**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023**

**BIG BATTLE REENACTMENT**

**TO BE HELD JUNE 17-18**

**245TH BATTLE ANNIVERSARY**

 As we announced in our last newsletter, we are planning a really big reenactment this June. The reenactment will commemorate the 245th anniversary of the battle of Monmouth, which was fought on June 28, 1778. It will be a major event for the major reenactor alliances – the Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR), the British Brigade (BB), and the Continental Line (CL)) - and will be our largest since 2013. At the moment we are planning for over 800 reenactors, 10-15 cannons, over 20 horsemen, and around a dozen sutlers.

Last year was our first reenactment since 2019, since the previous two years had to be cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns. Our programming was successful with about 200 reenactors last year.

The actual reenactments will take place in the afternoons (2:30 on Saturday and 1:30 on Sunday). Other programming will include infantry and artillery drills for youngsters, and historical programming in the camps. This year, though, we will not be featuring our usual lecture and program by Molly Pitcher expert Stacy Roth, because she will be participating in the reenactment itself. However, she will be giving her program at the park the next weekend.

 We are asking a donation of $10 per car at the gate to help defray the cost of the event. Moneys raised will all go to support Monmouth Battlefield State Park. The reenactment is our major fundraiser each year.

 A schedule of events is enclosed. Schedules are also available on our website ([www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)) and will be available at the event. Food vendors will be available and also plenty of porta johns. Craig House will NOT be open on the reenactment weekend.

**VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED AT REENACTMENT**

 This year’s reenactment is the biggest we have run in years, so we will need some volunteer help from our members. Aid is especially needed in the following areas: front gate, traffic direction, parking lot supervision, and sales (snacks and shirts). If you can spare even just a couple hours on the 17th or 18th, that would help. Assistance is most needed between 11 AM and 3 PM. Contact FOMB President David Martin if you can help out. His email address is: dmartin@peddie.org. Thanks!

*Our mailing address is: PO Box 122, Tennent, NJ 07763*

**BATTLE COMMEMORATION WEEKEND**

**TO BE HELD JUNE 24-25**

 Each year we hold special programs to commemorate the Battle of Monmouth on the weekend closest to the battle anniversary, which is June 28, 1778. They will be held this year on June 24-25, commemorating the 245th anniversary of the battle. Programming will include talks, walking tours, and programs for youngsters (cannon and musket drills). Molly Pitcher expert Stacy Roth will give a program, and there will also be a program on Revolutionary era music each day. Craig House WILL be open both days. However, there will not be reenactor troops present at the battlefield, or food trucks. A schedule is enclosed. No donation will be requested at the gate for this event.

**JULY 4 TO BE CELEBRATED AT THE PARK**

 Special programming will be held at the Park on Tuesday, July 4, to commemorate the 4th of July.

 At 1:00 there will be a presentation and demonstration of Revolutionary War artillery given by Mott’s Artillery. This will include cannon firing by a reproduction full sized cannon. We hope also to have an infantry unit present to demonstrate their weapons and equipment. Over 100 visitors attended our artillery program last year on the 4th of July. We hope you can join us this year!

**TOURS AND WALKS CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL**

 We continue to offer our regular schedule of tours and programs (see full year’s schedule of events on our website, [www.friendsofmonmouth.org](http://www.friendsofmonmouth.org)).

 A walking tour of the battlefield is offered the first Sunday of every month at 1:30. So far this year attendance has averaged around 15 per tour. The tours are conducted by board members John Resto and David Martin. Additional walks, talks and driving tours are given as scheduled.

 Craig House is open every Sunday from 1-4 PM. Docents are Kathy and Eric Doherty. They had a banner weekend on April 30- May 1, when we took part in the “Weekend in Old Monmouth” tour program, when they had almost 100 visitors at Craig House. Great job!

 A bird walk and talk was held at the battlefield on May 6 with about a dozen attendees. It was hosted by George and Barbara Dawson.

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

**ADDITIONAL TOURS HELD IN JUNE**

Additional tours are held in June to commemorate the battle and campaign of Monmouth. Upcoming tours are listed here and on the schedule of events included later in this newsletter.

 On Saturday, June 3, FOMB Vice President George Dawson led a driving tour of the British approach road to the battle from the Camden/Haddonfield area. On Saturday June 10, he will lead a driving tour following General Lafayette’s march route the two days before the battle. Lafayette marched from Cranbury through Hightstown to Robbin’s Tavern (near Clarksburg) and then to Englishtown. The tour will gather at the Park Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and will start at 2 PM the Elizabeth Wagner Historical Center, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512. Tour will finish around 4 PM (bring your own vehicle).

