

# The Brandywine Dispatch

Newsletter of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates

“Keeping the Story Alive and Interesting”

Winter 2022

## What's Inside:

- ◇ Remembrance Day 2021
- ◇ Volunteer of the Year
- ◇ Colonial Wordsearch
- ◇ How Christmas Came to Be
- ◇ Next Chapter for Andrew
- ◇ Thunder from the Past
- ◇ Annual Meeting 2021
- ◇ And more!

## Remembrance Day 2021

Over 80 people gathered around the flagpole at the Brandywine Battlefield Park for the Remembrance Day Ceremony on September 11, 2021. Old friends and new joined together to honor those who served at the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777 and reflect on the events of September 11, 2001.

Remembrance Day is an annual event for the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates and this year was very special for us. It was our first opportunity to conduct an event at the Park since our Charter Day Program in March, 2020. This year's program began with Reflections from Pennsylvania State Representative Craig Williams.



***L to R:  
Ned Hector portrayed by Noah Lewis  
General George Washington portrayed  
by Carl Closs,  
Noelle Barbone, Chadds Ford Township  
Supervisor.***

*cont'd on page 4*



**Board of Directors**

Hank Weaver  
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*The Brandywine Dispatch is  
published quarterly by BBPA.  
Free!*

**Submissions are Welcome!**

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Email Submissions to:  
bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com



## *Volunteer of the Year*

### Stephanie “Stevie” Demott

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) held their annual President’s Meeting in October, 2021. PHMC formally recognized individual volunteer nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Award, 2019. Stephanie “Stevie” Demott was recognized as Volunteer of the Year on behalf of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates.

During a visit to the Brandywine Battlefield Park in 2014, Stevie noticed that the Ring House garden was overgrown and in need of a spruce-up. She asked what she could do to help and worked with her husband Tom, and Ralph and Marcia Denlinger, to weed the four garden plots and replant them with herbs for the 2015 season. Stevie researched appropriate plants for an 18<sup>th</sup> century herb kitchen garden. She made ceramic markers for all the plants and inserted color-coded stakes to show which were used for medicinal, edible, household and fragrance purposes. Stevie wrote and provided a guide to the garden plots so visitors can gain a better understanding of what each herb/plant is and how it was used in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Each year, she continues to weed, replant and make the garden a more enjoyable addition to this historic site.

Stevie made a significant difference by sharing her knowledge and through her creativity and commitment of time. We are most appreciative and grateful for Stevie’s continued support at the Park!



## Thank You, Stevie!

## Colonial Wordsearch Roundup

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

### *Clues*

2 Generals

Nickname of Francis Merion

Rebellion in 1773

6 one named Battles

2 Armies

New Years Eve Battle, 1775

## Remembrance Day 2021



*First Delaware Regiment reenactors*

General Washington provided his Report to the Continental Congress that was followed by a Military Honors Musket Salute. A Moment of Silence concluded the program

*Photos courtesy of Mario Lerario and Noelle Barbone*

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## How Christmas Came to Be

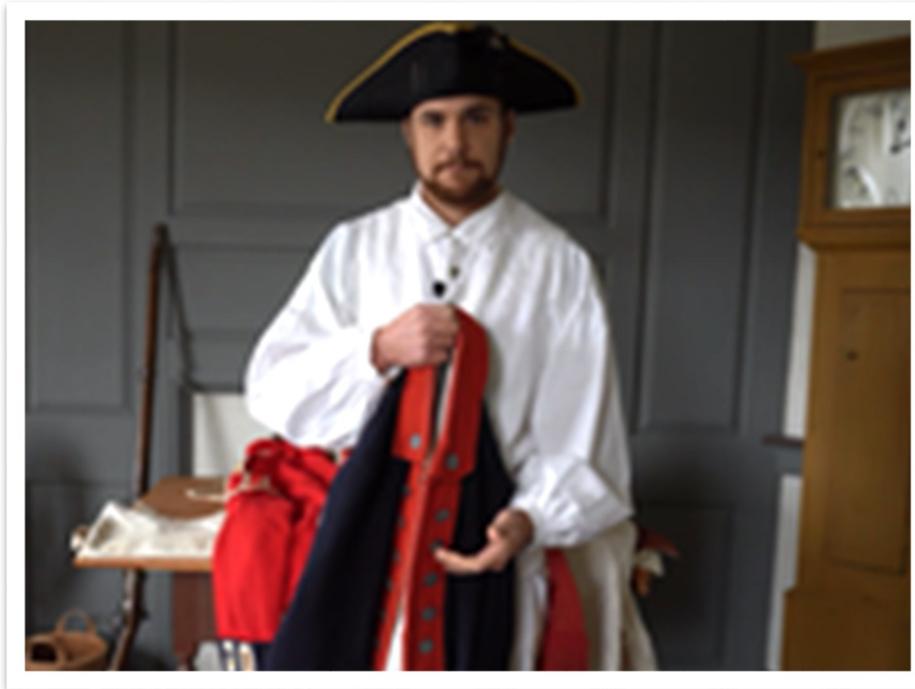
As you're standing in line at the Mall, your brain picks up the tune of the carol playing throughout the store. The to-do list of this morning is mentally getting checked off, while your youngest is tugging at your coat, making a face, and twisting his legs at an obvious attempt at control. As you frustratingly search the area for the restroom sign, you wonder, "How did I ever get here?"

