



The Brandywine Dispatch



WINTER 2023

At the Brandywine Battlefield Park

ANNUAL MEETING of the MEMBERSHIP

Thursday, December 15, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Visitors Center Education Room

AND

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Immediately following the Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

All Members and Volunteers of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. We are excited to host this event at the Park for the first time in two years!

The Annual Report will be presented by Linnell "Linn" Trimbell, President
The Report of Brandywine Battlefield Park activities will be presented by Troy Grubb,
PHMC Historic Site Administrator

Election of the Board Officers and Directors for 2023

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Volunteers and Members are invited to this special celebration immediately following the Annual Meeting for a buffet and beverages.

2022 Volunteer of the Year!

Volunteer Recognition

Bruce Mowday, author of Lafayette at Brandywine, will present the American Friends of Lafayette plans for the Lafayette Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour 2024-2025.

Volunteers are invited to bring a guest.

RSVP to Robin Baker at bbpavolunteerdirector@gmail.com

*The Brandywine Dispatch is the newsletter for the Brandywine Battlefield Park.
The Brandywine Dispatch is published by the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates.
"Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting!"*



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Melody Schwartz
*Education Program
Coordinator*

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Jesse Wolfe
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Submissions are Welcome!

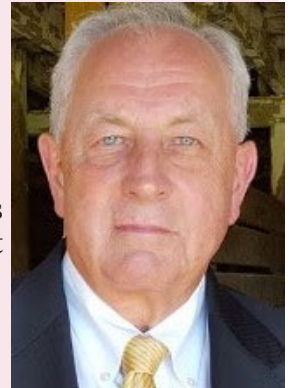
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The President's View

The Times They Are a-Changin

As young lad in 1964, the music of Bob Dylan was a bit too radical for my taste. To me, at the time, his song, [*The Times They Are a-Changin*](#) (*Dylan 1964), was just another in the line of his "folksy-hippie" music. That song, as songs by numerous entertainers, has certainly sustained the test of time. If one reads or listens to the lyrics of the song you can interpret a variety of meanings. Perhaps, it even has a prophetic meaning for the Brandywine Battlefield Park. It is my observation, the delivery of our Historical story has been challenged by several constraints since the hiatus of the recent pandemic. Now, bear with me for the *Good News!*



This past Friday (12/09/2022), I was privileged to attend the *Longwood Foundation Fall Grantee Celebration* on behalf of BBPA for our successful grant award. Through the Foundation's leadership I was able to meet, "break bread" and network with forty-five (45) other Longwood Foundation grant recipients. On the surface, this may seem like a purely social engagement. Not so! This event established a platform for all of the recipients to flourish, expand and achieve maximum success.

Current challenges facing BBPA are simply opportunities unrefined. BBPA now has an exciting rebirth of new Staff and Volunteers. Our approach to the *Living History Initiative* and all our education programs are ripe for success! Simply put, the public environment has changed and we must adjust. We must rethink, reinvent and create - gather 'round my friends for *The Times They Are a-Changin!*

Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell
President, Board of Directors
Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

OUR MISSION

"To preserve, interpret and share the impact of the enduring story of the Battle of the Brandywine, the largest single day land battle of the American Revolution."

Food for Thought

What would we do if we woke up one morning to realize that all our food was gone? And all the food of our neighbors and community was also gone? This is exactly what happened to the residents of Chadds Ford and the surrounding area. An estimated 30,000 Continental and British troops descended on this rural area and fought the



“Battle of the Brandywine” on September 11, 1777. These troops required food. The armies purchased some food from the residents prior to the battle. Promissory notes were also provided, but many were never repaid. Washington and his army retreated from the area following the actual destruction of the battle; however, the British remained for five days to replenish

their supplies. The British achieved this by looting and ransacking the local mills, farms and residences. They took livestock, crops, stored and preserved foods, personal possessions, money and other valuables. The British soldiers destroyed fields of standing crops waiting to be harvested with their encampments.

How to survive the winter to come? Those who could afford to leave did so, and many never returned. Many had no choice but to stay. It was too late in the season to replant gardens and crops. Their livestock was gone. There were no chickens for eggs, no cows for milk, butter and cheese, no animals for slaughter. They no longer had surplus items that could be used for barter and nor did they have the money necessary to purchase food.

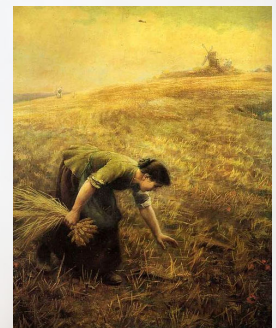
Foraging had long been a practice to supplement the food they grew and raised. Many foraged foods, such as wineberries, were out of season but there were still foods to be found. The American Chestnut tree was prolific during the 18th century, accounting for 40% of the native forest.



