**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022**

**ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 10**

**AT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**

Our annual meeting for 2022 will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, December 10, 2022, in the conference room at Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center, located at 20 State Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

For a quite a number of years, our annual meeting was held on a weeknight in December at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Road in Manalapan. Likewise, we held general meetings there during the year. In person meetings at the library were restricted during the height of the covid epidemic and we have not been able to renew them yet.

Two years ago our annual meeting was cancelled and voting was held by mail. Last year ballots for officer election and approval of our annual plan and budget for 2022 were sent out by mail prior to a meeting at the Park in December. Likewise, ballots for officer election for 2023 and approval of the 2023 budget and annual plan are being sent out by mail to paid up members, and an in-person meeting will be held in December. Ballots and proxies will need to be returned by mail by Wednesday, December 7, 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.

Trustees whose terms are up this year are running for reelection (Caralee Bava-Grygo, George Dawson, Eric Doherty, Kathy Doherty, and Fran Raleigh). One new trustee is being nominated, Karen Timper.

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 2023 has noticeable increases because of several reasons: a much larger reenactment to be held in 2023, construction of the new James T. Raleigh research library at the Park, a larger than usual project at the Craig farm (replacement of barn doors), 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 2023 is almost the same as that for 2022.

The slate of officers and trustees, and the annual plan and budget for 2023, 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](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org).

**ARCHIVES DAY HELD**

Monmouth County Archives Day was held successfully on Saturday, October 1, at Brookdale Community College. Archives Day was not held in 2021 because of Covid-19; before then it was held for a number of years at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. Representatives from over 60 local historical groups participated this year. The event was well planned and well attended. Thanks to George Dawson and Andy Beagle for manning the FOMB information table.

**CURRENT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD HOURS**

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

The Visitor Center is currently only staffed five days a week ( 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.

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

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

**POPULAR TOURS AND TALKS CONTINUE**

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

On September 11, David Martin spoke on the history of Camp Vredenburgh (which was located inside the current Monmouth battlefield Park) and the 14th New Jersey Civil War regiment, which trained there. His next talk will be on December 11 on the role of the 28th New Jersey regiment (which also trained at Camp Vredenburgh) at the battle of Fredericksburg on December 12, 1862. Walking tours have continued to be held the first Sunday each month.

Over the course of the year so far, 25 talks and tours have been sponsored by the Friends, with an average attendance of 15. These figures do not include our January 1st “Walk in the Park,” which got cancelled again this year, or the annual reenactment, which had an attendance of over 6000. 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 30 times on Sundays, serving 354 visitors. Many thanks to Craig House docents Kathy and Eric Doherty 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 Sunday, 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 the past two years, in 2021 because of Covid-19 considerations and in 2022 because of bad weather. 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. Come join us if the weather is good – guided tours are conducted to this area only two or three times a year.

**2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OPENS (forms enclosed)**

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON FORM**

Membership renewal forms for 2023 are enclosed. We much appreciate the support of our members, especially from 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. We cannot do all that we do without the support of our membership.

It is our custom to send membership cards out but we got behind the past few months. For this we apologize. We will work to be more thorough this year.

Members are encouraged to include their email addresses so that we can reach you if needed. Thank you

**ANTIQUE DISPLAY CASE DONATED**

We are pleased to report that an excellent antique display case has been donated to the Friends for use in the Visitor Center. The display case was donated by the Alumni Office of The Peddie School in Hightstown. It had been used by them for years but was no longer in use, and they readily donated it to us when approached. It is in the form of a flat table with glassed-in display area, and measures 28 by 60 inches, and is 30 inches high; the display area is 9 inches high. The case, which is close to 100 years old, is lockable, and amazingly the school still had a key for it. The display case is already installed in front of our gift shop, and we are working on putting displays into it. We are greatly in debt to the Peddie School for this donation, all the more so because the School also arranged for it to be delivered to the Park at no charge to us.

**CRAIG HOUSE NEWS**

We are very pleased to report the completion of a major stage of restoration work at the historic Craig House. These projects, all funded and carried out by the State, include: new roofing, new gutters, new siding, painting the exterior of the house, and installing new doors and windows.

All this work supplements the several projects carried out by the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield in 2015-2022, when we repaired or replaced twelve windows, one door, and the cellar door. Most of these projects were carried out with the aid of matching grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

Our next project being undertaken by the Friends is to carry out the repair of the big barn door at the Craig House barn, which was much damaged by a storm over the summer. This project will cost well over $10,000, and we are seeking grant funds to help carry it out. The Craig House barn dates to about 1840 and is probably built on the site of the earlier barn, which was most likely used as a hospital during and after the Battle of Monmouth.