Christmas it seems has always been with us. But how did it start? The Bible story is a well-known basic, but centuries before Christ ever walked the earth, the early Europeans were celebrating the Winter Solstice. To early Norsemen, it was "Yule" and each man from the family would go out and bring in the Yule log, which burned for about 12 days, the sparks representing all the new life that would hopefully come the next year. During these days, there was much feasting and celebrating. Meat was abundant, as cattle had just been slaughtered for the winter, and with the crops in and hours short, what better time to party.

*cont'd on page 9*

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## *Next Chapter for Andrew*



What was the area covered by the Battle of the Brandywine? Don't know where to find the answer? Then ask Andrew! Andrew Outten, Director of Education and Museum Services joined BBPA over a decade ago.

Through his work and his knowledge of our local history, Andrew became a well respected member of the historical community. Children and students knew him through Colonial Days and Summer History Camp. The community and visitors knew Andrew through events, programs and tours. Andrew once said that his favorite part of his job was talking with people about history.

Andrew began a new chapter, with many changes, in October. He moved closer to Washington D.C. in order to accept his new job as Historical Programs Manager, Anderson House, The American Revolution Institute of the Society of Cincinnati. We wish Andrew all the best with his new job with continued history conversations.



Best Wishes, Andrew!

## *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 for 1 year
- 10% discount in 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 Giftshop

#### **Business \$100**

- Enjoy all Benefactor Membership benefits for 1 year
- Plus 15% discount in Giftshop

Please visit [www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://www.brandywinebattlefield.org) to join  
or contact us at [bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:bbpaorgcommunications@gmail.com) or 610-459-3342 for more information.

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## *Thunder from the Past*

This summer Brandywine Battlefield Park was the recipient of a unique bequest from the descendants of Charles Taccone, formerly of Clearfield and North East Pennsylvania.

As a tribute to America's founding patriots, Charles embarked on this project to celebrate the 1976 American Bicentennial. Charles created a half scale model of a Revolutionary War Artillery piece. His expertise in drafting, machining, casting, woodworking, along with his keen attention to detail and accuracy is fully demonstrated in this fine historical replica. Having served in the U.S. Army, 2nd infantry division artillery in 1951-1952 during the height of the Korean War conflict, Charles gained firsthand experience and strategic awareness of the "King of Battle" position that the artillery has held throughout the ages.

Mr. Taccone was employed as VP at Taccone Corporation and later as VP/Chief Engineer at

Clearfield Machine Company. He was a devoted husband of 56 years, father of four daughters and active community leader. Charlie enjoyed hunting, golfing, and gardening. He was a master builder and a maker of museum-quality model ships, radio-controlled airplanes, furniture and a fully operational 1-inch scale 4-6-2 Pacific steam locomotive which is now on display at the Auburn Heights Marshall Steam Museum in Yorklyn, DE. He enjoyed travelling the world, and visited countries on every continent except Antarctica. "No place better in this world than right here in the U.S.A.," he often would say.



