**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024**

**BATTLE REENACTMENT**

**TO BE HELD JUNE 15-16**

 This year’s reenactment will commemorate the 246th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth, which was fought on June 28, 1778. It will be a “normal” sized event, which means that it will be considerably smaller than last year’s huge event.

Last year there were almost 1000 reenactors and camp followers on hand with their encampments extending far and wide. There were also eleven cannons and almost twenty horsemen, the most of both that we have had present in years. In addition, there were about twenty sutlers marketing their wares.

This year’s event will have around 200 reenactors and just a handful of horses and cannons. A major difference from last year is that living historian Stacy Roth will be giving her excellent presentation “Over Here Molly Pitcher!” on both days of the reenactment weekend. Other programming will include infantry and artillery drills for youngsters, and historical programming in the camps.

The actual reenactments will take place in the afternoons (2:30 on Saturday and 1:30 on Sunday)

 We are asking a donation of $12 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**

Once again this year we will need volunteer help to run the reenactment. 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 15th or 16th, 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 to those of you who have already offered your help; we will be in touch with you to confirm.

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

**BATTLE COMMEMORATION WEEKEND**

**TO BE HELD SUNDAY JUNE 23**

 Each year we hold special programs to commemorate the Battle of Monmouth on the weekend closest to the battle anniversary, which was fought on June 28, 1778. They will be held this year from noon to 4 PM on Sunday, June 23, commemorating the 246th 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, from 1-4 PM. 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 Thursday, 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. Programming will last until 3 PM. Over 100 visitors have attended our artillery program on the 4th of July the past several years. 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 the 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 and talks are given as scheduled.

 Craig House is open every Sunday from 1-4 PM. Docents are Kathy Doherty and Karen Timper. We 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!

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

**Our Gmail address is: friendsofmonmouth@gmail.com**

**“SECOND SUNDAY” LECTURE SERIES OFF TO GOOD START; “GEN. CHARLES LEE” IS NEXT**

 Our new lecture series being given by FOMB President, Dr. David Martin, is off to a great start. The first three lectures were well attended, with around 40 people each, including the January lecture “Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr at Monmouth,” the February lecture “Geoge Washington Minute by Minute at Monmouth,” and the March lecture on Molly Picture. our largest audience this series was at over 60 people at “George Washington’s Sense of Humor” in April. The May lecture, “British Commanders and Leadership” had about 20 attendees.

 The next lecture, “General Charles Lee; Hero, Scapegoat or Scoundrel” will focus on this controversial Revolutionary war character who was an essential part of the Battle of Monmouth.

 A listing of the “Second Sunday” lectures for the remainder of the year is given below. Programs are given at 2 PM in the Park Visitor Center. There is no charge for admission and reservations are not necessary. Full descriptions of each program can be found on our website, www.friendsofmonmouth.org.

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June 9. 2024

“General Charles Lee at Monmouth: Hero, Scapegoat or Scoundrel?”

July 14, 2024

“Camp Vredenburg, The Civil War Training Camp near Freehold,

and its Regiments”

August 11, 2024

“Biggest Mistakes at the Battle of Monmouth”

September 8, 2024

“They were Everywhere: Generals Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette at Monmouth”

October 13, 2024

“Washington’s Staff Officers at Monmouth: The Big Wigs and the Little Wigs”

November 10, 2024

“Unsung Heroes at the Battle of Monmouth”

December 8, 2024

“Newest Plans and Doings at Monmouth Battlefield State Park”

**SUMMER PARK HOURS ANNOUNCED**

 Summer hours at Monmouth Battlefield State Park will be 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 from 1-4 PM.

**WEEKEND IN OLD MONMOUTH HELD MAY 4-5**

 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 4 and from 11 AM to 4 PM on May 5. Almost 100 visitors attended. Many Thanks to Kathy Doherty, Carlaee Bava-Grygo, and Karen Timper for being our docents.

