**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021**

**NO BATTLE REENACTMENT THIS YEAR**

**LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENTS AND PROGRAMS**

**TO BE HELD JUNE 19-20 and JUNE 26-27**

We are sorry that our annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment cannot be held again this year, due to the Coronavirus epidemic. Hopefully it will be able to return next year in June 2022!

In its place we will be conducting living history encampments, tours, and other programs on the weekend that the reenactment would have been scheduled for (June 19-20) and on the following weekend (June 26-27), when we have been commemorating the actual anniversary of the battle, which was fought on June 28, 1778.

We are pleased that 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. Units will spread out their camps east of the Visitor Center so that a goodly number of visitors can enjoy their programs. However, there will not be traditional oppositional battle movements that we have enjoyed in the past.

A program will be held at 1 PM each day on Molly Pitcher. Noted historian Stacy Roth will speak on June 19 and 20, and David Martin will speak on June 26 and 27. Each day there will be children’s infantry and artillery drills.

An artillery unit will give firing demonstrations on June 26 and 27. In addition, there will be a limited number of sutlers and information tables on site. Walking tours of the battlefield will be offered each day at 2:15 PM.

A preliminary schedule of events is included with this newsletter. Up-to-date schedules will be posted on our website, www. friendsofmonmouth.org. Event schedules will also be available on site.

Parking will be limited to the main Park lot in front of the Visitor Center. There will be an adequate number of porta johns. There will be no food vendors this year, but cold water and light snacks will be available.

The Visitor Center and its museum will not be open. FOMB will have a limited number of souvenirs and books for sale under the veranda at the Visitor Center.

Visitors will be asked to follow group spacings and other Covid protocols.

Face masks will not be required. Other restrictions may or may not be in place at the time of the events.

In the event of bad weather, contact the Park office to see what events will be happening. 732-462-9616.

We are not asking for a donation at the gate, as we have done in the past for the annual reenactment. However, we will accept donations to help defray the cost of the events – use the Molly Pitcher well in front of the Visitor Center. Thanks!

**PLANS UNDERWAY FOR JULY 4 AT THE PARK**

**HISTORIC CRAIG HOUSE TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON**

More events than usual are being planned for July 4 at the Park, since the holiday falls this year on a Sunday. Our regular walking tour will take place but will be at 2:15 PM instead of 1:30. We plan to have a number of living history units on site to demonstrate camp life and battle tactics. At 1:30 PM there will be a special ceremony honoring the reading of the Declaration of Independence and its accompanying “feu de joie” (“volley of joy”) held in New Brunswick on July 4, 1778, the week after the battle of Monmouth.

Plans are also being made to open up the historic Craig house for the season on July 4. We are delighted to see Craig House opened up again to visitors after being closed for a year and a half. It will be open form 12 noon to 4 PM on July 4 and from 1 to 4 PM on following Sundays. A special shout out to FOMB board members Kathy and Eric Doherty for serving as docents at the Craig House.

**ADDITIONAL JUNE TOURS PLANNED**

On Sunday, June 13, we will again give our successful tour to the American campsites the note before the battle in Monroe township and Englishtown. This year the tour will be expanded and will start in Cranbury in order to follow the American line of march from Cranbury to Gravel Hill in Monroe Township. During the tour we will see the historic Stites House in Cranbury; the site of Washington main camp on Gravel Hill, in Monroe Township, and his headquarters there; Manalapan Bridge; the site of Charles Lee’s encampment the night before the battle in Englishtown; and the Dr. James English house in Englishtown, where Washington had brunch on his way to the battle. The tour will begin at the Cranbury History Center parking lot, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512, and will last about two hours.

On Sunday, June 20, we will give another tour starting in Cranbury. This tour will follow the route taken by Lafayette’s bold scouting march to locate the British army. Lafayette left Cranbury on June 26, and, accompanied by Alexander Hamilton, located the British forces at Robbins’ Tavern, near Englishtown. From there he was quickly recalled by General Washington before the British army could pounce on his outnumbered command. Lafayette returned to Englishtown on June 27, in time to participate in the battle of Monmouth the next day. The tour will meet at the Park Visitor Center at 1:30 PM in order to drive to Cranbury; it will then leave form the Cranbury History Center parking lot, 6 South Main Street in Cranbury, NJ 08512 around 2 PM. The tour will last about two hours and will be led by FOMB Vice President George Dawson.

Additional walking tours of the battlefield will be offered on June 19, 20, 26, and 27. Each will start from the Visitor Center at 2:15 PM. This will make a record total of 7 tours offered in one month (including the June 6 regular tour).

**MOST FOMB ACTIVITIES RESUMED MARCH 28**

**PARK VISITOR CENTER STILL CLOSED**

We are pleased to report that our regular programming resumed on March 28. We have been giving our regular first Sunday of the month walking tour, some with as many as 40 participants. On April 18 a tour was given to the East Morass area and the Battle of Monmouth monument on Court Street. George Dawson gave a bird walk on May 1, and David Martin led a tour to the Point of Woods area on May 9.

