**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021**

**PARK VISITOR CENTER STILL CLOSED DUE TO VIRUS**

**PARK ITSELF REMAINS OPEN**

**FOMB EVENTS CANCELLED DURING WINTER**

The Park Visitor Center has been closed to the public for a year now, since March 16, 2020, and there is still no indication when it will reopen. The building has been open to Park staff, who have been continuing research and program development, and the Friends have had access to our records and material as needed.

The Park has been open full time since May 16, 2020 for hikers and recreation.

FOMB activities were cancelled from March 14 to the end of July. We picked our programming as best we could as of the beginning of August. During the fall we manned information tables under the veranda outside the Visitor Center every weekend. Thanks go to Andy Beagle, George Dawson, David Martin, and John Resto for their work here. Scheduled lectures were given under the open air outside the Visitor Center, since the auditorium was not open. The final presentation of the season was a talk by David Martin on the 28th New Jersey regiment at the Civil War battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, given on December 13 (the 28th Regiment trained at Camp Vredenburgh, whose site is now within Monmouth Battlefield State Park).

Our walking tours have been particularly popular. They continued as scheduled on the first Sunday of each month, through December. However, the annual “Walk in the Parks” tour regularly held on January 1 each year was cancelled this year by the State due to the virus. The January and February first Sunday tours were cancelled due to the weather. We were surprised and pleased that around 60 people came to the March 7 walking tour.

Talks scheduled for February and March were not held because we did not have access to the Visitor Center and it was too cold to do them outside.

The Craig House was closed all of 2020 and we do not know when it will be allowed to open this year.

**STATUS OF 2021 REENACTMENT IN DOUBT;**

**LIVING HISTORY PROGRAMS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED**

The 2020 annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth had to be cancelled due to the virus, the first time that the reenactment was cancelled since the new Visitor Center was being constructed in 2013. Right now it is not looking good that this year’s reenactment will be able to be held. The State has been slow to give the go ahead for large scale outdoor activities, and even if approval is granted, it is already past time for us to start planning the event.

So, odds right now are that this year’s reenactment will not be held. If so, this will be another blow to FOMB, since the reenactment is our major fund raiser each year, and losing it two years in a row will be most unfortunate for our ability to conduct our programming.

Plans are being made, however, to conduct living history encampments in June in place of the reenactment. Quite a number of living historians and reenactors are ready and willing to come to the Park to demonstrate camp life, soldier drill, and battle tactics. Plans are to have units here by invitation and spread out their camps and programs so that a goodly number of visitors can enjoy their programs. There just would not be traditional battle movements that we enjoy in the reenactments.

There may also be a limited number of sutlers on site. Lectures would be held outside the Visitor Center, weather permitting, and we would hold other events such as tours, our popular childrens’ drills, and demonstrations of cannon firing.

We will let you know in the June newsletter, and on our website, what is being planned, once arrangements are made. Right now we are looking to set up programming on June 19-20 (the usual reenactment weekend) and on June 26-27 (the usual battle commemoration weekend). There may also be events occurring on July 4 weekend.

**ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED**

**VOTING COMPLETED BY MAIL**

Our annual meeting scheduled for December 3, 2020, had to be cancelled due to the virus. Ballots were sent out to be returned by December 31, 2020. The budget for 2021 was presented by a vote of 52-1, and the annual plan for 2021 was approved 52-0.

John Resto (62 votes) and Linda Spangle (61 votes) were reelected to three year terms as trustees.

The officer candidates were unanimously reelected: President, David Martin (62 votes); Vice President, George Dawson (60 votes); Treasurer, Kathy Doherty (61 votes); and Secretary, Fran Raleigh (61 votes).

**FOMB ACTIVITIES TO RESUME MARCH 28**

Plans are to resume our programming on March 28. The first event will be a driving/walking tour of sites associated with Molly Pitcher. Participants should gather outside the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM (weather permitting).

Additional walking and driving tours will be held as scheduled, weather permitting (see attached calendar, and our website). Lectures and programs will be held outside the Visitor Center as scheduled, weather permitting. We will also again be manning information tables outside the Visitor Center on Sundays.

Some programs, though, will not be resumed immediately:

Dr. Martin’s quarterly lectures at the Monmouth County Library are still on hiatus

There are no plans to open the Craig House this season.

The gift shop in the Visitor Center is still closed, though we are bringing a select number of books and pamphlets outside to the information tables for sale.

