

Fort Frederick State Park

"The Fort is Pretty Full"

A Prisoners Journey to Fort Frederick 1781

Park Quest 2019



Excerpts from
The Journal of a Family
and their Adventures
During the Late War in the Americas

Including some curious
Incidents about their time in
Captivity at Fort Frederick

Welcome to the 2019 Fort Frederick Park Quest

If you have printed your worksheet you may begin the activities when you arrive at the park or you may stop by the Visitor Center for assistance. The map on page 2 will help you in finding locations for the different activities. Below are some things to remember before you start:

- The terrain is varied and uneven in many places.
- Sturdy walking or hiking shoes are best for this hike.
- Park staff is available to help anyone with special needs, but due to limited staffing you must call the park in advance to make accommodations.
- Your Park Quest Passport gets you into the fort for no extra charge.
- Make sure to bring environmentally friendly sunscreen, and insect repellent, as well as water.
- Well behaved pets on a leash are welcome to accompany you on most of your quest but are not allowed in buildings or the fort.
- This quest is not stroller friendly.

This year's quest will take you back in time as you read the journal of a family making their way to Fort Frederick. Throughout the Quest you will learn and develop skills in reading, mathematics, art, cartography (map drawing), singing, labor, fashion and even moral choices.

While Fort Frederick is most famous for its origins as a British Maryland Fort during the French and Indian War, this year's Quest will be based around the American Revolution when the fort was used as a prisoner of war camp from 1778 to 1783. During that time thousands of British prisoners were held here including hundred's of women and children. These women and children were wives and families of the captured soldiers.



The Southern Campaign in Brief:

In 1780, British General Cornwallis was placed in command of the British forces in the South. He quickly defeated the Americans under Horatio Gates at Camden, SC and planned on moving into North Carolina. After General Gates' defeat he was replaced by General Nathaniel Greene and Daniel Morgan. Morgan would defeat the British at the Battle of Cowpens, SC. Then began "The Race to the Dan" River as both the American and British jockeyed for position as they moved towards Virginia. Greene's strategy was to wear down Cornwallis' large force and draw them further from their supply bases on the coast. In March 1781, Greene faced off with Cornwallis in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, and though it was a tactical defeat for Greene, he inflicted high casualties on the British. This defeat forced them to retreat to Wilmington, NC on the coast for resupply. After this Cornwallis moved his British forces into Virginia to raid the American supply bases there; this move left Greene in position to retake South Carolina and Georgia for the Americans. Cornwallis received orders from his commander Henry Clinton to set up a fortified naval base at Yorktown, Virginia. While there the French Naval ships arrived and blockaded the Coast. Then a Combined American and French forces surrounded Cornwallis on the land, and trapped the British forces. For about one month the British forces held out but finally surrendered on October 19, 1781. Cornwallis reported this disaster to Clinton in a letter that opened "I have the mortification to inform Your Excellency that I have been forced to give up the posts of York and Gloucester and to surrender the troops under my command by capitulation, on the 19th instant, as prisoners of war to the combined forces of America." In all, 8,000 troops, 214 artillery pieces, thousands of muskets, 24 transport ships, many wagons and horses were captured. For the British the world was turned upside down. With all these men women and children prisoners of war the Americans had to house them, and far off Fort Mifflin, over 240 miles away, was one of the places there were to be sent, and this is where your journey begins!

Historical Note:

The quest uses many PRIMARY SOURCES

What is a primary source you ask? Primary sources are documents, images or artifacts that provide firsthand testimony or direct evidence concerning an historical topic under research investigation.

Primary sources are original documents created during the time being studied or an item that experienced the event being researched. Primary sources enable researchers to get as close as possible to what actually happened during an historical event or time period.

For further reading links and references will be provided to help continue your study of 18th century history.

Fort Frederick Park Quest Trail Map



Excerpts from
The Journal of the _____ Family
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During the Late War in the Americas

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BRISTOL

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20th October, 1781—York Town, Virginia

The worst has finally occurred! Yesterday our Lord Cornwallis ended the siege of York Town by surrendering his entire army of 9,000 British and German soldiers to the American Washington & French Rochambeau's combined army of 18,000. "In consequence of this disastrous capitulation" we became prisoners of the Americans.

Despite the somber mood it was a glorious sight to behold, after these long weeks under siege, to see all the troops arrayed for the surrender. A kindly Sergeant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers helped us identify the different types of troops by their uniforms as they passed by us.

Quest no. 1

Using the information at this stop correctly label the soldiers below.



