

The Brandywine Dispatch

Member's Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

"Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting"

Winter 2021

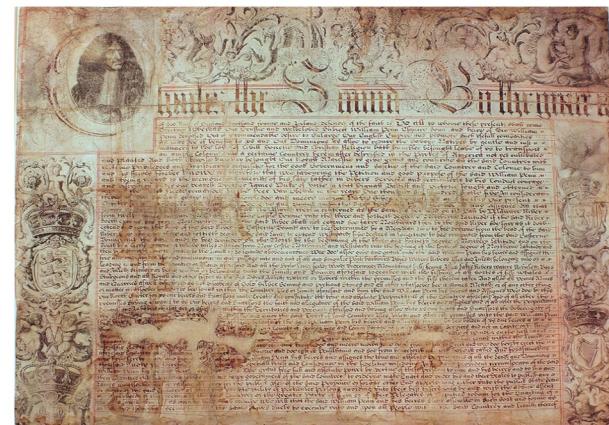
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Charter Day 2021

While we are unable to gather together at the Park this year, we can remember the beginnings of Pennsylvania! This year Charter Day commemorates the 340th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania. William Penn founded the Province of Pennsylvania, also known as the Pennsylvania Colony, in 1681 after receiving a land grant Charter from England's King Charles II.

Penn did not agree with the doctrines of the Church of England and converted to Quakerism in 1667, with the dream of founding a colony in the New World for those who were being persecuted for their beliefs. Penn's late father, Admiral Sir William Penn, had used his own wealth to support the British Navy. In May, 1680, Penn submitted a petition to King Charles II for land in the Americas in exchange for forgiveness of the King's debt to his father. The King agreed and granted a Charter to Penn on March 4, 1681. The Province of Pennsylvania was a proprietary agreement between Penn and the King making William Penn the proprietor of the largest piece of privately owned land in the world at that time. The Charter encompassed over 28 million acres.



The Charter is a parchment document written with iron gall ink and is often referred to as "Pennsylvania's Birth Certificate." This fragile document is William Penn's personal copy and is kept in a climate-controlled, high-security vault at the Pennsylvania State Archives.



BRANDYWINE
BATTLEFIELD



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

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO

bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com

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Overcoming the Impact of a Pandemic

By Andrew Outten, Director of Education

I miss talking about history, plain and simple. Interacting and talking with interested people who visit our park throughout the year, whether it be on a house tour, battlefield driving tour, school program, or public program is one of the main reasons I love what I do for a living. If you were to tell me at this time last year that I would be sent home one day and not return to my office for over a year, I would laugh in your face and not believe you at all. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened...

Although we have been working remotely, we have not been idle. Through the generous grant support we have been able to convert our most popular education programs to digital video format. These ten video programs were filmed on our park grounds along with other battle related locations and include me along with various period interpreters, whom students and visitors would normally meet and learn with if they were able to visit us in person. Now, through these video programs, we can truly continue to fulfill our mission by offering educators and would-be visitors access to our resources, tools, and other learning materials remotely so that their students can continue to learn in a safe environment and enjoy the closest thing to an in-person experience without having to come to Brandywine Battlefield Park.

The video programs are approximately 15-30 minutes long and include the subjects of our popular “at the Park” programs. Each program is associated with activities and discussion questions through a specially tailored Educator’s Resource Manual that allow students to get the most from each program.

Looking ahead, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates take great pride in being able to launch this new way of learning and we are excited to bring history to life once again. Rest assured, these video programs will not only be made available to school students but will also be offered as a public programming opportunity that will allow everyone to enjoy and learn, through different subscription packages.

In closing, we are still uncertain as to when the park grounds will be made available to the public, but what is certain -

cont'd on page 6

From the Site Administrator

Hello everyone. It has been nearly a year since COVID 19 required us to close our sites. I have had the good fortune to join you here at Brandywine during the summer and have been amazed by the work that has gone on. The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates answered the call of COVID and have done a stellar job in fundraising. Virtual programming has moved from an aspiration to a grant funded reality. Restoration work has occurred on the Ring and Gilpin houses. As we come out of our winter season, we can remain hopeful for a reopening date, yet also remain vigilant in our precautions. To the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, their staff, board, and members I offer my sincere thanks for “holding firm” during this pandemic.