*Half Scale Model of a  
Revolutionary War Artillery Piece.*

The Brandywine Battlefield Park is grateful to the Taccone Family for this gift, deeded to the site by his Granddaughter, Jennifer Griffith Knapper. We appreciate this scale model Revolutionary War artillery piece as a work of art by a native Pennsylvanian, master craftsman and U.S. Army veteran. The model is now on exhibit in the education room of Brandywine's Visitor Center. We hope to honor his memory and intent to keep our Nation's history alive for

*- Doug Miller, Acting Site Administrator*

## Annual Meeting

The Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates' Membership was invited to Attend our Annual Meeting on December 16, 2021. The Membership voted to approve the slate of Directors for the 2022 Board.

### Board of Directors

Terry Ceulers-Continuing her current term

Shirley D. Dogan-Continuing her current term

Peter Adams-Continuing his current term

George Thorpe-Continuing his current term

Carly Beehler-New board member

Eric Downs-New Board Member

Alexis Furlong-New Board Member

Linnell E. Trimbell-Returning Board Member following a one year absence from the Board

### Retiring

Hank Weaver-President: Hank will complete his second term of service in January, 2022. Hank has served as Second Vice President, Vice President and President during his time on the Board.

Hank's skill and expertise guided BBPA through the difficult times we encountered during the pandemic while also keeping his eye on the future of our organization. We appreciate the many hours Hank gave to help BBPA continue to fulfill our mission. Thank you Hank!

### Advisory Council

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Advisory Council.

Mario Lerario

Karen Marshall

## **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."*

## **Shop with Amazon Smile**

Please consider doing your holiday 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!*

## *How Christmas Came to Be, cont'd*

Early Germans brought an evergreen into their homes to remind them of the persistence of life, even in the midst of winter's chill. Odin, god of winter, traveled around in his sleigh drawn by an eight-legged horse and picked who would have prosperity in the coming year or not. At the same time, Romans were celebrating Saturnalia, which was a month long festival in which Master and Slave switched roles. And children enjoyed the traditions of Juvenilia, where they were the center of the parties. Upper classes of Romans held more sober commemoration of Myhra, the Sun god's birthday on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

A new religion was taking hold at this time as well. Christianity was thriving, and although its' main focus was on the Resurrection, by the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christians were wondering where and when Christ was born. According to the Bible, the date was a mystery but very likely was not in December. The shepherds would not have been watching their flocks in the winter weather, but more likely in the spring, anticipating the newborn lambs. The early Church realized that they would not be able to effectively outlaw these long held pagan traditions, so more to the thinking of "it you can't beat them, join them," it was only natural that they would combine the two. So, on December 25<sup>th</sup>, the birthday of the Sun god, and the Son of God became the holiday to be marked in the calendars. At this point, the Church gave up any authority on controlling the Pagan/Christian holiday. The apples on the trees became the forerunners of our ornaments and the holly came to symbolize the Crown of Thorns.

By the time of the Middle Ages in Puritan England, Christianity had eventually replaced all the Pagan celebrations. There were still raucous carnivals in the streets but for the most part, people were celebrating "Christ's Mass." The peasantry would knock on the doors of the rich and demand of them meals and gifts or they would be made to suffer the consequences of "tricks". For their part, the rich felt that in this way of "giving", they could make up for any of the previous year's grievances.

In 1645, Oliver Cromwell in taking over the government effectively outlawed the traditional English Christmas. Shops were open and it was business as usual. The holiday went underground, but the populace felt a need for some type of celebration in the middle of the winter season at this time of darkness. In 1656, the people decided that it was either bring back Christmas or the King. When Charles II, was restored to the throne, Christmas came along with him.

In Plymouth Massachusetts in 1659 and later in Boston, the puritans continued to outlaw Christmas as it had become too secular and too much associated with the Catholic religion. If you were caught celebrating the holiday at all, you would be fined. Yet in Jamestown, Virginia, the colonists wrote in their diaries of their first New World Christmas meal of "oysters, wild fowl, and good bread". The drink of choice was eggnog, the "nog" taken from "grog," which was any drink made from rum. After the Revolution, anything English was considered unpopular. In 1789 and for the next 67 years, the holiday was kept as any business day of the week, with even Congress sitting in session on Christmas Day.

