



# The Brandywine Dispatch



SUMMER 2024

Join us for an unforgettable evening of good beer, good food, lively music and fun at the Brandywine Battlefield Park!

Brandywine Battlefield Park  
Presents:

## BREWS AT THE BATTLEFIELD

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, FROM 5-8 P.M.

Braeloch Brewing

Wilmington Brew Works

Victory Brewing Co. Kennett Square

Old Stone Cider

Fat Lady Brewing

Bellefonte Brewing Company

Conshohocken Brewing Company

Rebel Seed Cidery

Work Horse Brewing Company

Lost Planet Brewing Company

### 21+ ONLY EVENT

Tickets may only be purchased online through the website [Events - Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates](#) or this link below.

Sin Brothers Band  
Burgers by Wildwich  
Calaveras Steet Tacos



[Brews at the Battlefield 2024 Tickets in Chadds Ford, PA, United States \(ticketleap.com\)](#)

## BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD SUMMER CAMP 2024



Campers entering grades 3-6 are transported back to 1777 with hands on activities, games and visits from historical characters.

**Live the Battle Week** is 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. We 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 us to discover what everyday life was like in 18th century Brandywine and how STEM and the arts are found in our local history through hands-on activities and games. We will become apprentices to the blacksmith, learn to paint history like Pyle, make our own paper and have a colonial inspired party!

Limited space is still available for **two weeks**:  
June 25-28: **Brave the Battle Week** (for campers entering grades 3-6)  
July 9-12: **Step into the Past Week** (for campers entering grades 3-6)

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

[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!"*

## History Challenge

*Did you know????*

Patrick Ferguson was born in Scotland in 1744 to a family of military heritage. As a competent British officer in the American Revolution, he understood the potential impact of new military technology in his innovative design of the breech-loading rifle. He proved his design could be fired with accuracy and speed, firing 6 rounds in a minute. At the Battle of Brandywine, where he notoriously had Gen. Washington in his sights but refused to shoot, he took a bullet to his right elbow. Realizing he would never be able to bend it again, he learned how to shoot, fence, and wield a saber with his left arm. In 1779, as part of the new 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlander regiment of Clinton's Charleston campaign. His military career came to an end with a loss to the Over the Mountain men at the Battle of King's Mountain, in early October 1780. A cairn marks the site of his demise today.



Allen, Thomas B., *Tories*; Purcell, J. Edward, *Who was Who in the American Revolution*.

*Today's meanings can be so different from those of our ancestors.*


**Deaden** (v) - To kill. James Adair in 1775 wrote that the Indians: "deadened the trees by cutting through the bark."

**Freak** (n)- A whim, a capricious prank, a sudden turn. From the Old English *freak* 'quick'. On March 16, 1770 John Rowe recorded in his diary, "Mr. [Samuel] Otis got into a mad freak tonight and broke a great many windows in the Town House."

**Militia** (n)- A body of soldiers enrolled for training, but not engaged in service except in emergencies. The state militias during the Revolution were in theory to serve short periods of time, without pay, operating solely within their own states. In practice, they served for long periods, were paid by Congress, and traveled all over.



**Tattoo** (n)- A beat of drum, a call to quarters. A character in a 1776 play said, "He beat a tattoo for us all."

**Warden**  (n)- A kind of large pear which kept for a long time. A cookbook explained, "To make a tart of Wardens. You must first bake your Wardens in a pot."



### Board of Directors

Alexis Furlong  
*President*

Eric Downs, MBA  
*Vice President*

Andrew M. Outten  
*Secretary*

George M. Thorpe  
*Treasurer*

### Directors

Kris Barone

Elizabeth Miner

Linn (Linnell) E. Trimbell

### Staff Personnel:

*Robin Baker, Volunteer  
Program Coordinator*

*Nancy Heitzenreiter  
Business Services Coordinator*

*Brett Patterson  
Controller*

*Jesse Wolfe  
Technical Services*

*Troy Grubb  
Site Administrator*

*Ken Levin  
PHMC Maintenance*

### *Submissions are Welcome!*

Mail to:  
Newsletter Editor  
Brandywine Battlefield Park  
Associates  
P. O. Box 202  
Chadds Ford, PA 19312  
610-459-3342  
Email Submissions to:  
bbpdevelopment@gmail.com



## The President's View

Greetings fellow *Dispatch* readers,

Do you feel that? That something in the air? It's the unofficial (or official, depending on how you look at it) start of summer. Children are counting down until the last day of school, teachers are counting down until their well-deserved break, and parents are gearing up for a season of road trips, vacations, and summer camps (Psst...spots are still available for the first two weeks of Brandywine Battlefield Summer Camp!).



I attended a seminar recently for my job, and one of the speakers said something that really stood out to me, something that I think is applicable to all those reading this issue. He was talking about tourism and travel and the fact that while people plan these far-off vacations from June through August, no one thinks of exploring their own backyard and what's available close by. When I heard that, I had one of those "ah-ha" moments, followed closely by, "Oh my goodness, what was I thinking?"

He's totally right. I admit, I'm guilty that when I think of planning vacations, it always includes some form of major transportation, whether I'm flying to California or taking the train to Washington, D.C. Why do I never think about exploring my own backyard, and everything that Delaware and Chester County has to offer? And nowhere is this sentiment more applicable than when speaking about Brandywine Battlefield Park. There's so much to explore! No matter if you want to go on a weekday when you can passively stroll the grounds and lose yourself thinking about what took place in this exact location nearly 250 years ago. Or, if you want a more hands-on feel to your visit, come on the weekends when our dedicated staff and volunteers demonstrate various aspects of eighteenth-century life. Not the biggest history fan but still looking for something fun to do during the summer? Come to the park on June 15 for our second annual *Brews at the Battlefield* event, where you can sample beer from many local vendors.

