



Friends of Washington Crossing Park

2021 Annual Report

A Mission to Preserve, Promote and Educate

The Friends of Washington Crossing Park shares the powerful story of General George Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776 and interprets its ongoing impact on world history for both today's citizens and future generations.

Through fundraising, the generous support of our donors and members, and our partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, we are able to maintain and sustain this significant historic site and welcome thousands of schoolchildren, families, individuals, and groups every year.



New Program Development

- In the fall we welcomed four new lambs to the Thompson-Neely Barn's flock. Their names were voted on by the public, with the winning names being Hannah, Hugh, Knox and Nathanael.
- Our lecture series brought in notable speakers, including Pulitzer Prize finalist Nathaniel Philbrick and best-selling author Patrick O'Donnell as well as noted historians Noah Lewis, Matthew Costello, Christian McBurney and Kim Burdick.
- The Thompson-Neely Barn Renovation Project, which will open an exhibit and viewing area for the public inside the barn, has begun. The project is set for completion in the spring of 2022.
- We are proud to announce that with the help of our supporters we have successfully raised enough funds to replace both the large flagpoles located at the Valley of Concentration and at the Soldiers' Grave Memorial. They were installed on February 9, 2022, and a dedication will be hosted in 2022.
- This spring, the park began the long-awaited Capital Renovation Project which includes much needed restoration to eleven of our historic buildings. Repairs to stonework and new roofing, together with plumbing and electrical upgrades will help preserve our valuable historic resources as we welcome visitors for years to come.
- In honor of Constitution Day/Week in September our staff partnered with the Daughters of the American Revolution

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Our People



Friends of Washington Crossing Park Board

The all-volunteer Friends Board of Directors is made up of a diverse cross section of community members.

John Godzieba, President
William Haas, Vice President
Frank Lyons, Treasurer
Dave Kruszczyński, Secretary
Coleen Christian Burke
Thomas K. Fischer
Patricia Fisher-Olsen

Dean Malissa
Matthew McElroy
Peter Tucci
Charles Tweedy, M.D.
Robert West
Jennifer Martin, ex-officio
Mike Kuzar, ex-officio

Friends of Washington Crossing Park Staff

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, Friends staff members run the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Jennifer Martin, Executive Director*
Danielle Gress, Development Coordinator
Katherine Heutgatter, Volunteer Coordinator*
Gaetano Sava, Visitor Services Coordinator*
Anna Davis-Agostini, Historical Horticulturalist*
Ross Heutmaker, Farmstead Manager*
Connie Unangst, Museum Shop Coordinator
Katherine Manning, Development Assistant

**full-time staff member*



Historical Interpreters

Guided tours led by trained historical interpreters are offered at the Historic Village and the Thompson-Neely House and Grist Mill. Visitors can trace General Washington's footsteps in McConkey's Ferry Inn, traverse the three floors of a 19th-century grist mill, and peek into the park's replica Durham boats used in the annual Crossing Reenactments.

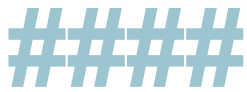
Bruce Cobb
Sean Corcoran
Josh Kasper
Corinne Kauermann
Bunkie Maddock

Thomas Maddock
Nancy O'Leary
David Price
Patricia Seabright

Volunteers

In 2021, over 400 volunteers contributed more than 7,000 hours in support of Washington Crossing Park. Volunteers served the park as historical interpreters, in visitor services, special events, gardening, animal care, school programs, as musicians in our fife and drum corps and in the Thompson-Neely Mill restoration project. A special thank you to all the volunteers for their service this year.





Our Activities

2021 Visitation

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 70 – Virtual Washington’s Birthday | 104 – Ten Crucial Days Bus Tours |
| 50 – Sheep Shearing | 5,000 – First Crossing |
| 1,600 – 4th of July | 3,000 – Christmas Day Crossing |
| 300 – Classic Car Show | 530 – Virtual Lecture Series |
| 530 – Wine on the Waterfront | 230 – Book Club |
| 480 – Autumn Market & Encampment | |



Our Supporters



2021 Foundations/Grants

Many of the programs offered by the Friends are supported by grants given by foundations, companies and organizations.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bucks Beautiful | The County of Bucks |
| Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund | The McLean Contributionship |
| Janssen Pharmaceuticals | Visit Bucks County |
| Small Business Association | |

2021 Corporate Sponsors/Major Gifts/Board Contributions

Financial support is also provided by a variety of local and regional companies and individuals.

