This appendix provides detailed information about the interpretive themed heritage tour highlighted in Chapter 6, where heritage tours are described as one element of heritage interpretation for the battlefield. This appendix describes tour #4 in the series of strategic landscapes tours, which interprets Gen’l Knyphausen’s eastern column advance along today’s Baltimore Pike. This tour features the remarkably intact individual historic features that can still be seen between Kennett Heritage Center and main battlefield gateway at Brandywine Battlefield Park in Chadds Ford, even amongst the development along Baltimore Pike. In addition to featuring historic resources that tell the story of the morning advance, the tour also discusses families living in the area at the time of the battle, and the impact the battle had on them; for example, as evidenced by their registered claims against the British Crown for goods taken by troops as they marched through the area. As expected, the tour focuses largely on the military events conducted by both the Crown Force and American armies. However, colonial settlement patterns and features, the battle’s impact on the local community, and military events of both armies are common major themes. The tour largely forces on areas in the southern battlefield, but also identifies important sites in the associated Encampment and Approach Landscapes to explore after the tour. The tour ventures into the eastern battlefield and information may need to be updated after Phase 3 study of the eastern battlefield, is completed.

Strategic landscapes heritage tours are intended as driving tours for personal vehicles or mini-shuttle at a maximum. Some people may find these tours could instead be trekked by bicycle. In designing these tours, great regard is taken for private property remaining as such, and guiding people to public-access sites, with Kennett Square Borough serving as a recommended center for public interpretation of the southern battlefield overall and particularly the Eastern Column march. For ease of understanding and readability, tours do not necessarily use the historically technical language found in other parts of this plan; for example, this tour generally uses the term British troops rather than Crown Forces. Tour Map C-1 shows locations of interpretive sites.

Tour #4: ‘Advance with Gen’l Knyphausen’

#1: Kennett Heritage Center

The tour begins in Kennett Square Borough at the Kennett Heritage Center (anticipated opening spring 2021) located at Dr. Isaac Johnson House, 120 N. Union Street which is just north of Baltimore Pike (historic Great Nottingham Road) and Rt. 82. Rt. 82 is where Gen’l’s Howe’s and Cornwallis’ Northern Column camped overnight and then lined up into formation to march north the early morning of September 11, 1777. This intersection, while it looks different today, still shows the same roads and locations where the troops were almost 250 years ago.

Heritage Tour Overview

September 11 dawned gray and dank, with fog shrouding the Brandywine Valley. Thursday was baking day on many of the local farms, and the bake ovens were fired up with brushwood first thing in the morning for the all-day process. Normally a slight haze from cooking fires would have been puffing out of the large hearth chimneys and hanging in layers over the glens, but on this Thursday, the air was murky with the heavy volume of smoke collecting from hundreds of campfires.

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1 The northern column is interpreted in Tours #1 and #2 in Marshallton and Trimble’s and Jefferis’ Fords Landscapes, ‘Behind the Lines’ and ‘Breaching the Fords and the British Advance’ Plans.
The two armies were about five miles apart, each spread over several miles with hundreds of pickets and numerous scouting parties between. Gen’l William Howe, Commander of the British forces, which also included loyalists and Hessian soldiers, encamped his army of 15,800 troops along Red Clay Creek near modern day Kennett Square Borough, an 18th village. Gen’l Washington positioned his army athwart the Great Nottingham Road that led to Philadelphia, along the banks of Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford. The British army had a number of English, Scottish, and provincial loyalist regiments. Among the regiments raised in the colonies was Ferguson’s Rifle Corps, an elite unit that was equipped with a breech loading rifle that had been invented by its commander, Maj. Patrick Ferguson. Other loyalist regiments included the Queen’s Dragoons and the Queen’s Rangers, composed of men recruited from loyalist families. There were also several regiments of soldiers from different Germanic principalities, known as Hessian troops. Accompanying Gen’l Howe was the well-known British Gen’l Lord Charles Cornwallis and a well-respected Hessian Gen’l, Wilhelm von Knyphausen, who was responsible for distracting Gen’l Washington at Chadds Ford during the early part of the battle.

Civilians began to appear as events unfolded, watching both armies. Some were loyalists and others were Patriots, but most were pacifist Quakers and country people who were simply spectators. Some Quakers willfully ignored the armies and went about their daily business as Thursday was also the day for midweek Friends meetings.

The British army marched between 5AM and 6AM in two columns. One column of the army, 6,800 troops plus the army’s supplies, under Gen’l Knyphausen marched east along the Great Nottingham Road (today’s Baltimore Pike) from their encampment position along McFarlan Rd in Kennett Township just east of Kennett Square Borough. The majority of the British army, 9,000 troops, marched north along today’s Rt. 82 through the center of the Borough led by Gen’ls Howe and Cornwallis to complete an outflanking maneuver of the American Army.

