



The Brandywine Dispatch



WINTER 2024

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.”

Chadds Ford Township-A Community Rich in Heritage

In Chadds Ford Township, the appointed volunteers and elected officials take their responsibilities very seriously. Chadds Ford is an important, nationally recognized venerable historic place which serves as a gateway to Delaware County from the South and was home to renowned artists NC and Andrew Wyeth. Steeped in the history of the Revolutionary War, these hills and valley were a significant feature in the 9/11/1777 Battle of the Brandywine and remain rich in heritage community characteristics.

Preservation of Painter’s Folly, known as a favorite place of Andrew Wyeth to create many of his paintings, and the opening of the Hunters Run Trail, are just a few of the recent accomplishments the whole community can be proud of. In Spring of 2024, Walkable Chadds Ford, an intricate network of trails and sidewalks throughout the Village, facilitated by millions of dollars of grant funding, will be constructed.

Recognizing these treasures and promoting the protection of its resources, Chadds Ford’s officials work hard to gracefully accommodate future growth and provide for change, while protecting its historical, cultural, scenic, natural and open space resources. Decisions on where to develop are in sync with population projections and housing needs, and generally depend on the availability of utilities such as public water, sewer and major corridor access. Lower density development will favor the countryside west of the 202 Corridor, while concentrated development makes sense only where ample infrastructure exists or will be installed to facilitate it.

Residents of the community come together to participate in workshops, bringing voice to desires for the future of the township, help a neighbor after destructive storms, or just to participate in recycling, trash pick-up, tree planting or other fun community events. We see each other enjoying our many protected acres of Open Space, on our many trails that provide interconnected pedestrian circulation systems, or at our local shopping venues. We share our concerns, our thanks and our appreciation for our community. Chadds Ford Township Officials look forward to mutually beneficial opportunities with the Brandywine Conservancy, Natural Lands Trust, North American Land Trust, the Brandywine Battlefield Park and our municipal neighbors to raise awareness and local appreciation of our abundance of beauty and resources.

Thank you.

Samantha Reiner, Chadds Ford Township Board of Supervisors

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!”

Volunteer Spotlight

This year, like all others, our volunteers go above and beyond with what they do here at the Brandywine Battlefield Park. It is always both exciting and challenging to decide which volunteer, or volunteers, to recognize and credit with conducting another excellent year.

Our volunteers are responsible for several activities, such as directing house tours, coordinating driving tours, handling gift shop duties, and participating in many events and school field trips as colonial demonstrators. Sometimes, they may even do all three. In doing so, we are highlighting two volunteers this year.



MARK ROTH-VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mark Roth, house tour extraordinaire and one of our go-to guides for driving tours, is voted as the PHMC Brandywine Battlefield Park's Volunteer of the Year for service in 2023. He has dutifully served as a volunteer on the site since 2018. Saturday, April 20, 2024, is the date for an in-person recognition ceremony at The State Museum of Pennsylvania for all PHMC Volunteers of the Year.

FRED MAGNER-2023 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We also want to recognize Fred Magner with our BBPA 2023 Volunteer Spotlight. Fred is one of our volunteers who also helps conduct house tours and ensures driving tours run smoothly. Additionally, Fred teaches visitors and students about what life was like for a doctor during the Revolutionary War and interprets General George Washington for some of our events.



Revolutionary Speaker Series Highlight

Thank you to the presenters this fall in the Revolutionary Speaker Series. In September, Andrew Outten spoke about his research on William Faden's conflicting maps of the Battle of Brandywine. Jim Christ presented in October on the Battle of Paoli, correcting its misrepresentation as the "Paoli Massacre."

Save the date for the spring 2024 Revolutionary Speaker Series events.

Saturday, March 16th. 12PM-2PM

Saturday, April 13th. 12PM-2PM

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



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The President's View

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW – Winter 2024

“It bears repeating – Membership IS the core of our organization”: This message was originally written in the Summer of 2022 and rewritten. The *Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA)* was established circa 1971 as, and continues to be, a membership-based organization. The BBPA non-profit bylaws begin with a focus on membership for its fundamental structure. Essentially, BBPA was established as an adjunct and resource group to support the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC), and tasked as trustee to administer the Brandywine Battlefield Park (BBP) for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. BBPA is the “arms and legs,” or the “Worker Bees.” BBPA has valiantly assumed this role, which has changed over time. BBPA can accomplish things which our partner PHMC cannot, Tasks such as fundraising for on-going operations and projects. BBPA develops and recruits Volunteers for Education Programs, as well as major events. Looking at linear graph illustration of the BBPA organization, one can visualize a series of concentric circles with Membership central at the core. Membership is our heart and soul of the BBPA Organization and the membership of individuals and families is the core. It supports enthusiasm and interest. It provides for the vital *human capital* of volunteers. Moreover, people who become members feel good about their involvement and the fact that they are inclusive within this historical environment, as well as being involved in the at community at large. Yet, since this message was shared in 2022 membership has essentially remained flat. Why? The organization itself, has not embraced nor made the value and importance of being a member a priority. Ancillary to membership comes family inclusion and ownership in BBPA programs and events. Membership also fosters volunteerism. In closing, it is my belief that the value of being a member should be integrated into every aspect, event and program which BBPA provides. I encourage everyone to embrace and assist with membership growth.



Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell
President, Board of Directors

Please visit us at [Brandywine Battlefield Park](#) for more information about our events, activities and programs!

