



# Morristown Muster

The Official Newsletter  
of Morristown National Historical Park

Spring 2014: March, April, May

## Morristown and the fall of Charleston 1780

General Washington couldn't make up his mind. It was late March 1780 and Washington sat in his office in the Ford Mansion trying to make a decision on a problem that could affect the outcome of the American Revolution.

Charleston, South Carolina, the largest and wealthiest city in the south, was under siege by the British. In late December 1779, a British fleet of 88 ships carrying 7,200 British soldiers and 1,400 Loyalists under the command of Sir Henry Clinton sailed out of New York City to begin a southern campaign. But the 13,000 British and German troops left behind to defend New York City were still stronger than Washington's Army in Jockey Hollow.

Washington had already sent over 800 North Carolina soldiers south in late November 1779. Then in December, he sent all 2,500 members of the Virginia Brigade to Charleston as well. The British navy controlled the seas, so those soldiers had to walk from New Jersey all the way to South Carolina. The North Carolina soldiers didn't reach Charleston until March 3, 1780 and the Virginia Brigade didn't arrive until April 7, 1780.

News from Charleston also traveled slowly; sometimes taking a month or more for a letter to reach Washington in Morristown. At first, Washington could only guess at the destination of the British fleet, but then in late March an American spy in the British headquarters in New York confirmed that the British were laying siege to Charleston. A siege was a slow deliberate attack, often lasting weeks or months, requiring the digging of trenches and continual artillery



Modern artist rendition of the British siege and bombardment of Charleston, South Carolina.

bombardments. Potentially, Charleston could hold out until reinforcements arrived.

In late March, General Washington had to decide whether or not to send additional troops south to reinforce Charleston. If he sent more soldiers south, it would further weaken his army in Morristown. It could take over three months for the soldiers to march from Morristown to Charleston. By the time reinforcements reached South Carolina most likely the siege would be over. If Charleston fell, it could potentially take South Carolina out of the war and further reduce the lagging Patriot morale. It could reflect badly on Washington if he sat idle while Charleston fell.

Rather than make the decision by himself, Washington sought the opinions of others. He held meetings at the Ford Mansion called Councils of War on March 27th and April 1st. He presented the problem to his generals and asked their opinion. After much debate it was suggested to send 2,000 soldiers south to reinforce Charleston.

Washington decided to send the Maryland Division to South Carolina, though he doubted that they could save Charleston. Instead he hoped that the Maryland troops would prevent the British from getting control of the entire state. On April 17th the Maryland troops began their long march south.

As it turned out, Charleston surrendered to the British on May 12, 1780. Just as Washington had predicted, the Maryland Division, which left Morristown in mid-April, had not reached Charleston in time to save the city. Instead the Maryland troops became the core of the new southern army which would fight continue the fight to protect the remainder of the Carolinas. Following the victory at Charleston, the British General Sir Henry Clinton returned to New York with a portion of his army and joined in the invasion of New Jersey in June 1780 fighting at the Battle of Springfield.

## Letter from the Superintendent

Springtime! Time to enjoy your park!

As the snow slowly recedes and the vegetation begins to sprout new life, it is a clear sign that it is time to get outdoors and enjoy the park and visit the great cultural resources we have to offer at Morristown NHP. As we enter our 81st year as a unit of the National Park System (March 2), I encourage you to plan on participating in one of our more than 40 Ranger led programs or special activities and events we are offering this spring.

From March 1 through June 14 we are proud to host a traveling exhibit on the history of nearby Picatinny Arsenal from pre-Revolutionary War through today at the Washington's Headquarters Museum. On the weekend of April 5-6 we will host the ever popular Continental Encampment weekend which is full of fun and interesting activities for the whole family. In celebration of National Park Week, we offer a "Fee Free" weekend on April 20-21, so be sure to visit the Washington's Headquarters Museum and sign up for a ranger led tour of the Ford mansion which served as Washington's headquarters in the winter of 1779-80. Capping off the week, on April 26 is Junior Ranger Day with special programs and activities especially geared for children.

