



# Appendix C Themed Heritage Tour

This appendix provides information about the interpretive themed heritage tour concept highlighted in Chapter 6, where heritage tours are described as one element of heritage interpretation for the battlefield. This appendix describes tour #5 in the series of strategic landscapes tours<sup>1</sup>, with this tour interpreting the end of Gen'l Howe's successful northern flanking maneuver leading to the observation point of high ground at Osborne Hill and the ensuing battle area to the south ending in the Americans falling back toward the Dilworthtown area. This tour features the remarkably intact historic features that can still be seen between Strode's Mill Village Heritage Center at Strode's Barn (underway to open), Combat and Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Heritage Center at Thornbury Farm (partly open/in process of being completed and the (planned) Washington's Rearguard & Strategic Retreat Heritage Center in Historic Dilworthtown. It discusses important aspects of the battle for public interpretation along key viewing corridors. As expected, based on the project ABPP grant funded military terrain analysis Technical Report associated with/foundational to the Phase 3 project, the tour concept focuses largely on military events conducted by both Crown Force and American armies; however, in the future it could possibly be supplemented with battle-era community information. The tour highlights three Heritage Centers (above named) and stretches from Strode's Mill village (start) to Dilworthtown village (end), with key locations of interpretive sites and viewing corridors along the way.

Strategic landscapes heritage tours are intended as driving tours for personal vehicles or possibly mini shuttles at a maximum. Some people may find these tours could instead be trekked by bicycle, and certain parts of tours having pedestrian/walking opportunities. In designing these tours, regard is taken for private property, and guiding people to public access sites. with the three Heritage Centers serving as recommended centers for public interpretation of thematic focuses discussed in Chapter 6. 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 although both may be used. Tour Map C-1 shows locations of tour sites.

## Tour #5: 'Four Hills and a Hollow'

### # 1: Strode's Mill Village Heritage Center

The tour begins in Strode's Mill Village at the Strode's Mill Village Heritage Center located on PA52. Strode's Mill Village marks the end of the British Advance and a lull in action on the northern front of the battlefield as Crown Forces regrouped after crossing Jefferis' Ford. Strode's Mill Village bore witness to Crown Force activity as the troops settled near the village after a grueling more than 10-mile march to prepare their attack on Washington's troops on Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hill. While not open to the public, across Birmingham Road is the 18<sup>th</sup> century Strode's Mill viewing site, a known place historically. It is an important building and called out in the American Battlefield Protection Program's Report to US Congress about Rev War (and War of 1812) sites (2007).

### Heritage Tour Overview

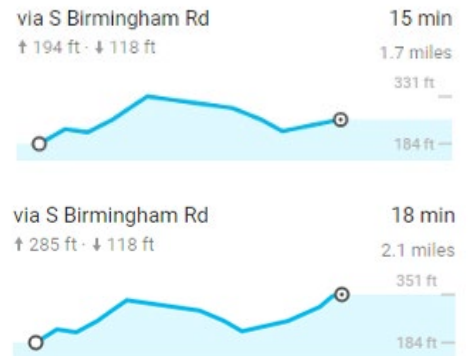
September 11 dawned gray and dank, with fog shrouding the Brandywine Valley. The early morning of the battle, General Washington deployed troops to guard fords the British might use to approach American Forces from the west. Troops were posted at eight fords along the Brandywine Creek's main stem, from Smith's Ford, located far south of the Great Nottingham Road at today's PA/DE state line, to Buffington's Ford, located to the north at the

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<sup>1</sup> The northern column is interpreted in Tours #1, #2, and #3 in Marshallton, Trimble's and Jefferis' Fords, and Scanneltown/Strode's Mill Landscapes in 'Behind the Lines' Plan, 'Breaching the Fords and the British Advance' Plan, and 'Preparing for Battle' Plan, while the eastern column is interpreted in tour #4 in Southern Battlefield Landscapes in 'The Army Marched at Dawn' Plan.

forks of Brandywine Creek. Troops were also positioned at other locations east of the Creek from Brinton's Ford to north of Gibson's Ford, with the majority of troops – as brigades – from Brinton's Ford to south of Chadds' Ford and Ferry. General Sullivan's Maryland Division was stationed at Brinton's Ford. He deployed units from his division to guard the next three fords to the north (Jones's/Painter's Ford, Wister's Ford, and Buffington's Ford) that were roughly one mile apart from each other along the Creek. The failure to protect Jefferis' Ford and Trimble's Ford, the next fords to the northeast and northwest, respectively, on the Creek's east and west branches, was a key contributor to General Washington's military defeat at the Battle of Brandywine.

