**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016**

**PRESENTATION ON GEORGE WASHINGTON’S HUMOR  
SLATED FOR FEBRUARY 11 AT MONMOUTH LIBRARY**

**AND FEBRUARY 14 AT PARK VISITOR CENTER**

Each February for the past several years the Friends have sponsored a lecture on the role of Blacks and Native Americans in the Revolution, in honor of Black History month in February. This year, for a change of pace, we will offer a program on “George Washington’s Sense of Humor,” in honor of “President’s month” in February. The talk will be presented by FOMB President David Martin on two occasions. The first will be at 7 PM on Thursday, February 11, at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan NJ 07726 (call 732-431-7220 for more information). A reprise of the talk will be given at the Park Visitor Center at 2 PM on Sunday, February 14.

George Washington is much better known for being stoic and taciturn than he is for his sense of humor. Dr. Martin will discuss how this image grew and was cultivated, and will present what evidence we have for Washington’s more human and humorous side.

In case you are wondering why the talk is being given twice in one week, this is the reason. The lecture at the Park has been scheduled for several months. When the Library asked us for a presentation on George Washington in connection with Presidents’ month, they liked the topic and happened to schedule it the same week. So, if you can’t make it to one presentation, come and attend the other one!

**SUCCESSFUL WALK HELD ON JANUARY 1**

**MONTHLY “FIRST SUNDAY” WALKS CONTINUE**

On January 1 a walking tour was given by David Martin to Perrine Hill to view the main American position there and visit sites associated with Molly Pitcher. The tour was given as part of the “America’s State Parks First Day Hikes” sponsored by the State’s Division of Park’s and Forestry. Fortunately the weather was not too bad – cold but with no snow. Around 35 people took part. This is the fourth year we have participated in the program. Previous years had slightly higher attendance, but the walk was still quite successful.

It is a great tradition – come and join us next year if you can!

Our popular “First Sunday of the Months” tours continue to be held every month, meeting at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM. Tours usually go to the Hedgerow and Parsonage lines (Walking Tour Number 1), while they occasionally visit the Point of Woods area if there are only a few people or the weather is windy and cold (Walking Tour Number 3). Due to the exceptionally warm weather through early January, we have not had to cancel any walking tours so far this winter. If you have any question on the weather and if a walk is being given, contact the Park at 732-462-9616.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS HELD DECEMBER 2 ALL NOMINEES AND PROPOSALS PASSED**

Our annual meeting and elections, as required by our by-laws, were held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters.

The slate of officers was unanimously approved as presented. David Martin was elected President, George Dawson was elected Vice President, Fran Raleigh was elected Secretary, and Kathy Doherty was elected Treasurer. They will serve a one year term until December 2016.

Andrew Beagle, Mike Cervini, David Martin, Marilyn Miller and Peter Wagner were unanimously reelected as Trustees to serve a three year term until December 2018. The Annual Plan for 2016 and Budget for 2016 were unanimously approved as presented.

Our President, David Martin, summarized recent accomplishments and outlined major goals for 2016. Membership hit a new record in 2015 (115), and our programming continued to grow. Each year we are offering more tours, lectures, and programs, in addition to having the gift shop and Craig House open regularly. We sponsor the annual battle of Monmouth reenactment each June, plus additional programming at the end of June and over July 4 weekend. Projects that he wants to emphasize for next year include: development of a third walking tour at the Point of Woods; working with the Grande (the housing development west of the Park) to put up planned battlefield signage; working with Freehold Boro Mayor and FOMB member Nolan Higgins to install battle related signage in Veterans Park in town (located at the southern end of the east Morass); and additional preservation projects at the Craig House. We are pleased that FOMB is thriving, taking advantage of the new Visitor Center, new Park Superintendant and new Park Historian, new gift shop, loyal and capable officers and trustees, and a large and supportive membership.

The meeting was well attended, and a cake was served to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends.

