**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023**

 **ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 9**

 **AT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**

Our annual meeting for 2023 will be held in person at 2 PM on Saturday, December 9, 2023, in the conference room at Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center, located at 20 State Route 33 Business, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Ballots for officer election and approval of our annual plan and budget for 2024 were sent out by mail in the first week of November. Ballots and proxies will need to be returned by mail by Wednesday, December 6, or they can be brought to the meeting in person.

At the meeting, the budget and annual plan will be discussed, along with current events at the Park. No reservations are needed to attend. The meeting will take about an hour.

Two trustees, John Resto and John Fabiano, are up for reelection. Newcomer Robert McCully of Philadelphia, PA, is being nominated to fill the open trustee slot. He has been voluntarily attending board meetings for more than a year.

Current officers who will be running for another term are David Martin as President, George Dawson as Vice President, and Kathy Doherty as Treasurer. Francis Raleigh, who has served as our Secretary for a number of years, will be retiring from that post. We thank her greatly for her lengthy and efficient service! Our nomination to succeed Fran is Caralee Bava-Grygo, who has been on the board for several years.

The budget being offered for 2024 is slightly less than that for 2023 because of the smaller reenactment being planned. Three ongoing projects are keeping the expenses side of the budget high: construction of the new James T. Raleigh research library at the Park, a larger than usual project at the Craig farm, and the board authorized reprint of our edition of Stryker’s Battle of Monmouth. Additional funds to cover these projects will come from designated donations, increased grants from various sources, and surplus from our treasury.

The annual plan proposed for 2024 is a bit changed from 2023. We will continue to have our popular walking tours the first Sunday of each month. However, out of Park driving tours will be discontinued, mostly for insurance reasons. The past several years we have had additional in-park tours and also a number of historical lectures by our President, Dr. David Martin. These are being dropped in favor of a regular series of “Second Sunday Lectures” each month by Dr. Martin; see attached article later in this newsletter.

Our next annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment will be held on June 15-16, 2024. Our Battle of Monmouth commemoration the weekend after the reenactment will be reduced to one day, Sunday June 23. Next year our 4th of July event will be on a Thursday.

The slate of officers and trustees, and the annual plan and budget for 2024, have all been approved by the trustees.

If you need more information on the annual meeting or the election process, or if you are a member and did not receive your ballot and proxy forms, contact our President, Dr. David Martin by email at: dmartin@peddie.org.

**POPULAR TOURS AND TALKS CONTINUE**

 Our program of tours and talks has continued successfully this Fall.

 On September 10, David Martin spoke on the role of New Jersey troops at the Battle of Monmouth, discussing both the NJ Regular Brigade and the NJ militia in the campaign. Walking tours have continued to be held the first Sunday of each month.

 Over the course of the year so far, 19 talks and tours have been sponsored by the Friends, with an average attendance of 20. These figures do not include our January 1st “Walk in the Park,” which had about 100 participants, or the annual reenactment, which had an attendance of over 11,000, Thanks go to George Dawson, John Resto, and David Martin for conducting the talks and tours.

 This year the Historic Craig House has been open 31 times on Sundays, serving 371 visitors. Many thanks to Craig House docent Kathy Doherty and her late husband Eric for keeping Craig House open, since the Park does not have enough staff to do so*.*

**SPECIAL WALKING TOUR TO MOLLY PITCHER**

**SITES TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 1**

This year the Friends will once again be participating in the “America’s State Parks First Day Hikes" program sponsored by the state’s Division of Parks & Forestry. On Monday, January 1, 2024, a special tour will be offered by David Martin and John Resto to Perrine Hill to view the main American position there and visit sites associated with Molly Pitcher. Those interested in the tour should meet at the Visitor Center at 11 AM. We will then drive to the northern part of the park for the tour.

This tour, which has averaged about 60 participants each year, will be over between 12:30 and 1 PM. Unfortunately, the walk had to be cancelled two years, in 2021 because of covid-19 considerations and in 2022 because of bad weather. Last year the weather was great and almost 100 walkers participated.

If the weather looks questionable, call the park office for information at 732-462-9616. Come join us if the weather is good – guided tours are conducted to this area only two or three times a year.



* **Funding has been made possible for this newsletter**
* **in part by an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical**
* **Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Monmouth County Historical Commmission.**

Visit us on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmonmouthbattlefieldsp>.

**2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OPENS**

**DUES INCREASED FIRST TIME IN YEARS**

 **MEMBERSHIP FORMS IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

Membership renewal forms for 2024 are enclosed. We cannot do what we do without the support of our members. We especially appreciate our patrons and life members. We also much appreciate additional contributions made by many members. Membership has been over 100 for each of the past ten years, and once again this year is around 130. The peak was around 140 members two years ago.

After much deliberation, the Board has voted an increase in dues. As you are aware, costs for everything have been increasing the past several years. This will be our first dues increase in over twenty years.

New dues rates are given on the enclosed renewal form. Increments are as follows: senior membership raised from $5 to $10; senior family raised from $10 to $15; single membership raised from $20 to $25; family membership raised from $30 to $35; patron level raised from $100 to $125; and life membership from $250 to $300.

Thank you for understanding.

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF BATTLEFIELD HELD**

On October 21st, The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield and Monmouth Battlefield State Park staff hosted the first ever Candlelight Battlefield tour.

Since many historic sites and parks use October and Halloween as a time for hosting paranormal events and ghost tours, the Candlelight Tour used a different strategy. Instead of telling stories of ghosts and ghouls, the tour entitled “Weltering In Their Gore” (an excerpt from a letter from Colonel Israel Shreve describing the British dead following the Battle of Monmouth) told the story of the battle while using a multitude of grizzly and violent first-hand accounts about the battle and its aftermath.

The tour followed the popular hedgerow tour that takes visitors from Combs Hill, along The Hedgerow, to the Parsonage Farm, and then back to the Visitor Center. Illuminated lanterns were posted intermittently along the path to help add to the ambiance. In addition to the lanterns, a memorial candle illumination was displayed; one candle for every soldier killed at the Battle of Monmouth.

As visitors gathered before the tour, they enjoyed light refreshments inside the Visitor Center. The tour kicked off at 5:30 PM, as the sun was setting over the battlefield, and lasted for approximately two hours. An estimated 60 to 75 visitors followed one of the State Park’s historical interpreters as he led the tour. Following the tour there was a great deal of positive feedback and overall the tour was a success!

Thank you to the park staff, members of the FOMB, and other volunteers for a successful event! Special thanks go to Jesse Nokes, who organized the event and wrote this article, and to former MBSP staff member Pete Michel, who joined us to help out (Pete was transferred a few years ago from Monmouth to the Hancock House in South Jersey).

Visit our website at: [www.friendsof](http://www.friendsof)Monmouth.org

**UPDATE ON CRAIG HOUSE PROJECTS**

 We are very pleased to report that our project to replace the big main door on the barn at the Craig House site has finally been completed. The barn door blew down during a storm two years ago and has been quite a project to replace, due to its size and its expensive hardware. We have been carrying on projects at the historic Craig House site each year for a number of years. The Craig farm house dates to around 1750. Over the years we have repaired or replaced doors and windows. Recently the State DEP repaired the roof, fixed the drainage problem, and painted the building. The house witnessed the Battle of Monmouth on June 28,1778. The current barn dates to 1840, but probably sits on the site of the eighteenth century barn, which was probably used as a hospital during the battle.

 Our project for 2024, as proposed in our 2024 budget, is to start replacing the window shutters on the Craig House. Due to the cost and number of shutters, this may be a two or three year project.

 The barn door project, the shutters project and other work we have been sponsoring at the Craig farm has been partially funded through grants received from the Monmouth County Historical Commission, for which we are most grateful.

**LIBRARY PROJECT MOVING ALONG**

 Our ten year old project to set up the James Raleigh Memorial Research Library in the former office area of the old Visitor Center is finally picking up momentum again. We had initially set up a large library of 2000 or so books relating to the Revolution (focusing of course on the Battle of Monmouth and the war in New Jersey), but we ran into severe climate control issues in the building. These were addressed by the State a few years ago. Since then we have been waiting for the State to construct suitable cabinets to keep the books in. These are being constructed offsite, and may be ready for installation before too long. Once the cabinets are installed, we can begin filling them with books from our collection. This will take some time because a large number of the books need first to be treated for possible mold contamination. We plan to have the library up and running long before the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2028.

