

The Brandywine Dispatch

Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

“Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting”

Fall 2021

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Remembering and Commemorating the Past...

September 11th is an ominous day in American History. We can certainly remember that fateful Tuesday in 2001 and remember exactly where we were when we heard of or witnessed the atrocities that had been committed that day. It is a day that still brings back vivid and terrible memories, even being twenty years later. For those living in southeastern Chester County at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries it was no different.

In September 1797, the local community could also recall the vivid memories that took place twenty years prior in 1777. They had experienced the Battle of Brandywine, the largest single day battle of the American Revolution and an engagement had a severe impact on those who fought and/or witnessed it. Both American and British accounts of the battle tell of extremely fierce and desperate combat. Some of these officers and soldiers were seasoned veterans who had never before, nor after, saw fighting like that of Brandywine. Even decades later, when soldiers’ experiences were finally being recorded, they were still able to give a vivid description due to the impact it had on them. Likewise, the civilian population also had traumatic experiences. The fighting that took place on that extremely hot Thursday in 1777 engulfed thirty-five thousand acres within fifteen modern municipalities that are currently spread over two counties. This agriculturally and industrially rich region was booming with farms, mills, and other businesses that were responsible for a large portion of the trade coming out of the colonies. September 11, 1777, quickly changed that for most. What was thought to be another rich harvest season for many on September 10th, quickly became a nonexistent one on the 12th.

cont’d on next page





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

Submissions are welcome!

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Remembering and Commemorating the Past...

Like in 2001, livelihoods, ideologies, and other key aspects of daily life took a sudden 180 degree turn and would never be the same for some. Loved ones were lost, homes and property destroyed, and many fled the area never to return.

As the renowned historian and author David McCullough frequently states in speeches and interviews, “History is Human” and as we in 2021 reflect on September 11, 2001, it is important to realize that 224 years ago, people were reliving tragic and vivid memories they too had experienced twenty years prior on the same date. To reflect further on this important date in history for many reasons, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates invite you to join us on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 6pm at the Brandywine Battlefield Park for our annual commemoration ceremony. This ceremony is free and open to the public where members of the community and our organization will gather beneath the flagpole adjacent to Washington’s Headquarters (Benjamin Ring home). Joining us will be PA State Representative Craig Williams, General George Washington portrayed by Carl Closs, various reenactors and period interpreters who will conduct a musket salute, and others who will offer words of reflections. We hope you can join us for this solemn event.



Andrew Outten, Director of Education

SAVE THE DATES FOR PARK EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Saturday, September 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Flag Pole





History Challenge

Interesting facts and puzzles!

Who Am I?

- I was born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, which my grandfather
- As a respected local official, I served as sheriff, judge of common pleas, and also as member of the state assembly.
- I supported the Revolution almost from the beginning
- I was elected as a delegate to the first Continental Congress.
- I didn't live to see out the Revolution, dying as a member of the New Jersey State Council.

Who Am I?

- Serving in London as a British official, I was responsible for the revenue acts that helped to spark the American Revolution.
- I was a lawyer who graduated from Eton and Oxford, entering Parliament in 1741.
- In 1747, I became a treasury lord and held many offices such as treasurer of the navy, privy councillor, and first lord of the Admiralty.
- As first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer, I was faced with finding ways to pay England's huge war debt from the Seven Years war as well as the expanding British empire.
- The Sugar Act, the Stamp Act, and the Navigation Act and their opposition, led to my downfall and I died 5 years before America and England went to war.

Answers on page 9

Did You Know?

Colonial American English Definitions:

Choice (*adj*) - Holding something dear; using with care. In 1775, Abigail Adams wrote to John regarding some articles he sent her, "I shall be very choice of them".

Doubloon (*n*) - A Spanish gold coin worth sixteen silver dollars. Originally double the value of a *pistole*. In 1757 Richard Haddon, commander of the privateer *Peggy*, testified, "Having on board, ten doubloons."

Falling Weather (*n*) - Any bad weather when rain or snow was falling. In 1760, Washington recorded, "In the evening it...promised falling weather, but no appearance of a thaw."

Infantry (*n*) - Infants. In 1679 Charles Wolley referred to: "the minors and the infantry of the family."

Mortification (*n*) - Gangrene. In 1741, William Byrd recorded, "The operation (to cut her nails and corns) gave her such a Gash an the little toe, that she was forct to live a whole month upon water-gruel to keep it from a mortification."