As mentioned, the annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment will probably not be held again this year, though we are planning living history encampments instead in June.

Historic Days in Monmouth County programing usually held the first weekend in May, has been cancelled again this year.

A listing of planned events is given elsewhere in this newsletter; they are, of course, subject to change. Changes will be posted on our website, www.friendsofmonmouth.org.

**CRAIG HOUSE NEWS**

Our most recent project at the historic Craig House was completed this summer – the replacement of the double Dutch door at the end of the main hall way, on the battlefield side of the building. We had originally planned to replace a second door from the kitchen to the outside, but we did not have enough funds after we had to change contractors and the new one was more expensive. The work was done with the aid of a grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

Our next project is to repair/replace two windows on the second floor, battlefield side of the building. A grant application has been made to the Monmouth County Historical Commission and was approved last month in the amount of $3000 for this project. Thanks go to Kathy and Eric Doherty for attending the grant presentation ceremony on our behalf.

From 2015-2019 we repaired or replaced 9 windows plus the cellar door at Craig House, every year but one with the help of grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

The Park has completed its project to replace the Craig House roof. They are now working on plans for the building’s drainage system and siding.

Craig House was closed for the entire 2020 season due to the virus and there are at present no plans to open it this year

**SCHEDULE OF SPRING AND SUMMER 2021 ACTIVITIES**

**.**

**Events subject to the Park grounds being open and to restrictive directives from the Governor.**

**March 28, 2021 (Sun) Visit the several sites claiming to be Molly Pitcher’s**

**well. Drive to the heart of the battlefield to visit the different spots that have been claimed to be the location of Molly’s well. Tour will end at the new Molly Pitcher Overlook on Perrine Hill. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

**April 4, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

**April 18, 2021 (Sun) Driving tour of the battle area east of Freehold. Starts at the Battle of Monmouth Monument on Court Street in Freehold. Then visit two important seldom seen areas of the morning portion of the battle, the East Morass and Briar Hill. Meet at 1:30 PM at Visitor Center.**

**May 1, 2021 (Sat) Bird Walk on the battlefield. Identify birds that live here or**

**pass through in the spring, Meet at 9 AM at the Visitor Center.**

**May 2, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

**May 9, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour “The Fight at the Point of Woods.” Visit the**

**scene of fierce fighting in the early afternoon. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

REVOLUTIONARY WAR DAYS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY 2021

**June 6, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield (Hedge Row and**

**Parsonage). Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

June 9, 2021 (Wed) General Meeting. “New Views of General Charles Lee at Monmouth.”

Meeting held at 7 PM at the main branch of the Monnmouth County

Library at 7 PM (if open)

**June 13, 2021 (Sun) Driving tour to visit the site of the American encampment**

**encampments at Ponolopon Bridge the day before the**

**battle of Monmouth. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

**June 19, 2021 (Sat) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM-4 PM.**

**(tentative)**

**June 20, 2021 (Sun) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM – 3PM.**

**(tentative)**

**June 26, 2021 (Sat) 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth 10 AM-4 PM.**

**Living History Encampment and programs (tentative)**

**June 27, 2021 (Sun) 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth 10 AM-4 PM.**

**Living History Encampment and programs (tentative)**

**July 4, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

**Living History Encampment and programs (tentative).**

**SEARCH FOR NEW PARK SUP’T STILL UNDER WAY**

The search for a new Superintendent at Monmouth Battlefield State Park is still ongoing. As reported previously, Acting park Superintendent Robert Auermuller was reassigned in spring 2017 after being at the Park for about a year. Inga Gabliks, Superintendent at Allaire State Park, has been serving as Acting Superintendent at Monmouth. The effort to appoint a new full time superintendent at Monmouth has been going on for quite a while without progress. We will you posted on this important process.

**2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES**

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON FORM**

Membership renewal forms for 2021 are enclosed. We really appreciate your support in these tough times. We are especially appreciative of our 25 life members. We cannot due all that we do without the support of our member-ship.

