



# The Brandywine Dispatch



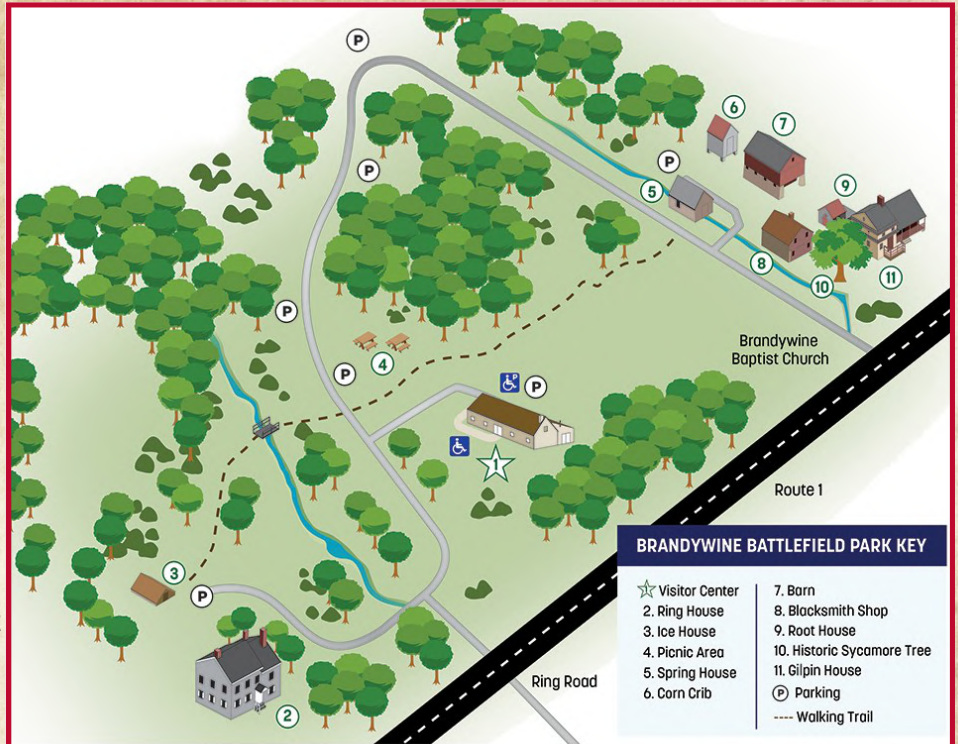
SPRING 2025

## AROUND AND ABOUT AT THE BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK

The Park will open on Sunday March 9, 2025 after what seemed like a long winter closure. The Park is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, and the Visitor's Center is open Fridays and Saturdays.

The gift shop, museum and tours of our two historic houses are available when the Visitor's Center is open. There is still much to enjoy at the Park on those days when the Visitor's Center is closed. We can picnic, visit the historic chestnut tree and walk through the Park on the footpath that extends from the Benjamin Ring House to the Gideon Gilpin House.

We have updated the Park map and it includes the identification of all the buildings at the park, the trail and other helpful information including parking lots, restrooms and picnic areas. The map can be accessed on our website at [Brandywine Battlefield Park](#) on the "Visit" page. While you are on the Visit page you might want to watch our video "**Brandywine Battlefield Park: The Brandywine Experience**," narrated by Andrew Outten.



**BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD SUMMER CAMP** is returning for summer 2025! Campers entering grades 3-5 (ages 8-12) can learn about the Battle of Brandywine and life in the 18th century through hands-on activities, games, and visits from historical characters.

**Brave the Battle Week-Live the Revolution** is the theme for week one, July 1-4 and week three, July 22-25. Get ready to take on daring missions and march like a Continental soldier, deliver critical intelligence to Washington, and take on daring missions like capturing the flag. History comes alive with exciting hands-on activities, thrilling challenges, and plenty of fun!

**Step Into the Past Week - A Colonial Adventure Awaits!** is the theme for week two, July 8-11 and week four, July 29-August 1. This is a week of history, creativity, and exploration, where the past and present come together in the most exciting way! Campers can be blacksmith apprentices, learn to paint like the renowned Howard Pyle, create paper, and dive into other colonial crafts. We explore how these historical trades continue to influence modern careers and industries.