Colonial Wordsearch

L	N	C	S	T	I	R	L	I	N	G	E	E	A
A	E	N	O	S	U	G	R	E	F	E	H	R	N
F	R	R	K	N	Y	P	H	A	U	S	E	N	O
A	C	O	R	N	W	A	L	L	I	S	L	E	T
Y	F	N	S	E	P	G	S	A	E	S	F	W	G
E	Y	E	U	I	R	N	G	T	E	E	A	W	N
T	E	H	L	L	O	O	R	C	S	L	A	N	I
T	N	P	L	H	C	E	N	E	E	R	G	T	H
E	Y	E	I	E	T	L	L	E	W	X	A	M	S
U	E	T	V	R	O	O	T	E	T	C	N	N	A
A	H	S	A	N	R	U	I	L	T	G	N	C	W
N	C	R	N	W	T	H	O	W	E	A	O	R	A
A	R	M	S	T	R	O	N	G	I	R	S	N	T
E	W	O	A	N	C	N	L	N	W	A	Y	N	E

WASHINGTON
 GREENE
 SULLIVAN
 WAYNE
 FERGUSON
 ARMSTRONG
 CHEYNEY
 STEPHEN
 PROCTOR
 KNYPHAUSEN
 HOWE
 LAFAYETTE
 STIRLING
 CORNWALLIS
 MAXWELL

Play this puzzle online at:

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2656512/>

The Story of John Francis

Serving in the same regiment as the famed Ned Hector, the free black soldier John Francis was a private in the 3rd Pa. who was wounded during the Battle of Brandywine. The 3rd Pa. was organized in and around Philadelphia in the first months of 1776, and the unit saw action in Quebec, Lake Champlain, and the Philadelphia region.

John Francis served in “A” Company, which was commanded by Captain Henry Epple and under General Lord Stirling’s Division at Brandywine. During the battle, both of Francis’s legs were shattered by grapeshot and musket fire. He was eventually discharged from a hospital in Lancaster, and he went on to receive a pension for his service and wounds in 1789. In 1835, his annual allowance was recorded as being \$36.00. After the war, John Francis went on to live in Philadelphia County. He had a wife and three children, and he lived until at least 1835.



A portrait of Ned Hector, who served in the 3rd PA with John Francis

*Article written and researched by Jillian Miller,
a senior at Hatboro-Horsham High School.*

Become a Member and Make a Difference!

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates Members are part of one of Pennsylvania's oldest public-private partnerships in support of this historic site! As a Member of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates you help support this national treasure and its history by preserving the past, providing education for the present and keeping our mission alive for the future.

Membership Opportunities include:

Individual \$25

- Unlimited free admission to Museum and House Tours for 1 year
- 10% discount in Giftshop
- 10% discount on Battlefield Driving Tours

Quarterly Newsletter with Members Only updates

Family \$35

- Unlimited free admission to Museum and House Tours for Member & immediate family
- 10% discount in Giftshop
- 10% discount on Battlefield Driving Tours

Quarterly Newsletter with Members Only updates

Benefactor \$75

- Enjoy all Family Membership benefits

Plus 15% discount in Giftshop

Business \$100

- Enjoy all Benefactor Membership benefits

Plus 15% discount in Giftshop

Please visit www.brandywinebattlefield.org to join
or contact us at bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com or 610-459-3342 for more information.

From the Site Administrator's Desk

Hello friends and colleagues of the Brandywine Battlefield,

As the park has reopened to the public our site has gained momentum and visitorship. The pandemic is still with us, and precautions are in place for public safety. The response of the current board of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates to the challenges of shifting safety concerns and public access has been great. At this writing I am please to share that every scheduled public tour has gone out to explore the history and heritage preserved and protected at our site.

The work of the staff and especially our volunteer guides (both veteran guides and newly arrived) has brought this important story to hundreds of guests from many states. The support in fundraising and staffing the front lines of the park rests with a modest and strongly committed group of citizens who make up the Board of Directors at the Park.

We are on the threshold of a dual anniversary, the 9/11 attacks of 20 years ago and those of 1777. In both, Americans suffered and died. Both should be remembered with reverence. I recently had a call from a friend who connected me with descendants of Lt. Col. Robinson who fell wounded that afternoon during the Battle of the Brandywine. The family still resides in Pennsylvania where their ancestor fought and bled for “the cause.”

This fall please remember the Park and the heritage of those who fought here at Brandywine. Join us for our programs and consider joining the Park Associates in their efforts, either as a member or volunteer or both.

Sincerely,

Doug Miller, Acting Site Administrator (PHMC)

Collections Highlight



British “Belly” Box

We hope you can visit us soon and see the Museum items in person!

