**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020**

**ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO VIRUS; VOTING TO BE DONE BY MAIL**

Our annual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020, is being cancelled due to the Corona-19 virus. This unusual step has been approved by the Trustees and is necessary for several reasons. Our usual meeting location, the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan, is still closed due to the Corona virus, and the Park Visitor Center remains closed. All alternate meeting sites have restrictions on number of people permitted. Most significantly, we just don’t believe that it is safe for health reasons to try to get members for a meeting. The virus has been getting worse, not better.

Ballots are being mailed out to paid up members to vote on Trustees, budget and annual plan. Minimal changes are being made.

Trustees whose term is up this year (John Resto and Linda Spangle) are running for reelection; there are no new Trustee candidates. Current officers have agreed to run for another term (David Martin as President, George Dawson as Vice President, Kathy Doherty as Treasurer and Fran Raleigh as Secretary).

The budget being offered for 2021 is the same as carried in 2020. Due to the reenactment in 2020 being cancelled and uncertainty if the 2021 reenactment can be held, it is very difficult to set a new budget for next year. We are fortunate to have a good-sized treasury stored up to help us through the current crisis and continue in operation with most of our activities.

The annual plan proposed for 2021 is almost exactly the same as that for 2020.

The Trustee candidates, officer candidates, 2021 budget, and core annual plan for 2021 were approved by a full meeting of the Trustees held at the Park on September 27, 2020 (we met on the veranda outside the Visitor Center on a Sunday afternoon).

Ballots should be returned by mail and postmarked by December 31, 2020.

**PARK VISITOR CENTER STILL CLOSED DUE TO VIRUS**

**FOMB EVENTS CONTINUE AS BEST WE CAN**

The Park Visitor Center has been closed to the public since March 16, and there is no indication when it will reopen. The building has been open to Park staff, who have been continuing research and program development, and the Friends have had access to our records and material as needed.

The Park itself was closed for five weeks, but has been open full time since May 16. On recent nice fall week ends the parking lot has been full as visitors enjoy picnicking and hiking. Signage urges use of face masks and social distancing. The only difference from normal conditions is that the restrooms (in the picnic grove and at the education wing opposite the Visitor Center) are on reduced hours; and, of course, the Visitor Center is closed.

FOMB activities were cancelled from March 14 to the end of July. We picked our programming as best we could as of the beginning of August. We have been manning information tables under the veranda outside the Visitor Center every weekend. Thanks go to Andy Beagle, George Dawson and John Resto for their work here. Scheduled lectures have been given under the open air outside the Visitor Center, since the auditorium is not open. Our walking tours have been particularly popular. We had a dozen walkers for the August 2 tour, over 60 on the September 6 tour, and about 30 on the October 4 tour. We even had a Board of Trustees meeting outside under the Visitor Center veranda on Sunday, September 27.

A few events outside our control have had to be cancelled, most notably the June annual reenactment. In addition, Monmouth County Archives Day in September was cancelled, and David Martin’s lectures at the Monmouth County Library scheduled for June and October were postponed.

In addition, the Craig House has been closed all season.

Our tours and programs will continue as scheduled, as best we can; events held outside the Visitor Center will be weather dependent (see enclosed calendar). Contact the Park office at 732-462-9616 for information if the weather looks questionable for an event or tour.

We have our fingers crossed that the 2021 reenactment can be held – it is scheduled for June 18-19???. We will keep you posted!

**CRAIG HOUSE NEWS**

Our most recent project at the historic Craig House was completed this summer – the replacement of the double Dutch door at the end of the main hall way, on the battlefield side of the building. We had originally planned to replace a second door from the kitchen to the outside, but we did not have enough funds after we had to change contractors and the new one was more expensive. The work was done with the aid of a grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

Our next project is to repair/replace two windows on the second floor, battlefield side of the building. A grant application has been made.

From 2015-2019 we repaired or replaced 9 windows plus the cellar door at Craig House.

The Park is proceeding with plans to replace the Craig House roof. We are delighted to announce that a contract has been awarded and a start date will soon be announced.

Additional major repair work is needed for the building’s drainage system and siding.

Craig House was closed for the entire 2020 season due to the virus.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Caralee Bava-Grygo (2022) Freehold, NJ

Andrew Beagle (2021) South Plainfield, NJ

George Dawson (2022) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2021) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2021) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2022) Colts Neck, NJ

Linda Spangle (2020) Manalapan, NJ

John Resto (2020) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2021) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2020)**

President David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Frances Raleigh

Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES (2020-2021)**

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

**Events with one asterisk will occur in the Park Visitor Center if it is open; otherwise will occur**

**in the veranda outside the Visitor Center, weather permitting.**

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

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

Dec. 2, 2020 (Wed) Annual business meeting. CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE  
CORONA-19 VIRUS.

