**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**

 **ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 14**

 **AT MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**

Our annual meeting for 2024 will be held in person at 2 PM on Saturday, December 14, 2024, in the conference room at Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center, located at 20 State Route 33 Business, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Ballots for officer election and approval of our annual plan and budget for 2025 were sent out by mail in the first week of November. Ballots and proxies will need to be returned by mail by Wednesday, December 11, or they can be brought to the meeting in person.

At the meeting, the budget and annual plan will be discussed, along with current events at the Park. We will also discuss our increasing number of plans for projects for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2028, which is fast approaching and is now only four years away!

No reservations are needed to attend the annual meeting. It will take about an hour.

Five trustees are up for reelection: Andrew Beagle, David Martin, Marilyn Miller, David Shakespeare, and Peter Wagner.

Current officers who will be running for another term are David Martin as President, Kathy Doherty as Treasurer, and Caralee Bava-Grygo as Secretary. George Dawson, who has served as our Vice President for a number of years, will be retiring from that post. We thank him greatly for his long service! Our nomination to succeed George is John Resto, who has been on the board for several years and has been active in giving tours and helping to run the gift shop. We are happy that George will continue on as a trustee.

The budget being offered for 2025 is slightly higher by $2500 than last year. Fortunately, we had good weather and so did well at the June reenactment, though costs of our Craig House project ran higher than expected this year. Overall, we are doing reasonably well financially and have funds available to meet currently planned projects.

The annual plan proposed for 2025 is basically the same as last year. We will continue to have our popular walking tours the first Sunday of each month. We will also continue the popular “Second Sunday” lecture series offered by our President, Dr. David Martin.

Our Battle of Monmouth commemoration that has been held for quite a number of years the weekend after the reenactment will be cancelled next year because of low attendance and the later date of the reenactment this year (see below).

The July 4 event we have held for a number of years, featuring an artillery demonstration, will be held as usual.

The slate of officers and trustees, and the annual plan and budget for 2025, were all approved by the trustees at their September 28 meeting

If you need more information on the annual meeting or the election process, or if you are a member and did not receive your ballot and proxy forms, contact our President, Dr. David Martin, at: dmartin@peddie.org

 **DR. MARTIN TO SPEAK ON NOVEMBER 10**

**ON “UNSUNG HEROES AT MONMOUTH;”** **TOPIC CHANGED FOR DECEMBER 8**

**“SECOND SUNDAY” LECTURE**

Dr. David Martin’s topic for his “Second Sunday” lecture on November 10 will be “Unsung Heroes at the Battle of Monmouth.” He will discuss heroism by soldiers and officers on both sides, British and American, including American Colonel Nathaniel Ramsay, who was badly wounded at the Point of Woods, and British Lieutenant Colonel Henry Monckton, who was killed near the Hedgerow as the highest British officer casualty in the battle.

The December 8 “Second Lecture” was originally advertised as “Recent Events and Developments at Monmouth Battlefield State Park.” It has been decided to discuss this topic at our annual meeting on Saturday, December 14. In its place, Dr. Martin will speak on December 8 on the topic “The Role of New Jersey Troops at Monmouth.” This will be a discussion of the actions of the New Jersey regular brigade in the battle – the “Jersey Blues,” led by Brigadier General “Scotch Willie” Maxwell. He will also tell the important contribution of New Jersey militia in the campaign and battle.

“Second Sunday” lectures are held at 2 PM in the Park auditorium. They last about an hour They are free and no reservations are needed.

A list of “Second Sunday” lectures planned for the year 2025 is given later in this newsletter.

**DATES SET FOR 2025 REENACTMENT:
JUNE 28-29, 2025**

The reenactment commemorating the 247th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth will be held on the weekend of June 28-29, 2025. This date is not the one anticipated in our last newsletter. It is also not on Father’s Day weekend, as we have been doing the past several years, because Father’s Day weekend falls early this year on June 14-15. Nor is it the third weekend of the month, as also has been our recent custom. We would have liked to hold it on June 21-22, but that weekend has already been chosen for special activities in Massachusetts commemorating the 250th anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. Since many of our reenactor units will be in Boston then, we needed to postpone our Monmouth reenactment another weekend to June 28-29. This reenactment date has the advantage of putting us on the actual anniversary of the battle, which was fought on June 28, 1778.