 On Sunday June 11, David Martin and George Dawson will lead a driving tour from Cranbury to the sites of the American camps the night before the battle (June 27/28, 1778). Most of Washington’s army camped on Gravel Hill in Monroe Township, while General Charles Lee’s advance force was encamped on the western edge of Englishtown. American militia that night was mostly near Tennent Church, with some near Lake Topanemus on the northern edge of Monmouth Court House. The last leg of the tour will be from Englishtown to the edge of the battlefield in Tennent. This tour will also begin at the Park Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and then will start at the Cranbury Historical Center at 2:00 (address above). (Drive your own vehicle.)

 A driving tour is planned for Saturday, July 1, to follow the British retreat to Nut Swamp on the south side of Middletown. During their march the British forces were attacked several times by American militia while they were heading to Sandy Hook and then New York. Details will be posted on our website.

 Our regularly scheduled walking tour of the battlefield will be held on Sunday, July 2. Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM. Walking tours will also be given on Commemoration weekend, June 24 and 25. (See attached schedule.)

**SUMMER PARK HOURS ANNOUNCED**

 Newly announced summer hours at Monmouth Battlefield State Park are as follows:

 Grounds 8 AM to 8 PM

 Visitor Center 9 AM to 4 PM, Wednesday through Sunday

 Bathrooms in old Visitor Center open 8 AM to 4 PM daily.

Bathrooms on Playground area open 8 AM to 8 PM daily.

 Our gift shop in the Visitor Center is open on Sundays from 1-4 PM.

 The Craig House is open Sundays form 1-4 PM.

**NEW WALKING TOUR BEING PLANNED**

 There are a number of hiking and biking trails in the different sectors of the Park. These are all shown on the “glossy” map issued by the Park and available there.

 Two specific trails have been developed into walking tours with descriptive brochures prepared and printed by FOMB. Copies of the brochures are available at the Park and the text of each is on our website.

 Tour No. 1 begins at the Visitor Center and travels to the Hedgerow at the center of the battlefield; the Hedgerow saw some fierce fighting and changed hands at least eight times during the battle. This tour also visits Oswald’s Knoll and the site of the historic Parsonage.

 Tour No. 2 covers the northwest corner of the battlefield. Hikers need to first drive from the Visitor Center to the Perrine Hill trailhead and parking area on Route522 (where the old building known as “Owl Haven” once stood) in order to begin the walking tour. This hike visits Perrine Hill, the main American position during the afternoon of the battle, and also the site of Molly Pitcher’s cannon and spring.

 A new Tour No. 3 is planned to cover the area of Point of Woods on the east side of Wemrock Road. This is where General Washington had a heated interview with General Charles Lee. This tour should be ready in a year or so.

 Hikes take about one and one-half hours, including introduction. Hikers are encouraged to wear a hat, bring drinking water, and have appropriate footwear. Tours are led by an experienced guide from FOMB, or you can use the self-guided brochure and go on your own.

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (end of term in parentheses)

Caralee Bava-Grygo (2025) Freehold, NJ

Andrew Beagle (2024) South Plainfield, NJ

 George Dawson (2025) New Brunswick, NJ

 Eric Doherty (2025) Old Bridge, NJ

 Kathy Doherty (2025) Old Bridge, NJ

 Dr. David Martin (2024) East Windsor, NJ

 Marilyn Miller (2024) Toms River, NJ

 Fran Raleigh (2025) Colts Neck, NJ

 David Shakespeare (2024) Colts Neck, NJ

 John Resto (2023) South Plainfield, NJ

 Karen Timper (2025) East Brunswick, NJ

 Peter Wagner (2024) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2023)**

President David Martin

 Vice President George Dawson

 Secretary Frances Raleigh

 Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**Schedule of Events for the Commemoration of the 245th**

**Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth, June 17-18, 2023**

Note: schedule subject to change. See our website for updates. www.friendsofmonmouth.org

***SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023***

9:00 AM Camps open to the public

10:30 AM Continentals parade and drill (on hillside below Visitor Center)

11:00 AM British parade and drill (on hillside below Visitor Center)

11:00 AM Tour of Continental Camp (meet at von Steuben Statue)

12:00 PM Mounted (horse) demonstration (on hillside below Visitor Center)

12:30 PM Children’s musket drill (at flagpole near Visitor Center)

1:30 PM Children’s cannon drill (plaza outside Visitor Center)

2:30 PM Battle reenactment (battle area on hillside below Visitor Center)

