**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022**

**VISITOR CENTER OPEN REGULAR HOURS**

The Park Visitor Center is now open regular hours after being closed to the public for a year from 2020 to spring 2021 and then being open irregular hours through Fall 2021. The building remained 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 grounds have been open full time since May 2020 for hikers and recreation.

The historic Craig House was closed all of 2020. It opened for regular hours on Sundays last summer and fall through its regular closing date on December 5, 2021. It will reopen for the season on Sunday, April 3, 2022.

Talks and tours have been occurring as scheduled on our annual plan (see below). Our gift shop in the Visitor Center has been open on days of talks and tours, and will now be open for its usual hours on Sundays from 1-4 PM.

**CURRENT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD HOURS**

*The following information has been received from the Monmouth Battlefield State Park office.*

As of Friday, November 5, 2021, the park hours changed to their usual winter hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM). Spring hours (8:00 AM to 6:00 PM) will start on March 11.

The Visitor Center is currently only staffed five days a week (usually Wednesday through Sunday). When the Visitor Center is staffed, the museum is open to the public from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Bathrooms are available in the brick building (old Visitor Center) across from the Visitor Center, daily from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The bathrooms at the playground were closed for the season starting November 1st. They will reopen on April 1.

**REENACTMENT PLANNED FOR JUNE 18-19**

Our commemoration of the 244th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth will be celebrated with a reenactment on the weekend of June 18-19, 2022. Our reenactment had to be cancelled the past two years because of the covid virus, though last year we substituted a weekend of living history; our last full scale reenactment was in June 2019. Plans are to run a full scale reenactment this year on June 18-19, followed by talks, tours and living history encampment the next weekend, June 25-26. Additional events will be held every weekend all month, followed by special presentations at the Park on July 4 (see enclosed calendar). Detailed daily event schedules will be posted in early June.

**SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER**

**NEW BY-LAWS AND FIVE YEAR PLAN APPROVED**

Our annual meeting was held on December 11, 2021, in the meeting room at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. It had originally been scheduled for Wednesday evening, December 8, at the Monmouth County Library, but had to be moved because the library is not yet open for meetings due to the Covid-19 virus. Ballots for election of officers and for approval of our annual plan and budget were sent out by mail and were tallied at the meeting.

Trustees whose terms expired this year were reelected (Andy Beagle, David Martin, Marilyn Miller and Peter Wagner). One new trustee was elected, David Shakespeare. Current officers were elected for another term (David Martin as President, George Dawson as Vice President, Kathy Doherty as Treasurer and Fran Raleigh as Secretary).

The budget offered for 2022 and the annual plan proposed for 2022 were both approved.

A special vote on our new Five Year Plan and on 15 changes to our by-laws

was sent out by mail and was approved at the end of December. The new Five Year Plan will be posted on our website. Members who wish a copy of the new by-laws should contact President David Martin (dmartin@peddie.org).

**TOURS AND TALKS MAINTAIN SCHEDULE**

Our popular guided tours of the Park have maintained their schedule, when weather permits. The January 2 tour had over 25 participants, the February 6 tour had 20, and the March 6 tour at 13. The January 1 “Walk in the Park” had to be cancelled because of bad weather conditions. Thanks to FOMB board member John Resto for leading these tours.

FOMB President David Martin gave two talks in February, on Black and Native American Troops at the battle, and on General George Washington’s movements and decisions in the battle and one in March, on Molly Pitcher. The talks were held in the Visitor Center auditorium and averaged 13 participants.

Upcoming talks and tours this spring are on the enclosed calendar.

**FOMB DONATES MANIKINS TO PARK**

We are pleased to report that the Friends has donated several manikins to the Visitor Center Museum. They are being used as forms to properly display various uniforms at the exhibit tables in the entrance lobby. Thanks go to new Trustee Dave Shakespeare for arranging the donation.

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

**PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 07763**

**CRAIG HOUSE NEWS**

Our most recent project at the historic Craig House, the repair/replacement of one window on the second floor, battlefield side of the building, and also two kitchen windows, was completed last fall. The project was completed with the aid of a grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission. Thanks go to Kathy and Eric Doherty for supervising the project.

From 2015-2020 we repaired or replaced 9 windows plus the cellar door at Craig House, every year but one with the help of grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

Plans are being prepared for this year’s project, the repair/replacement of window shutters all around the building.

