



# Morristown Muster

The Official Newsletter  
of Morristown National Historical Park

Summer 2014: June, July, August

# new jersey 350

innovation • diversity • liberty

Celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary and the accomplishments of its people in 2014. Far from the stereotypes, people who visit and live here know it as a wonderful place with a rich history.

First home to the Lenape people, New Jersey was claimed in the 1600's by both Holland and Sweden and became an English colony in 1664. Its valuable territory between New York City and Philadelphia made New Jersey the site of major Revolutionary War battles including Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth. A strong advocate of the new federal government, New Jersey was the third state to sign the US Constitution, after Delaware and Pennsylvania, and the first state to sign the Bill of Rights.

New Jersey has been in the forefront of industry and innovation. It's the birthplace of the phonograph, motion pictures, electric light bulb and even the electric guitar. Everyday items created in New Jersey include the transistor, air-conditioning, Teflon, bubble-wrap, and Band-Aids. New Jersey had one of the earliest steamboats in America and it was where the first steam locomotive pulled a train on a track. New Jersey has been a sports innovator and boasts the first organized baseball game, the first inter-collegiate football game, and the first professional basketball game.

New Jersey's citizens have gained recognition in the fields of science, politics, sports and entertainment and include such people as: Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Bill Parcells, Count Basie, Lou Costello, Meryl Streep, Jon Bon Jovi, and Bruce Springsteen.

Morristown earned the nickname, "Military Capital of the American Revolution" when the town and Morris County and their strategic locations and natural resources were used for four different Continental Army winter encampments. George Washington spent more than nine months in Morristown between the winters of 1777 and 1779-1780. During the Revolution, Morristown also served as a supply depot, military hospital, and campground for passing armies.



Photos from top to bottom: Wick House, Morristown NHP, Great Falls, Paterson Great Falls NHP, Glenmont, Thomas Edison NHP, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Gateway NRA.

## Letter from the Superintendent

Welcome to Morristown NHP! This year New Jersey is celebrating its 350th anniversary. With the themes of Innovation, Liberty and Diversity, I think that you will find that Morristown has stories to tell on all of these categories. Liberty is our natural fit and I am sure that you will be inspired by the park's stories of hardship, perseverance and leadership that are so important to why Morristown played such a critical role in our nation's fight for liberty.

This summer, be sure to participate in one of our ranger programs listed on the schedule of events link on our website [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) or ask one of the rangers. No visit would be complete without touring our beautiful Washington's Headquarters Museum and the Ford Mansion. Also explore the re-created soldier huts or Wick House and farm in Jockey Hollow.

I encourage you to visit Fort Nonsense, an earthen works fort constructed during the 1777 encampment, which has undergone a major face lift which includes new signage, updated wayside panels and new picnic tables and benches. So pack a picnic and enjoy the stunning views of downtown Morristown and on a clear day, the Manhattan skyline in the distance.

Another great location is the New Jersey Brigade and Cross Estate Garden area. Here you can explore where New Jersey troops stayed during the 1779-1780 encampment or visit magnificent walled gardens beautifully maintained by the New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation volunteers at the Cross Estate Gardens. It is a great location to experience an early 20th-century formal garden, read a book or just simply relax under the Wisteria covered pergola.

Celebrate New Jersey's 350th by visiting and exploring your National Park!

Tom Ross

## Behind Closed Doors: Printing Microminiature Books

One of Morristown's tiniest treasures is an 1896 printing of *A Letter from Galileo to Madame Christina di Lorena* (original published in 1636) that measures less than one inch. This diminutive work exhibits fine craftsmanship and attention to detail; it measures  $\frac{3}{4}$  by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, features 2-point type, decorative endpapers, hand-sewn gatherings, and a gold embossed cover. Expert Ruth Adomeit once remarked that this edition was the "greatest marvel of book making in the history of miniature books.

A miniature book is any book that is three inches or less in height and width. This size is "microminiature." According to Anne Bromer and Julian Edison's book on miniature books, the 1896 edition seen here created quite a sensation and is considered "the most famous miniature book in the world." Edison notes that "The *Galileo* is still today, at 206 pages, the smallest complete book printed entirely from movable type." This work features an impressive example of microscopic type, a 2-point type called "fly's eye" type.



Detail picture of the 2-point font size used throughout the microminiature book.



The microminiature book in comparison to a quarter and a ruler.

## Summer Ranger Led Activities



Morristown NHP offers a variety of ranger-guided programs throughout the summer. Hear about Revolutionary War history and everyday life in the 18th century, visit the past in living history presentations, or hike through Jockey Hollow. There are programs for young visitors and animal lovers, too. Ranger programs are free!