**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

 Robert McCully (2026) Philadelphia, PA

 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 2024)**

President David Martin

 Vice President George Dawson

 Secretary Caralee Bava-Graygo

 Treasurer Kathleen Doherty



**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 246th**

**Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth, June 2024**

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024**

9:00 AM Camps open to the public

10:00 AM Musket firing demonstration (plaza outside Visitor Center)

11:00 AM Children’s musket drill (plaza outside Visitor Center

12:00 PM Sons of the American Revolution Memorial Service (flagpole outside

 Visitor Center)

12:15 PM “Over Here Molly Pitcher” program by historian Stacy Roth (auditorium in Visitor Center)

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

3:30 PM Battle reenactment (battle area on hillside below Visitor Center)

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

**SUNDAY JUNE 16, 2024**

9:00 AM Camps open to the public

11:30 AM Musket firing demonstration (plaza outside visitor Center)

12:00 PM “Over Here Molly Pitcher” program by historian Stacy Roth (auditorium in Visitor Center)

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

Note: Craig House not open during reenactment weekend

**$12 per vehicle donation is requested to help defray costs of running the event.**

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

**SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2024 Commemoration Day**

12:15 PM “Over Here Molly Pitcher” program by historian Stacy Roth (auditorium in

 Visitor Center)

1:30 PM Children’s cannon drill

2:15 PM Tour to the north side of the battlefield, to visit Molly Pitcher overlook

 (starts at Visitor Center)

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

Note: Craig House WILL be open 1-4 PM

There is no donation request per vehicle on Commemoration Day

We give our thanks to the reenactors and living historians who help make these events possible.

**FOMB SCHEDULE OF SUMMER EVENTS**

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

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR DAYS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY**

**FOMB Programs June 1 to July 4, 2024**

 **June 2, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield (Hedge Row and**

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

**June 9, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin**

**“General Charles Lee at Monmouth: Hero, Scapegoat or Scoundrel?”**

 **2 PM at Visitor Center**

**June 15, 2024 (Sat) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

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

**June 16, 2024 (Sun) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

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

**June 23, 2024 (Sun) Commemoration of 246th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.**

 **Special programs and tours 12 noon - 4 PM.**

**July 4, 2024 (Thurs) Commemoration of Independence Day at the Park.**

 **Outside Visitor Center, 1 PM.**

**SCHEDULE THE REST OF THE SUMMER**

**July 7, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**July 14, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin**

 **“Camp Vredenburg: The Civil War Training Camp near Freehold,**

 **and its Regiments”**

 **2 PM at Visitor Center**

**August 4, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**August 11, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin**

 **“Biggest Mistakes at Monmouth”**

 **2 PM at Visitor Center**

**September 1, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**September 8, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin**

**“They Were Everywhere: General ‘Mad’ Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette at Monmouth” 2 PM at Visitor Center**

**2024 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 $25 Family $35**

**Senior Individual $10 Senior Family $15**

**Patron $125 Lifetime $300**

***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**

**PARK STAFF BROCHURE ON MAJ. GEN. CHARLES LEE**

*Two issues ago we reported on the historical brochures of the battle that the Park staff is producing. There are currently 16 different topics available with more in preparation. These brochures are available on request at the Park office in the Visitor Center. This brochure is part of the “People of the Battle” series.*

INTRODUCTION

 The Bettle of Monmouth was the first test of the Continental Army after their training at Valley Forge. It was one of the largest single-day battles and the biggest field artillery duel of the American Revolution. This battle was also the end of the military career of Washington’s second-in-command, Major General Charles Lee.

BACKGROUND

Charles Lee was born in Darnhall, England (1732) into a military family. His father was regimental commander of the 44th Regiment of Foot. His mother was the daughter of Sir Henry Bunbury, 3rd Baronet and member of Parliament. By age twelve, Lee was commissioned in his father’s regiment as an ensign then entered a military school in Switzerland (1744). He began active service in 1747, obtaining the rank of lieutenant by 1751. Lee was sent to America at the beginning of the French and Indian War. He was with General Braddock at his defeat (1755); wounded attacking Fort Ticonderoga (1758); at the capture of Fort Niagara (1759) and Montreal (1760); then returned to England (1760). In 1761 Lee was appointed major of the 103rd Regiment of Foot and accompanied General John Burgoyne to Portugal (1762) to fight the French, In 1763, the 103rd Regiment was dissolved, and Lee retired on half-pay. Lee joined the Polish Army (1765) as aide-de-camp to King Stanislaus II, was promoted to major general in the Polish Army (1767) before returning to England. Lee returned to Poland (1769) to help fight the Turks, and by 1770 was in England, “invalided.” Lee was promoted to lieutenant-colonel (1772) in the British Army; he grew more vocal politically and found himself sympathizing with the American Colonies; finally, during an audience with the king, he resigned his commission. He purchased an estate in Virginia and toured the Colonies, campaigning for resisting the king and establishing an army.

