**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018**

**PRESENTATIONS ON MOLLY PITCHER**

**SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18, 22 and 25**

Each year Dr. David Martin and the Friends give several presentations on Molly Pitcher in commemoration of Women’s History Month. This year we are giving two presentations and a tour related to the role of women soldiers and “camp followers” in the Revolution. Dr. Martin is the author of the only hardback serious book study of Molly Pitcher, entitled “A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook.” Published in 2003, the book is 328 pages long and discusses primary sources and stories and legends about the Heroine of Monmouth. It is available at our gift shop at the Park Visitor Center, and also at the presentations listed,

A talk on “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth” will be given at 2 PM on Sunday, March 18, in the auditorium at the Park Visitor Center. This lecture will focus more on Molly’s contribution to the battle as a member of Proctor’s Artillery, but will also include the major elements of her story.

The second presentation will be at 7 PM on Thursday, March 22, at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located at 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan NJ 07726. The full title of the talk will be “Women’s History in Monmouth: Who Was Molly Pitcher?” He will focus on the evidence on which the story of Molly Pitcher, "the Heroine of Monmouth,"developed. In addition, he will help us look at the story of Molly Pitcher in the broader context of the contributions made by women in the Revolution as a vital part of armies in the field. No registration is required but it is requested. Call 732-431-7220 for more information. The presentations on March 18 and March 23 will be similar but not exactly alike. So, why not come to both, or, if you can’t make it to one presentation, come and attend the other one!

Our third program in connection with Molly Pitcher will be a tour on Sunday, March 25, to visit sites claiming to be Molly Pitcher’s well, and other sites associated with Molly’s participation in the battle. 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.

Tours to these Molly Pitcher sites are only given two or three times a year, so you should take advantage of this opportunity if you are interested.

**SUCCESSFUL TALK GIVEN AGAIN ON AARON BURR AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON AT MONMOUTH**

On January 11 (Alexander Hamilton’s birthday), FOMB President David Martin gave a talk on the role of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr at the battle of Monmouth. Both were Lieutenant Colonels: Hamilton was serving on General Washington’s staff, and Burr led a field regiment. Interestingly, each officer became a battle casualty when his horse was shot from under him. The talk was given at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, and around 50 people were in attendance.

**HISTORY WALKS CANCELLED**

**DUE TO COLD WEATHER**

For the first time in five years, our special January 1 walking tour had to be cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The tour was scheduled as part of the “America’s State Parks First Day Hikes” sponsored by the State’s Division of Park’ and Forestry. Around 60 people have taken part each year since the program was inaugurated. However, this year the awful weather conditions force the event to be cancelled. Air temperature was under 20 degrees and the strong north wind made it feel more like 5 degrees or less.

The bad weather also forced cancellation of the January 7 hike on the battlefield. It was a little warmer than on January 1, but not much, and there was about six inches of snow on the ground. It was also too cold on February 4 to run the scheduled hike. The first history hike of the new year did not take place until March 4, when it was still cold and windy.

Our popular “First Sunday of the Month” tours will continue to be held every month, weather permitting. They meet 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. Two or three times a year tours go to visit Perrine Hill and sites associated with Molly Pitcher (Walking Tour No. 2).

If you have any question on the weather and if a walk is being given, contact the Park at 732-462-9616.

**2018 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES**

Last year our membership hit a new record for the fourth year in a row, reaching 132 members and families. We are especially appreciative of new members and of our 21 life members.

Our thanks go to those who have already renewed their membership for 2018, and especially to those who enclosed an additional donation in support of our programs. You should have received your 2018 membership cards by now.

Those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2018 will be noted on the bottom of page 1. A membership application for 2018 is included with this newsletter.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS HELD DECEMBER 6 ALL NOMINEES AND PROPOSALS PASSED**

Our annual meeting and elections, as required by our by-laws, were held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 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 2018.

