

The Brandywine Dispatch

Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

“Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting”

Spring/Summer 2021

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Yes. The Park is Open!

As we move full steam ahead into the summer months, many have wondered if the park will ever reopen again. The answer to that question is yes, it has! Currently Brandywine Battlefield Park is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00am-4:00pm for passive recreations on our grounds. On Fridays and Saturdays, the park Visitor Center is open in a limited capacity from 10:00am-4:00pm allowing visitors to view the exhibits in our museum gallery, watch our orientation film, and browse the items in our gift shop. What about tours you ask? The historic structures on the grounds have also reopened for historic house tours! Thanks to our Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates staff and Volunteers! Tour times and schedule are forthcoming and will be made available on our website, www.brandywinebattlefield.org. Along with us getting back into the full swing of talking history with you, we are looking forward to unveiling some new features of our museum gallery.

OPEN!

Brandywine Battlefield Park

Hours of Operation

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

-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.brandywinebattlefield.org



**BRANDYWINE
BATTLEFIELD**



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

Submissions are welcome!

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Andrew Outten - Director of Education & Museum Services
Jesse Wolfe - Edu & Tech Services
Nancy Heitzenreiter - Business Services Coordinator
Brett Patterson - Controller
Ken Levin - PHMC Maintenance

Yes. The Park is Open cont'd

Over the past several months, our museum has undergone some retrofitting in order update and add new and interesting exhibit panels for your enjoyment. One new interpretive effort focuses on the aftermath of the battle and the impact the five-day Crown Force occupation had on the local civilian including Benjamin Ring in whose home General Washington made his headquarters from September 9-11, 1777. Another highlight of the new exhibits is the firsthand account of Joseph Townsend, a Quaker living within the battlefield landscape who experienced the prelude, action, and aftermath of the Battle of Brandywine. Shortly before his death in 1841, Townsend penned his experiences relating to the battle and his account is one of the most descriptive primary sources we have from a civilian standpoint. You will be able to see a facsimile of several pages of the document (the original pages being too fragile to put on display) and learn about Townsend's experience through his eyes. Another highlight honors the Marquis de Lafayette and his return to America in 1824 and 1825. On display is new information pertaining to this hero of the American Revolution along with a gold commemoration coin from his return visit to Chester County.

It has been a tremendously long year and a half for all of us, but we are finally starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. We have long been waiting for this time to come and we know you have too! We thank you for your patience and look forward to seeing you back at the park very soon!



Andrew Outten, Director of Education





History Challenge

Interesting facts and puzzles!

Who Am I?

- My nickname was “Black Dick” because of my swarthy complexion.
- I was born in London and served during the Seven Years’ War as a captain of the *Dunkirk*.
- I inherited the Irish title of Viscount on the death on my brother.
- I was a member of Parliament and Treasurer of the Navy.
- With my brother, I served in the American Revolution.

Answer on page 9

Who Am I?

- I was born in Western Massachusetts in 1760, son of a Congregationalist preacher.
- I enlisted in a Connecticut regiment when I was 15 and served with the troops at Valley Forge.
- I served through the entire war ending at Yorktown.
- After the war, I taught school in New York state and received a pension in 1818.
- I wrote a diary of my time served during the Revolutionary War when I was 70 yr. old.

Answer on page 9

Did You Know?

Colonial American English Definitions:

Muckle—(V) to mix something lightly

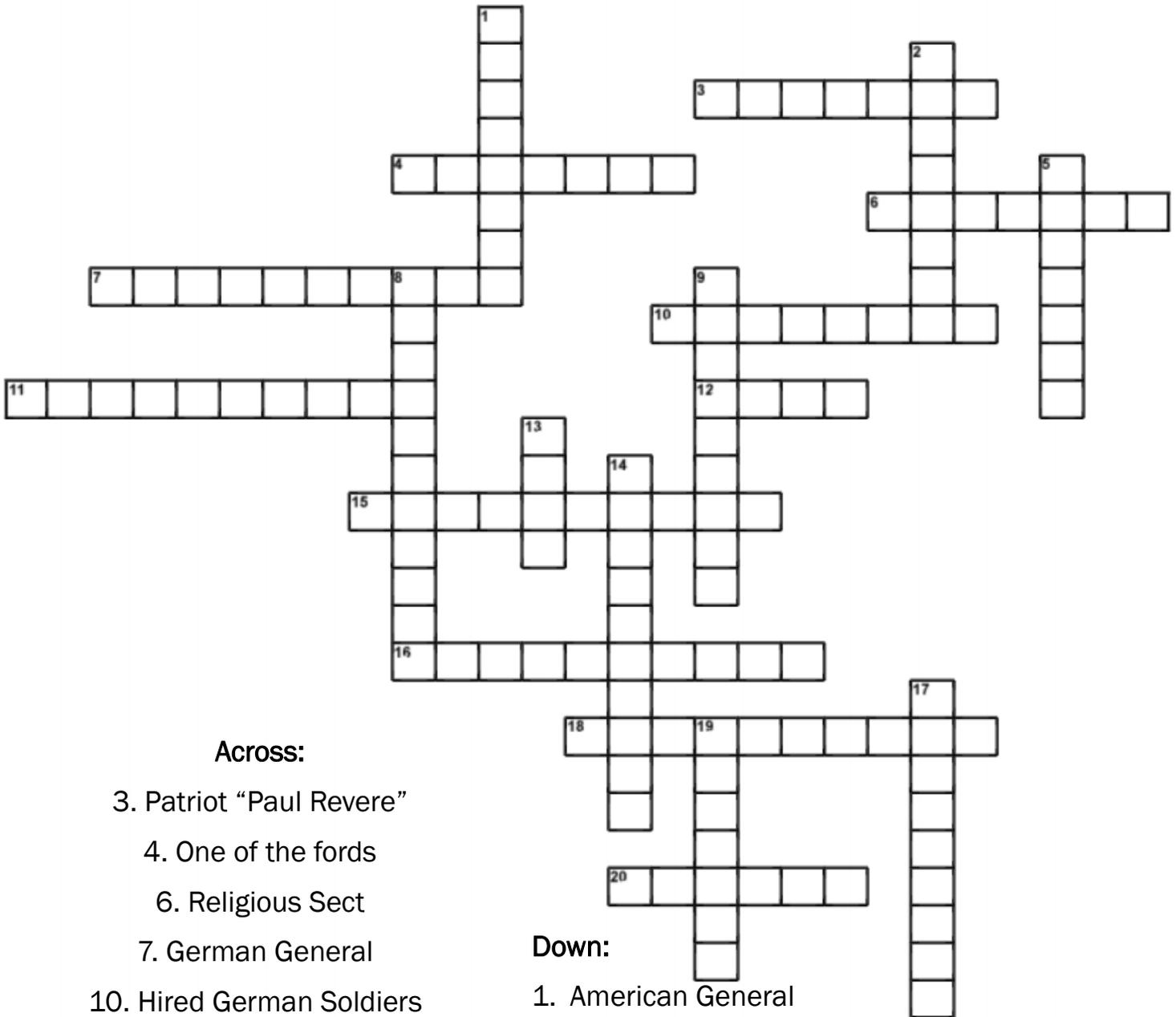
Daggle- (V) To run through mud and water; William Byrd went, “dagging though the rain after him”.

On the high rope- Excited; very angry. In 1711, William Byrd wrote, “I met Mr. Holloway and reasoned with him about his account, bur he was on the high rope and gave me back my papers.”

An’t- (V) an abbreviation of *am not*. In his 1766 diary, John Adams wrote, “Come, come, Mr. Veasey, says Master Joseph Cleverly, don’t you say too much; I an’t of that mind.”

Poltroon- (N) A coward. In 1776, Gen. William Smallwood related, “We have twice stripped from these poltroons several of our soldiers’ coats.”

Wormer- (N) A screwlike device on the end of a ramrod for removing a charge from a muzzle-loading gun. A 1702 Massachusetts document listed, “a gunne mallet.... a wormer & scourer for small armes.”