Gen’l Knyphausen’s column marched straight at Gen’l Washington’s defenses on the advantageous high ground surrounded by the natural moat that was the Brandywine Creek. As the column approached the area of modern day Longwood Gardens, the column’s front was met by resistance from American Gen’l William Maxwell’s troop, assigned to act as an advanced guard for American defenses. Gen’l Maxwell’s troops, who were comprised of different regiments and militias to form a light infantry brigade, were meant to be highly mobile unlike conventional linear military tactics of the era. Effective as Gen’l Maxwell’s delaying tactics were, Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops pushed the American resistance back down the road towards Chadds Ford. Within a few hours British forces were facing the main body of the American army positioned directly across the Creek, near today’s Brandywine Conservancy. Gen’l Washington’s army was waiting for the enemy behind the hills of Birmingham Township on the east side of the Creek. His main force stretched along the east bank for 5 miles, covering 7 possible crossing points, or fords.

Gen’l Knyphausen installed artillery regiments on the high ground across from Gen’l Washington, near the site of the modern day Chadds Ford Elementary School, and began an intense cannonade in order to convince Gen’l Washington that all of the British forces were directly in front of him. Soldiers from either army occupying both sides of the Creek used the thick wooded terrain to their advantage for concealment. Gen’l Knyphausen was to hold in this manner until he heard Gen’l Howe’s troops firing from the north, indicating that his outflanking maneuver had been a success.
The logistical needs of the British army, including troops, support personnel, and their horses, were enormous. Gen’l Howe’s troops thoroughly scoured the local countryside and found ample supplies. As British officer Loftus Cliffe noted: “fortunately the Enemy had no Idea of our reaching up by Water so far and left this Country well Stocked for us” (Cliffe 1777). Not all of the animals that were brought along reached the quarter-master. Shortly after landing in Elkton, John André wrote on 26 August “No method was as yet fixed upon for supplying the Troops with fresh provisions in a regular manner. The soldiers slaughtered a great deal of cattle clandestinely” (André 1904:81). British officer Cliffe lamented the waste that occurred during these early days, writing “had we had the precaution of reserving our Salt we should have lived like Nabobs on this March; we have thrown away many a good piece of Beef for want of that” (Cliffe 1777). The scribe of the Erbprinz Regiment entered in his journal on September 2 that “...it had not been possible [for the inhabitants] to drive off their cattle as quickly...” as they had fled, so that livestock “...was picked up for the benefit of the army and a large number of horned cattle and sheep had already been collected....” (Erbprinz 1777:2). Troops picked up whatever they could; Gen’l Howe’s order of September 8 1777 could almost be interpreted as an invitation to plunder: “All Horses and Wagons taken up by the Troops on this March to be sent to the Quarter Master General near Head Quarters, at 8 o’Clock to-morrow morning,” Gen’l Howe ordered, “A Guinea will be paid for every good Horse so delivered, and for indifferent ones in proportion. Five Dollars for every good Waggon and Harness” (Howe 1777:490). As he encamped at Kennett Square on September 10, 1777, Hessian officer Ewald wrote that “Here, in this area, the army found an abundance of everything...” (Ewald 1777). Property damages to the local community ravaged the landscape; for those who were able, it took 20 years to recover from the war effort. However, some were not that fortunate and were finally devastated from property damages.
'The Eastern Advance Begins'

Leaving Kennett Heritage Center travel south of Rt. 82, turn left on Cypress Street then drive out of town. You will make a right on McFarland Rd. after stopping at the Abraham Taylor House.

Overview

At approximately 6:30am, the advancing column under Gen’l Knyphausen, which had been encamped in formation on McFarland Rd on the night of September 10, approached the vicinity of the modern day entrance of Longwood Gardens along the Great Nottingham Road. Gen’l Knyphausen, a 42 year veteran in the Prussian army of Frederick the Great at the time of his arrival in the colonies in 1776, was a well-respected Hessian officer who was put in command of the diversionary eastern column of troops that would distract Gen’l Washington along Brandywine Creek, while Gen’l Howe completed his outflanking march traversing the northern unguarded Trimble’s and Jeffers’ Fords. Under Gen’l Knyphausen’s command were various British & Hessian Regiments, the 16th Light Dragoons, Queens Rangers, Ferguson Rifle Corps, and 1st and 2nd brigades of artillery. At the head of the column were the Queen’s Rangers, a unit of loyalist soldiers raised in the colonies, and Ferguson Rifle corps, a newly formed regiment that sported the newly introduced Ferguson Rifle. This rifle contained a breech loading mechanism designed by Maj. Patrick Ferguson that not only could hit a target up to 300 yards away, but also cut the loading time in half and doubled the rate of fire by allowing 6-7 shots per minute compared to the regular musket that allowed for only 2-3 shots a minute.

