



The Friends & Neighbors of Putnam Memorial State Park



Bethel/Redding CT

May 2007 NewsLetter

Living History School Days

Each May the Friends of Putnam Park hold their **Living History School Days** program for area schools. Here are some scenes from this year's school session...



Kids start arriving at the front gate around 9:30 AM



Directions were given to the groups to go to various stations around the park.



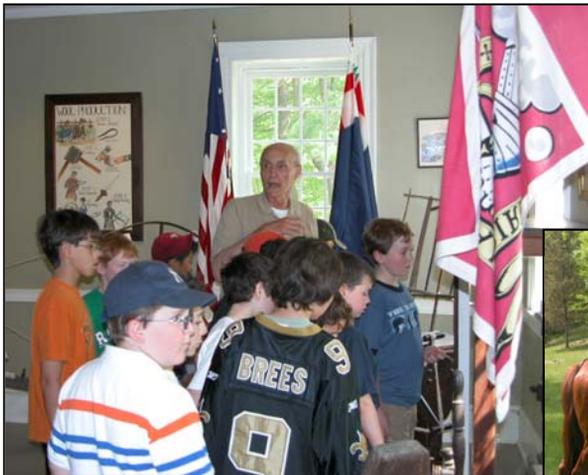
Kids on the move to one of a half-dozen stations throughout the park. Each station has craftsmen or colonial reenactors. Each stop is 20 mins.



In the footsteps of the soldiers of 1778 and 79.



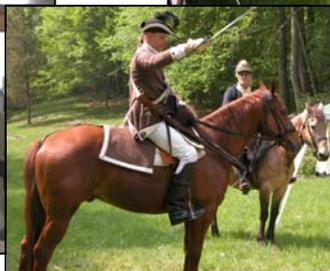
Lecture on fifes and drums which played a big role in the army.



The park museum stop. Artifacts from the army camp can be seen here (many from the digs).



Kids get lesson on the light dragoons. Troopers demonstrate tactics.

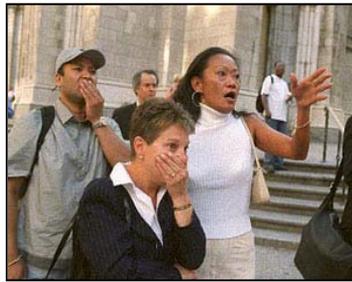


Light Dragoons on horseback

School Days Lessons



The whitesmith demonstrates making musket balls, uniform buttons and spoons from pouring molten pewter into molds.



What is it?

(Answer on bottom of last page)



A student assists in the demonstration of what a soldier wore in the army.



Continental Soldier



The instructor said that 8 soldiers would sleep together in this little bitty tent. Then he explained how the soldiers only took a bath twice a year. Eeeeeewwww!



The British Army Surgeon first explained the British soldier's uniform. Then he gave drill instruction to two recruits. Then he gave a demonstration of his surgical tools. The soldiers always avoided the surgeon!

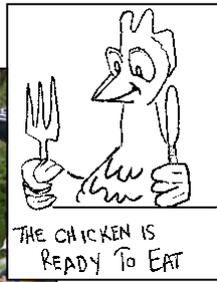


The bright red coats and crossed white belts made good targets !



Did you know that the grenadiers hats were made of a bear's "winter fur" when the bear's coat was longer?

Lessons and Fun



A favorite each year is the Colonial Cook who demonstrates cooking on the open campfire like the soldiers did.

While this is a smorgasbord of delicious food. the soldiers never saw this much on the menu.



Tricorn hats, musket balls, pewter buttons and sundials, park medallions and tee shirts are all on sale at the FANs Company Store.

The kids lined up in two neat lines after instruction from the store keepers.



They learned a lot about the Revolutionary War era and had a good time, too!

Waiting for the buses at the end of their day.



Another year of educating area students through actual demonstrations comes to an end.

May FAN's Meeting

To contact us: friendsofputnampark@comcast.net



1. Jeanine Herman opened meeting.
2. Rosemary Payne gave the **Treasurers Report**.
3. Nancy Cowles gave **Living History School Days** update. We are now down to two days this year due to some cancellations. Nancy is still working to put more schools onto the schedule. Week of May 14 - 19 is this year's school week. Volunteers are set.
4. Harry Gibson presented Park Supervisor, Nathan Hale, with two **reproduction muskets** for display in the Visitor Center. A British Brown Bess and a French Charleville. More in next month's newsletter. The Fan's group purchased the guns for the park.

Huntington Sculpture Purchased For Visitor Center.



Internationally famous sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington's last statue proudly sits near the entrance to Putnam Park. She was 91 years old when she created *Gen. Israel Putnam at Horseneck*.



**Anna Hyatt Huntington
1876 - 1973**

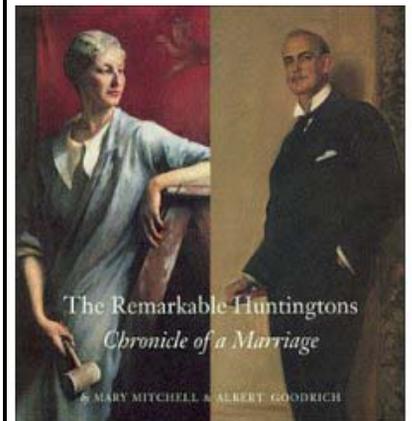
Horse Head purchased by FANs for the Putnam Park Visitor Center.



This horse head was modeled by Mrs. Huntington for the Redding School pupils to use for a craft project.

The Collis P. Huntington State Park is the sister park to Putnam Memorial State Park. Located less Than two miles from Putnam, the almost 900 acre Park was once the estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband, Archer M. Huntington.

The model will be on display at the Visitor Center.



The Huntington's lived on their estate on Sunset Hill Road, on the Bethel/ Redding line. The sculptor's studio was at their home. She created many huge clay models, most of which involved equestrian subjects.

She climbed ladders and scaffolding to create her clay models right into her nineties. Most models were then cast into bronze statues.

Mary Mitchell and the late Albert Goodrich collaborated in writing a book on the Huntingtons. We are proud to have Mary as a FAN's member. *The Remarkable Huntington's* can be purchased through most bookstores, or [Budd Drive Press](#) via the internet.

The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Tuesday Evening, June 12th**
at 7:00PM at the [Visitor Center](#) at Putnam Park.

The addition of the Light Dragons this year included a small problem that was very common even in the early days of the park. One of the mounted trooper's horse left a deposit on the roadway. Some good hearted soul placed a board over the deposit!



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