



# The Brandywine Dispatch



SUMMER 2023

## BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD SUMMER CAMP

**Summer is almost here!**

Whether it's learning to fire a cannon, cooking 18th century food, painting a historic tree, or capturing the flag, there is something fun in store for every camper this summer.



Campers entering grades 3-6 are transported back to 1777.

**Live the Battle Week** allows campers to experience 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** allows campers to make their own paper, learn to paint history like Pyle, apprentice to the blacksmith and have fun with many more surprises.



**Space is still available.**

Please click the link below for additional information and registration on our website.



<https://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/summer-camp/>  
[bbpaeducationdirector@gmail.com](mailto:bbpaeducationdirector@gmail.com)

## BREWS AT THE BATTLEFIELD JUNE 17, 2023

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

**Join us at the Brandywine Battlefield Park for food, music, beer and fun!**

### Participating Breweries:

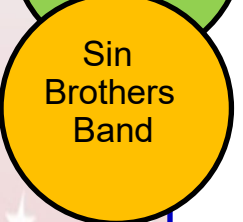
Sly Fox Brewing Co.  
Braeloch Brewing  
Tired Hands Brewing Co.  
Artillery Brewing Co.  
Fat Lady Brewing  
Four Fingers Brewing Co.  
Wilmington Brew Works

General Admission Tickets: \$40.00, includes free Souvenir cup.

Designated Driver: \$15.00  
Non-alcoholic beverages provided for designated drivers.

Tickets may only be purchased online through Eventbrite. Please follow the link below. Tickets still available.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/593267788927>



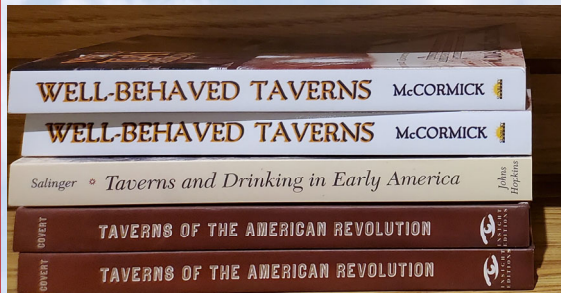
## OUR MISSION

*"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."*

*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!"*

## **Ready for Brews at the Battlefield?**

Brett and Nancy have reading suggestions related to our Brews at the Battlefield event on June 17, 2023. Books can be purchased at the Visitors Center Gift shop.



Taverns of the American Revolution by Adrian Covert provides an overview of 20 surviving taverns, maps, artwork, and recipes.

Beer in America: The Early Years by Gregg Smith provides a broad sweep from the Mayflower to the 19th century on the unique role and impact of beer on American life.

Well-Behaved Taverns by M. Diane McCormick An in depth pub crawl of 12 specific taverns with rich histories spanning the Revolution to Prohibition.

Rum Punch and Revolution by Peter Thompson provides a uniquely Philadelphia oriented perspective on the history of the 18th century tavern.



Taverns and Drinking in Early America by Sharon Salinger looks across early America to examine how vital the tavern was as a source of culture and the many functions it would provide for society.

## **Who was Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier?**

*By Terry Ceulers*



He was a young man on a grand and noble adventure. We know him as Marquis de La Fayette (1757-1834.) He was most commonly known simply as Lafayette, or by his family as Gilbert, and was born September 6, 1757. He came from a long line of military service, so it was natural that he would follow the family tradition and by the age of 16, he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in his uncle's regiment. Inheriting a vast fortune, he was one of the wealthiest men in France. Inspired by the events unfolding in America, he commissioned a ship, the *Victoire* and against the wishes of both his family and the king, landed off the coast of Georgetown, South Carolina in June, 1777. Gen. Washington was impressed with this young Frenchman and his "bravery and military ardour" at Brandywine where he was wounded, and recommended him for divisional command.

After serving in the American Revolution, he returned home in December 1781 to Versailles and was promoted to Field Marshall. He was caught up in the French Revolution and imprisoned for a time. He returned to tour the United States in 1824 and for the next year, received accolades and visited many friends, battlefields and towns that he had known. His return to France in September 1825 was on a new frigate *Brandywine*, in remembrance of his first battle.

Lafayette's final years in France saw him facing the French Revolution of 1830 as well as the Polish Revolution against Russia in the same year. He and his wife, Adrienne had 4 children together and named their son for George Washington. Lafayette died May 20, 1834 and is buried in Picpus Cemetery in Paris, under American soil taken from Bunker Hill. He is remembered today as the "Man of Two Worlds." In 2002 Lafayette was the fifth person in US History to be granted honorary citizenship.

Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica; American Battlefield Trust; @Montecello.org*



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***Submissions are Welcome!***

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## *The President's View*

### *Family Fun at the Park*

The pandemic is now behind us. This year appears to be more “normalized,” if there is such a thing. With that in mind, I would like focus on the value and importance of family life and the role which our Park can play.

