

## Jerry & Linda Morris, 1835 Soldier and Washerwoman



Jerry Morris and his wife Linda do classes at schools (public or private), libraries, civic groups, mobile home parks, scout troops, city or county parks, or just about anywhere a group will gather.

Jerry comes dressed in his hand-made Seminole Wars period uniform, providing interesting details about the hat, shirt, jacket, trousers and shoes. Linda wears a period dress and speaks about the clothing women of the period wore.

Their class consists of a display of the rations a soldier ate for a day and

the method of preparation. Each food item is discussed in detail. Pieces of Hard Bread are passed out for all to sample. All of the eating utensils and a tooth brush are passed around to be examined. Linda displays her hand-made wooden wash board and water bucket, and talks about her duties as washerwoman, the pay, and other tasks an army wife might perform.

Jerry brings (in a case) his reproduction of an 1816 flintlock musket with bayonet, plus an authentic 1838 sword which he talks about. He complies with all state firearm rules. The musket is plugged and cannot be fired. Rules say nothing can (or will) be inserted into the barrel. To prevent any problems, schools, parks, libraries and such must notify their security beforehand.

Jerry demonstrates how a cartridge was made for the musket using white sand instead of black powder and a marble instead of a lead ball. All the steps of loading the musket are detailed, including seeing the flint spark as the trigger is pulled.

If you have room outside and want to do several one-hour classes in a day, they will set up their 1835 officer's tent. It takes up about 25' X 25' of space (including ropes), has a tent fly in front with benches for students to sit on in the shade. In the tent are two handmade rope beds with stuffed mattresses. Everyone is invited to lie down and get the feel of them. It has a small room in back, which the officers used as their rest room. On display there is a wash stand with a mirror, wash pan, shaving mug and brush, soap, wash cloth and towels, pitcher for water, and a (dull) straight razor. On the opposite end of the rest room is a chamber pot. Jerry and Linda may need some assistance setting up the tent.

Jerry and Linda live in south east Tampa and will travel anywhere (within reason). The classes are free of charge. He does offer for sale his and Jeff Hough's book on the Fort King Road, his pamphlet on the soldier's food, and one on Tampa's first Anglo-Saxon family, the Levi Collar Family and Levi's daughter Nancy Collar Jackson.

Contact Jerry and Linda at 813-621-5857 (home), 813-298-5088 (cell), or by e-mail at [camp1go@aol.com](mailto:camp1go@aol.com)