Douglas Miller

*Temporary Site Administrator
PHMC*

Colonial Days Series - Coming Soon!

Distance learning and remote program options have become educational standards during this time of social distancing and innovative efforts to keep our students and teachers safe. BBPA understands the many issues faced by teachers and parents at this time. “Colonial Days Series” has been developed for teachers, parents and interested persons to assist with remote learning programming. beginning in March, 2021!

We are in the final phase of converting our successful “Colonial Days at the Park” onsite educational program to the digital realm to meet the educational needs of students and educators. “Colonial Days Series” is a program of ten (10) videos that teachers will be able to access and provide to their students.

BBPA will begin providing “Colonial Days Series” in March 2021! Please check out our website at www.brandywinebattlefield.org for more information and program updates.

Colonial Days Series is a series of ten (10) videos related to life in 18th century Colonial America, the American Revolution and the Battle of the Brandywine. Including -

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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 the support we received since December 1, 2020. Funding is being used for the development and distribution of the Remote Learning Program “Colonial Days in the Classroom” for school students and BBPA’s operations.



Chester County Nonprofit Innovation
and Resiliency Fund



Crestlea Foundation

How Can I Help?

We all continue to face the challenges presented by this pandemic and we never expected these challenges to last so long. We know times are tough, so here are some low cost/no cost ideas for how you can help. It is because of you and your support that we will all be here when we safely arrive at the other side of this pandemic. ***Thank you!***

Become a Member

As a member of Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates (BBPA) you will be a part of one of Pennsylvania’s oldest public-private partnerships in support of a historic site. Membership funds provide a sustainable funding source for continuing operations, events and educational programs throughout the year. Membership Categories include Individual, Senior, Family and the **NEW Business Membership**. Memberships begin at \$25 a year. More information about our Membership Program can be found on our website: www.brandywinebattlefield.org/join

Shop with Amazon Smile

Please consider shopping at smile.amazon.com Amazon will donate 0.5% of all your purchases to Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Just sign up to support Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates when on Amazon Smile. Then do all your Amazon shopping at their Smile site. ***Easy!***

Meet the Board

The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates' Board is comprised of talented and dedicated people. Each issue of the *Brandywine Dispatch* will introduce you to one of our Board Members.

Mary Sue Boyle, Vice President, Board of Directors

Mary Sue has lived in Chester County most of her life. She joined the Board in 2020 and accepted the Vice President position on January 1, 2021. Mary Sue is the owner and manager of Mary Sue Boyle and Company, LLC meeting the requirements of National Park Service 36 CFR 61 qualifications for History and Architectural History.

Mary Sue researches historic properties in Chester and Delaware Counties. Brandywine Battlefield land has figured prominently for some of these properties. Research has enabled Mary Sue to relate the past histories of original patent holders to the present ownership of the properties. Mary Sue is the author of "House Histories" for Thornbury Township, Delaware County.

As a member of the Board Mary Sue works to secure the integrity and educational opportunities for the community in order to:

- Better relate the factual history of the growth of our nation.
- Bring to light the history of the individuals involved with the Battle of the Brandywine.
- Focus on the subsequent history that developed following the battle.



Mary Sue Boyle

Thank you Mary Sue!

Overcoming - cont'd from page 2

...is that a new initiative for distance public programming will be implemented in March, 2021. More than ever, we appreciate your continued support for Brandywine Battlefield Park and our organization. We cannot wait for the opportunity to talk about this important time in American History with you in-person once more. In the meantime, we can look forward to being able to share our new ways of distance learning with you, especially through these new video programs. We ask that you stay tuned and continue to monitor our social media pages along with our website as updates and learning opportunities start to be made available. We hope to see you soon and hope you and yours are remain safe during these turbulent times.