*cont'd on next page*

## *How Christmas Came to Be, cont'd*

But many lamented in letters and diaries how they had no holidays to celebrate. By the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas was not a carnival or even very religious.

New York City, in 1820 had become the center for commerce and Immigrants were starting to pour in, and with them came a distinct difference in the classes. Riots in the streets worried the upper classes and they become concerned that maybe they should do something at Christmas as a way of giving assistance. London, in 1843, saw Charles Dickens write what would become one of the best-loved tales and traditions of the season. "A Christmas Carol" made the Victorians stop and think, "What do we owe the people in our lives?" The morals of family and charity came to the forefront and could not be ignored.

After almost 200 years, society was ready for an American Christmas and all its' traditions. Families were becoming an important part of that society. It was chance for parents to spend quality time and lavish presents on their children without looking like they were spoiling them. Parents themselves took joy in their children's excitement. Society knew why they celebrated with the religious ceremonies, but wanted to revive the ancient traditions that accompanied it.

The Germans had always had the evergreen and with Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert, the idea of bringing that evergreen tree into the house became one of our most endeared customs. 1828 saw Joel Poinsett bring a plant from Mexico that with its green leaves and red flower would become the

mainstay of Christmas plants. The mistletoe allowed the normally correct and upright Victorians their own little bit of naughtiness and atmosphere of the long forgotten and forbidden carnival.

As it was, by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas was celebrated everywhere but in church. Because most of the population was Protestant, people began to look towards the Catholics for their religious celebrations. The nighttime visitor of the time was copied from St Nicholas, a Turkish bishop on whose feast day of December 6<sup>th</sup> brought gifts to good children. Clement Clarke Moore, an Episcopalian minister, wrote a poem for his children in 1822. As he penned a poem of the reindeer and the entrance through the chimney, he was thinking back to the old Norse legend of Odin. But because of his ministry, and the poem having no religious content, he was embarrassed by it, so kept quiet and did not take credit for it, until after an overwhelming acceptance of it.

But still there were questions. What did Santa Claus look like? Thomas Nast drew his interpretation for Harper's weekly in 1863, giving Santa his jolly rounded figure, much like the robber barons of Wall Street of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.



### **Season's Greetings**

*cont'd on next page*

## *How Christmas Came to Be, cont'd*

But unlike those rotund figures, this “baron” gave to the less fortunate, namely children. By this time Santa could sell anything and retailers were quick to pick up on the commercial benefits of his good name. He soon began appearing in the shopping areas and no trip to the store was complete without a visit to this “Jolly Old Elf.” Children made the holiday and soon stores were catering to the retailing of the season. It seemed that by the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Americans had the holiday firmly established. We have our favorite “Carnival” with all its traditions. Christmas carols, the tree, eggnog, stockings hung on the mantle, and even our Turkey dinner can in many ways be traced back to ancient customs. The wrapped presents add to the mystery and the excitement. For those who say we’re getting away from the true meaning of Christmas, historically, Christ was never the center of the holiday. The religious was always celebrated along with the secular. Most churches themselves revel in the celebrations of the season and getting contributions for the poor.

Combination not competition is the Christmas season. Who, even amongst the most cynical of us, doesn’t hum along with a carol, or stop to take in the beauty of the lights and the decorations of the malls, houses and churches? The secular part of the holiday actually helps to hold the religious in place. We all have our own memories of what Christmas is like and each generation updates and reinvents their own. In all, whatever way we celebrate it, one thing is for certain, we can’t ignore it. As a popular song tells us, “the Christmas you get, you deserve”. Celebrate Christmas the way you are.

Theresa G. Ceulers

Source: History Channel, “Christmas”

Colonial Williamsburg, “Christmas Traditions”

### **COLONIAL WORDSEARCH ANSWERS**

2 Generals-Daniel Morgan, Nathaniel Greene

Nickname of Francis Merion-Swamp Fox

Rebellion in 1773– Boston Tea Party

6 on named Battles– Brandywine, Monmouth,  
Yorktown, Cowpens, Camden, Paoli

2 Armies– Continentals, Redcoats

New Years Eve Battle 1775– Quebec



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](http://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): \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\*To make an Online Donation, visit our website: [www.brandywinebattlefield.org](http://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!\*