We are delighted that the State is finally making a serious effort to preserve the building. In the past year the roof was replaced and work was done on outside drainage and on some of the siding.

The State currently had bids out for this year’s work, which includes repair/replacement of siding and additional windows and doors, and also staining and painting the exterior.

Craig House was closed for the entire 2020 season due to the virus. It was open the entire 2021 season, from April to November. It will open again on April 3, 2022, on Sundays from 1-4 PM, through December 4.

**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 as Acting Superintendent at Monmouth. The effort to appoint a new full time superintendent at Monmouth has been going on for quite a while without progress. We will you posted on this important process.

**2022 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES**

Membership renewal forms for 2022 are enclosed. We really 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 member-ship.

Please include your email address on the form.

We apologize that we have gotten behind on sending out membership cards for renewals since December. We will try to catch up by the end of the month. If you have renewed and not receive your card by April 1, contact Dr. David Martin at: dmartin@peddie.org.

**SCHEDULE OF SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 ACTIVITIES**

**.**

**March 6, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**March 13, 2022 (Sun) Program on “Molly Pitcher at Monmouth.” Held at 2 PM**

**in the Visitor Center Auditorium.**

**March 27, 2022 (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.**

**April 3, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**April 3, 2022 (Sun) Craig House opens for the season (1-4 PM)**

**April 24, 2022 (Sun) Driving tour of the battle area east of Freehold. Starts at the Battle of Monmouth Monument on Court Street in Freehold. Then visit two important seldom seen areas of the morning portion of the battle, the East Morass and Briar Hill. Meet at 1:30 PM at Visitor Center.**

**May 1, 2022 (Sat) Bird Walk on the battlefield. Identify birds that live here or**

**pass through in the spring, Meet at 9 AM at the Visitor Center.**

**May 1, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

**May 15, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour “The Fight at the Point of Woods.” Visit the**

**scene of fierce fighting in the early afternoon. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR DAYS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY 2022**

**FOMB Programs June 4 to July 4, 2022**

June 4, 2022 (Sat) Driving tour covering the British approach route to

the battle. Meeting place and itinerary TBA.

**June 5, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield (Hedge Row and**

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

June 11, 2022 (Sat) Driving tour covering General Lafayette’s march from Cranbury

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

before the battle. Meeting place and time TBA.

June 12, 2022 (Sun) Driving tour to visit the site of the American encampment

encampments at Ponolopon Bridge the day before the

battle of Monmouth. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

**June 18, 2022 (Sat) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

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

**June 19, 2022 (Sun) Annual reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth**

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

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (cont.)**

**June 25, 2022 (Sat) 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.**

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

**June 26, 2022 (Sun) 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth.**

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

July 2, 2022 (Sat) Driving tour of the British route after the battle from Monmouth to

Sandy Hook. Time and itinerary TBA.

**July 3, 2022 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

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

**July 4, 2022 (Mon) Commemoration of Independence Day at the Park**

**FOMB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(end of term in parentheses)

Caralee Bava-Grygo (2022) Freehold, NJ

Andrew Beagle (2024) South Plainfield, NJ

George Dawson (2022) New Brunswick, NJ

Eric Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Kathy Doherty (2022) Old Bridge, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2024) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2024) Toms River, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2022) Colts Neck, NJ

David Shakespeare (2024) Colts Neck, NJ

Linda Spangle (2023) Manalapan, NJ

John Resto (2023) South Plainfield, NJ

Peter Wagner (2024) Englishtown, NJ

**OFFICERS (term ends December 2022)**

President David Martin

Vice President George Dawson

Secretary Frances Raleigh

Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**FOMB RECEIVES OPERATING GRANT**

We are pleased to report that FOMB has received an operating grant of $3800 from the Monmouth County Historical Commission. The grant is to be used for our newsletters and brochures and for office expenses. President David Martin and Treasurer Kathy Doherty attended the grant presentation ceremony on March 7.