**Dec. 6, 2020 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

**Dec. 13, 2020 (Sun) \*Program on the 28th NJ at the battle of Fredericksburg on**

**December 13, 1862 (the regiment trained at Camp**

**Vredenburg in 1862, inside the present State Park). Held at 2 PM**

Dec. 31, 2020 (Thurs) Ballots for trustees, offices, budget and annual plan must be postmarked.

**Jan 1, 2021 (Fri) New Year’s Day Hike (weather permitting)**

**Walking tour of Perrine Hill.**

**See where Molly Pitcher fought.**

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

**Jan 3, 2021 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield (weather permitting)**

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

Jan 13, 2021 (Wed)General Meeting. Program on “Who was Alexander Hamilton?”

Meeting held at 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth

County Library, Symmes Drive, Manalapan.(if open)

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

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

**Feb 14, 2021 (Sun) \*Program on “Black and Native American Troops at**

**the Battle of Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM in the Visitor**

**Center Auditorium.**

**Feb 21, 2021 (Sun) \*Program on “George Washington Minute by Minute at Monmouth”**

**Held at 2 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

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

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

**March 14, 2021 (Sun) Program on “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM**

**in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

March 24, 2021 (Wed) General Meeting. Program on “Alternate Molly Pitchers”

Meeting held at 2 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth

County Library, Symmes Drive, Manalapan (if open)

**March 28, 2021 (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. Tour will end at the new Molly Pitcher Overlook on Perrine Hill. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

**2021 Membership Application**

The Revolution in New Jersey had profound meaning. To help keep the past alive, we ask for your commitment in Protecting, Preserving and Historically Interpreting Monmouth Battlefield State Park, a Registered National Historic landmark, and the sites associated with the Monmouth Campaign of 1778.

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***CHECK ONE***

***New membership Renewal***

**CIRCLE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Individual $20 Family $30**

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

**Patron $100 Lifetime $250**

***The Friends rely on membership and donations for much of our general operating budget. If you would like to make a donation above the membership dues, we would deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization and your donation is fully tax-deductible. Thank you.***

**Donation included in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

**PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 07763**

November 2020

Dear Friend of Monmouth Battlefield,

I am writing to ask for your support for the Friends and our objectives. I sincerely hope that you will be able to attend our meetings and programs this year as we continue our programs to help preserve and develop Monmouth Battlefield State Park and to interpret the battle and events associated with it. Please consider renewing your membership or joining the Friends by returning the enclosed membership application to us at the address given above.

We are anxious about next year because of the Cornoa-19 virus. Hopefully it will come under control so that we can resume our full slate of activities, including the June reenactment.

Plans for a full year are underway, and we are developing plans to help commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, including the 250th anniversary of the battle of Monmouth in June 2028.

Our biggest ongoing project is establishment of the James T. Raleigh Memorial Library and Research Center, which is still on hold pending Park implementation of construction needs. Our expanded gift shop offers the best selection of books and pamphlets on the battle that are available anywhere (visit our website if you want to order items by mail).

We are continuing our popular free guided tours on the first Sunday of every month. We are also available to give group tours at other times by arrangement. In addition, we are helping to man and interpret the historic Craig House at the battlefield, every Sunday from 1-4 PM from the beginning of April to the beginning of December.

We continued to actively support the restoration of the historic Craig house at the battlefield. We again are seeking a matching grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to undertake much needed window replacements there.

We are preparing a revision of the By Laws and will have a new Five Year Plan available early next year.

If you have questions or want information, please contact President Dr. David Martin at 609-529-5356 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our excellent and informative website can be viewed at [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)

Sincerely,

Dr. David Martin, President

*Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*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*

*Sending out regular newsletters*

*Regular free monthly tours of the battlefield held the first Sunday of every month*

*Development of additional walking and driving tours of the Battle of Monmouth*

*Working closely with Park staff to help man and interpret the new Visitor Center*

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

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

**PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 0776**

**SPECIAL WALKING TOUR TO MOLLY PITCHER**

**SITES TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 1**

This year the Friends will once again be participating in the “America’s State Parks First Day Hikes" program sponsored by the state’s Division of Parks & Forestry. On Wednesday, January 1, a special tour will be offered by David Martin and John Resto to Perrine Hill to view the main American position there and visit sites associated with Molly Pitcher. Those interested in the tour should meet at the Visitor Center at 11 AM. We will then drive to the northern part of the park for the tour. This tour, which has averaged about 50 participants each year, will be over between 12:30 and 1 PM. Unfortunately, however, the walk had to be cancelled two years ago due to extremely cold weather conditions. If the weather looks questionable, call the park office for information at 732-462-9616. This tour and all Park events are subject to Park closure and to regulations from the Governor. Social distancing and other Covid-19 precautions will be followed. Come join us if the weather is good – guided tours are conducted to this area only two or three times a year.

