**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018**

**JUNE BATTLE REENACTMENT AND**

**COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND VERY SUCCESSFUL**

Our annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth, held this year on June 16-17, 2018 went especially well this year. The weather was splendid, which was a relief after all the rain the weeks before and in view of the oppressive heat that came in the first days of July. The fine weather was also welcome after overcast and damp weather adversely affected attendance in 2015 and 2017. The excellent weather brought high attendance, estimated at 6000 to 7000 over the two days of the reenactment. The fine weather and focus on the 240th anniversary of the battle also brought higher than usual reenactor attendance, estimated at over 700. What was also impressive was the presence of as many as fourteen cannons, after we only had a couple last year. There were also a number of cavalrymen, and approximately twenty-four sutlers. The encampments were the biggest since 2013. Stacy Roth gave her popular “Over Here Molly Pitcher!” program each day, and there was a large number of exhibitors and information booths.

What made this year event special was that there were recreations of four portions of the battle, two on Saturday and two on Sunday, that were held in different areas from the parking lot ridge to both sides of the hill below the Visitor Center, to the far fields on the north. The Saturday and Sunday afternoon scenarios included large scale troop movements on the north side of the South Brook, which gave a multi-dimensional aspect to the reenactment. The Saturday afternoon event was especially impressive, with skirmishers moving through the fields and bodies of troops making their advances and retreats. It really looked like a real battle. Another high light of the battle was when about 80 troops camped near the Craig House on Friday night and then marched the approximately two miles to the reenactment area on Saturday morning. They were accompanied by an ox team pulling a wagon, which gave a real authentic flavor to their march.

All-in-all this was the best reenactment in years. We owe thanks to Park Historian Michael Timpanaro and to the army commanders David Hospador (Continental) and Jim McGaughey (British) for all the work they put into planning the reenactment weekend. Thanks all also due to Park seasonal interpreter Victor Pidermann, who arranged the display of flags set up outside the Visitor Center to honor the 69 Continental and 126 British troops who died during the battle.

Great thanks are also owed to those members of FOMB who helped out during the weekend with the gate, information table, gift shop, and sales of snacks and shirts. This was an all-out effort that helped the large event go so very well.

The weekend after the battle reenactment, June 23-24, we held our annual Battle of Monmouth commemoration, featuring living history historians, walks and tours. In addition, Stacy Roth was on hand to give her excellent “Over Here Molly Pitcher” presentations. She also gave her popular children’s artillery drills, as she did on reenactment weekend, capped off by musical demonstrations and songs. David Martin also gave walking tours of the battlefield on both days of the commemorative weekend, and Kathy and Eric Doherty had the Craig House open.

**DRIVING TOUR TO AMERICAN PREBATTLE CAMPSITES GIVEN ON JUNE 10**

For the third year in a row, David Martin and George Dawson led a tour to the site of the American campsites the night before the battle. The main portion of the army encamped on Gravel Hill in Monroe Township. George Washington had his headquarters at the Housman House (355 Hoffman Station road, Monroe, NJ 08831), which is still standing. Charles Lee’s advance wing camped behind Weamaconk Creek on the western side of Englishtown. The tour concluded at the home of Dr. James English in Englishtown (42 Gordon’s Corner Road, Manalapan, NJ 07726), where General Washington had breakfast before heading to the battlefield at about 11:30 AM. The tour, which had about a dozen participants, was advanced by a series of roadside markers recently erected in Monroe Township showing the campsites and march routes. It went well despite being held in a light rain.