**For a complete listing of programs and events, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr). Click the schedule of events on the home page.**

# Exhibition at the Museum Celebrates Liberty

From June 23 to August 26, 2014, Morristown National Historical Park will celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary "Liberty" theme by hosting the exhibition, *Bringing the War of Independence to Life: 19th Century Illustrations of the American Revolution*. The exhibit will be in the park's Washington's Headquarters Museum.

*Bringing the War of Independence to Life* is the result of a partnership with the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, as well as Valley Forge National Historical Park. The show features 42 illustrations of the Revolutionary War by 16 different artists whose work originally appeared in 19th-century publications. All of the works are culled from the personal collection of Schuylkill River Heritage Area Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl.

"We are pleased to be able to tell the story of the war through these fascinating illustrations, and through a partnership that allows us to emphasize the Revolutionary War connections between two national parks in Valley Forge and



Kurt Zwinkl, Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, displays one of the prints featured in the exhibition *Bringing the War of Independence to Life*.

Morristown, and between two National Heritage Areas: the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and Crossroads of the American Revolution," said Zwinkl.

*Bringing the War of Independence to Life* was at Valley Forge from February to April 2014. Partnering between two national parks and two National Heritage Areas enabled the exhibit to reach a wider audience. It also provided a means to tell the broader story of the American Revolution throughout the region and the State of New Jersey.

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**Stay in Touch  
wherever you go**

Would you like to receive the Morristown Muster Newsletter, information about events going on in the park, and save some trees at the same time?

Join our e-mail list. To sign up, go to [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) and click the "Connect To Your Park" link in the features section. Enter your e-mail address and you're done. You may unsubscribe at anytime.

Follow us on Twitter:  
[@MorristownNPS](https://twitter.com/MorristownNPS)

## Revolutionary Times: July 4th in Morristown



Join us on Morristown Green on July 4th at noon for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. For almost 30 years, Morristown National Historical Park has been commemorating the public readings of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration continues in 2014. The event includes fun activities for the whole family. Join us and make Morristown your July 4th destination!

For the entire list of events, visit [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) or [morristourism.org](http://morristourism.org)





# Failed Glory and Cows



Portrait of General Anthony Wayne by artist Charles Willson Peale.

Just weeks after leaving the camp at Jockey Hollow in the summer of 1780, General Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Division suffered one of the most embarrassing defeats of the American Revolution in what is now the Hudson County town of North Bergen.

Wayne led an American force of more than 1700 soldiers, including infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Their objectives were to destroy a wooden blockhouse near the Hudson River crossing known as Bull's Ferry and secure all the cattle in the area to keep them out of British hands. The ambitious Wayne sought glory for himself and his men by capturing a British outpost at a time when the war was in a stalemate.

The enemy the Continental Army met at Bull's Ferry were not soldiers. They were civilians who had been hired by the British to harvest firewood. These Loyalist woodcutters included white refugees and at least 20 former slaves who had run away from their Patriot masters. Besides harvesting wood, they

sought revenge against their neighbors by stealing their horses and cattle, burning homes and barns and even murdering civilians.

On the morning of July 21, 1780, Wayne took three Pennsylvania infantry regiments and six cannon to the attack on the blockhouse. The cavalry was sent to gather cattle. The artillery and the infantry assembled close to the blockhouse, kept up a continual fire for more than an hour but the blockhouse appeared undamaged. Receiving word that that British forces were approaching from New York, Wayne ended the attack. Infuriated at the order to retreat, the Pennsylvania infantry charged the blockhouse without orders. They couldn't penetrate the stockade and the casualties mounted. In the end, 15 Americans were killed, and 49 wounded, including three officers. Wayne and his force retreated with 290 head of cattle.

Failure to destroy the blockhouse was an embarrassment to Wayne. For the British, this was a major propaganda coup. British newspapers made heroes out of the 70 Loyalists and they were praised by the King.

British Major John Andre, who was later captured by the Americans and hanged as a spy, taunted the Americans by writing a serial, satirical poem entitled "The Cow Chase," mocking the attack. The final installment of his poem was published on the day that Andre was arrested. Ironically, Andre closed his poem daring Wayne to capture him.

*And now I've closed my epic strain,  
I tremble as I shew It,  
Lest the same warrior-drover Wayne  
Should ever catch the poet.*



Replica of a 18th Century Blockhouse.



Become a Morristown  
National Historical Park  
Junior Ranger!

Planning a trip to Morristown National Historical Park? Explore our revolutionary past and discover fascinating facts about the events, people, places and things in historic Morristown. Junior Ranger handbooks are available at Jockey Hollow or at Washington's Headquarters.

Complete the handbook and give it to a park ranger at Jockey Hollow or Washington's Headquarters to receive your Junior Ranger badge for a job well done.

Go to [www.nps.gov/morr/forkids](http://www.nps.gov/morr/forkids) to download a copy of the Junior Ranger booklet and get started today!

