What Do Looters, Custer’s Last Stand, and Plastic Landmines Have In Common?

On October 2, the Borough of Malvern Historical Commission and the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund will host a special free lecture on Battlefield Archeology. Dan Sivilich, founder and president of BRAVO (Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization) will have a presentation on modern archeological techniques and how they have changed scientists’ and historians’ ability to gather and interpret physical evidence of past battles in record time. You will learn about BRAVO’s pioneering work with systematic metal detection, GIS, surface penetrating radar, and innovative analytical formulas and software.

Dr. David Orr, Professor of Archeology at Temple University and the National Park Service’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Archeologist will join Dan in offering insights into field studies being conducted at Valley Forge and other Revolutionary War sites.

BRAVO’s work at Monmouth Battlefield in New Jersey and at Valley Forge has revolutionized the study of Revolutionary War sites! For instance, archeological excavations can involve digging squares 5 feet wide by 5 feet long and a few feet deep at locations chosen based on earlier research into historical and contemporary data. Using systematic metal detection, sites can be pin-pointed for excavation with much greater accuracy.

In a battlefield setting, such investigations can find clusters of musket balls revealing lines of fire. Repeated use of metal detectors and the revealing profiles from surface penetrating radar uncover hard data on the actual battle instead of relying on anecdotal accounts from participants.

Such techniques also allow for greater access to areas that are difficult to excavate. An open field is one thing, but the Paoli Battlefield Historical Park, for which plans are being developed to use such techniques, includes 32 acres of woodlands and the swampy headwaters of Crum Creek, a Delaware River tributary. These advanced techniques would work despite plant cover and terrain.

The Battle of Paoli was fought less than two weeks after the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. George Washington had tasked Gen. Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line of the Continental Army to harass British supply lines. When Wayne got into position near present-day

The loss of Continental forces is commemorated annually at the burial site in the Paoli Memorial Grounds.
Malvern, he realized that they could trap the British against the flooding Schuylkill River and perhaps, annihilate them. But his message to Washington, who had already crossed the Schuylkill, was intercepted enabling British General William Howe to attack Wayne at night before Wayne’s forces were ready. The resulting fight was called alternately, the Battle of Paoli or the Paoli Massacre.

The day after the attack, local farmers gathered up the American dead and buried them in a mass grave. For decades, the site of the grave and memorial was the rallying place for commemorations of Revolutionary War veterans for southeastern Pennsylvania on the battle’s anniversary, which they called “Remembrance Day”. After the Civil War, the national Memorial Day replaced Remembrance Day. Today’s Malvern Memorial Parade, which still ends at the mass grave, is the oldest, continually-held, Memorial Parade in the United States.

The Paoli Battlefield Historical Park, owned by the Borough of Malvern, was created to save the land from development in 2002. It is administered by the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, a non-profit corporation. The Park is next to the Paoli Memorial Grounds containing the gravesite and monuments and is owned by the Paoli Memorial Association. Together these parcels comprise the National Register-listed historic site. Efforts are underway for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Upcoming events for the Paoli Battlefield, in addition to this lecture, are a fundraiser, Spirits of 1777 at 6 pm at the Gen. Warren Inn on Monday, September 21 ($45/person) and the annual Candlelight Tour and Illumination at the Battlefield at 7 pm on Saturday Oct. 17 ($5/person or $20/family of 4 or more). All proceeds are used for preservation, education and commemorative events at the Historical Park. Go to www.ushistory.org/Paoli for more information.

Oh yes, the answer to the question above: Archaeology! Artifact looters, the bane of archaeologists, commonly use metal detectors to uncover valuable remnants of battles. But, in 1984, archaeologists, Drs. Douglas Scott and Richard Fox, used metal detectors to systematically plot the location of artifacts at the Battle of the Little Bighorn (Custer’s Last Stand) introducing this modern technology to field studies. Dr. Scott is a close associate of both BRAVO and the National Park Service.

Surface penetrating radar was developed in Britain to locate plastic landmines. The adoption of SPR and advanced computing technologies have modernized battlefield archeology.

- Bruce Knapp
CCHPN Board Member
Paoli Battlefield
Preservation Fund
President
**Fall 2009 Presentation**

**Battlefield Archeology**

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**October 2, 2009, Friday**

**Malvern Borough Hall/Library**

**1 East First Avenue, Second Floor**

**Malvern**

**All are welcome!**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30-7pm</td>
<td>Continuous Tours of Paoli Battlefield</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30-9pm</td>
<td>Presentation by Dan Sivilich and Dr. David Orr</td>
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Free for all attendees, but space is limited, so please call our **new** toll-free number to register:

**877-44-CCHPN (877-442-2476)**

Press 2 and leave your name, the number of attendees, your phone number, and email address so we can contact you if there are changes to the schedule.