**JULY 4 EVENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK GOES WELL**

On Wednesday, July 4, FOMB Vice President George Dawson, who is also New Brunswick’s town historian, gave a talk at Boyd Park in New Brunswick on how Washington’s army celebrated their “victory” at Monmouth with a “Feu de Joie” (“Fire of Joy”) while encamped there near the Raritan River on July 4, 1778. FOMB President David Martin also gave a talk, on the movements of both armies in New Jersey leading up to that date. Lamb’s battery of artillery fired thirteen rounds in honor of the thirteen original states, and reenactors also gave historical talks and demonstrations. The event, which was cosponsored by the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, drew an audience of about 50 visitors. Attendance was held down somewhat this year by high temperature of over 92 degrees. Participants were much grateful for the breezes that blew in to the park from the Raritan River. *For Col. John Laurens’ account of the New Brunswick encampment, see page --- below.*

**ACCOUNT OF A WITNESS TO THE FEU DE JOIE**

**IN NEW BRUNSWICK ON JULY 4, 1778**

*The Anniversary of Independence has occasioned another grand day, far surpassing that I could see every man as he passed to the ground. The front line of the army extended from the redoubt on the height a little above Brunswick upwards of two miles up the river on the west side; the second line at some distance in the rear, not quite so extensive – The [artillery] park was placed on the right of the front line at the redoubt, and upwards of thirty pieces of cannons interspersed at proper distances through the lines. After his Excellency [Gen. Washington] had rid round the lines and returned to his quarters, on a signal given from thence 13 pieces of cannon were fired at the park, which were followed by a running fire of musketry and artillery, beginning on the right of the front, throughout the whole of both lines – After this three huzzas to the perpetual and undisturbed Independence of the United states of America. The same round was performed a second and third time, and exceedingly well executed every time. The running fire of musketry is grand of itself, but the cannon throwing out their columns of smoke, and adding their sounds at proper distances, made it a magnificent beyond description.*

**PROGRAM ON WASHINGTON’S JUNIOR STAFF**

**HELD ON JUNE 7; TALK ON HIS SENIOR STAFF**

**SET FOR OCT. 11**

On Thursday, June 7, our President, David Martin, gave a talk on “George Washington’s Staff at Monmouth: Alexander Hamilton and his Friends.” The talk summarized the careers of Washington’s seven junior staff members who were present at Monmouth (two military secretaries and five aides-de-camp).

The program was the fifteenth in a series of talks by Dr. Martin on participants in the battle. It was co-sponsored by the Monmouth County Library, and around 50 people were in attendance. He has also spoken at the library on the roles of Lafayette and the French officers at the battle, on Molly Pitcher, on Charles Lee at the battle, and on George Washington’s sense of humor. His next talk in the series will be on “Washington’s Senior Staff at Monmouth: Knox, von Steuben and the other Big Wigs,” scheduled for October 11 at the library.

**PARK SUPERINTENDENT POSITION STILL OPEN**

We regret to inform you that Monmouth Battlefield State Park has not had a full time Superintendent since former Superintendent Mark Pitchell retired on May 1, 2016. Rob Auermuller served as Acting Superintendent from May 2016 to the end of 2017, when he was reassigned. Inga Gabliks, Superintendent at Allaire State Park, has been serving double duty as Interim Superintendent at Monmouth since January 1, 2018. There is no time table for completing the current search. Absence of a full time superintendent adds extra work load for all the members of the park staff, especially Historian Michael Timpanaro and Maintenance Supervisor Kenneth Genieczko, Jr.

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AND WALKING TOUR**

**CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER**

The Memorial service scheduled for Sunday, May 27, had to be cancelled because of wet weather. In addition, the walking tour scheduled for Sunday, July 1 had to be cancelled because of extreme hot weather, which was close to 100 degrees. This is the first time in memory that a tour had to be cancelled due to heat. Ironically, the January 1, 2018 tour was cancelled this year for the first time due to extreme cold weather.

**THIRTEEN CANNONS PARTICIPATED IN REENACTMENT**

We were delighted that thirteen artillery pieces came out to participate in our reenactment this year. Leading the way was the Western Department Artillery from Canton, Ohio, which brought three guns. One gun each was brought by each of the following units: Lamb’s Artillery, from Hampton, NJ; Royal Artillery Company W, from Annapolis, MD; Coren’s Independent Artillery Co., from Philadelphia, PA; Steven’s Independent Artillery, from Richmond, RI; Mott’s Artillery, from Stratford, NJ; 7th Virginia, from Norfolk, VA; Fixed Regiment of Spanish Louisiana, from Gaithersburg, MD; Royal Artillery, Co. A, from Mt. Holly, NJ.; and West Jersey Artillery, from Glassboro, NJ. Great thanks to these units, and to all the reenactments who came out!