BEFORE MONMOUTH

Lee was commissioned (1775) as a major general and the third most senior officer in the Continental Army. He arrived at Boston with Washington; after the siege, Artemas Ward resigned, making Lee second-in-command. Washington sent Lee to Connecticut in January of 1776 to raise volunteers to defend New York City, In June, Lee went to Charleston, SC to fortify and defend that city. Lee rejoined Washington in time for the battle of White Plains (October 28, 1776). After the fall of New York City, Lee commanded a detachment that took a northerly route across New Jersey and was repeatedly asked, then ordered, to bring his detachment to reinforce Washington’s main force, He was captured on December 13th in Basking Ride and spent the next 17 months as a prisoner of war. Lee returned to the Continental Amry in May of 1778 at Valley Forge and argued against attacking the British when they left Philadelphia. Washington sent troops to monitor and hamper the British along their march across New Jersey, adding forces as they progressed. When it was finally decided to attack the British rearguard, Washington consented to have Lee take charge of the advance force of nearly 5000 men.

**MAJ. GEN. CHARLES LEE BROCHURE (cont.)**

ROLE AT MONMOUTH

The night before the battle Lee and his advanced corps camped in and around Englishtown, About 7 am the next morning, Lee marched; along the way, he received contradictory information from the militia concerning British activities. He finally reached Tennent Meeting House around 9 am, where he met Major General Philemon Dickinson, commander of the New Jersey Militia. Lee decided, against Dickinson’s advice, to continue on to Monmouth Courthouse (Freehold). When he arrived, he estimated there were 1500 to 2000 British in the village. His plan was to capture these troops using a two-pronged attack; while Brigadier General Anthony Wayne engaged the British front, Lee sent the rest of his forces to get behind them. Lieutenant-General Henry Clinton, commander-in-chief of British forces, counterattacked with over 9000 men, causing Lee to retreat, Somewhere near the current Wemrock Road, Washington met Lee and demanded to know what was going on. Washington went forward to reconnoiter the situation; he returned and asked Lee to command at the “Hedgerow” to slow the British advance while Washington prepared a defensive position for the rest of the army. Lee’s effort bought Washington approximately an hour to establish the position on Perrine Ridge. Lee was sent to Englishtown to form the reserves.

AFTER MONMOUTH

Lee felt slighted by Washinton when he was not recognized for his role in the battle. After an exchange of heated letters, lee requested a court martial. Washington granted Lee’s request and the Court-Martial began on July 4, 1778 in New Brunswick, continuing as the army marched through New Jersey to White Plains, NY. On August 12th, the court handed down its verdict, finding Major General Chales Lee guilty of “disobedience of orders. In not attacking the enemy… misbehavior before ethe enemy…by making an unnecessary, and in some few instances, a disorderly retreat;” and “of disrespect to the Commander-in-Chief….”

He was suspended from the Army for one year. Lee never rejoined the army, and was formally released on January 10, 1780 He died in Philadelphia (October 2, 1782) and was buried in Christ Church Burial Ground. Ironically, in his will, Lee specified that he did not want to be buried in a churchyard, stating, “I have kept so much bad company when living that I do not choose to continue it when dead.”

