**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017**

**PRESENTATIONS ON MOLLY PITCHER**

**SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 16, 19 AND 26**

Each year Dr. David Martin and the Friends give several presentations on Molly Pitcher in commemoration of Women’s History Month. This year we are giving two presentations and a tour related to the role of women soldiers and “camp followers” in the Revolution. Dr. Martin is the author of the only hard back serious book study of Molly Pitcher, entitled “A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook.” Published in 2003, the book is 328 pages long and discusses primary sources and stories and legends about the Heroine of Monmouth. It is available at our gift shop at the Park Visitor Center, and also at the presentations listed,

The first presentation will be at 7 PM on Thursday, March 16, at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan NJ 07726 (note that the date has been moved from March 23 as originally scheduled). The full title of the talk will be “History in Monmouth: Molly Pitcher and other Women Warriors of the American Revolution.” No registration is required but it is requested, since Dr. Martin’s January lecture on Hamilton and Burr was to a near capacity audience. Call 732-431-7220 for more information.

A talk on “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth” will be given at 2 PM on Sunday, March 19, in the auditorium at the Park Visitor Center. This lecture will focus more on Molly’s contribution to the battle as a member of Proctor’s Artillery, but will also include the major elements of her story. The presentations on March 16 and 19 will be similar but not exactly alike. So, why not come to both, or, if you can’t make it to one presentation, come and attend the other one!

Our third program in connection with Molly Pitcher will be a tour on Sunday, March 26, to visit sites claiming to be Molly Pitcher’s well, and other sites associated with Molly’s participation in the battle. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and drive through the center of the Park to visit several spots that have been claimed to be the site of Molly’s well. We will then park our vehicles and walk to the new Molly Pitcher overlook on Perrine Hill. Total length of the tour will be about two hours. No reservations are necessary.

Tours to these Molly Pitcher sites are only given two or three times a year, so you should take advantage of this opportunity if you are interested.

**RESEARCH LIBRARY PROJECT COMES BACK TO LIFE**

Work was well under way two years ago on the James Raleigh Memorial Research Library at the Park, sponsored by the Friends, when our project had to be put on hold due to severe climate control problems in the old wing of the Visitor Center. All our books and maps had to be packed away until the temperature and humidity control problems could be dealt with. We are pleased that these issues are being addressed, and that plans are under way to construct a special set of bookcases for the new library.

We will certainly keep you posted on further progress on our library.

**SUCCESSFUL TALK GIVEN ON AARON BURR AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON AT MONMOUTH**

On January 11 (Alexander Hamilton’s birthday), FOMB President David Martin gave a talk on the role of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr at the battle of Monmouth. Both were Lieutenant Colonels: Hamilton was serving on General Washington’s staff, and Burr led a field regiment. Interestingly, each officer became a battle casualty when his horse was shot from under him. The talk was given at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, and around 100 people were in attendance. See more information on Hamilton and Burr in the battle, later in this newsletter.

**WALK HELD ON JANUARY 1**

**MONTHLY “FIRST SUNDAY” WALKS CONTINUE**

On January 1 a walking tour was given by David Martin to Perrine Hill to view the main American position there and visit sites associated with Molly Pitcher. The tour was given as part of the “America’s State Parks First Day Hikes” sponsored by the State’s Division of Park’s and Forestry. Fortunately, the weather was not too bad. Around 60 people took part. This is the fifth year we have participated in the program.

It is a great tradition – come and join us next year if you can!

Our popular “First Sunday of the Month” tours continue to be held every month, meeting at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM. Tours usually go to the Hedgerow and Parsonage lines (Walking Tour Number 1), while they occasionally visit the Point of Woods area if there are only a few people or the weather is windy and cold (Walking Tour Number 3). Interestingly, the weather on tour days since January 1 has not been as good as it was on January 1! The January 8 tour had to be cancelled, February 5 was a bit nippy, and March 5 was a bit cold and windy.

If you have any question on the weather and if a walk is being given, contact the Park at 732-462-9616.

**2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES**

Last year our membership hit a new record for third year in a row, reaching 126 members and families. We are especially appreciative of new members and of our 20 life members.

Our thanks go to those who have already renewed their membership for 2017, and especially to those who enclosed an additional donation in support of our programs. You should have received your 2017 membership cards by now.

