

THE BRANDYWINE DISPATCH

Looking Toward 250
– SPRING 2026



News & New Beginnings

We have quite a few updates to share from Brandywine’s board. Kathleen Goodier has stepped into the role of President, Patrick Hart joins as a new board member, and Andrew Outten continues in a regular board seat after completing his term as President. With the board settled, our planning team is moving forward with strong momentum. Our 250th Strategic Events Coordinator is shaping this year’s programs with clear direction and thoughtful planning, supported by the Marketing and Events Manager. The season is one of our most engaging yet. Take a look at what is coming and save your spot while registration is open.

Field Report — Troy Grubb, Site Administrator



As we prepare for the 250th celebration of our country, many of our readers may be wondering what Brandywine Battlefield Park has planned. This issue of the Dispatch will provide a preview of what we have in store for 2026. For a little background, the planning process for our commemoration events began in late 2024 with several ideas proposed. By early 2025, site staff and the board of Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates had narrowed down the list to a few of the most practical and impactful. With a solidified list, we identified and applied for Semiquincentennial grants from the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative, America250PA, and the Longwood Foundation. These organizations saw our vision and the value of funding these bold new programs. Getting to this point has, at times, been challenging, but it has been rewarding for me to see how our team has worked collaboratively to make what we believe will be meaningful and memorable events. My hope is that these family-friendly programs will pique your interest and prompt you to buy tickets or support our efforts through sponsorship. I look forward to seeing you!

In this newsletter you can expect:
News & New Beginnings
Field Report
New Faces, New Roles
The 250 th In Motion
History Doesn't Write Itself
Our People, Our Mission



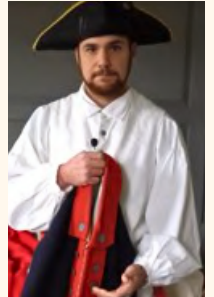
New Faces, New Roles

President to Member

Andrew Outten

Andrew Outten recently concluded his time as President of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates and has been an active member of the Battlefield for many years. He stepped in when needed, bringing a steady presence shaped by his long connection to the Park.

His experience as both a former staff member and a board member has given him a clear understanding of the work and the people who support it. Those who know Andrew recognize how much he values the Park and the community around it. He is now returning to a regular board member role, and his continued involvement offers a sense of continuity as new leadership steps in.



Member to President

Kathleen Goodier

Kathleen Goodier has been a resident of Chadds Ford Township since 1995 and has dedicated her time to preserving its rich history and landscapes. She currently serves as President of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates and has been active on the Board of Directors since 2025. Kathleen also contributed to the Brandywine Battlefield Heritage Interpretation Plan Advisory Committee, helping shape how the region's history is shared with the public.

Through her service on the Township Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Open Space Committee, and on the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission, she has advanced initiatives that protect, interpret, and celebrate the Township's historic and natural heritage for future generations.

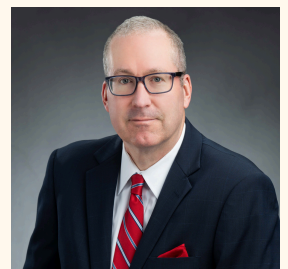


Welcoming a New Member

Patrick Hart

Patrick Hart has worked in commercial banking for the last 30 years. He first got to know the Associates through the Park's education work and has stayed connected ever since, now joining the board this year.

He lives in Southern Chester County with his wife and their two daughters. Patrick enjoys golf, the beach, and reading about American history, an interest that is a natural fit with the Park's mission. He has also fostered more than 30 rescue dogs over the years.



The 250th in Motion



Battle for Independence: Amazing Race to Brandywine

— May 16, 2026

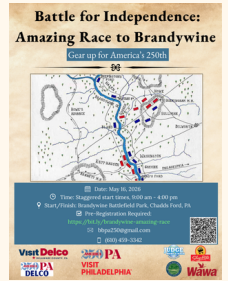
We had a great time meeting all of you at the Amazing Race to Brandywine! Thank you again to all of our staff, volunteers, guests, sponsors, and the amazing reenactors. Each and every one of you made this event an outstanding success!

Special Guests: [PA Military Museum](#), [America250PA Delco](#)

Sponsors: [Visit Delco](#), [America250PADelco](#), [America250PA](#), [Visit Philly](#), [Judge Mobile Wash](#), [NALT/Brinton Run Preserve](#), [ShopRite](#), & [Wawa](#)

Location Partners: [Natural Lands Stroud Preserve](#), at [Birmingham Hill Preserve](#) with [Brandywine Conservancy](#), [Sandy Hollow Heritage Park](#) with [Birmingham Township](#), & [NALT/Brinton Run Preserve](#)

Participants: [9th Pennsylvania](#), [Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead](#), [Ned Hector](#) (portrayed by [Noah Lewis](#)), and [Joseph Seymour & Jennifer Anne Nichols](#)



Orders from Headquarters

Brews At The Battlefield

— June 13, 2026

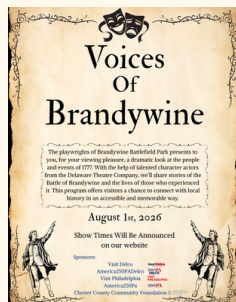
Sample a wide selection of craft beers from local breweries, eat great food, and listen to awesome live music.