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

**2022 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 0776**

**ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH  
BY COLONEL JOHN LAURENS**

*Colonel John Laurens was a member of General George Washington’s staff and was present at the battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, where his horse was killed from under him. He wrote the following letter describing the battle and his role in it to his father, Henry Laurens, who happened to be President of the Continental Congress, then in Philadelphia. John Laurens was born in South Carolina in 1754 and served on Washington’s staff from 1777-1779. In 1778 he wounded General Charles Lee in a duel. Laurens was mortally wounded while fighting in a small engagement in South Carolina in 1782 just before the end of the war.*

Headquarters, English Town, 30th June, 1778

Dear Father:

I was exceedingly chagrined that public business prevented my writing to you from the field of battle [Monmouth], when the General [Washington] sent his dispatches to Congress. The delay, however, will be attended with this advantage that I shall be better able to give you an account of the enemy’s loss; tho’ I must now content myself with a very succinct relation of this affair. The position of the two armies on Sunday [June 28] was as follows: Genl Washington, with the main body of our army, was at 4 miles distance from English Town. Genl Lee, with a chosen advanced corps, was *at* that town. The enemy were retreating down the road which leads to Middle Town; their flying army composed (as it was said), of 2 battalions of British grenadiers, 1 Hessian grendrs, 1 battalion of light infantry, 1 regiment of guards, 2 brigades of foot, 1 regt of dragoons, and a number of mounted and dismounted Jagers. The enemy’s rear was preparing to leave Monmouth village, which is six miles from this place, when our advanced corps was marching towards them. The militia of the country kept up a random running fire with the Hessian Jagers; no mischief was done on either side. I was with a small party of horse, reconnoitering the enemy, in an open space before Monmouth, when I perceived two parties of the enemy advancing by files in the woods on our right and left, with a view, as I imagined, of enveloping our small party, or preparing a way for a skirmish of their horse. I immediately wrote an account of what I had seen to the General, and expressed by anxiety on account of the languid appearance of the Continental troops under Genl Lee.

Some person in the mean time reported to Genl Lee that the enemy were advancing upon us in two columns, and I was informed that he had, in consequence, ordered Varnum’s brigade, which was in front, to repass a bridge which it had passed. I went my self, and assured him of the real state of the case; his reply to me was, that his accounts had been so contradictory that he was utterly at a loss what part to take. I repeated my account to him in positive distinct terms, and returned to make farther discoveries. I found that the two parties had been withdrawn from the wood, and that the enemy were preparing to leave Monmouth. I wrote a second time to Genl Washington. Genl Lee at length gave orders to advance. The enemy were forming themselves on the Middle Town road, with their light infantry in front, and cavalry on the left flank, while a scattering distant fire was commenced between our flanking parties and theirs. I was impatient and uneasy at seeing no disposition was made, and

**COLONEL LAURENS’ LETTER (cont.)**

endeavored to find out Genl Lee to inform him of what was doing and know what was his disposition. He told me that he was going to order some troops to march below the enemy and cut off their retreat. Two pieces of artillery were posted on our right without a single foot soldier to support them. Our men were formed piecemeal in front of the enemy, and there appeared to be no general plan or disposition calculated on that of the enemy; the nature of the ground, or any of the other principles which generally govern in these cases.

The enemy began a cannonade from two parts of their line; their whole body of horse made a furious charge upon a small party of our cavalry and dissipated them and drove them till the appearance of our infantry, and a judicious discharge or two of artillery made them retire precipitately, Three regiments of ours that had advanced in a plain open country towards the enemy’s left flank, were ordered by Genl Lee to retire and occupy the village of Monmouth. They were no sooner formed there, then they were ordered to quit that post and gain the woods. One order succeeded another with a rapidity and indecision calculated to ruin us. The enemy had changed their front and were advancing in full march towards us; our men were fatigued with the excessive heat. The artillery horses were not in condition to make a brisk retreat. A new position was ordered, but not generally communicated, for part of the troops were forming on the right of the ground, while others were marching away, and all the artillery driving off. The enemy, after a short halt, resumed their pursuit; no cannon was left to check their progress. A regiment was ordered to form behind a fence, and as speedily commanded to retire. All this disgraceful retreating, passed without the firing of a musket, over ground which might have been disputed inch by inch. We passed a defile and arrived at an eminence beyond, which was defended on one hand by an impracticable fen, on the other by thick woods where our men would have fought to good advantage. Here, fortunately for the honor of the army, and the welfare of America, Genl Washington met the troops retreating in disorder, and without any plan to make an opposition. He ordered some pieces of artillery to be brought up to defend the pass, and some troops to form and defend the pieces. The artillery was too distant to be brought up readily so that there was but little opposition given here. A few shot though, and a little skirmishing in the wood checked the enemy’s career. The Genl expressed his astonishment at this unaccountable retreat. Mr. Lee indecently replied that the attack was contrary to his advice and opinion in council. We were obliged to retire to a position, which, though hastily reconnoitered, proved an excellent one. Two regiments were formed behind a fence in front of the position. The enemy’s horse advanced in full charge with admirable bravery to the distance of forty paces, when a general discharge from these two regiments did great execution among them, and made them fly with the greatest precipitation. The grenadiers succeeded to the attack. At this time my horse was killed under me. In this spot the action was hottest, and there was considerable slaughter of British grenadiers. The General ordered Woodford’s brigade with some artillery to take possession of an eminence on the enemy’s left, and cannonade from thence. This produced an excellent effect.