Those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2016 will be noted on page 1. A membership application for 2016 is included with this newsletter.

We greatly appreciate the support of our members and patrons. Without you, we would not be able to enrich the Park with our programs, tours, and financial support.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS HELD DECEMBER 7 ALL NOMINEES AND PROPOSALS PASSED**

Our annual meeting and elections, as required by our by-laws, were held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters.

The slate of officers was unanimously approved as presented. David Martin was elected President, George Dawson was elected Vice President, Fran Raleigh was elected Secretary, and Kathy Doherty was elected Treasurer. They will serve a one-year term until December 2017.

George Dawson, Eric Doherty, Kathy Doherty and Frances Raleigh were unanimously reelected as Trustees to serve a three-year term until December 2019. The Annual Plan for 2017 and Budget for 2017 were unanimously approved as presented.

Our President, David Martin, summarized recent accomplishments and outlined major goals for 2017. Membership hit a new record in 2016 (126), and our programming continued to grow. Each year we are offering more tours, lectures, and programs, in addition to having the gift shop and Craig House open regularly. We cosponsor the annual battle of Monmouth reenactment each June, plus additional programming at the end of June and over July 4 weekend. In 2016 we helped run the annual “Spirit of New Jersey History Fair” in May for the second year and we also cosponsored a new reenactment, The Battle of New York, in September. A wood chipper was purchased by us a year ago for Park use, and it was voted to purchase a second bicycle rack for the Park.

Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to our volunteer officers and trustees!

The list of current officers and trustees is listed below.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Andrew Beagle (2018) South Plainfield, NJ

Richard Bellamy (2017) Spotswood, NJ

Michael Cervini (2018) Toms River, NJ

George Dawson (2019) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, NJ

Walter Kowalsky (2017) Freehold, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2018) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2018) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2019) Colts Neck, NJ

Peter Wagner (2018) Englishtown, NJ

**Our mailing address is: THE FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC., PO BOX 122, TENNENT, NJ 07763**

**Our website address is:** [**www.friendsofmonmouth.org**](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)

**NEW WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**AT CRAIG HOUSE UNDER WAY;**

**CRAIG HOUSE TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON APRIL 9**

We are pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to replace two windows in the ground floor of the historic Craig House. This is the third grant we have been given in the past three years from the Commission for work at Craig House. The grant, which is a $3000 match, was officially announced at ceremonies held on February 27.

This is just another of our ongoing efforts to maintain and preserve the historic Craig House, which dates to the mid-1700s. We are pleased that the Park is working to secure funds for necessary work on the Craig House barn, which was built around 1840. Much additional work remains to be done on the Craig House in order to stabilize and preserve it. We are pushing to have the State and the Park conduct an architectural survey to identify the structural issues with the building and prioritize what needs to be done to stabilize and repair it.

Thanks are owed to Kathy and Eric Doherty for their key role in writing the grant application, and for serving as docents at Craig House.

Craig House will open for the season on April 7, and will be open through the first Sunday in December. Hours are 1-4 PM every Sunday, plus special events.

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**TALKS GIVEN AT THE PARK ON WASHINGTON IN**

**THE BATTLE AND ON BLACK TROOPS AT MONMOUTH**

As part of our expanded programming at the Park, Dr. David Martin gave two programs in February on quite different topics.

On February 12, he spoke on the topic of “George Washington at Monmouth.” Here he covered the General’s strategic and operational goals in the campaign as well as his plans for the battle. He also explained where Washington was hour by hour during the course of the battle, and he evaluated Washington good and bad decisions. The battle of Monmouth was in all respects a draw, but

Washington and his followers painted it as a victory, which helped assure his primal leadership of the Continental army for the rest of the war.

Dr. Martin’s topic on February 19 was the role of Black and Native American troops at the battle. Many Blacks served in integrated units, mostly from New England states. The most famous Black at the battle was Billy Lee, who was General George Washington’s principal servant (valet). The most notorious Black soldier in New Jersey during the war was “Colonel” Tye, a runaway slave who worked for the “Associated Loyalists” in 1779-1780 and conducted brutal raids in Monmouth County.

Current studies suggest that about 100 Blacks and 50 Native American troops were at Monmouth.

