

# The Brandywine Dispatch

Member's Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

"Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting"

Fall 2020



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## The Virtual Park Keeps History Alive!

The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA) held our Charter Day celebration on March 10, 2020. Over 50 members of our community attended this special, annual event. It was the first, and the last, event held at the Brandywine Battlefield Park in 2020. The severity of the COVID-19 virus rapidly spread in the days that followed, and the Park was officially closed on March 13, 2020 in accordance with Pennsylvania mandates.

BBPA immediately transitioned to temporary remote operations. By mid-April it was all too apparent that we would be working remotely for the long haul. April saw the closing of the schools for the remainder of the school year and all Colonial Days programs were cancelled. In May we made the hard decision to cancel Summer History Camp. Our board of directors and staff jumped into action!

The BBPA Board of Directors mastered the art of the Zoom meeting and reached out to our community to let them know that, although the Park was closed, BBPA was still open. Staff began the development of virtual programming. During this crisis we are providing free, interesting, meaningful and enjoyable resources for the community including those who are self-isolating and home schooling, with educational, interesting and enjoyable online programming.

BBPA provides weekly Facebook posts with the focus on different aspects of the Battle of Brandywine, the American Revolution and the Social/Economic Life of the 18th Century. All information has a connection to Brandywine Battlefield Park.

*#MuseumMonday* - One post each Monday that highlights an artifact in the Brandywine Battlefield's museum collection and gives a brief history of the artifact.

*#WeaponsWednesday* - One post each Wednesday that highlights the science and history of a specific weapon in the Brandywine Battlefield museum collection, how it was used in the American Revolution, and its significance/relationship to the Battle of Brandywine.

*#TechThursday* - One post each Thursday that highlights technology in the 18th century. This includes both military and 18th Century social/economic life. All technology featured will have a connection to the Battle of Brandywine or the two farmsteads on the park grounds.

*#FigureFriday* - One post each Friday that highlights a certain individual (civilian or military) that relates to the Battle of Brandywine or 18th Century Chester County. Interest has continued to grow since the first post in March and BBPA has reached 5,000 people who are interested in their local and national history. Additionally, the [Brandywine Battlefield Park Introductory Video](#) is now available online, as well as Distance Learning and Classroom Resources on the website.



BRANDYWINE  
BATTLEFIELD



*Thomas W. Wolf, Governor*  
*Nancy Moses, Chair, PHMC*  
*Andrea Lowery, Executive Director*

The Brandywine Battlefield Park is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) with the active support of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

*The Brandywine Dispatch* is published quarterly by BBPA, and is free with membership.

**Submissions are welcome!**

**Mail to:**

Newsletter Editor  
 Brandywine Battlefield Park  
 Associates  
 P.O. Box 202  
 Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
 610-459-3342

**BBPA Board Members:**

President: Linn Trimbell  
 Vice President: Frank Murphy  
 2nd Vice President: Hank Weaver  
 Secretary: Theresa Ceulers  
 Treasurer: Shirley P. Dogan  
 Director: Adrian Martinez  
 Director: Mary Sue Boyle

**Welcome New Board Members!**

Peter Adams, Ron Gibbs, MD.,  
 Michele Thackrah

**Staff Personnel:**

Doug Miller - Site Administrator  
 Andrew Outten - Director of  
 Education & Museum Services  
 Jesse Wolfe - Edu & Tech Services  
 Nancy Heitzenreiter - Business  
 Services Coordinator  
 Brett Patterson - Controllor  
 Ken Levin - PHMC Maintenance



## *The President's View*

*Friends do not just happen - they volunteer!*

Have you ever you ever heard the cliché “a stranger is a friend I have not met?” Please bear with me. In the year 2000, my family endured a life-changing event. With a career opportunity, we moved from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania. Serendipity landed us at home, which we later learned was built on land of the former *Davis Farm* located adjacent to *Sandy Hollow*, Birmingham Township. In 2012 my retirement brought an opportunity to contemplate the *rest of my life*. In the Fall of 2013, I made a fateful turn into the Brandywine Battlefield Park, and that decision afforded a platform for another transformational life change. No swearing in. No raising of the right hand. Just show up! And so, I did the unthinkable; I volunteered!

I have always been associated with volunteerism. In September 1968, and at the age of twenty, I voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army, during the very unpopular Viet Nam War. Volunteerism, a very broad concept, is deeply rooted in our American society. The very origin of our nation was founded on volunteerism. The founders of our nation risked not only their lives and assets; but their family heritage, when they volunteered themselves into service of a fledgling concept.

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of our Nation, the *Battle of Brandywine* and the *Philadelphia Campaign* are soon approaching. We should all be reminded of the stories of the American Revolution and the *Battle of Brandywine* which have been kept alive through the sacrifice's and efforts of volunteers. Yes, I did volunteer and what did I receive in turn? My reward was many dear friends and colleagues; least to say many enjoyable experiences. In January 2021 I leave the BBPA Board of Directors, and look forward to new challenges. I look forward to serving with the newly formed BBPA Advisory Council. Godspeed my friends!

Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell, President  
 Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

Linn Trimbell accepts Commendation from the Delaware County Council on behalf of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. August 30, 2017.