Please include tour email address on the form. We have not done a very good job over the years of collecting member email addresses. If you are a life member, please send to President David Martin at” [dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org). The purpose of gathering emails is in case we decide to hold on-line virtual meetings, and in order to communicate better with our members should the need arise.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Caralee Bava-Grygo (2022) Freehold, NJ

Andrew Beagle (2021) South Plainfield, NJ

George Dawson (2022) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2021) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2021) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2022) Colts Neck, NJ

Linda Spangle (2023) Manalapan, NJ

John Resto (2023) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2021) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2021)**

President David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Frances Raleigh

Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

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

**ANOTHER HESSIAN ACCOUNT  
OF THE CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE**

*Editor’s note: During the Monmouth campaign most of the Hessian (German) troops were in Lt. Gen. Knyphausen’s 2nd British Division. Their main job was to guard the army’s supply wagons and heavy artillery. On June 28, 1778, the day of the battle, Knyphausen’s command left Monmouth Courthouse (now Freehold) early in the day and so did not take part in the battle. The following account of the campaign and battle comes from the* Hesse-Cassel Jaeger Corps Journal *as published in pages 264-265 of the book* “Enemy Views: The American Revolutionary War as Recorded by the Hessian Participants, *by Bruce E. Burgoyne.*

20 June. The march continued today to Mount Holly where the army is to be reunited and where we made camp. The enemy Major General Maxwell and his brigade had lain in this place and retreated to Trenton, It was a secure post which could have been very well and easily defended, but their retreat was made so hurriedly that they did not even break up the bridge.

26 June, Today the army marched to Monmouth where it encamped on a very beautiful plain, Due to the unbearable heat we lost three men. The march was very tiring, and as we were the last troops and constantly engaged with the enemy, and because of the exhausted and ruined wells, suffered severely from the shortage of water; many of the Jaegers fell on the road and were put on the officers’ horses in order to be carried along with us, as we were not allowed any wagons. This happened frequently on the retreat across the Jerseys.

27 June. Today the enemy launched two very vigorous attacks on our rear in an effort to cut it off, but these were beaten back with losses. We laid an ambush into which a troop of cavalry fell, and several were shot.

28 June, The army was ordered to march in a column a certain distance to a place where Lieutenant General von Knyphausen was marching with the army’s train and baggage. At this point, the Jaegers would become the rear guard, and to this end, joined the column at two o’clock in the morning at Monmouth near the general’s quarters, to which the 40th Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Musgrove, and the Jersey Volunteers also came. These preparations started the army in motion, and as it took a long time to get the numerous wagons in motion, it was already six o’clock in the morning before all were underway. At this time General Washington with his army marched up, and General Clinton awaited contact with only the left column under Lord Cornwallis. The enemy, as soon as he had advanced a predetermined distance, formed in two lines, and General Clinton advanced against the enemy and drove the first line completely back, and would have pursued it farther if the second line had not been posted most advantageously on a height behind a swamp, which prevented him from doing so. Nevertheless, the English Grenadiers did make an effort to cross the morass but got their cannons stuck and were only able to retrieve them with the most strenuous effort. During this time various attempts were made to capture the

**JAEGER ACCOUNT CONTINUED**

baggage, but these failed and as a strong corps was reported marching against our train, which was stretched over a very long distance, the Jaeger Corps and the 40th Regiment were detached to provide cover, However, as the enemy had been beaten, that corps of his force was ordered back, and no engagement occurred here. General Clinton harassed the enemy throughout the day with artillery fire, and as his men were extremely fatigued, he did not desire to attack the enemy a second time while they held an advantageous position. However he ordered a brigade from General von Knyphausen’s column to join with his force in case the enemy should launch an attack. The losses on the English side in this action amounted to 320 dead and wounded, and on the enemy side, to 600.

1 July. We awaited in this position [at Navesink], an attack from the enemy, but no one appeared before our posts except [Daniel] Morgan’s Corps. General Lee had a falling out with General Washington concerning the action on the 28th, in which Lee was criticized for unnecessarily retreating, and for not maintain discipline in the first line.

5 July. As the enemy army moved to Braunschweig [Brunswick] and from there toward the North River [Hudson], in order to protect the Highlands, we did not expect further attack from it.

**FROM THE DIARY OF JACOB PIEL,**

**2nd LT., HESSE-CASSEL VON LOSSBERG REGIMENT**

15 June. At six o’clock this evening we were take across the Delaware in flatboats…

23 June. The army marched out this morning in two columns. General Knyphausen commanded the column on the right and the second body of the Loos brigade was the rear guard today. During the last three days the Hessian corps has lost many men who deserted. Two non-commissioned officers and two privates deserted from the Lossberg Regiment.

25 June. We marched to Freedom [Freehold] Township. It was a very fatiguing march. Almost half of our troops fell along the way due to the heat.