**RARE ACCOUNT OF HOW AARON BURR**

**WAS INJURED IN THE BATTLE**

**WHEN HIS HORSE WAS KILLED**

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr, future Vice President of the United States who killed Alexander Hamilton in their famous duel at Weehauken, NJ, in 1804, served at Monmouth as field commander of a unit known as “Malcolm’s Additional regiment.” During the fighting, Burr was badly hurt when his horse was shot and fell on him.

Here is the account of his injury from a rare 1836 biography by Matthew L. Davis, “Memoirs of Aaron Burr,” that we have in our FOMB research library (pages 127-128): Shortly after the action had become general, Burr discovered a detachment of the enemy coming from the borders of a wood on the southward. He instantly put his brigade in motion for the purpose of checking them. It was necessary to cross a morass, over which a bridge was thrown. He ordered Lieutenant Colonel Dummer to advance with the Pennsylvania detachment, and that he would bring up the rear with his own regiment. After a part of the brigade was over the bridge, Colonel Barber, aide to General Washington, rode up, and said that the orders of the commander-in-chief were that he should halt. Colonel Burr remonstrated. He said his men, in their present position, were exposed to the fire of the enemy, and that his whole brigade must now cross the bridge before they could halt with any safety. Colonel Barber repeated that the orders of General Washington were peremptory that he should halt, which was accordingly done, and the brigade, in their divided state, suffered severely. Lieutenant Colonel Dummer was killed; Colonel Burr’s horse was shot under him; and those who had crossed the bridge were compelled to retreat.

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON WAS ALSO INJURED AT MONMOUTH WHEN HIS HORSE WAS SHOT**

Alexander Hamilton was also a Lieutenant Colonel at Monmouth, just like Aaron Burr. However, unlike Burr, he held a staff position with General Washington and was not a field commander. During the battle, Hamilton also had his horse shot from under him, though he was not hurt by the fall as much as Burr was when his horse was shot. Hamilton’s horse was shot probably near present Route 522, slightly west of Wemrock Road, around 1:15 PM or so. Burr’s horse was shot about ½ mile to the west, and later in the afternoon (time and place are not certain).

Just before his horse was shot, Hamilton came riding up to Major General Charles Lee, Washington’s second-in-command, in a flurry and, flourishing his sword, immediately exclaimed, “that’s right, my dear general, and I will stay, and we will all day here on this spot.” For this he was reprimanded by General Lee,

“As to myself, I am ready to die as what you possibly can be, but I am responsible for something more than my own person, I am responsible to the general and to the continent for the troops I have been trusted with. When I have taken proper measures to get the main body of them in a good position, I will die with you on this spot, if you please.” (Lee Court Martial, page 230)

**SAVE THESE DATES**

MARCH 16 Lecture, “Molly Pitcher and other Women

(Thurs) Warriors or the Revolution.” 7 PM. Main

Branch of the Monmouth County Library

on Symmes Drive.

MARCH 19 Lecture, “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth.”

(Sun) 2 PM. Auditorium at the Park Visitor Center.

MARCH 26 Driving tour of the battlefield. Visit sites

(Sun) claiming to be Molly Pitcher’s well, and other sites connected with Molly in the battle. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

APRIL 2 Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at

(Sun) Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

APRIL 9 Driving tour of the battle area. Visit sites connected

(Sun) with the morning portion of the battle (East Morass

and Briar’ Hill). Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

MAY 6 “Weekend in Old Monmouth.” Open House at (Sat) Craig House 10 AM to 4 PM.

MAY 7 “Weekend in Old Monmouth.” Open House at

(Sun) Craig House 11 AM to 4 PM.

MAY 7 Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor

(Sun) Center at 1:30 PM

MAY 13 “Spirit of New Jersey” History Fair at the Park. (Sat)

MAY 14 Walking Tour, “The Fight at the Point of Woods.”

(Sun) Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

MAY 28 Memorial Day observance at the Park. 2 PM outside (Sun) Visitor Center.

JUNE 11 Lecture by David Martin, “General Henry Clinton and

(Thurs) British Leadership at Monmouth. 7 PM, main branch of Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive.

