**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021**

**ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 11**

**AT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**

Our annual meeting scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at the main branch of the Monmouth County library, is being moved to 1:30 PM on Saturday, December 11, in the meeting room at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. This move is being made because the library is not yet open for meetings due to the Covid-19 virus.

Last year’s annual meeting was cancelled and voting was held by mail. This year ballots for officer election and approval of our annual plan and budget for 2022 will be sent out by mail during the first week of November to paid up members as of November 11, 2021. They will need to be returned by mail by Wednesday, December 8, 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.

Trustees whose terms are up this year (Andy Beagle, David Martin, Marilyn Miller and Peter Wagner) are running for reelection. One new trustee is being nominated, David Shakespeare. Current officers have agreed to run for another term (David Martin as President, George Dawson as Vice President, Kathy Doherty as Treasurer and Fran Raleigh as Secretary).

The budget being offered for 2022 is the same as carried in 2020 and 2021. The annual plan proposed for 2022 is almost the same as that for 2021; a few new tours are being planned for June in connection with our “Revolutionary War Days at Monmouth” programming. The budget proposal sheet includes for reference the numbers for 2019, which is the last year we had the annual battle of Monmouth reenactment, which is our major fundraiser. We did not have the

Reenactment in 2021 and 2022.

The slate of officers and trustees, and the annual plan and budget for 2022, have all been approved by the Trustees.

If you need more information on the annual meeting or election process, contact our President, Dr. David Martin by email at: dmartin@peddie.org.

**ARCHIVES DAY HELD**

Monmouth County Archives Day was held successfully on Saturday, October 2, at Brookdale Community College. It was not held the previous year because of Covid-19, and the site was changed from the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. Representatives from over 60 local historical groups participated. It was well planned and well attended. Thanks to George Dawson and Andy Beagle for manning the FOMB information table.

**PARK VISITOR CENTER PARTIALLY OPEN**

As reported in our September newsletter, the Park Visitor Center is now partially open to the public. It is open weekends at the hours listed below but is not open on a regular schedule during the week. This arrangement is likely to continue for awhile because of staffing issues and Covid-19 precautions. Fortunately, our Sunday programs are being held in the auditorium as scheduled and viewings of the Park movie can be seen there. However, our gift shop has not had regular hours in two years. Hopefully everything will be back on a full schedule by next spring.

Meanwhile, the Park is open regular hours, as explained below.

Craig House is open Sundays from 1-4 PM until December 5.

**CURRENT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD HOURS**

*The following information has been received from the Monmouth Battlefield State Park office.*

At this time, the Park grounds are open daily from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. However, starting Friday, November 5th, the park hours will change to their usual winter hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM).

The Visitor Center is currently only staffed five days a week (usually Wednesday through Sunday). This schedule will most likely remain in place through the winter. When the Visitor Center is staffed, the museum is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with the film shown typically three times, at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM.

Bathrooms are available in the brick building (old Visitor Center) across from the Visitor Center, daily from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The bathrooms at the playground will be closed for the season starting November 1st.

**GREEN ACRES SIGN FINALLY PUT UP**

A number of years ago we worked with the State’s Green Acres program to protect the viewshed to the west of Monmouth Battlefield State Park when the new housing development know as “The Grande” was being developed. Essentially, we arranged to have a few house lots not be built on in order to preserve the natural view to the east. We are very grateful to the State and Green Acres for helping us with the necessary grant.

Since then the State and Green Acres have asked us to set up a metal sign acknowledging their grant, in the viewshed area. It honestly took us more time than it should have to get the sign properly erected. Our many thanks to Dave Shakespeare and Kathy and Eric Doherty for recently seeing this project finally to completion.

We have plans to erect a historical wayside marker on the western edge of the Park to note a colonial road in that area that was use during the battle

**POPULAR TOURS AND TALKS CONTINUE**

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

We are fortunate that our scheduled historical talks on Park history have been able to be held in the Visitor Center this Fall. On September 11, David Martin spoke to a small group on the history of Camp Vredenburgh (which was located inside the current Monmouth battlefield Park) and the 14th New Jersey Civil War regiment, whose commander, Major Peter Vredenburgh, was killed in action at the battle of Third Winchester (Opequan) on September 19, 1864. On September 19, Dr. Martin spoke to an interested audience of over 20 on the role of New Jersey’s troops in the battle, both the militia and the regular Continental brigade. His next talk will be on December 12 on the role of the 28th New Jersey regiment (which also trained at Camp Vredenburgh) at the battle of Fredericksburg on December 12, 1862.

We are glad that the historic Craig House has been open this Fall every Sunday from 1 to 4 PM. The number of visitors there has run as high as 38 (on October 24). Craig House will close for the season on December 5, Many thanks to our Craig House docents Kathy and Eric Doherty.