The meaning and definition of family has evolved over time. Rather than delve into the deep meaning and all the nuances, I will to limit this narrative to core family structure of parental leadership and youth participation. By today’s standards, that structure may include grandparents and extended family members.

A very important factor for families is the ability of a family to share enjoyment and experiences together. The desire for a return to the Park could only be imagined, during the dark hours of the pandemic. Out of that desire, the concept of a “*Family Fun Day*” was born.

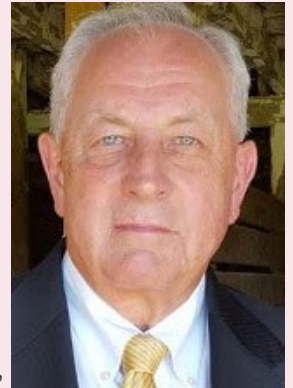
Once again, in August, we will host this event. The activities for this day evolved from our first event which we held last year. Details will be published soon. Our creative staff and members are coordinating many fun activities. Please plan to join us for this and the many other events throughout the year. These no cost/low cost events will enable you and your family the opportunity to celebrate and share your life’s memories together.

Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell

President, Board of Directors

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates



### ***SAVE THE DATE!***

#### **Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp**

Week 1: June 27, 2023-June 30, 2023

Week 2: July 11, 2023-July 14, 2023

Week 3: July 18, 2023-July 21, 2023

Week 4: July 25, 2023-July 28, 2023

**Brews at the Battlefield** June 17, 2023 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Family Fun Day** August 19, 2023 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Remembrance Day**-September 11, 2023 6:00 p.m.

## THE REDCOAT WE FACED IN 1777

By Andrew Miller

There has always been a perception that the British Army of the American Revolution consisted mostly of rogues, thieves and fugitives from the law, but in fact, the men who made up that army had many different motives for enlisting. Britain had no draft, strictly speaking, so enlistment was voluntary.

Each regiment in the British Army had its own history and traditions, and performed its own recruiting. Some regiments were relatively honest about the terms and conditions of service, while others used blatantly misleading tactics to persuade men to join. Once a man signed up, it was said that he had “married Brown Bess,” referring to the nickname of the standard British infantry musket. The regiment was responsible for training its own recruits, and the recruits in turn had to answer to their regiment for any misdeeds or problems they might create.

If a man survived his introduction to British Army discipline, he could take the name of Redcoat. That was an informal but cherished designation. In America they might derisively be called “Lobsters” or “Bloodybacks,” but the Redcoat of 1777 was a professional, self-confident and well-trained killer.

The Redcoat knew that his name and reputation preceded him. The red of his regimental coat showed through the heavy smoke of a battlefield, but it also announced his presence in an intimidating and very clear manner, no matter where he was. In the coinage of the day, the Redcoat was the “cock of the dunghill,” and he relished his fierce reputation.

The average size of a regiment in the British Army was established at 677 men, but was usually closer to about 380 due to sickness, disease, desertion, and units sent on detached service. Discipline was brutal and often arbitrary; the word of an officer was absolute, and even minor breaches of discipline could be met with severe whippings and beatings.

The British Army that arrived in Southeastern Pennsylvania in the summer of 1777 was efficient and well-officered. Commanded by Gen. Sir William Howe, the troops were used to the rigors of campaigning and they expected to win. Although the average Redcoat of 1777 was too young to have served in previous wars, many of the army’s senior officers – including William Howe – were combat veterans who had fought in North America. Tough and experienced, they understood conditions here and prepared their troops accordingly.

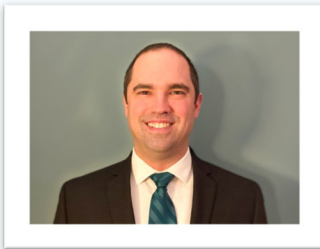
Howe had about 14,000 British soldiers under his command for the Philadelphia campaign. Also with his army were about 3,600 German troops popularly known as Hessians. From the German kingdom of Hessen-Kassel, the Hessians were solid but generally not as adaptable or flexible as their British counterparts. The Hessians did, however, deploy expert riflemen called “Jaegers,” or hunters.

Howe had formed units called light infantry during the Seven Years War. Designed to meet the demanding conditions of warfare in North America, they were the elite force of the British Army in 1777. Howe also had about 200 riflemen, serving under Scottish-born Patrick Ferguson, and several American Loyalist units.

Howe and his army had learned from hard experience. Almost destroyed by their pyrrhic victory at Breed’s Hill in June 1775, the reorganized British army landed in New York in the summer of 1776 and routed American forces.



*continued on page 6*



## The Field Report

Anyone who has done research knows that there are times when it's easy to find what you're looking for, times when it's extremely difficult to find anything, and times when you just get plain lucky. I've experienced all these scenarios, and although there can be frustration, there can also be excitement and surprise with what you find.