Due to the later date of next year’s reenactment, and to other reasons cited above in this newsletter, the Battle of Monmouth commemorative weekend held the weekend after the reenactment in recent years, will not be held in 2025.

The anticipated date for the reenactment for our upcoming 250th anniversary of the battle is June 17-18, 2028. We will let you know as soon as this date is finalized.

Visit us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmonmouthbattlefieldsp>

**POPULAR TOURS AND TALKS CONTINUE**

 Our program of tours and talks has continued very successfully this Fall.

 So far this year, David Martin has spoken ten times in his “Second Sunday” lecture series, averaging 35 attendees each. Walking tours have continued to be held the first Sunday of each month. So far, 8 tours have been sponsored by the Friends, with an average attendance of 25. These figures do not include our January 1st “Walk in the Park,” which had almost 100 participants, or the annual reenactment, which had an attendance of over 12,000. Thanks go to John Resto and David Martin for conducting the talks and tours.

 This year the Historic Craig House has been open 26 times on Sundays, serving 314 visitors. Many thanks to Craig House docents Kathy Doherty and Karen Timper for keeping Craig House open, since the Park does not have enough staff to do so.

**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, 2025, 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 70 participants each year, will be over between 12:30 and 1 PM. Unfortunately, the walk had to be cancelled two years, in 2021 because of Covid-19 considerations and in 2022 because of bad weather. Two years ago, the weather was great and almost 100 walkers participated, and we had almost as many last year.

If the weather looks questionable, call the park office for information at 732-462-9616. Come join us if the weather is good – guided tours are conducted to this area only two or three times a year.



* **Funding has been made possible for this newsletter**
* **in part by an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical**
* **Commission, a Division of the Department of State, through grant funds administered by the Monmouth County Historical Commmission.**

**FOMB WELL REPRESENTED AT**

**MONMOUTH COUNTY ARCHIVES DAY;**

**DR. MARTIN RECEIVES JANE G. CLAYTON AWARD**

FOMB was well represented at Monmouth County Archives Day, which was held at Brookdale Community College on Saturday, October 26. Many thanks to Board member Andy Beagle and FOMB Vice President George Dawson for manning our information table.

The highlight of the day’s prize presentation ceremonies was when our President, David Martin, was awarded the Jane G. Clayton Award “for his outstanding efforts to preserve Monmouth County History.” Congratulations!

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF BATTLEFIELD HELD**

On Saturday, October 19th, The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield and Monmouth Battlefield State Park staff hosted their second annual Candlelight Battlefield tour.

The tour followed the popular Hedgerow tour that takes visitors from Combs Hill, along the Hedgerow, to the Parsonage Farm, and then back to the Visitor Center. Illuminated lanterns were posted intermittently along the path to help add to the ambiance. In addition to the lanterns, a memorial candle illumination was displayed; one candle for every soldier killed at the Battle of Monmouth. Around 70 visitors attended.

Thank you to the park staff, members of the FOMB, and other volunteers for a successful event! Special thanks go to Jesse Nokes, who organized the event, and other helpers from the Park staff.

**UPDATE ON WAREHOUSE PROJECT**

We have nothing new to report on the status of the flex warehouse proposed for construction opposite the main entrance to the Park. We are still in hopes of blocking the project, or of maybe even acquiring the land involved as an addition to the Park.

**RECEPTION TO LAUNCH THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION HELD AT MBSP**

On Friday, November 1 a special reception was held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park to launch the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey. The event was sponsored by Revolution NJ and was attended by an overflow audience of invited guests in the Visitor Center auditorium. Principal speakers included NJ Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State Tahesha Way, and U.S. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman from New Jersey’s 12th Congressional District. We are proud that our Park was selected to host the event. FOMB was represented at the event by our President, Dr. David Martin.