BBPA "Art History"

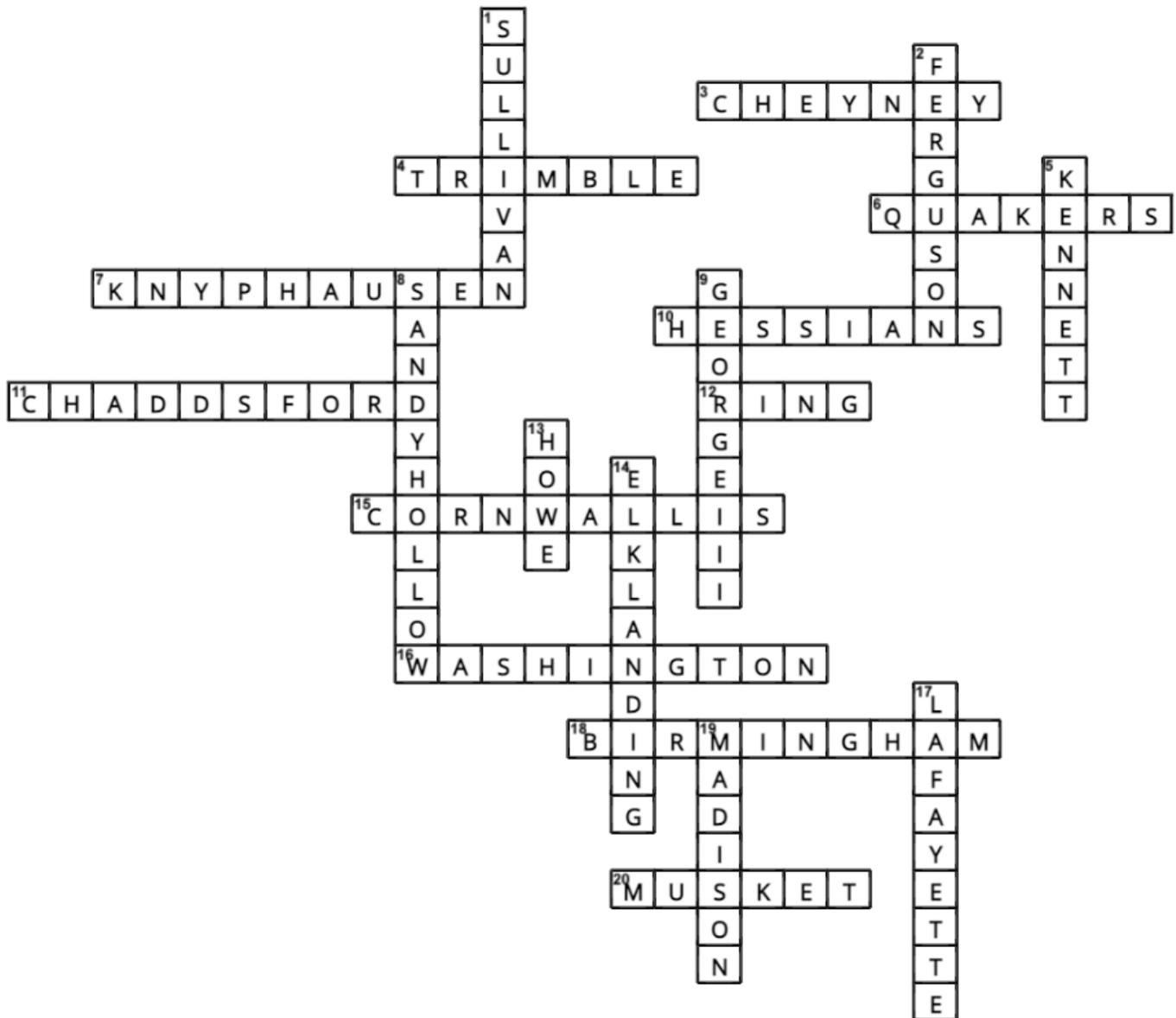
Tap into your creative side. BBPA is now accepting submissions for the new *Art History* segment of the Brandywine Dispatch. Each issue will showcase works of art created by our readers. Art works can be drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture, needlework, poetry, essay, music and other creative art forms. The subject matter should be the Battle of the Brandywine, The Brandywine Battlefield or the Brandywine Battlefield Park. The artwork will be divided into two divisions: Youth-age 18 and under; Adult-over 18 years.

We are currently seeking submissions for the Winter Brandywine Dispatch. Send a picture of your creation to bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com and specify your name, youth or adult division, title of the artwork and contact information. Artists of published art works will receive a \$5.00 certificate to the Gift Shop.



Congratulations to Ashleigh W., 7th grade!

Crossword Answers (Summer 2021 issue)



Who Am I Answers

1. Stephen Crane, 1709 - 1780
2. George Grenville, 1712-1770



Thomas W. Wolf, Governor
Nancy Moses, Chair, PHMC
Andrea Lowery, Executive Direc-

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

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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!

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

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, 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!