



The Brandywine Dispatch

Member Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

“Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting”

Winter 2017

Letter from the Educator

Greetings from Brandywine!

I am pleased to present you with the first official newsletter from the BBPA in several years! My name is Andrew Outten and I am the Director of Education & Museum Services at the park. 2016 has been an interesting year for everyone here at the site. As you may know, we underwent renovations last winter, but because of delays and a series of unfortunate occurrences, we were delayed from reopening in April to early June. As a result, the park was impacted greatly by the lack of income generated each year from our school programming, which we rely so heavily on. As a non-profit, we depend on these types of income in order to sustain normal operations. With the renovations causing delays in reopening, however, we had a very busy summer which put a small dent in the loss we took last Spring. Visitation in the summer and fall months was 3,584 visitors compared to the entire year of 2015 when we had 4,446 visitors! Awareness has clearly been raised and we look forward to reopening in the spring to see what 2017 brings!

If you have not been to the park recently, there are many new changes. As mentioned above the visitors center has been renovated to meet modern standards. Our education and programming room has been overhauled, repainted, and equipped with new Audio Visual equipment to enhance visitor experience as well as the education programming that takes place for school students, tour groups, and other organizations. We now have a 3lbs. Grasshopper cannon on the hill adjacent to the visitors center that will allow guests to get an up close view of 18th century field artillery piece. Additionally, we are in the process of planting a propagated root from an original Liberty Tree on our park as well as working on a new interpretation plan in order to reopen the Gideon Gilpin house to the public for the first time in 9 years! We are very excited for the many new things coming to the park and without continuing support from members like you, this not be possible at all! Thank you for your support, enjoy the newsletter and the many more to come, and please visit us when we reopen on March 12, 2017 for Charter Day!

Andrew M. Outten - Director of Education & Museum Services

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Summer History Camp 2017

Registration for the Battlefield's Summer History Camp is now open and spots are already filling up! Our camp runs Mon-Fri from 9am-1pm with the option of an extended day. It is available for children in grades K-8. Each day, campers learn about a different aspect of the American Revolution!

- Monday - Soldier Life
- Tuesday - Weapons of the American Revolution
- Wednesday - Artillery
- Thursday - 18th Century Foodways
- Friday - 18th Century Medicine





The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC)

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

Submissions are welcome !

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Letter from the President

Even though we were beginning to shut down for the winter, over the past few months the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates have been quite active. We extended our year by four days to cover the week after Christmas, during which we not only remained open but had a few low-key additions to our programming, such as learning events based on 18th century medicine for older children as well as a story time for the younger. We also accepted delivery of our cannon carriage which needed a few tweaks to make it a perfect fit to the cannon. All that should be stable by now. We also welcomed a Site Administrator, Joan Hauger, to help us navigate PHMC legalities and regulations. We have a new and modern audio/visual system which now enables us to host meetings and events in the Education Room with major thanks to a bequest from the will of Harold Barnett, a long-time volunteer with the Associates.

We hope to see you when we reopen on Charter Day in mid-March. See you then!

- George Thorpe

Upcoming Events in 2017

With the thrills of 2016 come and gone, we now look forward to another exciting year at the Brandywine Battlefield. And this year is particularly special in that it is the 240th anniversary of the battle. There will be a major reenactment at **Sandy Hollow** - September 16th and 17th!

Additionally the Brandywine Battlefield will be hosting the following events:

Charter Day - March 12

Encampment Day - May 13

Summer History Camp - June through August

Remembrance Ceremony - September 11

Patriot's Day - November 25

Charter, Encampment, and Patriot's Days will include an array of different activities and displays. Activities include Musket Demonstrations, Blacksmithing Demonstrations, House Tours, and Period Dancing. There will also be lectures on various topics, as well as educational displays. Here's to another fun filled year at the Battlefield! Huzzah!

Patriots Day 2016

November 26th, 2016



Patriots Day 2016 was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone who came out and made it a record breaking event. The event brought in nearly 400 people in attendance on a beautiful November day. Whether you are young or old, there is always something to see and do at our events. We hope to see you at the next one!

We would like to extend special thanks to:

Michael C. Harris

1st Delaware Regiment

9th PA Light Infantry Company

2nd PA Regiment

Benjamin Franklin (Mike Kocher)

Alexander Hamilton (Gene Pisasale)

Linn the Blacksmith

John the Carpenter

Our 18th Century Dancers

Michael Dehaut

Volunteer of the Year - Ralph Denlinger

Ralph Denlinger has been working as a volunteer guide at Brandywine Battlefield Park since 2012. Retired after serving 30 years as a science teacher at Octorara High School, Ralph now enthusiastically devotes countless hours to researching and interpreting the Pennsylvania Militia in the American Revolution, including the Battle of Brandywine. His research has debunked common misconceptions to provide better interpretation and education about these events for the public. Ralph also is a member of the 1st Delaware Regiment, a unit of reenactors dedicated to interpreting military life in the American Revolution. While volunteering at Brandywine Battlefield Park, Ralph has worn many hats. Starting as a volunteer docent guiding visitors through the Benjamin Ring House, he then expanded his involvement at the Park to include assisting in the "Colonial Days" school programs and giving talks to raise awareness about the information he has researched. A true "renaissance man", Ralph has been instrumental in assisting the Park wherever help is needed. He always graciously donates as much time as he can. Brandywine Battlefield Park is sincerely grateful for his outstanding service and dedication.





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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, a non-profit community-based organization, supports and assists the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by conducting the daily operations of the site.”

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!

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!