See? There's literally something for everyone. And I think it's time for me to heed my own advice and venture to the park more this summer. I hope you will join me.

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

### Nick Bruni

We want to introduce our volunteer, Nick Bruni, a devoted and highly skilled blacksmith at the Brandywine Battlefield Park. Since joining us in 2022, Nick has become an integral part of the Park's popular events, including Family Fun Days and Harvest Fests. He was recruited by the previous blacksmith and board president, Linn Trimbell, and has been a valuable asset ever since.



Nick will also be participating in our newest events, "Rally the Troops," where visitors can meet Colonial Soldiers and learn about colonial trades and life, as well as "British Take Brandywine," which offers the opportunity to interact with British Soldiers and learn more about colonial trades and life.

Recently, Nick completed a coopering training class at the Somerset Historical Center. A **cooper** is a person trained to make wooden casks, barrels, vats, buckets, tubs, troughs, butter churns and other similar containers from timber staves that were usually heated or steamed to make them pliable. The cooper then fits wooden or metal hoops around the barrel, bucket or other item. Journeyman Coopers also traditionally made wooden implements, such as rakes and wooden-bladed shovels. In addition to wood, other materials, such as iron, were used in the manufacturing process.

Nick mastered his coopering skills after learning about the trade of coopering. Coopering in Somerset County stems from the continual passing down of the craft within the county from the 1800s to the present day. Nick will be showcasing this trade later this year, adding a new dimension to the park's containers from timber staves that were offerings.

**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)**



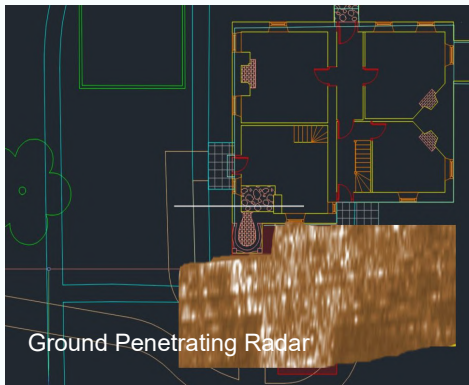
## *The Field Report*

How many of us like a good mystery? I do. I'm glued to whatever history related television shows are investigating a disappearance or trying to recover a missing treasure from long ago. As a fan of the show "The Curse of Oak Island", I'm hoping the team discovers the "incredible treasure" that's rumored to be buried on the Island. It's mysteries like these that spark our imaginations and create a desire to solve these mysteries. At Brandywine Battlefield Park, we have our own share of mysteries, like where Washington spent his two nights before the battle. Was it in his campaign tent or inside the Ring House? Or, whether Lafayette spent any time with Gideon Gilpin before he came back to Chadds Ford in 1825 during his Farewell Tour of the United States.

One of the mysteries that has perplexed us is what the Ring House (Washington's Headquarters) looked like in 1777. We have one interior and several similar exterior photographs taken before the disastrous 1931 fire that left the house in ruin and a few taken during the early 1950s reconstruction. With such a small sample of documentary evidence and no archaeological evidence (no archaeology was ever conducted,) we have very little understanding of the home's construction and its interior configuration. Recently, students from West Chester University helped shed some light on this mystery while digging test pits for our proposed accessible pathways, which will connect the parking lots to the historic homes. One of the test pits dug near the rear of the Ring House revealed stacked stone, which suggested a possible building foundation. The team later confirmed the appearance of a foundation using ground penetrating radar. While this discovery was not entirely unexpected – we have an early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of this part of the structure – we didn't realize that any part of it remained. This now presents the question of whether this was part of the original structure, and if so, what purpose did it serve.



This rare photograph in the collection of the Sanderson Museum shows a rear view of Washington's Headquarters. Photo 7.88



Ground Penetrating Radar



Ring House 2024

While we are hopeful that we can solve this mystery, we understand that not every mystery can be solved. The team on Oak Island may never find the treasure. But we should never stop seeking answers. In the process, we may find answers to other questions or even solve centuries-old mysteries such as what the Ring House looked like when Washington decided to make it his headquarters on the morning of September 9, 1777.

### ***Thank you Melody!***

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates has a small team of diligent workers striving to fulfill our mission of bringing the Battle of Brandywine and the colonial period to life for our visitors. A member of that team, Melody Schwartz, Education Program Coordinator, resigned from her position on May 7 to further pursue her career. Melody managed our educational programs since her hiring in September 2022, and during her tenure our programs experienced development and growth. She made connections with repeat and new school groups, started new programs like Discovery Day and Scout Day, and revitalized the Summer History Camp program. Melody's efforts have had a positive impact on the site and generated more interest in our programs. Beyond her accomplishments, she endeared herself to her fellow staff members and volunteers with her kindness and humor. We valued her opinion and admired her ideas and organizational skills. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her success in her new position. BBPA staff and volunteers will continue to conduct all programs as scheduled.

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

#### **Brews at the Battlefield**

June 15, 2024 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
21+ Only Event



#### **Rally the Troops**

August 23, 2024 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Meet the colonial Troops, Tradesmen and Tradeswomen at this Living History Event!  
Fun for All!

#### **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.

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

P.O. Box 202  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
610 / 459 - 3342  
[bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com)

*"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"*