



# *Friends of Washington Crossing Park*

## 2022 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

- More than 12,000 visitors and students engaged with the park through virtual and in-person programs.
- In the spring, we welcomed two new lambs to the



Thompson-Neely flock. Robert and John arrived in July from the Peter Wentz Farmstead.

- We restored two important park monuments, including the plaques on the Patriotic Order

Sons of America Washington Statue and the Bucks County Historical Society Monument.

- We restored several important park artifacts, including an 18th-century stove plate, clock, and headboard, all of which will be on exhibit when the park buildings reopen.
- Our lecture series featured several distinguished and award-winning scholars, including authors Larry Kidder and Kevin J. Weddle.
- In December several community partners joined us as we hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the capital renovation project. The project is 95% complete with a few seasonal items to be completed this spring.

# 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  
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Robert West  
Jennifer Martin, ex-officio  
Mike Kuzar, ex-officio

## Friends of Washington Crossing Park Staff

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

Jennifer Martin, Executive Director\*  
Katherine Manning, Development Coordinator\*  
Danielle Gress, Grants Manager  
Gaetano Sava III, Visitor Services Coordinator\*  
Connie Unangst, Museum Shop Coordinator  
Anna Davis, Historical Horticulturalist\*  
Ross Heutmacker, Farmstead Manager\*  
Katherine Heugatter, Educational Programs Coordinator\*  
Colin Zimmerman, Military Historian\*  
Trish Rowen, Staff Accountant

\* *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 at 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 2022, more than 500 volunteers contributed 7,450 hours in support of Washington Crossing Historic Park. Volunteers serve the park as historical interpreters, in visitor services, special events, gardening, animal care, school programs, and musicians in our fife and drum corps. Thank you to all!





# Our Activities

## 2022 Visitation

Colonial Days Field Trips	4,000
First Crossing	3,000
Christmas Crossing	2,000
Spring Brewfest	1,720
4th of July	1,432
Fall Brewfest	1,172
Classic Car Show	680

Autumn Market & Encampment	600
Wine on the Waterfront	570
Lecture Series	441
Memorial Day	250
Wheat & Sheep	170
Book Club	168
Ten Crucial Days Bus Tours	94
Washington's Birthday (virtual)	50

## Our Supporters

### Foundations/Grants

Americana Corner  
Bucks Beautiful  
Church & Dwight Employee  
Giving Fund  
National Society Daughters of  
the American Revolution  
Bucks County Tourism  
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**Want to know what's going on at the park?**

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at

[www.WashingtonCrossingPark.org](http://www.WashingtonCrossingPark.org)





# Thank You to our 2022 Donors

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## \$500 +

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# Thank You to our 2022 Donors



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***THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!***



# Our Projects

## Park Monuments and Artifacts Restored

In preparation for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the historic events of 1776, several significant park restoration projects were completed in 2022. The conservation treatments outlined below highlight important monuments and park-owned artifacts not included in the recent capital improvement project. Park supporters, grant providers, and generous donors stepped up to meet these additional funding needs. Thanks to this notable support, the park will be ready for the 2026 celebration with improved overall aesthetics and upgraded educational opportunities.

### MONUMENTS

#### **Bucks County Historical Society Monument (1895)**

This granite marker overlooking



the Delaware River has proudly proclaimed, “Near This Spot, Washington Crossed the Delaware on Christmas Night 1776, the Eve of the Battle of Trenton” since its installation in 1895 by the Bucks County Historical Society. The 2022 restoration project included overall cleaning and stabilizing the monument to museum standards.

#### **Washington Statue (1916)**

The bronze plaques on the base of the prominent Washington Statue situated in front of the Visitor Center also needed professional cleaning and restoration. Corroded with age and covered in a green patina, the bronzes were difficult to read. The Patriotic Order Sons of America (PA), which originally erected the statue in 1916, donated \$3,000 toward the work. Now visitors will find plaques that look nearly brand new!

Crowdsourced funding for both monuments totaled \$8,500, which included a generous donation from the Starke Family. This funding was raised in just two weeks thanks to our supportive, enthusiastic donors! The work was conducted by B.R. Howard & Associates, Inc., experts in conservation and restoration.

“I believe it is important to preserve important places and commemorate events in our country’s history for future generations,” said James Starke, one of the donors to this restoration. “Hopefully, this will foster appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who went before us to allow all Americans to enjoy the freedoms we have today. For me, Washington Crossing Park is one of the most significant places worthy of preservation.



### ARTIFACTS

Thanks to grants from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Americana Corner organization, funding was sourced for the conservation of artifacts at the park. This work embodies the devoted preparations being made not only to park buildings but also to key historic objects that present new educational opportunities for park guests. Both will be on display when the restored park buildings reopen.