Richard Bellamy was unanimously reelected as Trustee to serve a three-year term until December 2020. New Board member John Resto was also elected Trustee. The Annual Plan for 2018 and Budget for 2018 were unanimously approved as presented.

Our President, David Martin, summarized recent accomplishments and outlined major goals for 2017. Membership hit a new record in 2017, 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 cosponsor the annual battle of Monmouth reenactment each June, plus additional programming at the end of June and over July 4 weekend.

Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to our volunteer officers and trustees!

We are indebted to Walter Kowalsky, who stepped down as a Trustee after over fifteen years on the Board.

Anyone who has the time and interest to possibly serve as a Trustee, please

contact one of the officers.

The list of current Trustees is listed below.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Andrew Beagle (2018) South Plainfield, NJ

Richard Bellamy (2020) Spotswood, NJ

Michael Cervini (2018) Toms River, NJ

George Dawson (2019) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2019) Old Bridge, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2018) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2018) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2019) Colts Neck, NJ

John Resto (2020) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2018) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS**

President David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Frances Raleigh

Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**NEW WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**AT CRAIG HOUSE UNDER WAY;**

**CRAIG HOUSE TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON APRIL 9**

We are pleased to announce that we have received another grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to replace two windows in the upper floor of the historic Craig House. This is the fourth grant we have been given in the past four years from the Commission for work at Craig House. The grant, which is a $3000 match, was officially announced at ceremonies held on February 26.

This is just another of our ongoing efforts to maintain and preserve the historic Craig House, which dates to the mid-1700s. 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.

Thanks are owed to Kathy and Eric Doherty for their key role in writing the grant application, and for serving as docents at Craig House.

Craig House will open for the season on April 8, and will be open through the first Sunday in December. Hours are 1-4 PM every Sunday, plus special events.

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**TALKS GIVEN AT THE PARK ON WASHINGTON IN**

**THE BATTLE AND ON BLACK TROOPS AT MONMOUTH**

As part of our expanded programming at the Park, Dr. David Martin gave two programs in February on quite different topics.

On February 11, he spoke on the topic of “George Washington at Monmouth.” Here he covered the General’s strategic and operational goals in the campaign as well as his plans for the battle. He also explained where Washington was hour by hour during the course of the battle, and he evaluated Washington good and bad decisions. The battle of Monmouth was in all respects a draw, but

Washington and his followers painted it as a victory, which helped assure his primal leadership of the Continental army for the rest of the war. About thirty people were in attendance.

Dr. Martin’s topic on February 18 was the role of Black and Native American troops at the battle. Many Blacks served in integrated units, mostly from New England states. The most famous Black at the battle was Billy Lee, who was General George Washington’s principal servant (valet). The most notorious Black soldier in New Jersey during the war was “Colonel” Tye, a runaway slave who worked for the “Associated Loyalists” in 1779-1780 and conducted brutal raids in Monmouth County.

Current studies suggest that about 100 Blacks and 50 Native American troops were at Monmouth. About twenty people attended the talk.

**NEW REVOLUTIONARY WAR STATUE**

**DEDICATED IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

Last summer a new statue was dedicated in New Brunswick on July 9, depicting Colonel John Neilson reading the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The ceremony was arranged with the help of FOMB Vice President George Dawson, who is also New Brunswick town historian. George wrote the following article on the event, which was published in the Fall 2017 issue of “The Link,” which is the journal of the Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance, of which he is also Vice President.

**Colonel John Neilson Reads the Declaration of Independence**

**in New Brunswick**

New Brunswick has a new statue.

Colonel John Neilson, revolutionary War commander of the 1st Middlesex Regiment of New Jersey militia, captor of Loyalists at Bennett’s island in 1777, and captor, with 2nd-in-command Moses Guest, or British raider Col. John Graves Simcoe in 1780, is reading the Declaration of Independence on the Civil War triangle, in front of the Heldrich Hotel-Apartment complex in downtown New Brunswick.