**NEW VISITOR CENTER OPEN FIVE YEARS**

The fifth anniversary of the new Visitor Center passed quietly this summer. It was dedicated on June 13, 2013, and everyone is enjoying it greatly. Visitors are delighted with the expanded exhibits and we greatly appreciate the enlarged gift shop. The best feature of all may well be the multi-purpose auditorium, which seats over 100 people. Use of the auditorium is enhanced by the podium that the Friends donated to the Park three years ago.

The Visitor Center, however, still has some shortcomings that need addressing. Most noticeably, the ceiling panels inside the building have not yet been installed. The original panels were not properly designed and had to be removed soon after they were installed. We are still waiting for replacement panels to arrive. In addition, the water damage from the February 2014 roof leak that deluged the gift shop has still not been repaired, though the roofing issues that caused the leaks have been addressed.

We are pleased that drainage work around the old Visitor Center building has been completed, and that the climate control issues (temperature and humidity) have been addressed. Now we can at last get to work on plans to develop and open our research library, which had to be put into storage three years ago because of moisture problems in the old Visitor Center.

**CIVIL WAR PROGRAMS HELD AT THE PARK**

Monmouth Battlefield State Park commemorates more than the famous battle of Monmouth. It is not well known that a Civil war training camp, Camp Vredenburg, was located from 1862-1864 on ground that is now part of the western portion of the Park. The Camp Vredenburg site may actually be the only Civil war training camp whose grounds have been basically undisturbed over the years; all the other known camps have been built over by houses, stores or shopping centers.

Camp Vredenburg was established in the summer of 1862 and served as the training ground for over 3000 troops in the 14th, 28th and 29th New Jersey Infantry regiments. It was named after Judge Peter Vredenburg, a prominent Freehold citizen.

In honor or this training camp, programs are given commemorating battles in which the Camp Vredenburg regiments fought. Displays and programming were held on July 7 to remember the important service 154 years ago to the day of the 14th Regiment at the battle of Monocacy, Maryland. Though the battle was lost, the 14th helped delay Confederate Jubal Early’s attack on Washington DC, which was turned back a few days later.

Another program and set of displays will be given on Sunday, September 16 to commemorate the battle of Opequon (Third Winchester), where Major Peter Vredenburg (son of Judge Vredenburg) was killed in action. Afterwards a brief ceremony will be held at Major Vredenburg’s grave in Maplewood Cemetery on West Main Street in Freehold.

A third Civil war program will be held on December 8 to remember the participation of the 29th New Jersey regiment at the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1862.

The site of Camp Vredenburg has been located in the park but still awaits full archaeological study. For more information, see the booklet “The Story of Camp Vredenburg,” by David Martin, which is available in our gift shop at the Park.

**ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR DECEMBER 5**

Our annual meeting, which is required in the ByLaws, will be held this year on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 6:30 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive in Manalapan Township. Details will be sent out in the Fall newsletter. Candidates for office will be announced at the October 11 general meeting and lecture by David Martin to be held at the library. Current officers and trustees are listed below.

**FOMB OFFICERS (term ends December 2018)**

President Dr. David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Fran Raleigh

Treasurer Kathy Doherty

**FOMB TRUSTEES (end of term in parentheses)**

Andy Beagle (2018) South Plainfield, New Jersey

Mike Cervini (2018) Toms River, New Jersey

George Dawson (2019) New Brunswick, New Jersey

Eric Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, New Jersey

Kathy Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, New Jersey

Dr. David Martin (2018) East Windsor, New Jersey

Marilyn Miller (2018) Toms River, New Jersey

Fran Raleigh (2019) Colts Neck, NJ

John Resto (2020) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2018) Englishtown, New Jersey

**NEWEST PROJECT TO REPLACE WINDOWS**

**AT CRAIG HOUSE ABOUT UNDERWAY**

We are delighted to report that our fourth project to replace damaged windows at the historic Craig House is about ready to start. As previously announced, we have received a generous grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to replace the two last windows and frames on the north side of the building. Approval for the project has been received from the Historic Preservation Office, and everything is set to go.