In 1777, the entrance to Longwood Gardens was the approximate location of Welch’s tavern in Anvil village. On the morning of September 11, this area was occupied by around 150 troops of Capt. Charles Porterfield’s militia and riflemen that were an advanced attachment for American Gen’l Maxwell’s light infantry brigade, who was ordered to act as an advanced guard for American Forces. Capt. Porterfield’s troops, using the concealment of woods and fences, opened fired on the front of Gen’l Knyphausen’s column, who were marching on today’s Baltimore Pike, and then proceeded to fall back to the east. These troops were given strict orders to harass the enemy advancement and did so by implementing a “shoot and scoot” tactic towards the advancing column. This tactic brought the enemy advance to a snail’s pace as it required Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops to deploy from a vulnerable column formation into a battle line formation in order to effectively pursue the Americans. This maneuver took time and effort to complete and by the time Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops had deployed to pursue and engage the Americans, Gen’l Maxwell’s forces had already fallen back and were on their way to their next intended position to continue their harassment.

#2: Abraham Taylor House Viewing Site

Driving east on today’s Baltimore Pike, the Abraham Taylor House has been preserved on the Exelon Headquarters Corporate Park grounds. Taylor submitted an account of suffering to his meeting, terms a “Quaker Suffering” and period tax records indicate he was plundered, terms a “plundering claim” or deduction against property taxes owed. Turn right on McFarland Rd.

#3: Jesse Mendenhall House Viewing Site

Driving south on today’s McFarland Rd, the farmhouse a simple, two-story Colonial home with an historic stone core stands just 12 feet from the road. With its small size, it could be a good reuse as a less expensive house and with character! Likely built between 1713 and 1751, it was in the midst of Gen’l Knyphausen’s Division’s encampment line. Continue south on McFarland Rd to Creek Rd.
#4: Gavin Hamilton Mill Property, Lewis Mill Interpretive Site

Turn left on Creek Rd. and travel to today’s Clifton Mill, 162 Old Kennett Pike, where an interpretive sign is planned to commemorate Gen’l Knyphausen’s Division’s defensive line on September 10. The mill was located at the intersection of the 1717/1720 Road to Wilmington (today’s Old Kennett Pike) and the 1723 Road (today’s McFarland Rd. /Creek Rd.). This was the location where Gen’l Cornwallis had found already formed ‘petitioned’ roads to traverse, as opposed to needing to travel on informal and smaller farm lanes or through rough and difficult naturalized terrain. Gavin Hamilton, a tobacconist from Philadelphia, purchased this 100 acre mill tract from the estate of Ellis Lewis in 1776 (Deed Book F-2 pg 396). Gavin operated the grist mill on the property until 1794. He was born in Scotland and operated a tobacco exporting business in Philadelphia. There is evidence that his property was plundered by passing troops. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house, one barn and two mills. Travel back north to Baltimore Pike and proceed east.

#5: Longwood Gardens Historic District and Interpretive Site

There are three interpretive sites at this stop, only one can be accessed without paying the entry fee for Longwood Gardens which is an internationally acclaimed garden created by Pierre S. du Pont.

Welch’s Tavern, Skirmish Site

This former tavern, c. 1767, in the former Anvil village, was the location of the 1st skirmish between Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops and Gen’l Maxwell’s troops. This site is a ruin which can be seen from the roadway or by walking to an anvil that marks the still existing foundation wall of the former tavern. At this stop, visitors could learn about the role of taverns as community centers in the 18th century, the initial phases of the Battle, and the significant role of Gen’l Maxwell’s troops who included both militiamen and Continental Army soldiers, who bravely fought nearly non-stop throughout the day of battle. This site also relates to modern warfare in which fighting often occurs in developed areas, and in which professional and non-professional troops fight alongside each other.

Longwood Gardens, Peirce House

The Peirce House, c. 1730, which was within viewing distance of the skirmishes along Baltimore Pike, has been restored along with a colonial garden as part of Longwood Gardens. It can be accessed by the public as part of the ticket price to Longwood Gardens. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians whose houses were so close to active combat.

Longwood Gardens, William Webb House

The Wm. Webb farmhouse, c. 1740, was within view of the Welch’s Tavern skirmish. Visitors to this site can learn about the Quaker civilians whose houses were so close to active combat. While the Peirce House is located in an area that has become an integrated part of garden displays, the Webb House is located in a largely open landscape that retains its colonial-era setting.
‘The Advance Continues’

Overview

After leaving Welsh’s Tavern, the first fall back point for the Americans was at Old Kennett Meetinghouse. After implementing the same “shoot and scoot” tactic, Americans fell back yet again to a position nearly 700 yards east to join a waiting Maj. Charles Simms of a Virginia Regiment. At this fall back point, it was thought that Maj. Simms put up a ruse in order to deceive the British and convince them that American Forces were going to surrender. It was said in British diaries that American Forces turned over their arms, which was the universal sign for surrender. As Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops approached and got within very close range, and had their guard down, Maj. Simms gave the order to fire before again falling back to the east along the Great Nottingham Road. This “ruse” managed to inflict a great number of casualties to the advancing enemy column. From that point, American Forces continued their tactic of harassment and retreat/fall back towards Brandywine Creek. Along with way, several local families witnessed the action in the early morning hours.