28 June. At daybreak this morning the entire army moved out. The Knyphausen Division, which contained all the provisions for the army, and the artillery train, constituted the advance guard. The enemy harassed our rear guard, killed several horses from the train, and wounded a few soldiers. At the same time the corps under General Clinton fell on the rebels in hand-to-hand fighting and drove them back. In this combat our army lost about 150 men, dead and wounded, and nearly as many dropped dead on the spot, during the fighting from the heat.

1 July. The entire army marched this morning in several columns from Navesink to Sandy Hook. A part of the army entered flatboats here and were taken to the transport ships. The remaining part marched over the floating bridge which stretched from the mainland to Sandy Hook, and bivouacked overnight on this sandy wasteland. *Taken from Burgoyne’s book cited above, pages 262-263.*

**ACCOUNT BY A THIRD HESSIAN OFFICER**

*The following account is by Heinrich Carl Philipp von Feilitzsch, a lieutenant in the Anspach-Beyreuth Jaeger Corps. He served in America from 1777-1780. It is from Burgoyne’s book, cited above, pages 266-267.*

16 June. At present there are not more than 6000 men in the city Philadelphia. [Most of] the army is already on the other side of the Delaware.

17 June. At three o’clock this morning we were also carried across to Jersey, The heat was terrible. We marched to Haddonfield, seven English miles. On the way not more than eight rebels were seen who were fired upon.

26 June. At five o’clock we marched, as usual, the rear guard. The enemy had disturbed us during the night up until we marched. We went about twelve miles. The enemy harassed us the entire day. I led a patrol off to one side. The heat was terrible. It was an extremely tiring day. Would to God it is the last one. The place where we halted is called Upper Freehold. During a marauding expedition the corps lost twenty men, but not one from the company.

28 June, At two o’clock in the morning we marched, We were the rear guard for General Knyphausen’s column. As this was the first [departure] and had nothing to fear, we were this spared from fatigue.

The second [departure] under the command of General Cornwallis followed us with the Light Infantry as its rear guard and the Queen’s Rangers covering the flank. They were attacked at once and the major wounded. Between nine and ten o-clock the enemy came in large numbers. Cornwallis had already passed Freehold. The Light Infantry formed a front, but as they were too weak for this, they were reinforced immediately the entire column. This consisted of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, English and Hessian Grenadiers, the Guards, the Rangers, and the 16th Dragoon Regiment, We did not think the enemy was strong, but finally discovered that this was Washington with his army. The cannonade was heavy by both sides and continued until four o’clock. However, our Britons again proved their bravery, suffering a loss of 400 to 500 men killed and wounded. The enemy was defeated and pursued us far as a swamp, unknown to us, where we took the greatest losses, which may have been the enemy’s plan. However, it failed. Reportedly the rebel losses were more than 800 men. They retreated and our army followed slowly during the night. The heat was terrible and our greatest losses were the deaths due to the heat. Our columns marched at night.

2 and 3 July. It rained hard, without letup. I was fortunate enough to have a tent, but the troops had o remain outside like dogs…

6 July. At seven o’clock we embarked and at twelve o’clock sailed with a favorable wind. We arrive in [New] York at five o’clock. The ship was called the *Fortitude.* In addition to our company, Captain Lorey’s Company is also on board.

7 July. We landed at eleven o’clock and marched eight miles to Harlem, in extreme heat.

**2021 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***CHECK ONE***

***New membership Renewal***

**CIRCLE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Individual $20 Family $30**

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

**Patron $100 Lifetime $250**

***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**

November 2020

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 are anxious about next year because of the Cornoa-19 virus. Hopefully it will come under control so that we can resume our full slate of activities, including the June reenactment.

Plans for a full year are underway, and we are developing plans to help commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, including the 250th anniversary of the battle of Monmouth in June 2028.

Our biggest ongoing project is establishment of the James T. Raleigh Memorial Library and Research Center, which is still on hold pending Park implementation of construction needs. Our expanded gift shop 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 continued to actively support the restoration of the historic Craig House at the battlefield. We again are seeking a matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to undertake much needed window replacements there.

We are preparing a revision of the By Laws and will have a new Five Year Plan available early next year.

If you have questions or want information, please contact President Dr. David Martin at 609-529-5356 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our excellent and informative website can be viewed at [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)

Sincerely,

Dr. David Martin, President

*Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

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

*Regular membership meetings on historical topics related to the Battle and Park*

*Outreach to schools, community groups and state agencies*

*Sending out regular newsletters*

*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*

*Working closely with Park staff to help man and interpret the new Visitor Center*

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

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

**PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 0776**