Early in the morning of September 11, 1777, Hessian General Knyphausen with approximately 6,800 troops distracted Washington with a planned feign that allowed General Howe's troops to march north in a successful flanking maneuver and cross Brandywine Creek at Trimble and Jefferis' Fords. While the Crown Force northern flank was detected at various times that day by American scouts and others, there was disparate information provided to Washington. This is because the Crown Forces were in constant movement, and although an long line of approximately 9,000 men traveling on roadways would've been clearly visible, Americans were also in movement in the northern and western countryside and did not always pass by the Crown Force line. Reports detailed movements of the British Army; however, they were contradictory making it difficult for Washington to determine what was accurate. This aspect of faulty and contradicting intelligence plagued Washington all day and added to the success of General Howe and his flanking movement. Washington very well thought he may be facing the entire Crown Force deployment in Chadds Ford, at the battle at Chadds Ford.



Approximate elevations Crown Force troops would have experienced marching from Jefferis' Ford to the Strode's Mill (top) and Osborne Hill (bottom) vicinities. (Credit: Google maps)

Bradford Township was established in 1705, named after the town of Bradford, England. Bradford divided into East and West Bradford in 1731. The Quakers, who were the township's earliest settlers, landed in an area with abundant natural resources and the convergence of the east and west branches of Brandywine Creek, a perfect site for mills and agriculture. East Bradford was the site of the successful Strode's Mill, a grain, flour, saw, and cider mill established by John Willis, George Carter, and Samuel Scott. At Strode's Mill, just east of their crossing at Jefferis' Ford, Crown Forces settled to prepare their attack on Washington's troops after staging a successful northern flanking maneuver that started at sunup, around 5AM that day.

