

March 2005 NewsLetter

Old Put Rides Again



▲ The famous ride of General Putnam riding his horse down the stone steps while escaping from the British dragoons ... took place on February 26th 1779. The general was staying at Knapp Tavern (now Putnam Cottage) in Greenwich when the British tried to capture him. Each year the D.A.R. and S.A.R. hold a reenactment in the general's honor. Putnam Cottage is pictured at left.

Anna Hyatt Huntington's statue of Gen. Israel Putnam escaping down the stone steps from the British cavalry. Entrance to Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding, CT. ▶



▲ The steps cut into the steep stone embankment near Putnam Cottage. The British dragoons would not follow Old Put.



Private James Freebairn of the CT 5th Regiment.

Putnam Cottage



**on the Boston Post Road,
Greenwich, Connecticut**

Step back in time as you visit this authentic Greenwich dwelling of the 1690's . . . the former Knapp Tavern, frequent quarters for fearless Revolutionary General Israel Putnam . . . storehouse of thrilling history and fascinating Colonial artifacts.

Visiting Hours
Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Or by appointment: Call (203) 869-9697

Groups are welcome. A small admission fee for visitors over twelve years of age.

Putnam Cottage
243 East Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830



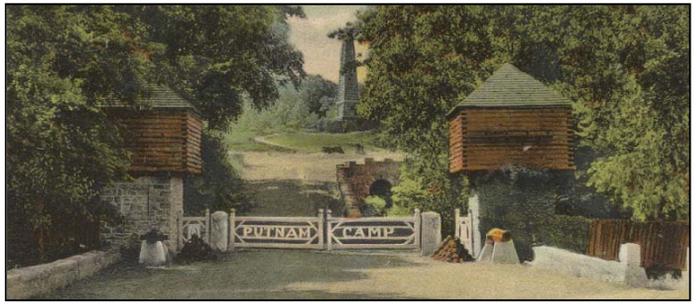
Capt. Richard Swartwout of the CT 6th Regiment.

March FAN's Meeting

The March meeting of the Friends group was held on Monday, March 14th at the Redding Town Hall.

Discussions held included:

1. Treasurer's Report.
2. 2005 Living History School Days report. The dates for the school groups will be revised to May 16th through May 18th with Thursday being an optional day. Nancy Cowles will proceed with materials and information to be given to the school systems in advance of their visits.
3. Update of the 1893 Pavilion. Estimated completion by end of May. Grading, landscaping, parking lots and stone walls will take longer.
4. Park Supervisor, Nathan Hale, and his crew are making new wooden gates for the park entrance.



They Came In Buggies

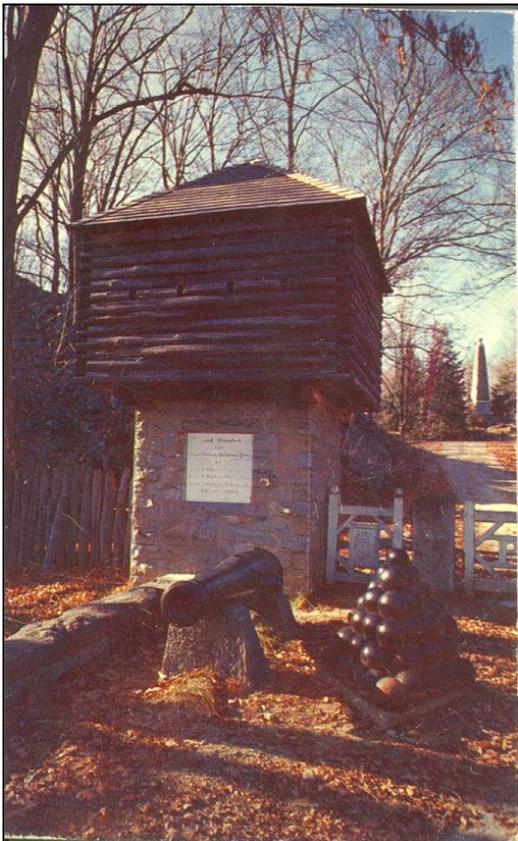
When the park was first opened for visitors around 1889, people came in buggies, on horseback or on shank's mare. They came to spend the day. There were no radios, TVs, movies, or Xboxes to clutter their lifestyles.

The carriage shed was across the road from the main entrance. You can still see the remains of the stone wall which was the back side of the shed.

The visitors came to see where the soldiers huts were; and to see the artifacts in the new park museum in the pavilion. While they were still in a patriotic mind-set (the Civil War was still fresh in their minds), they also came just to relax and maybe have a picnic lunch.

The original gates had 'Putnam Camp' spelled out in the wood frame. Later the gates read 'Putnam Park'. Our park crew is now fashioning new replica gates for the new entrance later this year.

There were almost a dozen separate stacks of cannon balls at the entrances and inside the park. You can still see the concrete pads where they used to sit. Back in those days there was no graffiti or theft. What a wonderful time that must have been! Be sure to visit the park this coming season!



Here Comes The Sun ...



The Kronenberger crew has caught a stretch of nice weather as they are now outside and working on the sheathing phase. This is the phase when the appearance of the building really begins to unfold..

The upper windows, light monitor and gables are installed. The trim on the light monitor is finished, And its roof is shingled. Then its walls can be sheathed and the monitor is done. Then the main roofs can be completed, along with the copper flashing for waterproof joints.

Meanwhile, the plumbers and masons are making good progress installing the rest rooms and halls in the walk-out cellar level. Also, the electricians have been busy wiring the entire building.



March 2005. The cedar shingle sheathing process is underway. The crew is installing trim and shingles to the pavilion. Both the roofs and the walls will be sheathed in the cedar.



The light monitor gets its cedar roof.



March 2005. The cedar siding has been started on all sides of the pavilion. The siding project will halt at the huge window openings, and await the installation of the custom made windows before going further up the walls.



The crew is installing the trim work.

Next Meeting



The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Monday Evening April 11th** at the Redding Town Hall. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. Please come and join with us in the planning of events and projects at Putnam Park.