5:00 PM Camps close to the public, Sutlers remain open

***SUNDAY JUNE 18, 2023***

9:00 AM Camps open to the public

10:00 AM Court Martial of Continental Officer in Continental Camp

11:00 AM Artillery drill (on hillside below Visitor Center)

11:00 AM Tour of Continental Camp (meet at von Steuben Statue)

12:00 PM TBA

1:00 PM Children’s cannon drill (plaza outside Visitor Center)

1:30 PM Battle reenactment (battle area on hillside below Visitor Center)

2:45 PM Children’s musket drill (plaza outside Visitor Center)

3:00 PM Camps close to the public, Sutlers remain open

**FOR EMERGENCY DIAL 911 or 877-WARNDEP (877-917-6337)**

**No alcohol is allowed in the Park. Metal detecting is specifically prohibited.**

**$10 per vehicle donation is requested to help defray costs of running the event.**

**Food vendor is located immediately west of Visitor Center (near Sutlers)**

We give our thanks to the reenactors and living historians who help make this event possible.



**Funding has been made possible**

**in part by an operating grant (or special project) from the NewJersey Historical**

**Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered**

**by the Monmouth County Historical Commmission.**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE COMMEMORATION**

**OF THE 245th ANNIVERSARY**

**OF THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH**

**JUNE 24-25, 2023**

Note: schedule subject to change. See our website for updates. www.friendsofmonmouth.org

ALL EVENTS HELD (OR START AT) THE VISITOR CENTER

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

CRAIG HOUSE OPEN 1 PM -4 PM

 12:15 PM Children’s cannon drill

 1:00 PM “Over Here Molly Pitcher!” presentation by living history historian Stacy Roth

 (Auditorium in Visitor Center)

 2:00 PM Walking tour of the battlefield, visiting the

 Hedgerow and the Parsonage. Meet at Visitor

 Center

 2:15 PM Children’s cannon drill

 2:45 PM Fife and drum program (outside Visitor Center)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**

CRAIG HOUSE OPEN 1-4

12:15 PM Children’s cannon drill

 1:00 PM “Over Here Molly Pitcher” presentation by

 Living history historian Stacy Roth

 (Auditorium in Visitor Center)

 2:00 PM Tour to the north side of the battlefield, to

visit the new Molly Pitcher overlook (starts at Visitor Center)

 2:15 PM Children’s cannon drill

 2:45 PM Fife and drum program (outside Visitor Center)

CHILDREN’S MUSKET DRILLS WILL BE HELD OVER
THE COURSE OF EACH DAY AS POSTED

Craig House is located off of Route 9 at Schibanoff Road,

about a mile north of intersection of Routes 9 and 33

**Events sponsored by Friends of Monmouth Battlefield**

***All events the weekend of June 24-25 are free of charge***

**FOMB REVISED SCHEDULE OF SUMMER EVENTS**

Updates will be posted on our website, www.friendsofmonmouth.org

June 3, 2023 (Sat) Driving tour covering the British approach route to

 the battle. Meeting place and itinerary TBA.

**June 4, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield (Hedge Row and**

**Parsonage). Meet at the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

June 10, 2023 (Sat) Driving tour covering General Lafayette’s march from Cranbury

 through Hightstown to Robbins’ Tavern (Clarksburg) the two days

before the battle. In conjunction with Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society. The tour will gather at the Park Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and will start at 2 PM the Elizabeth Wagner Historical Center, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512.

June 11, 2023 (Sun) Driving tour to visit the site of the American encampment

encampments at Ponolopon Bridge the day before the battle of Monmouth. In conjunction with the Cranbury Historical& Preservation Society. The tour will gather at the Park Visitor Center at 1:30 PM and will start at 2 PM the Elizabeth Wagner Historical Center, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512.

**June 17, 2023 (Sat) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

 **Encampment and programs 10 AM-4 PM.**

**June 18, 2023 (Sun) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

 **Encampment and programs 10 AM – 3PM.**

**June 24, 2023 (Sat) 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.**

 **Special programs and tours 10 AM-4 PM.**

**June 25, 2023 (Sun) 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.**

 **Special programs and tours 11 AM-4 PM.**

July 1, 2023 (Sat) Driving tour of British route after the battle from

 Monmouth CH to Middletown. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30.

