

The Brandywine Dispatch

Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

“Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting”

Spring 2022

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Noah Lewis - Volunteer of the Year 2022

The Brandywine Battlefield is pleased to announce that Noah Lewis is the recipient of the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award! Noah is a historical interpreter who brings Edward “Ned” Hector to life. Private Hector was a Teamster / Artilleryman with Colonel Proctor’s Regiment and fought at the Battle of the Brandywine. During the retreat from the battle, Ned refused to surrender his horses, wagon and the armaments he was carrying to the British forces. A Revolutionary War hero, Ned was a free black man, and noted for his courage. He is quoted as saying, *“The enemy shall not have my team. I will save the horses or perish myself.”*

Ned wears the Uniform of the Third Pennsylvania Artillery Company and shares his message about the role of African-Americans in the Colonial fight for freedom during the Revolutionary War. He discusses his daring in the battle, his uniform and soldier’s kit, and the life of a Continental soldier.

Noah’s enthusiastic participation in BBPA activities has includes the virtual 2020 Remembrance Day program of Ned Hector’s heroic actions at the Battle of the Brandywine, “A Soldier’s Life” video segment for the “Colonial Days Education Series” and in person appearances including the 2021 Remembrance Day program. Noah’s dedication “keeps history alive” through the telling of these untold stories. More information about Noah and Ned Hector can be found at www.nedhector.com



Private Hector and General Washington in conversation during Remembrance Day 2021



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The Brandywine Dispatch is published quarterly by BBPA. Free!

Submissions are Welcome!

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Email Submissions to:



From the President

*“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life
~ Confucius”*

Now, I know this might be a stretch, but I can associate my experience with my volunteerism at the Brandywine Battlefield Park (BBP) with this statement. I have worked a majority of my adult life in the *Corporate World*. I can truly say that my time volunteering at BBP has been far more spiritually and emotionally rewarding than my vocational career. The concept of volunteerism has always amazed me. People making sacrifices to give of themselves for the benefit of others is truly phenomenal. So, what drives this concept? I can only find one answer, passion. After struggling through more than two (2) years, our nation is recovering from the impact of the COVID-



19 pandemic. Aside from the human and economic impact, the residual toll is endless. At the core of this recovery is volunteerism. Now our beloved Park has been reopened with the support of the Brandywine Battlefield Park associates and the Pennsylvania Museum and Commission (PHMC.) Unlike previous years, we are experiencing a major void. That void is the loss of several dedicated volunteers. Our organization, founded in 1971, is predicated on volunteers to support the delivery of critical education programs at the Park. We are now in the process of rebuilding our basic fiber - volunteers. The wonderful news with this recovery is the regeneration of our volunteer group. I have been at the Park for the past few weeks and I am truly heartened with the faces of new and returning volunteers, all with interest and yes passion. With the collective enthusiasm I have witnessed, I am convinced that we have a bright future. I wish to thank our returning volunteers and congratulate our new volunteers!

Regards,

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell

President, Board of Directors

Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates



History Challenge

Interesting facts and puzzles!

Do you know these historic definitions?

Black jack: A large drinking mug made of leather with a tar coating. A 1775 Massachusetts document said, “We left a pint black jack abt half full of water.”

Drop Shot: the firearm shot made by dropping molten lead in a shot in a shot tower to get it perfectly round. A 1638 Maryland document referred to : “a rondlett of drop-shot, 2 gunnes”

Mickle: (n) A great quantity. *Poor Richard’s Almanac* observed, “Every little makes a mickle”.

Parley: (n) A conference with an enemy. In 1781, Gen. William Heath reported to Gov. Hancock, “On the 17th they (British) beat a parley—the 19th surrendered.”

Scurvy grass: The spoonwort which grows on rocks near the sea. It was taken to prevent scurvy. In 1630 John Winthrop wrote to his wife that he took with him: “a gallon of scurvey grass to drink.”

Who Am I?

Personality #1:

I was a Delegate to Congress but also a Loyalist.

Born in Maryland, I was educated in the law in Philadelphia and became one of city’s most successful lawyers.

In the mid-1750’s, I developed a close friendship and political alliance with Benjamin Franklin for 20 years, until the Revolution drove us apart.

After my compromise plans to preserve the relationship with Britain deteriorated, I left Congress in 1775. When the British occupied Philadelphia, I was installed as one of the loyalist civil authorities.

In 1778, I sailed for England where I continued to lobby for conciliation and union. My property confiscated in Pennsylvania, my petition to return was rejected in 1793.

Personality #2:

As a prominent public official in Pennsylvania, I represented my native Chester County.

I was a member of the provincial congresses of 1775 and 1776, and a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

In 1776, my 4th Battalion of militia from Chester County formed one of the principal regiments of the Flying Camp, a mobile, strategic reserve force created by Washington’s request.

In the later years of the war, I worked as a civilian official, helping to settle border disputes in the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania.

I served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1793.

Answers on page 6

Welcome Troy



Hi everyone. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Troy Grubb, the new PHMC site administrator at Brandywine Battlefield Park. It's my pleasure to be here.