Thanks!

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**Directions**

From Route 202 take the exit for PA Route 29 South (Great Valley/Malvern Exit). Follow Rt. 29 South one mile until it dead-ends at US Route 30 (Lancaster Pike). Turn Left on Bus. Rt. 30 and get into the right-hand lane. Go underneath the railroad overpass and make the first right-hand turn at the traffic light to "Old Lincoln Hwy". Follow "Old Lincoln Hwy" up the hill to Bridge St. (at stop sign). Turn right on Bridge St. until it dead-ends at King Rd. Turn right on King Rd. until the traffic light. Turn left on S. Warren Ave. for two blocks to Monument Ave. Borough Hall is at this intersection. For the battlefield, turn right onto Monument Ave. and continue until you reach the Paoli Memorial Grounds on the left side. You can park on the ring road.

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Come out and explore Paoli Battlefield, a preserved Revolutionary War site in the Borough of Malvern!

The Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund will lead early-evening tours of the site and then we'll congregate on the second floor of Malvern Borough Hall for a presentation on modern battlefield archeology.

**Presenters:**

- Dan Sivilich, an archeologist with BRAVO (Battlefield Restoration and Archeology Volunteer Organization)
- Dr. David Orr, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archeologist of the National Park Service and professor at Temple University

This event is co-sponsored by the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, and the Borough of Malvern Historical Commission.

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**Remember Paoli!**
It was weather on the edge and whether to go or not to go to the annual CCHPN Volunteer Recognition Celebration, hosted by the Oxford historical community, including the Oxford Area Historical Association, the Oxford Historical Commission, First Person Interpreters, and the Oxford Presbyterian churchwomen, who catered the buffet had planned every “dot n’ tiddle” under the coordinating guidance of Vernon Ringler. The decision was GO, do not miss this event! Setting their GPS for Oxford took all attendees into the early-mid 19th century.

Attendees toured the historic district to meet historic personages in period dress who represented the founders and movers of Oxford. Each one told about his days gone by and included William Jennings Bryan who ran for the US Presidency three times. Civil War Veterans Showalter and Walton were in uniform reflecting on the battles they had fought. The ministry was offering advise and words of faith delivered by Alexander Gellatly and Samuel Dickey IV. No known souls were saved that day. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall offered advice and Milton Walker, a local builder, told of industry and housing.

Attendance included over twenty five municipalities and organizations committed to historic preservation. Chester County Historic Resource Atlas Certificates, featuring Ann Bedrick’s (Illustration Artist) rendition of a historic site of each recipient’s choosing, were presented to twelve municipalities completing the required field work. Presenting were John Mikowychok, Director, Chester County Department of Parks & Recreation, Pierce Eichelberger, Area Manager, DCIS/GIS, and Karen Marshall, Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator. Those receiving the Certificates which represent dedication to innumerable survey hours were East Coventry, East Fallowfield, East Goshen, East Nantmeal, East Nottingham, East Pikeland, Londonderry, Pennsbury, Thornbury, West Marlborough, West Nantmeal and West Whiteland Townships. Each were applauded for their accomplishments which will also benefit the individual municipalities preservation efforts by providing an updated inventory of historic sites, which can enable, potentially, the future classification of these sites.

For concerted efforts to make progress on projects under difficult circumstances the “Grace Under Fire” Award was given to Lower Oxford Township.

The CCHPN Municipal Historic Preservation Award went to two townships instead of the usual one. The East Pikeland Historical Commission has

In recognition of her decades of historic preservation leadership and service, the CCHPN presented its Individual Historic Preservation Award to Dr. Diane Snyder. On this occasion, Senator Andy Dinniman also presented her with a commendation from the Pennsylvania Senate.

Mark Myers and Paula Coyne are caught discussing a preservation issue just before dinner was served.
historically taken the opportunity to attend the majority of CCHPN educational events, participated on a regular basis in the Town Tours & Village Walks series, as well as having made significant progress with the Snyder Mill restoration. Pennsby Township and Historical Commission has over time presented a strong front in the protection of their historical structures, winning appreciation from the continuing introduction of historic preservation to new residents.