For More Information Please visit: [Summer History Camp - Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates](#)

*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!"*

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## *The President's View*

Greetings!

My name is Andrew Outten, and I am the new president of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA) board of directors. Like my predecessors, I will use this section of *The Dispatch* to provide you with updates on all the happenings at Brandywine Battlefield Park. Before I do that, though, please allow me to introduce (or re-introduce) myself. As the iconic band The Eagles put it in their award-winning song, "Hotel California" "you can check out at any time, but you can never leave." I find that line more applicable than ever as I write this.



As some of you may know, I am not exactly a stranger to Brandywine Battlefield Park as I've been involved with the Park's operations in some capacity for well over a decade. Before I joined the board of directors in late 2023, I was employed as the Director of Education and Museum Services for BBPA from 2011 to 2021. During that time at Brandywine Battlefield Park, I developed and implemented educational programming for countless students; oversaw public programs and worked closely with Summer History Camp; worked with PHMC staff to reform interpretive planning; conducted tours of the Gilpin and Ring homes; guided cars, buses, and the occasional convoy of airstream campers around the battlefield landscape's narrow and winding roads on driving tours (apologies to our neighbors); worked with local, state, and federal entities to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism across that landscape; and participated in grant funded studies to enhance the interpretation of the battle. I experienced the Park during its worst times after it was temporarily closed in 2009, but also witnessed its strong comeback in recent years. Needless to say, it feels good to be back in the saddle again, albeit on the other end of things.

Even with such a strong comeback in recent years, I feel that some of the best and most exciting times at Brandywine Battlefield Park are just around the corner. Soon, we will play a role in the celebrations and we are already gearing up for 2026 and 2027—the 250th anniversaries of our nation's founding and the Battle of Brandywine. From new programs and activities that are currently in development to fresh looks and amenities throughout the park, there is *a lot* to look forward! I won't give any spoilers away just yet, but you'll see what I mean when we reopen this spring.

--Continued on Page 3

### ***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 President's View, continued*

There are always new demands and challenges with new and exciting things, though, and we rely heavily on our steadfast cadre of volunteers to transform everything into reality. We could never fully fulfill our mission without them. With that, if you have the time and interest, I hope you'll consider volunteering and joining us for the exciting journey we're embarking upon. From greeters in our gift shop to period interpreters, we're always looking to expand our steadfast cadre with new and enthusiastic volunteers.

I am very excited about what the future holds for the Park, and I know our entire organization feels the same. I hope you will experience the excitement with us when we reopen this spring. Until then, and on behalf of the entire BBPA board of directors, thank you for your continued support of our mission. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Park soon!

All the best,  
Andrew Outten



## *History Challenge*

### Who Said it?

- #1- "Noise? You will have noise enough before long- the Regulars are out!"
- #2- "I am satisfied that one active campaign, a smart action, and burning two or three of their towns will set everything to rights."
- #3- "This meeting can do nothing more to save the country"
- #4- "A great empire and little minds go ill together".

### Who Am I?

Born in 1732 to a noble Scots family, descended from the Stuarts, I was chosen to sit in the House of Lords in 1761. In 1770, I was named as Royal Governor of New York but by the end of the year, was reassigned by promotion to the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg, VA. The growing anti-British factions and rebellion in the colony soon led to communication of a Committee of Correspondence with the other colonies. My years as a Governor involved disputes with the Shawnee, and with my own colonists and their slaves that resulted in my leaving the Capitol. I continued to fight for the Crown though I was not successful and in 1787, returned to England by way of New York, taking many Loyalists with me. I was appointed Governor of the Bahamas and died in 1809.