**UPDATE ON CRAIG HOUSE PROJECTS**

 We have been carrying on projects at the historic Craig House site each year for a number of years. The Craig farm house dates to around 1750. It witnessed the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778 and was probably used as a hospital, perhaps for troops of both armies. Over the years we have repaired or replaced doors and windows. Recently the State DEP repaired the roof, fixed the drainage problem, and painted the building.

 Last year’s project was to repair the large door on the barn, which blew out during a windstorm a couple years ago.

 Our project for 2024 was to start replacing the window shutters on the Craig House. Due to the cost and number of shutters, this is a two-year project, and money is being budgeted to complete it in 2025.

 The barn door project, the shutters project and other work we have been sponsoring at the Craig farm has been partially funded through grants received from the Monmouth County Historical Commission, for which we are most grateful.

**LIBRARY PROJECT MOVING ALONG**

 Our ten-year-old project to set up the James Raleigh Memorial Research Library in the former office area of the old Visitor Center is finally about to enter its final stages. We had initially set up a large library of 2000 or so books relating to the Revolution (focusing of course on the Battle of Monmouth and the war in New Jersey), but we ran into severe climate control issues in the building. These were addressed by the State a few years ago. Since then we have been waiting for the State to construct suitable cabinets to keep the books in. These have finally been constructed and installed. The next step is to install locks on the cabinets. In the meanwhile, Park staff are developing an inventory system so we can distinguish books belonging to the Park from those belonging to FOMB. Once this is done, we can start putting books in the cabinets. This will take some time because a large number of our books first need to be treated for possible mold contamination. We will put out a call for volunteers to help once we develop a process and are ready to start the work. Rules for library access and use are being developed and will be announced when ready. We plan to have the library up and running before the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2028.

**2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OPENS**

Membership renewal forms for 2025 are enclosed in this newsletter. We cannot do what we do without the support of our members. We especially appreciate our patrons and life members. We also much appreciate additional contributions made by many members. Membership has been over 100 for each of the past ten years. This year we have set a new record of 152 members, of whom 44 are life members.

Dues rates were raised last year in order to help us meet increased expenses and cover the costs of planned projects to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2028. Rates and categories are as follows: senior membership, $10; senior family, $15; single membership, $25; family membership, $35; patron level, $125; and life membership, $300. Thank you for your support!

**DOGS DURING THE REVOLUTION**

 *The following was written by Park staff member Matt Melo as text for a display at the Visitor Center this summer. We thank Matt for sharing it with us.*

Despite the nearly 250 years that separate us from our rebel counterparts of the 18th century, we continue to discover numerous shared connections, such as our enduring affection for dogs. Canines, especially during the Revolutionary War, served many purposes: pack animal, herder, varmint catcher, guard dog, hunting companion, and lapdog.

George Washington The Dog Breeder

Not content with just being a full General, Washington also occupied himself with the breeding of dogs for use in hunting. Meticulously he built a pack of hunting dogs, populating the Mt. Vernon kennel with many different breeds. Every morning and evening he would visit them, flood his journal with notes on them, and then take them out for one of his favorite hobbies, foxhunting. After the war, a General and close friend of Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, gave him seven French hounds from France. Accompanying the canines across the Atlantic was a young John Quincy Adams, who would later become the 6th President of the United States. Mixing these French hounds with his lighter-built pack, Washington succeeded in engineering a superior hound adept at hunting in the Virginian wilderness. After several more generations of genetic tinkering, these dogs became what we now call the American Foxhound.

Names Washington would name his hounds include but are not limited to: Drunkard, Mopsey, Taster, Cloe, Tipsy, Tipler, Forester, Captain, Lady Rover, Vulcan, Sweet Lips, and Searcher.