The enemy were prevented from advancing on us, and continued themselves to cannonade with a show of turning our left flank. Our artillery answered theirs with the

greatest vigour. The General seeing that our left flank was secure, as the ground was open and commanded by it, so that the enemy could not attempt to turn it with out exposing their own flank to a heavy fire from our artillery, and causing to pass in review

**COLONEL LAURENS’ LETTER (cont.)**

before us. The force employed for turning us. In the meantime, Genl Lee continued retreating, Baron Steuben was ordered to form the broken troops in the rear. The cannonade was incessant and the General ordered parties to advance from time to time and engage the British grenadiers and guards. The horse shewed themselves no more. The grenadiers showd their backs and retreated every where with precipitation. They returned, however, again to the charge, and were again repulsed. They finally retreated and got over the strong pass, where, as I mentioned before, Genl Washington first rallied the troops. We advanced in force and continued masters of the ground; the standards of liberty were planted in triumph on the field of battle. We remained looking at each other, with the defile between us, till dark, and they stole off in silence at midnight. We have buried of the enemy’s slain, 233, principally grenadiers; forty-odd of their wounded whom they left at Monmouth, fell into out hands. Several officers are our prisoners. Among the killed are Col Moncton, a captain of the guards, and several captains of the grenadiers. We have taken but a very inconsiderable number of prisoners for want of a good body of horse. Deserters are coming in as usual. Our officers and men behaved with that bravery which becomes freemen, and have convinced the world that they can beat British grenadiers. To name any one in particular wd be a kind of injustice to the rest. There are some, however, who came more immediately under my view, whom I will mention that you may know them. B. Genl Wayne, Col. Barber, Col. Stewart, Col. Livingston, Col. Oswald of the artillery, Capt Doughty deserve well of their country, and distinguished themselves nobly.

The enemy buried many of their dead that are not accounted for above, and carried off a great number of wounded. I have written diffusely, and yet I have not told you all. Genl Lee, I think, must be tried for misconduct, However, as this is a matter not generally known, tho’ it seems almost universally wished for, I would beg you, my dear father, to say nothing of it.

You will oblige me much by excusing me to Mr. Drayton for not writing to him. I congratulate you, my dear father, upon this seasonable victory, and am ever

Your most dutiful and affectionate

John Laurens

The Honlble Henry Laurens, Esqr

We have no returns of our loss yet. The proportion on the field of battle appeared but small. We have many good officers wounded.

British Casualties of the American Revolution Reported by the Public Records Office, as quoted in “Narrative & Critical History of America”, by Justin Winsor, published 1885, vol. 8, page 502

Chronological Order

1. Bunker Hill 1054
2. Long Island 400
3. Fort Washington 454
4. Trenton 1094
5. Hubbardtown 360
6. Bennington 207
7. Freeman Farm 550
8. Bemis Heights 500
9. Burgoyne’s Surrender 5763
10. Forts Clinton & Montgomery190
11. Brandywine 600
12. Germantown 535
13. Monmouth 2400 (including desertions)
14. Siege of Charlestown 265
15. Camden 324
16. Cowpens 724
17. Guildford Courthouse 554
18. Hobkirk Hill 256
19. Eutaw 693
20. New London 163
21. Yorktown 522
22. Cornwallis’ Surrender 7963