- The Estate of William Farkas
- The Starke Family
- Friends of Washington Crossing Park Board of Directors
- Gordon & Barbara Heisler
- John & Joanne Godzieba
- Christopher & Mary Jane Beck
- Bill & Denise Haas
- Historic Interpreters Volunteers
- The Albert W. Bader Foundation
- The Macquarie Foundation



New Program Development, continued from page 1

Washington Crossing Chapter to create the "Constitution Compendium," a section of our website that contains original lesson plans for various grade levels and a resource library about the U.S. Constitution. The site also contains research on the Constitution signers who crossed the Delaware on Christmas Night, 1776.

- At the Thompson-Neely Farmstead, staff have been managing the pasture land and the woods along Pidcock Creek with the goal of increasing native biodiversity. We have accomplished this by removing invasive species from the woods and pastures, as well as using pasture rotation to prevent overgrazing and maintain a diverse native grassland habitat.



Our Projects

New Opportunities Generated by Capital Project

This year an \$8.7 million state grant for capital improvements is yielding visible upgrades on 11 historic structures and numerous contemporary buildings in Washington Crossing Historic Park. Project goals include structural preservation as well as the expansion of interior spaces slated for educational programming, exhibits, retail, and office use. The much-anticipated, 18-month project is being conducted and overseen by historic preservation specialists. The work began in May 2021.



“These crucial upgrades will enhance our mission and allow us to create new opportunities inside the restored buildings in the lower park,” said Jennifer Martin, Executive Director of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. “We are proud to showcase the park as a first-rate tourist destination as well as a highly-regarded site for classroom extensions.”

Renovation work currently underway includes major roof and carpentry repairs to all of the Taylorsville buildings along the point of the 1776 crossing embarkation. Structures in the historic village are also being connected to an updated water main system.

“Our new office at the Mahlon Taylor House will improve organizational capacity by allowing us to hire more staff members and create spaces for distance learning and on-site education,” said Martin, who noted these additional benefits:

- rehabilitation of the Patriot Shop adds new revenue opportunities;
- creation of an indoor classroom gives summer camps a permanent home;
- addition of running water enhances both colonial cooking classes and garden irrigation; and
- expansion of indoor/outdoor classroom space brings opportunities for more site-based environmental and STEM programming.



“These exciting changes will help park staff better serve visitors and the surrounding community as preparations gear up for the 250th anniversary celebration of the historic crossing in 2026,” added Martin.

Fundraising for interior restorations, classroom equipment, and exhibits is currently underway.

To learn more about the capital project renovations and to add your contribution, please visit:

<https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/renovations/>



Our beloved Abigail, now passed away

Our Projects



Sheep Sponsorships Breed Success

How is it possible to maintain 15+ sheep, support a knowledgeable farmstead manager, and safely restore their historic barn – all during a pandemic? Thanks to the generosity of donors wishing to “Sponsor a Sheep,” coupled with additional grant funding, all of this is occurring at Washington Crossing Historic Park with great success.



First launched in 2020 to help fund the Thompson-Neely farmstead when the coronavirus hit Bucks County, the “Sponsor a Sheep” program has so far raised over \$20,000 each year. This helped to keep the farmstead thriving despite the mandated reduction in visitors and normal park activities. Sheep sponsorships continue to be well-received through social media and web postings. With personal visitations resuming, it is hoped community interest will grow even more.



Nap time for Hannah, Hugh, Knox and Nathanael

In addition to supporting a full-time farmstead manager, “Sponsor a Sheep” funds cover the costs of grain, bedding, and much-needed medical care for the animals. The success of the program also enabled the addition of four new heritage breed sheep for the farm.

The sheep sponsorships, along with a grants from Church and Dwight and the McLean Contributionship, also enabled the park administration to work with restoration specialists to begin construction of ADA-compliant features in and around the Thompson-Neely barn, a project that is continuing into 2022. New doors and a hand-hewn

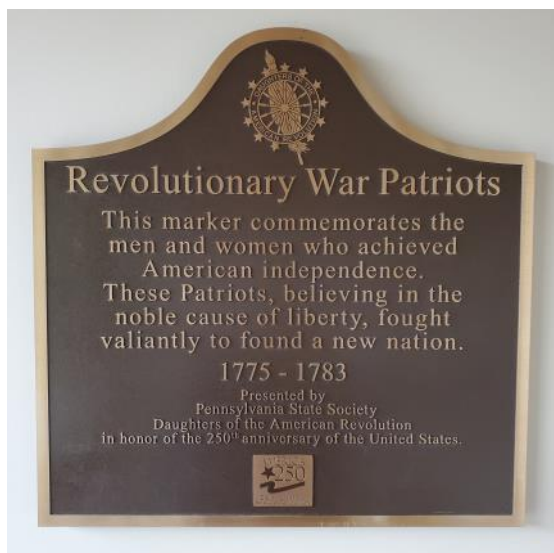
support beam blend in with the carefully-preserved barn interior. These improvements will allow for more indoor program offerings, accessible outdoor walkways, and the potential for new exhibit space.