NEW*Colonial Crossword***Across:**

3. Patriot "Paul Revere"
 4. One of the fords
 6. Religious Sect
 7. German General
 10. Hired German Soldiers
 11. Ferry Crossing
 12. Name of Area Resident
 15. British Commander
 16. American Commander
 18. Meeting House used as Hospital
 20. Gun used during battle

Down:

1. American General
 2. Maker of Unique Rifle
 5. Meeting House
 8. Area of intense fighting
 9. British King in 1777
 13. British General
 14. Site of British embarkment
 17. French Officer
 19. Future President

Advisory Council

Over the many years, which I have been associated with the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA), I have crossed paths with many people who possess knowledge and interest in the Brandywine Battlefield, yet who are unable to serve in committed volunteer capacity.

These interested friends may be legally or ethically prohibited from serving on the Board of Directors, or simply cannot due other obligations. Yet, they possess a base of expertise which can benefit the larger story of the Battle of the Brandywine.

Realizing this valuable resource base, I conceptualized this idea into the BBPA Advisory Council. The parameters are simple - advice without strict governance. Using experience and expertise to provide guidance to the BBPA Board of Directors. This forum provides for people who may have served on our Board, or those who have not served on the Board.

I envisioned this concept several years ago and proposed the idea to the BBPA Board of Directors during the October 22, 2020, [Board Meeting](#) when the Advisory Council creation was approved.

The Advisory Council is established and governed by the BBPA BY-LAWS (3/11/18) Article X: Sections 1-7: Nominations. & Article XIV: Section 1-3: Standing Committees stipulates that “There shall also be such standing committees as from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors”.

The Advisory Council is a non-Board forum of subject matter experts and supporters, who will advise the Board of Directors [Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates \(BBPA\)](#) on special projects and issues. This group will be led by former BBPA Board of Director(s). The Advisory Council may advise BBPA with improvements, outcomes, as well as, public and community interests of the preserving the story of the *Battle of Brandywine*. The parameters, agenda and schedule for the Advisory Council are being developed.

Linn (Linnell) Trimbell
Chair, Advisory Council

**The PHMC Site Administrator and BBPA President are both “Ex Officio” members of all committees.*

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

As we collectively emerge from our forced COVID separation I thought it would be wise to share the work that has continued at Brandywine Battlefield Park during our closure. I truly hope you will visit our site in person to see these improvements and to support the site and Associates.

Since March of 2020, the site has had extensive exterior paint restoration to both the Ring House and the Gilpin House. Ken, our groundskeeper, has done his usual herculean job of maintaining the grounds and systems of the park and assuring all remains operational and presentable. Regional Curator Rachel Yerger arranged the conservation of over 30 artifacts in the exhibit and their safe re-installation. Rachel and Ken also worked with a contract firm to update and refresh several the panels in our exhibit and this work continues.

The water concerns in the Visitor Center have been resolved and the Pa Historical and Museum Commission's Division of Architecture and Preservation worked with Ken and the Department of Environmental Protection to assure that our water quality in the Visitor Center is safe and that the site has a path for future improvements.

In April of this year the PHMC was able to open the Visitor Center on Fridays and we will expand to Fridays and Saturdays and open the historic homes beginning July 9th and 10th with the support of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Plans for the upcoming year are currently under development and I think we all have reason to be optimistic.

I hope each of you will come to visit the park in the next few months to see the improvements to the site and consider supporting the Associates with a new or renewed membership. I will look forward to seeing you at the park.

Sincerely,

Doug Miller, Acting Site Administrator (PHMC)

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 September 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.