Neilson is there, in bronze, in civilian garb, his right hand raised in articulation, his expression determined, his country to be independent in seven years, on the initiative of New Brunswick businessman Gregory Ritter, owner of

George Street Cameras and the New Brunswick Public Sculpture Committee.

Ritter says: “I had been thinking about Neilson and others for perhaps twenty-five years. Statues are storytellers. People want to know the history of the place in which they live through story-tellers, and in Europe and other places, statues fulfill that role.”

To carry out this role, Ritter and others formed the New Brunswick Public Sculpture Committee, with people from downtown businesses, Rutgers University, and various civic and public organizations. They won early support from Robert Belvin, the city’s library director, and Susan Kramer-Mills, co-pastor of 1st Reformed Church.

A series of statues was pondered: John Neilson; the poet-soldier Joyce Kilmer, who was born in New Brunswick in 1886; and singer-actor Paul Robeson, who attended and played football for Rutgers College in the early 20th century. But John Neilson came first. The story he tells is this:

John Neilson was born in New Brunswick in 1745, the son of a Scots Irish

Physician who migrated from northern Ireland with a brother early in the century, and settled in Raritan Landing, the up-river warehouse district for storage of farm goods and timber products awaiting shipment to other markets.

John’s father, also named John, died before he was born, in a fall from a horse along ice-strewn riverbanks. John was delivered at Buccleuch house in New Brunswick, his Dutch mother knowing the White family who lived there. John was raised by his uncle James, a shipping merchant in New Brunswick.

The downtown Neilsons, James and his nephew, were early supporters of independence, and John organized a militia regiment to fight British incursions.

**NEW STATUE IN NEW BRUNSWICK (cont.)**

When the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, a Thursday, John Hancock, President of the Congress, ordered a printer named Dunlap to prepare copies of the document (yet unsigned) to leaders in the thirteen hopefully soon-to-be independent British colonies along the sea coast, and to George Washington and the Continental army in New York City (Manhattan Island). Soon copies of the Dunlap Declaration were carried by post riders up and down the coast.

No record was made of its arrival in New Brunswick, but Charles Deshler, the late 19th century historian, remembered childhood conversations with his grandfather, Jacob Dunham, in 1830 or 1831. Dunham, in turn, remembered being told by his own father, Azariah Dunham, of receiving a Dunlap Declaration form a post rider on July 9, 1776, a Tuesday. Azariah then arranged to have the city’s local militia commander, John Neilson, read the Declaration from a table top on Albany Street at its intersection with Water Street (now Johnson Lane). This was done, to loud applause (Huzzahs), although some Tories were also presumably present.

Deshler recorded this event, and information on other readings of the Dunlap Declaration he was able to obtain, in an article appearing in the July 1892 issue of *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine.*

Ritter said the Neilson statue was sculpture by Anna and Jeff Kohl-Varilla, of Chicago, and cast in Colorado by Great Foundry Art Castings. He said a decision was made to show Neilson in civilian clothes, as the colonel would not likely have put on his uniform for the performance. An older Neilson portrait was obtained and aged back to a 31-year-old man, to guide the sculptors.

The statue, 10 years in the planning, cost $150,000, or about $170,000 all told, including costs for the pedestal and base. Contributions were received from members of the Committee and from the community at large.

At the dedication ceremony on July 9, a horseman delivered a document to the Committee. The text of the Declaration was then read by Committee members and donors in general.

Readings of the Dunlap Declaration are widely reenacted up and down the Atlantic seaboard, but no other city has an actual statue of the reader. Trenton, however, has a mural.

**THIS YEAR’S BATTLE OF MONMOUTH REENACTMENT WILL BE A BIG ONE, DATE IS JUNE 17-18**

This year marks the 240th anniversary of the battle of Monmouth, which was fought on June 28, 1778. The Friends has been cosponsoring a reenactment for about twenty years now, and certain years are more notable than others. The biggest reenactments were in 1978 (200th anniversary) and in 2003 (225th). This year marks the 240th anniversary of the battle and will see the biggest reenactment since the 235th five years ago. Be sure to come and bring your family and tell your friends! Date is June 17 and 18; the exact daily schedule of activities will be posted on our website by June 1.

