The Battle of Brandywine

“Advance With The Hessians”

Pennsbury Township Historical Commission
Chester County
Summer 2017 Town Tours and Village Walks
The Pennsbury Historical Commission would like to thank the following Chester County organizations for supporting our 2017 Town Tours and Village Walks Summer Bus Tour “Advance with the Hessians”:

THE CHESTER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
CHESTER COUNTY CONFERENCE AND VISITORS BUREAU
BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK
CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
KENNETT FRIENDS MEETING
PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP

BUS SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY:
CHESTER COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK
PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
THE GABLES AT CHADDS FORD RESTAURANT

POST TOUR OPEN HOUSE AND GUIDES PROVIDED BY
THE BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK

WEBSITE REGISTRATION PROVIDED BY:
CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BROCHURE PRINTING PROVIDED BY:
HANK’S PLACE, BRANDYWINE RIVER ANTIQUES, MUSHROOM CAFÉ,
CHADDS FORD WINERY, ANTICA RESTAURANT, THE PENNSBURY INN

Special acknowledgment for help from Pennsbury Supervisors, Township Manager Kathy Howley, Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall, Brandywine Battlefield Education Director Andrew Outten, Chadds Ford Historical Society Executive Director Mike Connolly, Office Manager Colleen Smarr, Members of the Kennett Friends Meeting, Chadds Ford Unionville School District, Roberts Garage, McGovern Sanitation Co., and Mailing, Inc.
BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD PARK (20.) is located on the north side of the Baltimore Pike. Established in 1949 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the PA Historic and Museum Commission oversees the Park. Budget decreases now limit PHMC’s help to maintenance and upkeep. Currently, a community non-profit organization, the Park Associates, raises funds and operates the site. Volunteers take lead roles as Battlefield interpreters. The Park’s goals include programs, exhibits, tours, and events “that will broaden public understanding and appreciation of the Battle of Brandywine’s significance.” For more information, go to: www.brandywinebattlefield.org

OLD KENNETT MEETING HOUSE (1.) was established in 1711. The existing stucco over local fieldstone structure was built in 1730 by members of the Meeting. Continental soldiers fired at British forces from behind its stone walls early in the morning on September 11th, 1777, while Quakers sat in silent meeting for worship within. There is a cemetery on the east side of the property. Remains of soldiers, who were killed in the Battle, are buried in a mass grave at the site. The Meeting House is open for monthly services in the summer. For more information, go to: www.old-kennett.webs.com.
ABRAM PIERCE HOUSE (2.) was constructed prior to the Revolutionary War by Joshua Pierce III, son of Joshua Pierce Jr. Joshua Jr. bought the Hope family residence on Hickory Hill Road in 1770, along with 170 Acres from Amos Hope’s 350 Acre farm. The acreage included the property where the Abram Pierce House stands today. Joshua Pierce Jr. filed damage claims after the Battle of Brandywine. The oldest part of the house is the western section, which includes an intact beehive oven that can be seen on the west gable exterior wall. The entry is now on the north side of the structure due to the widening and rerouting of the Baltimore Pike. The Pierce family owned the house until 1900.

JOHN HOPE HOUSE (3.) also called the Daniel Pierce House after a later owner, was built in the early 18th century on a Penn Land Grant purchased by John Hope. It sits back from the junction of the Baltimore Pike’s current location, but was closer to the original Road to Nottingham/Chester when first constructed. John’s youngest son Amos inherited the farm in 1749. Unfortunately, Amos died at a young age and his wife sold the Hope house to Joshua Pierce after Amos’ death in 1769. Joshua filed damage claims after the Battle of Brandywine. The Pierce family owned the house until 1926. It has remained a private residence for over 300 years.
**PENNSBURY INN (4.)** was originally the second residence built by John Hope at the intersection of the old Road to Wilmington and the Road to Chester. It has two early 1800’s sections: The oldest two story part is stone; the later is brick. Dr. Joseph Pierce bought the property in 1772 after marrying Amos Hope’s widow. He and Joshua Pierce Jr. were brothers. Joseph filed reparation claims for damages in the Battle of Brandywine. The Lancaster family bought the property in 1822, operating it as an Inn until the 20th century. By the mid 1900’s, the building needed renovations. New owners, the Haldeman family, constructed an addition and were responsible for the home’s listing on the National Register. The residence again became an inn in the late 1900’s. For more information, go to: [www.pennsburyinn.com](http://www.pennsburyinn.com)

**BRANDYWINE RIVER ANTIQUES (5.)** is the large mid 19th century bank barn once owned by the Lancaster family and the Haldemans. The Barn became a separate commercial entity after the Pennsbury Inn’s sale in 1995. It is now an open, exposed beam, multilevel exhibition space for the sale of collectible antiques, arranged in different themed displays. Visitors will find furniture, china, glassware, toys, tools, and all types of very early household accessories. For more information, go to: [www.brandywineriverantiques.com](http://www.brandywineriverantiques.com).
PIERCE TENANT HOUSE (6.) is an early 19th century stucco over stone structure with a frame addition that was once part of the Joseph Pierce family property. It appears in the background of a lithograph with the Lancaster Inn and Barn reprinted in Futhey and Cope’s, History of Chester County. Pennsbury Township has recently purchased 23 acres, including the tenant house, from bankruptcy proceedings. The Township completed easements in Dec. of 2016, to preserve the building and acreage from future commercial development for community park land. Plans for the old stone tenant house are not yet complete.