#6: Old Kennett Meetinghouse Interpretive Site

Welcome to Old Kennett Meetinghouse. Here, some of the first shots of the Battle of Brandywine were fired. As Crown Force’s - British and Hessian soldiers -marched from Kennett Square, Gen’l Maxwell’s American Forces fired on them from protected positions behind stone walls, trees, and high ground. After an initial scrambling, Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops regrouped and fought bravely to a point where the Americans withdrew, and Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops continued their advancing march. While most of the wounded were taken to Birmingham Meetinghouse, further east, for care and burial, Hessian soldiers who died in battle are buried in a mass grave in the meetinghouse’s cemetery.

While the battle raged outside, inside a Quaker meeting was being held. The diary of Jacob Peirce indicated that ‘there was chaos without, but great peace within.’ So, why were the Quakers not participating in the battle, and how did their religious beliefs affect their role in early American society? Quakers initially dominated the social and economic life of Philadelphia and nearby areas where Quaker settlers built farms in the late 1600s. By the 1680s, there were Quaker settlers spread out in outlying areas of southern New Jersey and in Chester County PA. At the turn of the 18th century, there were a sufficient number of Quakers to build local meetinghouses, and this one, initially constructed in 1707 of logs, was built in its current form in c. 1717-1730. Quaker populations grew not only through net migration, but also by conversion as other settlers were drawn to Quaker tenets of tolerance and equality. A key tenet is that of “the Peace Testimony”, which abjures physical violence and promotes diplomacy to settle grievances. While Quakers accept the authority of secular governments, oaths of fealty and support of war was prohibited. From the time of the French and Indian War to the American Revolution, Quakers gradually retired from the PA Assembly as their strong religious beliefs against war and violence were dismissed by more radical political activists. Quakers represented more than 60% of the PA Assembly pre-Revolutionary War, and less than 10% after the war.

Quaker beliefs allowed members to offer relief efforts to both armies. Quaker men were derided for paying others to serve in local Militia in their stead, and those Quaker men who did serve were expelled from their meetings. Roughly 1,800 “fighting Quakers” were disowned. Two prominent aged Quakers were hanged in Philadelphia for not supporting the war. The leading Quaker men of Philadelphia were arrested, without habeas corpus, and sent to prison in Virginia, where two of them died of penal privations. Many Quakers were the target of mob violence as political extremists disrespected their religious convictions and labeled their actions as disaffection or treason. Meetinghouse documents of the era, and well into the 1820s, discuss what was termed “sufferings”, where Quakers were subject to fines and appropriation of livestock, food, household goods etc. The pervasive hostility led Quakers to turn inward, becoming even stricter in observance of behavioral norms and member conduct. This defensive reaction led to the Quakers increasingly becoming distanced from the greater
The Army Marched at Dawn – Southern Battlefield Strategic Landscapes Plan

Appendix C-Heritage Tour

population at large and also led to growing schisms within the faith. This ethical crisis of the Revolutionary War caused a dramatic decline in Quaker influence in PA society and economy.

#7. Joshua Peirce III House Viewing Site
 Constructed prior to the Revolutionary War, the Peirce family had bought the Hope family residence on Hickory Hill Rd. in 1770, along with 170 acres from Amos Hope’s 350 acre farm. The acreage included the property where the house stands today. Joshua Peirce Jr. filed damage claims after the battle. The oldest section of the house includes an intact beehive oven that can be seen on the west gable exterior wall. The house entry is now on the north side of the structure due to the widening and rerouting of Baltimore Pike. The Peirce family owned the house until 1900.

#8: Joseph Peirce House/Pennsbury Inn Viewing Site
 C. 1714-1720, this house (which became a tavern in the 19th century and is currently a bed and breakfast) was the location from which the family watched the nearby early morning skirmishes between Gen’l Knyphausen’s and Gen’l Maxwell’s troops. This site is open to visitors who are customers of the Pennsbury Inn.

#9: Barns-Brinton House/William Barns Tavern Interpretive Site
 C. 1714, this building was on the Great Nottingham Rd and witnessed Gen’l Knyphausen’s passing troops the morning of battle. Here, his troops were pushing back American troops under Gen’l Maxwell. The building 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 1753, the Tavern and 100 acres were purchased by James Brinton, who owned adjacent farmland. Tours of the building are arranged by Chadds Ford Historical Society, which owns and maintains the site.

