



# The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park

*"Connecticut's Valley Forge"*



Bethel/Redding CT

## December 2012 NewsLetter

### December 1778 - Christmas



*"We settled in our winter quarters at the commencement of the new year and went on in our old Continental Line of starving and freezing. We now and then got a little bad bread and salt beef (I believe chiefly horse-beef for it was generally thought to be such at the time).*

Private Joseph Plumb Martin,  
8<sup>th</sup> CT Regiment - Dec. 1778

→ December 1778, Headquarters, Reading  
Orders to Gen. Putnam's three brigades at Reading:

**"Get the troops under wooden cover as quickly as possible."**

→ December 2004 Headquarters, Redding  
Orders to the Kronenberger Restoration Company crew ... so they  
could work through the winter months.



### December 2004 Christmas

**From the Friends  
& Neighbors of  
Putnam Memorial  
State Park,  
and the State Park  
Division crew...**

***Merry Christmas and Holiday Greetings***



# Holiday Greetings Through The Years



**From the Friends  
& Neighbors of  
Putnam Memorial  
State Park,  
and the State Park  
Division crew...**

***Merry Christmas and Holiday Greetings***

***The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Park  
Wish you a Merry Christmas  
and Holiday Greetings 2009***



Drawing by Admr. Lauren McCready

One of Lauren McCready's wonderful pen and ink drawings



Snowy day for 'Old Put'



The guns are silent ...





**More Holiday Greetings**



**2010**

**From the Friends  
& Neighbors of  
Putnam Memorial  
State Park,  
and the State Park  
Division crew...**

***Merry Christmas and Holiday Greetings***



**2011**

# The December Winter Walk & Coverage About The FANs Organization.

## The Redding Pilot



This year's December Winter Walk .

Dan Cruson led the annual history tour on Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>.



### Winter Walk

The annual Winter Walk at Putnam Memorial State Park last Saturday drew visitors interested in learning more about the park's history. Dan Cruson, a local historian, led the walk. He began his talk in front of the statue of General Israel Putnam, who was encamped at the park with his troops during the winter of 1778-79.



Bryan Haeffele photos



### Park walk

Visitors went to Putnam Park last Saturday for the annual Winter Walk led by Dan Cruson, a local historian. Members of the Connecticut 5th Regiment participated in the event, including young Vlad Romano, who lives in Redding.

The 5<sup>th</sup> CT Regiment escorted the tour group.

## 'Friends' advocate for Putnam Park

by Susan Wolf  
pilot@thereddingpilot.com

Putnam Memorial State Park has "Friends." These Friends have stood by the park in bad times and in good. Because of their persistence, the park has a visitors center, new maps and signs for self-guided walking tours, living history events, and much more.

"The park is a very unknown hidden treasure. A lot of people don't appreciate its historical significance," said Jeanine Herman, a longtime "Friend" of the park, which lies in Redding and Bethel.

The park, sometimes referred to as Connecticut's Valley Forge, is the site of the 1778-79 winter encampment used by the Continental Army under Gen. Israel Putnam during the American Revolution. There were two other encampments in Redding as well, but Putnam Park was created as a memorial park honoring the



Bryan Haeffele

Members of the Friends and Neighbors of Putnam Park (FANS) gathered with re-enactors last Saturday before the annual Winter Walk at the park. From left are Dave Solek, FANS member and Butlers Rangers' re-enactor; Jeanine Herman, founding member of FANS; Scott Stetler, FANS president; T.G. Henderson, FANS treasurer; Nancy Cowles, another FANS founding member and park museum staff member; Nathan Hale, park supervisor;

See Friends on page 14A



Redding Pilot editor, Susan Wolf, wrote an informative recap of the formation of the Friends of Putnam Park back in 1997 and the various projects and events that they sponsor today. The other two major contributors of park projects and events are the State Park Division crew and the Hartford DEEP staff, and the re-enactors who plan and carry out the military events.

## Final FANs News Letter

The progress of the rebirth of Putnam Park was documented for all members. The army camp history, the park creation history, and the important events of the Revolutionary War were sent to you on a monthly basis. The progress of the transformation of the old 1893 Pavilion into the wonderful Visitor Center we have today ... was fully documented via digital pictures. The cutting of the lily pads and weeds were shown to you. Truckloads of muck being hauled away. The FANs major events like the School Days, Summer Craftsmen, Living History Weekends, and December Winter Walks. The terrific job done in furnishing the Visitor Center and Museum with history info. Signage and maps and walking tours for the park. The archaeology program that began almost ten years ago, and the designation of the park as an official archaeology preserve which makes illegal digging and metal detecting against the law. The FANs Website will still be available to everyone at [www.putnampark.org](http://www.putnampark.org) MANY THANKS TO OUR 5-STAR PRINTER, BETHEL PRINTING, FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE!



The next FAN's Meeting will be on Monday, **January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

at **7:00PM** at the **Visitor Center** at Putnam Park.

Go to our Fans web site at [www.putnampark.org](http://www.putnampark.org)