# Our Projects

## Tall-Case Clock (c.1776)



One of the park's most notable and visible artifacts is a c.1776 Thomas Wagstaffe tall-case clock, made in London. The clock is an exemplary piece of craftsmanship dating to the Revolutionary War era and will be exhibited proudly inside the McConkey Ferry Inn. The meticulous repairs made by conservators last year included fixing a broken hinge, filling molding splits, replacing missing upper spandrels, and giving the clock a thorough cleaning. The



brass dial was disassembled and polished to remove uneven and disfiguring oxidation. Black pigment was reapplied to the clock face numerals and the decorative engraving, and the conservator also re-silvered parts of the face. Once reassembled, the clock was made fully operational!

## Stove Plate (1770)

In 1977, an iron stove plate dating to 1770 was unearthed during archeological excavations at the Thompson-Neely Mill site.

To date, this remains the only documented object that was present on the property at the time of the 1776 encampment of the Continental Army (aside from the house itself). Integral to the site's ability to tell the story of daily colonial life in Bucks County, the stove plate was carefully pieced together, cleaned, and given a protective wax coating. A custom mount was created for exhibition in the Visitor Center Exhibit Gallery.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Fundraising continues as these and other improvements are made in preparation for 2026 and beyond. Look for future announcements from the park regarding specific projects underway, including restoration of the concrete portion of the Washington monument this year.

## DAR Places Marker Recognizing James Moore as Revolutionary War Soldier

On May 29, 2022, during Washington Crossing Historic Park Memorial Day ceremonies, the Washington Crossing Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution proudly placed a DAR marker on the actual grave of Capt. Lt. James Moore in the park cemetery and also dedicated a memorial bench in his honor.

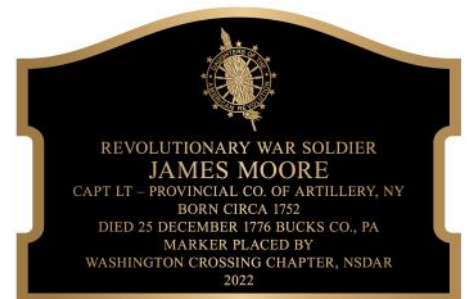
The marker, which required rigorous proof of Moore's birth, death, and service, recognizes him as a soldier of the Revolutionary War, having served in Alexander Hamilton's New York Provincial Company of Artillery.

Although the cemetery contains the remains of other Revolutionary War soldiers, Moore is the only one who has been identified, chiefly because of

an original headstone that was removed for conservation and exhibition.

In addition to numerous local dignitaries, also attending the ceremony were two representatives of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment "Hamilton's Own," which is the modern U.S. Army military unit descended from Alexander Hamilton's company.

To honor all the soldiers buried in the area surrounding the park cemetery, the Washington Crossing Chapter also dedicated a memorial bench with the inscription, "In memory of Revolutionary War soldier James Moore. He and all the unknown heroes who lie here with him are remembered and honored."





# Looking Ahead to 2026

## *A personal letter from the executive director to members and donors as we approach the Crossing's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

Dear FWCP Supporters:

Happy New Year! There is much to celebrate, as 2022 was an exciting year for the park. With an eye toward our high-profile celebration of the Crossing's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, let us pause to reflect on the momentum we achieved just this past year alone.

- Visitation began to return to pre-COVID totals, and major fundraisers, field trips, and public programs all resumed with great success. The return and expansion of schools attending our Colonial Days field trips from NJ, PA, NY and beyond showcase the significance our park holds as an educational resource for students and their families.
- We created a new position for a full-time military historian, who will help develop new program opportunities for visitors beginning in 2023.
- We completed several important conservation projects and identified new streams of revenue that will allow our organization to offer visitors a world-class experience in 2026 and ensure that the park is visited and enjoyed for generations to come.
- We witnessed the completion of the capital renovation project as a visual representation of the dedication of our state partners in elevating the park as we approach this important anniversary in American history.

With the extensive changes taking place at the park this past year, we are humbled and excited to acknowledge the investment in the park by all our



members, donors, and the community at large. For example, funding from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution toward the restoration of important park artifacts demonstrates the park's national significance as a key site in the quest for American independence.

Of special note, crowdsourcing \$8,500 in two weeks for the completion of two important monument restoration projects, along with our annual Crossing Appeal generating \$15,000 more than the previous year, showcases the buy-in from our community in preparing the park for 2026.

As we begin 2023, we have many new programs, exhibits and preservation projects planned, all of which would not be possible without your support. Thank you for making an investment in the future of the park. We are honored to serve Washington Crossing Historic Park with all of you. Stay tuned for exciting things to come!

*Jennifer Martin  
Executive Director  
Friends of  
Washington Crossing Park*