**EMAILS AND FACEBOOK**

We are planning to begin sending out newsletters by email as well as by regular mail. Later, we will be sending out a questionnaire to see who would prefer to receive newsletters by email only. In addition, we occasionally send out email communications and other timely information and updates.

To enable us to do so, please ensure that your email address is up to date when you submit your membership renewal.  You can also email your contact information to us at friendsofmonmouth@gmail.com.

 Lastly, remember to follow us on Facebook at the following address: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmonmouthbattlefieldsp>.

**“SECOND SUNDAY” LECTURE SERIES**

**TO BE INAUGURATED AT THE PARK**

The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield is pleased to announce a new lecture series to be given the second Sunday of each month at the Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center by Dr. David Martin, President of FOMB.

 Dr. Martin has for quite a number of years been giving lectures and tours at the park. He also gave a series of 21 lectures on the Battle of Monmouth, Molly Pitcher, and related topics on weeknights every three months or so at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library from 2014 to 2020. These popular lectures, sometimes attended by close to 100 people, were suspended during the covid-19 crisis three years ago and have not been restarted. In addition, attendance on the Sunday Park lectures was dwindling due to the same topics being offered each year. To address this, a proposal was made and approved at the October board meeting to start a new series of hour long lectures on the second Sunday of each month. These will include the most popular topics from the two older lecture series at the library and the Park. The “Second Sunday” lectures will begin at 2 PM in the Park auditorium and will include time for question and answer at the end. There is no charge for admission and reservations will not be necessary.

 Dr. Martin has been an officer in the Friends for over 20 years and has been President since 2013. He is the author of over 20 books on the Revolutionary War and Civil War, including two award winning books on Gettysburg, “Gettysburg, July 1” (1995) and “New Jersey at Gettysburg Guidebook” (2012), and is co-author of the seminal study “Regimental Strengths and Losses at Gettysburg” (1982). His Revolutionary War titles include “The Philadelphia Campaign” (1993) and “A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook” (2003), which is the only full length hard cover book study of the heroine of Monmouth.

 Listed here are the lecture topics for 2024 for the “Second Sunday” series, with a short summary of each.

January 14, 2024

“Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr at Monmouth”

Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, whose future rivalry ended with

Hamilton’s death at Burr’s hands at the infamous duel at Weehawken, NJ in 1805, ironically were both Lieutenant Colonels at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Burr was a line officer commanding an infantry unit, and Hamilton was serving on General Washington’s staff. In addition both officers were injured when their horses were shot during the middle portion of the battle, less than an hour apart and only about one-quarter mile apart. This lecture will discuss the role and contributions to the battle by these two famous Americans.

February 11, 2024

“George Washington at Monmouth Minute by Minute”

This lecture will discuss General Washington’s movements minute by minute during the battle, and the critical decisions that he had to make during the battle based on the information available to him at the moment.

**“SECOND SUNDAY” lectures cont.**

March 10, 2024

“The Real Molly Pitcher”

Over the years a number of candidates have been proposed as the identity of Molly Pitcher, the heroine of Monmouth. Dr. Martin, who has written a book on the subject, will present the case for the real Molly Pitcher and her true identity.

April 14, 2024

“George Washington’s Sense of Humor”

George Washington is remembered as a strong leader but is usually thought to be stoic and emotionless. He actually had quite a temper as well as a genuine sense of humor. Dr. Martin will discuss how Washington’s image as a “marble man” was created and came to be accepted.

May 12, 2024

“British Commanders and Leadership at Monmouth”

This lecture discusses the battle plan of British commander General Sir Henry Clinton, which is not well understood today. It also discusses the leadership roles of Clinton’s primary subordinate commanders, including General Charles Cornwallis (who in 1781 commanded the British army that surrendered at Yorktown).

June 9. 2024

“General Charles Lee at Monmouth: Hero, Scapegoat or Scoundrel?”

The single most controversial officer at the Battle of Monmouth was General Charles Lee, Washington’s second-in-command. Lee really didn’t want to fight the battle and then ended up leading the American attack that morning. His actions led him to be court martialed and removed from command. Did he really disobey orders? Or did he actually save the day?