Since starting here, I've been continuously digging into the history of the Battle of Brandywine and the site itself. This has taken the form of reading site reports and plans, as well as books about the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Brandywine. In February, I even made a trip to the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg to review some of the site related materials in their collection. Then on a May 4 personal visit to Baldwin's Book Barn in West Chester, I came across a great resource that contained site-related information.

On my visit to State Archives, I discovered several photos of the Ring House - Washington's Headquarters from September 9-11, 1777 - after the devastating fire of September 16, 1931, and in the early stages of its reconstruction. One of the photos had a note from a worker, Duncan Campbell, discussing the initial process of the reconstruction. In the note, Campbell related that 50 tons of rubble stone was removed from the building and that the architect put string lines over the cellar to get accurate plan drawings. He went on to say that no 18<sup>th</sup> century artifacts were found, but that the ladies pressing iron, which caused the fire, was found. According to Campbell, she forgot to turn off her iron, left it on the ironing board, and went to the movies in West Chester. This story is questionable since Campbell listed the date of the fire as 1925. Ultimately, we may never know the cause of the fateful fire.

Fast forward to May 4, while visiting Baldwin's Book Barn, I found some bound issues of *The Picket Post: A Record of Patriotism*, a quarterly newsletter of the Valley Forge Historical Society. In those issues, I found some interesting articles plus some information about the creation of Brandywine Battlefield Park. In the January 1948 edition, in an article entitled "Brandywine Battlefield Board Organizes For Custody Of Site", the writer mentions that in November 1947, Governor James H. Duff acted under a mandate from the State Assembly to appoint a 10 member Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission to acquire and maintain the site of the Battle of Brandywine, including two houses used by Washington and Lafayette and 50 acres of the area on which the battle was fought. At the time, Washington's headquarters was in ruins due to the aforementioned fire. The Lafayette (Gilpin) house was in good condition, but it was occupied. A later issue mentioned that an acre and half, where the Gilpin house stands, was purchased for \$12,000 and an adjoining 33 acres, where the Visitor Center and the Ring house stand, were purchased for \$16,313. The article went on to say that a stipulation in the agreement allowed the residents of the Gilpin house, the Cleveland family, to remain in the house until June 1950. Sadly, the elder Cleveland, died on January 12, 1950, at the age of 53. His widow and children left the property the following spring as work was underway to restore the home.

As I continue to seek information about the Battle of Brandywine and about the site, I'll look in the obvious places, but hopefully, I'll get lucky and discover some things by chance. For those doing their own research, my advice is to stick to it and find those that can help you.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### **EARTH DAY THANK YOU!**

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who gave of their time and talents on April 22nd for a fantastic Earth Day program.

#### **Our Volunteer line-up for Earth Day:**

Nick Bruni- 18<sup>th</sup> century Blacksmith  
 Mario Lerario- 18<sup>th</sup> century Carpenter  
 Andy Miller- Militia  
 Maury Hutelmyer- Militia and colonial games  
 Stevie Demott- 18<sup>th</sup> century Gardener  
 Nick Rodia- House Tour Guide  
 Fred Magner- House Tour Guide

#### **Thank you to our event partners!**

Chadds Ford Tree Service  
 Delaware Museum of Nature and Science-  
 Minerals and fossils  
 Stacey's Face Painting  
 Gene Pisasale-Minerals and fossils  
 Brandywine Septic Portables

### **ROBERTA V. "BOBBIE" SCHAUM**

Roberta V. Schaum, "Bobbie," 82, of West Chester, PA, passed peacefully on February 1, 2023. Bobbie was an energetic volunteer and she enjoyed volunteering at the Brandywine Battlefield. She will be missed dearly, but her legacy will live on and thrive through her children and grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in her memory to Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates,

[www.brandywinebattlefield.org/donate/](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/donate/)

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](mailto:bbpavolunteerdirector@gmail.com)  
[www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org)

Continued from page 4

The focus of Howe's 1777 campaign was the capture of Philadelphia, the rebel capital. Pushing their way through this part of Pennsylvania, the British defeated Washington at Brandywine on Sept. 11, 1777. Although the Continental Army fought well at Brandywine, they could not make up for tactical errors, British professionalism, or for the actions of local Loyalists, who provided Howe with intelligence.

The war moved out of Pennsylvania in 1778 and the Revolution would go on until 1783, making it an eight-year conflict of attrition and agony. That the Americans ultimately prevailed was a testament to their tenacity, courage, and will to endure. That the British lost is no reflection on the Redcoat, whose prowess on battlefields could never make up for the mistakes of kings, politicians, and generals.

#### *For further reading:*

1. Clement, Justin. Philadelphia 1777: Taking the Capital. Oxford: Osprey Books, 2007.
2. Fischer, David Hackett. Washington's Crossing. New York: Oxford UP, 2004.
3. Hibbert, Christopher. Redcoats and Rebels: The American Revolution through British Eyes. New York: Avon Books, 1991.
4. Lancaster, Bruce. The Story of the American Revolution. New York: Doubleday, 1955.
5. Britishbattles.com

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*"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"*