‘The Advance Continues Eastward’

Overview
 British forces hauling massive field pieces of artillery separated from Gen’l Knyphausen’s troops to haul the artillery up Brinton’s Bridge Rd. to be placed on Brandywine Creek western heights opposite Gen’l Washington’s forces. These artillery pieces, which consisted of six 12lb cannons and four howitzers, would later inflict such a heavy barrage of cannon fire that the inhabitants of Philadelphia, nearly 25 miles to the east, could hear the assault as clear as day. These 12lb pieces could fire a solid shot or iron ball once every 25 seconds and had an accurate range of 400 yards when leveled and up to 4,000 yards with the barrel elevated to 45 degrees. The howitzers fired exploding shot; a charge that consisted of a hollowed out piece of solid shot and filled with gunpowder and sometimes other deadly objects such as musket balls and shrapnel that would rain down over its enemies from above. These pieces were placed on the ridge west of the Creek just north of Chadds Ford and were tasked with wreaking havoc on Gen’l Washington’s forces in the morning hours, while Gen’l Howe and Gen’l Cornwallis led the majority (9,000 troops) of the British army to complete their outflanking march.

The Brinton-King House is currently an antique shop and its barn is The Gables restaurant, both of which can be accessed by the public as customers. Visitors to this site could learn about Quaker civilians. The site also relates to
modern warfare in which the movement of heavy weaponry is a major logistical concern for troops. Joseph Brinton, the son of the owner James, lived on the western portion of James Brinton’s plantation and made a claim for the loss of the following items on September 11 & 12, 1777: 1 cow, 2 horses, 100 dozen wheat, 50 dozen rye, 6 ton hay, Sundry household goods. One structure you cannot see from this point is the William Harvey house, which is located on Brinton’s Bridge Rd.

With the continuing advance of Gen’l Knyphausen’s forces, and Gen’l Maxwell’s forces effective resistance, the Americans were still pushed closer and closer to the Creek. As the Americans were pushed across the Creek to rejoin Gen’l Washington’s main forces, they came under fire from their own artillery posted on the east side of the Creek. After a somewhat successful attempt to slow the British advance, the battle entered what is commonly referred to as the “Mid-Morning Lull” in the advance of troops. Instead of continuing to advance towards one another, both sides stopped and engaged each other in combat. At this point, Gen’l Washington was convinced that his forces were in an advantageous position to repel the British army, but little did he know that he was encountering only a portion of British forces. It was not Gen’l Howe himself across the Creek fighting him; instead Gen’l Howe was with Gen’l Cornwallis and their 9,000 troops closing in on American Forces from the north. Gen’l Knyphausen continued to bombard the American stronghold all morning to successfully create the illusion that this was the full battle. At this time, Gen’l Washington also was getting field reconnaissance intelligence reports; however he had received conflicting reports and by the time he understood what was occurring, it would be too late. These conflicting reports would ultimately lead to his downfall at Brandywine.

#10: Brinton-King House and Barn Interpretive Site
Currently an antique shop and its barn is The Gables restaurant. C. 1800, the farmstead was located at today’s intersection of Brinton’s Bridge Rd, and Baltimore Pike, where which Knyphausen’s forces divided. Amazingly, despite all the modern development on the Baltimore Pike corridor, there remain so many historic buildings preserved from the colonial-era. Pennsbury Township has been a leader in this regard and is a role model for such spectacular preservation efforts.

According to Maj. Patrick Ferguson, American Forces were “planted like cabbages.” He also wrote that his men were so fatigued from pursuing the Americans that he had to send half to the rear of the column. Keep in mind the route you just took from Old Kennett Meetinghouse to this location required soldiers to march with 60lb packs on a very hot humid late summer day, while combating enemy affronts.

#11. William Harvey House Viewing Site
This house is hidden from roadway view at its Brinton’s Bridge Rd 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 floor. At the time of the battle, the owner 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 Creek. Property damage claims were filed by Amos Harvey after the battle. The house was owned by the family until 1857. In the 20th century, additions enlarged the house. It remains a private residence today, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The photo was taken in the 1920’s, before the building addition. It remains a private residence today.
Optional Additional Sites – ‘British Wagon Baggage Train’ Viewing Corridor

Continue on Baltimore Pike to the traffic light at Chadds Ford Elementary School. Here, turn right onto Fairville then Hillendale Rds. to view the British Wagon Baggage Train Viewing Corridor.

#12 Peter Harvey House Viewing Site
A Wagon Baggage Train is a caravan of horse drawn wagons that carried food, camp, and munition supplies for an Army. What was its length? As Gen’l Knyphausen marched out of Philadelphia in June 1778, he noted that his 12-mile-long wagon train consisted of around 1,500 wagons (Clinton 1778). In the best of all possible worlds, all things being even, this amounts to around 125 wagons per mile and 42 feet per each wagon on average.

In the case of the British wagon train of the eastern advance of the Battle of Brandywine, if the wagons were all lined up along the same road one after the other, this would mean a hypothetical column of between 2.5 and 3 miles in length, not counting the artillery pieces and the thousands of troops marching. At night and over difficult roads, the baggage train could be considerably longer and even lose contact. During the night of September 9/10, Maj. André reported that “The line of baggage was produced, by the badness of the road and insufficiency of the horses, to a very great length, and the 4th Brigade, which was in front of it, had by quickening their pace to reach General Knyphausen, gained so much upon the carriages that there was a space of two or three miles between them” (André 1904:83-84).