Craig House is not really in the best of shape and needs a lot of additional work. We are glad that the Park is looking at the building’s outside drainage. We sincerely hope that the Park will also bring in outside consultants to identify the building’s needs and best ways to meet them.

Our next project at Craig House may be to replace the storm cellar door access. The building also needs a new roof and new siding, both of which are major projects that will take a lot planning (and a lot of money).

Many thanks are owed to FOMB members Kathy and Eric Doherty, who have been acting as docents at the Craig House, which is open free of charge on Sundays from 1-4 PM. It will close for the season on December 2.

Craig House is located just west of Route 9, off of Schibanoff Road, about a mile north of the intersection of Route 9 and Business Route 33.

**GIFT SHOP HOURS**

The gift shop, run by the Friends at the Park Visitor Center, is open continuously all year. It is open every Sunday from 1-4 PM. Stop by and get a book or pamphlet about the battle, or a tricorn hat, wooden musket, toy cannon or thirteen star flag for your kids!

We also have a large selection of donated history books, from the era of the colonies through the Revolution to the Civil War, on sale at $4 each or three for $10.

If you live out of state or can’t make it to the gift shop, a listing of books and pamphlets available by mail is available on our website, [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org).

The new paperback edition of Dr. Garry Stone’s detailed history of the battle, *Bloody Sunday,* is available at the Park for $25 plus tax, or by mail for $33 postpaid. The original hard back edition is no longer available at our gift shop.

**MEMBERSHIP NEARS RECORD**

Our current membership is at 116 and is approaching our record of 123, set last year. If you haven’t renewed yet and wish to do so, use the application printed later in this newsletter. Currently we have 20 life members and 11 patrons. We owe them special thanks for their extra support of our programs. You may be interested in knowing that 21 of our members (17%) come from outside New Jersey. There are 3 each from Pennsylvania and Virginia, 2 each from California, Florida, Maryland, and Washington state, and 1 each from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Washington DC.

**FOMB ITEMS ON DISPLAY AT CRANBURY MUSEUM**

**DR. MARTIN TO GIVE TALK THERE ON SEPT. 23**

In June the Cranbury Historical Society opened an exhibit on Cranbury in the Revolution, focusing on Cranbury’s role in the Monmouth campaign. Their exhibit features a number of items borrowed from our collection that have been on display at our Gift Shop at the Monmouth Battlefield Visitor Center. Our material on loan includes two cannon balls, grapeshot, musket balls, and Molly Pitcher related items.

The major portion of Washington’s army encamped at and near Cranbury on the night of June 26-27 on their way to the battle of Monmouth, which was fought on June 28, 1778.

Our President, Dr. David Martin, will give a talk at the Cranbury Museum at 1:30 P.M. on Sunday, September 23, summarizing the role of Cranbury in the Monmouth campaign. The museum’s address is 4 Park Place East, Cranbury, NJ 08512.

***NEXT YEAR’S ANNUAL BATTLE OF MONMOUTH REEACTMENT***

***IS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 22-23, 2019***

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR**

**(entries in bold occur at the Park)**

**Sept. 2, 2018 (Sun) Walking tour of the Battlefield.**

Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

**Sept 9, 2018 (Sun) Program on the role of the New Jersey Regulars and Militia in the Battle of Monmouth**

Dr. David Martin will give a lecture based on his original

research. 2PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

**Sept 16, 2018 (Sun) Program on the 14th New Jersey regiment and the Death**

**of Major Peter Vredenburg at the Battle of Opequon (3rd Winchester) in 1863**

Dr. David Martin will give a lecture, based on his book, “The Monocacy Regiment.” Afterwards at 4:30 PM we have a brief memorial service at Major Vredenburg’s grave in Maplewood Cemetery on West Main Street outside Freehold.