There is really no excuse to get out here and enjoy your national park. I think you will find a little something for everyone in our programs this spring. See you around the park.

Sincerely,  
Thomas E. Ross  
Superintendent,  
Morristown National Historical Park

# Behind Closed Doors

## Ship's passport Signed by Louis XVI

King Louis XVI of France, having been captured trying to flee the country during the French Revolution, was confined to Paris and held under guard in June, 1791. By August of 1792, it had become clear that the King and the Legislature would not see eye-to-eye. On the night of August 10, 1792, the Tuileries Palace was stormed by partisans who massacred the Swiss Guards there. The Royal family taken prisoner, the Legislature quickly moved to suspend the monarchy, bringing an effective end to the reign of Louis XVI.

How is this relevant to Morristown National Historical Park, you might ask? One reason is that Louis XVI was the one monarch the American Revolutionaries had admiration for and greatly needed. It was, after all, at the Ford Mansion, Washington's Winter Headquarters that Lafayette arrived with the news of massive French support for the colonials. Yet, there is still a more intimate connection between Morristown and Louis XVI.

As it turns out, a document which has recently surfaced in the Park collection dating back to August of 1792, offers a glimpse into the final days of the French monarch. The document, written in French and signed by Louis as well as the Minister of the Marine, is a ship's passport, detailing that it has permission to fly French colors and sail to and from particular ports. The ship 'Diligente' is given permission to sail out of Treguier in Brittany "to engage in the coastal carrying trade for one year from the visa date."

Professor Silvia Marzagalli of the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, located in Nice, France, speculates that we have the original document issued to the captain. According to

Marzagalli, "They are rare... it is unclear when Admiralty offices ceased to issue such documents and whether the competences went directly to the newly created administration." The Morristown document helps illustrate how long such seemingly pro-forma administrative duties were carried on in the final days of the French monarchy.

What has piqued the interest of scholars who have viewed the Morristown document is the date of its signing, August 6, 1792. This document represents one of the last documents signed by the soon-to-be-disposed King Louis XVI. The monarchy was dissolved on August 10, four days after the document was signed, and Louis XVI was executed in January 21, 1793.



Ships' passport signed by Louis XVI shortly before he is overthrown during the French Revolution.

# Washington's Indispensable Man

Other than Washington himself, who was the officer most indispensable to the cause of American independence? Many scholars agree that it was Nathanael Greene, born to a Rhode Island Quaker family on July 27, 1742. His intellectual hunger--frowned upon by Quakers-- as well as his patriotism eventually led to his separation from this pacifist sect.

His abilities were noted by General Washington, who gave him demanding roles in which other men had failed. Greene was appointed Quartermaster General, in charge of the movement of military supplies. He drastically improved the army supply system, despite problems with worthless money and battles with Congress, making possible the survival of the army during the Hard Winter of 1779-80 at Morristown.

Greene was given the oversight by General Washington of the search for the ideal location for winter encampments by the Continental Army. In November



Nathanael Greene portrait painted by artist Charles Willson Peale in 1783.

1779, Greene and his subordinates traveled hundreds of miles on horseback in difficult conditions all over Northern New Jersey. Thanks to his attention to detail and appreciation of the army's needs, the Nathanael Greene was able to present two options for a 1779-80 winter campsite to Washington, who in turn, selected Greene's primary choice-- Jockey Hollow.

Greene is most famous for his leadership of the Continental Army forces in the South. After the American loss at Charleston in 1780, the British dominated the area. Vastly outnumbered--with two thousand men and no supplies--Greene used his knowledge of the land and skill in using his forces to overcome nearly impossible odds. Even though he never won a battle, he was able to weaken his enemy through a succession of defeats, leaving the British little choice but retreat. This strategy would eventually lead to the decisive victory at Yorktown in 1781.