A list of current officers and trustees is listed below.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Andrew Beagle (2018) South Plainfield, NJ

Richard Bellamy (2017) Spotswood, NJ

Michael Cervini (2018) Toms River, NJ

George Dawson (2016) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2016) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2016) Old Bridge, NJ

Walter Kowalsky (2017) Freehold, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2018) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2018) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2017) Colts Neck, NJ

Peter Wagner (2018) Englishtown, NJ

**DR. GARRY W. STONE’S STUDY OF THE BATTLE**

**TO BE PUBLISHED THIS SPRING;**

**SIGNING SESSION SET FOR JUNE 18**

We are delighted to report that Dr. Garry W. Stone’s long awaited monograph on the battle of Monmouth will be published this spring. Co-authored with historian Mark Lender, the book is entitled, *Fatal Sunday: George Washington, the Monmouth Campaign, and the Politics of Battle,* and will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press. It will feature important new interpretations of the battle as well as detailed action maps prepared by Dr. Stone, who recently retired after a long career as Park historian.

This book promises to be the definitive history of the battle. There are other studies of the battle available, but none is current or in depth.

We will have copies of the book for sale at our gift shop at the Visitor Center as soon as it is published. It will have 640 pages and 18 maps!

We are also pleased that Dr. Stone will be present at the Park on Saturday, June 18 (the first day of our annual reenactment) to autograph copies of the book. See you there!

The following description of the book is taken from the “Amazon.com” website: *Viewing the political and military aspects of the campaign as inextricably entwined, this book offers a fresh perspective on Washington’s role in it. Drawing on a wide range of historical sources—many never before used, including archaeological evidence—Lender and Stone disentangle the true story of Monmouth and provide the most complete and accurate account of the battle, including both American and British perspectives. In the course of their account it becomes evident that criticism of Washington’s performance in command was considerably broader and deeper than previously acknowledged. In light of long-standing practical and ideological questions about his vision for the Continental Army and his ability to win the war, the outcome at Monmouth—a hard-fought tactical draw—was politically insufficient for Washington. Lender and Stone show how the general’s partisans, determined that the battle for public opinion would be won in his favor, engineered a propaganda victory for their chief that involved the spectacular court martial of Major General Charles Lee, the second-ranking officer of the Continental Army.*

**2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES**

Last year our membership hit a new record for third year in a row, reaching 115 members and families. We are especially appreciative of new members and of our 20 life members.

Our thanks go to those who have already renewed their membership for 2016, and especially to those who enclosed an additional donation in support of our programs. You should have received your 2016 membership cards by now.

Those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2016 will be noted on page 1. A membership application for 2016 is included with this newsletter.

We greatly appreciate the support of our members and patrons. Without you we would not be able to enrich the Park with our programs, tours, and financial support.

**CRAIG HOUSE CLOSED FOR THE SEASON**

**NEW WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT UNDER WAY**

The historic Craig House, which is interpreted by members of the Friends, has been open Sundays from 1-4 PM since last April. Due to cold weather and lowered visitation over the winter, we close every year after Thanksgiving. It will reopen again on April 3, 2016. Thanks are owed to Kathy and Eric Doherty for being docents at the Craig House.

Thanks are also owed to Kathy and Eric for preparing a new grant application to the Monmouth County Historical Commission to replace two additional windows at the Craig House. Earlier this year we completed a project to replace three windows at Craig House, a project funded with a matching grant from the Historical Commission. Kathy and Eric have just completed and submitted an application for a new matching grant to replace the two windows in the milk room. Their frames are totally rotted outand the windows are not functional.

This is just another of our ongoing efforts to maintain and preserve the historic Craig House. We are pleased that the Park is working to secure funds for necessary work on the Craig House barn, which was built around 1840. Much additional work remains to be done on the Craig House in order to stabilize and preserve it. We are pushing to have the State and the Park conduct an architectural survey to identify the structural issues with the building and prioritize what needs to be done to stabilize and repair it.

**LECTURE ON “MOLLY PITCHER AND THE AMERICAN ARTILLERY AT MONMOUTH” MOVED TO MARCH 30;**

**TOUR TO MOLLY PITCHER SITES WILL BE MARCH 20**

Our President, Dr. David Martin, has been asked by the Monmouth County Library to give a program on Molly Pitcher in March, which is Women’s History Month. His talk, which will be entitled “Molly Pitcher and the American Artillery at Monmouth,” will be held at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 30, at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726. It will look at the story of Molly Pitcher in the broader context of the contributions made by women in the Revolution. He will also present the results of a new study of the positions held by American cannons at the battle, specifically where Molly Pitcher’s cannon fought. More information on this talk will be presented in our next newsletter.