**INTERESTING JOURNAL OF DR. WILLIAM READ**

The interesting and important journal of Dr. William Read of Georgia has been quoted to show General Washington’s activities on Perrine Hill during the battle (see our FOMB newsletter of August 2017) and also to show the position of Proctor’s artillery, which was Molly Pitcher’s battery (see *A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook* by David Martin, page 267). Other portions of his journal also give evidence on General Charles Lee’s activities during the battle, as well as the nature and amount of British casualties on the field. Most significantly, Read’s account of his arrival on the field at Monmouth helps to place the fall of Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr during the early afternoon fighting rather than the late afternoon.

Because the full text of Read’s journal is difficult to find, it is given here. It was included in an obscure book entitled *Documentary History of the American Revolution, Consisting of Letters and Papers Relating to the Contest for Liberty, Chiefly in South Carolina, From Originals in the Possession of the Editor, and Other Sources, 1776-1782,* compiled by Dr. R.W. Gibbes and first published in two volumes in New York in1853. The text presented here was published by D. Appleton & Co. in New-York in 1857. The section entitled “Reminiscences of Dr. William Read, Arranged from his Notes and Papers,” is on pages 248-293, with the Monmouth section here quoted being on pages 255-259.

**DR. READ’S MONMOUTH JOURNAL**

In a few days he set out again on his expedition, and after some singular adventures, reached the field of battle at Monmouth; the battle was raging, Gen Washington having rallied Gen. Lee’s retreating column, and ordered Lee to the rear. Dr. Read saw Gen. Lee standing at a tavern window with the landlady, and heard him call aloud to an officer riding by, and was told that the general asked, “What news?” The officer replied: “They are fighting on the plains of Monmouth, and the British Grenadiers have given way;” when Gen. Lee replied, “That is a

d----d lie, the British grenadiers never give way. Was an angel to come from Heaven and tell him so, he would say he was a liar.” This was certainly said, as it came out in testimony on Lee’s trial.

Dr. Read, after a singular adventure, reached the battlefield. All appeared to him confusion and smoke; the weather was excessively hot. Dr. Read’s enquiry was for the Pennsylvania line, and was told by a wounded soldier that Gen. Wayne had pushed it on to the field of battle; presently he saw an officer borne off by six soldiers, in a dying condition, and knew it to be Col. Bonner, the man he was on enquiry for. He stayed by him a few minutes, when he rode into the thick of the battle, his servant all the time remonstrating with him to go no further, reminding him of a promise “not to carry him into battle.” Dr. Read saw Gen. Washington riding to and fro along the line, sometimes at full speed, looking nobly, excited, and calling loudly to the troops by the appellation of brave boys. He saw Washington standing to the right of the line, with a number of officers near him, and saw a cannon ball strike a wet hole in the side of the hill, and the dirt fly on him. Two officers then rode up, and seemed to reason with him, and

**DR. WILLIAM READ’S JOURNAL (cont.)**

lay hold of the bridle of his horse. The General, coolly standing in his stirrups, was said to say to the officers who urged that that was no place for him, he being observed by the enemy, “that he was admiring the manner in which Proctor was handling their right.” Dr. Read was near enough to hear the word Proctor, and was told what the General said. He then moved off at full speed, all the throng following and Read among the rest. It was Col. Laurens and Huntingdon, he thinks, who prevailed on the General to change his position. The dust and smoke would sometimes so shut out the view, that one could form no idea of what was going on – the roar of cannon, the crackling of musketry, men’s voices, making horrible confusion; then the groans and cries of the wounded. Dr. Read watched for an opportunity to speak to Gen. Washington, from old acquaintance, but it was not obtained, or of Col. Laurens. The evening at length came on, and the battle ceased, except some skirmishing at a distance, and some struggles to the left in arranging prisoners.

