



Morristown Muster

Loyalists Raid New Jersey, October 1779

One of the most daring cavalry raids of the American Revolution took place in New Jersey's Somerset and Middlesex counties in October 1779, known as Simcoe's Raid. British Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe led a group of eighty Loyalists on a sixty mile circuit from Perth Amboy to Somerville and then back to South Amboy.

The objective of the raid was to destroy military boats that could be used in an attack on British-occupied New York City. On October 26, 1779, Simcoe landed 80 cavalry men and their horses in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. They passed through Middlesex County undisturbed because the local farmers assumed that they were American cavalry.

At Van Veghten's Bridge on the border between Somerville and Bridgewater, Simcoe's men destroyed 18 boats and the wheeled carriages that transported them. They burned the nearby Dutch Reformed Church which held Patriot supplies and a stockpile of 70 tons of hay and 14 bushels of grain. Next, they captured Somerset Courthouse in Millstone where they freed three Loyalist prisoners and burned the courthouse.

The smoke of the burning buildings alerted the local militia who rallied to drive off the invaders. On their return trip from Millstone to waiting boats in South Amboy, Simcoe's men fought a running battle with the militia. Colonel Simcoe was ambushed and captured by the militia but his cavalry continued on fighting their way through patriot cavalry and infantry near New Brunswick. From there they escaped to their boats which returned them to Staten Island.



Portrait of John Graves Simcoe by artist Johann Joseph Zoffany before the American Revolution circa 1770.



Artist rendition of a rifleman in Simcoe's Queen's Rangers.

The loss of the hay and grain, equivalent to modern gasoline, caused some problems for Washington's army camped in Morristown during the following winter. Lacking sufficient food for the horses, the cavalry was sent away plus there were fewer horses to haul supplies to camp.

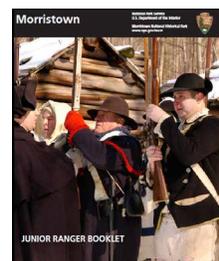


Become a Morristown
National Historical Park
Junior Ranger!

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 to download a copy of the Junior Ranger booklet and get started today!



Letter from the Superintendent

Welcome to Morristown National Historical Park! The great summer of 2014 is leading into an equally beautiful fall. I have been hearing that the relatively cool, wet summer may lead to the best foliage colors in years. What a great incentive to get out there and experience your National Park! As we promote Healthy Parks, Healthy People take advantage of beautiful New Jersey with more than 27 miles of hiking trails in the park that connect to Patriots' Path's 85 miles of trails that take you across Morris County and beyond. There is so much to explore!

In September we are pleased to host our 6th annual Naturalization Ceremony in partnership with the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and the Washington Association of New Jersey. Be sure to join us at noon on September 17th as we welcome 30 new Americans in this moving ceremony in the Washington's Headquarters Museum auditorium.

In addition to the great outdoors and our special naturalization ceremony, be sure to check out our full schedule of fall programming at the park. The best way to access the information is through the park website's calendar of events link at www.nps.gov/morr or ask one of our rangers.

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

I hope to see you around the park!

Sincerely,
Tom Ross

Revolutionary Prisoners of War

Freedom has not come free. No one knows better what it is like to have that freedom suddenly snatched away than those individuals who, in the process of serving their country, have found themselves prisoners of war. It is an experience neither asked for nor desired.

During the Revolutionary War, an estimated 20,000 Americans were held as prisoners of war. Some were released as part of an exchange system between America and Great Britain. Many were not that fortunate. For many, life as a Prisoner of war was spent in the damp, musty holds of vessels. These prison ships were anchored in Wallabout Bay, NY, Charleston Harbor, SC and St. Lucia in the West Indies. For those who died, their bodies were tossed overboard, or taken ashore and buried in shallow graves.

The most infamous British prison ship was the HMS Jersey referred to by its inmates simply as "Hell." More than 1,000 men were kept aboard the Jersey at any one time, and about a dozen died every night from diseases such as small pox, dysentery, typhoid and yellow fever, as well as from starvation and torture. Even after the British surrender at Yorktown in late 1781, prisoners were



Top of the Prison Ships Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Historic District, Brooklyn

kept aboard the Jersey and other ships until the war formally ended in 1783. At war's end, there were only 1,400 survivors among the inmates of the entire prison ship fleet, and at least 11,000 men and boys died aboard the ships from 1776 to 1783.

In 1908, President Taft dedicated the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, an obelisk standing some 150 feet high at the center of Fort Greene Park, on the former site of the Revolutionary War-era Fort Putnam. Beneath the monument was a crypt with 20 coffins containing bone fragments from the thousands who died on the Jersey and other prison ships.

