



The Brandywine Dispatch



SPRING 2023

Join us at the Brandywine Battlefield Park!

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 22, 2023

Programs will include

- Delaware Museum of Nature and Science demonstration
 - Rob King and Chadds Ford Tree Service: Planting a growing tree
 - Gene Pisasale: "Show and Tell" presentation about the mines and minerals of Chester County
 - The Ring House Historical Garden
 - Stacey's Face Painting
 - Arts and Crafts
- 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



BREWS AT THE BATTLEFIELD JUNE 17, 2023

SLY FOX BREWING COMPANY



5:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.

will be joined by area breweries and provide a beer tasting worthy of the great offerings this region has to offer! Join us for food, music, beer and fun.

Tickets: \$40.00 Reduced cost for designated drivers.

Revolutionary Speaker Series 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. at the Park

March 18, 2023
Brad Smith, presenter

April 15, 2023
Fredericke Baer, presenter

BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD SUMMER CAMP

Summer is on the way! Campers entering grades 3-6 can experience "Live the Battle Week" and "Step into the Past Week." Camp is four weeks June/July, 2023. Registration is now open.

<https://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/summer-camp/>

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

History Lives at the Brandywine Battlefield Park

We often think of “history” as a list of facts including names, dates and places of events to be memorized, but later forgotten. We usually don’t think about the people experiencing those past events or the impact on their lives and community. The Battle of the Brandywine was fought on September 11, 1777. It was the largest single day land battle of the American Revolution with over 30,000 troops engaged in the fighting over an area of approximately fifty square miles. The British Army won the battle and the Continental Army retreated to Chester. Those are the facts but they tell only a fraction of the historical story.

Living History experiences are for everyone. We can be active participants, not just onlookers. Children can partake in 18th century games and play with 18th century toys. We don’t just watch a demonstration, we make the paper, write with quill pens and ink, learn to weave and dance. The 18th century attired carpenter and blacksmith invite us to be their apprentices and Continental soldiers share their experiences as we learn to pitch tents, read maps and live a soldier’s life.



We wish to thank our generous supporters who make the Living History Initiative possible and allow all of us to participate in history!

Americana Corner

Longwood Foundation

The McLean Contributionship

Imagine we are visiting the Ring House. Smoke is rising from the chimney as we approach this historic home. Mrs. Ring, dressed in historically correct clothing, greets us as we enter. We hear the sound of a fire crackling and the smell of food cooking. Mrs. Ring invites us into her kitchen to help prepare food. We might make butter in a reproduction butter churn, pour water or cream from heavy ceramic jugs, or mix ingredients in a ceramic bowl using a wooden spoon, while stirring a pot cooking over an open flame. We are “living in history.” Mrs. Ring tells us about the Battle of the Brandywine and its historic importance for the Philadelphia Campaign and the American Revolutionary War. At the end of the presentation Mrs. Ring shares with us the following: “My husband sent me and my nine children away when the Continental Army began to arrive and set up camp. I was not here during the battle. When we returned there was so much destruction and devastation to the area that I didn’t know how we would survive.”

OUR MISSION

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



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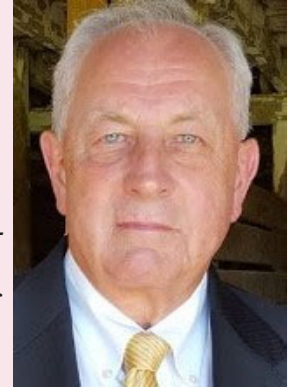


The President's View

Time to Crow!

“*Crow*” or “to make a boastful noise” is believed to have originated from the Old English language. The term apparently originated from the fact that crows make sudden loud noises. As I reflect over the 2022 calendar year our organization deserves a time to “*Crow*”!

First, we survived the pandemic! Recovering from the pandemic may not seem like an accomplishment, however in March 2020, our future was very uncertain. Through resiliency we refocused and grew financially without being able to provide our core education programs of *Colonial Days* and *Summer History Camp*. We exercised responsible constraint to protect and grow our financial base. Our grant development process has been a stellar success. Thank you, Carol and Brett!