JUNE 17-18 Annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment

(Sat-Sun)

JUNE 24-25 Annual Battle of Monmouth commemoration

(Sat-Sun) (talks, programs and tours at the Park)

**FULLER ACCOUNT OF AARON BURR’S**

**ROLE AT MONMOUTH**

The following account is taken from an 1858 biography of Aaron Burr, “The Life and Times of Aaron Burr,” by J. Parton (pages107-108). This book is also in the FOMB library collection.

With the commencement of active operations in the spring, the murmurs against the commander-in-chief were soon drowned in the applause which recorded his partial success at the battle of Monmouth. In that action Colonel Burr commanded, in the absence of his seniors, one of the brigades of Lord Stirling’s division, the brigade consisting of his own regiment, and parts of two others. On this occasion, his activity and vigilance, his long-continued exertions during three of the hottest days and nights of the summer, came near proving fatal to him. All through the sultry night that preceded the battle, he was on the alert, surveying the ground and preparing for the fight. [Note: current best thinking is that Burr was not commanding a mini brigade at the battle, just his own unit, Malcolm’s Additional Regiment.]

From before the dawn of the eventful day until late in the evening, his men were under arms, either engaged or waiting orders, exposed to a sun so powerful as to be only less fatal than the enemy’s fire. Toward noon, while Stirling was thundering away with his artillery at the enemy, Colonel Burr perceived a detachment of the British issuing opposite him from the wood which hemmed in the small marshy plain in which the battle was fought. Before him was a morass over which a bridge had been thrown to the solid ground beyond. Eager for a share in the glory of the day, he instantly gave the word for his brigade to cross the bridge, and march toward the approaching enemy, When about half his force had crossed, and were within the enemy’s fire, one of General Washington’s aids galloped up to Colonel Burr and ordered him to halt his men, and hold them where they were until further orders. Burr remonstrated vehemently. He said it was madness to halt with his force so divided that it could not be formed, and though within range of the enemy’s artillery could make no effectual resistance. The aid-de-camp replied that the order was peremptory and must be obeyed, then rode away, leaving Colonel Burr in a position most distressing. The cannonballs soon began to roar above the heads of his men, and to strike with threatening proximity. Soon Colonel Burr saw brave men begin to fall about him, in consequence, he thought, of blundering generalship; and his feelings towards the commander-in-chief were deeply embittered. In a few minutes, Colonel [Rudolph] Dummer, second in command to Burr, was killed; and soon after, at a moment when Colonel Burr had by chance thrown his leg forward, a ball struck his horse on the saddle-girth, killed the animal instantly, and tumbled his rider headlong to the ground. Burr was up again in a moment uninjured. As no further orders arrived, the men who had crossed the bridge rejoined their comrades; and what their commander had fondly hoped would have been a glorious and successful charge resulted in confusion, demoralization and loss. Smarting under this disappointment, it is not surprising that Burr should have warmly taken the side of General Lee in the contest which ensued between that officer and General Washington [Lee’s court martial after the battle]. It was in a letter to Burr that

**BURR AT MONMOUTH (PARTON BIOGRAPHY) CONT.**

Lee made the remark frequently quoted, that he was going to resign his commission, retire to Virginia, and learn to hoe tobacco, “which I find,” said the

irate and sarcastic general [Charles Lee], “is the best school to form a consummate general.”

It was late in the night after the battle, before Colonel Burr threw himself upon the ground to sleep. What with the heat, and with his labors, which had been unremitted for forty hours, he was completely exhausted, and he sank into so profound a sleep that had lain for some hours in the morning sun before he awoke. The effect of this exposure was extremely injurious. On getting up he could scarcely walk, so stiffened were his limbs; and in the course of the day worse symptoms appeared. His constitution did not recover from the effects of those days and nights at Monmouth for more than five years, the disease having finally taken the form of chronic diarrhea, from which his abstemiousness in diet at length, but very gradually, relieved him. During the rest of the Monmouth campaign, it was with difficulty and pain that he performed the duties of his command. [Burr finally resigned from the army in March 1779 due to his continuing bad heath.]

**STRYKER’S ACCOUNT OF BURR’S INJURY**

Historian William Stryker has a different account of the circumstances of Burr’s injury. The accounts by Davis and Parton seem to place Burr’s injury about 2 PM in connection with the attack made by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Monckton and his British grenadiers on the west side of the causeway. Stryker appears to be placing Burr’s injury later in the afternoon, after 5:30 PM, in connection with Anthony Wayne’s fight at the Parsonage. This interpretation of events is presented by historians Mark Lender and Garry W. Stone in their recent book, “Fatal Sunday,” pages 342-345. The place and time of Burr’s injury is still under debate. Here is Stryker’s account (pages 210-211).

