

Chapter 00068 1779-1780

**Jockey Hollow,
Ford Mansion
And
Washington's Morristown HDQ

Morristown, NJ**

The Continental Army was stationed at **Jockey Hollow** which is 5 miles South of Washington's Headquarters

General George Washington stayed at the **Jacob Ford Mansion** located at 30 Washington Place, Morristown NJ.

Jockey Hollow is 5 miles south of Washington's Headquarters.

Our 2nd generation **Betsey PEARCE** worked at the Captain Isaac and Anne Plume home in Newark NJ, baking food for the troops. The food was brought North by wagon.

8/24/2024

1779 Morristown NJ was made up of 250 residents and 70 buildings. A smallpox epidemic spread through Morristown from the soldiers, making the townspeople angry at Washington's troops (Wikipedia)

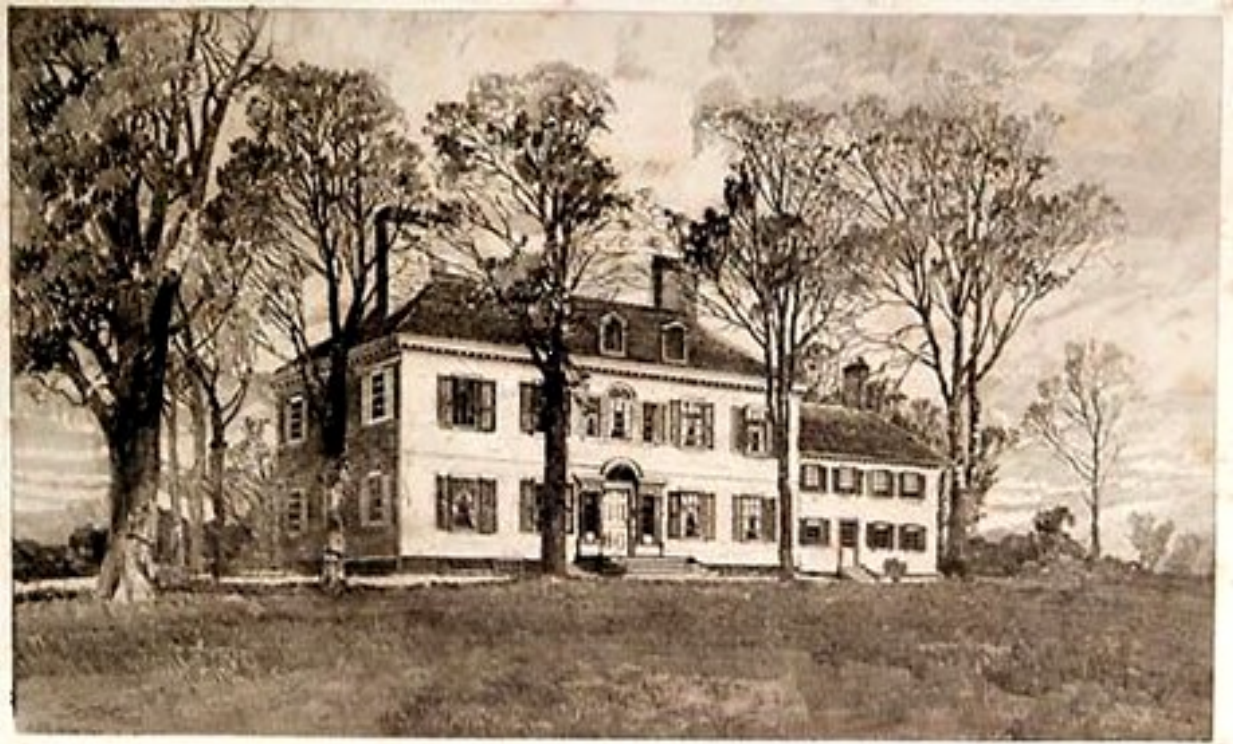
Similar thought in 1918 when our Mrs. Minnie Mulvaney Pierce (wife of Albert) died 5/13/1918 from the Spanish Flu that apparently spread from the thousands of soldiers stationed at the Navy Rifle Range, Horseneck Road, Fairfield NJ.



Swiss artist **Pierre Du Simitiere** pen-and-ink sketch shows Continental Army soldiers with two women walking or riding alongside a horse-drawn wagon stacked with supplies.

An unknown artist sketch of Washington's HDQ in Morristown NJ.





Jacob Ford Mansion, 12/14/1779—1780 Jockey Hollow, Morristown NJ.

“NJ Militia Col. Jacob Ford Jr. die there in January 1777 of pneumonia after leading militia troops. During General George Washington’s stay, this was the home of widow Theodosia Ford and her four children, who stayed in separate parts of the house from Washington.

Washington lived in the mansion from 12/1/1779 to 6/7/1780. 10,000 men encamped in Morristown, building 1,200 log huts. The troops cut down 2,000 acres of trees to build log huts for shelter and used wood as fuel for fires.

Today’s Route 202 was a main transportation road for supplies.



Bringing food to the soldiers.

“The winter of 1779-80 is still believed to be the most severe winter known in early America—possibly the worst on record in the Northeast United States. Over 20 snowfalls and sustained temperatures below freezing made travel nearly impossible for months.”

(2024 National Park Service, Jockey Hollow website)



1779 - 1780 Morristown NJ

243 years ago, 2022

"When Washington and his men arrived at Morristown, there was already a foot of snow on the ground. Over the next few months, New Jersey would have more than 20 snowstorms. It was a harsh winter throughout the colonies, and bitterly cold."

On January 5, 1780, General Nathanael Green wrote "The Army is upon the eve of disbanding for want of Provisions."