**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 Saturday, January 1, 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 50 participants each year, will be over between 12:30 and 1 PM. Unfortunately, the walk had to be cancelled last year because of Covid-19 considerations. If the weather looks questionable, call the park office for information at 732-462-9616. This tour and all Park events are subject to Park closure and to regulations from the Governor. Social distancing and other Covid-19 precautions will be followed. Come join us if the weather is good – guided tours are conducted to this area only two or three times a year.

**2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OPENS (forms enclosed)**

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON FORM**

Membership renewal forms for 2022 are enclosed. We especially appreciate your support in these tough times. We are especially appreciative of our 32 life members. We cannot do all that we do without the support of our membership.

**MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**

**STAFF UPDATE**

***By Park Historian Michael Timpanaro***

Lost in the craziness and confusion that the last year and a half has presented us, during the COVID 19 Pandemic, some changes have occurred to the staff of Monmouth Battlefield. Fortunately, I am happy to say, none of these changes were, in any way a result of the disease.

It is with great sadness that I report that long time maintenance worker Pete Wendel has retired after working 29 years for the New Jersey State Park Service, the last 9 of which were here at Monmouth. Pete’s smile and willingness to help wherever needed will be missed by staff, Friends, and the general public. It was a hard decision for Pete to make, he loves this park so much, but his retirement was effective May 1st of this year.

On a positive note, I am happy to report the hiring of a new permanent maintenance worker, David Dragon. David started at the park a little over three months ago and has been eager to learn about to park and help where he can. The staff welcomes David to the team.

In the Visitor Center there has been no real change to the permanent staff, though some of you may not have met our “new” Agency Service Representative, Erica Manderson. Erica has been with us for over two years now. She has taken the spot left vacant when Joan Iverson retired three years ago (Joan was with Monmouth for decades).

There have been a couple of changes to the “seasonal staff” that work in the office assisting me with programs and research, as well as answering phones and other office duties. Two of my staff have been accepted into graduate programs. Nicholas (Nick) Gannon will be studying at Rutgers University and plans to keep working part time at Monmouth (as his schedule permits), while Dominick Zarrillo has been accepted to study in Iceland, though he promises to keep in touch. We wish both of them well with their studies.

Long time seasonal staffers, Victor Pidermann and Jesse Nokes (my right and left hands) are both still here but, at this time are only working on Saturdays. Additionally, a new seasonal has joined the Visitor Center staff, Anthony Ercolino. Anthony is currently working in the Visitor Center on Sundays while attending Monmouth University, where he is an education major concentrating on history education.

Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention, I am still here (Michael Timpanaro) as the Park Historian. Just in case anyone was concerned, I have no plans on leaving any time soon.

**Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, Inc.,**

**PO Box 122, Tennent, NJ 07763**

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

**CRAIG HOUSE NEWS**

Our next project at the historic Craig House Craig is to repair a window on the second floor and replace two kitchen windows. Work on them is not completed but hopefully will be done soon. The project is being accomplished with the aid of a matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

The Park has completed replacing the top roof on the building last winter.

Their new project, which will hopefully be started this winter, is an exterior revitalization: paint, replace shingles and nails, and maybe damaged window sills. We will certainly keep you posted on their progress.

From 2015-2020 we repaired or replaced nine windows, plus one door and the cellar door at Craig House. We had been planning to replace additional doors or windows next year, but we have been asked by the State to hold off on additional projects until the scope of their plans is determined. What we might do is work on replacing the window shutters, which are currently not included in the State’s plans.

Craig House will be open to visitors on Sundays from 1-4 PM until December 5. Thanks go to docents Eric and Kathy Doherty, without whom we would not be able to keep the building open.

**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

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES (2021-2022)**

**Events in bold occur at Monmouth Battlefield State Park**

**All events to be held with social distancing and proper Covid-19 precautions.**

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

**November 7, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

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

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

**December 5, 2021 (Sun) Craig House closes for the season.**

**December 11, 2021 (Sat) FOMB Annual Meeting, 1:30 PM at the**

**Park Visitor Center**

**December 12, 2021 (Sun) Program on the 28th New Jersey at the battle of Fredericksburg. 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**Jan 1, 2022 (Sat) New Year’s Day Hike (weather permitting)**

**Walking tour of Perrine Hill.**

**See where Molly Pitcher fought.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 11:00 A.M.**

**Jan 2, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**Feb 6, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**Feb 13, 2022 (Sun) Program on “Black and Native American Troops at the Battle of Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**Feb 20, 2022 (Sun) Program on “George Washington Minute by Minute at Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM in the V Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**March 6, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**2022 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 2021

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 Covid-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 shortly.