Just a little about myself. I'm 43 years old, and live in Leola, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania with my wife and 3 children (2 girls and 1 boy). Lancaster County has been my home for the past 17 years, but my roots are in Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Growing up, my passion was history, specifically military history, which is

why I chose a career in the history field. My path began at the Pennsylvania State University where I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 2000. After graduation, I began working at the Pennsylvania Military Museum as a seasonal custodial guide, talking about what I enjoy most, military history. After three years, I was offered full-time employment at Hope Lodge and Mather Mill historic site as a custodial guide supervisor. There, I gave guided tours of the historic site and organized special events and programs. My favorite event was the 1777 Whitemarsh Encampment reenactment. In 2004, I was hired as a museum educator at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, where I worked for the last 17 years. As an educator, I created and conducted school programs, outreach programs, and special tours. Probably my most favorite part of the job, aside from interacting with the staff and volunteers, was developing exhibits both temporary and permanent.

In my spare time, I like to watch sports, documentaries, and reality shows, specifically Pittsburgh Steelers and Penn State football and the Curse of Oak Island. Mostly, I enjoy spending time with my family visiting parks and historic sites as well as playing games and building Legos.

OPEN!

Brandywine Battlefield Park

Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Gates Open-Passive recreation on Park grounds

Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Visitor Center Open Tours Available

Please check the website for updates!

www.brandyweinebattlefield.org

The Colonial Door Garden and the Medicine Chest

As the Spring weather begins to warm the earth, I sit in my garden and survey the mess made by the winter storms. I distract myself from the tasks at hand by thinking about my colonial gardening counterparts and their plantings.

A mainstay of most colonial homes was a garden planted near the door, hence the Door Garden. This is also referred to as the Door Yard Garden or Kitchen Garden. The Door Garden was a rectangular, raised bed and narrow enough so the garden could be accessed from either side. The raised bed was made with mounded dirt and sometimes the sides were reinforced with stones and rocks. The raised bed kept the soil warm. Every square inch of the bed was planted and plantings were in clumps, not rows, to maximize the use of space. Every plant in the door garden had a purpose. Here is a sampling of plants grown for medicinal purposes -

Horehound, *Marrubium vulgare*



Horehound preparations were used as expectorants and tonics. It was given for chronic cough, asthma, and some cases of consumption. In the past it was recommended to 'those that have drunk poysen or have been bitten of serpents,' and it was also administered for 'mad dogge's biting.'



Sage, *Salvia officinalis*



A tonic made from sage was used to cure a range of bodily ills—colds, coughs, fevers, asthma, inflammation and joint pain. Native Americans mixed sage with bear grease to make a salve to treat sore throats.

Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*

Native Americans taught early settlers to use wild ginger. The root was dried and ground to a powder. Wild ginger leaves were used as a poultice to treat infected wounds and stomach ailments. Modern research shows that wild ginger contains natural antibiotic compounds.



Lungwort, *Pulmonaria*



Lungwort received its name from its speckled leaves that resemble lung tissue. Lungwort was used for conditions of the stomach, lungs and urinary tract. It was also used to treat colds, cough, asthma and bronchitis.

Winter Savory, *Satureia Montana*

Winter Savory was used medicinally as a diuretic, antiseptic and to relieve the pain of bee and wasp stings.

An example of a Door Yard Garden can be seen next to the Benjamin Ring House. The Ring House garden was developed and planted by Stephanie "Stevie" Demott and details about the garden can be obtained at the Visitor Center.

From the Controller

As the controller for Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, it is my job to both maintain and keep watch over the books of the organization. Together with the Treasurer we are always examining how we might improve BBPA's financial security. By late 2019 our numbers looked so bad that I wasn't sure if we were going to last another year.

Despite being closed for nearly all of 2020 and half of 2021, BBPA emerged from the shutdown in a better financial position than it had been in several years. A combination of factors: federal Covid relief, the generosity of several granting organizations, and support from concerned donors like you have helped to get the organization through a very difficult crisis. Now we are looking forward to a brighter future ahead of the 250th anniversary of the country, but we still will need help to do more.

Volunteers are essential to offer more school programming and keep the site open more days, without their selfless efforts we'd be forced to close again. Donations will be critical to sustain our operations and eventually expand them under the watch of a new educator who will be developing new programming and events. The search for a new educator is underway and has already received applications from several exciting candidates. 2022, and especially 2023, will be major opportunities for growth of BBPA but as always, will rely upon your help.



Thank you,
Brett Patterson

HISTORY CHALLENGE ANSWERS (from page 3)

Personality #1: Joseph Galloway 1731-1803

Personality #2 William Montgomery, Militia officer, legislator 1736--1816

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, your help supports 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 the Museum Giftshop
- 10% discount on Battlefield Driving Tours
- Quarterly Newsletter with Members Only updates

Family \$35

- Free admission to Museum and House Tours for Member & immediate family for 1 year
- 10% discount in the Museum Giftshop
- 10% discount on Battlefield Driving Tours
- Quarterly Newsletter with Members Only updates

Benefactor \$75

- Enjoy all Family Membership benefits for 1 year
- Plus 15% discount in the Museum Giftshop

Business \$100

- Enjoy all Benefactor Membership benefits for 1 year
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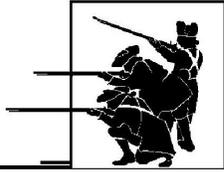
Please visit www.bandywinebattlefield.org to join or contact us at bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

"To preserve, interpret and share the impact of the enduring story of the Battle of the Brandywine, the largest single day land battle of the American Revolution."

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“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”

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: _____

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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!