Approximately 1,500 horses were needed to pull the wagons and artillery pieces. Additionally, horses were needed for officers and their servants. At almost 40 officers per regiment, Gen’l Howe’s army, including staff and aides, numbered around 1,250 officers (Howe 1778). Since all officers had at least one servant, another 2,500 horses need to be added to this total. Historian Thomas McGuire estimates Gen’l Howe’s army also had around 5,000 camp followers, teamsters, farriers, plus 800-900 musicians (fifes and drums) (McGuire 2017). For comparison purposes, battle-era Chester County (which included modern Delaware County) was highly rural and agricultural with a small population. The total population within the entire approximately 35,000 acre battlefield area was less than 5,000 people, probably half of which were children. The British army alone brought with them over 20,000 people, or more than four times the population of the entire local battlefield community. Philadelphia’s population of close to 40,000 inhabitants was the largest city in the nascent United States when the Declaration of Independence was signed in the summer of 1776. On September 11, 1777, it was as if half of the population of Philadelphia had descended upon the local community at once.

#13 John Hope House
Also called the Daniel Peirce House after a later owner, the house was built in the early 18th century on a Penn Land Grant purchased by John Hope. Today it sits back from the junction of Baltimore Pike, but sat closer to the Great Nottingham Road, which Baltimore Pike replaced and expanded. Hope’s youngest son, Amos, inherited the farm in 1749. Unfortunately, Amos died at a young age and his wife sold the house to Joshua Peirce after Amos’ death in 1769. Peirce filed property damage claims after the battle. The Peirce family owned the house until 1926. It has remained a private residence for over 300 years.
**Continue the Journey**

From this vantage point, the visitor has three choices. They can return to Kennett Square Borough and travel north to Marshallton Heritage Center where there are three heritage interpretive tours of the northern battlefield. They can continue east on Baltimore Pike to Brandywine Battlefield Park Gateway to learn about the battle at the Park’s visitor center and historic properties. They can also return to Kennett Square Borough and from there visit sites that speak to pre-battle day British troop movements from Delaware into Pennsylvania as well as the British encampment around Kennett Square, as described below.

**The British Approach & Encampment**

**Overview**

On September 9, 1777, British troops began their north march from Delaware into Pennsylvania. Records show that in the early afternoon, Gen’l Knyphausen was ordered to march with his column, including baggage, cattle, provisions etc., on the road to Kennett Square. It was early evening before his rearguard of the division left camp. Journals of individual regiments confirm this long, drawn-out departure. A few hours later, Gen’l Howe and Cornwallis set out on what was supposed to be a much shorter route, both in terms of distance as well as time spent. Period sources agree that Gen’l Cornwallis also had a difficult time to get his troops moving. In early evening, Gen’l Cornwallis’ column finally set out on what would prove to be a difficult night march.

Gen’l Cornwallis was led by a knowledgeable local guide coerced into serving as such. “In the night of the 9th to the 10th, the guide who took General Washington across the Brandywine was captured and gave us good information. The guide knew the way through an area where all houses are occupied, where there are many loyalists and there will be no shortage of news. While the planned movement appeared straightforward, there were simply too many troops for a successful march over “undefined,” “bad,” “County roads,” and by midnight Gen’l Howe was forced to call a halt. “Lord Cornwallis and Major-General Grant marched from Headquarters at Nichols’s House Mill Creek Hundred by a bye road to Hockessin Meetinghouse – Quaker Meeting 4 miles distance and encamped” (Montrésor 1881:415).

While the Cornwallis column fumbled about in the dark of the Red Clay Creek Valley, Capt. Friedrich von Muenchhausen recorded that “General Howe sent me and one of my comrades, Capt. Knight, together with 12 dragoons, back with orders for Knyphausen’s division to stop at New Garden Meeting, which we would have to pass” (Muenchhausen 1974:30). Gen’l Howe had realized it would be impossible for his forces to reach Welch’s Tavern, his original planned destination in Pennsylvania, with any semblance of military order from which he could stage an attack on Gen’l Washington, and thus reacted accordingly. He rescheduled the columns to Kennett Square as the destination instead, ordering Gen’l Knyphausen to stop at New Garden Meetinghouse to give Gen’l Cornwallis’ column time to march north and reach Kennett Square well ahead of Gen’l Knyphausen the morning of September 10. Without getting his column shuffled with Gen’l Knyphausen’s division, Gen’l Cornwallis’ column would pass through 1777 Kennett Square village north-south and camp along today’s Union St. and Unionville Rd., which extended toward a place that members of the British Army called “Marlborough Meeting.” This route was the revised route Gen’l Howe wanted to take to turn onto Gen’l Washington’s right side on the heights north of Chadds Ford. For his plan to succeed, Gen’l Knyphausen was ordered to temporarily encamp west of Kennett Square until the Cornwallis column could cross north in front of Gen’l Knyphausen’s east-west column without having both columns mixed up.