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr, then but 22 years of age, commanded Malcolm’s regiment, Continental infantry, attached to a brigade in Lord Stirling’s division. In the midst of the fight of this division, Burr observed a party of the enemy issuing from a copse some distance to the south of the other attacking British force, and he started his command under order to check their advance. The Third Pennsylvania regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Rudolph Bunner in command, was the leading regiment in the brigade. The brigade crossed a small bridge over a ravine, and then halted while [some officers] ascended a small hill to get a good view of the British. They were only gone a moment but the enemy opened on the brigade a most terrific fire. Several men were killed and many wounded. Burr’s valuable horse was severely wounded and Burr was thrown to the ground. Lieutenant Colonel Bunner arrived from his tour of observation just in time to be pierced by a musket ball and to fall dead from his horse. The orders to advance were then countermanded and the brigade was withdrawn just when the fire of the enemy slackened and they retreated.

**2017 Membership Application**

The Revolution in New Jersey had profound meaning. To help keep the past alive, we ask for your commitment in Protecting, Preserving and Historically Interpreting Monmouth Battlefield State Park, a Registered National Historic landmark, and the sites associated with the Monmouth Campaign of 1778.

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***CHECK ONE***

***New membership Renewal***

**CIRCLE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Individual $20 Family $30**

**Senior Individual $5 Senior Family $10**

**Patron $100 Lifetime $250**

***Membership benefits include free entry at all Friends’ events and a 10% discount at the Gift Shop.***

***The Friends rely on membership and donations for much of our general operating budget. If you would like to make a donation above the membership dues, we would deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization and your donation is fully tax-deductible. Thank you.***

**Donation included in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC. PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 07763**

Dear Friend of Monmouth Battlefield,

I am writing to ask for your support for the Friends and our objectives. I sincerely hope that you will be able to attend our meetings and programs this year as we continue our programs to help preserve and develop Monmouth Battlefield State Park and to interpret the battle and events associated with it. Please consider renewing your membership or joining the Friends by returning the enclosed membership application to us at the address given above.

We have just completed our 26th Year and the number of projects and programs we sponsor is steadily increasing. We are giving additional walks and talks on the battlefield, and we will be helping the Park erect additional wayside historical markers on the battlefield. We continue to develop the James T. Raleigh Memorial Library and Research Center, and sponsor additional lectures and talks at both the Park and Monmouth County Library. Our new and expanded gift shop has been operational for well over two years and offers the best selection of books and pamphlets on the battle that are available anywhere (visit our website if you want to order items by mail).

We are continuing our popular free guided tours on the first Sunday of every month. We are also available to give group tours at other times by arrangement. In addition, we are helping to man and interpret the historic Craig House at the battlefield, every Sunday from 1-4 PM from the beginning of April to the beginning of December.

We continue to sponsor “Over Here Molly Picher!” programming with living history historian Stacy Roth. We also are seeking another matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to undertake much needed window replacements at the historic Craig House.

If you have questions or want information, please contact President David Martin at 609-448-6355 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our new website can be viewed at [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org), and we also have an active face book site.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Martin, President

*Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*Sponsorship of programs and tours on the actual anniversary of the battle in June 2016*

*Sponsorship of programs on “The Revolutionary War in Monmouth*

*County” in June and July*

*Maintenance of a new and expanded gift shop at the Visitor Center*

*Regular membership meetings on historical topics related to the*

*Battle and Park*

*Cosponsorship of the “Battle of New York” reenactment in September*

*Outreach to schools, community groups and state agencies*

*Regular free monthly tours of the battlefield held the first Sunday of*

*every month*

*Development of additional walking and driving tours of the Battle of Monmouth*

*Staffing of the Craig House every Sunday from 1-4 PM most of the year*

*Working closely with Park staff to help plan the new Visitor Center and its*

*exhibits*

*Maintenance of a large and current website (friendsofmonmouth.org)*

*Maintenance of a new Facebook page*