**SEARCH FOR NEW PARK SUP’T STILL UNDER WAY**

The search for a new Superintendent at Monmouth Battlefield State Park is still ongoing. As reported previously, Acting Park Superintendent Robert Auermuller was reassigned in spring 2017 after being at the Park for about a year. Inga Gabliks, Superintendent at Allaire State Park, has been serving Acting Superintendent at Monmouth. The effort to appoint a new full time Superintendent at Monmouth has been going on for quite a while without success. We will keep you posted in this important process.

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

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON FORM**

Membership renewal forms for 2021 are enclosed. We especially appreciate your support in these tough times. We are especially appreciative of our 25 life members. We cannot do all that we do without the support of our membership.

Please include your email address on the form. We have not done a very good job over the years of collecting member email addresses. If you are a life member, please send to President David Martin at: dmartin@peddieorg.

Thanks!

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

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

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

**MONMOUTH CAMPAIGN DIARY OF A HESSIAN JAEGER**

*The attached diary entries were written by Lieutenant Heinrich Carl Philipp von Freilitsch, a 27-year-old member of the Ansbach-Bayreuth jaeger company during the Monmouth campaign, a body of Hessian light infantry in Knyphausen’s second British division. Though he was not actively involved in the Monmouth battle itself, he has a lively and interesting account of the campaign both before and after Monmouth. This text comes from pages 40-42 of the book* Diaries of Two Anspach Jaegers, *by Bruce E, Burgoyne, published in 1997 by Heritage Books of Bowie, Md.*

The 25th [of May, 1778]. It is said that we will soon leave Philadelphia for fear that the French fleet will blockade us here. It is certain that the ships with our baggage will sail today for New York and well will follow on land. Experience is the best teacher. We will continue to work diligently on the defenses and if this report is true, it will give comfort to the enemy and our army must continue to exert itself.

The 26th [of May]. Our Commanding General Howe departed today for England. General Clinton took over the command.

[The 27th of May No entry.]

The 28ths [of May]. I went on picket duty.

The 29th [of May]. Was relieved.

The 30th [of May]. I went on patrol with a detachment commanded by the major. We saw no enemy.

Th 31st [of May]. I received my first letter from Europe, but unfortunately none from my

relatives.

The 1st of June. It was a very cold day with a heavy rain. Great preparations were made for our departure from Philadelphia. It two or three days we will surely depart,

[The 2nd to 6th of June. No entries.]

The 7th [of June]. This morning the five [peace] commissioners, who are to negotiate with Congress, arrived from England. Generally speaking, the peace talks are not progressing as we would wish. God grant His blessing. I wish them to succeed. I went on picket duty. It rained very hard today.

The 8th [of June]. I was relived as usual. During the night both of our regiments were embarked and we do not know where they are bound. The separation makes me very sad. If we have to make a campaign it will be all the more unpleasant to be alone.

The 9th [of June]. Very beautiful weather. All our orders give us hope of marching soon.

The 10th [of June]. However, at two o’clock in the morning our entire corps went on patrol, but in vain, as usual.

[The 11th and 12th of June. No entries.]

The 13th [of June]. We hid in a woods where the rebels always pass. Some troops came along but because they saw us in time, our plan failed.

The 14th [of June]. After the prisoners were exchanged, still others returned to the company today.

The 16th [of June]. At present there are not more than 6000 men in the city [Philadelphia]. The army is on the other side of the Delaware.

The 17th [of June]. At three o’clock in the morning we were also carried across to Jersey,

The heat was terrible. We marched t Haddonfield, seven English miles. On the way not more than eight rebels were seen, who were fired upon. During the evening our pickets made several reconnaissance patrols.

**JAEGER DIARY (continued)**

The 18th [of June]. We marched at ten o’clock, in the most unbearable heat, toward Waterford Township and Eayrestown, eight miles. Our advance guard skirmished constantly with the enemy.

The 19th [of June]. We marched at three o’clock in the morning to Eayrestown, nine miles. It was like yesterday, From time to time the rebels would hide in the thick woods and engage the advance guard, which resulted in a very good Hessian jaeger being killed and several severely wounded and captured. They had destroyed two bridges outside our camp. Therefore I was ordered out to cover the repairs and then remained overnight on picket duty with Captain Ewald. We were undisturbed.

The 20th [of June]. At seven o’clock the corps and the Rangers marched. However, we remained at the bridges until the army arrived, as it was eight miles behind us. General [Alexander] Leslie commanded us as well as his brigade. At none o’clock we moved ahead three miles to Mount Holly where the entire army, under General Clinton, made camp. It was a rainy day.

The 21st [of June]. At ten o’clock the last of the army arrived, At one o-clock the jaegers had to move forward more than 2000 yards and become the advance posts.