Due to the fact that he died only three years after the Revolutionary War and had no battle triumphs, he receives less fame than many Revolutionary heroes. However because of his role as Quarter Master here in Morristown and leading troops in the Southern Campaign Nathanael Greene was truly Washington's indispensable man!



## Stay in Touch wherever you go

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

If so, 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 can unsubscribe at anytime.

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

## Who are our Volunteers? People Like You

Our Volunteers join our team to:

- Meet new people and make new friends
- Do something with family or friends
- Face new experiences or challenges
- Raise awareness of our country's history
- Experience different cultures
- Develop professional networks
- Gain experience in a variety of roles
- Get relevant training or develop skills
- Explore different career and job opportunities

If you are interested in joining our Volunteer Team, you may complete a Volunteer Application by either visiting our website [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) click on Support Your Park or email your request for an application to [MORR\\_VIP@nps.gov](mailto:MORR_VIP@nps.gov). Some positions may require a background check.



# Building the Huts in Jockey Hollow

When the Continental Army was on the march, the supply wagons carrying the men's tents were often days behind. Thus, the soldiers often improvised shelters, from items like planks and sail cloth. Come winter, warmer shelters were required. Though soldiers sometimes lodged in private homes and barns, as during the 1777 Morristown winter encampment, these were not always available. During the 1779-1780 Morristown encampment, the soldiers built log huts.

The Swedish and German immigrants brought log hut building to the colonies. English and other settlers knew the post and beam method (like the Wick House) but such homes took longer to build. Log huts could be assembled quickly. With 10,000 soldiers living in tents during the worst winter ever, time was of the essence.



Reenactors reshingling the roof on one of the Soldiers' Huts.

Jockey Hollow had enough trees. With walls 16 feet by 14 feet, and over six feet high, each hut needed some 30 to 40 trees. Located on the sloping, well-drained hillsides, each site was leveled first. In frozen ground, this meant pick and shovel work. Other soldiers began cutting down trees or splitting shingles. Using axes and crosscut saws, they felled

hundreds of acres of oak and walnut trees. If only the chainsaw existed then!

After felling and cutting to length, the logs were notched. Each end had a V-shaped top, with V-cut made below. As the logs were laid, one atop the other, the notched ends interlocked. No expensive, handmade nails were required. The gaps between logs were chinked with straw, clay or mud. With walls completed, the roof was installed. Those hand-split, four foot long shingles were laid in double rows and secured between rope-bound poles. Again, no nails required.

Inside, four sets of three, plank bunk beds, were built along three walls. The fourth wall had a mud-mortared stone fireplace, with a mini-log chimney. A door was located in the front wall, but no window until spring. Though Private Joseph Martin said the huts "*were fitted for the reception of gentleman soldiers,*" they were, in fact, huts for heroes.



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 by asking for a Junior Ranger Handbook. You can get a copy of the handbook at Jockey Hollow or at Washington's Headquarters.

Complete and present the handbook to a park ranger at Jockey Hollow or Washington's Headquarters and 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!



## Encampment Weekend: April 5th and 6th



The Continental Army encampment comes to life! Join us the weekend of April 5th and 6th as soldiers, their wives and their children return to Jockey Hollow for our Encampment Weekend. It's an event full of activities for the whole family.

Encampment Weekend will let you discover the experiences a soldier went through during the Spring of 1780 in Jockey Hollow. Throughout the encampment site you will be able to experience many parts of camp life. See soldiers and camp followers cook over open fires, or participate in our Kid's Drill, where the whole family can learn to be colonial soldiers. Re-enactors will demonstrate various Revolutionary War military tactics and maneuvers throughout the weekend, and the best part is that all activities are free!

For additional information see [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) or call 973-539-2016 ext. 210.