Thanks go to Andy Beagle, John Resto and George Dawson for manning information tables outside the Visitor Center almost every Sunday this spring.

As noted above, the Craig House will open for the season on July 4.

Unfortunately, the Park Visitor Center has not been opened yet, which means that our gift ship there is also still closed. We hope that both will be able to reopen in July.

Dr. Martin’s quarterly lectures at the Monmouth County Library are still on hiatus. We will let you know when they start up again – hopefully in September.

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

All changes and updates to our programming will be posted on our website, www.friendsofmonmouth.org.

**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

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR DAYS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY 2021**

**243rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH**

**Note: events subject to change. See our website for updates.**

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

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

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

**encampments at Ponolopon Bridge and Englishtown the day before the battle of Monmouth. Meet at 2 PM at the Cranbury History Center Parking lot, 6 South Main Street in Cranbury, NJ 08512. Tour will last about 2 hours.**

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

**June 20, 2021 (Sun) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM –4 PM.**

**June 20, 2021 (Sun) Driving tour following Lafayette’s march from Cranbury to Robbin’s Tavern (near Allentown) two days before the battle. Leave from Park Visitor Center at 1:30. Tour begins at 2 PM at Cranbury History Center Parking lot, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ.**

**June 26, 2021 (Sat) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM – 4 PM**

**June 27, 2021 (Sun) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM – 4 PM**

**July 4, 2021 (Sun) Living History Encampment and programs 10 AM – 4 PM**

**July 4 Commemoration 1:30 PM**

**Walking tour of the battlefield 2:15 PM**

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**July 11, 2021 (Sun) Program on the 14th New Jersey at the Battle of Monocacy.**

**Held at 1:30 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

July 18, 2021 (Sun) Driving tour to the Battle of Monmouth Monument on Court Street

in Freehold. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

**August 1, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**September 5, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**September 11, 2020 (Sun) Program on the 14th New Jersey at the Battle of 3rd**

**Winchester, and the death of Major Peter Vredenburg.**

**Held at 2 PM at or near the Visitor Center.**

**September 19, 2021 (Sun) Program on the role of the New Jersey Troops in the the Battle of Monmouth. 2 PM at or near the Visitor Center.**

JUNE 2021 EVENTS SCHEDULE version 8 6/3/21

Events are subject to change

For update to schedules see FOMB website: [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)

Schedules will be available at site on day of event

JUNE 19 SATURDAY

10 AM – 4 PM Camps open

11 AM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

12 noon Sons of the American Revolution Flag Ceremony

Flag pole in front of Visitor Center

programs and demonstrations in camps

1 PM Program on Molly Pitcher, given by Stacy Roth

west of Visitor Center

2 PM Children’s cannon drill

West of Visitor Center

2:15-3:45 PM Walking tour of battlefield

Meet at entrance of Visitor Center

3 PM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

4 PM Camps close

4:15 PM Tour of battlefield for reenactors only

Our thanks to the following living history and reenactor units:

* 3rd NJ “Greys”
* PA State Regiment (“Donegal Rifles”)
* von Prueschenk's FeldJaeger Kompanie
* 43rd Regiment of Foot

Events sponsored by Monmouth Battlefield State Park (MBSP) , New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, and the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield (FOMB).

Thanks to the living historians, members of MBSP staff, and volunteers from FOMB who made this event possible.

Donations are welcome to help defray cost of event (use Molly’s Well in front of Visitor Center)

Additional events will be held on July 4 (see website).

For tours and programs all year long, visit www.friendsofmonmouth.org

In case of emergency dial Park Police Dispatch at 877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337)

JUNE 20 SUNDAY

10 AM – 4 PM Camps open

11 AM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

12 noon Programs and demonstrations in camps

1 PM Program on Molly Pitcher, given by Stacy Roth

west of Visitor Center

2 PM Children’s cannon drill

west of Visitor Center

2:15-3:45 PM Walking tour of battlefield

Meet at entrance of Visitor Center

3 PM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

4 PM Camps close

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JUNE 26 SATURDAY

10 AM – 4 PM Camps open

11 AM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

12 noon Artillery demonstration (north of Visitor Center)

Programs and demonstrations in camps

1 PM Program on Molly Pitcher, given by David Martin

west of Visitor Center

2 PM Artillery demonstration (north of Visitor Center)

2:15-3:45 PM Walking tour of battlefield

Meet at entrance of Visitor Center

3 PM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

4 PM Camps close

4:15 PM Tour of battlefield for reenactors only

Our thanks to the following living history and reenactor units:

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JUNE 27 SUNDAY

10 AM – 4 PM Camps open

11 AM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

12 noon Artillery demonstration (north of Visitor Center)

Programs and demonstrations in camps

1 PM Program on Molly Pitcher, given by David Martin

west of Visitor Center

2 PM Artillery demonstration (north of Visitor Center)

2:15-3:45 PM Walking tour of battlefield

Meet at entrance of Visitor Center

3 PM Children’s musket drill

Meet at flag pole in front of Visitor Center

4 PM Camps close

Our thanks to the following living history and reenactor units:

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