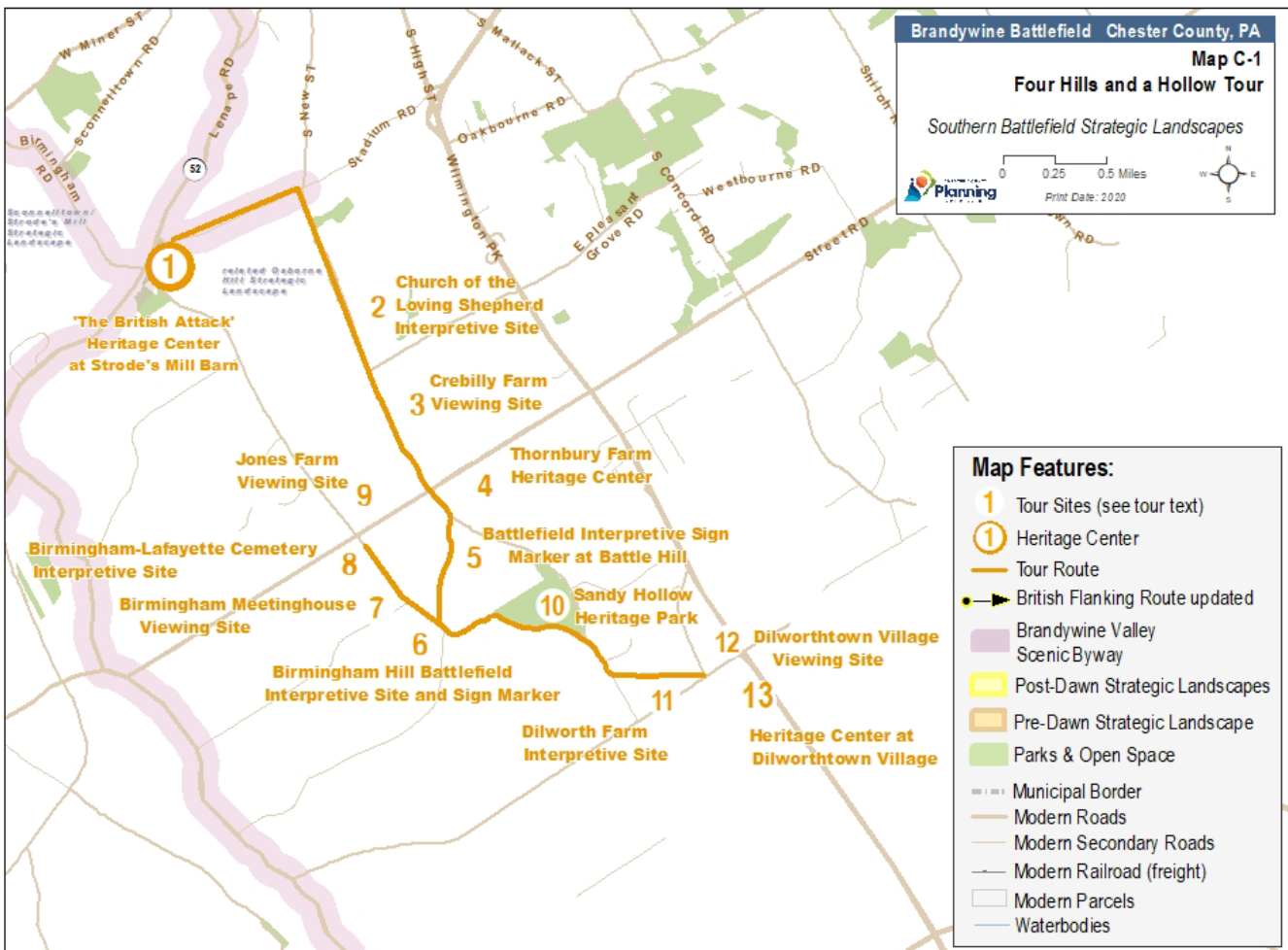


Crown Forces settled at Strode's Mill to prepare their attack

Battle of Brandywine was a major battle of the British Campaign of 1777 to capture Philadelphia, the American capital at the time. It was the largest – including land area and number of troops engaged – battle of the Revolutionary War. For the Battle of Brandywine, accompanying General Howe was the well-known British General Lord Charles Cornwallis and a well-respected Hessian General, Wilhelm von Knyphausen. While Howe and Cornwallis performed the northern flank maneuver Knyphausen was responsible for distracting Washington at Chadds Ford during the earliest battle of the day long – sunup to sunset - Battle of Brandywine. Atop Osborne Hill not far south of Strode's Mill, Howe could observe American troop movements around Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hill. After a short rest, Howe launched his attack as the second stage of the Battle of Brandywine began.

The heaviest fighting of the Battle of Brandywine occurred in this second stage, in the Birmingham Hill, Sandy Hill, and Sandy Hollow area where General Washington consolidated his troops to stave off the British advance. Quickly ordering to turn Americans troops north to these areas was the best Washington could do in the face of conflicting intelligence reports and the advancing British Army. Washington must also leave adequate troops around Chadds Ford to combat the continuing engagement there. Despite the odds, troops under Generals Stephen, Stirling, and Sullivan staged a valiant defense of the two hills and the hollow. Volley after volley fired down on British and Hessian troops as they streamed up Birmingham Hill, while Crown Forces staged their easternmost line on Battle Hill against Americans on Sandy Hill with indefensible lowlands - Sandy Hollow – in between. Every inch of ground was in dispute. Captain John Montrésor of the Royal Engineers observed the American’s defense, noting their enthusiasm during the battle. Americans used the gully of a quarry in the northern hollow for concealment in battling Crown Forces. After hours of fighting, Washington’s forces were forced to stage a retreat south towards Dilworthtown area.