# Spring Ranger Led Activities 2014



## MARCH

**Sunday, March 2nd: 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 at the Wick House to discover the ways in which the C.C.C. restored the Wick House and farm. 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Saturday, March 8th: Alien Invaders** Where did they come from? Invaders have come from faraway lands and are taking over our forests. Join a Park Ranger at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center to see these plant invaders in action and find out what you can do to prevent a complete takeover. 11:00am at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Saturday, March 8th: Soldier's Knapsack** - Have you always wondered what types of things soldiers carried throughout the war? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover what would have been inside a soldier's knapsack. 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Saturday, March 15th: Officers vs. Washington: Military Coup?** - 231 years ago, General Washington faced a group of rebellious officers on the verge of revolt against the government in Philadelphia. Join a Park Ranger on a Ford Mansion tour to find out about the outcome of this confrontation and its importance to the future of government. 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Sunday, March 16th: 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 973-543-4030 for further details. 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm at the Soldiers Huts.

**Saturday, March 22nd: Neighborhood of Jockey Hollow** - Jockey Hollow is a neighborhood where animals have different roles in the community. Join a Park Ranger for a 2.25 mile round trip hike on the Yellow Trail and discover some of the wildlife that calls Jockey Hollow home. 10:00am at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Saturday, March 22nd: African American Patriots** - Did you know that 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to learn about the roles these patriots had while fighting for our independence. 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, March 23: Myth-Informed: Debunking Myths of 18th Century Life** Over time guides at historic sites have told all sorts 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 having wooden teeth. Join the park historian for a guided tour of the Ford Mansion and discover the truth behind many popular old myths. 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion

**Saturday, March 29th: Women of the Mansion** - Enter the Ford Mansion through the eyes of Mrs. Ford, her daughter Elizabeth, Martha Washington and the female servants. Discover the roles these women played in making General Washington's headquarters more like a home. 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

# Spring Ranger Led Activities 2014

## MARCH

**Sunday, March 30th: Tempe Wick: Truth and 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, 3:30pm at the Wick House.

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 5th and Sunday, April 6th: Encampment Weekend** - The Continental Army encampment comes to life! Join us the weekend of April 5th and 6th as soldiers, their wives and children return to Jockey Hollow for Encampment Weekend. It's an event full of activities for the whole family. Call 973-543-4030 or see [www.nps.gov/morr](http://www.nps.gov/morr) for schedule of events and details.

**Saturday, April 12th: Volunteerism, What YOU gain** - Visit the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center to learn how you play an important part in preserving your National Parks. 11:00am and 2:00pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Sunday, April 13th: Wick House Guest** Did you know a friend of George Washington spent the winter at the Wick House? Meet a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover who it was as well as the impacts he made during the revolution and beyond during a tour of the Wick House. 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, April 20th: Impact of War** The American Revolution impacted the lives of both soldiers and civilians. Learn how the war impacted the lives of the various people staying in the Ford Mansion during the winter of 1779-1780 on a guided tour of the house. 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, April 26th: Civilian Conservation Corps Hike** - During the Great Depression of the 1930's a group of young men changed Jockey Hollow forever. Join a Ranger on a 2.25 mile round trip hike on the Yellow Trail to discover how these men transformed Jockey Hollow into what we love today while only earning \$30 a month! 10:00am at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.

**Saturday, April 26th: Must Weft to Weave** - One must weft a loom to pass a shuttle through the shed. Confused? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House for this hands-on demonstration and learn the basics of weaving. 1:30pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Saturday, April 26th: Meet a Soldier** What was the life of a Continental Soldier like? What equipment did they carry? Meet a Soldier in the Continental Army at the Soldiers Huts and find out about his equipment and lifestyle. 1:30pm to 4:00pm at the Soldiers Huts.

**Sunday, April 27th: Soldier's Knapsack** Have you always wondered what types of things soldiers carried throughout the war? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover what would have been inside a soldier's knapsack. 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, April 27th: Colonial Games** Have some old-fashioned fun as you take on the same games that the soldiers and the Wick Family played. Try your hand at nine-pins, quoits, trap-ball, nine-man morris, fox & geese and other 18th century games. 1:30 to 4:00pm at the Wick House.