This event was originally scheduled for March 16, but has been moved to March 30.

Also in honor of Women’s History Month, we will be offering a driving and walking tour on Sunday, March 20, to visit sites on the battlefield associated with Molly Pitcher. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and drive through the center of the Park to visit several spots that have been claimed to be the site of Molly’s well. We will then park our vehicles and walk to the new Molly Pitcher overlook on Perrine Hill. Total length of the tour will be about two hours. No reservations are necessary.

**FOMB PURCHASES LOG SPLITTER FOR THE PARK**

In early December the Friends purchased a top quality log splitter for the Park. The log splitter was requested by Ken Genieczko, Park Maintenance Supervisor, earlier in the year and had been discussed at several Board meetings. Purpose of the log splitter is to aid the Park staff in clearing fallen and dead trees. It will also provide a steady supply of firewood for reenactors and living historians to use, rather than having to purchase firewood.

The Board voted approval of the purchased at the annual meeting held on December 2. Decision was made to buy a top of the line item in order to get maximum usage for our investment. The unit purchased is an Oregon 28-ton nine horsepower Honda horizontal/vertical log splitter. Total cost was around $2800, including shipping.

The log splitter arrived on December 17, and Park staff is very pleased with it. Ken wrote, “ I inspected and operated it today, and it works great !   Thank you very much for this high-grade equipment. The park will benefit greatly. Happy holidays to you, and the FOMB Crew.”

The log splitter has been donated to the Park and will remain on site for Park use. Previous donations by FOMB to the Park include the lectern in the Visitor Center auditorium, the bicycle rack outside the Visitor Center, the full size reproduction field cannon in the Visitor Center, and several historic wayside exhibits on the battlefield, not to mention matching funds for grants to upgrade the historic Craig House.

**BATTLEFIELD VIDEO PROJECT ALMOST COMPLETE**

In early 2015 the Board voted to sponsor a project to create a series of short videos on different aspects of the battle. The project, organized by Park seasonal interpreter and FOMB member Pete Michel, consists of ten videos of approximately four minutes each prepared by film maker Ryan Kroll. Each video is based on an on-site talk by someone associated with the Park, enhanced by pictures of officers and battle scenes. Narratives were provided by Park Historian Michael Timpanaro, FOMB president David Martin, Pete Michel, and several reenactors.

Topics covered include: Combs’ Hill; the Hedgerow; the Parsonage; Perrine Hill; the Point of Woods; the Meeting of Washington and Lee; Continental Soldiers; British Uniforms; Wigwams (brush tents); and Women at the Battle.

We will let you know when the project is completed. The videos will be posted on our website and Facebook. Plans are also being made to be able to download them at the historical waysides (markers) on the battlefield.

Additional episodes in the planning stages include Molly Pitcher, Camp Vredenburg, the Black Watch at the Sutphin Orchard, and Continental Drill/How to Load a Musket.

**Our mailing address is: THE FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC., PO BOX 122, TENNENT, NJ 07763**

**Our website address is: www.friendsofmonmouth.org**

**LIBRARY PROJECT STILL ON HOLD**

Work on our planned research library is still on hold. Last summer it was found that temperature and humidity controls were not effective in the old wing of the Visitor Center, where the library was being set up. As a result there were issues with mold and water seepage that needed addressing. Work on the library was halted and all our books, maps and documents were packed up in plastic bags, and were put into storage until the climate control issues can be resolved.

Presently the Park is monitoring humidity levels and then will make recommendations as to how to best manage the temperature and humidity levels in the whole building.

Fortunately about 25% of our 1200 volume book collection was housed in the new wing of the Park Visitor Center, which has not had climate control issues. These books comprise the core reference collection on the battle and the war. We also are temporarily storing new additions to the library collection in our gift shop.