Colonial Days Series - cont'd from page 3

“Life of a Soldier”

This program brings to life what it meant to be a soldier in the 18th century, the American Revolution, and at the Battle of Brandywine. Students learn how soldiers lived, marched and hear the roar of an 18th century firelock or musket!

“Load the Cannon! Artillery in the American Revolution”

Students learn the importance of the big guns in 18th century warfare. Students learn about the types of artillery, the tasks and the roles of a cannon crew.



Medicine in the American Revolution

Students learn about medical procedures and their effectiveness when treating wounds of the 18th century soldier. The comparison of Colonial medicine to modern day medicine is discussed.

“Militia in the American Revolution”

Topics discussed include: What was a militia and why it was important, the experiences of someone fighting in a Chester County PA Militia and the clothing, gear and payment of the Militia.

18th Century Blacksmith

Our blacksmith demonstrates the role of the “smithy” in the 18th century and discusses the technology, techniques, and economic importance of this important trade.

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Colonial Days Series - cont'd

"Life of a Quaker Farmer"

This program focuses on the life of Gideon Gilpin, a Quaker farmer who witnessed the Battle of the Brandywine and lived in one of the historic homes located at the Brandywine Battlefield Park. The Quaker experience during the American Revolution is also discussed.



"Questions for an 18th Century Family"

An actual family portrays an 18th century who show what daily life was like, including how they lived, worked and played.

"Read a Letter, Write a Letter-Writing in the 18th Century"

Students learn the importance of communication through letter writing in Colonial America. Materials used to write and seal a letter are demonstrated.



"Rally Round the Colors, Flags of the American Revolution"

This program dives into the world of Vexillology, or the study of flags and how flags were used in the American Revolution. The demonstration includes, the parts of the flag, and the history and meaning of the flags of the American Revolution and the United States of America.

"Money in the 18th Century"

Take a closer look at the currency used in the 18th Century and Colonial America. Explore the types of currency, the common problems with 18th century currency and the economic issues of the times.

Stay tuned for additional information! www.brandywinebattlefield.org

Destruction and Wanton Waste - The Impact of War in a Peaceful valley

Sign up for our first virtual outreach program!

Date: March 11th, 2021

Time: 7PM

Cost: Free. Donations Graciously Accepted

- Zoom Registration Link -

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yKvau7dQT1aC8BvWSJaDPg

Event Preview Below

After a month-long voyage from New York at the outset of the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, Sir William Howe's army found itself in desperate need of provisions for their large army. On September 11, 1777, several weeks after disembarking in Maryland, Howe's army descended upon Chester County, Pennsylvania and engaged Washington at the Battle of Brandywine. Their battlefield, one of the richest agricultural and milling regions in the mid-Atlantic colonies, was dominated by a large and peaceful Quaker population. Of this dominant Quaker population, some chose sides, but the majority were neutral, trying to ignore the armed conflict raging around them. Following the defeat and retreat of Washington at Brandywine, the Crown Forces occupied the region for five days and launched a substantial "foraging" effort to replenish their depleted supplies and provisions. What resulted was what one inhabitant called "Destruction and Wanton Waste." Quakers who tried to remain neutral, suddenly chose sides and abandoned their Testimonies of Peace. One wealthy Quaker who had chosen a side before the battle, died poor and penniless decades later. Furthermore, one had such a traumatic experience that he sold the family farm and moved to Baltimore where he attempted to live the rest of his life in peace. Today, many are well versed in Washington's struggle at Valley Forge following the fall Campaign, but in most cases, they are uninformed of the desperation and conflict endured by the population of Chester County those same months. Through a study of various primary source material including damage claims and personal accounts, these peaceful inhabitants and their struggles have been brought to the forefront of interpretive efforts surrounding the Battle of Brandywine. This new interpretive process fosters a new outlook and a better understanding of the social impact that the largest single-day land battle of the American Revolution had on the residents of Chester County.



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



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

"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"

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!