“The ground on the left being the most difficult, the rebels disputed it with the Light Infantry with great spirit, particularly their officers, this spot was a ploughed hill... they pushed in upon them under a very heavy fire. The British Grenadiers and Guards at the same time labouring under a smart and incessant fire from the Rebels out of a wood and above them, most nobly charged them.”  
 --Captain John Montrésor, Royal Engineers, September 11, 1777



Washington’s rearguard commanded by General Nathaniel Greene launched a final stand against the British to protect retreating compatriots. The British fell into Greene’s orchestrated strategy, not expecting such fierce or quickly organized resistance from the retreating forces. After marching since sunup and engaging the battles around Chadds Ford (reinforcements were sent from the battle at Chadds Ford that started earlier in the day and was still ongoing when the battle of the Hills and Hollow began), exhausted Crown Forces (British, loyalists, and Hessians), a clever attack strategy using terrain to form concealments, and the sunset silhouetting the troops, the

pursuing Crown Forces could not effectively counter Greene's defensive attack. Greene's troops managed to repulse the oncoming British. This allowed General Washington and the rest of his forces to evade capture. They retreated to Chester, Pennsylvania. Greene's final stand at the Battle of Brandywine permitted the American Army to rally and fight another day.

## British Lookout at Osborne Hill

*Leaving Strode's Mill Village Heritage Center, follow PA52 east and turn right onto Tigie Road to South New St. You will make a right on South New St and stop at Church of the Loving Shephard where a Battlefield Interpretive sign is located.*

### Overview

Around 11am on September 11, 1777, 9,000 Crown Forces started across Brandywine Creek at Jefferis' Ford. The Ford was named for Emmor Jefferis, a nearby farmer who was pressed into service to serve as a guide by Crown Forces before the Battle. On the day of the Battle, Howe's troops had begun a flanking marching north from near Kennett Square by 5am wearing wool uniforms and carrying packs weighing 60lbs. It was a hot, humid summer day and the British had marched more than 10-miles through rolling terrain to reach Brandywine Creek. When the Crown Forces' flank crossed the ford and started to march up the steep narrow passage that the British termed the "great defile" (a portion of the c.1719 and today's Birmingham Road), the British were surprised at the lack of a reception by Washington's forces as he had a few encounters with them along the northern flank. A quote indicates their surprise and indicates that the Americans might have won the battle right there had they defenses along the high banks of the defile. There are theories about the reason for the absence of American forces guarding the banks of the ford, but the facts of why remain a mystery to historians today. Nevertheless, the absence of American troops on the banks of the Creek allowed General Howe's forces to continue their flanking maneuver of Washington's troops to Strode's Mill village. In the fog of war, General Howe's tactical flanking maneuver had worked. He managed to march his 9,000-troop column past American scouting parties with little hassle. Though American patrols had spotted and reported on the Crown Forces' column's whereabouts, conflicting American reconnaissance accounts about British activity led General Washington to be uncertain about his military strategy and fail to understand, until it was too late, that he was being outflanked to the west and north by Crown Forces. By this time, the Crown Forces had marched over 10 continuous grueling miles (wearing wool uniforms while carrying 60-lb packs in the high humidity of a very warm fall day) before they finally had a chance to rest near Strode's Mill, only around 1 hour before the attack. From Strode's Mill Village, Generals Cornwallis and Howe marched south on Birmingham Road and made the uphill climb to Osborne Hill, where they prepared for battle. Osborne Hill was a high observation viewing point of the terrain to the south, where combat would ensue in a few short hours in the area of Battle Hill, Sandy Hollow, Birmingham Hill, and Sandy Hill, meeting the Americans in a location between Osborne Hill and their posts on the fords of the Creek and posts at the already ensuring Chadds Ford area combat.

The battle began around 3:30 pm that same afternoon with shots fired north of Birmingham Meeting. At the time of the Crown Forces' attack, both Trimble and Jefferis' Fords had been successfully breached and General Washington's army flanked, but at what cost to the Crown Forces' ability to fight effectively?