Voices of Brandywine

— August 1, 2026

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

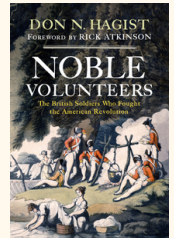


Revolutionary Speaker Series ft. Don Hagist

— November 14, 2026

Don Hagist, managing editor of the Journal of the American Revolution, uncovers the real lives of the British soldiers who fought in America.

Drawing on extensive primary research from archives across North America and Europe, his book *Noble Volunteers* brings their stories into sharp focus.



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 tents, with an opportunity to have a colonial-style dinner with Washington and his officers.

Our Sponsors:



History Doesn't Write Itself

Brandywine's Sycamore, A Living Legacy

by Carol Tynan

Brandywine Battlefield Park's iconic sycamore tree is a must-see for every Park visit.

Standing over 100 feet tall, this American Sycamore (also known as a buttonwood tree) has been witness to more than 250 years of American history and immortalized in legend, art and modern arboriculture. Artist Andrew Wyeth wrote about his painting "Pennsylvania Landscape," with the alternate title "Lafayette's Headquarters" (1941, tempera on panel) depicts the sycamore and surrounding landscape. In his autobiography he wrote: "I think of it as the whole Pennsylvania landscape in one picture, with that marvelous buttonwood tree in the middle... the majesty of that nearly 500 year old tree. You know it's an odd picture- almost prosaic." The sycamore is also portrayed in paintings by artists Paul Scarborough, James R. Huntsberger, Karl Kuerner and an untold number of plein air artists and photographers, creating a lasting tribute for Brandywine's Sycamore.

Scott Wade, Longwood Gardens arborist, reached out to the Park in 2017 and obtained permission to take cuttings from Brandywine's sycamore as part of the "Specimen Tree Replacement Plan." The germplasm, or genetics, of the tree are preserved through this plan, providing a genetically identical specimen. The cuttings were propagated in the nursery at Longwood Gardens. In 2019 two young sycamores, genetic matches of their parent tree, were planted near the springhouse at the Park. Another was planted at Longwood's Peirce's Park, the oldest cultivated section of the Gardens. This program ensures that our majestic sycamore can live on, if it needs to be replaced, with genetically identical "children," should the tree be affected by disease, or disaster.



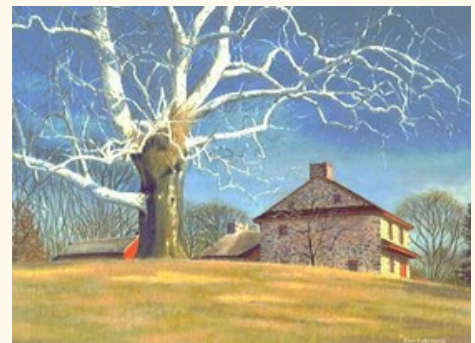
Andrew Wyeth
"Pennsylvania Landscape"
Alternate Title(s): Lafayette's Headquarters
Tempera on panel, 1941

Legend says the General Marquis de Lafayette was taken to the sycamore, and placed under its branches, for treatment of his wounds when he was wounded during the Battle of the Brandywine. The fact is that he was removed from the field at Sandy Hollow, some distance from the sycamore, and taken to a nearby Quaker farmhouse where his wounds were treated.

The tree is often referred to as the "Lafayette Sycamore" due to this legend.

Acknowledgement of the Lafayette Sycamore's historical significance can be found at the following:

Monumental Trees.com Union College of Union County, N.J. Historic Tree Grove. "A seed was obtained from the sycamore and planted into the Tree Grove in 1997." Artemus Ward Museum, Harvard University Arlington National Cemetery "Medal of Honor Trees" Tree #27. American Battlefield Trust "Silent Witness" article commemorating historic trees.



James Huntsberger
"Lafayettes
Headquarters"

Say What? Colonial Edition — Terry Ceulers, Lexicon Legend

Many of the common words we use today had very different meanings in the 18th century.

Budget (n) – A bag or sack. From the French *bougette*, diminutive of *bouge* "leather bag". A 1677 book referred to "A Budget or Pocket to hang by their sides."

Homespun (n) - A rough, loosely woven wool fabric one might make at home. During the Revolutionary War, homespun referred to domestically made fabric and was a symbol of resistance to British taxes. Women organized "spinning bees" to make fabric for themselves and soldiers as a protest against British textiles.

Magot (n) - A musical impromptu. The word was used in the name of many dance tunes such as *Mr. Lane's Magot* (1698)

Padding (n) - A protection for a child's head before he could properly walk. Resembling a pudding in its sense of a large sausage. A 1780 letter said, "Mary is most wise with her child....She has little David in what she wore herself, a pudding and pinner."

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 be a leader in interpretation, 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	- Kathleen Goodier
Vice President	- Eric Downs
Treasurer	- George Thorpe
Secretary	- Elizabeth Miner
Director	- Linnell Trimbell
Director	- Andrew Outten
Director	- Steve Carter
Director	- Kris Barone
Director	- Patrick Hart

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 Razzo
Technical Services	- Jesse Wolfe

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Staff:

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


Memberships



Sponsorships



BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK

 610-459-3342

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

Brandywine Battlefield Park
Associates
PO Box 202 - (Mailing
Address)
1491 Baltimore Pike -
(Physical Address)
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Thank you for reading!