

# Replay of Iron Works Hill battle set

By: ROSE KREBS Burlington County Times

MOUNT HOLLY - Those wishing to know what it was like 233 years ago during the Battle of Iron Works Hill, a key skirmish just before Gen. George Washington's resounding victory at the Battle of Trenton, can get the chance Saturday.

The sixth annual Holly Day/Battle of Iron Works Hill, organized by the nonprofit Main Street Mount Holly and the township, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature the re-enactment of the Colonials' defeat of the Hessians for control of the hill, as well as an encampment, cooking demonstration, speakers and presentations.

Alicia McShulkis, event co-chairwoman, said it attracts history buffs, families, Scout groups and those who simply "want to see what it may have been like" during the Revolutionary War era. About 200 re-enactors, from as far away as Maryland and Ohio, are expected to participate, McShulkis said.

There will be two encampments: a "Crown Forces Camp" at the Burlington County Prison Museum and a "Colonial Camp" at Mill Race Village.

The Crown Forces Camp will feature a British military surgeon demonstration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; an 18th century cooking demonstration by Mercy Ingraham from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; a "Sutlers" display and sale of 18th century goods to re-enactors and visitors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and an artillery firing demonstration at 2:30 p.m.

The Colonial Camp will offer "a new-recruit drilling" for children at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and re-enactors will describe camp and military life all day. At 11:30 a.m. at High and Garden streets, an officer's meeting will be re-enacted.

From 3 to 3:45 p.m., the actual battle will be re-enacted with narration and a "Dancing With the Stars (and Stripes) in 1776" session with dance instructor Noah Lewis will be held at 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, 121 High St.

Other events include a book signing from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. by author John Nagy of Mount Laurel at The Bookery, 20 White St., in Mill Race Village. Nagy is the author of "Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution."

Re-enactor and historian Noah Lewis will present Edward "Ned" Hector, a free black man from Pennsylvania who became a Colonial soldier, at noon at the Olde Courthouse, 120 High St.; and the Queen's Rangers, a well-known loyalist regiment, will be stationed at the historic Brainerd Street schoolhouse at 35 Brainerd St.

Also, for \$10 visitors can have lunch with the troops, featuring period fare of stew, bread, cider and dessert, or enjoy a tea with a Colonial girl for \$15.

The Battle of Iron Works Hill was fought from Dec. 21 to 26, 1776, and was a key victory for the Colonial forces logistically, as the Hessians were lured south and unable to help the British fight Washington's forces at Trenton.

This year's celebration is being sponsored by the Historic Prison Museum Association, Mill Race Village Arts and Preservation, and Parker McCay Attorneys at Law. Local businesses will be open during the event and will offer deals to re-enactors. After Holly Day/Battle of Iron Works Hill, a Chocolate Walk will be held in Mill Race Village. For \$20, visitors can sample chocolate from 13 shops in town. The walk starts at 4 p.m.

For more information about Holly Day/Battle of Iron Works Hill, visit [www.mainstreetmountholly.com](http://www.mainstreetmountholly.com). For more information about the walk, visit [www.millraceshops.com](http://www.millraceshops.com).

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