Gideon Gilpin, who's house stands at the Park, was one of the first members of the Delaware County Council from 1798-1793.



## *In Memoriam*

*"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."-George Washington*

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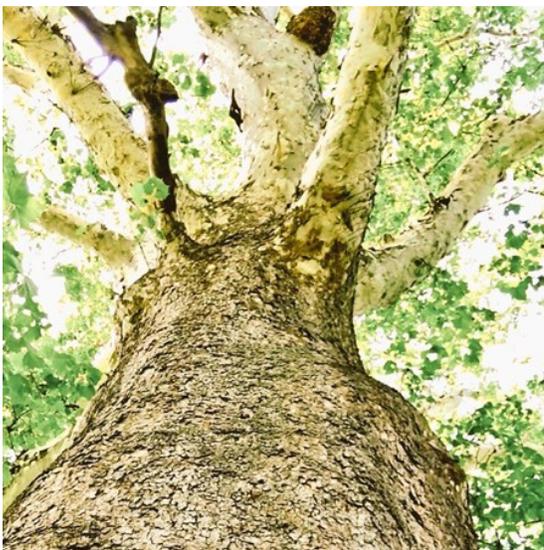
## **IN HONOR OF BRYAN THORPE**

*Son, Brother, Friend, Volunteer and  
Director of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, Board of Directors*

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Our lifelong friend Bryan Thorpe passed away suddenly on September 8, 2020. Bryan was a dedicated volunteer and served multiple terms as a director on the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates' Board. Bryan was the loving son of George and Judy Thorpe, Chadds Ford. We will miss his energy, compassion and steadfast abilities. Bryan's amazing laugh echoes in our hearts.

Please help us to honor Bryan's life. The Bryan's Beautification Project, at Brandywine Battlefield Park, celebrates Bryan's life. The Project will replant trees and plant life which was lost in recent storms, at the Park. Included, but not limited to Historical tree planting, installation of paths to improve mobility and benches where we can rest and reflect may be included in the project.



Memorial contributions can be made at:  
[www.brandywinebattlefield.org/donate](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org/donate)

Bryan's Beautification Project,  
Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates  
P.O. Box 202  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Looking up into the branches of the historic sycamore tree growing near the Gideon Gilpin House.

## Remembrance Day 2020

September 11th, 2020

Remembrance Day was held on September 11, 2020 and marks the first virtual event conducted by BBPA. Over sixty people from all over the country participated in the program. The program honored the sacrifice of those who fought for the Nation's freedom at the battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777 and the series of events on September 11, 2001. Presenters included Edward "Ned" Hector, Revolutionary War veteran, portrayed by Noah Lewis, historical re-enactor. Ned Hector is a Revolutionary War hero, a free black man, who was a teamster and noted for his courage during the retreat from the Battle of Brandywine, where he refused to give up his horses, wagon and the armaments he was carrying.

*If you missed the Event, no worries!  
Check out the full broadcast here:*



[LINK TO  
VIRTUAL  
EVENT](#)



### With Our Thanks!

All in-person programs were cancelled when the Park closed in March. This resulted in a loss of all program revenues. We are grateful to the following donors for their support. Funding is being used for the development and distribution of the Remote Learning Program "Colonial Days in the Classroom" for school students. This is a sustainable program that will meet the needs of educators and students during the current pandemic guidelines and in the future.



Longwood Foundation

DelCo Strong

Connelly Foundation

Chadds Ford Township

## Liberty Tree Update



We lost our Liberty Tree during Tropical Storm Isaias, August 2020. The Liberty tree was planted adjacent to Ring House and was donated by the "Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution".

Our new Liberty Tree was planted on November 18, 2020 behind the Ring House. Both trees are grafted descendants of the 400 year old Liberty destroyed during "Hurricane Floyd", Annapolis, Maryland.

The Liberty Tree was provided by Curt Cheyney, Esq. and the Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. It was delivered by John and Jacob Kenyon of The Providence Forum. The tree was planted by Kenneth Levin, Brandywine Battlefield Park Maintenance, PHMC.



Storm Damage at the Brandywine Battlefield Park, compliments of Tropical Storm Isaias. Many thanks to our dedicated maintenance personnel for their herculean efforts to repair and restore our Park!



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*“Brandywine Battlefield Park serves the educational needs of the public through the preservation of the cultural landscape and the interpretation of the largest single day battle of the American Revolution. The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #23-2143174. 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”*

*Encourage your Family and Friends to Join us as a Member!*

We are a [Membership](#) based organization

**Take Notice! Volunteers Wanted:**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Brandywine Battlefield Park or know someone who might, please visit our website for more information and to fill out a registration form!

[www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org)

**Contribution Form**

Yes! I would like to offer additional support to the Brandywine Battlefield Park and Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates by making a tax-exempt donation!

Please send form and donation to: BBPA - P.O. Box 202 Chadds Ford, PA 19317

My Contribution is: \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \_Check Enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Please Charge my: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Name on Card (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\*To make an Online Donation, visit our website: [www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org), and click the “Donate link on the home page. All donations are very much appreciated and go towards bettering educational and interpretational components of the Battlefield Park! Thank you!\*