The Ham Incident

 General Washington’s dogs offered more than hunting assistance, they were often the subject of comic relief. One such episode involved Washington’s French Hound Vulcan, described as so big a boy can ride him like a pony. One day as the dog trotted his way into Mount Vernon’s kitchen, he smelled the quality ham Martha Washington had ordered for dinner. Snatching the roast, Vulcan dashed out of the kitchen with his prize as the enslaved kitchen staff chased after him. In the evening, Mrs. Washington’s dinner guests asked why her ham was missing from the table. Frank, a slave as well as their waiter, embarrassingly explained the story. The whole table erupted into laughter, especially General George.

**DOGS DURING THE REVOLUTION (cont.)**

General Charles Lee The Dog Lover

 Besides his military career and service here at Monmouth Battlefield, General Charles Lee was well known for his deep affection for his dogs, especially his Pomeranian named Spado Discussing the General, John Adams wrote to his wife, "He is a queer

Creature—But you must love his Dogs if you love him…” Accompanying him wherever he went, from the battlefield to the dinner table, Lee and his dogs would travel, eat, and even share the same bed at night. Lee infamously smelled of dog wherever he went. A guest at a dinner party described his dog as, “a native of Pomerania, which I should have taken for a bear had I seen him in the woods.” Abigail Adams, the formidable and influential Wife of John Adams, recalled an event involving Lee’s favorite dog, Spado. “The General was determined that I should not only be acquainted with him, but with his companions too, and therefore placed a chair before me into which he ordered Mr. Spada to mount and present his paw to me for a better acquaintance. I could not do other ways than accept it.”

On December 13, 1776, Lee was captured by the British at White’s Tavern in Basking Ridge, NJ. The description of the event does not mention Spado, or any dogs being with him at the time. Immediately after his capture, General Nathanael Greene ordered Lee’s servants and dogs to move to his cabin called Prato Rio, located in Virginia (modern-day West Virginia). Two months later, and in custody, Lee writes to Washington. “I am likewise extremely still desirous that My Dogs should be brought as I never stood in greater need of their Company than at present”. Washington would later reply, “Your Dogs are in Virginia. This circumstance I regret as you will be deprived of the satisfaction & amusements you hoped to derive from their friendly and companionable dispositions.” Sometime in 1777 we know Spado went missing, with one ad in Williamsburg offering a $20 reward for whoever could find the black Pomeranian for “Our brave but unfortunate General Lee.”

After his release via prisoner exchange, Charles Lee led the morning action during the Battle of Monmouth. Many criticized his leadership during the battle, soiling his reputation to the point where he called for a court-martial to clear his name. However, upon hearing that the court-martial verdict was not in his favor he bellowed, “O that I were an animal, that I might not call man my brother.”

Returning of General Howe's Terrier

As was common for many upper-class gentlemen of the time, British general Sir William Howe kept dogs with him and brought them along on campaigns. One such dog, a fox terrier named Lila, somehow found herself in the Continental camp after the American withdrawal from the Battle of Germantown. After the army found out the dog’s

owner (Howe’s name was on the collar) Washington ordered it returned to the general. The note to Howe read, “General Washington’s compliments to General Howe. He does himself the pleasure to return him a dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and by the inscription on the Collar appears to belong to General Howe.”

**DOGS DURING THE REVOLUTION (cont.)**

Baron von Steuben's Italian Greyhound

 Important for American success in the Battle of Monmouth was their military instruction under Baron von Steuben, inspector general of the Continental Army. Accompanying the German Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben to America was his French entourage, and his cherished Italian Greyhound named Azor. One of Steuben’s secretaries, Peter Stephen Du Ponceau, wrote in his autobiography about Azor, “He was a beautiful Italian greyhound who had an excellent ear for music. Bad singing set him howling and barking… He was particularly averse to the gamut (song), which Captain Landais the Commander of the vessel in which we came over from France, executed every day, by way of musical exercise, in horrid taste. The dog compelled him at last to put a stop to his practicing.”

Doggy Scoreboard

 A tally board accompanied the dog exhibit, allowing museum visitors to mark which general's dog their own pets resembled most. After about two months, we had collected 52 tallies in total!