Black walnut trees were also in abundance. The nuts on the trees had not yet fully ripened at the time of the battle and residents gathered the nuts and stored them for the winter months to come.



Other food to be foraged included late ripening crabapples, wild mushrooms including Hen of the Wood, fox grapes and wild rose hips. Wild greens including chickweed and hairy bittercress could be foraged in the winter. Gleaning the fields was a familiar practice, but it became vital after the battle. With their fields of standing crops destroyed, the women and children went to the fields and gathered by hand those grains and kernels that were undamaged and still edible. This was slow, backbreaking work but necessary for survival. Part of the gleaning would be saved for planting the following year. Some garden crops, such as potatoes that were planted outside the garden areas and unnoticed, were able to be salvaged.



Hunting and fishing were ways to supplement the food stores but both activities were challenging. Large and small mouth bass resided in the Brandywine River but the fish were dormant during the cold months and did not rise to feed. Shad was plentiful during the spring and summer but mature shad migrated in the fall, leaving only the young fish. The wildlife had been greatly depleted by the troops and men had to travel farther from home in order to hunt deer, rabbit and wild fowl.

“We had the full opportunity of beholding the destruction and wanton waste committed on the property of the peaceful inhabitants of the neighborhood, and on the ground of encampment. Those who were obliged to remain had their stock of cattle destroyed for the use of the army—their houses taken away, and their household furniture, bedding, etc., wantonly wasted and burned.” —Joseph Townsend, Quaker resident and witness at the Battle of the Brandywine.

The Field Report

As our visitation season winds down, I wanted to mention some of the highlights of the last few months. These include hiring a new education program coordinator, kicking off our Revolutionary Speaker Series programs, and hosting events such as Lafayette's Birthday, Remembrance Day, and Patriots Day.

In August, the Associates' hired Melody Schwartz as our education program coordinator. Since joining BBPA, Melody has coordinated school programs, represented the park at community events and has started conducting her own tours of the site. She is already a valued member of our staff, and we look forward to what she will contribute to our site. Please welcome Melody.



After a long hiatus, BBPA was able to resume the Revolutionary Speaker Series program at the Park. Our first program was on September 20 with speaker, Michael Idriss, the African American Interpretive Fellow at the Museum of the American Revolution. His presentation, entitled "Making the Museum," focused on the creation of the museum as well as the history and conservation of the museum's most prized artifact - General Washington's marquee tent. Our next program on October 18 featured author Michael Harris, who shared discoveries from his book *Germantown: A Military History of the Battle for Philadelphia*, October 4, 1777. Both presentations were excellent, and we look forward to those ahead. See our calendar of events for future Speaker Series programs, and please consider joining us.

Our event schedule for the late summer/early fall kept us busy with Lafayette's Birthday celebration, Remembrance Day, and Patriots Day. For Lafayette's Birthday, we celebrated with French-themed foods such as crepes, madeleines, and macrons as well as living history demonstrations. As for Remembrance Day, the weather was uncooperative, and we were forced to hold our ceremony in the Visitor Center. Despite the weather, we had a poignant ceremony dedicated to those British, German, and American soldiers who lost their lives on September 11, 1777. U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan delivered our keynote address and presented us with a flag that flew over the Capitol on July 4, 2022. In contrast to the weather on Remembrance Day, we had beautiful weather for our Patriots Day event. The 2nd Pennsylvania and 1st Delaware Regiments discussed camp life for soldiers and camp followers and performed military drills and firing demonstrations. We also conducted living history demonstrations including colonial cooking, blacksmithing, militia life, and carpentry.



I want to thank everyone who helped make my first year as site administrator an informative and rewarding experience. My hope is to build upon the experiences of the past year and continue to develop partnerships with other organizations and further our mission of educating the public about the Battle of Brandywine and the people who lived and fought here.

Troy Grubb
PHMC Site Administrator

Mario Lerario

Volunteer of the Year!

Editor: Congratulations Mario for your well-deserved Volunteer of the Year Award!

Mario: Thank you! I am honored to receive this award. I was not expecting any recognition for my efforts as the 18th century carpenter at the Battlefield. I am having fun participating in the programs.

Editor: What drew you to BBPA to become a volunteer?

Mario: I learned from the Chadds Ford Township that the Park Associates were looking for volunteers. I contacted Linn Trimbell who asked me to become a member of the Advisory Council. Linn then learned of my carpentry experience and asked me if I would be interested in becoming the 18th century carpenter because John Gras, the current carpenter, was retiring. I jumped at the chance.

I met with John who was most helpful with transitioning me into the role of the 18th century carpenter. He provided me with a copy of his presentation and his collection of 18th century carpentry tools.

Editor: What have your volunteer activities included, in addition to your role as the 18th Century Carpenter?