Historical Note:

The surrender of the British Army at Yorktown was the culmination of a long a successful campaign in the South with many famous battles. Sergeant Roger Lamb took part in many of them and later published his story later in life. You can read his journal online: https://archive.org/details/cihm_36104/page/n5

21 October, 1781—York Town, Virginia

The War for us is over and they say it might be end of it all soon, but our journey is just beginning. The Rebels are marching us as prisoners to Fort Frederick in Maryland. The Americans are splitting us up as an army but are trying to keep Regiments and Families together.

We are singing songs to keep our spirits up! We always liked the sound of Yankee Doodle, but it makes the veterans grumble. Apparently we used to sing it in the 1740's to mock the American colonial troops. Now the Rebels sing it with pride! Oh, how the world has turned upside down!

Quest No. 2

As a family use the lyrics at this stop to sing together. Write down any words you are unfamiliar with and look up their meaning at home.

Can you think of any other songs that have origins in the 1700's? Write them below.

Historical Note:

Many songs were used by the military as marching tunes to help keep the soldiers in step. There were quick marches and slow marches. Lots of songs reused the tunes of older songs with new words. The tune for the ***Star Spangled Banner*** was originally a drinking song.

You can learn more about the music of the 1700's by following the link to the *18th century Song Book* : <https://www.americanrevolution.org/songs.php>

15 November, 1781—Near Winchester, Virginia

The march is miserable! We are cold, sick, wounded, and hungry. Sometimes when we stop we are confined to pens and given planks and nails to make temporary huts. “It was not infrequent for thirty, or forty persons, men, women, & children to be indiscriminately crowded together in one small, miserable, open hut.” Our food when we get any is rice and salt pork delivered with a “scanty hand”. We’ve scraped together the last of our hard coin as a group and plan to buy some extra bread from a passing merchant as he is offering a fair price. We count ourselves lucky as we heard a story that a poor German woman offered a merchant her jewelry for a loaf of bread and was refused.

Quest no. 3

Your entire group has pooled its money to buy bread. Each loaf will cost 8 pence (extortion!)

Your group has 1 pound, 8 schillings, and 6 pence.

How many loaves of bread can you buy? _____

Historical Note:

- ◆ When the American colonies decided to become independent in 1775-1776 the new nation had no real monetary system or economy to speak of. The Congress and colonies quickly started issuing paper money and some coinage, but the paper money was quickly worthless as there was no gold or silver to back it. Soon a new phrase would be born, “its not worth a Continental” meaning the item was as worthless as a Continental (US) Dollar.
- ◆ Typically during the 1700’s when soldiers were captured they were simply exchanged or paroled because the captors could not maintain prisoners in captivity. However, the American decided to keep the British troops they captured, which caused the colonies to have to support a large prisoner population as well as there own soldiers, which caused shortages and suffering for both.

21 November, 1781—Near Potomac River, Maryland

We cannot believe it! We escaped! We were being treated so badly we ran away. Sergeant Lamb said we did not have to honour the parole as we weren't being treated as prisoners are required by the conventions of war. We escaped using his example, slipping away from a the guard when it was our turn to cut wood. We have a map too but, it's a long way to New York and safety through the wilderness, mountains, Yankee settlements and the cold. We should copy the map in case we get lost.

Quest No. 4

Copy the map and draw a route to safety with the British Garrison in New York. Be sure to draw and note any rivers or mountains you need to cross. How many miles is it to New York?

Historical Note:

British soldier, Roger Lamb was twice made a prisoner of war and escaped both times to rejoin the British Army. Bounties were gifted to soldiers who made it back to the army safely.

4 December, 1781—Approaching Fort Frederick, Maryland

Alas perfidious, traitorous Man! We have been recaptured and are being brought to the prison. While we were escaping some people aided us; gave us food, shelter and pointed the way. Then a waggoneer offered us a ride, and we could hide from the American patrols in the wagon. We were so happy... until he turned us over to the first Americans we met, for a cash reward. Curse this Judas and his 30 pieces of silver!

Now we can see our new home... it looks like it may be “a most dismal swamp”: in the summer but the walls are impressive. We hear this was the only fort built of stone by the provincials in the last war with France, when the British Army was hailed in the America’s, how soon they forget.

The view is nice and I think I shall sketch it for the memory!

Quest No. 5

Sketch the fort. Try and draw it as it may have looked at the time of the Revolution.

Historical Note:

“...he says that about two acres of land were enclosed by a well built stone wall about 18 feet high, that there was one wide entrance and opposite to that entrance, within, were three sizeable frame buildings, the center one of which was built with some taste, having arched doors and windows and was called the “King’s House.” J.L. Bowman relating his father memory of the fort during the American Revolution

INTERMISSION

Your Park Quest continues inside the Fort. While your journal adventures will go on, bear in mind that other activities may be occurring in the Fort. Take a break to enjoy these scheduled programs, or if you can't wait to finish your story come back after finishing your quest!

