

Battle of Monmouth Trail Questionnaire

After the trail orientation program at Lawrence Lodge, follow the trail markers across the main camp road and down the trail to Alt. Route 527 exiting by the fire gate. Turn right and proceed down this road to Main Street in Englishtown. Please follow the trail markers along the route.

1. What lake do you pass? _____

Englishtown is named after James, David and Robert English, who purchased and settled this land about 1730. The lake is an old mill pond. At 25 Main Street is the Moses Laird house. Laird was a guide to George Washington during the battle and was his host on June 29, 1778, the day after the battle. As this building is not open to the public, proceed respectfully up the driveway to the marker on the house.

2. Who placed the bronze plaque on this house? _____

Return quietly to Main Street, turn left and proceed to the corner of Water and Main Streets. On that corner is the Village Inn, which served as headquarters for the Continental Army.

3. The Village Inn was built in what year? _____

4. According to the two markers on the inn, what took place here and why?

The Village Inn is occasionally open to the public and may be toured by your group. Cross Main Street, turn right and walk to the intersection of Main Street and Tennent Avenue (Route 522 at the traffic light). Follow Route 522 facing the traffic, then take Church Lane (near Manalapan High School) to Old Tennent Church. Church Lane leads to the gateway of Old Tennent Church. While walking through the Tennent cemetery, travel as a group and stay on the trail. The cemetery has many old and fragile headstones that may not be touched. This is an active church and cemetery, please show proper respect. Estimate the height of the flagpole in the center of the walk.

5. The flagpole is _____ **feet tall.**

Proceed up the walk to the church. Tennent Church was built on White Hill, so named for the white oaks that grew here. When the Reverend William Tennent, Jr. died in 1777, he was buried beneath the center aisle in the church. Press the button near the church entrance to listen to a recording of the church history.

6. What information is recorded on the bronze plaques by the southeast door?

7. How many plaques are on the front of the church? _____

Many of the casualties of both sides were buried in common graves. South of the church is a monument to the memory of the known and unknown soldiers who fought in the Battle of Monmouth and were laid to rest in this churchyard.

8. Who erected this monument? _____

9. What animal is on top of the weathervane on the church steeple? _____

This weathervane was built by Benjamin Van Cleve for the original church in 1731 and moved to this building in 1751. Cannon shots coming from the southwest fell near the church. One soldier was sitting on a tombstone when a shot struck the stone and injured him. He was carried into the church and laid in a pew where he died.

Follow the trail markers through the cemetery to the Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Trail signs are limited in the park, so stay alert. Proceed to Sterling's Outlook, one of the two main Continental artillery positions. The trail follows the tree line until it reaches Sterling's Outlook. General Sterling was in command of this position on Perrine Ridge while General Greene was in command of artillery on Comb's Hill, about a mile south from here. In front of the outlook runs the West Morass (Weamaconk Creek). The only way across the morass was a causeway where Na Tsi Hi Lodge Monmouth Council BSA 7/2010

Route 522 crosses over a bridge. Once General Lee and his forces retreated behind the causeway, the two artillery positions prevented the British Army from advancing past this point and permitted Washington to reorganize Lee's retreating men. As Sterling and Greene started to fire, the British brought up 16 artillery pieces and returned fire from a position in front of and between the Continental batteries. The Continental artillery matched the British with 16 pieces of French and captured British guns. Continental soldiers rested as artillery exchanged fire in the heat of the late afternoon. Turn right and proceed to the gap in the wooden fence. Turn left and proceed to the Sutfin House.

The Sutfin house was used as a field hospital. A well near the house provided water for surgeons and the injured soldiers. An orchard was located behind the house. During the battle, the 42nd Highlanders attempted to flank the artillery on Perrine Ridge. The attack was spotted and Sterling, with the help of Continental sharpshooters, killed half of the advancing soldiers. This forced the previously undefeated 42nd Highlanders to retreat.

Continue on the trail behind the Sutfin house. A short distance past the East Morass is the site where General Washington intercepted General Lee in his retreat towards Englishtown. Washington knew he had to rally the troops to prevent defeat. Lee was later court-martialed for his actions.

Following the trail markers, use the pedestrian crosswalk to cross Route 522 and follow the trail under the railroad bridge. Follow the park road through the orchard and over a footbridge to the battlefield visitor's center on Comb's Hill. The visitor center contains exhibits, restrooms, and a picnic area. Outside the center at the northeast corner is a stone monument with a bronze plaque.

10. What is the date of the battle on the plaque? _____

After touring the visitor's center, retrace your steps and follow the same trail back to Route 522. Turn right and use the crosswalk to cross Route 522. Proceed to the park service road and turn left. Follow this road to the park maintenance area and turn right onto the dirt road. Follow this road to the Craig house. The Craig house was built in 1710. John Craig was a Colonial Army paymaster and his house was well behind the British lines. When Mrs. Craig learned that the British were likely to engage in battle near their farm, she packed the wagons and headed west towards Upper Freehold with their child. Before departing, she placed her household silver in a kettle and sank it in the well. During the hot June day the British soldiers drained the well and found her silver.

11. How many windows are on the southwest side of the house? _____

The day of the battle was one of the hottest days on record for Freehold and it is believed that as many soldiers were overcome by heat as were wounded in battle. Follow the trail markers along the wooden fence and through the woods, across a plank bridge and past the Bethel AME cemetery. Turn onto Old Monmouth Road and continue to Route 522. Turn left towards Freehold and hike on the left side of the road in a single-file line facing traffic. St. Peter's Church, at the corner of Throckmorton Street (Route 522) and West Main Street, was used as a hospital by both armies. After the battle, the British left their wounded here.

12. Who placed the plaque on the church door? _____

Turn left onto Main Street. Main Street follows one of the early Lenape trails known as the Burlington Path. Walk along Main Street and cross Court Street. A monument marks the site of the original Monmouth Courthouse.

13. What is recorded on this plaque? _____

Proceed along Court Street to the battle monument, which was dedicated on November 13, 1884, a little over a century after the battle.

14. What is the height of the monument? _____

15. How many bronze tablets encircle the monument? _____

END OF TRAIL

Monmouth Council BSA and Na Tsi Hi Lodge Order of the Arrow are proud to sponsor the Battle of Monmouth Historic Trail. We encourage you to use proper trail manners and hope you enjoy the trail.