

# The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park

*"Connecticut's Valley Forge"*



Bethel/Redding CT

## Aug./Sept. 2009 NewsLetter



Painting by Don Trolani

### Last Interpretive Sign is Up

#### PUTNAM MEMORIAL STATE PARK



This park commemorates the three winter encampments in 1778-79 of Major General Isreal Putnam's division of Continental Army troops during the Revolutionary War. The memorial park was created on the actual site of one of the three encampments.

Gen. Washington positioned his troops in a crescent shape around the British Army in NY City. The troops camped in Redding were used to protect the Long Island Sound, the Hudson Highlands and, especially, the military stores at the Army Supply Depot in Danbury.



This camp housed Brig. General Poor's New Hampshire Brigade and the 2nd Canadian Regiment under Col. Moses Hazen. The camp was built to hold over 1300 troops. The other two camps held the 1st and 2nd Connecticut Brigades (which contained eight regiments).



The last of the interpretive signs has been erected near the main entrance. Park Boss, Nate Hale, has a topnotch crew. The construction of all the signage and supports are made on premise by the rangers who are also darn good carpenters.



### Stetler Works With Hartford and Graphic Designers On Panels



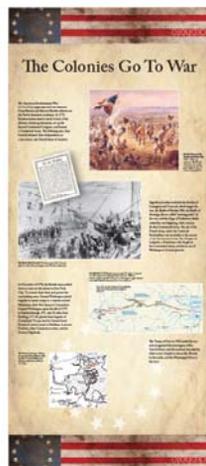
One of the current kiosk panels in the Visitor Center.

Scott Stetler is making great progress on the conversion of the Visitor Center kiosk panels to permanent graphics laminated into fiberglass panels. The panels currently on display were introduced to the public in the fall of 2008. The information offered to the visitor is outstanding. But we realize that the current medium can not hold up indefinitely... thus the conversion project.

The three sample graphic designs at the right are just some of the work being shown to our team.

It is not only the graphic layout and design, but the type layout as well, like headlines and sub-heads.

Scott is working with Nicole Shaw and Al Levere from DEP- Hartford, and graphic designers who are doing sample panels for selection. After the design phase, comes the panel manufacture stage.



# New Displays and Themes at the Museum



A Continental soldier sits by his campfire. The display is just in its early stages. The room will take on another scope when the wall murals are created this summer.



Sharon Skystimas, park's Graphics Designer, is working on the murals on the museum's back room walls, where uniformed soldiers will be displayed with the murals as a background. Sharon was the artist who painted all the graphics on the park's interpretive signs that now provide information for the visitors as they tour the park.



Sharon Skystimas, park's Graphics Designer

# New Herb & Colonial Era Plants Gardens



Maribeth Chassey points out the flax plant. Flax was a staple in colonial gardens. It was used in making linen for clothes and numerous other items. Equipment for flax processing and spinning can be seen in the museum,



The two garden beds can be seen here with Maribeth checking the plants. The great looking plant labels were donated by the Barlett Arboretum in Stamford, CT. Mulch donated by FANs is slated to top-off the beds.



Maribeth Chassey has worked as an interpretive guide at the Museum and Visitor Center this summer. She has a degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Wildlife Conservation. Maribeth refurbished the museum beds this summer with a selection of herbs and plants which were grown in the colonial era. Good job, Maribeth.

# 1778 Brown Regimental Coats

## Capt. Andrew Fitch's Company of the 4th CT Regiment



The 4<sup>th</sup> CT Regiment held a Living History reenactment this past weekend at the park. The 4<sup>th</sup> CT wore brown coats faced with red. These coats were purchased by the state of Connecticut. (Not "Lottery")

Photos by Geoffrey Howard



Painting by Don Troiani  
www.historicalimagebank.com

Don Troiani's 4<sup>th</sup> CT Regt. enlisted man.