Dr. Diane S. Snyder was presented with the CCHPN Individual Historic Preservation Award by Jane L.S. Davidson, founder of the Network. Dr. Snyder’s extensive record in historic preservation includes authoring the History of West Whiteland Township; almost single-handedly completing West Whiteland’s first site survey; having a large number of the township’s historic resources listed in the National Register; classifying its resources and preparing a preservation zoning ordinance that is still a model for other townships; and then, upon being elected to the West Whiteland Board of Supervisors, continuing to support historic preservation as a decision-maker, not just an advocate. To a most deserving woman, it was a pleasure for CCHPN to recognize Dr. Snyder.

With a wind of fresh gusto, Kathryn Yahraes, CCHPN Board member and Chairman of the Municipalities Committee, conducted the Roll Call of Historical Commissions and HARBs. Each were asked to stand up and identify an achievement from the previous year, and we are heartened to say that the air was filled with successes—some in process and others completed.

Thanks goes to Bruce Knapp, CCHPN Board member and Master of Ceremonies, and to Senator Andy Dinniman for attending and maintaining his 100% attendance record at CCHPN events. The evening of Celebration was closed by Dr. Elaine Husted who congratulated everyone for their successes and for being heroes for historic preservation. We will see you all next year. We can't wait to hear what you will have achieved by then!

- Dr. Elaine Husted

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To enhance your ability to have your voice heard among our elected officials at the state and federal level, we have compiled the following contact information for you. We also provide the name of any staff person assigned to deal with preservation issues. Please contact these people about whatever concerns you and remember the order of effectiveness of the various methods of voicing your opinion (presented in order of most to least effective): visit the office and talk with the official personally, send a hand-written note, send a typed letter, send a form letter with your name on it, send a personalized email, and send a mass email. Best yet, do all of the above.

Pennsylvania State Senators

Sen. Dominic Pileggi – 9th District
dpileggi@pasen.gov, www.senatorpileggi.com
631 W. Baltimore Pk, West Grove, PA 19390,
(610) 345-1084, Fax. (610) 345-1087
Dave Woods, Chief of Staff, dwoods@pasen.gov,
(610) 358-5183
Deb Clary, Legislative Aide, dclary@pasen.gov

Sen. Andrew E. Dinniman – 19th District
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Sen. Edwin B. Erickson – 26th District
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Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Tom Golden,
(610) 853-4100

Sen. Michael W. Brubaker – 36th District
mbrubaker@pasen.gov, www.senatorbrubaker.com
301 East Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543, (717) 627-0036

Sen. John C. Rafferty, Jr. – 44th District
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Collegeville Professional Building, 3770 Ridge Pike,
Collegeville, PA 19426, (610) 831-8830
Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Julia Harper,
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Sen. Mike Folmer – 48th District
mfolmer@pasen.gov, www.senatorfolmer.com
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Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Andy DiNunzio,
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Pennsylvania State Representatives

Rep. Tom Houghton – 13th District
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Rep. Curt Shroder – 155th District
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Fax. (610) 524-5667
Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Carolyn May

Rep. Barbara McIlvaine Smith – 156th District
www.pahouse.com/bsmith
107 E. Chestnut St., West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-4990,
Fax. (610) 738-2163
Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Chris Sappey,
(610) 696-4990

www.pahouse.com/drucker
992 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 909, Wayne, PA
19087, (610) 688-5691, Fax. (610) 688-5695
Staff Contact For Historic Preservation: Maria Micolucci,
(610) 688-5691
Legislative Assistant: Pati Mcmillan, (717) 705-2003

Rep. Chris Ross – 158th District
cross@pahouse.gop.com, www.repross.com
PO Box 835, Unionville, PA 19375, (610) 925-0555,
Fax. (610) 925-5408
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Dr. Elaine Husted

2009 State And Federal Officials For Chester County  
Jane L. S. Davidson

CCHPN is pleased to announce the addition of three new board members:

Steven Brown (West Caln Township)
Millie Donnell (South Coventry Township)
Sali Cosford Parker (Avondale)

We are expanding to serve you better!

Matthew E. Roberson
Restoration Carpentry

610-620-4656  meroberson@gmail.com
www.meroberson.com

Board Member: CCHPN & Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

For Technical Information on Historic Preservation and Contacts to help you with your historic house or with your preservation efforts, and for information on preservation events around the county, please visit:  
www.CCHPN.org

Chester County Historic Preservation Network
P.O. Box 174
West Chester, PA 19381
www.CCHPN.org

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come join us for our

Fall 2009 Presentation
Battlefield Archaeology
Paoli Battlefield

Malvern Borough Hall

October 2, 2009
Details Inside!