In Memoriam

Ralph Edward Denlinger

February 6, 1953-June 12, 2021

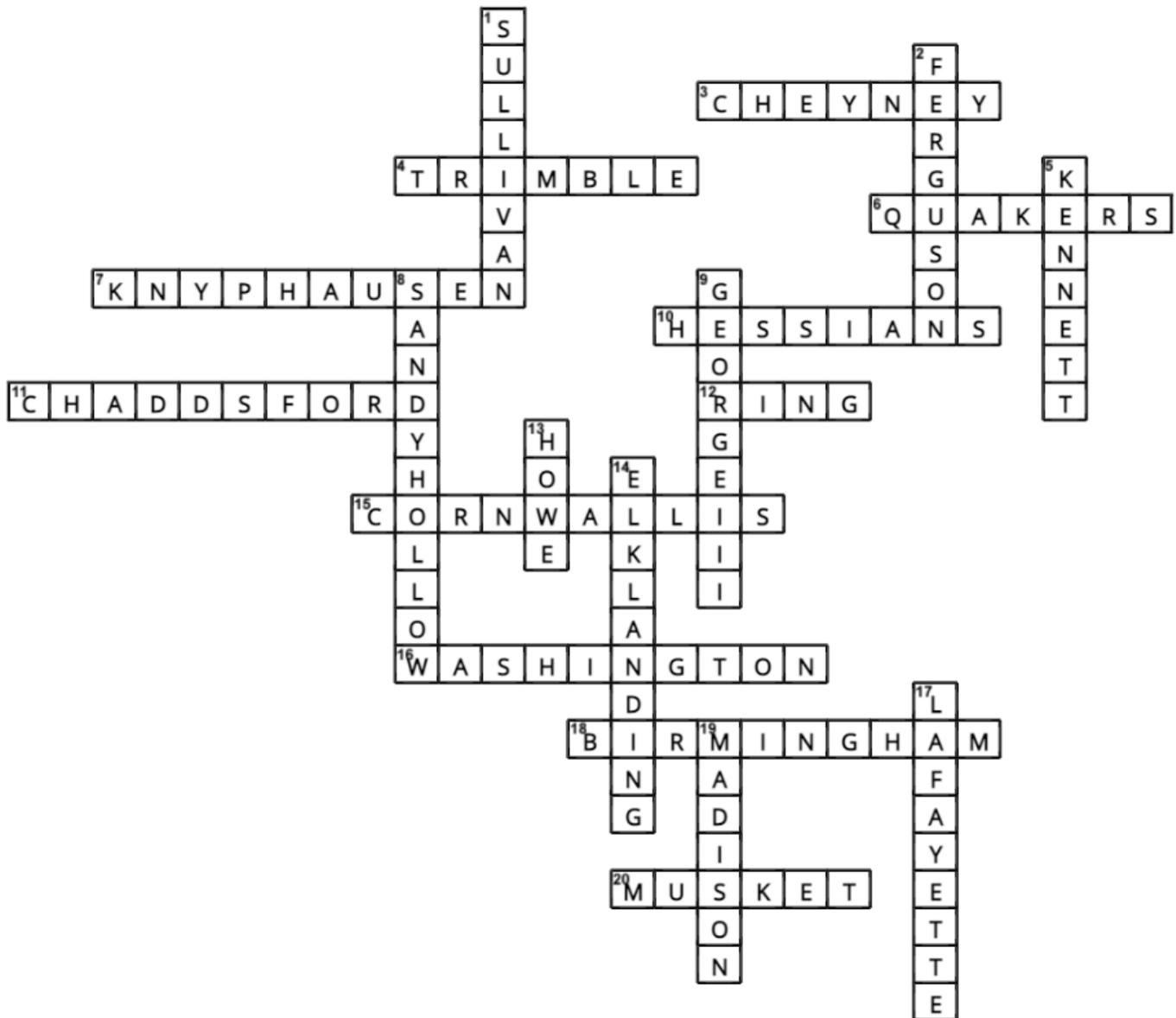
It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of a dedicated volunteer and friend, Ralph Denlinger. Ralph was involved with the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates for nearly a decade where he volunteered as a period interpreter for school programs, a guide for the public and other visitors, and a historical consultant whenever he was needed. Ralph was passionate about the American Revolution and 18th century history, along with many other things, but was particularly passionate about the role of the Chester County Militia throughout the American Revolution. In some cases, we referred to Ralph as our “Militia Guru” as his research set a new precedent for understanding the complexity of its participation in the war.



Additionally, because of Ralph, we were able to discover the true origin of the famous and well-known Brandywine Flag pictured here. Through his research, Ralph was able to trace the origin of the flag to the Chester County Militia deeming it Chester County’s “hometown flag” during the war. For his hard work and dedication to Brandywine Battlefield Park, the BBPA and PHMC recognized Ralph as Volunteer of the Year in 2016. Ralph’s passing brings a great loss to Brandywine Battlefield Park, but his legacy and the knowledge he instilled in others will continue to live on.

We will miss Ralph greatly.

Crossword Answers



Who Am I Answers

1. Richard Howe, Viscount, British Admiral
2. Joseph Plumb Martin



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!