PENNSBURY MUNICIPAL BUILDING (7.) was originally constructed as a vacation home for the Chandler family from Philadelphia. Built in 1925, the Craftsman style house is accented by cross gables and decorative brick work on the exterior. The large west cross gable includes an exposed beam high ceiled room with a massive fireplace, which was once the great room for the Chandlers. It is now used for Pennsbury’s Township meetings and other public events. The Layton family, later owners, gifted the property and 7.5 Acres to the Township Supervisors in the 1960’s. By 1973, a rehabilitation plan had been approved and renovations began. Thanks to the home’s solid construction, and Pennsbury Supervisors’ preservation interests, a vacation home has become a unique Municipal Building.
**CHADDS FORD WINERY (8.)** was built as a residence by the Brinton family, who owned over 600 acres of farm land along the Baltimore Pike in the early 1800’s. Constructed after the Revolution, the building’s classic Federal style can be seen in the symmetrically placed windows which balance the central front entry. The Brinton sisters inherited the farm in 1840, but sold most of the acreage and the house in 1859. The barn was added by later owners. Since 1983, the residence and barn have been part of the wine production facility. It is open to the public for tours and wine tastings. For more information, go to www.chaddsford.com.

**BARN BRINTON HOUSE (9.)** was originally built as a tavern by William Barns in 1714. Barns was a blacksmith by trade. His skill is evident in the hand wrought door and cabinet accessories, which still remain in the old building. In 1753, the Tavern and 100 Acres were purchased by James Brinton, who owned adjacent farmland. Hessian Troops marched by the tenant house on their way to Chadds Ford early in the morning on September 11th. However, soldiers would have marched on the other side of the building where the Road to Chester or Post Road was then located. James’ oldest son, Joseph Brinton, filed damage claims for the Brinton farm after the Battle of Brandywine. In 1969, the Chadds Ford Historical Society bought the building and had needed restorations performed. It was listed on the National Register in 1971. The Historical Society opens the Tavern for tours and events throughout the year. For more information, go to www.chaddsfordhistory.org.
**BRINTON KING FARMSTEAD (10.)** is located on the northeast corner of Brintons Bridge Road and the old Road to Chester. The construction date of the original stone Trinity style house, which had one room on three floors, is circa 1780. James Brinton’s son, Joseph, built the stone farmhouse, but the exact date is unknown. Brinton properties on the Road to Chester at the time of the Revolution that still exist today include the Barns Brinton House, a smaller tenant house on the Old Baltimore Pike, and possibly a house at the Brintons Bridge Road corner. The Brinton family filed reparation claims after the Battle of Brandywine. By the late 1880’s the Brinton Kings had greatly enlarged and Victorianized the farmhouse and constructed the three story bank barn. Both structures remain much as they were in the 19th century and are under the same ownership. The farmhouse and barn are listed on the National Register.

**THE GABLES RESTAURANT (11.)** is located just east of the Brinton King Farmstead on the north side of the old Road to Chester. The three story bank barn restaurant dates to the 1880’s, although an earlier barn was on the property. It has an exposed beam private room on the second level for special events, and a large rustic dining room on the first floor. A covered patio bordered by stone walls has been added in the rear for outdoor dining. The restaurant is decorated with rustic 19th century antiques and farm implements. For more information go to: [www.THEGABLESATCHADDSFORD.COM](http://www.THEGABLESATCHADDSFORD.COM).
**WILLIAM HARVEY HOUSE (12.)** is hidden from view at its Brintons Bridge Road location. It was constructed in 1715 as a modest two story stone Penn Plan residence, with two windows on the second floor symmetrically placed over a window and door on the first. The owner at the time of the Battle was William Harvey II, son of William I. His son Amos also lived on the farm in 1777. The 300 acre property stretched to the Brandywine. Damage claims were filed by Amos Harvey after the Battle. The Harvey house was owned by the family until 1857. Twentieth century additions have enlarged the home, which is on the National Register. The photo was taken in the 1920’s, before renovations. It remains a private residence today.