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WAREHOUSE**

A couple more meetings have been held by the Manalapan Township Planning Board concerning the new warehouse proposed for construction on Business Route 33 opposite the main entrance to Monmouth Battlefield State Park. A requirement has been passed for the builders to conduct a preliminary archaeological survey to determine if the warehouse site has any archaeological significance. If anything is found, a deeper archaeological survey may be required. A few construction details are also being discussed. As of the moment, final approval for the project has not been granted. Ideally, we would like to see the flex warehouse project denied, and the land involved be made part of the Park or otherwise preserved. However, we need to continue to beware that the land is zoned for warehouse use. We will certainly keep you posted!

**FOMB SPONSORS ESSAY CONTEST AGAIN THIS YEAR**

*Last spring the 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 contest was renewed again this year.*

*The prize was a $500 scholarship. Entries were due by the end of March 2024, and the winner was announced on June 5. Over thirty submissions were received. Judging was done by members of the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield trustees.*

*The winner selection was written by Christian Svoboda of Freehold. Thanks to FOMB Board member Dave Shakespeare for making the contest arrangements.*

*Following is the text of the winning essay.*

The Battle of Monmouth took place in June of 1778, on one of the hottest days of the summer. Temperatures were reportedly in the upper 90s with excessive humidity. To some extent, the sweltering conditions during the battle were very ironic, because it was exactly the opposite conditions that the American army endured just months before during their winter encampment at Valley Forge.

Historians have never truly highlighted the significance of the Battle of Monmouth compared to other famous battles such as Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, Cowpens, and Yorktown. But when one takes a deeper look into the factors and dynamics surrounding the pre and post battle time frames, it isn’t too difficult to see the impact it had on overall success of the American Revolution.

To set the stage, it’s worth touching on the famous winter encampment at Valley Forge. It played a pivotal role in shaping the army that would meet the British on the plains of Monmouth Courthouse. The 1777-1778 winter encampment at Valley Forge is known for frigid temperatures, lack of food, and a smallpox pandemic. These conditions could have been enough to destroy the army and bring an end to the American Revolution. Not to mention, had General Sir Henry Clinton been aware of the state of the Continental Army at Valley Forge, an opportunistic attack could have ended the American Revolution. Instead, however, it was under these brutal conditions that the Continental Army would learn how to handle adversity and become a hardened group.

At this stage of the revolution, the American army was not considered a professional fight force, they were largely made up of citizen farmers, and very young and inexperienced volunteer soldiers. They had no knowledge of military practices and battlefield strategies. Because of this, General Washington and others could not conduct a true traditional 18th century battle, they relied on the element of surprise as in the attack on Trenton and Princeton for any form of success. More often than not, when attempting to engage the enemy in formal battles such as Brooklyn, Fort Lee, Fort Washington, Brandywine, and Germantown, their lack of training and discipline resulted in being out maneuvered and narrowly escaping with some luck and quick decisions to retreat. But this was all about to change.

During the encampment, the Americans welcomed into the leadership of the Continental Army on recommendation of Benjamin Franklin, a new officer by the name of Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. Von Steuben, with an air of mystery to him, was a relatively low-level Prussian military officer. However, he was very experienced and his

**ESSAY CONTEST WINNER (cont.)**

bread and butter was his knowledge of the best European military tactics of the day, coupled with discipline and ability to train soldiers. (Fun Fact: Our local and historic Moore’s Tavern has a decent rendition of the classic Rueben sandwich on the menu named after him called "Von Steuben’s Rueben", pure marketing genius.)

General Washington quickly put him to work training the soldiers during the long winter. Little by little, these volunteer citizens were transformed into actual soldiers who were familiar with how to understand commands, protocols and maneuvering on the battlefield.

By the time spring emerged, General Washington and his officers felt that they now had more polished and modern fighting force. The stage was set and General Washington was looking for an opportunity to test his new army out.

That chance presented itself when King George and his council ordered General Sir Henry Clinton to evacuate Philadelphia and move the army to New York City. This decision was made with France’s formal entry into the war a few months earlier in February of 1778.

When General Washington learned of this, he and his council saw this as their moment to engage the British. The only question was whether the British would leave by sea or by land, (sounds familiar to how the Battles of Lexington and Concord in terms of how the British would leave Boston).