Spectators got to visit with the troops, who described daily living in the Continental Army



Fitch's Company of the CT 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. contained 54 rank and file plus officers in 1778. They were part of the 1<sup>st</sup> CT Brigade under Brig. Gen. Samuel Parsons in the middle camp, but were assigned to coast duty at Black Rock. (Not "Lottery Coats")

## New Hampshire Regiments

New Hampshire Brigade under Brig. Gen. Enoch Poor, camped at the eastern end of the three Reading Camps (Today's Putnam Park).

The NH regiments received "Lottery" coats just prior to going into winter quarters in Reading. They were brown wool with red facings.



Photos by 3<sup>rd</sup> NH Regt.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Regiment called *Congress' Own*

Commanded by Col. Moses Hazen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadians camped with the New Hampshire Brigade. The NH brigade general went home to NH for the winter, with his only acting Colonel. This left Col. Hazen as the commanding officer of the brigade. As ranking officer Hazen lived in a private home (Col. John Read's, a quarter mile west of the camp) for the entire winter. This left Lt. Col. Henry Dearborn of the NH Brigade as senior officer of the camp itself.

The Canadian troops also received "Lottery" coats. They got brown wool with white facings. This resulted in all troops at the 'Putnam Park' camp in brown coats.



Painting by Lt. Charles M. Lefferts



Painting by Erwin

Note the leather helmet worn by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadians.



The September meeting was held at the visitor center on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Notes from the prez **BULLETIN..... FANS PREZ TO RESIGN**



1. **President Steve Levin's Opening:** " First, regrettably, I announced that I will be stepping down as FAN's President. I must devote my full energies to my work at this time. I hope the group will elect a new president by the Annual Meeting in November. I am proud of my two-year tenure and appreciate the opportunity I had to work with you all. I do hope to continue as an active member."
2. **Treasurer's Report:** T.G. filled us in on the state of accounts and updated us on revenues and outlays through August., including payments to the summer craftsmen, flags for the Visitor Center, and down payment on the Visitor Center Kiosk displays.
3. **Park Update:** Nate filled us in on the status of the park and the state's budget problems, and raising park entrance fees( Does not effect us). He thanked FANs for the financial support for various maintenance needs and other items for the park. He talked about the ongoing mural displays at the museum. Things are going well at the park.
4. **Summer Event Recaps:** Thanks to Nancy Cowles for putting together another wonderful full program of craftsmen for the July and August weekends. We had only two rainouts for the nine weeks. The August music/dance concert was also rained out. A discussion ensued as to how to inform the public of cancellations.
5. **Visitor Center Displays:** Scott presented samples of different proposed designs. He has been hard a work coordinating the new display panels with Al Levere and Nicole Shaw at the DEP, the designer (Ilardi Design) and various graphic houses. It was decided that Harry, Dave, and Brian would review the current panels one final time prior to fasting the copy in fibreglas! We agreed to fund up to an additional \$1500 beyond what is already allocated to complete the designs. Harry said he would contact the Meserve folks to let them know we may be a few weeks late vs. the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
6. **Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Weekend Event:** The "Model Company" will be hosting a weekend of drills, etc. It is not a FANs event, but we do support their effort. Brent will post their event on our website. These troops are the 4<sup>th</sup> CT Regiment, which was depicted in artist Don Troiani's painting that we use on our envelopes, letterheads etc.
7. **Follow up 2010 Events:**
  - The next School Days Program will be on May 24<sup>th</sup> , 2010.
  - The next Living History Weekend and Reenactment will be Nov. 6 & 7, 2010. Brian will ask Brent to include the 'Save the Date' on our website.
  - The Reel Thing group would like to try again with a concert in June 2010.
8. **Membership:** It was suggested that we send out membership solicitation letters out online this year.

Go to: FANs Web site at  
[www.putnampark.org](http://www.putnampark.org)

## Bits and Pieces...

Prize goes to the person who had the idea of putting out the "OPEN" flags at the North (Museum) Entrance and in Front of the Visitor Center. Good marketing!



Photos by Geoffrey Howard

*"There is no imagination as big as that of a 4 year old!"*

The next FAN's Meeting will be on Monday, **October 12, 2009**  
at **7:00PM** at the Visitor Center at Putnam Park.