Answers on Page 5

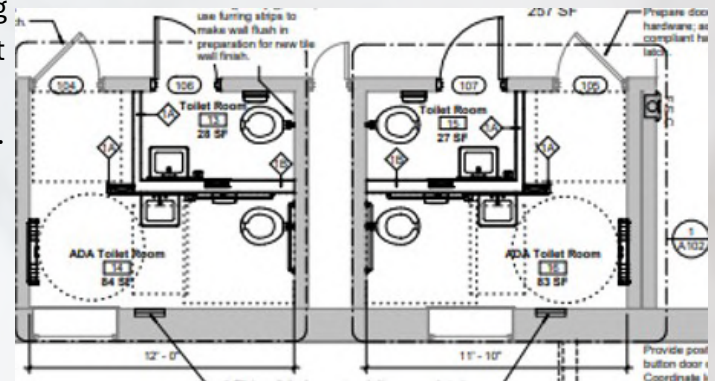
## The Field Report



A new season at Brandywine Battlefield Park is about to begin with our re-opening scheduled for March 9 – Charter Day. As visitors return to the site, they'll notice some significant changes to the Visitor Center. While the Park was closed this winter, we undertook an almost half-million-dollar renovation project to update the appearance, and improve the function of, the Visitor Center.

The biggest change is the renovation of our restrooms. Visitors may remember the 1970's style men's and women's rooms with their outdated

tile and plumbing fixtures. We've updated the tile using contemporary tones and installed modern and efficient plumbing fixtures. In addition to the updated finishes, we've also changed the configuration of the restrooms. Instead of a men's and women's room, there are now four single occupancy restrooms – two smaller and two larger ADA/Family restrooms. This particular change was an attractive option given the current ADA building code requirements, which would've obligated us to eliminate fixtures in both restrooms to be in compliance. These new restrooms will provide more privacy and be more user-friendly for those with disabilities.



Another significant change will be the addition of a canopy to the front of the building with a new front entrance door. The canopy addition was included in this project to provide more prominence to the building, in addition to serving the practical purpose of providing cover for those waiting outside the Visitor Center.

While the aforementioned changes are the two most significant, we've also made a few minor changes to improve the esthetics of the building, like new flooring, lighting, and paint colors. Coupled together, these changes make the Visitor Center more inviting, especially as we prepare for the expected influx of visitors for America's and the Battle of Brandywine's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

Troy Grubb  
PHMC Site Administrator



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



### BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK REOPENS. **Celebrate Pennsylvania's Birthday!**

Sunday, March 9, 2025  
12:00 noon-3:00 p.m.!

Please join us for Charter Day, our annual season opener! Have fun celebrating William Penn's signing of Pennsylvania's Charter. Everyone is welcome to this FREE event. Engage with historical interpreters, visit the museum, watch a film about the Battle of Brandywine, and take tours of both the historic houses.

### **Preserving Our Past**

Saturday, April 26, 2025  
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

This engaging community event at Brandywine Battlefield Park will allow visitors to learn about preserving history and nature alongside local organizations. Visitors of all ages will discover how STEAM meets history through fun activities led by historical interpreters and speaking with local preservation leaders and vendors.

### **Brews at the Battlefield**

Saturday, June 14, 2025  
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

You will taste a variety of beers from local and regional breweries. Brews at the Battlefield is hosted by and benefits the non-profit Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Every dollar collected helps us educate the public and promote the historic events that took place in Chadds Ford during the 1777 Philadelphia campaign. This isn't your typical parking lot brew fest! Instead, you'll enjoy a beautiful outdoor setting at our historic Gideon Gilpin Homestead while listening to music, enjoying beer, and eating food from one of our local food trucks.

*History Challenge*— answers from page 3

#### **Who said it?**

1. Paul Revere – when he arrived at the Clark House on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775, he was told to not make so much noise as he would wake the house. This was his response.
2. British Major John Pitcairn writing home to England in March 1775 in answer to a question on “can the Americans resist the powerful efforts of this (England) nation?”
3. Samuel Adams on the night of December 23, 1773 at the Old South Meeting house before the Boston Tea Party.
4. Edmund Burke, British MP, outspoken critic of government policy; his remarks would help define the Whig position in Parliament and receive praise in America.

**Who am I?** John Murray, Earl of Dunmore (1732-1809) Royal Governor

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

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*“The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. 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”*