**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS**

**TO BE HELD DECEMBER 4**

Our annual meeting and elections, as required by our by-laws, will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters, located at 125 Symmes Drive in Manalapan (phone 732-431-7220).

The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, followed at about 7:30 by short program on the completion of the Visitor Center construction project and an update on work that is needed at the Craig House.

Ballots and election information are being mailed separately to paid up members.

The nominating committee presented its slate of officers at the October 2 general meeting. At that time the proposed annual plan for 2014 and annual budget for 2014 were also presented, after having been approved at the September board meeting.

Due to the passing of President Jim Raleigh, David Martin is nominated to move up from Vice President to President. George Dawson is nominated to take on the post of Vice President as an additional duty with his responsibilities as Treasurer. Fran Raleigh is nominated to continue as Secretary.

Current trustees whose terms are expiring and are nominated to stand for another term include George Dawson, Joe Nemeth and Fran Raleigh. Kathy Doherty and Eric Doherty are being nominated to return to the board after a few years’ absence.

A list of current officers and trustees is listed later in this newsletter.

**CRAIG HOUSE TO CLOSE**

**FOR THE SEASON DECEMBER 1**

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, it will close for the season on December 1. It will reopen again on April 6, 2014.

Thanks are owed to Kathy and Eric Doherty for serving as docents at the Craig House, with occasional help from David Martin and Pete Michel.

**CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT HELD OCT. 19-20;**

**CAMP VREDENBURG MONUMENT REDEDICATED**

A Civil War encampment was held at the Park on the weekend of October 19-20, to commemorate the use of Camp Vredenburg in 1862-1864 as the training camp for troops from central New Jersey. Over 3000 troops from the 14th, 28th and 29th infantry regiments were trained there for a few months before being sent off to the war. By chance, the site of the camp is totally within the bounds of Monmouth Battlefield State Park, and it may be the only undisturbed Civil war training camp site still remaining pristine of the approximately twenty or so used in the war.

The encampment, complete with tents and cooking fires, was held adjacent to the Visitor Center. The weekend also included children’s drills and exhibits of gear and weapons.

Highlight of the weekend was the rededication of the Camp Vredenburg monument, located immediately west of the Cobb House on Route 522. The marker there was set up in 1988 to honor the 125th anniversary of the camp, and was rededicated now on its 150th anniversary. David Martin, who sponsored the original erection of the marker, spoke a few words, and a squad of uniformed troops fired an honor volley. After completion of the ceremony, the troops marched back the one and one-quarter mile from the site of the camp to the Visitor Center, with full gear.

Thanks go to the dozen or so reenactors/living historians who gave of their time over the weekend, and to Park staff member Pete Michel, who set up the event. Thanks are also owed to Eric Doherty of the Friends for helping Park staff clear the brush around the Camp Vredenburg marker.

A booklet on the history of Camp Vredenburg is available at our gift shop at the park for minimal cost.

**VISITOR CENTER AND PARK**

**OPEN REGULAR HOURS**

The new Visitor Center is open every day of the week from 9 AM to 4 PM. Park hours are posted at the gate at the main entrance to the park off of Business Route 33. Current posted hours for the Park as listed on the Park’s website are 8 AM to 4:30 PM. There is no charge for admission for the Park or the Visitor Center.

The Park’s phone number is 732-462-9616. The Park’s mailing address is the same as before: 347 Freehold-Englishtown Road, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

**FOMB HAS INFORMATION TABLE  
AT MONMOUTH COUNTY ARCHIVES DAY;**

**JIM RALEIGH’S MEMORY HONORED**

Our late President, Jim Raleigh, was honored with a special proclamation read at Monmouth County Archives Day on Saturday, October 12 at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Drive in Manalapan. His wife Fran and daughter Catherine Love were on hand to receive an honorary certificate.

Thanks go to Trustees Andy Beagle and Walter Kowalsky for manning our information table at the Archives Day exhibit center.

Thanks also to the Trustees, members and friends who attended Jim’s funeral on September 22, at St. Mary’s Church in Colt’s Neck.

**MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**A YEAR AFTER SANDY**

It is hard to imagine that Super Storm Sandy struck the state just over a year ago. Monmouth Battlefield State Park was closed ahead of time in anticipation of the storm, on Sunday, October 28. During the storm more trees were knocked down during the two day storm, October 29-30, than in hurricane Irene, which blew through a year ago at the end of August 2011. It took several months for all the fallen branches and damaged trees to be cleared. Now most damage is repaired, except for that done to our historic Craig House (see attached article). The park is basically in good shape and the trees have been beautiful in their full autumn color. Let us hope that we don’t see any more storms like Irene and Sandy for a long while!

**FOMB GIFT SHOP AT VISITOR CENTER**

**OPEN REGULAR HOURS**

**NEW POSTCARDS FEATURED**

The gift shop at the Visitor Center, run by FOMB, is open Sundays from 1 to 4 PM, and for special events.