Fall Ranger Led Activities



Morristown NHP offers a variety of ranger-guided programs throughout the fall. 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 everyone. Ranger programs are free!

For a complete listing of programs and events, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/morr. Click the schedule of events on the home page.

Jockey Hollow's Changing Landscape

Autumn is a time of transition. The seasons changing and the leaves' colors turning at Jockey Hollow serve as reminders of the changes in the Park's landscape that have occurred throughout history. The region's first inhabitants, the Lenape Indians, used wood from local trees to build log houses, while the forests' plants and animals provided food, clothing, and other necessities. In forest clearings, Indians farmed corn, squash, and beans. The arrival of European settlers in the late-seventeenth and eighteenth centuries brought more changes. Settlers cleared large tracts of woodland for their farms and introduced new crops, such as the apple trees on Henry Wick's farm. Settlers also built wooden or stone fences and homes that were larger and more permanent than those of their Indian predecessors. Settlers such as Jacob Ford Jr. mined iron from beneath the Earth's surface and burned local forests to fuel his forges and furnaces.



Reenactors in Jockey Hollow taking bark off of a fallen tree to repair the roof of one of the Soldiers' Huts. NPS/Andy Danneker Photo

The presence of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War wrought even greater changes in the landscape; Washington's soldiers cleared 2000 acres of trees, trampled farmers' fields, and damaged their fences. Building 1,000 log huts, the soldiers transformed the landscape from one of farms and forests into a military city. After the war, people continued to shape the landscape with farms, although some of the forest grew back. The creation of Morristown National Historical Park in 1933 also

brought changes to the landscape. Workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps planted thousands of trees and constructed miles of hiking trails. Today, the National Park Service works to preserve our treasured landscapes for future generations to enjoy.



**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 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)

Discover the restored Gardens at the Cross Estate: Garden Demos and Tours



Spend Saturday October 18th enjoying the beauty of the fall garden in the early 20th Century Walled formal Garden, and surrounding grounds of the Mansion including a magnificent Water Tower built in 1905. Learn what to plant in the fall and how to get a garden ready for winter with our demonstrations on tool cleaning and sharpening, bulb planting, and cutting down and dividing perennials. Garden tours will be available. Get your hands dirty or just take photos! Fun learning experience for the entire family. *Saturday, October 18 from 10am to noon. Free. For more information please visit www.CrossEstateGardens.org.*



“We had wooden guns...”

Whenever you visit the park during an encampment you’ll probably see one of the soldiers teaching the musket drill to a bunch of small kids toting wooden guns. Even though it just seems like an activity invented by the Rangers for the kids it actually has a historic precedence.

Ashbel Green, a minister’s son from Hanover, New Jersey, wrote that when he was a boy during the Revolutionary War, he and other boys in town formed their own militia company. It was patterned after the real militia companies including electing officers and having a drummer and a fifer. They used printed military manuals in their training and just like the kids in Jockey Hollow today, they practiced the manual of arms using wooden guns. Here is how Green described it in his autobiography.



Children participating in Kids Drill at our annual reenactment in Jockey Hollow with Park Ranger Eric Olsen. NPS/Christopher Gimmillaro photo.

“We . . . had companies composed of boys from ten to fifteen years of age; . . . Each company elected its own officers, consisting of a captain, a first and second lieutenant, an ensign, and two or three sergeants. We had wooden guns, but as much like muskets as we could get them. . . We frequently met for training, drilling and marching. The manual exercise was learned by all. For myself, I obtained a pamphlet, in which this exercise was fully explained, according to the best system of the day. . . Of this exercise I made myself so much a master, that I had the honour of standing before the company as

fugleman. . . to exhibit, for the imitation of the company, a correct performance of the various motions in handling a firelock, and the several attitudes and movements of the body in military evolutions. In all this, we were encouraged and cheered on by our parents. Nor was this military training. . . a useless or unimportant employment. . . this training of boys, not only cherished in them a military spirit, but prepared them to act with skill and efficiency, as soon as they were enrolled in the legally established militia. . .”



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



North Jersey American Revolution Round Table

Long before New Jersey was the Garden State, the colony of New Jersey was known as the ‘Cockpit of the Revolution’ and the ‘Crossroads of the Revolution’. New Jersey witnessed many events; both high points and low points that were critical to the cause of American Independence. Join us as we discuss the ideas, people and events which led to the founding of the American republic, the oldest constitutional democracy in the world.

Meetings begin at 7:15pm at the Washington’s Headquarters Museum:

Free and open to the public.

- September 11, 2014
- October 9, 2014
- November 13, 2014

For more information and a list of speakers go to www.njhistoryroundtables.org/NJARRT