**TEN GALLON HAT WINERY (13.)** is now closed, but began life as a Victorian farmhouse with a small bank barn in the mid 1800’s, when the land was used as an orchard by the Richie family. Cider press equipment was found in the barn in the late 1900’s. The house has also been an antique shop and an architect’s offices. The winery owner’s new barn was built on the stone foundation of the old structure. A silo was added to provide a stairwell off the south gable end. The small stone building predates the house, and must have been a work shop or forge, since a large wooden door covered an entire gable end at one time. The home was renovated in the mid 1900’s in the Victorian Queen Anne style. The Old Baltimore Pike ran on the south side of the house before 1938 and was the property entry.
**DARLINGTON HOUSE (14.)** was built circa 1869, a good example of Victorian Stick style architecture. Note the decorative cross piece exterior framing, the steeply pitched roofs and gables, and the patterned shingles. In the late 1800's, the house became part of a train station for Chadds Ford Junction, a stop on the Wilmington and Northern lines that ran from Reading to the port of Wilmington. ‘Junction’ was added to the name to distinguish it from Chadds Ford Station on the east side of the Brandywine. Chadds Ford Junction closed during the Depression, but trains still run daily from Wilmington to Coatesville. The house has been used for offices in recent years.

**DARLINGTON CREAMERY (15.)** is located at the eastern point of Pennsbury Township on the Baltimore Pike. Dairy products were shipped by train on the railroad running adjacent to the building. The creamery was constructed in the latter part of the 19th century. Once part of the Darlington House property, it has been a garage since around 1935, and has been owned by the Taylor family since 1960. The Old Baltimore Pike route became an extension of Fairville Road in 1938, when Route 1 was widened to three lanes. At that time, the garage entrance was changed to the north side of the Creamery building. The gas pumps were removed in 1999. Taylor’s Garage is one of the oldest continuing family businesses in the Chadds Ford area.
BRANDYWINE MUSEUM AND CONSERVANCY (16.) is celebrating its 50th birthday as a land preservation organization and museum for important artists, such as the Wyeth family, Frolic Weymouth, Howard Pyle, and Frank Schoonover among others. The Museum is constructed around Hoffman’s Mill, built in 1864 by George Brinton as a merchant flour mill that ground grain from local farmers and exported the products by train on the adjacent railroad. Sellers Hoffman bought the mill in 1871. It operated until 1948, but by 1960 was in very poor condition and part of a planned industrial park development. Local residents, members of the Tri County Conservancy, bought the property in 1967 to preserve the Brandywine River’s scenic legacy and protect the stream. Architect James Grieves designed an art museum around the brick structure which had its first exhibit in 1971. For information about hours, tours, and other events, go to www.brandywine.org.

CHRISTIAN C. SANDERSON MUSEUM (17.) was the residence of a well-known local historian and collector of items connected to Chadds Ford and U.S. History. Built in 1850, the Sanderson home and museum is a double house of local fieldstone covered with stucco. For a period of time, the Sandersons shared the home with Willard Sharpless, who operated a blacksmith shop in a building behind the house. Sanderson lived in the home with his mother from 1937 until his death in 1966. The first two rooms of the museum were opened in 1959. Sanderson’s 18,000 item collection includes artifacts as diverse as Indian arrow heads and Andrew Wyeth art. The eight room residence is filled with artifacts from the Revolutionary and Civil War periods, as well as 20th century memorabilia. After Sanderson’s death, Andrew Wyeth was instrumental in helping to establish the museum. For more information, go to: www.sandersonmuseum.org.
JOHN CHAD HOUSE (18.) located on Creek Road is a typical 18th century Quaker stone dwelling. Built in 1725, it was the home of John Chad and his family. By 1736, Chads had received a tavern license for his property and began a ferry service across the Brandywine. It was this crossing place that gave Chadds Ford its name. John died in 1760, but his widow lived in the house during the Battle of Brandywine and afterward, until her death in 1790. The ferry operated until 1827, when a bridge was built across the River. The Chadds Ford Historical Society owns and maintains the residence. It is open for tours during the summer and for special events throughout the year. For more information, go to: www.chaddsfordhistory.org.

CHADDS FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY (19.) is located in an 18th century styled stone and frame bank barn on the east bank of the Brandywine across Creek Road from the John Chad House. Designed and constructed in 1990 on the footprint of William Hoffman's dairy barn, the stone bank barn contains the Historical Society offices, museum, research library, museum store and information center. The Historical Society formed in 1968 to purchase and restore the John Chad House. The Society also owns the Barns Brinton House in Pennsbury Township. The Society’s Museum and Offices are open to the public weekly. The Society’s members are active in organizing community events, such as Chadds Ford Days and the annual Pumpkin Carve. For more information about tours, exhibits, activities, and the facilities, go to: www.chaddsfordhistory.org.
Brandywine Battlefield
Chester & Delaware Counties, PA

Battlefield Preservation Plan

Map 1.3
Combat Sites and Troop Movements