 Charles Lee’s Spado led the pack with 20 votes. Following that there was a tie between Steuben’s Azor and Washington’s Vulcan, both receiving 11 votes. In last place was Howe’s terrier Lila, with 10 votes.

**CURRENTMONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD HOURS**

Park grounds are now open daily on their winter schedule, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Visitor Center is staffed and open five days a week, from Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Bathrooms are available in the brick building (old Visitor Center) across from the Visitor Center, daily from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and also in the Visitor Center itself when it is open. The bathrooms at the playground will be closed for the season starting December 1st.

 Craig House is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM until it closes for the winter on December 1. Our gift shop in the Visitor Center is open every Sunday from 100 PM to 4:00 PM.

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

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

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

**“SECOND SUNDAY” LECTURE SERIES**

**TO ENTER SECOND YEAR**

 We are pleased to announce a second season for the popular “Second Sunday” lecture series presented by FOMB. Lectures are given at 2 PM on the second Sunday of each month at the Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitor Center by Dr. David Martin, President of FOMB. Lectures are free and no reservations are required.

 One of the lectures in the 2025 season will be a reprise of the most popular lecture from last year (Washington’s Sense of Humor). The other eleven are new topics, or modified topics from previous talks that Dr. Martin has given at the Park or in the lecture series that he used to give in the evenings at the Monmouth County Library in the time before Covid-19 struck.

 Listed here are the lecture topics for 2025 for the “Second Sunday” series, with a short summary of each.

January 12, 2025

“Recent Thoughts on the Life of Alexander Hamilton”

Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, whose future rivalry ended with Hamilton’s

death at Burr’s hands at the infamous duel at Weehawken, NJ in 1805, ironically were both Lieutenant Colonels at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Burr was a line officer commanding an infantry unit, and Hamilton was serving on General Washington’s staff. In addition, both officers were injured when their horses were shot during the middle portion of the battle, less than an hour apart and only about one-quarter mile apart. This lecture will discuss recent research and interpretations of Hamilton’s life, in particular his role on Washington’s general staff.

February 9, 2025

“George Washington’s Sense of Humor”

George Washington is remembered as a strong leader but is usually thought to be stoic and emotionless. He actually had quite a temper as well as a genuine sense of humor. Dr. Martin will discuss how Washington’s image as a “marble man” was created and came to be accepted.

March 9, 2025

“Alternate Molly Pitchers”

Dr. Martin will explain how the Molly Pitcher story grew over time, and will present the different women with whom she has been identified.

April 13, 2025

“Abraham Lincoln’s Sense of Humor”

President Lincoln was a serious humorist who used humor help to explain his positions, to deflect criticism, and to help himself deal with his own melancholy.

Dr. Martin will tell Lincoln’s favorite jokes and then explain them. He will also discuss Lincoln’s slim connections to the Garden State, which was the only state in the Union to cast electoral votes against the Great Emancipator in both presidential elections in 1860 and 1864.

**“SECOND SUNDAY” lectures cont.**

May 11, 2025

“George Washington as a Field Commander”

This lecture will explore General Washington’s strengths and weaknesses as a field commander during the Revolution, with special attention to his decisions at the battle of Monmouth. During the war he only won four battles – it was a wonder that he managed to keep his command.

June 8, 2025

“The Court Martial of Major General Charles Lee”

The single most controversial officer at the Battle of Monmouth was General Charles Lee, Washington’s second-in-command. Lee really didn’t want to fight the battle and then ended up leading the American attack that morning. His actions led him to be court martialed and removed from command. Did he really disobey orders? Or did he actually save the day? This lecture will review the course and progress of his Court Martial case, with attention to the actual charges and the specific evidence given by the witnesses.

July 13, 2025

The 14th New Jersey Infantry at Camp Vredenburg and Beyond

It is not well known that there was a Civil War training camp from 1862-1864 just outside of Freehold, within the present boundaries of Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Dr. Martin confirmed its location in a study that he did for the State some 40 years ago. This talk will discuss the history and location of the camp, known as Camp Vredenburg, and the history and battles of the most famous regiment that trained there, the 14th New Jersey Infantry.