Thanks are owed to volunteer intern Victor Pidermann for inventorying the entire collection. We will let you know when work on the library starts up again and when it will be available for use.

**CIVIL WAR PROGRAM HELD IN DECEMBER**

**MORE LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENTS PLANNED**

The Civil War battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, was commemorated at the Visitor Center in special programming held on December 13, the 153rd anniversary of the battle. The battle has a special connection to Monmouth Battlefield State Park because one of the units that fought there, the 28th New Jersey Infantry, was organized and trained at Camp Vredenburg, the Civil War

Training camp located within the current boundaries of the Park in 1862-1865.

During the day Civil War living historians from several different units were dressed in their uniforms and had several display tables with interesting exhibits. Also Dr. David Martin of FOMB gave a talk on the diary and experiences of Private Gilmore West of the 28th New Jersey. West was a native of Perth Amboy who trained at Camp Vredenburg, He was mortally wounded at Fredericksburg.

The next living history event will be the weekend of March 5-6.Members of the 3rd Virginia regiment will be holding an encampment near the Visitor Center. Contact the park office at 732-462-9616 for information,

**SAVE THESE DATES**

MAY 14 “Spirit of New Jersey” History Fair, being held at our Park this year for the second time.

JUNE 18-19 Annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment

JUNE 25-26 Annual Battle of Monmouth commemoration

(talks, programs and tours at the Park.

**FOMB HAS NEW FACEBOOK PAGE**

We are delighted to have a new Facebook page, which has been set up and maintained by FOMB member Pete Michael, who is also a seasonal interpreter at the Park. The site is updated regularly and has the most current information on Friends activities as well as programs at the Park, particularly Revolutionary War and Civil War encampments and demonstrations. The site is currently getting 40 to 100 hits a week. The address is “Friends of Monmouth Battlefield.”

We also have a very fine website, which features historical information on the battle as well as a schedule of events and copies of current and past newsletters. The website address is: [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org).

**FOMB PLANS NEW PRINTING OF**

**STRYKER’S *THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH***

One of the best early histories of the battle of Monmouth was written by historian William S. Stryker about 100 years ago. He unfortunately did not have a chance to finish his work, since he died before it was completed. The work was edited by W.S. Myers and was published in 1927.

The book was long out of print until we got permission to reprint it in 1999, with the addition of four maps, which the original edition lacked. Copies of our reprint ran out several years ago, and a new printing is in preparation. Hopefully it will be ready for sale by the time of our annual reenactment in June.

**NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER PLANNED NEAR THE PARK**

Last fall the Friends received notice that a new telecommunications tower (better known as cell phone tower) is being planned north of Schibanoff Road, just west of Route 9, near the northeastern corner of the Park. The proposed tower will be erected by AT&T Mobility and will be150 feet high. FOMB was invited to participate in a “crane test” held on September 16, 2015 to assess the tower’s impact on Monmouth Battlefield Historic District. A tall crane the approximate size of the tower was set up, and FOMB President David Martin and Park Historian Michael Timpanaro visited five locations in the Park to view the tower’s visibility. Dr. Martin wrote a report on October 1, 2016 saying that the crane was visible from all parts of the Park except the Visitor Center (the view in the crane’s direction was blocked by hills and trees). The tower was clearly visible from Oswald’s Hill at the center of the Park, from Perrine Hill (Molly Pitcher site) and the Sutphin farm in the northern part of the Park, and was particularly obtrusive when viewed from the Craig Farm, which is only half a mile west of the tower site.

We are not optimistic that our input will have much bearing on the height or location of the telecommunications tower, but at least we were notified of the project and our opinion was requested. We will keep you posted about the progress of this tower

**SCHEDULE OF FOMB ACTIVITIES WINTER 2016**

Feb. 7, 2016 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor

Center at 1:30 PM.

Feb.10, 2015 (Wed) Board of Trustees business meeting. Held at 7 PM

at the main branch of Monmouth County Library,

125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Feb.11, 2016 (Thurs) Program by Dr. David Martin on “George

Washington’s Sense of Humor.” Held at 7 PM at

the main branch of Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Feb. 14, 2016 (Sun) Program by Dr. David Martin on “George Washington’s Sense of Humor.” Held at 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium

March 5-6 (Sat-Sun) Living history encampment by the 3rd Virginia. Near

the Visitor Center.