**July 2, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**July 4, 2023 (Tues) Commemration of July 4th. 1 PM next to Visitor Center.**

 **Revolutionary War Cannon demonstration.**

**July 9, 2023 (Sun) Program on the 14th New Jersey at the Battle of Monocacy.**

 **Held at 2:00 PM in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

July 16, 2023 (Sun) Driving tour to the Battle of Monmouth Monument on Court Street

in Freehold. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

**August 6, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**September 3, 2023 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**2023 Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

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

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

***CHECK ONE***

***New membership Renewal***

**CIRCLE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Individual $20 Family $30**

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

**Patron $100 Lifetime $250**

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

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

**Friends of Monmouth Battlefield**

**PO Box 122**

**Tennent, NJ 07763**

**WEEKEND IN OLD MONMOUTH HELD MAY 6-7**

 Each year the Monmouth County Historical Commission sponsors “Weekend in Old Monmouth” tours and open houses. As our part, we had the historic Craig House open from 10 AM to 4 PM on May 6 and from 11 AM to 4 PM on May 7. George and Barbara Dawson gave a bird walk on May 6, and we also had our usual battlefield walking tour May 7 at 1:30 PM.

**PARK STAFF PREPARES HISTORY BROCHURES**

*Last issue we reported on the historical brochures of the battle that the Park staff is producing. That article is reproduced here, followed by the text of a sample brochure.*

About three years ago the staff at the Park began preparing a number of illustrated tri-fold brochures on different aspects of the battle and the battlefield. There are currently 14 different topics available (see list below), with more in preparation. These brochures are available on request at the Park office in the Visitor Center.

Three additional informational brochures and tour guides are provided by the Friends. These are a walking tour guide to the battlefield from Combs Hill to the Parsonage, a walking tour guide of the Perrine Hill area (where Molly Pitcher fought), and a guide to the historic Craig House. These are available at the Visitor Center and at kiosks on the field. Their texts are also posted on our FOMB website.

TRI-FOLD BROCHURES AVAILABLE AT PARK OFFICE

Places of the Battle Series

 The Seven Farms at the Time of the Battle

 Perrine Ridge

 The Hedgerow

 The Morning Battle Outside the Park

 Combs Hill

Units of the Battle Series

 British Grenadiers

 Picked Men

People of the Battle Series

 Lt. Col. Henry Monckton

 Lt. Col. Eleazer Oswald

 Brig Gen. Anthony Wayne

 Maj. Gen. Wilhelm von Steuben

 Lt. Col. Thomas-Antoine de Mauduit du Plessis

 Maj. Gen. Charles Lee

Civil War Series

 Camp Vredenburg

Additional titles are in preparation.

**BATTLE OF MONMOUTH**

*JUNE 28, 1778*

***MBSP Brochure Text - Places of the Battle Series :***

**Combs Hill**

“General Greene . . . took possession of commanding ground, from whence a heavy fire so enfiladed the enemy’s line, as to compel them to retreat.”

 - Col. Marinus Willett

**Position**:

Combs Hill is located on the southern edge of the battlefield. The entire afternoon portion of the battle took place on the land north of Combs Hill. From there you can see Perrine Ridge (Washington’s position) and the Parsonage Farm (where most of the afternoon combat took place). Combs Hill itself is one of the highest points on the battlefield (over 160 feet above sea level). During the battle, this position would have provided Continental units with clear visibility across the battlefield and a strongly defensible area. The combination of the hill’s elevation and a morass (swampy area) at its base dissuaded the British from attacking this position. Combs Hill was used by the Continentals to catch the British in a crossfire during a nearly three hour long cannonade, which began shortly after 1:00pm and lasted until almost 5:00pm.

**Nathanael Greene’s Wing**:

The Continental’s right wing, under the command of Major General Nathanael Greene, included Brigadier General William Woodford’s Virginia Brigade, as well as four artillery pieces commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas-Antoine du Plessis. They were led to this position by Lieutenant Colonel David Rhea of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment; Rhea knew the area well, as his family farm was on the battlefield itself. After assuming their position, the American guns on Combs Hill were able to fire on the British. Men from the Somerset County Militia were positioned along Greene’s route to Combs Hill to protect the Continentals’ right flank and ensure Greene could retreat if his position became unfavorable. Lieutenant Colonel du Plessis placed the four guns and commenced fire at about 3:45pm. He was later praised for directing accurate fire onto the British position and shifted the battle in favor of the Continentals. This, combined with a failed flanking maneuver on the Continental left, forced the British commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, to order a general withdrawal.