<https://www.americanhistorycentral.com/entries/hard-winter-at-morristown-1779-1780/>

Worst winter of the century. Jan. 23, 1780 MORRISTOWN NJ.

It appears the winter of 1780 will be recorded as the most severe of the century in New Jersey. A prolonged snowstorm, the 17th snowfall since Nov. 1, concluded today, and only added to the woes of the half-starved American troops in their frozen hell at Jockey Hollow.

The temperature fell to 16 degrees below zero on Jan. 16, and every harbor from North Carolina to New England is frozen. In New York, British supply ships have been unable to enter the upper bay.

"It snowed the greater part of four days successively and there fell nearly as many feet of the snow, and here was the keystone of the arch of starvation," Pvt. Joseph Martin, of the 1st Connecticut Brigade, said of the latest storm.

"We absolutely, literally starved. I do solemnly declare that I did not put a single morsel of victuals into my mouth for four days and as many nights, except for a little black birch bark which I gnawed off a stick of wood," Martin added. "I saw several of the men roast their old shoes and eat them, and I was afterward informed by one of the officer's waiters that some of the officers killed and ate a favorite little dog that belonged to one of them."

Private Joseph Martin of the 1st Conn. Brigade.





Comments below by Donald N. Moran - SAR Magazine, Fall 2004

In David Ludlam's book "Early American Winters", he points out that **28** separate snow storms hit Morristown during the **1779-1780** winter.

All roads were impassable and would stay that way until the snow melted. Not a single cart or wagon load of supplies could move.

One can understand a soldier throwing up his hands at the weather, starvation, lack of clothes, and simply going home. The records from Jockey Hollow show 1,072 deserted and 305 men died there.

2014: I like to imagine food arriving from the Plume House where 2nd generation Betsey Pearce worked. Glen





**Jockey Hollow,
Morristown, NJ**

ca 2008

"We reached this wilderness, about 3 miles from Morristown (Jockey Hollow) where we are building log huts for winter quarters. The snow on the ground is two feet deep and the weather extremely cold" - Dr. James Thacher, Continental Army Surgeon 12/1779.



Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ





At Morristown NJ, the weather was often **16 degrees below zero** during the Winter of 1779-1780. Food was scarce and so was warmth. Our **Betsey Pearce** baked food at the Newark home of Ensign Isaac Plume. The food was transferred to Morristown.

Morristown National Historical Park
in Morristown, NJ. North NJ.

This park was established 1933 and became the country's first National Historical Park.

The park is composed of three units:

Jockey Hollow (encampment site of the Continental Army from 10/1779 - 6/1780),

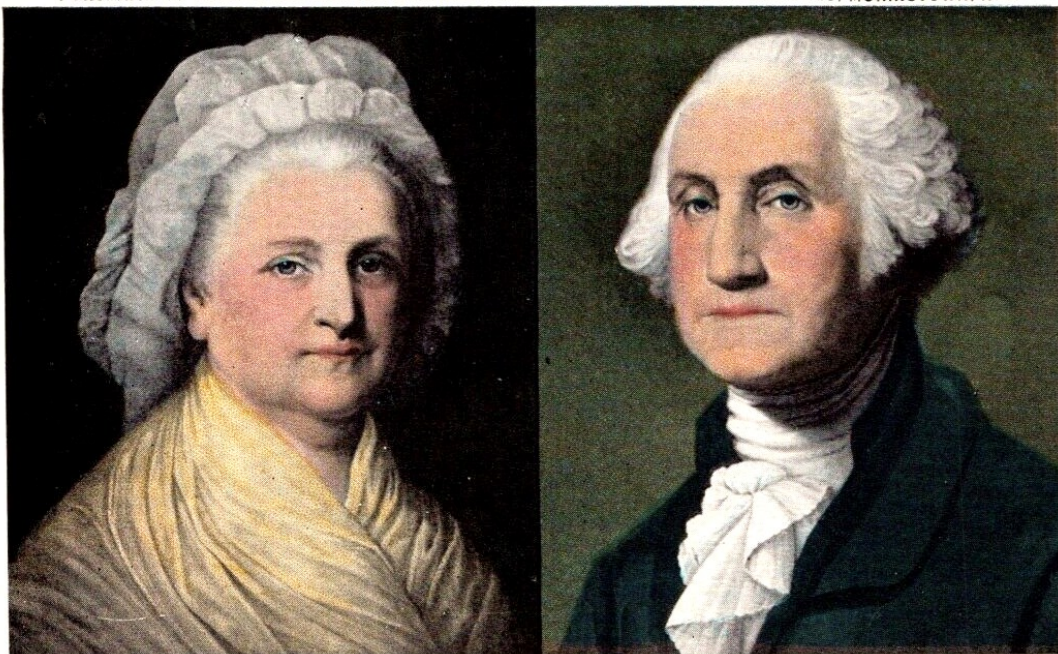
the **Ford Mansion** (the headquarters of George Washington from 12/1779 – 5/1780), and

Fort Nonsense.

2018 info from the History Girl.

Kelly Lindheimer

PORTRAITS OF GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON AT WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, MORRISTOWN, N. J.





**Jacob Ford Mansion, Washington's Headquarters
12/1779 to 6/1780, 30 Washington Place,
Morristown, NJ**



About 3 miles from where the troops quartered.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT MORRISTOWN.





General George Washington slept here. So did **Glen and Freddy** in Spring 1958 with the Fairfield NJ Boy Scouts Troop #7. We pitched our pup tent in the back right side, as you face the home. A glimpse of the nearby small 1780 log cabins made us sad.

We played mumbley-peg near the big tree. We never lost a leg.