Sept 23, 2018 (Sun) Program by Dr. David Martin at the Cranbury Museum on Cranbury in the Monmouth Campaign, 1:30 PM

**Oct 7, 2018 (Sun) Walking tour of the Battlefield.**

Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

**Oct 11, 2018 (Thurs)** Program on “Washington’s Senior Staff at Monmouth: Knox, von Steuben and the other Big Wigs,” 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive in Manalapan.

**Nov 4, 2018 (Sun) Walking tour of the Battlefield.**

Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

**Dec 2, 2018 (Sun) Craig House closes for the season**

**Dec 2, 2018 (Sun) Walking tour of the Battlefield.**

Meet at the Visitor center at 1:30 PM.

**Dec 5, 2018 (Wed)** Annual Business Meeting, held at 6:30 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive in Manalapan.

**Dec 8, 2018 (Sun) Program on the 28th New Jersey Infantry regiment at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.** Given by Dr. David

Martin at 2 PM at the Visitor Center.

Craig House open Sundays 1-4 PM, April 8 to December 2

**STAFF MEMBER JOHN LAURENS WROTE**

**GREAT EARLY ACCOUNT OF MONMOUTH**

Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens (1756-1782) was one of General George Washington’s seven personal staff members at the battle of Monmouth. He saw the fighting up close and played an important role in the progress of the fight. After the battle he gave testimony at General Charles Lee’s court martial and played a key role in helping present the battle as a Continental victory. He wrote the following letter to his father Henry Laurens, who was President of Congress, on June 30, just two days after the battle. It is one of the finest short contemporary accounts of Monmouth that we have. Laurens’ narrative makes it clear that he did not care for Lee or the way that Lee ran the opening stages of the battle. The text of this letter and the one that follows is drawn from The Army Correspondence of Colonel John Laurens in the Years 1777-8, which was published in 1867.

Headquarters, English Town, 30th June, 1778

My Dear Father:

I was exceedingly chagrined that public business prevented my writing to you

from the field of battle, when the General sent his dispatched to Congress. The delay, however, will be attended with this advantage, that I shall be better able to give you an account of the enemy’s loss; tho’ I must now content myself with a very succinct relation of this affair.

The situation of the two armies on Sunday was as follows: Genl Washington, with the main body of ours army, was at 4 miles distance from English Town. Genl Lee, with a chosen advanced corps, was at that town. The enemy were retreating down the road which heads to Middle Town; their flying army composed (as it was said), of 2 battalions of British grenadiers, 1 Hessian grendrs,1 battalion of light infantry, 1 regiment of guards, 2 brigades of foot, 1 regt of dragoons and a number of mounted and dismounted Jagers. The enemy’s rear was preparing to leave Monmouth village, which is 6 miles from this place, when our advanced corps was marching towards them. The militia of the country kept up a random running fire with the Hessian Jagers; no mischief was done on either side.

I was with a small party of horse, reconnoitering the enemy, in an open space before Monmouth, when I perceived two parties of the enemy advancing by files in the woods on our right and left, with a view, as I imagined, of enveloping our small party, or preparing a way for a skirmish of their horse. I immediately wrote an account of what I had seen to the General, and expressed my anxiety on account of the languid appearance of the Continental troops under Genl Lee.