The battle ceased with the approach of night, both armies exhausted by fatigue and the heat of the day – a deep morass lying between them. They lay down, man and horse, just where they halted; Washington and suit lay upon the field. It was generally understood the battle was to be renewed at the dawn of day. Dr. Read, with his servant, rode on to the left of the line, seeing, in a few instances, regimental surgeons officiating, and administering to some wounded soldiers, and hearing the cries and groans of some men who had crawled, or been brought to the rear. They reached a wagon which stood in an inclined situation, having the fore-wheels shot away; this position afforded a comfortable shelter to the two adventurers; their horses being tied to the wagon, lay down likewise. They had been rode seventy or eighty miles that day; but, being the finest horses in the army, they bore it well, and were not in the end hurt.

At the dawn of day they heard the shout of victory – “the British are gone!” Dr. Read mounted, and rode down the hill which bounded the morass, and, observing several men entering the low ground to cross over, he did so also. The bog was very deep, and required the utmost effort of his and his servant’s horse also, to get through it. As objects became visible, he saw several dead soldiers in the bog, mired to the waist, and probably shot. On the opposite side he saw an officer lying a few yards from the morass, nearly cut in two by a cannon shot; he was alive, and spoke, implored Dr. Read to lift him to a tree which stood near, alleging that he had been trying all night to do so, “that he might die easy.” The clotted blood was piled up several inches on his front, and it had ceased to flow. Dr. Read, with the assistance of his servant, essayed to lift him tenderly, and, stepping backwards, they placed him against the tree. The blood now began to flow perceptibly, and in all probability terminated his life; they heard him utter a few words of thankfulness, and proceeded on.

At the summit of the hill, dismal, indeed, was the scene; there lay fifty or sixty British grenadiers – some dead, some alive, calling for “help!”, “water!”, uttering the most dreadful and severe imprecations on “the rebels.” Dr. Read and his servant ran down the hill, and found plenty of water; with his servant’s hat he administered many draughts of water to these poor, famished soldiers; it was busy occupation for an hour. Dr. Read now found himself employed in the business in a most remarkable manner; he proceeded to dress wounds and apply

**DR. WILLIAM READ’S JOURNAL (cont.)**

bandages. Tearing off shirts from the dead, he made bandages, and applied them, to the best of his skill, for remedying hemorrhage. Some country people and also

negroes coming to the field of carnage, Dr. Read enlisted their feelings, and hired them to assist in lifting and turning these wounded men, and, at length, in procuring wagons and straw to remove them to the court-house.

In all this arduous undertaking, and work of humanity, he was greatly assisted by his servant, Peter Houston, who, until his death, must have felt it the sweetest solace of his life. They succeeded in moving twenty-one grenadiers, all with broken legs, or muscles so lacerated as to render them helpless. Dr. Read, seeing no medical aid come to him, proceeded to amputate wherever the patient would consent to the operation. In these operations he was aided by lint and bandages being sent, he knew not from whence, and every article of nourishment.

Dr. Read continued to dwell in the court-house, sleeping, when he was enabled to sleep, in the Judge’s bench. There he was observed by sundry groups of officers, who came riding around on a tour of observation, and his name enquired into. His servant sometimes entered into a full explanation whence he was, and his motives, etc., and all he could say was, “at his own expense.” This explanation must have had effect, as on the third day he received from the Secretary a special commission, which gave him rank in the medical department, and extra rations and forage. This circumstance fixed Dr. Read in the medical department, whereas, he had left Georgia with an intention of obtaining a company of horse, or foot, and serve in the line. No crusader ever set out for Palestine against the crescent with more sincerity than did he in devotion to the cause of freedom; but the above circumstance changed his purpose, and gave a more settled turn to his mind.

On the fourth day of his care of the wounded grenadiers, two medical men came out of New York, and relieved him from the arduous duty. He explained to these gentlemen the nature and circumstances of the several cases, his amputations etc.; to which they coolly observed, that he “had only given so many subjects to the Chelsea Hospital.”