August 10, 2025

“British Strategy at Monmouth: What Went Wrong”

This lecture will explore British goals for both the campaign and the Battle of Monmouth. Specifically, it will examine how the British won the morning part of the battle but then were unable to come away with a complete victory. Was the battle for them a victory, a draw or a defeat?

September 14, 2025

“American Artillery in Action at Monmouth”

This lecture will present the results of a new study of the structure and role of the American artillery units at Monmouth. Much of the course of the battle was dictated by where and when artillery units were posted. Significant artillery actions and commanders will be presented, including the important role of the head American Artillery officer, Brigadier General Henry Knox, in the battle.

The different types of cannons used will also be discussed.

**“SECOND SUNDAY” lectures cont.**

October 12, 2025

“Treatment of Casualties and Burial of the Dead at Monmouth”

A famous general once said, “the only thing more ugly than a defeated battlefield is a victorious one.” After the battle, the field was strewn with hundreds of dead and wounded from both sides. This lecture will explore how the wounded were treated and where, how and when the dead bodies were buried. You will be surprised to learn that most of the soldiers killed in the battle are still on the field.

November 9, 2025

“Famous British Units at Monmouth”

This lecture will explore the leadership and actions of the most famous British units in the battle: the Guards, Grenadiers, Black Watch, Light Infantry, and Dragoons.

December 14, 2025

“The 28th New Jersey at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862”

The 28th New Jersey Infantry was one of three Union regiments raised and trained on ground now within Monmouth Battlefield State Park during the summer of 1862. This lecture will present the story of two soldiers from central New Jersey who trained at Camp Vredenburg and then became casualties at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia on December 13, 1862.

**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

 Kathy Doherty (2025) Old Bridge, NJ

 John Fabiano (2026) Allentown, 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

 John Resto (2026) South Plainfield, NJ

 David Shakespeare (2024) Colts Neck, 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-Grygo

 Treasurer Kathleen Doherty

**SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES (2024-2025)**

November 3, 2024 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

November 10, 2024 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

 “Unsung Heroes at the Battle of Monmouth”

 2 PM at Visitor Center

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

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

December 1, 2024 (Sun) Craig House closes for the season.

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

 “The Role of New Jersey Troops at Monmouth” (change in topic). 2 PM at Visitor Center

December 14, 2024 (Sat) Annual meeting, 2 PM, Visitor Center

Jan. 1, 2025 (Wed) New Year’s Day Hike (weather permitting)

Walking tour of Perrine Hill.

 See where Molly Pitcher fought.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 11:00 AM

Jan. 5, 2025 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

Jan. 12, 2025 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

“Recent Thoughts on the Life of Alexander Hamilton”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium.

Feb. 2, 2025 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

Feb. 9, 2025 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

“George Washington’s Sense of Humor”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium

March 2, 2025 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.

 Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

March 9, 2025 (Sun) Second Sunday lecture by Dr. David Martin

 “Alternate Molly Pitchers”

 2 PM at Visitor Center Auditorium

March 16, 2025 (Sun) Visit the different spots that have been claimed to be the location of Molly Pitcher’s well. Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM

 **2025 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, INC.**

**PO Box 122, Tennent NJ 07763**

November 2024

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.

 Next year we are looking for noticeable growth in our activities and projects. We will finally be setting up a new research library at the Visitor Center, we will hopefully be republishing William Stryker’s history of the battle, and there will be our usual reenactment in June.

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.

 We are continuing our popular free guided tours on the first Sunday of every month. We also present a series of lectures on the battle on the second Sunday of every month. 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. These events are all free of charge and no reservations are required.

 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 replacement of the outside window shutters at the house.

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

 Dr. David Martin, President

 *Additional accomplishments for the past year include:*

*A full reenactment on June 15-16, 2024*

*Special commemoration held at the Park on July 4*

 *Staffing of outdoor information tables on weekends when the Visitor Center was*

 *closed*

 *Regular presentations 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 Visitor Center*

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

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

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