



The Brandywine Dispatch



AUTUMN 2024

SUMMER FUN!

Brews at the Battlefield 2024

Our second year of Brews at the Battlefield was a huge success. We are thrilled to say that this year surpassed our expectations, and we are committed to making it even better in the future.

We want to extend a personal thank you to all our staff members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in making this a spectacular event. We are most grateful to our sponsors Elite Therapy Solutions, WSFS Bank Paoli, and Team Toyota Glen Mills. The 8 breweries and cideries, Sin Brothers Band, Calaveras Steet Tacos, and Delaware Provision Food Truck were enjoyed by almost 300 participants.

We give a special shoutout to Doug Miller of Pennsbury Manor for his colonial beer brewing demonstration, and to John Cairo and Phil Andrews who provided security for the event. Thank you to everyone involved for making this year's Brews at the Battlefield a resounding success!



Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp

Brandywine Battlefield Park recently hosted our second year of the newly revised Summer History Camp. For four weeks, we showcased what life could have been like for colonial civilians and continental soldiers. Campers could choose Live the Battle Week or Step into the Past Week. Some campers chose to attend both!

The games, activities and visits with historical characters included some new colonial stations; Rope Making, Surveying, Dulcimer Music Lessons, and teaching the history of St. George's "Dreadful Letter."

We want to thank Sun East Charitable Foundation and Connelly Foundation for their generous support of the camper scholarship program.



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!"

The Liberty Tree and Brandywine Battlefield Park

The Liberty Tree was a symbol of resistance and unity during the early stages of the American Revolution. Located in Boston, Massachusetts, this large tree became a rallying point for the American colonists who opposed British rule. The Liberty Tree's significance began in 1765, when a group of patriots known as the Sons of Liberty gathered beneath it to protest the Stamp Act. The tree soon became a symbol of the colonists' growing desire for freedom and resistance against tyranny. The Sons of Liberty often posted notices on the tree, calling for action against British policies. As tensions between the colonies and Britain escalated, the Liberty Tree became a central meeting place for organizing resistance. Similar Liberty Trees and Liberty Poles were established in other towns and cities, spreading the message of resistance throughout the colonies. In 1775, British soldiers, recognizing the tree's symbolic power, cut it down in an attempt to demoralize the patriots. However, the spirit of the Liberty Tree lived on, inspiring the colonists to continue their struggle for independence.



To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, Pennsylvania is engaging in a project that honors this legacy through the planting of Liberty Trees across the state. This initiative is part of the broader America250PA celebration, which aims to recognize and reflect on the nation's journey toward independence. In Pennsylvania, the Liberty Tree Project has seen the planting of tulip poplar trees; descendants of the original Liberty Tree in Boston in all 67 counties. This effort is supported by the Pennsylvania Freemasons and other community organizations, highlighting the enduring significance of the Liberty Tree as a symbol of freedom and unity. One of the trees is planted at the Battlefield Park near the Gilpin home and a formal dedication ceremony is set to take place in the spring of 2025. The Liberty Tree stands as a testament to the power of symbols in uniting people around a common cause and igniting the flames of revolution that ultimately led to the birth of the United States.

—Eric Downs. Vice President
Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

History Challenge Who Am I ???

In 1757, I abandoned my military career, when I married into wealthy influential family.

I served as Lieutenant Governor in North Carolina in 1764 and then named as Governor after the death of my predecessor.

Because of my previous military experience, I organized a strong military force to suppress Rebels, and went on to defeat them at Alamance in 1771.

As Governor of New York, I ran my affairs of office from a British warship until I was replaced by British military governorship and returned to the field with a Loyalist militia.

My most famous exploits were against the coastal towns of Connecticut, disrupting American commerce raiders against British shipping, before returning to London in 1780, where I died in 1798.

Answer on page 6!



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Submissions are Welcome!

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The President's View

Greetings fellow *Dispatch* readers,

School buses are on the road, school supply sales are ongoing, and fall (and everything that comes with it) is here, whether we are ready or not!



While it is, in my opinion, almost unbelievable that we've reached this point of the year already, the calendar never lies. As we gear up for our last few months before we close for the season, I'd be remiss not to thank our talented staff and volunteers for all the hard work they've put in throughout the year, but this past summer in particular. Because of them, the park has been able to offer programming on a consistent basis, hold our second-annual Brews at the Battlefield event, and educate numerous children through Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp. Just writing that makes me tired, so imagine what those who worked it feel! Next time you visit, do me a favor and thank any staff member or volunteer you see. They more than deserve it.