July 14, 2024

“Camp Vredenburg, The Civil War Training Camp near Freehold,

and its Regiments”

It is not well known that there was a Civil War training camp from 1862-1864 just outside of Freehold, within the present boundaries of Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Dr. Martin confirmed its location in a study that he did for the State some 40 years ago. This talk will discuss the history and location of the camp, and the history and battles of the three regiments that trained there, the 14th, 28th and 29th New Jersey infantry regiments.

August 11, 2024

“Biggest Mistakes at the Battle of Monmouth”

American General Charles Lee was not the only commander to make mistakes in the battle. Other errors were made by General Anthony Wayne and even by both army commanders, Generals George Washington and Henry Clinton, among others.

**“SECOND SUNDAY” lectures cont.**

September 8, 2024

“They were Everywhere: Generals Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette at Monmouth”

Anthony Wayne was perhaps Washington’s most aggressive commander, and he was one of the few key officers to play a major role in all three segments of the battle: morning, noon and afternoon. General Lafayette, who was in many ways Washington’s surrogate son, played a key role in the campaign before the battle and on the morning of the fight.

October 13, 2024

“Washington’s Staff Officers at Monmouth: The Big Wigs and the Little Wags”

General Washington would not have done so well in the battle without the aid of his senior staff officers Henry Knox and Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, and his junior staff officers Alexander Hamilton and John Laurens

November 10, 2024

“Unsung Heroes at the Battle of Monmouth”

Accounts of the battle contributions by lesser known heroes of the battle, including Americans Lt. Col. Nathaniel Ramsey of the 3rd Maryland,

Capt. Henry Fauntleroy of the 5th Virginia, Col. Joseph Cilley of the 1st New Hampshire, and Lt. Col. David Rhea of the 2nd New Jersey, and British officers Lt. Col. Henry Monckton of the 2nd Grenadiers and Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe of the Queen’s American Rangers.

December 8, 2024

“Newest Plans and Doings at Monmouth Battlefield State Park”

A discussion of what’s new at the Battlefield, with emphasis on progress of plans for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the battle in 2028.

**CURRENTMONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD HOURS**

Park grounds are now open daily on their winter schedule, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Visitor Center is staffed and open five days a week, from Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Bathrooms are available in the brick building (old Visitor Center) across from the Visitor Center, daily from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and also in the Visitor Center itself when it is open. The bathrooms at the playground will be closed for the season starting December 1st.

 Craig House is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM until it closes for the winter on December 3. Our gift shop in the Visitor Center is open every Sunday from 100 PM to 4:00 PM.

**COMBS HILL BROCHURE TEXT**

 *The following is the text of the Combs Hill brochure developed by the Park staff.*

*It is part of the “Places of the Battle” series available at the Visitor Center office.*

“General Greene . . . took possession of commanding ground, from whence a heavy fire so enfiladed the enemy’s line, as to compel them to retreat.” - Col. Marinus Willett

Position

Combs Hill is located on the southern edge of the battlefield. The entire afternoon portion of the battle took place on the land north of Combs Hill. From there you can see Perrine Ridge (Washington’s position) and the Parsonage Farm (where most of the afternoon combat took place). Combs Hill itself is one of the highest points on the battlefield (over 160 feet above sea level). During the battle, this position would have provided Continental units with clear visibility across the battlefield and a strongly defensible area. The combination of the hill’s elevation and a morass (swampy area) at its base dissuaded the British from attacking this position. Combs Hill was used by the Continentals to catch the British in a crossfire during a nearly three hour long cannonade, which began shortly after 1:00pm and lasted until almost 5:00 pm.

Nathanael Greene’s Wing

The Continental’s right wing, under the command of Major General Nathanael Greene,

included Brigadier General William Woodford’s Virginia Brigade, as well as four artillery

pieces commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas-Antoine du Plessis. They were led to this position by Lieutenant Colonel David Rhea of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment; Rhea knew the area well, as his family farm was on the battlefield itself. After assuming their position, the American guns on Combs Hill were able to fire on the British. Men from the Somerset County Militia were positioned along Greene’s route to Combs Hill to protect the Continentals’ right flank and ensure Greene could retreat if his position became unfavorable. Lieutenant Colonel du Plessis placed the four guns and commenced fire at about 3:45pm. He was later praised for directing accurate fire onto the British position and shifted the battle in favor of the Continentals. This, combined with a failed flanking maneuver on the Continental left, forced the British commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, to order a general withdrawal.