March 6, 2016 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield, Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

March 16, 2016 (Wed) Lecture on “Molly Pitcher and the American Artillery at Monmouth.” Rescheduled to March 30.

March 20, 2016 (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. Includes a walking tour to the new Molly Pitcher overlook on Perrine Hill. Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 P.M.

March 30, 2016 (Wed). Program on “Molly Pitcher and the American Artillery at Monmouth.” Meeting held at 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

*Gift Shop is open Sundays from 1—4 PM at the Visitor Center.*

**ACTIVITY PLANNED BY BATTLEGROUND**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY;**

**TOUR TO OLD GERMAN CHURCH ALSO PLANNED**

Our friends at Battleground Historical Society, which meets at the Village Inn in Englishtown, are sponsoring a program entitled “Scandals. Rumors and Dirty Rotten Lies” on Sunday, April 10, at the Colts Neck Inn in Colts Neck. The program features Dorothy Stanaitis and is advertised as a “Delightful and entertaining program of historical gossip from America’s colonial period.” Cost is $40.00 and includes a lunch; the event will run from 1 to 4 PM. For a reservation call 732-780-6428 by March 28.

You are also invited to visit New Zion Lutheran Church (built in 1713) in Hunterdon County on Saturday, June 11. Programming will be given from 9 AM to 4 PM on Palatinate religion and settlement. Call 732-297-6686 for more information.

**2016 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***CHECK ONE***

***New membership Renewal***

**CIRCLE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Individual $20 Family $30**

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

**Patron $100 Lifetime $250**

***Membership benefits include free entry at all Friends’ events and a 10% discount at the Gift Shop.***

***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**

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 have just completed our 25th Year and the number of projects and programs we sponsor is steadily increasing. We are giving additional walks and talks on the battlefield, and we will be helping the Park erect additional wayside historical markers on the battlefield. We continue to develop the James T. Raleigh Memorial Library and Research Center, and sponsor additional lectures and talks at both the Park and Monmouth County Library. Our new and expanded gift shop has been operational for well over two years and 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 continue to sponsor “Over Here Molly Picher!” programming with living history historian Stacy Roth. We also are seeking another matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to undertake much needed window replacements at the historic Craig House.

If you have questions or want information, please contact President David Martin at 609-448-6355 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our new website can be viewed at [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org), and we also have an active face book site.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Martin, President

*Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*Sponsorship of programs and tours on the actual anniversary of the battle in June 2015*

*Sponsorship of programs on “The Revolutionary War in Monmouth*

*County” in June and July*

*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*

*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*

*Staffing of the Craig House every Sunday from 1-4 PM most of the year*

*Working closely with Park staff to help plan the new Visitor Center and its*

*exhibits*

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

*Maintenance of a new Facebook page*

**LETTERS BY GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

**DESCRIBING MONMOUTH**

The following letters by General Henry Knox, chief of the American artillery at Monmouth, contain much information of interest. The first is to his wife Lucy, dated the day after the battle, and the second is to his brother William, written at New Brunswick five days after the battle. The letters come from the website of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City.

June 29th, 1778 near Monmouth Court House.