The Friends are also looking to repair/replace the numerous shutters at Craig House.

Additional work that needs to be done will focus on painting the interior of the house and repairing interior window sills.

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 (2024) South Plainfield, NJ

George Dawson (2022) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2024) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2024) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2022) Colts Neck, NJ

John Resto (2023) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2024) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2022)**

President David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Frances Raleigh

Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES (2022-2023)**

**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.**

**December 4, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**December 4, 2022 (Sun) Craig House closes for the season.**

**December 10, 2022 (Sat) FOMB Annual Meeting, 2:00 PM at the**

**Park Visitor Center**

**December 11, 2022 (Sun) Program on the 28th New Jersey at the battle of Fredericksburg. 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**Jan 1, 2023 (Sun) 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.**

**Feb 5, 2023(Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**Feb 12, 2023 (Sun) Program on “Black and Native American Troops at the Battle of Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**Feb 19, 202 (Sun) Program on “George Washington Minute by Minute at Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM in the V Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**March 5, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**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 2,**

**2023 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 2022

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 a much bigger reenactment than usual 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 much needed repair of interior windows there.

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:*

*A full reenactment on June 18-19, the first reenactment in three years.*

*Battle of Monmouth commemoration events on June 25-26.*

*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**

**FLAGS AT MONMOUTH (part 2)**

This article is a follow up to the article presented in the last (September 2022) newsletter.

The subject of military flags (vexicology) is near and dear to your Editor, who has been consultant to the Civil War Flags collection at the New Jersey State Museum for over twenty years. It is only natural for him to have developed an interest in Revolutionary War flags, especially those carried at Monmouth, as discussed in the last newsletter.

Here is a short summary of Civil War flags.

Confederate regiments regularly carried one flag, either the familiar battle flag (which came in three different standard sizes, for artillery, cavalry and infantry) or a state design based flag. Their battle flags usually had 13 stars, though there were only 11 states in the Confederacy, because they wanted to echo the 13 states in the Revolution.

Union regiments regularly carried two flags. One was a traditional national flag, with 13 red and white stripes and 33-36 stars positioned in a number of different patterns in the canton. New stars were added each year on July 4 for states that entered the Union in the previous year; the pattern of the stars was not officially set until the early twentieth century. Their second flag was a state color and came in two varieties: either a spread eagle on a blue background, or a form of the individual state’s flag.

The custom of having two flags per regiment goes way back to British flags before the Revolution. At one time, British units would carry multiple flags: a National color and one flag for each senior officer. By the time of the Revolution, they were reduced to two flags per regiment, the National color and the personal flag of the commanding officer.

American regiments began the war with a variety of individualized flags, as summarized below. Before long though, the Continental Congress wanted to add a second flag per unit, based on the British custom, as stated in their June 14, 1777 resolution (which is why we still celebrate that date as “Flag Day”). However, Congress was slow to develop a “National” pattern. They did, though, express interest in using a different pattern than the “Marine” flag (now known popularly as the “Betsy Ross” design). Different options included a blue flag with 13 stars, or an eagle based design. The “stars and stripes” design was used by a few land units during the war, but it was not formally authorized for land units until 1834.

Best evidence, then, is that American regiments carried just one flag at Monmouth, based on a state or individualized design, and none were carrying the now popular “Betsy Ross” pattern.

*The following account of Revolutionary War flags is taken from the book “Standards and Colors of the American Revolution” by Edward W. Richardson (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1982), which is the best authority on the subject (excerpts from pages 1-9).*

The flags carried by the American revolutionary armies were primarily individually-designed silk “colors” on which were painted or embroidered symbolic emblems. The emblems were based on old world heraldic as well as new world symbolism. Included were an unbelievable variety fo objects. These included such things as beehive, rattlesnakes, lion, bear, crane, beaver, horse, sword, armored hand and arm,

**FLAGS AT MONMOUTH (continued)**

cannon, trees, plants, vines, Indians, arrows, women, children, soldiers, anchor, victory wreath, liberty pole and cap, rising sun, new moon, stars, angels, beheaded king, harp,

altar, Masonic symbols and many other devices. The “union” was frequently represented by thirteen swords, hands chain links, ribbons, stripes or stars. On many of the colors were Latin or English mottos as well as the unit’s designation.