In February, 2022, we welcomed the assignment of a full-time PHMC Historic Site Administrator. Welcome and thank you, Troy! Working jointly, we have collaborated with our staff to reset the Park programs and *Historic Garden*. With the arrival of a skilled and insightful volunteer our Volunteer Management Program flourished. On July 1, 2022 the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA) added the position of Volunteer Program Coordinator. Our volunteer program now has structure, purpose, and focus and supported by the valiant work of our volunteers. Thank you, Robin! The rebirth of our Education Programs took flight last year when we served seven (7) schools, which included 732 students. The E.N. Peirce Middle School visited the Park with over 350 students on one day, which was largest school group in our history. September brought our new Education Program Coordinator. Through entrepreneurship our *Living History Initiative* is being integrated into Weekend Visitor, *Colonial Days*, and *Summer History Camp* programs, this year. Thank you, Melody!

Our Board of Directors has been instrumental in providing guidance and direction to BBPA. During the Spring of 2022, with the support of a grant from the Chester County Community Foundation, our Board participated in a 6-hour training program, designed to improve compliance and the quality of Board activities. New Board Members have added excitement and creativity in leading organizational improvements. I would certainly be remiss if I did not recognize all our faithful Board of Directors. The re-design of our BBPA Committee Structure has benefited Marketing and Communications, as well as, Fundraising and Development. The social media and “outward face” of our organization has been greatly improved. Thank you, Alexis and Eric!

I have only highlighted key accomplishments, perhaps missing several. My fellow Board of Directors, Members, Staff and Volunteers, please take a bow, tip your hat, it is now a time to “*Crow!*”

Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell

President, Board of Directors

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

George Washington's Bible

On Saturday, October 9th, 2021 Kennett Lodge No. 475 and Officers from the Fifth Masonic District, conferred a Master Mason Degree at the Brandywine Battlefield Park. The centerpiece of the event was Brother George Washington's Masonic Bible, which was brought to the event by members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, VA. Brother Washington took his Masonic obligation upon this very Bible on November 4, 1752. From the Lodge records, George Washington was 21 years of age when he became a Mason. The Masonic Bible used was one of the Lodge's original King James Version Bibles, and was printed in Cambridge England in 1668. The Lodge held fast to its now-historic Bible. When Union soldiers marched on Fredericksburg in 1862, Masons within the Lodge took care to hide it. Six decades later, in 1921, the relic went into a locked glass case. Members developed a protocol for loaning it; even then, at least two Fredericksburg Masons traveled with it. The Lodge recognizes the importance of their responsibility to care for this significant Masonic artifact. To this end, the Bible will be present at various functions and ceremonies as a means to raise funds to care for the preservation of the artifact.

The event kicked off at 4:30 p.m. with fellowship and an opportunity for each attendee to have his picture taken with this American and Masonic treasure. The Bible was set up in a separate room within the Visitor's Center. After viewing the Bible and taking a picture, Brothers were able to tour the Visitor Center and purchase a souvenir in the gift shop. In addition to viewing the Bible, the cost of the ticket provided each attendee with a commemorative ticket and a custom minted coin depicting the Masonic Bible. After dinner, the Brothers made their way to the 40 x 80 tent for the conferral of the Master Mason degree. To add to the historical feel for the degree, light was provided by tiki torches, which surrounded the tent. All of the officers which assisted in the conferral of the Degree were dressed in authentic Colonial era dress. The Brother who conferred the degree wore a replica of Washington's General jacket and to complete the look, he also donned a powdered wig. As the Lodge was being opened, a fife and drum corps accompanied Washington's Masonic Bible to the alter. In total, 131 Brothers from 10 states (PA, NJ, DE, OH, MS, IA, NY, VT, TX, MD) attended and shared in an evening of history, fellowship and fantastic food.



The Field Report

Hope everyone is enjoying the new year. For me, this has been a time to reflect on 2022 and the strides we made here at Brandywine Battlefield Park. I'm confident that 2023 will be even better. Since the Park closed on December 17, our staff has been busy planning some exciting new events for the year, as well as welcoming guests to our Revolutionary Speaker Series programs.