### #2: Church of the Loving Shepherd Interpretive Site

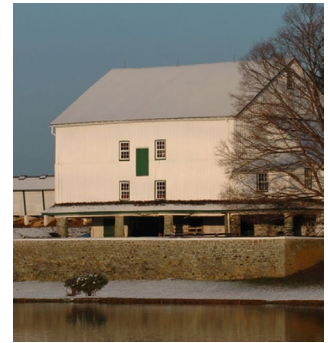
Near here Generals Howe and Cornwallis stopped on Osborne Hill, while Crown Forces rested briefly nearby in the Strode's Mill village area, to observe American troop movements to the south before launching their attack. Led by Generals Howe and Cornwallis, Crown Forces successfully flanked General Washington's forces that were formed largely in the Chadds Ford area, who were unsure of the exact whereabouts of Howe's troops readying to descend on their position. *Continue onto South New Street.*

### #3: Crebilly Farm Viewing Site

There are three interpretive sites at and near this viewing site: Crebilly Farm, Westtown Inn, and Daniel Davis House. Crebilly Farm is in the land preservation process and is not yet open to the public. Westtown Inn and Daniel Davis House are private sites.

#### Crebilly Farm Viewing Corridor

This 300-acre farm is a large remaining large open space in Chester County that still provides a view of what the 18<sup>th</sup> terrain would have looked like. In 2024, around 200-acres in the eastern portion of the farm have been preserved as Township public open space. During the Battle of Brandywine, Hessian Jaeger troops led by Lt. Col. Ludwig von Wurmb advanced against American skirmishers from Virginia in the western portion of the farm; however this part of the farm is not preserved as publicly accessible lands and cannot be accessed.



From here, Hessian troops advanced on the American line.  
Credit: Crebilly Farm

#### Westtown Inn

The present building in front of you was built in 1823, replacing a former log tavern built in 1803. The log tavern was named “Sign of Count Powlasky” in honor of Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who was the “father” of the U.S. cavalry, and whose charge north from around Dilworthtown helped to save the American Army’s retreat from the Battle. The inn was a popular resting place for drovers heading to the markets in Philadelphia and Wilmington.

#### Daniel Davis House

The Daniel Davis House, whose colonial serpentine core was built in 1740, was in the path of the Battle of Brandywine. Situated close to Osborne Hill, British generals watched American troop movements before launching their attack. *Continue south on New Street and bear right onto Thornbury Road to Combat Area and National Historic Landmark Heritage Center.*



The Daniel Davis House witnessed Crown Forces troop movements

## ‘The Fog of War’

### Overview

After crossing Jefferis’ Ford and observing American troop movements at their lookout on Osborne Hill, Crown Forces led by General Howe descended upon Washington’s troops around Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hill. The second phase of the Battle of Brandywine had begun. These Hills are the site of the heaviest fighting of the battle as Washington ordered his troops to rendezvous and defend these high points to repel Howe’s oncoming Crown Force descending from the northern battlefield. At this stage, Washington ordered three divisions led by Generals Sullivan, Stirling, and Stephen, who formed the right, center, and left flanks, respectively, around Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hill. Sullivan’s troops arrived later to battle due in part to communication issues – Like the population of the colonies, American Forces were a melting pot of people and a French commander who spoke little English struggled to convey necessary troop movements. In addition, Sullivan’s troops had to be gathered from a spread-out distance of their defensive position on fords along Brandywine Creek to the site of battle, and with few roads for travel, making them unable to establish a strong troop formation. As a result, the British were able to push through Sullivan’s disheveled line and proceeded to drive the Americans back in waves from west to east. An unexpected participant in the Battle of Brandywine was the Birmingham Meetinghouse, built by Quakers and used as a field hospital by Washington until it was seized by Crown Forces. Birmingham Hill is also where the Marquis de Lafayette rallied and gained prominence for the first time in battle. Possessing no formal American command yet, he encouraged the men to maintain good order in their retreat and was wounded during the battle. Despite General Howe’s well trained, experienced forces, the Americans put up an incredible defense. With musket-to-musket fighting, they forced the Crown’s troops to work to gain every inch of ground.

The British were able to use their superior military tactical know-how to drive back the rebel defenders. The Americans were forced to withdraw towards Dilworthtown.

#### #4: Heritage Center at Thornbury Farm

Welcome to the Combat and Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark Heritage Center at Thornbury Farm. Thornbury Farm contains Battle Hill and the hollow of Sandy Hollow. You are standing in the center of battle where the British (Light Infantry positioned on Battle Hill and Hessian Jaegers to the east) faced off across from the Americans (General Stephen's troops positioned on Sandy Hill/today's Sandy Hollow Heritage Park) with the severe terrain obstacle of the Hollow in between. The Americans staged a courageous defense as Stephen's divisions attempted to halt the advance, but they were pushed back to the south towards Dilworthtown.



