger Led Activities Schedule for Spring 2012

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 28th: Are You Smarter Than A Park Ranger?** - Join a Park Ranger for this family friendly trivia style PowerPoint slideshow in which you can test your knowledge of the National Park Service. Discover some of the most interesting, fascinating and sometimes strange facts and stories found within your national parks. 10:00am, 12:00pm & 2:00pm at the Washington Headquarters Museum

**Saturday, April 28th: Tools of the Farmer** - The power tools of the 1700's gave the farmer an aerobic workout. Join a Park Ranger as he demonstrates those tools that every farmer needed, including a flax brake and shaving bench. 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, April 29th: Stark's Brigade Hike** - Join a Park Ranger on this 3 mile round trip hike to Stark's Brigade. Learn about the New England soldiers who camped there and their life during the winter encampment. This can be a strenuous hike that goes up and down hills. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring water. Call 973-543-4030 for further information. 10:00am at the New York Brigade Parking Area.

**Sunday, April 29th: Restoring the Wick House** - Did you know people lived in the Wick House until 1933? Thanks to the Civilian Conservation Corps the house has been transformed to an original appearance. Join a Park Ranger to discover the ways in which the C.C.C. restored the Wick House and farm. 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

## MAY

**Saturday, May 5th: Not Really Nonsense** - It was ordered built by General Washington, but why up here? Join a Park Ranger to learn about this site and what George was really thinking. Call 973-539-2016 ext. 210 for information. 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Fort Nonsense.

**Sunday, May 6th: The East Indies in the American Revolution** - Celebrate Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month and find out about the role of Asia and the islands of the Pacific in the American Revolution as you encounter one of Washington's aides on a Ford Mansion tour. Learn about the China Trade, war in India and the on-going exploration of the Pacific by Captain Cook. 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Thursday, May 10th: Guest Speaker: Damien Craigeau** - Join the National Park Service and the North Jersey American Revolution Roundtable as we welcome teacher, re-enactor and historian Damien Craigeau to speak about various subjects of the American Revolution. 7:00pm at the Washington's Headquarters Museum.

**Saturday, May 12th: Life of a Farmer's Wife** - "A man's work is from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done". Discover how 18th century farm women, such as Mary Wick, would spend their day. Join a Park Volunteer at the Wick House to compare our 21st century household chores with our 18th century sisters. 11:00am & 1:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, May 13th: Mothers of Revolution** - Find out about the role of Mothers in the American Revolution as you encounter one of Washington's aides on a Ford Mansion tour. Learn about Martha Washington, Mrs. Ford and all the problems George Washington had with his own mother. 1:00pm, 2:00pm & 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Sunday, May 20th: What's Up with the Weather?** - Learn about the role of weather in the American Revolution as you meet one of Washington's aides on a Ford Mansion tour. Learn how bad weather sometimes saved Washington and his army as well as how horrible the "Hard Winter of 1780" really was. 1:00pm, 2:00pm & 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, May 26th: Build-A-Fort** - General Washington's soldiers built a redoubt here in 1777. How was it made? Try building your own Ft. Nonsense, as you learn about gabions and fascines. For ages 7-13. Due to limited parking, please call for reservations: 973-539-2016 x 210. 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Fort Nonsense.

**Sunday, May 27th: Kid's Discovery Hike** - Experience the life of a soldier on this 2 ½ mile round trip hike. While at the huts you'll try your hand at musket drill and marching. When you return to the Wick House you can take on the challenge of some 18th century games that the soldier's played in camp. This will be an active program that is geared for kids at the 5th grade level and above. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 1:00pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.



### Washington's Headquarters Museum:

The museum is open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The museum features three exhibit galleries and a 30 minute park movie about Morristown during the Revolutionary War. The museum also includes an Eastern National bookstore. The fee for the museum is \$4.00 for adults (age 16 and Up) and also includes a tour of the Ford Mansion. Call 973-539-2016 ext 210 for information.

### Ford Mansion:

Tours are offered daily and begin at the Washington's Headquarters Museum. Call 973-539-2016 ext 210 for availability.

### Jockey Hollow Visitor Center:

Open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm and admission is free. Trail Guides to 27 miles of hiking trails are available for free. Call 973-543-4030 for information.

### Wick House:

Open daily and admission is free. Step back in time while exploring the 18th Century farmhouse of the Wick Family. Call 973-543-4030 for information.

## Free Admission Days for 2012

**Join Morristown NHP for free admission to Washington's Headquarters Museum and the Ford Mansion:**

*Saturday, April 21st through Sunday, April 29th*- Join us in celebration of National Parks Weeks. Check the schedule of events for special programs and activities. Call 973-543-4030 or 973-539-2016 ext. 210 for further information.

**Upcoming Free admission days 2012**

*Saturday, June 9th*- Get Outdoors Day

*Saturday, September 29th*- National Public Lands Day.

*Saturday, November 10th through Monday, November 13th*- Veterans Day Weekend

## It's Time for Spring Training! con't

The majority of the troops in Jockey Hollow were veterans. They knew the basics of the manual of arms, marching and wheeling. These fundamental skills would be practiced briefly but most of the men's time would be spent in practicing the more complicated marching, maneuvering and firing in larger groups from companies all the way up to battalions. Drilling by maneuvering battalions continued right up to the time the army left in early June 1780. Jeremiah Greenman, an ensign in Angell's Rhode Island Regiment, complained in his diary: "*...the duty very hard, we are ordered to exercise twice a day & two battalions to parade to Morristown twice a Week for purpose of Exercising.*"

Occasionally all of the training was put on display for visiting dignitaries.

The first opportunity to show off their military prowess came in April 1780 when the French and Spanish Ambassadors came to visit Washington.

On May 29, 1780 the army preformed its biggest demonstration of the winter encampment: a review followed by a sham battle to show their skills to the Committee of Congress that was visiting the army. Four Battalions were sent from camp to Morristown where they fought against each other on the outskirts of town, probably south of present day South Street.

Once the soldiers mastered the drill and put it to use in battle, they came to realize how important it could be. Troops who were well trained could load and fire quickly and could change positions on

the battlefield without confusion. These were skills that could mean the difference between victory and defeat.

In June 1780, all of this training was put to the test at the battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield. In both battles the American troops fought well enough to stop the British invasion of New Jersey and protect the important military storehouses in Morristown.