Daily Fort Programming

From 10:00 to 5:00 join our interpretive staff throughout the fort for hands on living history programs.

See our Sentry at the fort entrance for more details. Throughout the day scheduled programs will also take place and are as follows.

10:00 ~ "A Black and Yellow Flag with the Union in the Corner"

Flag Raising & Fort Open for the Day: Join our interpretive staff to learn about the unique flag that flew over Fort Frederick during the French & Indian War, and help them raise the colors! ~ Parade Ground

10:30 ~ "To practice their men in loading & Firing"

Musket Firing Demonstration: Discover how the flintlock weapons of the 18th Century worked. ~ Musket Firing Area

11:00 ~ "With Scarce a Coat or Weskit to their back"

Clothing of the Colonies: Join our interpretive staff to learn about the clothing of the people who lived and worked at Fort Frederick during the French & Indian War. ~ West Barracks

11:30 ~ "To Treat with the Southern Indians"

Take a hand in learning how the Maryland allied with Southern Indians tribes, and how the relationship affected both peoples. ~ East Barracks

12:00 ~ "Mustered and examined in Arms"; Volunteer Company Drill

All visitors are welcome to take part in a drill session to understand why the soldiers fought the way they did during the French & Indian War. ~ Parade Ground

12:30 ~ "To practice their men in loading & Firing"

Musket Firing Demonstration: Discover how the flintlock weapons of the 18th Century worked. ~ Musket Firing Area

2:00 ~ "To build a Fort"; who, why and how the fort was built

Take a hand in learning how Fort Frederick came to be. ~ East Barracks

2:30 ~ "To practice their men in loading & Firing"

Musket Firing Demonstration: Discover how the flintlock weapons of the 18th Century worked. ~ Musket Firing Area

3:00 ~ "Mustered and examined in Arms"; Volunteer Company Drill

All visitors are welcome to take part in a drill session to understand why the soldiers fought the way they did during the French & Indian War. ~ Parade Ground

3:30 ~ "To practice their men in loading & Firing"

Musket Firing Demonstration: Discover how the flintlock weapons of the 18th Century worked. ~ Musket Firing Area

4:00 ~ "We...Shall mount on each of the Bastions a Six pounder"

Join the interpretive staff to learn the role of artillery played at Fort Frederick and take a hand at learning the artillery drill ~ Fort Gate

5:00 ~ "A Black and Yellow Flag with the Union in the Corner"

Flag Lowering and Fort Closing for the Day :Join our interpretive staff to learn about the unique flag that flew over Fort Frederick during the French & Indian War, and help them take down the flag for the day. ~ Parade Ground

7 April, 1782—Fort Frederick, Maryland

Spring is here, but none of us feel like dancing. Some of the soldiers with families are allowed to build huts outside the fort walls because, “the fort is pretty full”. There are thousands of prisoners here, I’d hazard to guess over 4,000 crammed in every available space. We worry about disease spreading. Corporal Fox of the 47th Reg’t of foot described disease at another prison nearby. He said disease was so bad “men died like rotten Sheep”.

Some of the prisoners have been here since 1778 after being captured at Saratoga! They have been keeping busy learning craft skills. They made new clothes from scrap and mended old, and have kindly given us some new clothes to replace our winter rags.

Quest No. 6

Dress your entire group in the 18th century clothes provided. Take a photo and share it with friends [#revolutionaryquest2019](#)

Write below what kinds of clothes you wore:

Historical Note:

“I was astonished at the spirit of industry which prevailed among them. Men, women and even children were employed making lace, buckles, spoons exercising other mechanical trades which they learned during their captivity. They had very great liberty from the Americans, and were allowed to go round the country and sell their goods.” – Sergeant Roger Lamb, British Prisoner

5 June 1782—Fort Frederick, Maryland

Prison life is wearing us down. We thought the army was routine; Muster, Clean, Cook, Work, Clean, Sleep and repeat. The prison is all of that but worse. Less food, less space and more suffering. We have a well in the fort and sometimes it dries up. Last week the rope broke and we lost our good bucket! When extra work is needed the rules say we get paid. Some of us were paid for “redaubing the barracks.” and digging out the well, but daily chores are mandatory.

Quest No. 7

Your assigned chore is to move firewood from the stack to the barrack porches. How many pieces did you move?

Can you think of other tasks prisoners would have to do?