Sponsoring a sheep is a popular gift idea for children, both near and far. The farmstead manager regularly welcomes visits from little ones as well as sheep sponsors of all ages who visit the barn to learn more about their sheep, heritage breeds, and farming in the 18th century. For more information about how to join this program, visit: <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/sponsor-sheep/>



Our Projects

DAR Recognizes Washington Crossing Historic Park with America 250! Plaque



The Pennsylvania State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recognized Washington Crossing Historic Park as a significant site of the American Revolution in a special ceremony held at the Visitor Center on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

At the event, Pennsylvania DAR State Regent Elizabeth Watkins unveiled and dedicated a DAR America 250! Patriots Marker as part of a national DAR project to raise public awareness about the men and women who achieved American independence.

“May this marker help keep alive what is special in our history,” said Watkins, adding that the National Society DAR hopes to place at least one marker in every state in advance of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

Also participating in the ceremony were Pennsylvania DAR State Chaplain Christyn Olmstead, Southeastern District Director Taryn Kennedy, Pennsylvania Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) President Gabriela Aragon, and Washington

Crossing Chapter Regent Judi Biederman. The Washington Crossing Chapter DAR hosted the event, assisted by the youth groups it sponsors, the Washington Crossing Society C.A.R. and Junior American Citizens Club.

Guest speakers included Park Manager Marisa Sprowles of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and John Godzieba, President of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. Godzieba portrayed General George Washington and was accompanied by three “Continental soldiers” and the Washington Crossing Fife and Drum Corps.

Five other Pennsylvania State Society DAR officers were in attendance, along with U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, who presented State Regent Watkins with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol; PA State Representative Wendi Thomas; and Upper Makefield Township Supervisors Tom Cino and Tim Thomas.



From left: U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania State DAR Regent Elizabeth Watkins, PA State Representative Wendi Thomas. Photo courtesy of Jeff Werner, Advance of Bucks County.



George Washington was accompanied by Continental soldiers and the Washington Crossing Fife and Drum Corps. Photo courtesy of Jeff Werner, Advance of Bucks County.

Our Projects

Funds Raised for Flags, Flagpoles, and More

Brand new American flags fly proudly atop two sturdy new flagpoles in key park locations thanks to a successful donor campaign launched last summer. Dated and damaged poles, originally installed c.1930, were removed and replaced opposite the Visitor Center and at the Soldiers' Graves memorial near the Thompson-Neely House.

Funds for this project were raised following a letter of appeal and Facebook posts that explained the need for replacements. The response was impressive indeed. In just over a month, the park exceeded its campaign goal, generating enough in donations to pay for two new flagpoles, appropriately-sized flags, additional site improvements, and continued maintenance.



The Friends of Washington Crossing Park salutes its many generous flagpole campaign donors, which included both local and state branches of the DAR and the SAR. One benefactor in particular earmarked funds specifically for rehabilitation of the Soldiers' Graves and the surrounding site, leading to a new interpretive plaque at that location and the cleaning of all on-site masonry.

The Soldiers' Graves memorial remains one of the few marked gravesites of Revolutionary War soldiers in the country. With the 250th anniversary of Washington's historic crossing approaching in 2026, this restoration and ongoing maintenance is particularly significant.

Want to know what's going on at the park?

Sign up for our newsletter at www.washingtoncrossingpark.org

Thank You, Donors and Supporters!

Annual state funding supports the costs of grounds maintenance needed to operate Washington Crossing Historic Park. The state also finances some of our environmental education programming. Yet there is so much more that occurs at the park, all thanks to our many individual and group supporters.

The Friends of Washington Crossing offers sincere gratitude to our dedicated donors,

supporters, and volunteers whose generous contributions make each of the following possible:

Daily tours
Living history programs
Christmas Crossing Reenactment
Independence Day celebration
Washington's Birthday activities
Autumn Market and
Encampment program
Tours of Bowman's Tower
Renovation of the Thompson-
Neely Grist Mill

Hibbs House Kitchen Garden
project
Student field trips
Volunteer training
Unbudgeted site maintenance
Historic interpreters
Artifact conservation
Lectures
Site enhancements
Staff salaries

....and so much more throughout the year!

Thank You to Our 2021 Donors

\$1,000+

Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR
PA Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Robert F. Bencker
Thomas Fischer
Kiwanis Club of Washington Crossing - Yardley Foundation Inc.
David Olsen & Patricia Fisher-Olsen
Frank & Patty Lyons
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Hilary Budny
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Christine Long
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\$500+

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\$100+

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