General Washington got his wish when the British decided to travel to New York by land. This allowed the Continental Army to track and plan for an engagement. That engagement would take place on June 28th, 1778 at Monmouth Courthouse, current day Freehold Borough, Freehold Township and Manalapan.

The Battle of Monmouth did not get off to a great start, General Charles Lee was tasked with leading the initial action to engage the British army. While Lee’s performance and actions are hotly debated to this day by historians, it resulted in a full out retreat of his advance forces.

As the retreat was under way, General Washington and his forces met Lee’s retreating soldiers. General Washington was quite dismayed and had a famous confrontation with General Lee, which lead to court marshal and dismissal of Lee after the battle.

More significantly, at this point, General Washington took full command of the army and began to regroup and move American forces on the battlefield. Washington’s leadership and command allowed the Continental Army to more than compete with the British.

After a long battle during blistering conditions, the British army took a page from the Americans and slipped away during the night and continued their march to New York City.

While modern historians consider the Battle of Monmouth a draw, by 18th century battle rules, whoever holds the field of battle is the victor. Regardless of the technicality of who won or not, this was not a knockout blow to the British.

That being said, it should NEVER be accepted that this was not a significant battle and event in the American Revolution. Let me highlight a few critical points that highlight the significance of this battle on the success of the American Revolution.

The Continental Army demonstrated that it was now professional modern fight force and capable of going toe to toe with the best army in the world at both soldier combat as well as cannonade. How did this impact the dynamics of the war? In the time

**ESSAY CONTEST WINNER (cont.)**

line preceding the Battle of Monmouth, General Washington had come under fire for his generalship acumen. He had endured the Conway Cabal, an attempt to oust him, and as recently as the planning of this very battle, endured General Lee’s constant and condescending snipes and gripes.

General Washington’s performance on the fields of Monmouth that day in June of 1778 was nothing short of brilliant, determined and heroic from where I personally stand. It solidified him as the Commander in Chief, His Excellency. There would be no crisis of leadership, which in and of itself could bring a fragile movement to its knees. No, the Americans were undoubtedly behind General Washington and The War for Independence. The British leadership now understood that the past victories they enjoyed at the hands of an inept and inexperienced army could no longer be expected. The Continental Army was now a resilient bunch, not easily dispatched or deterred. This had to be factored into their overall strategy, and factor it in they did. They had to think long and hard regarding how they deployed their forces, how many fronts they could engage on and what cities needed to be protected.

From this point forward, the war shifted from what is commonly known as the northern theatre or campaign to the southern theatre. As we know, the southern theatre culminated in several key victories and ultimately Yorktown.

In closing, while the Battle of Monmouth is widely unheralded, when one truly takes a closer look at the timeline and history before and after, it isn’t difficult to understand the impact it had. I have the feeling that if General Washington and his leadership could be interviewed about this battle, they would convey a similar perspective.

**COME SEE OUR NEW MONMOUTH PAINTING!**

Last newsletter we were most happy to announce that the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield has acquired a significant large painting of the Battle of Monmouth,

The painting was done by New Jersey artist Victor Timpanaro in 2003. It measures four by eight feet, and is one of four paintings on New Jersey topics commissioned by historian Herbert Patullo for inclusion in a planned museum to be established in Somerset County on the role of New Jersey in the Revolution.

When the planned museum did not materialize, Mr. Patullo kept the Monmouth painting at his home, and the other three found their way to the Bound Brook Public Library, where they are now on display.

The Monmouth painting became available after Mr. Patullo passed away in 2020. He and his family expressed an interest that the painting find a home where it would be appreciated, so the estate lawyer contacted us. The FOMB Board agreed to purchase it, and it was transferred from Middlesex to the Park in early February.

The painting is broad in scale and depicts the fighting on the northern portion of the field on the afternoon of the battle, focusing on Molly Pitcher and her cannon. I

Plans are to have the painting put on display in time for this year’s reenactment.

 We are not sure if we will be able to put on display this summer the newly acquired replica flag of British Lieutenant Colonel Henry Monckton.

 **Follow us on Facebook at:**

**https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmonmouthbattlefieldsp**

This is v2 best