In the same vein of thanks and gratitude, I want to remind readers that our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, commemorating the Battle of the Brandywine, will take place on Wednesday, September 11, at 6 PM. Considered the largest single-day battle of the American Revolution, soldiers from all over the colonies fought side-by-side for the common goal of freedom. They left their homesteads, businesses, and families to further that idea and create a new nation full of possibilities. It's a notion that those who serve in the armed services still defend today. And something that we, as citizens, should be grateful for every single day.

With that in mind, I encourage, if possible, that you join us on September 11 to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to help us create the United States of America. The ceremony serves as our small way to give thanks, honor the principles they fought for, and make sure future generations remember what happened on this sacred ground.

Until next time,

Alexis Furlong
President, 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 and longest single day land battle of the American Revolution."

Volunteer Spotlight

Bruce Snyder



One of the talented individuals contributing to the skilled workforce at the Brandywine Battlefield Park is Bruce Snyder. Since November 2022, Bruce has been generously offering his time and expertise as a Colonial Interpreter volunteer. However, you might also recognize him as our neighboring farmer from the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead, who educates visitors and students on the intricate process of transforming flax into linen, commonly referred to as “Flax Breaking” at the Brandywine

Battlefield Park. Over the past one and a half years, Bruce has wholeheartedly dedicated himself to volunteering at our Park. He has become a valued and esteemed member of our extensive and wonderful volunteer corps.



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

SAVE THE DATE!

Remembrance Day

September 11, 2024 6:00 p.m.

At the Flagpole

British Take Brandywine

October 12, 2024 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Meet British Troops and Colonial Tradesmen and Tradeswomen

Be a spy for Washington’s Army at this Living History Event!

Fun for Everyone!

Revolutionary Speaker Series Kickoff!

November 9, 12:00 pm.-1:30p.m.





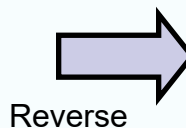
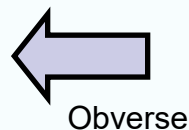
The Field Report

As we approach election season, I'm reminded of our civic duty to vote and of our country's founding. Those early years of our republic were filled with uncertainty as our founding fathers struggled to create a new system of government. Issues such as the creation of laws and a national currency permeated the discussions of the Continental Congress.

The matter of a national currency became more urgent during the Revolutionary War as Congress needed money to fund the war. In 1775, Congress authorized the issue of paper currency backed by silver coins. At first this paper, or Continental, currency's value held steady, but as more money was printed, they lost value. By 1781, it took \$100 in Continentals to get \$1 in hard money, which is how we get the phrase, "it's not worth a Continental".

The failure of the Continental prompted Congress to make hard currency, or coins, the money of choice and contracting Benjamin Dudley, an engraver from England, to produce coins for circulation. Dudley produced three silver pattern coins valued at 1000, 500, and 100 units and a 5-unit copper coin. The copper coin was struck in greater quantities. One of these coins was recently discovered behind the Ring House by West Chester University students and their professor, Dr. Heather Wholey.

The coin is very distinctive. On the obverse is the Eye of Providence with rays emanating from the eye and thirteen stars along with the Latin words Libertas-Justice (Liberty Justice). The reverse of the coin features an olive wreath with the letters US, the Latin phrase Nova Constellatio (A New Constellation), and the date, 1783. Ultimately, these coins were replaced with the system of dollars and cents.



While our system of money is something we take for granted, the Nova Constellatio serves as a reminder that creating an enduring government wasn't easy, and it's our responsibility as Americans to uphold the legacy of our founding fathers. Let's consider this as we head to the polls in November.

Troy Grubb
PHMC Site Administrator



Museum Gift Shop New Arrival

Stop in and say hi to Nancy on your next trip to the Park. She just received these new t-shirts with the park logo! These t-shirts are a new color, graphite. All sizes are currently available. They are always printed in the USA.

Welcome Ben!

Ben Olex, a native of Morristown, New Jersey, the site of Gen. Washington's winter headquarters during the Revolutionary War, has been selected as Brandywine Battlefield Park's Museum Educator 2.

Ben holds degrees in history from Ramapo College and Virginia Tech University. Prior to his hire, Ben worked at the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead, the Museum of the American Revolution, and Stony Point Battlefield.

As the site's museum educator, Ben will develop, conduct, and supervise Brandywine Battlefield Park's educational programs.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading and spending time with friends and his dog.



History Challenge Answer: William Tryon, British Governor and Officer

Please visit us at [Brandywine Battlefield Park](#) for more information about our events, hours of

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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"