Dr. Read then repaired to a house where lay a British officer, severely wounded through the groins, and in a dying condition. He barely spoke, and pointed to his wound. Dr. R. witnessed, on this occasion, the appalling circumstance of the gentleman’s servants, a male and a female, reasoning on the sharing of his silver, camp equipage and watch, which he evidently understood.

While Dr. Read stood listening to this scene, he was accosted by an officer of rank, who, after enquiring if “he was Dr. Read?” desired that he would go immediately to Englishtown, and take charge of Col. Wesson, who lay there in a wounded condition. He did so, and found the gentleman in a most deplorable state. He had received wound from a cannon ball, which, striking his neck, he being in a stooping position, raked along the spine, tearing away clothing, skin and ligaments, and muscles, to its extremity. He lay all night on the field of battle, supposed to be dead; but, being alive next morning, he was carried to Englishtown, about three miles distant. There Dr. Read found him attended by three of his artillery men, in a very sunken situation, while they appeared only to wait for his death. Dr. Read, with care and exertion, immediately undertook the

**DR. WILLIAM READ’S JOURNAL (cont.)**

case; by examining the wound, declared it not mortal, but capable of remedy. By his manner and cheering language, he raised the drooping spirits of the wounded

man and his attendants, cleansed and dressed his wounds in such a manner as to revive hope, and afford ease and comfort. The patient was a large, heavy man, and difficult to manage. The suppuration of his wound was prodigious, and required four dressings in the day and night. In all this Dr. Read found his servant eminently useful; lint and dressings were sent in by some persons in the country in abundance, and many articles of nourishment.

On the fourth day, Gen. Washington, with a number of officers, rode up to this nursey scene; Gen. W. alighted, and, enquiring for Dr. Read, was informed of the condition of the wounded Colonel. The General accosted him tenderly, and prevailed on him to take a tonic dose prepared for him, ending with telling him to obey the orders of his surgeon, and get well, “I cannot spare such officers as you are.” Col. Wesson evidently improved after that day, and was more tractable.

Dr. Read had the satisfaction of seeing his patient recover in twenty-three days, so far as to be conveyed away on a litter on men’s shoulders. It is a remarkable circumstance, that thirty years after this scene, Dr. Read being in the town of Ipswich, in Massachusetts, met a gentleman who knew Col. Wessen, and who had heard him speak of “a young surgeon from the far South, who attended him, and saved his life.” The Colonel had died an old man a few months previously.”

Some interesting circumstances took place during this attendance, one of which we will relate. In walking out to enjoy a little fresh air, he met a chaise driving towards him, when suddenly he saw it guided out of the road, and turn over with a crash. He ran up, and saw two ladies on the ground; they appeared much disordered and disconcerted, the horse struggling with the entangled harness. He first lifted the old lady, the daughter had got up, and appeared in great confusion; he then seized the horse, disentangled the harness, and righted the chaise. Some civilities passed some thanks were mad; but with coldness and ceremony. It, however, became necessary for him to assist the ladies into the vehicle, and lead the horse around to the road. The ladies then seemed to rally their good feelings, and invited him to their house, which appeared in view. The mother and daughter, Mrs. And Miss English, became talkative and civil; Mrs. E. said she had an aversion to the American rebel officers and did not wish to meet one, which was the reason of her turning out of the road in which she met with the disaster. Many gallant and reconciling things were exchanged, and the parties became acquainted. The old lady inquired of Dr. Read in what manner, with most security, shoe could put away her plate and wine. He advised her; but said, of the wine, madam, I should be apt to be a plunderer myself, as I have a patient in town whose life might be saved by a few bottles. Dr. Read took leave of the ladies, and that evening a dozen of old Madeira was sent, of which Col. Wessen benefitted, and it was greatly instrumental in restoring him.

Dr. Read now received orders to repair to Princeton, where the general hospital was fixed. There he found a dismal scene; a typhus fever prevailed to a fatal degree. Out of twelve medical men, five or six had died, others retired, and the department left to a German surgeon. Dr. Read took charge of the hospital,

**DR. WILLIAM READ’S JOURNAL (cont.)**

and endeavored to remedy the disorder, but in vain; five or six patients died daily.