Currently featured at the gift shop is a greatly expanded selection of postcards, including: Molly Pitcher’s grave in Carlisle, PA; the Village Inn in Englishtown; Old Tennent Church; the Battle of Monmouth monument in Freehold; and color sketches of Revolutionary soldiers. Postcards are fifty cents each or three for a dollar.

Thanks to George Dawson and David Martin for manning the gift shop.

**REGULAR MONTHLY GUIDED BATTLEFIELD**

**WALKS CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED;**

**SPECIAL TOUR SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 1**

Our popular walking tour program instituted two years ago, giving guided tours of the battlefield on the first Sunday of every month, has continued to be offered and remains quite popular. High point for the season was 60 participants on the October 6 hike. Tours begin at the Visitor Center and start at 1:30 PM, weather permitting. They will continue to be offered year round, as long as the Park is open. Tour routes are often determined by those in attendance. Usually tours go to the Hedge Row and Parsonage areas; other times we caravan by car to walk the north side of the park or other areas nearby.

Occasional tours are given to other sites, by foot or by car, as listed in our annual plan. There were 14 participants in the September 22 tour to the Point of Woods area of the Park.

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 Wednesday, January 1, a special tour will be offered by David Martin 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. This tour, which had over 50 participants last year, will cover about a mile over rolling terrain and will last about two hours total.

Thanks to David Martin and the late Jim Raleigh for leading the hikes and tours.

**2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDER WAY**

This year our membership hit a record of 101 members, aided by the renewed interest in the Park because of the opening of the new Visitor Center. We are especially appreciative of new members and of our 16 life members.

Enclosed you will find dues information and a membership application for the year 2014. 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. If you have already paid your dues for next year, we will so note on the enclosed application.

Continuing your membership this year is all the more important in view of the increased expenses we will incur as we work to repair damage at the Craig House. Thanks!

**JAMES T. RALEIGH MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**TO BE SET UP AT THE PARK VISITOR CENTER**

As you are aware, Jim Raleigh was deeply interested in the Revolution and specifically Monmouth Battlefield, in addition to his other passions, which ranged from kayaking to space exploration to the Hudson tunnel projects. Jim’s family has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to our organization, the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield.

We wish to thank the Raleigh family for this generous gesture. Present plans are to use donations received in Jim’s memory to set up a “James T. Raleigh Memorial Library” at the Monmouth battlefield State Park Visitor Center. The family has donated much of Jim’s extensive Revolutionary War book collection, which of course focused on New Jersey in the war, especially Monmouth, but is also has broad coverage of the war, including biographies, unit histories, and additional focuses on naval affairs and French involvement. There are also quite a lot of research documents and maps concerning another of his passions, the study of Revolutionary era cartography of the battle and campaign.

Jim’s books and maps will be added to our own good sized research collection, which was previously housed in our former headquarters at the old Owl Haven building on Route 522, which had to be abandoned because of structural issues.

For the moment all these books are being stored in boxes and two bookcases in our gift shop at the Visitor Center. Negotiations are under way with the Park administration to set up a research library for use by the Park staff, members of the Friends, and visitors in the work space in the “classroom” area of the “old” Visitor Center. Hopefully this facility will be set up and operational by the spring, once arrangements are made and bookcases etc. are purchased and installed.

**CORRECTION ON SIZE OF THE PARK**

Monmouth Battlefield State Park contains a total of 2979 acres. This number was incorrectly reported in the last newsletter.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, Inc. and our goals and programs, please contact Vice President Dr. David Martin at 609-448-6355 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our mailing address is: THE FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC., PO BOX 122, TENNENT, NJ 07763.

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

**CRAIG HOUSE IS IN DIRE NEED OF REPAIRS**

**GRANT ASSISTANCE SOUGHT**

The historic Craig House was built around 1740 and was expanded in 1770, and was a witness to the battle of Monmouth, which was fought literally at the house’s doorstep on June 28, 1778.

The Friends are delighted to help make the Craig House accessible to visitors the past three years. It was closed to the public for the previous eight years, because of the severe staff shortage at the Park.

Unfortunately, the Craig House is in need of major repair work. The inside of the building is in relatively good shape, and both the furnace and dehumidifier are working well. However, the outside of the house is in dire need in several areas. The frames of two of the exterior doors are in bad shape and need replacing. Another pressing need is to replace all the windows and their frames, which are all rotted out, including the two small windows in the milk room. Another major problem is that many of the nails are popping out from the siding on the south side of the second story of the 1770 addition. In addition, the entire exterior of the house needs to be scraped and painted, and the whole site needs a drainage system around the foundations.

Of particular concern is damage to the buildings doors and windows. Most pressing is the deterioration of the garret window on the south side of the 1770 addition. In blew out two years ago, and has been only temporarily repaired with a Plexiglass covering which keeps blowing out. Water is leaking in and has rotted the window sill and is threatening to severely damage the interior walls and ceilings of the house.

Another great concern is the loss of the window on the stairs to the second floor of the 1770 addition. It blew out two years ago and has been covered over with plywood. Since this window provided the only light for the stairs to the second floor of the building, we have not been able to allow visitors to go upstairs and view the three rooms of exhibits there.