Thornbury Farm was at the center of the battle

The landscape here has changed little since the battle and many of the buildings you see were standing at the time. The main house dates to 1709 and was the first quarried stone building in the area. Also standing on the property at the time was the main barn, which dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the springhouse where Hessian records indicate rebel prisoners were held after the battle. Around Thornbury Farm, evidence of the Battle of Brandywine remains. Patched stonework on the front of the main house discloses where British artillery struck the house during the battle. Archaeological discoveries on the farm include mass graves, grapeshot, cannon balls, and even Native American artifacts.

#### #5: Battlefield Interpretive Sign Marker at Battle Hill

Standing at the sign on Battle Hill looking south past the main house and across the Hollow (today it is a horse pasture), General Stephen's division used the high topography you see in the tree line distance to stave off the combined British and Hessian advance. Stephen's forces formed the American right flank, which, after a tough defense, fell back under pressure by Crown Force troops. Stephen's retreat marked the end of combat in this area and General Washington's attempt to repel the British flanking maneuver. This is one of 15 signs (one sign in each of the 15 municipalities that Brandywine Battlefield spans) that tells the story of a key part of the Battlefield in each municipality. *Continue down Thornbury Road and cross Birmingham Road to Birmingham Hill*

#### #6: Birmingham Hill Battlefield Interpretive Site & Sign Marker

Birmingham Hill is a site of Washington's defense of the British flanking attack. At this point, Crown Forces effectively outflanked the American Army positioned along Brandywine Creek. Fierce combat ensued as Washington's forces fell back from the Chadds Ford area and from defense of other fords and regrouped to the north and east on Birmingham Hill until, overwhelmed by Crown Forces, they withdrew to the southeast. Birmingham Hill is also where a young Marquis de Lafayette took charge during the confusion and rallied American troops to maintain order. The American Army staged a valiant defense at Birmingham Hill as Stirling's divisions attempted to halt the Hessian advance, after General Sullivan's line fell to the west under the British Guards advance. Lafayette was wounded somewhere on Birmingham Hill and forced to retire from the Battle. His valor gained him the respect of General Washington for his ability to command American troops under fire.



Birmingham Hill interpretive trail and panel.  
Credit: Birmingham Township

## #7: Birmingham Meetinghouse Viewing Site

Quaker influence dominated the region where the Battle of Brandywine transpired. Originally constructed with logs in 1718 and updated to stone in 1763, Birmingham Meetinghouse served as a makeshift field hospital for Washington's troops. Situated behind American lines, Washington assumed the meetinghouse would be safe from combat. Unfortunately, due to the British flanking maneuver, the meetinghouse would find itself in the center of some of the heaviest fighting of the Battle.

Around 4pm on September 11, 1777, Hessian Jaegers and British Grenadiers captured Birmingham Meetinghouse before they proceeded up Birmingham Hill. After the battle, the meetinghouse continued as a field hospital and Quakers treated both American and British wounded under the same roof. Washington's hasty withdrawal did not allow time to extract wounded Americans from the hospital. In response to General Howe's request, Washington sent renowned Dr. Benjamin Rush to retrieve the wounded soldiers. Directly behind the meetinghouse is a rectangular stone marking a gravesite with both American and British troops, a grim reminder of the events of September 11, 1777, and remembrance of Quaker neutrality.



The meetinghouse served both sides as a field hospital

## #8: Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery Interpretive Site

Due to a purported conflict between members of the Meetinghouse, a portion of the original section of the cemetery is unmarked with few headstones as some Quakers believed headstones were superfluous. The original grounds would be used until the 1840's when an expansion was warranted. Between 1893 and 1913, Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery Association president John Gheen Taylor constructed monuments in honor of both his family and heroes of the Battle of Brandywine. Completed in 1900, a 45-foot-tall granite monument was dedicated to the Marquis de Lafayette and Count Casimir Pulaski for their service during the Battle. Engraved on the base are the names of both officers and three additional French officers who helped American forces during the American Revolution. A tribute monument was erected by descendants of Joseph McClellan, who served in the 9th Pennsylvania regiment on Birmingham Hill.