## MAY

**Saturday, May 3rd: Mrs. Hamilton Returns!** - Join Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, wife of Alexander Hamilton, on a tour of the Ford Mansion! Find out who concocted a plan to bring them together in Morristown and how they conducted their courtship. Explore Hamilton's incredible and lasting contributions to the American Revolution and to the fledgling republic!. 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Ford Mansion.

**Saturday, May 3rd: African American Patriots** - Did you know that 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to learn about the roles these patriots had while fighting for our independence. 2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.

**Sunday, May 4th: Soldiers of the Wick House** - Various officers of the Continental Army stayed at the Wick House during the American Revolution. Learn how Major Joseph Bloomfield used the house as a hospital and General St. Clair made it into the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division. Also hear how William McPherson, aide to General St. Clair, served in both the British and Continental armies during the Revolutionary War. 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm at the Wick House.

**Saturday, May 10th: Nature Discovery Hike** - Want to explore the natural wonders of Jockey Hollow? Join a Park Ranger on a 1.2 mile round-trip hike on the Red Trail and discover together some of the natural wonders of Jockey Hollow. 10:00am at the Trail Center Parking Area.

**Saturday, May 10th: Women of the House** - Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House and discover the role women played in helping a family survive in the 18th Century. 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Wick House.



## Spring Ranger Led Activities 2014

### MAY

#### **Sunday, May 11th: Soldier at the Huts**

Learn about the life of a common soldier during the winter encampment and see the clothing, equipment, and weapons that a soldier used as you visit the replica soldier huts of the Pennsylvania Line. *1:30pm to 4:00pm at the Soldiers Huts.*

#### **Sunday, May 11th: Wick House Guest**

Did you know a friend of George Washington spent the winter at the Wick House? Meet a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover who it was as well as the impacts he made during the revolution and beyond during a tour of the Wick House. *2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.*

#### **Saturday, May 17th: 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 at the Wick House to discover the ways in which the C.C.C. restored the Wick House and farm. *2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.*

**Sunday, May 18th: Mural Talk** - Take a tour of the entire Jockey Hollow encampment without leaving the comfort of the Visitor Center. Relax on comfy cushions as a Park Ranger, using the encampment mural, describes the various people, farms and huts that made up the "Log-Hut City" of the winter encampment of 1779-1780. *1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.*

#### **Sunday, May 18th: Continental**

**Marines** - Marines have been around even longer than the Declaration of Independence itself. Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover the role these soldiers played in Morristown and throughout the war. *2:00pm, 3:00pm and 4:00pm at the Wick House.*

#### **Saturday, May 24th: New Jersey**

**Brigade Hike** - Hike one of the lesser known areas of the park and learn about two different eras. Hear about the suffering of the New Jersey soldiers. Then discover the lavish lifestyles of the Mountain Colony during the early 20th century. This is a strenuous 2 mile round trip hike. Call 973-543-4030 for details. *1:00pm at the New Jersey Brigade Parking Area.*

#### **Saturday, May 24th: Marking History**

Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover how what we do to our watersheds today may lead us backwards to the poor water quality of the 18th Century. *1:30pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.*

#### **Sunday, May 25th: Kid's Tour of the**

**Ford Mansion** - Here's a historic house tour geared for kids in grades four and up (including adults). It will feature activities such as role playing, a scavenger hunt and learning about "gross stuff," like 18th century bathrooms. The tour begins in the Washington Headquarters Museum. *10:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm at the Ford Mansion.*

#### **Sunday, May 25th: Soldier's Knapsack**

Have you always wondered what types of things soldiers carried throughout the war? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to discover what would have been inside a soldier's knapsack. *2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Wick House.*

#### **Saturday, May 31st: Morristown's**

**Other Army** - During the Great Depression of the 1930's another army camped in Morristown. Join a Ranger at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center for a 45 minute PowerPoint slideshow to discover the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and how these 'Soil Soldiers' transformed Morristown N.H.P and other public lands. *10:00am, Noon and 2:00pm at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center.*

#### **Saturday, May 31st: Alien Invaders**

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