Since the Park has not had funds to do any repairs on the building, the FOMB is applying for a matching grant of approximately $3000 from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to replace the garret window and the window on the stairway. Thanks are owed to Kathy Doherty for doing most of the work to prepare the lengthy grant application.

Thanks are also due to Kathy and her husband Eric for serving as docents at the Craig House all year.

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES**

Dec. 1, 2013 (Sun) Craig House open 1-4 PM, then closes for

the season.

Dec. 4, 2013 (Wed) Annual business meeting. Meeting held at

7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, Symmes Drive, Manalapan

Dec. 8, 2013 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

Jan.1, 2013 (Wed) “First day Hike.” Visit the ground on which

Molly Pitcher fought. Meet at Visitor Center

At 11 AM.

Jan. 5, 2014 (Sun) Driving tour of battlefield. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

Feb. 2, 2013 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor

Center at 1:30 PM.

Feb. 9, 2014 (Sun) Program on the role of Black troops at the battle of Monmouth. Held at 2 PM at Visitor Center

Auditorium

Feb. 16, 2014 (Sun) Molly Pitcher program with Stacy Roth. 2 PM

at the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Mar. 2,2014 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

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

**FOMB OFFICERS FOR 2013**

**(terms expire December 4, 2013)**

Vice President Dr. David Martin

Secretary Fran Raleigh

Treasurer George Dawson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Andrew Beagle (2015) South Plainfield, NJ

Richard Bellamy (2014) Spotswood, NJ

Michael Cervini (2015) Toms River, NJ

George Dawson (2013) New Brunswick, NJ

Walter Kowalsky (2014) Freehold, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2015) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2015) Toms River, NJ

Joe Nemeth (2013) Edison, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2013) Colts Neck, NJ

Peter Wagner (2015) Englishtown, NJ

**2014 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**

November 2013

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.

This is an exciting year because of the completion of the expanded Visitor Center at the Park, which opened in June. The Friends participation in the dedication ceremonies and co-sponsored the large scale reception held afterwards. We also co-sponsored with the Park a record reenactment in mid June. Our new and expanded gift shop has been operational since June. It is mostly set up and is well stocked but still has more work to do.

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 form the beginning of April to the beginning of December.

In October we helped sponsor the improved landscaping of the site of the monument of Camp Vredenburg, the Civil war training camp located within Park boundaries. Current major projects include establishment of the James T. Raleigh Memorial Library at the Park, and sponsorship of costly repairs needed to the structure of the historic Craig House.

If you have questions or want information, please contact Vice President Dr. David Martin at 609-448-6355 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our new website can be viewed at [www.friendsofmonouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonouth.org/)

Sincerely,

Dr. David Martin, Membership Chairman

*Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*Sponsorship of programs and tours on the actual anniversary of the battle in June 2013*

*“Over Here Molly Pitcher” programming*

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

*County” in June and July*

*Establishment 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 from1-4 PM all year long*

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

*exhibits*

*Assistance to the Park in setting up wayside markers on the battlefield*

**PROGRAM GIVEN ON LAFAYETTE’S ROLE**

**IN THE BATTLE ON OCTOBER 2**

At the October 2 general meeting FOMB Vice President David Martin gave a program on the role played in the battle by the Marquis de Lafayette.

Lafayette was just 20 years old at the time of the battle of Monmouth, but he had won Washington’s favor and trust through his conduct at Brandywine, Barren Hill and Valley Forge. He was given command of the army’s advance guard on June 25, three days before the battle of Monmouth, but had his position usurped by General Charles Lee. As a result he commanded just one of Lee’s detachments during the advance on Monmouth Courthouse on the morning of the battle. Lafayette’s command, which held the right wing of Lee’s force, fell back with the rest of Lee’s force after being counterattacked by the British at Briar Hill, east of Monmouth Court House.

Lafayette was nearby when General Washington rode up and reprimanded Lee for his disordered withdrawal, near the present marker just east of Wemrock Road. He claimed to have heard Washington call Lee a “damned poltroon” in their fiery confrontation, before Lee was dismissed and sent to the rear.

After Washington formed his main line on Perrine Hill, Lafayette was directed to take command of the reserves or “second line” posted in the rear behind Tennent Church. During the afternoon he moved his troops to block a flanking moving being conducted by British troops against Washington’s left flank.

Lafayette spent the night of the battle at Washington’s field headquarters, located near the Sutphin house. He had covered a lot of ground during the day but was disappointed not to have been able to actually lead his men into combat. He would, though have ample opportunity to do so later in the war.

**FOMB WEBSITE HAS BEEN EXPANDED**

Our website has been enriched with a large number of historical articles about the battle that have been excerpted from the past several years of our newsletter. Not to speak immodestly, it may well be the single best site available for detailed information on the battle. The website has also been enriched with Dr. Garry W. Stone’s detailed orders of battle for both armies. We thank Dr. Stone, the former Park Historian, for making this information available to us. Our website address is: [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)