## #9: Jones/Linden Farm Viewing Site

An advance guard of Jaeger's, commanded by Hessian Captain Johann Ewald, were joined with British light infantry troops to drive back a small detachment of Virginians at the Jones' Farm; the same family of Jones' ford along the Creek (today's bridge at PA926, and Pocopson and Creek Roads). In the face of superior numbers, the Virginians withdrew, and the British continued their advance. It is reported that a cannonball, of still being examined origin, was lodged in the wall of the battle-era home that still stands as part of a later larger residence. *Continue south on Birmingham Road to Sandy Hollow Heritage Park.*

## #10: Sandy Hollow Heritage Park

There are two interpretive sites at Sandy Hollow Heritage Park: Sandy Hill and the 1st Commonwealth Treasure marker denoting the great importance of Brandywine Battlefield in Pennsylvania history.

### Sandy Hill

Note the high terrain and views from the top of Sandy Hill, and the dip down in the terrain creating a bowl-like effect toward the tree line to the north. This Park is named in commemoration of Sandy Hollow as key terrain and location as part of the Battle of Brandywine. The lowest part of the hollow itself is further northern past the still high elevation of the tree line. Driven from Birmingham Hill, some of General Stirling's troops joined with Stephen's in an attempt to stave off the advancing British, while others went southeast to start the retreat. That left Stephen's left flank exposed, and the Crown Force Grenadiers that broke Stirling's flank began to advance toward Stephen. Rather than immediately retreat in the face of such an attack, Stephen and the remainder of

Stirling's troops attempted to hold the position, perhaps to give retreating men time to escape. Men now under Stephen's were able to delay the British advance but could not hold for long against the well-trained Crown Forces. Stephen's left flank collapsed and began retreating except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia that went south past Dilworthtown to be part of the start of the Rearguard action. After making one more stand around 6pm at the crest of Sandy Hill (near the present-day Park parking lot), the 3<sup>rd</sup> PA (who were under Stirling on Birmingham Hill) and Stephen's 3<sup>rd</sup> VA began a general retreat. The 3<sup>rd</sup> PA was last to leave the position.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Treasure Marker

Erected in 1997 by Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, this marker declares the Brandywine Battlefield a Commonwealth Treasure. Take a stroll through Sandy Hollow Heritage Park to get a feel of the landscape where Americans troops lined up on Sandy Hill to engage with advancing Crown Forces and conducted their strategic retreat to Dilworthtown. *Continue south on Birmingham Road to Dilworth Farm.*



Brandywine Battlefield was given the 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Treasure designation

Credit: Keith S. Smith

## 'A Strategic Retreat'

### Overview

Facing overwhelming outmaneuvering amidst the fog of war, Washington ordered his troops to retreat. Staging a strategic retreat proved difficult when the novice American soldiers faced the most elite units the British army had to offer. During the retreat, General Stirling and Stephen's men mixed as some of Stirling's troops went further east joining with Stephen's flank in an attempt to stave off the advancing British. The rest of Washington's troops pushed from Birmingham Hill began to flee towards Dilworthtown, leaving artillery where they stood and wounded troops at the Birmingham Meetinghouse in their haste. Around the same time, Americans engaged in the battle at Chadds Ford began to retreat eastward towards areas south of Dilworthtown village. Some of these troops would take part in the "last stand" and third and final combat area of the Battle of Brandywine. Around 6:30pm, while Americans were retreating east towards Thornton village and Concordville, General Nathaniel Greene organized men and staged a final stand against British forces to allow for Washington and his men to escape towards Chester. The area where Greene held his position is referred to as "the Rearguard" or "Greene's killing field" and was non-traditional warfare of the era, effectively being what we would call an "ambush" today. The British, not expecting such fierce resistance from the Americans and additional resistance from the army they had already driven from the field, marched straight into the orchestrated trap. Hessian officers reported that 47 of their men were dead after the quick engagement. Greene's "sunset stand" used back lighting of the setting sun for the Americans to buy enough time to prevent General Washington, and his army, from being captured by the British and causing a premature end to the Revolutionary War. Greene's final defense boosted the American's morale despite losing the field, as the exhausted men landed a final blow to the British and lived to fight another day. A British quote after the battle indicates they were surprised by the American might.