The 22nd [of June]. At four o’clock in the morning the detached corps marched under General Leslie, in order to cover the flank of the army. Near Black Horse we joined the army. The rebels have dismantled all the bridges, making the march very difficult for us. It was a rainy day.

The 23rd [of June]. At three o-clock in the morning we marched through Black Horse, Rising Sun, Bordentown, to Farbridge, in order to provide cover for the army again. The bridges were all destroyed. The enemy had built redoubts and trenches. We received the false report that these had been abandoned. Therefore we moved forward close to the camp and about six-thirty the enemy opened fire with small arms. Shortly thereafter he cannonaded us severely, but without causing any harm. God be praised! When it was dark we pulled back.

The 24th [of June]. At four o-clock in the morning we moved back toward Crosswicks where the army had just arrived. We were at once detached to cover the flank. The enemy exchanged fire with our advance guard but lost one captain and two privates. We accompanied the army to Allentown where we made camp.

The 25th [of June]. We marched again at six o-clock in the morning. We were the advance guard. Because the enemy was behind us, we halted at Allentown and I was detached with a platoon to cover the road. The rebels soon appeared, but a jaeger killed an officer. Shortly thereafter they engaged us closely, but after the rear guard reinforced us, they had to retreat. We went as far as Monmouth County, beyond Freehold Township. It was very warm. We were on a height and our fate is beyond description.

The 26th [of June]. At five o’clock we marched, as usual, the rear guard. The enemy had disturbed us during the night up until we marched. We went about twelve miles. The enemy harassed us the entire day. I led a patrol off to one side. The heat was terrible. It was an extremely tiring day. Would to God it is the last one. The place where we haled is called Upper Freehold. During a marauding expedition the corps lost twenty men but not one rom the company.

The 27th [of June]. A day of rest, which was very necessary. I took a patrol about a mile but saw nothing. The enemy attacked all the army’s pickets. I was really sick from the heat.

**JAEGER DIARY (continued)**

The 28th [of June]. [Battle of Monmouth]. At two o-clock in the morning we marched. We were the rear guard for General Knyphausen’s column. As this was the first [division] and had nothing to fear, we were thus spared from fatigue. The second [division], under the command of General Cornwallis, followed us with the Light Infantry as its rear guard, and the Queen’s Rangers covering the flank. They were attached at once and the major wounded. Between nine and ten o-clock the enemy came in large numbers. Cornwallis had already passed Freehold. The Light Infantry formed a front, but as they were too weak for this, they were reinforced immediately by the entire column. This consisted of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, English and Hessian Grenadiers, the Guards, the Rangers, and the 16th Dragoon Regiment. We did not think the enemy was strong, but finally discovered that this was Washington with his army. The cannonade was heavy by both sides and continued until four o’clock. However, our Britons again proved their bravery, suffering a loss of 400 to 500 men killed and wounded. The enemy was defeated and pursued as far as a swamp, unknown to us, where we took the greatest losses, which may have been the enemy’s plan. However, it failed. Reportedly the rebel losses were more than 800 men. They retreated and our army followed slowly during the night. The heat was terrible and our greatest losses were the deaths due to the heat. Our columns marched all night.

The 29th [of June]. At five ‘clock in the morning we halted three miles from Middletown. I went on picket duty at four o’clock in the afternoon. Everything was quiet by us but the English were much disturbed.

The 30th [of June]. At four o’clock in the morning we broke camp. Our march was very short, only to Middletown. We could see Sandy Hook. It was extremely hot. At night we left our camp and moved forward three miles, closer to the water.

The 1st of July. An enemy patrol approached but did not make contact.

The 2nd and 3rd [of July]. Everything was quiet, It rained hard, without letup.

The 4th [of July]. It was still the same.

The 5th [of July]. The weather was better but very warm. We marched at five o’clock in the morning and arrived at Sandy Hook at one o’clock, We remained lying there overnight.

The 6th [of July]. At seven o’clock we embarked and at twelve o’clock sailed with a favorable wind. We arrived at [New] York at five o’clock. The ship was called the *Fortitude.* In addition to our company Captain Lorey’s Company is also aboard.

The 7th [of July]. We landed at eleven o’clock and marched eight miles to Harlem in extreme heat, Today I received my first letters, praise God! From my mother.

The 8th [of July]. I was sick.

The 9th [of July]. I was much better, Today Captain von Waldenfels was assigned to us.

The 10th [of July]. I was sent with several jaegers down the East River to Long Island to send the heavy baggage to [New] York. Our regiments lay at anchor there and are to go to Vlaatisland [Block Island?].

The 11th [of July]. Please God, send us to Germany. The entire army is dissatisfied and does not wish to go to New England, as is expected.

[Skipping three entries.]

The 15th [of July]. I went to New York. The city is rather long. Most of the houses are bad and small. The streets are irregular and bumpy. In a word, it did not please me.