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:*

*Living History programs held on June 19-20 and 26-27, in place of our usual Battle reenactment.*

*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**

**CAMPAIGN DIARY OF A LIEUTENANT  
FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*The excerpts below are taken from the diary of Lieutenant Thomas Blake of the 1st New Hampshire regiment. Its account of the battle is accurate but summary. It does, though, have some interesting facts about the campaign.*

June 10. The whole army moved out of their huts [at Valley Forge], except the sick; and pitched their tents in front of the lines. The night after the 17th the enemy left Philadelphia and marched over the Jerseys [East Jersey and West Jersey].

June 18. At 4 o’clock in the afternoon Gen. [Charles] Lee’s division marched, consisting of Gen. Poor’s, Varnum’s and Huntington’s brigades, three miles over Schuylkill bridge and encamped.

June 19. Marched about 18 miles.

June 20. At 12 o’clock we came to the Delaware river, and crossed at Corell’s [Coryell’s] ferry, marched about 3 miles and encamped in Amwell.

June 21. Gen. Lee’s division lay still, and Gen. Washington crossed the river and another division of the army.

June 22. The whole army crossed and encamped in Amwell, excepting a party that marched to take possession of the city of Philadelphia.

June 23. The whole army marched down toward the enemy (leaving the tents and baggage), as far as Hopewell township, and halted; but Col Morgan with his regiment of riflemen and a detachment under his command marched towards the enemy.

June 24. The army lay still, the tents came up and were pitched, a detachment went forward under the command of Gen. Scott.

June 25. Marched to Kingstown [Kingston], and another detachment went forward under the command of the Marquis de la Fayette.

June 26. Marched to Cranberry town and Gen. Lee went forward with two brigades.

June 27. Marched to Cranberry meadows,

June 28. [Battle of Monmouth]. Marched to Englishtown and there left our packs and coats the weather being very warm, and proceeded as fast as possible in pursuit of the enemy who were then near Monmouth Court House. The forward detachment had attacked the enemy, and Gen. Washington met them on the retreat about one and one-half miles above the Court House. Our artillery set in very briskly, causing a heavy cannonade on both sides, holding for some time until the enemy retreated. Our army pursued about a mile, and then left them. The enemy encamped that night near the Court House; and in the night moved off leaving all their wounded not able to march, numbering about sixty, of whom five were commissioned officers.

**LIEUTENANT BLAKE DIARY CONTINUED**

June 29. Two brigades marched down to the Court House, as a covering party while they buried the dead. The number of those buried were about three hundred, that of ours about sixty. After the dead were buried the whole army marched back to Englishtown,

June 30. Lay still at Englishtown.

July 1. The whole army marched to Spotswood, the weather being so excessively hot (the road being for most part through Pitch pine plain) that near one-third of the men were so overcome that they were obliged to stop; many were not able to march until the cool of the evening, and some were so overcome they were obliged to be conveyed in wagons.

July 2. Marched to Brunswick.

July 4. This being the anniversary of American independence, it was celebrated in the following manner. The army were drawn up in two lines, with the field pieces attached to the brigades, placed in line of brigades. In the first place there were thirteen cannon fired, then a running fire beginning on the right of the first line to the left and from the left of the rear line to the right. This was repeated three times adding the huzzas!

July 5. The left wing of the front line marched.

July 6. The right wing of the army marched. We marched 10 miles.

July 24. Marched to White Plains where the whole army encamped (except two brigades which marched for Rhode Island). Here we lay until September, and nothing remarkable happened.

Sept. 18. Marched to Danbury [Connecticut] and encamped on the hills east of the town.

Oct. 17. This day being twelve months since Gen. Burgoyne’s army laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners, it was celebrated in the following manner by the troops then at Danbury, under the command of Maj. Gen. Gates. In the forenoon there was a discourse delivered by the Rev. Mr. Evans, chaplain to Gen. Poor’s brigade, suitable to the occasion. At one o’clock, there were 13 cannon fired. After which all the officers of the division, the hospital surgeons that were stationed there, and the militia officers of the town, dined together. After dinner the following toasts were drank, and a cannon fired after giving of each [!]. 1. The United States of America. 2. Congress. 3. Gen. Washington and the American army. 4. The America navy. 5. The King of France and our allies in Europe. 6. Count de Estang, and the [French] fleet under his command. 7. Dr. Franklin and the American plenipotentiaries in Europe. 8. Gov. Trumbull and the state of Connecticut, 9. The glorious 24th of December 1776 [referring to the battle of Trenton]. 10. The glorious 28th of June 1778 [the Battle of Monmouth]. 11. The glorious memory of Gens. Warren, Montgomery, Mercer, Worster and Nash, with all the virtuous officers and soldiers who have died in defense of freedom and their country. 12. May all citizens be soldiers, and all soldiers always be citizens. 13. The glorious 17th of October 1777 [victory at Saratoga].