**Covering Wayne**:

As British forces began to withdraw, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led men of the 3rd Pennsylvania Brigade in an attack against the British 1st Grenadier Battalion who were covering the British rear. Initially, it seemed Wayne would easily drive them off. The Grenadiers had been engaged for almost the entire day; the unit had suffered high casualties and were not expecting the Continentals to attack while they withdrew. Wayne, however, did not anticipate the ability of the Grenadiers to continue fighting and their being reinforced by the British 33rd Regiment of Foot. Wayne’s attack was turned, and he was forced back to the Parsonage Farm House where his men took cover. This unknowingly brought the Grenadiers within range of du Plessis’ guns, a grievous mistake. The four guns on Combs Hill poured canister shot into the formed infantry. This fire quickly incurred casualties and the remaining British units made a hasty retreat.

**FOMB SPONSORS NEW STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

*This spring Friends of Monmouth Battlefield (FOMB) sponsored a new student essay contest on the battle. It was open to all Freehold Regional School District seniors. Applicants needed to submit an essay (750 -1500 words) on the following topic: “Why was the Battle of Monmouth critical to the overall success of the American Revolution”?*

*The prize was a $500 scholarship. Entries were due by March 31, 2023. Almost forty submissions were received. Judging was done by members of the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield trustees.*

*The winner selection was written by Richard Hamilton of Colts Neck High School. The prize check was presented by Board member Caralee Bava-Grygo on behalf of FOMB on June 8.*

*Following is the text of the winning essay.*

The Battle of Monmouth was critical to the overall success of the American Revolution in quite a few ways. It was Washington’s first real test of his troops after their winter training at Valley Forge, where they had spent months drilling and preparing themselves as an organized army. It gave American Forces a chance to strike at the British while they were more vulnerable and on the move.

 British forces, under the command of General Clinton, on their way to New York city after abandoning Philadelphia were making their way through central New Jersey. Washington found his opportunity to engage the British at Monmouth Courthouse, modern day Freehold. British and American troops literally ran into each other in what is now downtown Freehold Boro in front of where the Hall of Records now stands. The British, who up to that point had been used to dealing with a rag tag group of militia and undisciplined rabble, now faced a well-trained, disciplined, and organized army.

American Forces managed to gain better terrain, obtaining the high ground on most of the battlefield. This proved to be a major advantage for the continentals. This was especially demonstrated by American artillery positions who were able to rein down fire on British forces below them.

One of the most significant events during the course of the battle was when General Charles Lee had decided to pull back his Continental troops from the area he was engaged with British opposing forces. Lee, really wasn’t necessarily intending on retreating but rather relocating his troops to a better fighting position.

Washington and Lee had a troubled relationship to say the least. Some believe Washington had had enough of Lee. Washington on discovering Lee’s decision to withdraw admonished Lee severely for retreating and relieved him of command on the spot. This is important because up to that point, Lee had been a major problem for Washington. Challenging his authority, criticizing his tactics

and judgement. He was also vying for Command of the Army behind General

*continued*

**WINNING STUDENT ESSAY CONTINUED**

Washington’s back and had even gained support from some members of congress who felt Lee would be a better commander than Washington. Lee had served as an officer in the British Army and had combat experience from prior campaigns in Europe. To some, Lee was the logical choice to lead the continental Army.

Washington ordered Lee to leave the field, and after being severely berated by Washington in front of his own troops, angry, embarrassed, and disgraced, Lee rode off never to command again. Washington was now able to justify getting rid of Lee for good.

After a long extremely hot day of fighting, the battle had come to stalemate. Temperatures were at over ninety degrees throughout the day and heat casualties severely affected both armies. Washington rested his troops at nightfall with the intention of resuming at daybreak.

General Clinton, seeing no advantage to resuming battle decided to leave the field and continue their retreat to New York City. Clinton, used a tactic the American’s had used before and ordered his troops to leave their camp fires burning to cover their retreat.

The Continentals awoke to find the British had left in the middle of the night. The American Army, holding the field, declared victory.

To sum up how the battle was critical to the overall success of the American Revolution I would say the following. The battle was the first real test of the Continental army and proved to the British they were now a worthy adversary. The battle provided the Continental Army with a much needed victory to prove to France that the American Army was not a lost cause and worth a larger commitment militarily. Some could argue that Monmouth was the tipping point that convinced France to eventually commit troops to the American war effort. The victory was also crucial to the morale of the Continental Army, who up to that point had mainly faced defeat and often forced to leave battles in retreat.

Lastly, and most important it solidified General Washington’s command of the Army. There would be no further significant opposition from the American political or military leadership as to who should be and who is the overall commander of the American Army. Charles Lee had been a proponent of a treaty with the British and wasn’t necessarily wanting American sovereignty. If he had somehow gotten command of the Continental Army, there very well could have been such a treaty signed. If that would have happened the United States would have never come to be and would have likely remained British colonies.

 --- Richard Hamilton, Freehold, N. J