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

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

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 wartime. 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.”

The Role of Camp Followers in the American Revolution
"As a matter fact, between 10% and 20% of the population of the camps consisted of women and children."

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