My dearest Love [his wife],

I wrote you some days ago that a day or two would determine whether we should have an engagement with the Britons. Yesterday our advanced parties under General [Charles] Lee attack’d their rear whole on the march towards Shrewsbury on which their whole army except the Hessians came to the right about and after some fighting oblig’d him to retire to the main Army under his Excellency G. Washington, which was about two miles distance. The Enemy advanced with great Spirit to the attack and began a very brisk Cannonade on us who were form’d to receive them. The Cannonade lasted from about eleven [more like 1 PM, Ed.] until Six o’clock at which time the Enemy began to retire in all quarters and left us in possession of the field of Battle, We have several field officers kill’d and a Considerable number of others. Colo Ramsay Mrs. Ramsay’s husband was taken prisoner and this morning releas’d on his parole, I have had several officers kill’d and wounded. My brave Lads behav’d with their usual intrepidity & the Army give the Corps of Artillery their full proportion of the Glory of the day, Indeed upon the whole it is very splendid – the Capital Army of Britain defeated and oblig’d to retreat before the Americans who they despise so much. But I really think they have lost three times the number we have, I judge [from] the field of Battle which to be sure is a field of Carnage and Blood, three to one of the British forces lie there. The Britons confess they have never received so severe a check, Colo [Henry] Monckton who commanded their first Battalion of Grenadiers and a considerable number of other officers belonging to them were left dead on the field of action. The Enemy took a strong post about a mile of the place of action, to dislodge them from which it was dark would cost too many men, and by which they cover’d the retreat of their Army, After having been fighting all day, one of the hottest I ever felt, they decamp’d in the night and march’d off with the utmost precipitation leaving a great number of their wounded and men in our hands. We have sent out large bodies in pursuit but I believe they will not be able to come up with the main body, They intend to embark at Sandy Hook, and as soon as we have collected our parties in and given over the pursuit and refresh’d our men we shall march for the North River. The number of deserters since they left Philadelphia must exceed eight hundred, this much has prov’d to them a most destructive one and is very ill calculated to give Sir Wm Clinton any éclat. He may storm Fort Montgomery but is very ill calculated in my opinion to be at the head of a large Army…Give my most respectful Compliments to …Mrs. Livingston and the Young ladies and present to them my congratulations on our Victory.

**HENRY KNOX BATTLE LETTERS CONTINUED**

Camp Brunswick, 3d July 1778.

My Dear Brother.

I wrote you last week from Hopewell Township in this State, informing you of the relative movements of both Armies and the probability of their coming into contact with each other. We made several moves forward from that time while the enemy inclined more to their right than we expected and took the road to Sandy Hook instead of the suppos’d one to South Amboy. A body of Jersey Militia amounting to near two thousand had endeavor’d to retard them by taking up bridges, felling trees, and harassing their flanks and rear. Besides these his Excellency General Washington had detach’d several large bodies for the same purpose all of which except Colo [Dan] Morgan were on the 28th ultimo united under the Command of General [Charles] Lee who early on that morning advanc’d to Monmouth Court House with the intention of attacking the Covering party, or left flank. The army under His Excellency General Washington moving on at the same time to support him, although it was [on some trails] in the rear. The parties under General Lee instead of finding a Covering party as was expected found the whole army or the greater part of it, after some maneuvering, Cannonading & some other circumstances which are not yet sufficiently explain’d it was thought proper by Genl Lee to retire until it met the main army which it effected without much loss at about two miles distance in the rear. The Army was drawn up on advantageous grounds to receive the Enemy who advanced to the attack with Considerable impetuosity and began a brisk Cannonade which was return’d with becoming spirit, This was about half past nine AM [actually half past 1 PM ed.] and the cannonade lasted until about Six in the Evening. The Action of the Musketing was various and with intermissions until about six oclock when ours push’d the Enemy off the field. They retreated about one mile and took post on a strong piece of Ground having a morass in front and on both flanks. To dispossess them of this requir’d a particular disposition which the darkness of night coming on too soon prevented from being executed, In the night they abandoned this post & retreated with great precipitation towards Sandy Hook, leaving a number of wounded officers and soldiers in our hands. We buried about three hundred of the Enemy in the field of action among whom was Colo [Henry] Monckton of the Grenadiers and [a number of] other officers. Their whole loss may amount to about 11 or 1200 kill’d, wounded and taken prisoners on this day, The weather was extremely hot & we had much business at hand. The Corps of Artillery have their full proportion of the Glory of the day. His Excellency the General has done them & me the honor to notice us in General orders in very pointed & flattering terms. Indeed I was highly delighted with their Coolness, bravery and good Conduct. The effects of the battle of Monmouth will be great and lasting. It will convince the Enemy and the World that nothing but a good constitution is wanting to make us as good [as any] Whatever. Besides the killed and wounded of the Enemy on the 28th, the Enemy have lost a full thousand by desertion since they left Philadelphia. They are now embarking at Sandy Hook and sailing for New York.

I am your dear Brother,

Yours, H. Knox