Historical Note:

Roger Lamb observed that many British prisoners had “lost the animation which ought to possess the breast of a soldier,” due to the circumstances of their lengthy captivity.

31 July, 1782—Ft. Frederick

The prison may be dreary but we try and keep up a Martial Aire. We still muster in ranks for roll call in the morning. We try and keep our spirits up with stories and song. Some soldiers keep escaping, but for our family that ship has sailed.

Speaking of ships, some of the prisoners told us the tale of the Jack-o-Lantern! It was a privateer loyalist ship from NEW YORK that became the “TERROR OF THE CHESAPEAKE”, burning American shipping and coastal homes. The American call our privateers, Pirates or “Sea Robbers”. The Lantern was captured on the Patuxent River by the American Privateer “Felicity” & “Antelope” and the of the “Jack-o-Lantern” was sent here as prisoners. I would not like to have met the Captain Matthew Mangan, they say he was a scary fellow who gave angry speeches. I do dream of sailing as it would be such a nice freedom on the open waters, much better than cooped up here.

Quest No. 8

Become the pirate captain of your imagination! Name your ship and design your own pirate flag!

Historical Note:

A privateer is a private person or ship that engages in maritime warfare under a commission of war. The commission, also known as a letter of marque, empowers the person to carry on all forms of hostility permissible at sea by the usages of war, including attacking foreign vessels during wartime and taking them as prizes.

Learn more about American privateers in the Revolution by following these links: <http://www.usmm.org/revolution.html> and https://www.nps.gov/revwar/about_the_revolution/privateers.html

10 May 1783—Ft. Frederick

All our adventures, suffering and strife are coming to an end; we have been paroled!

We hear rumours that the War will soon be over and Peace will be signed. Our group will be marched with safe passage to British headquarters in New York and from there we will take ships to England and home!

We have seen so much here in the last six years. Glorious fleets on the ocean that brought us here. Giant Mountains, Raw Forests, Victorious Battles, stunning defeats, Disease, suffering, starvation and small acts of human Kindness where we did least expect it. We need to sign our release form then Freedom awaits.

Quest no. 9

Sign your name on a parole form with quill & ink. Ask for help if needed

I _____ swear that I will no longer take up arms against the United States of America and will peacefully return to my home as soon as transportation is arranged. This Parole allows the bearer _____ safe passage from Fort Frederick, Maryland to New York City.

Moses Rawlings Colonel commanding and commissioner of prisoners
at Fort Frederick Maryland

April 10, 1783

Historical Note:

“America is lost! Must we fall beneath the blow? Or have we resources that may repair the mischief? What are those resources? Should they be sought in distant Regions held by precarious Tenure, or shall we seek them at home in the exertions of a new policy?” King George III

“A contemplation of the compleat attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object for which we contended against so formidable a power cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the U States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.” George Washington

5 December, 1783—Sandy Hook, New Jersey

The Ships are getting ready to depart for Portsmouth. How nice it will be to see the dock full of ships and the Old Castle Ruins at Portchester. Then it's a short ride through the Chalky hills and plains to Salisbury, Wiltshire and home. I wonder if our Uncle's Tavern is still busy at harvest time? Sergeant Lamb says we can claim a war pension for our service, so that will put some coin in our pocket.

But we have a dilemma! Some of our people do not want to leave. Not all of them have happy homes to return to, some fear the voyage and some are just done fighting. Some say there is new land to spare in this new United States of America and a hard working family could do well for themselves.

What will our family do?

Quest no. 10

Talk about this choice with your group. Weigh the pros and cons, then decide to become an American settlers or return to Britain.

Reasons:

Choice:

Historical Note:

Around 5,000 British soldiers who deserted the army remained in the American colonies after the war. Some of these men deserted because of misconduct or fear of harsh discipline but others deserted because they married women in America and did not want to leave their new families behind.

There is a common misconception that British soldiers represented the dregs of society who were forced into the military due to their dire circumstances. Author Don N. Hagist said "British society was quite a continuum from its own dregs to its upper classes. Great Britain during this time had a thriving middle class and we tend to forget that...really it was a continuum and British common soldiers came from almost every place on that spectrum...and were mostly lower middle class to middle class citizens who gravitated toward the army for the very same kind of reasons that people gravitate toward joining the army today. It was a stable career, the pay, while not great, was reasonable, and at least the pay was guaranteed once you were a soldier, unlike the large amounts of itinerant and temporary labor that was available during the era. The occupation of a soldier in Great Britain was one of the very, very few professions that offered a pension if you served for a long career. So it had a lot of attractive aspects to it."

From: <http://historyofmassachusetts.org/british-soldiers-revolutionary-war/>