Some of the colors were elaborate, others very plain. Almost all colors carried by units of the land forces were of lightweight solid-color silk. These were readily visible and would readily stream in a light breeze, or when on parade. The devices were usually painted in oils, although some were embroidered. Colors of mounted units were usually fringed, but those of foot or infantry units were generally not fringed.

The color was fixed to a wooden staff headed with a decorative brass or wooden spear-pointed finial. A pair of tasseled cords or ribbons formed part of the decoration.

Flag staffs of foot units were “pikes” while those of mounted troops were “lances”. Colors were furled and cased most of the time and displayed in battle and on parade.

Simpler, smaller, more rugged “camp colors,” about 18 inches square, served for identification at encampments. Strong bunting was used for marine and garrison flags.

The colors carried by land forces were of squarish proportions to allow for maximum streaming and ease of carrying. Naval and garrison ensigns were rectangular. Sizes varied from eighteen inches square (Pulaski’s Legion) up to the five-by-seven foot standard of the Rhode Island Regiment of 1781 and the seven foot square standard of the Third New York Regiment. Generally the regimental standards were the largest.

The Revolutionary soldier fought, rallied, and paraded under his regimental, battalion, divisional or independent company or troop colors. The stars and stripes, of which there were a number of revolutionary designs, was flown by ships, forts, garrison towns and at the headquarters of an army or corps.

A national standard for the Army was apparently not defined until late in the war. The thirteen-stars-and-stripes flag resolution of June 14, 1777 originated with the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress and was probably intended primarily for ships. As late as September 3, 1779, the War Office wrote to Washington inquiring about the proper design for a standard for the Army that would be “variant” from the marine flag. Washington replied that he preferred “the Union and Emblems in the Canton…with…the Number of the Regiment and the State…within the curve of the Serpent…”

Individual American land force units were not officially authorized to carry a stars and stripes along with their regimental or battalion colors until 1834. At that time the artillery received such authorization followed by the infantry in 1841.

Some Revolutionary army units, however, did carry a stars and stripes as evidenced by Major John Ross’ sketch of the Order of Battle for General Sullivan’s army, dated July 30 1779. Also, at Yorktown, in 1781, the American forces hoisted a large blue-and-red flag with a blue canton with stars, according to an on-the-spot sketch by British Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe…

From the beginning of the Revolution, there was a strong demand for flags. Flags served to establish the Americans as a sovereign force. They also helped in recruiting, built morale, and helped to nullify any psychological advantage of flags carried by the British Hessian forces. The Americans tended to adopt the general designs and sizes of the British colors for their won, but with appropriate changes to the unions and emblems.

**FLAGS AT MONMOUTH (continued)**

Many early American revolutionary colors displayed the crosses of the British Union in the canton to show basic loyalty to the King and mother country. Within the first year or so, however, the spirit of independence had stiffened and the cantons were

gradually changed to a union of thirteen stipes and then to stars. An eagle with stars was introduced about 1783.

It should be noted that t he stripes came first and then the stars. The “stripes” are called out first in the flag resolutions of 1777, 1795 and 1818 and in the national anthem.

There were apparently many hundreds of American Revolutionary Army and Marine colors. By 1777, the American Continental Army along had over one hundred authorized regiments, totaling about 38,000 men. In additional, there were any “State: or local militia units – probably as many again as the Continental Army…

While some regiments may have had only one color, the records indicate that many had two or three…

There has been considerable puzzlement as to why Washington and the Board of War in 1779 felt the need to define a design for a “national standard” for the army in view of the stars and stripes resolution of June 1777. The author suggests that they planned to use the “Arms of the United States” as the symbol of the “national standard.” This was eventually realized in the army’s national standards – a blue field bearing the great eagle seal. The Marine Committee, however after waiting for almost a year after July 4, 1776, for the Seal Committee to develop an acceptable design, decided to specify the stripes and stars because of their urgent need to standardize on a flag. Washington, the Board of War, and apparently many others, did not consider the marine committee’s flag [now known as the “Betsy Ross flag” – Ed.] to be the “national standard” and refereed to it as the “marine flag.” It is interesting to note that Washington’s proposal to use of the union of stars alone, as the national standard for the army, paralleled the British practice of using a union of crosses as the national flag of their regiments.

The development of a “national standard” for the army was delayed until the adoption of an official U.S. seal, which did not come about until June 1782.



* **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.**