Some person in the mean time reported to Gen Lee that the enemy were advancing upon us in two columns, and I was informed that he had, in consequence, ordered Varnum’s brigade, which was in front, to repass a bridge which it had passed. I went myself and assured him of the real state of the case; his reply to me was, that his accounts had been so contradictory, that he was utterly at a loss what part to take. I repeated my

**HENRY LAURENS’ ACCOUNT OF MONMOUTH (Cont.)**

account to him in positive distinct terms, and returned to make farther discoveries. I

found that the two parties had been withdrawn from the wood, and that the enemy were preparing to leave Monmouth. I wrote a second time to Genl Washington. Genl Lee at length gave orders to advance. The enemy were forming themselves on the Middle Town road, with their light infantry in front, and cavalry on the left flank, while a scattering, distant fire was commenced between our flanking parties and theirs. I was impatient and uneasy at seeing that no disposition was made, and endeavored to find Genl Lee to inform him of what was doing and know what was his disposition. He told me that he was going to order some troops to march below the enemy and cut off their retreat. Two pieces of artillery were posted on our right without a single foot soldier to support them. Our men were formed piece meal in front of the enemy, and there appeared to be no general plan or disposition calculated on that of the enemy; the nature of the ground, or any of the other principles which generally govern in such cases.

The enemy began a cannonade from two parts of their line; their whole body of horse made a furious charge upon a small party of our cavalry and dissipated them, and drove them till the appearance of the infantry, and a judicious discharge or two of artillery made them retire precipitately. Three regiments of ours that had advanced in a plain open country towards the enemy’s left flank, were ordered by Genl Lee to retire and occupy the village of Monmouth. They were no sooner formed there, than they were ordered to quit that post and gain the woods. One order succeeded another with a rapidity and indecision calculated to ruin us. The enemy had changed their front and were advancing in full march towards us; our men were fatigued with the excessive heat. The artillery horses were not in condition to make a brisk retreat. A new position was ordered, but not generally communicated, for part of the troops were forming on the right of the ground, while others were forming on the right of the ground, while others were marching away, and all the artillery driving off. The enemy, after a short halt, resumed their pursuit; no cannon was left to check their progress, A regiment was ordered to form behind a fence, and as speedily commanded to retire.

All this disgraceful retreating, passed without the firing of a musket, over ground which might have been disputed inch by inch. We passed a defile and arrived at an eminence beyond, which was defended on one and by an impracticable fen, on the other by thick woods where our men would have fought to advantage. Here, fortunately for the honour of the army, and the welfare of America, Genl Washington met the troops retreating in disorder, and without any plan to make an opposition. He ordered some pieces of artillery to be brought up to defend the pass, and some troops to form and defend the pieces. The artillery was too distant to be brought up readily, so that there was but little opposition given here. A few shot though, and a little skirmishing in the wood checked the enemy’s career. The Genl expressed his astonishment at this unaccountable retreat. Mr. Lee indecently replied that the attack was contrary to his advice and opinion in council.

We were obliged to retire to a position, which, though hastily reconnoitered, proved an excellent one. Two regiments were formed behind a fence in front on the position, The enemy’s horse advanced in full charge with admirable bravery to the distance of forty

**HENRY LAURENS’ ACCOUNT OF MONMOUTH (Cont.)**

paces, when a general discharge from these two regiments did great execution among then, and made them fly with greatest precipitation. The grenadiers succeeded to the attack. At this time my horse was killed under me. In this spot the action was hottest, and there was considerable slaughter of British grenadiers.

The General ordered Woodford’s brigade with some artillery to take possession of an eminence on the enemy’s left, and cannonade from thence. This produced an excellent effect. The enemy were prevented from advancing on us, and confined themselves to cannonade with a show of turning our left flank. Our artillery answered theirs with the greatest vigour. The General seeing that our left flank was secure, as the ground was open and commanded by it, so that the enemy could not attempt to turn it without exposing their own flank to a heavy fire from our artillery, and causing to pass in review before us, the force employed for turning us. In the mean time, Genl Lee continued retreating. Baron von Steuben was ordered to form the broken troops in the rear. The cannonade was incessant and the General ordered parties to advance from time to time and engage the British grenadiers and Guards. The horse shewed themselves no more. The grenadiers shewed their backs and retreated every where with precipitation. They returned, however, again to the charge, and were again repulsed. They finally retreated and got over the strong pas, where, as I mentioned before, Genl Washington first rallied the troops. We advanced in force and continued masters of the ground; the standards of liberty were planted in triumph on the field of battle. We remained looking at each other, with the defile between us, till dark, and they stole off in silence at midnight.