After we switched our Speakers' Series programs to Saturdays at noon, we witnessed a jump in the number of attendees to listen to some excellent speakers. Our first Revolutionary Speaker Series program of the year was on January 21 and featured Dr. Jennifer Janofsky, Rowan University professor and director of Red Bank Battlefield Park, and Wade Catts, archaeologist and principal at South River Heritage Consulting, Inc. Dr. Janofsky and Mr. Catts spoke about the Battle of Red Bank, the only site where Continental forces beat back British and Hessian troops during the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, and the archaeological discoveries made at Red Bank Battlefield Park during the summer of 2022, which included the skeletal remains of 15 Hessian soldiers. On February 25, we welcomed back Wade Catts to discuss the current national and regional efforts for investigating and safeguarding Revolutionary War battlefields and military sites, including exciting new studies of the Brandywine Battlefield. Future Revolutionary Speaker Series programs will be on March 18 with Berks History Center Assistant Director, Bradley Smith, discussing Revolutionary War surgeon, Dr. Bodo Otto, and April 15 with Dr. Friederike Baer revealing the discoveries published in her book, *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War*. A link to purchase tickets can be found on our website's event page [Events - Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates](#).

Personally, I'm really looking forward to our new events. One of these new events is our Earth Day celebration on April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For this event, volunteers will be demonstrating trades and discussing plants and herbs in our colonial garden. We'll also have exhibitors displaying and discussing the region's rocks, minerals, and animals. Finally, the event wouldn't be a true Earth Day without the planting of a tree. Another new event that I want to mention is our Brews at the Battlefield scheduled for June 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At this inaugural event, participants will be able to sample beers from a variety of local breweries. We'll also have entertainment and food trucks. Information about participating will be available in the next few months.

Thanks again for a great 2022, and we look forward to seeing you in 2023. This year, we will be open for recreational visitation Tuesdays through Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Visitor Center and house tours will be available Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit our website, www.brandywinebattlefield.org, for tour times. Hope to see you here at Brandywine Battlefield Park.

Troy Grubb
PHMC Site Administrator

The Park is OPEN!

Recreational Visitation
Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Visitors Center and Historic Homes open for tours
Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp 2023

We are excited to announce the Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp (previously known as Summer History Camp) is returning for Summer 2023!

Campers entering grades 3-6 will learn about the Battle of Brandywine and life in the 18th century through hands-on activities and visits from historical characters. Camp this year features two redesigned topical weeks and many new surprises!

Camp weeks are Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm.

Camp tuition is \$250/week, \$225/week for members.

Registration for Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp is now open.

June 27-30: Live the Battle Week (for campers entering grades 3 and 4)

July 11-14: Step into the Past Week (for campers entering grades 3 and 4)

July 18-21: Live the Battle Week (for campers entering grades 5 and 6)

July 25-28: Step into the Past Week (for campers entering grades 5 and 6)



Live the Battle Week

Do you wonder what it was like to live through the Revolutionary War, specifically the Battle of Brandywine? Now's your chance to learn how the battle really went not only for Washington and his troops, but also Quaker families, British soldiers, and everyone in between. Campers will be transported to the week of the Battle of Brandywine, learning firsthand how to march like a soldier, care for one's family, bring intelligence to Washington, and, of course, capture the flag.

Step into the Past Week

Find out what everyday life was like in 18th century Brandywine, complete with a colonial inspired party! This week of Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp is designed to help campers discover how STEM and the arts are found in our local history through hands-on activities and games. Campers will become apprentices to the blacksmith, learn to paint history like Pyle, make their own paper, and have fun with many more surprises.

Campers will be provided with a folder to hold the artwork and letters they complete that they may take home at the end of the week. Campers will also be provided with a Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp t-shirt.

Parents are invited to join us on the Friday of each week at 12:45pm for an opportunity to learn from the campers, see demonstrations, and taste some colonial cooking!

Registration for Camp is now open!

<https://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/summer-camp/>

bbpaeducationdirector@gmail.com

History Challenge

WHO SAID IT???

1. "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." _____
2. "They who can give up essential Liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty not safety." _____
3. "The die is now cast; the colonies must either submit or triumph. We must not retreat." _____
4. "It may be a mistake, that man, in a state of nature, is more disposed to cruelty than courtesy." _____
5. "These are the times that try men's souls." _____
6. "Freedom of thought and the right of private judgment, in matters of conscience, driven from every other corner of the earth, direct their course to this happy country as their last asylum." _____
7. "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclination, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." _____
8. "In all their wars against the French they [the Americans] never showed such conduct, attention and perseverance as they do now." _____

Please visit our website or contact us for more information about
 our Volunteer Program and becoming a Volunteer!
 Robin Baker, Volunteer Program Coordinator
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History Challenge An-
 swers
 1- Patrick Henry
 2- Ben Franklin
 3- George III
 4- Mercy Otis Warren
 5- Thomas Paine
 6- Samuel Adams
 7- John Adams

"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"