

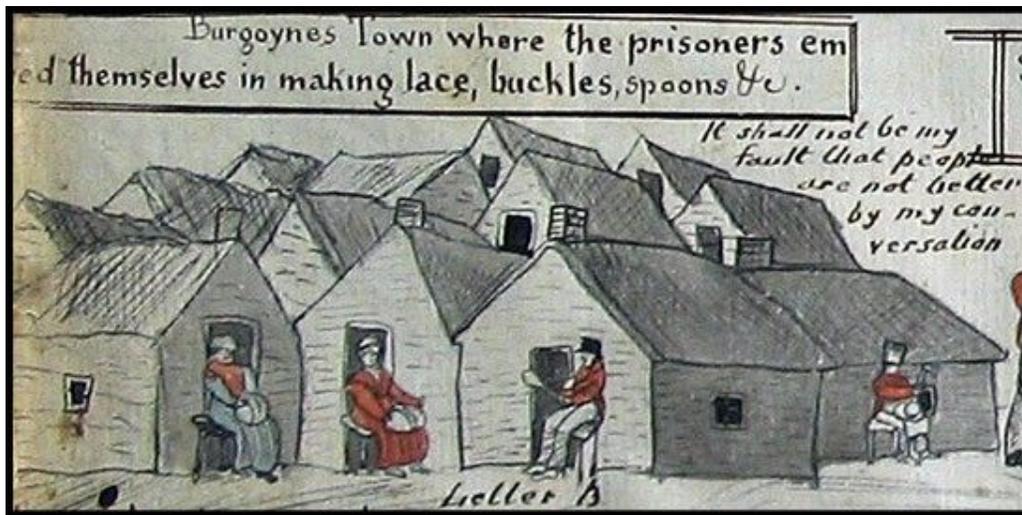
Friends of Camp Security

2017, Edition 12



A Revolutionary War Prison Camp
(1781-1783)

Women and Children at Camp Security



“Men, women and children were employed making lace, buckles, spoons, and exercising other mechanical trades, which they had learned during their captivity.”

An Original and Authentic Journal of Occurrences During the Late American War:
From Its Commencement to the Year 1783 (page 398)
Sergeant Roger Lamb)
Dublin: Wilkinson & Courtney, 1809
[Sergeant Lamb's Journal](#)

Who were these women and children at Camp Security? What were they doing at a prisoner of war camp?

Today, these women and children are known by the term “camp followers”. It would not have been a term used in the eighteenth century.

“They were [usually] respectable married women, frequently pregnant and usually accompanied by their children, who were recognized as an essential part of the

military organization. They were not treated equally with the male troops -- they traveled with the baggage and received only half rations -- but their contribution to the military effort was recognized by officers and men on both sides.”

Founding Mothers: Women of the American Revolution (pages 179-180)

by Linda Grant DePauw

Houghton Mifflin Company, 1975



Reenactor: Kim Walters

Source: 17th Light Dragoons in North America (17ld@blogspot.com)

The women and children did not only follow the troops, but had their place in the functioning of the camps.

“Camp followers, throughout history, have been a necessary presence during war time. During the Revolutionary War, women tended to laundering and mending clothing, cooking meals and nursing the wounded. On the march, they were expected to keep up, often carrying pots and pans, personal belongings and children as they struggled to keep pace. Also accompanying the troops were civilian drivers, sutlers (who set up their stores for the soldiers to purchase necessary items), and members of the clergy. There are accounts of women stopping along the way to give birth, only to rejoin the march in order to stay with their spouse.”

"As a matter fact, between 10% and 20% of the population of the camps consisted of women and children."

Evidence of Children at Revolutionary War Sites

by Michael Cohn

Northeast Historical Archaeology: Vol. 12 12, Article 8

[Article Link](#)

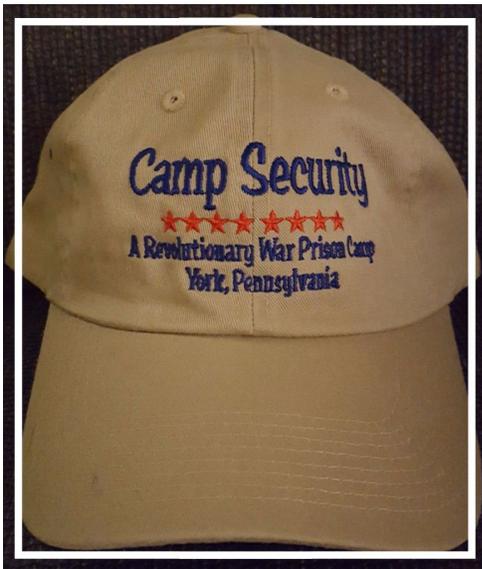
Who were these women and children at Camp Security? They were not simply “camp followers”, but they played an integral part in the daily operations of the camp.

Colonial Williamsburg Camp Followers Video Clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbiyqIKNzLo&feature=youtu.be>

FOCS Caps

Many FOCS members and volunteers have asked about Friends of Camp Security caps. FOCS caps are now available, and the design appears below. It is an adjustable, sturdy cap with embroidered lettering, not silk screen lettering. Therefore, the cost is \$25.



There are two options for purchasing a cap.

Option 1: If you live locally, just email us at campsecurity@campsecurity.org, and arrangements can be made for delivery and \$25 payment.

Option 2: If you would like the cap mailed to you, just complete the form below and mail it to:

**The Friends of Camp Security
PO Box 20008 York, PA 17402**

[Caps Order Form](#)

Membership Drive
Please help us by donating at:
www.campsecurity.org

Please direct any comments or questions to:

campsecurity@campsecurity.org