In trying to find Gen’l Knyphausen, Capt. Muenchhausen and Capt. Knight “rode for 10 miles in territory we did not control, and twice came upon rebel dragoons who fired at us, we luckily got through,” but by then Gen’l Knyphausen was well past New Garden Meetinghouse (Muenchhausen 1974:30). Encounters with American dragoons and militia were frequent on the British marches. As New Castle County militiaman Isiah Mann recalled in his pension application, he was “engaged in a slight skirmish near New Garden Meetinghouse the day before
Further evidence of skirmishing among American patrols was also reported by 1st Virginia Light Dragoon Isaac Dehaven in his sworn application for a pension. “The night before the battle of Brandywine,” Dehaven wrote, “and others of the country had taken a parcel of British prisoners and the day of the battle he was guarding them, and was consequently prevented from sharing in that battle....” (Dehaven 1832).

It was now late into the night on September 10. Since Gen’l Knyphausen’s vanguard was already outside of Kennett Square, and it was impossible for him to return to New Garden Meetinghouse because of the loaded supply wagons in his column and the ravined roads. As they rode back to report to Gen’l Howe, Capts. Muenchhausen and Knight “met two English brigades with heavy artillery and the baggage, that General Howe’s corps had taken along. They were on their way to General Knyphausen at New Garden” (Muenchhausen 1974:30). Gen’l Howe had ordered the 3rd and 4th Brigades under Gen’l James Grant, along with artillery and supply baggage, to detach from Gen’l Cornwallis’ column and move to reattach to Gen’l Knyphausens’ column detached “to take the same Route with General Knyphausen to support him in case of necessity, as Washington’s Route was uncertain” (Robertson 1930:146). After a few hours of rest, Gen’l Howe’s remaining forces broke camp and completed their march north to Kennett Square having marched a total of 10 miles in more than 14 hours. John Peebles wrote that “Lord Cornwallis division of the army moved about 6 this morng. back a piece of the road we came yesterday & then turn’d to the right & march’d to Kennetts [sic] Square where we found Kniphausens [sic] Division” (Peebles 1998:132). From primary reports from the march, it would appear that the Cornwallis Division split occurred to have fewer troops tackle the very difficult terrain that was before them. Period accounts all confirmed an exhausted army overwhelmed by the lack of roads and the need to travel at night in the dark.

‘Gen’l Knyphausen’s Column March to Kennett Square’

#14. Isaac Allen Tavern/Farm Site

In 1764, Isaac Allen purchased a 150 acre property that the house to the right is located on (Deed Book P-2 pg 6). He submitted his first petition for a tavern license in August 1764 noting that he had been “at a very Great Expence” building a suitable “messuage” or tenement to accommodate a great many travelers that passed by on the “Christianna Bridge Newport Road”. Allen leased the tavern to Joshua Jackson from 1776 to 1778 and it was Jackson who was likely occupying the tavern site at the time of the battle. Allen was appointed tax collector several times between 1776 and 1779, each time being excused from military service. Both Isaac Allen and his son James Allen submitted damage claims in 1782, indicating the property was plundered. Isaac Allen claimed the loss of three horses and “sundry articles” valued at £50.0.0. James Allen claimed the following: one smith’s vise, screw plates, files and hammers, shoeing tools and drills, and one small chain. (photo shows former tavern)

#15. New Garden Meetinghouse Interpretive Site

While meeting at John Miller’s house, decisions were soon made to build a Meetinghouse, and in June of 1713 another request was made to Newark Monthly Meeting, this time permission to build was granted. Out of a primitive forest, a place of worship became a reality, the result of courage, endurance, and a strong faith that religion was a necessary part of life. Imagine the task of clearing the forest and building, log by log, a Meetinghouse while struggling at the same time to build their own homes, clear their farms, and produce enough food for their large families. It undoubtedly represented a sacrifice of personal plans; but in
spite of privation and hardships, the first Meeting for Worship was held in the new Meetinghouse in the fall of 1715, only seven years after the first land grants were made. What a joy and satisfaction they must have experienced as they worshipped there on that First-day morning! Here these sturdy Irish Quakers would continue to worship and marry, and would end their earthly days in the adjoining burial ground.

The log Meetinghouse served well. Membership increased so much that it soon became too small and plans were made to build a new and larger one in 1743. Roads had improved by this time and they were able to transport brick for the south end from Newport, Delaware that had been used as ballast in sailing ships. The north end was added in 1790.” Hagerty, Ann. Once Upon a Time in New Garden Township. New Garden Historical Commission, 1977.