The attendants refused to do the duties assigned them; an awful scene of superstition prevailed. The duties all devolved on Dr. Read and the German, aided by a Scotch lady, the matron, with a few women, not one of whom would go into the hospital after night. At length Dr. Read was attacked with the fever, and underwent a severe illness; his first and second attendant died, and he was left to an Indian woman. In a state of delirium he ordered the sick all to be carried out of town, and deposited in the farmers’ barns. Although illegal and unwarranted, it was done, and it pleased God that the measure succeeded, as no new case ensued, and no death happened after. Dr. Read’s case terminated in an abscess of his arm, and resulted favorably. On his recovery, he was surprised at being told of his orders respecting the sick, being unconscious of it; but rejoiced at the happy consequences.

At Princeton it was Dr. Read’s good fortune to obtain of Mrs. Livingston a chamber, and a closet as an office, which gave him an opportunity of accommodating the young soldier, Marquis Lafayette, on a very cold night, when not a bed or blanket could be had; and, on another occasion, of lodging Col. Tatnall, of Georgia, and his lady and daughter, who were passing through, prisoners of war on parole, on their way back to England. Washington lay at winter quarters at Morristown, and a general hospital was ordered at Brunswick. Dr. Read, dismissing the hospital at Princeton, went on to Brunswick to seek employment.

**PARK SUPERINTENDENT POSITION STILL OPEN**

Monmouth Battlefield State Park has not had a full time superintendent since Mark Pitchell retired on May 1, 2016. While a search was being conducted, Inga Gabliks, the Superintendent at Allaire State Park, served as Acting Superintendent at Monmouth until June 12, 2016, when Robert Auermuller, formerly of Wharton State Forest, was named Interim Superintendent. He was initially appointed to a six month term, which was extended to twelve months. In June 2017 he received a temporary assignment to Delaware Raritan Canal State Park, but he continued part time at Monmouth pending selection of a new Superintendent here. This double assignment continued until the end of 2017, when Inga Gabliks returned as Interim Superintendent as of January 1, 2018. There is no time for the current search, which is possibly being delayed awaiting anticipated personnel changes in DEP under the new state administration in Trenton.

**SAVE THESE DATES**

MARCH 18 Lecture, “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth.”

(Sun) 2 PM. Auditorium at the Park Visitor Center.

MARCH 22 Lecture, “Who Was Molly Pitcher?”

(Thurs) ”7 PM. Main Branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive.

MARCH 25 Driving tour of the battlefield. Visit sites

(Sun) claiming to be Molly Pitcher’s well, and other sites connected with Molly in the battle. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

APRIL 1 Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at

(Sun) Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

APRIL 8 Driving tour of the battle area. Visit sites connected

(Sun) with the morning portion of the battle (East Morass

and Briar’ Hill). Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

APRIL 8 Craig House opens for the season. 1-4 PM.

MAY 5-6 “Weekend in Old Monmouth.” Open House at (Sat-Sun) Craig House 11 AM to 4 PM each day.

MAY 6 Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor

(Sun) Center at 1:30 PM

MAY 13 Walking Tour, “The Fight at the Point of Woods.”

(Sun) Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

MAY 27 Memorial Day observance at the Park. 2 PM outside (Sun) Visitor Center.

JUNE 7 Lecture by David Martin, “George Washington’s Staff:

(Thurs) Alexander Hamilton and his Friends at Monmouth.” 7 PM, main branch of Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive.

JUNE 10 Driving tour to the American camp sites near

(SUN) Englishtown the night before the battle

JUNE 16-17 Annual Battle of Monmouth reenactment

(Sat-Sun)

JUNE 23-24 Annual Battle of Monmouth commemoration

(Sat-Sun) (talks, programs and tours at the Park)

**2018 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 27th 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 four 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 2017*

*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*