Mario: I helped other volunteers with the Yard Garden restoration, pulling many weeds, digging holes, and planting herbs. I have participated with some of the house tours. Both of these activities enriched my experience and knowledge of the Park and our programs. I attended the Zoom meetings as a BBPA Member. This gave me a greater understanding of what was important to the board and the organization, such as fundraising and volunteering efforts.

Editor: What has your volunteer experience been like?

Mario: Because I have a great love for history, this experience has motivated me to conduct research into America's past. I have learned how interesting our past is, how events are interconnected and how circumstances affect a wide variety of people. I have learned the importance of good and accurate research for my presentations.

Editor: Thank you Mario for your dedicated and cheerful support of the BBPA Volunteer Program.

Mario: Volunteering with BBPA is a rewarding experience and I feel greatly honored to be the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. I want to thank Robin, Melody, Linn and Troy for their encouragement, help and support. I am looking forward to another year with new research for a future surveying presentation to include map making and map reading-just like George Washington!



Please visit our website or contact us for more
information about our Volunteer Program and
becoming a Volunteer!

Robin Baker, volunteer Program Coordinator
bbpavolunteerdirector@gmail.com
www.brandywinebattlefield.org

Welcome Melody Schwartz, Education Program Coordinator

"I joined the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA) at the end of summer and it was a very busy time! I have been able to learn first-hand about the activities at the Park. It is wonderful to learn about our programs and events from the experienced staff and volunteers who have generously shared their knowledge about the history of the Brandywine Battlefield Park and how we reach the public through our programs.

Program development for the Colonial Days Program and Summer History Camp will be a primary focus. "Living History" education programs will include STEM components with the goal to provide the students with an enjoyable and engaging activities while participating in a meaningful learning activity. A goal is to provide interesting and exciting "Living History" programs that will appeal to all members of our community.

I am a graduate of Eastern University with a major in history and minors in biology and dance. I have taught and tutored history and also teach dance. One of my professional goals is to work in the area of museum education and I am very excited to have this opportunity with BBPA. During the pandemic I learned to cook and bake. I am interested in learning more about Colonial Cooking for my newfound hobby.

I look forward to meeting you at the Park! Thank you everyone!

--Melody

Melody can be contacted at bbpaeducationdirector@gmail.com



History Challenge

Colonial American English Definitions

Fabian—(adj) Delaying, dilatory. In imitation of the Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus who conducted operations against Hannibal in 202 B.C., by harassing him but declining decisive battles, thus living to fight another day. A 1777 Philadelphia newspaper said, "Washington persisted in his Fabian system of defense".

Gossip- (n) (1) A sponsor, a godparent. From Anglo-Saxon *god sib* 'God related'. In 1714, William Byrd recorded, "There came abundance of company and I and Dick Kennon with Jenny Bolling were gossips." (2) A partner. In 1675 Mary Rowlandson while a captive of Indians wrote, "I...invited my master and mistress to dinner, but the proud gossip, because I served them both in one dish, would eat nothing."

Outcry- (N) A sale at public auction. In 1657 a court in North Castle, New York, ordered, "The estate of John Finch sold at an outcry at a townes meeting".

Who Said That?

- 1. "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."
- 2. "I have not yet begun to fight."
- 3. "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes. Then fire low."

Answers on page 7

At the Brandywine Battlefield Park-Winter Schedule

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Celebration December 15, 2022
The Park will be closed for the season December 18, 2022 to March 12, 2023
Revolutionary Speaker Series Saturdays 12:00 noon-2:00p.m.
January 21, 2023 Jen Janofsky and Wade Catts share project management and design for the archeological dig at Red Bank Battlefield, NJ.
February 25, 2023 Wade Catts discusses general archeology.
March 18, 2023 Brad Smith and BBPA volunteer Fred Magner provide insights about Dr. Bodo Otto and 18th Century Medicine.
March 12, 2023 Charter Day!

Please check the website for updates!
www.brandywinebattlefield.org

Something for Everyone

Are you looking for gift ideas this holiday season? Here are some suggestions.
 Nancy recommends the following from the Gift Shop.



Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777

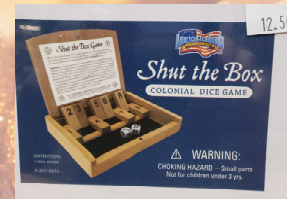
By Mike Harris

Give the Gift of Membership!

A BBPA Membership is the gift that gives all year. A membership provides a full year of activities and benefits.

www.brandywinebattlefield.org/join/

For more information



Shut the Box A Colonial Dice Game

Shop with Amazon Smile

Please consider shopping at smile.amazon.com Amazon will donate 0.5% of all your purchases to Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Just sign up to support Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates when on Amazon Smile. Then do all your Amazon shopping at their Smile

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Puzzle answers from page 6

Who said that?

1. Patrick Henry
2. John Paul Jones
3. Israel Putnam

"The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #23-2143174. The official registration and financial information of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement"