

# THE BRANDYWINE DISPATCH

Looking Toward 250  
– WINTER 2025/26



## News & New Beginnings

Hi everyone, I'm Robin Baker, the Marketing and Events Manager at Brandywine Battlefield Park. I'll also be serving as the new editor of the Dispatch. Much of my work here has centered on planning programs and events that connect visitors with the site's history, and editing the Dispatch feels like another way to share those stories. Before moving forward, I want to thank Carol Tynan, who edited the Dispatch for many years. Her hard work and commitment have been invaluable, and we are truly grateful. Thank you, Carol!

## Field Report

On October 14, Brandywine Battlefield Park began a project to provide accessibility to our historic houses through the construction of ADA pathways. This effort has been in development for several years and required careful planning along with an archaeological survey. The first stage involved a civil engineer plotting pathway options based on topography and ADA standards, and our team selected the routes that best fit our tours while avoiding overhanging branches. Archaeologists from West Chester University then carried out a survey, digging test pits at 15-foot intervals, sifting the soil, and recovering pottery sherds, building materials, and animal teeth. We are now in the construction phase, which includes excavation, a compacted stone base, asphalt, and grading. In the spring, tar and chip will be applied to the asphalt with a red stone that resembles a dirt path. While construction continues, certain areas of the Park will be closed. Please check our website and social channels for schedule updates, and thank you for your patience.

— Troy Grubb, Site Administrator



### In this newsletter you can expect:

News & New  
Beginnings

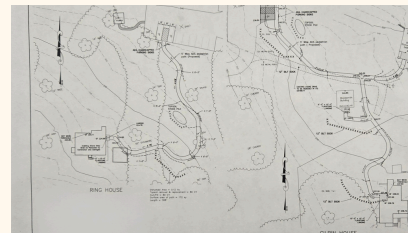
Field Report

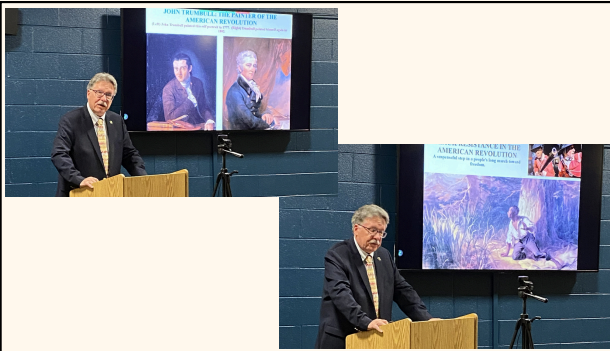
Past Events &  
Future Events

Our Year  
In Review

In Memoriam

Our People, Our  
Mission





## Revolutionary Speaker Series

— Nov 1, 2025

*"Say Their Names: Virginia's Black British Allies, 1781"* by Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin.

Dr. Urwin revealed how the British invasions of Virginia in 1781 gave enslaved Blacks rare chances at freedom, sharing overlooked stories of resistance and survival with the expertise of a prize-winning military historian.



## American Flag Retirement Ceremony

— Nov 8, 2025

Partnered with- Chadds Ford Township Residents Association & the The American Legion Post 926

Brandywine Battlefield Park and the Chadds Ford Township Residents Association recently hosted a respectful Flag Retirement Ceremony, honoring tradition, unity, and national service through the proper retiring of worn American flags.



## Future Events

**Revolutionary Speaker Series: "Cider: Pennsylvania's Once (& Future?) Favorite"**

- December 6, 2025 (hybrid)
- Mark Turdo

Touching on everything from William Penn to Prohibition, this overview looks at how cider was historically made, its presence and importance in Pennsylvania, and where it's heading today.



**Revolutionary Speaker Series: "A Most Gallant Resistance: The Delaware River Campaign, Sept–Nov 1777"**

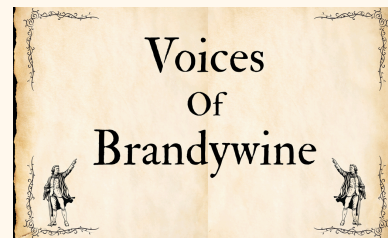
- Feb 21, 2026 (virtual)
- James McIntyre



**Amazing Race to Brandywine**

- May 16, 2026

A scenic, self-guided road rally through Brandywine's historic landscape.



## Future Events Cont.

**Brews At The Battlefield**

- June 13, 2026

Sample a wide selection of craft beers from local breweries, eat great food, and listen to awesome live music.



**Voices of Brandywine**

- August 1, 2026

Immersive storytelling that gives voice to the people, places, and pivotal moments of the Brandywine campaign.

**Camping With Continentals**

- May 15 & 16, 2027

An exciting weekend at Brandywine Battlefield Park, where guests live like 1777 soldiers - drilling with muskets, cooking over open fires, and sleeping in canvas tents, with an opportunity to have a colonial-style dinner with Washington and his officers.

# Our Year In Review

## New Employee

### Sarah Mash

Our new 250th Strategic Events Coordinator is Sarah Mash of Norristown, Pennsylvania. A recent graduate of Dickinson College, she completed her undergraduate degree in American History with honors this past May.

Prior to her hire, Sarah was the PHMC Summer Intern in 2023. Her time here focused on researching Gideon Gilpin in an attempt to find his elusive tavern. Her previous endeavors in history include working in the Dickinson College Archives, the House Divided Project and its Knowledge for Freedom Seminar, and her senior thesis on the topic of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.



As the 250th Strategic Events Coordinator, Sarah will manage our event series celebrating the semiquincentennial of the nation. These events include the Amazing Race to Brandywine, Voices of Brandywine, Camping with Continentals (May 15-16, 2025), and our ongoing marketing campaign Continental Invasion.

A fun fact about Sarah is that she studied abroad in Norwich, England in the Spring of 2024. Her favorite memories from her time abroad are traveling with her friends and her solo day trip to Pompeii.

## Be a Part of History! Sponsor Brandywine Battlefield Park's 2026–2027 Events!

- Take part in history and join several others in sponsoring Brandywine Battlefield Park's events for 2026 & 2027!
- Sign up for one or several sponsorship packages and receive several bonuses, including, but not limited to, access to the event you sponsored, social media and marketing promotions, and can include sponsorship tables at our events.



## Volunteer Of The Year

### Dwayne Fisher

Dwayne Fisher began volunteering at Brandywine Battlefield Park in the fall of 2024. Dwayne volunteers in the Visitor Center Gift Shop every week. He quickly made himself a very welcome part of the team with his good nature and kind demeanor. We thank Dwayne for all his hard work.





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# In Memoriam

Verne Wesley Weidman, Jr., 80

October 15, 2025

Verne was known for his dedication to historic sites, such as Brandywine Battlefield Park, which was deeply felt. He volunteered for many years, offering his time and care to places that preserve our shared history. We've gathered a few reflections from those who knew Vern at Brandywine. Their words speak to the generosity and steady support he brought to our community.

John Ebenreiter, Volunteer-

"For several years, Verne and I shared Friday tours at Brandywine, one morning and one afternoon, and often had lunch together. Verne and I visited several War of Independence sites together. We also shared a tent at the Chadds Ford and Paoli events for many years. A true friend that will be missed."

Brett Patterson, Controller-

"Verne was an extremely intellectually curious person—he never stopped wanting to learn, and as my supervisor for several years as BBPA Board Treasurer I noticed that he was always seeking to improve upon our operations through new ideas and approaches. His devotion to BBPA was exemplary. After he left the board, we continued to have many great conversations about all sorts of subjects, usually over the excellent sandwiches at Delcos Original Steaks, for which he always generously offered to treat."



## **Obituary for Verne Wesley Weidman, Jr. | Charles F. Snyder Funeral Home**

Verne Wesley Weidman, Jr., age 80,  
passed away on October 15, 2025, in Lititz,  
PA, after being diagnosed with Stage 4...

[snyderfuneralhome.com](https://snyderfuneralhome.com)

Vern also created an app for visitors and history enthusiasts alike, allowing you to follow several tours designed to take you around the Battle of Brandywine.

To see and experience all the tours Vern created, please scan the QR code below.





# Our People, Our Purpose

## 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.*

## Our Goals:

- To present educational programs, exhibits, tours, events and publications that broaden public understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Battle of Brandywine within the larger social, political, economic, technological and military context of the American Revolution period.
- To take lead responsibility for interpretation of, and participate in efforts to preserve, the entire Battlefield National Historic Landmark, of which Brandywine Battlefield Park is only a small part, recognizing the significance of these ten square miles where approximately 30,000 men fought.
- To sustain a strong partnership between PHMC, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates and other groups whose valued guidance and support enhance the mission and goals of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

## Board of Directors:

Board President	– Andrew Outten
Vice President	– Eric Downs
Treasurer	– George Thorpe
Secretary	– Elizabeth Miner
Director	– Linnell Trimbell
Director	– Kris Barone
Director	– Steve Carter
Director	– Kathleen Goodier
Director	– Salina B. Baker

## Brandywine Battlefield Park Associate Staff:

Marketing & Events Manager	– Robin Baker
Museum Shop Manager	– Nancy Heitzenrater
Controller	– Brett Patterson
250 Strategic Events Coordinator	– Sarah Mash
Museum Shop Clerk	– Rita Razze
Technical Services	– Jesse Wolfe

## Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Staff:

Site Administrator	– Troy Grubb
Museum Educator	– Ben Olex
Maintenance	– Ken Levin

*Thank you for reading!*

**BRANDYWINE  
BATTLEFIELD  
PARK**

610-459-3342

<https://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/>

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