A State historic marker denoting the last stand of the battle.

Credit: Bill Coughlin

### #11: Dilworth Farm Interpretive Site

This 10-acre farm property is where Americans including artillery were pushed back through, followed by Crown Forces continuing their advance on the American Army. The Site is owned by American Battlefield Trust which installed interpretive wayside signage along a mowed path for visitors to follow. There is a barn on the Site, which while is post-battle era, still gives the visual feel of the farming landscape present during the battle. *Continue south on Birmingham Road to Dilworthtown Village and Dilworthtown Heritage Center.*



## #12: Dilworthtown Village Viewing Site

Dilworthtown area was at the center of the Americans staging their final stand against the British as the rest of the American Army tried to safely retreat towards Chester. The anchor of the village is Dilworth House, or Dilworthtown Inn, which has operated as an inn and tavern since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and witnessed passing troops. It is an important building and called out in the American Battlefield Protection Program's Report to US Congress about Rev War (and War of 1812) sites (2007). At the time of the battle, the house was a tavern owned by Charles Dilworth. His father had built the house in the late 1750s. During the battle, American forces retreating from Birmingham Hill and Sandy Hill combat streamed through the village on their way east and south, followed closely by Crown Forces.



Dilworthtown Inn bore witness to the events of the battle

Dilworthtown area was also where the British advance stopped, and the Battle of Brandywine ended. Following the battle, Crown Forces stayed in the area for 5 days and a main British encampment was located on the land of Charles Dilworth in the vicinity of where the Rearguard took place. Today, 18<sup>th</sup> C and later historic buildings of Dilworthtown contain restaurants, offices, a church and school, and a Battlefield Heritage Center, which helps preserve the historical integrity and spirit of this crossroads community. As you observe the village where a historic ambiance is still alive, take special note that the village still contains its preserved historic 18<sup>th</sup> C 5-points intersection, one of the last known to exist in the area.

## #13: Heritage Center at Dilworthtown Village

Welcome to Washington's Rearguard & Strategic Retreat Heritage Center in Historic Dilworthtown, the last stop on the tour. It was just south of here that American General Greene organized American troops to make a last stance, called the Rearguard Defense, against Crown Forces continuing their advance southeast. For much of the day, Greene's troops had been placed in and around Chadds Ford, owing to Washington's belief that the main battle would occur in that vicinity. By early evening, as Sullivan, Stirling, and Stephen's divisions were pushed back first from Birmingham Hill and then from Sandy Hill, Greene was sent to reinforce their position. Greene organized troops, including Stirling's 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia who fought on Sandy Hill, and around 7pm staged a final stand against advancing British forces to allow time for Washington and his troops to retreat towards Chester, the county seat. It was a relatively quickly organized yet well-orchestrated strategy, which enabled a "Strategic Retreat" by the Americans. Greene, through his Rearguard defense was able to save hundreds of Americans from falling into the hands of the British.

General Greene's defense was aided by several factors. The first was fatigue. By the time the battle at the three Hills and Hollow began, the British had been marching since sunup for almost 16 hours and fighting for almost 12 hours in the extreme heat and humidity present that September late summer day. Second was strategy in using non-traditional warfare methods and the natural setting - the terrain shielded Greene's men while the positioning of the lowering sun exposed the silhouettes of the advancing British.



Nathaniel Greene staged a valiant defense as his troops shielded retreating Americans from the pursuing British

## Continue your journey through The Rearguard and Strategic Retreat history...

Though not on this tour and as a possible future extension of the tour, further to the south of Dilworthtown village is the location of the Rearguard Land Stand with pre-Rearguard engagement starting in the area around today's Brinton's Run Preserve Interpretive Site with an interpretive marker at a nearby Interpretive Site at the Brinton 1704 House property. Simultaneously, to the east are the locations of the American Strategic Retreat in the Thornton Village and Concordville areas with interpretive markers in both areas.