#16. William Miller Mill Tract Site

It was near this site that the Newport-Gap Road and the Great Nottingham Road intersected. In 1768, William Miller acquired this 760 acre tract upon the death of his father William Miller Sr. (W&A #2447). As early as 1710, a mill was identified on this site when the property was owned by William’s grandfather, John Miller. William was a miller by occupation and a member of the New Garden Meeting. In 1783, the property contained one dwelling house, three out buildings, two grist mills and two saw mills.

#17. Isaac Miller Farm

In 1727, Isaac Miller inherited this 150 acre tract of land on the death of his father Joseph Miller (Deed Book A-2 pg 58). Isaac was a Quaker farmer and a member of New Garden Meeting. In 1782, he submitted a property damage claim indicating his farm was plundered and loss of: one bay mare branded RC, one gray horse, one two year old colt, one six year old horse, one sixteen year old mare, sixteen sheep, two men’s saddles, one eighteen year old mare, one fourteen year old mare, one (almost new) cart and gears, one pair of horse gears, one year old calf, eighty bushels of oats and sundry household goods worth £200.0.0.

#18. Stephen Anderson/Sam White Tavern Ruins Site

In 1772, Stephen Anderson, an inn holder then of London Grove, bought this 64 acre tract from Elizabeth Ring (Deed Book T pg 341). A tavern had been operated on this site since 1738 when William Carpenter applied for a tavern license. By 1772, the tavern had gone through a succession of owners, including Stephen White, who may be the “Sam” White identified on the historic battle Blaskowitz map. Anderson operated the tavern, known then as the Sign of the Ship, from 1772 until 1776. No surviving tavern petitions exist for Anderson from 1777 through 1780 and his taxes, for the same period, do not indicate that he was running a tavern on the property. In 1778, he was appointed to serve as tax collector and freeholder, both times he refused and was fined. In 1781, his property was confiscated by the state for being “an Attainted Traitor,” having joined the army of the enemy. (photo shows former tavern)
‘Gen’l Cornwallis Column March to Kennett Square’

#19 Chandler Mill Bridge/Red Clay Creek Fording Interpretive Site

The most likely British fording of Red Clay Creek was about 800 yards east of today’s Chandler Mill Bridge on the battle-era Isaac Gregg Farm. Writing his will in 1770, Joseph Gregg left his son Isaac a half part of his 200 acre tract whereon Joseph then lived (W&A #2586). Isaac Gregg was a Quaker farmer and a member of Kennett Meeting. In 1774, he was disowned for marrying contrary to discipline. There is evidence that his property was plundered during the battle. In 1783, this property contained two dwellings and a barn. After fording, British troops then moved north on a cart path leading to Michael Gregg’s farm, which farmhouse still stands as a private house. Michael Gregg acquired this tract of 200 acres after the death of his father Thomas Gregg in 1753 (Deed Book Z pg 274). Michael was a Quaker farmer and a member of both New Garden and Kennett Meetings. There is evidence that his property was plundered. In 1783, this property contained two dwellings, a barn and a shop. It is likely the farm lane followed by Gen’l Cornwallis’ Column leading from Red Clay Creek fording area passed this property before turning north to follow today’s Kaolin Rd.

#20. Cornwallis Division Column Encampment /James Walter Farm Viewing Site

Located just north of the intersection of the 1734 Road and the 1720 Road, this farm was central to the Cornwallis Column Encampment along today’s Rt. 82 through Kennett Square Borough. This tract was originally owned by Aaron Musgrave who acquired the 170 acres from William Chandler in 1757. Aaron in turn sold the tract to Joseph Walter in 1768 who likely purchased the property with the intention of giving it to his son James. James Walter appears to have been seated on this property as early as 1770 but did not officially purchase it from his father until 1774. (Deed Boxes - Kennett, Elizabeth Musgrave, et.al. to James Walter, 1789. CCHS). James was a birthright Quaker who was disowned in 1770 for being married by a priest to Sarah Dixon. James Walter refused to serve in a public capacity as assistant tax assessor in 1778 and 1779. He was fined for his refusal in 1778 and was able to find a substitute in 1779. (Commissioner’s Minutes, 1777-1782, Pgs. 68, 109, 110) This was fairly common, especially for Quakers, who did not wish provide support for either side during the war. James Walter was a mason, though it appears his main trade was farming for much of his life. He remained on the property until his death in 1797.

In 1783, Walter’s property consisted of a dwelling, barn, and shop. There is clear evidence in tax records that his property was plundered during the battle. In the 1778 tax assessments, which were taken only a few months after the events of 1777, his entry indicates that he was “Plundered.” (1778 State Tax, S-a1, Pg 213) In Kennett Square: Yesterday and Today, the author states that “Joseph and James Walter lost the deeds to their property when the Hessians ripped open their feather beds and made off with their valuables hidden inside” (Pg 11). In 1789, Walter requested a release from the previous owners of his 170 tract because the deeds were “now lost or destroyed” leaving his title to the property defective and in disarray. Use of the word “destroyed” is significant as it denotes a willful act of damage as compared to the more typical term of ‘misplaced’ that was generally used at the time for these situations.