**At the
Brandywine Battlefield
Park!**

This fall, Brandywine Battlefield Park expanded its education programs to offer field trip options for all types of learners. Our newest program, Brandywine Discovery Days, offers historically themed field trip dates designed specifically for homeschool co-ops and small school groups. The Colonial Day program continues to engage large school groups with hands-on history stations, including accessible options for students with disabilities.

The park has also been pleased to welcome local scout groups to learn about the history of the American Flag on select Saturdays. For further information or to schedule a school trip, visit <https://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/school-tours/> or email Melody Schwartz at bbpaeducationdirector@gmail.com.



Upcoming Discovery Days:

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024
Theme: Nature and STEM

Thursday, May 9th, 2024
Theme: TBD



Harvest Fest



Patriots Day



The Field Report

One of the questions I often contemplate is: what was life like for those who lived here during the time of the Revolution? In our case, this centers around the residents of our two historic homes - the Ring and Gilpin families. Both families were third-generation settlers, prosperous farmers, and members of the Society of Friends or Quakers. While these families professed the same faith, they diverged initially from each other in their response to the Revolution. Benjamin Ring would take up the cause and fight on the American side while Gideon Gilpin would attempt to stay true to his pacifist, Quaker conviction and remain neutral. Gilpin's attitude changed after the Battle of Brandywine when his house was plundered by British and Hessian troops. As a result, he soon sided with the Patriots – a rejection of his Quaker beliefs. The abrupt response to his house being plundered really intrigued me and made me want to learn more about his life after the battle. So, I assigned our summer intern, Sarah Mash, the task of further investigating Gideon Gilpin.

It's easy to understand why Gilpin would be upset and want revenge or at least recoup his losses. With the loss of livestock, crops, and household goods, estimated at 502 British pounds or the equivalent of \$101,329.64 today, and the responsibility of providing for his wife and six kids, he needed to find a way to support himself and his family even if it meant going against his faith. Consequently, in 1778, Gilpin jeopardized his standing at his Quaker meetinghouse in Concord by pledging his allegiance to the Patriot cause and opening a tavern, another violation of his beliefs. In the Quaker Meeting Record from November 4, 1778, the "Concord Preparative meeting brings a complaint against Gideon Gilpin for taking the test so called or Declaration of Allegiance to the Present unsettled Powers as also for Setting up a Tavern or Place of Entertainment, Samuel Trimble and Caleb Pierce Junior are to treat with him and report to the next meeting." In December 1778, Trimble and Pierce reported Gilpin's response to the Concord Meeting, and they stated "...that he did not appear sensible of his error nor disposed to make Friends satisfaction..." At the next meeting, January 1779, "The testimony against Gideon Gilpin is approved and signed the same Friends are to proceed therein as our Discipline directs and report to next meeting." This discipline consisted of being "read out of meeting", which meant having his membership revoked.



One of the complaints against Gilpin was opening a tavern, which likely helped him reclaim some of his losses. His house made the most sense as a tavern as his was the "highest (closest) house to the creek willing to undertake it." Additionally, his house was along a major roadway – the Great Nottingham Road, today's Route 1. While we don't know how much he made from tavern keeping or exactly where the tavern existed, possibly in a portion of the existing house, we do know that he was granted a tavern license between 1778 and 1789.

In addition to supporting the Patriot cause by taking the oath of allegiance, Gilpin also joined the militia and supplied the army. He enlisted as a Private in the Chester County Militia, 3rd Battalion, 4th Company commanded by Captain Edward Simonson. This was an inactive militia unit that served between 1780 and 1783. In June 1780, Gilpin was paid 2,400 British pounds (equivalent to \$526,916.32 today) for six cattle purchased by John Hannum, a Colonel in the Chester County Militia.

Whether he had sufficiently recovered his wealth or felt guilty about supporting the War, Gilpin sought readmission to his Quaker meeting in June 1788. "Gideon Gilpin appeared here with a paper of acknowledgement for his former deviation, which being attended to Joseph Talbot, "... are appointed to take a solid opportunity with him and report their sense of his disposition to next Meeting." In July, the men assigned to speak with Gilpin reported that they "...left him at liberty to attend here..." Usually, Quakers who strayed from the faith could seek readmission if they admitted their wrong and asked for forgiveness. This is what occurred with Gideon Gilpin.

Much more was discovered during Sarah's research, which I will be sharing in future issues of the Dispatch.

History Challenge

Did you know????

In 1785, Sir Francis Grose published the “Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue” which is still considered primary reading for period vernacular terms. In it is the entry “Brown Bess. A soldier’s firelock. To hug brown Bess; to carry a firelock, or serve as a private soldier.”

In 1708, a similar term “brown musket” appeared with the possible, disputed origin of “bess” being from the Dutch “bus” for gun barrel, as in blunderbuss.

The same dictionary also gives examples of “Brown George” meaning, “An ammunition loaf”, which is bread supplied by the military.

So we may ascertain that these terms were used in reference to the Kings and Queens of England.

-The Brigade Dispatch, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2 (summer 1998) pg.19

VETERANS DAY



A Flag Retirement Ceremony was held at the Ring House flagpole, Brandywine Battlefield Park, on November 11, 2023. The ceremony was coordinated by Noelle Barbone, Chadds Ford Township Supervisor and Troy Grubb, PHMC Site Administrator. Two Naval Cadets officiated at this emotional and moving ceremony where twelve flags were retired. Each retired flag honored someone who had served in the U.S. Military. When a United States of America flag becomes too worn, tattered, torn or otherwise unusable, it must be “retired” (destroyed) by burning it during a ceremony. This was the first event of its type at the Park and will hopefully become an annual event.

Brandywine Battlefield Park will close on December 17, 2023 for the Winter season. We will reopen in March, 2024!

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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”