We have buried of the enemy’s slain, 233, principally grenadiers; forty of their wounded whom they left at Monmouth, fell into our hands. Several officers are our prisoners. Among their killed are Col Moncton, a captain of the guards, and several captains of grenadiers. We have taken but a very inconsiderable number of prisoners, for want of a good body of horse. Deserters are coming in as usual. Our officers and men behaved with that bravery which becomes freemen, and have convinced the world they can beat British grenadiers. To name any one in particular wd be a kind of injustice to the rest. There are some, however, who came more immediately under my view, whom I will mention that you may know them. B. Genl Wayne, Col. Barber, Col. Stewart, Col. Livingston, Col Oswald of the artillery, Capt Doughty deserve well of their country, and distinguished themselves nobly. The enemy buried many of their dead that are not accounted for above, and carried off a great number of wounded. I have written diffusely , and yet I have not told you all. Genl Lee, I think, must be tried for misconduct. However, as this is a matter not generally known, tho’ it seems almost universally wished for. I would beg you, my dear father, to say nothing of it.

You will oblige me much by excusing me to Mr Drayton for not writing to him. I congratulate you, my dear father, upon this seasonable victory, and am ever

Your most dutiful an affectionate

JOHN LAURENS

The Honorable Henry Laurens, Esqr

**COLONEL LAURENS WRITES OF THE ARMY’S MARCH**

**TO NEW BRUNSWICK AFTER THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH**

HEADQUARTERS (on the lovely banks of the Raritan, opposite New Brunswick),

2d July 1778

My Dear Father,

I had the pleasure of writing to you the day before yesterday, from English Town, but through some mistake my letter was not delivered to the express, altho it was written in a hurry. I recollect no circumstance in it relative to our late engagement, which farther inquiry and consideration do not confirm. From a second view of the ground, as well as the accounts I have since had of the enemy’s strength and designs, it is evident to me that Mr Clinton’s whole flying army would have fallen into our hands, but for a defect of abilities or good will in the commanding officer of our advanced corps [Gen. Lee – Ed.] His precipitate retreat spread a baneful influence every where. The most sanguine hope scarcely extended farther, when the Commander in chief rallied his troops, than to an orderly retreat; but by his intrepidity and presence of mind, a firm line of troops was formed on a good position, from whence he cannonaded with advantage, and detached light parties in front, who drove the enemy from the field. Genl Clinton and Lord Cornwallis were both present at the action.

The reason for not pursuing them farther with the main body of our army was, that people well acquainted with the country said that the strength of the ground would render it impracticable for us to injure them essentially; and that the sandy, parched soil, together with the heat of the sun, would probably occasion us considerable loss. From the specimen of yesterday’s march we have reason to think it fortunate that we took the part we have done; the heat of the weather, thirsty soil, and heavy sand, reduced us to the necessity of bringing on many of our weaker men in waggons.

We are now arrived in a delightful country where we shall halt and refresh ourselves. Bathing in the Raritan, and the good living of the country will speedily refresh us. I wish, my dear father, that you could ride along the banks of this delightful river. Your zeal for the public service will not at this time permit it. But the inward satisfaction which you must feel from a patriotic discharge of your duty, is infinitely superior to the delights of retirement and ease. I admire your constant virtue, and will imitate your example.

Gen’l Steuben, his aids and your son, narrowly escaped being surrounded by the British horse, early on the morning of the action. We reconnoitered them rather too nearly, and Ld Cornwallis sent the dragoons of his guard to make us prisoners. Genl Clinton saw the Baron’s star, and the whole pursuit was directed at him; but we all escaped, the dragoons fearing an ambuscade of infantry.

We have buried Col. Moncton with the honours of war.

Your most affectionate,

John Laurens