Covering Wayne

As British forces began to withdraw, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led men of the 3rd Pennsylvania Brigade in an attack against the British 1st Grenadier Battalion who were covering the British rear. Initially, it seemed Wayne would easily drive them off. The Grenadiers had been engaged for almost the entire day; the unit had suffered high casualties and were not expecting the Continentals to attack while they withdrew. Wayne, however, did not anticipate the ability of the Grenadiers to continue fighting and their being reinforced by the British 33rd Regiment of Foot. Wayne’s attack was turned, and he was forced back to the Parsonage Farm House where his men took cover. This unknowingly brought the Grenadiers within range of du Plessis’ guns, a grievous mistake. The four guns on Combs Hill poured canister shot into the formed infantry. This fire quickly incurred casualties and the remaining British units made a hasty retreat.

*.* **NEWS FROM PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD**

The winter 2023 Princeton Battlefield Society newsletter reports that they are conducting a LIDAR mapping study of their battlefield. LIDAR stands for “Light Detection and Ranging.” This is an advanced system that detects topographical features concealed by vegetation and landscape. The project is being funded by the American Battlefield Trust and the Princeton Battlefield Society with the assistance of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The project has already revealed previously unknown terrain features. Hopefully someday we will be able to do the same for the entire Monmouth Battlefield area.

We also hope someday to arrange to use ground penetrating radar to try to locate the mass graves of the troops who died at Monmouth; the day after the battle over 200 British and American soldiers who were killed in the fighting were buried on the field. The burial details left lists of the number of slain men buried but did not say where or leave maps of where they were.

The next reenactment of the battle of Princeton, which was fought on January 3, 1777, will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

For more information on the Princeton Battlefield Society, see their website at: [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org).

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

 Caralee Bava-Grygo (2025) Freehold, NJ

Andrew Beagle (2024) South Plainfield, NJ

 George Dawson (2025) New Brunswick, NJ

 Kathy Doherty (2025) Old Bridge, NJ

 John Fabiano (2025) Allentown, NJ

 Dr. David Martin (2024) East Windsor, NJ

 Marilyn Miller (2024) Toms River, NJ

 Fran Raleigh (2025) Colts Neck, NJ

 John Resto (2025) South Plainfield, NJ

 David Shakespeare (2024) Colts Neck, NJ

 Karen Timper (2025) East Brunswick, NJ

 Peter Wagner (2024) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2023)**

President David Martin

 Vice President George Dawson

 Secretary Frances Raleigh

 Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES (2023-2024)**

Dec. 3, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

Dec. 3, 2023 (Sun) Craig House closes for the season.

Dec. 9, 2023 (Sat) FOMB Annual Meeting, 2:00 PM at the Park Visitor Center

Dec. 10, 2023 (Sun) Program by Dr. David Martin on the 28th New Jersey at the battle of Fredericksburg. 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Jan. 1, 2024 (Mon) New Year’s Day Hike (weather permitting)

Walking tour of Perrine Hill.

 See where Molly Pitcher fought.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 11:00 AM

Jan. 7, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

Jan. 14, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

“Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr at Monmouth”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium.

Feb. 4, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

Feb. 11, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

“George Washington at Monmouth Minute by Minute”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium

March 3, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

March 10, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

 “The Real Molly Pitcher”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium

March 17, 2024 (Sun) Drive to the heart of the battlefield to visit the different spots that have been claimed to be the location of Molly Pitcher’s well. Tour will end at the new Molly Pitcher Overlook on Perrine Hill. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

Gift shop in Visitor Center open Sundays 1-4 PM

Craig House reopens for the season on April 7

 **2024 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 $25 Family $35**

**Senior Individual $10 Senior Family $15**

**Patron $125 Lifetime $300**

***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 2023

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.

 Next year we are looking for noticeable growth in our activities and projects. We will be constructing a new research library at the Visitor Center, we will be republishing William Stryker’s history of the battle, and there will be our usual reenactment in June.

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.

 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 replacement of the outside window shutters at the house.

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

 Dr. David Martin, President

 *Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*A full reenactment on June 17-18, our biggest event in ten years.*

*Battle of Monmouth commemoration events on June 24-25.*

*Special commemoration held at the Park on July 4*

 *Staffing of outdoor information tables on weekends when the Visitor Center was*

 *closed*

 *Regular presentations 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**