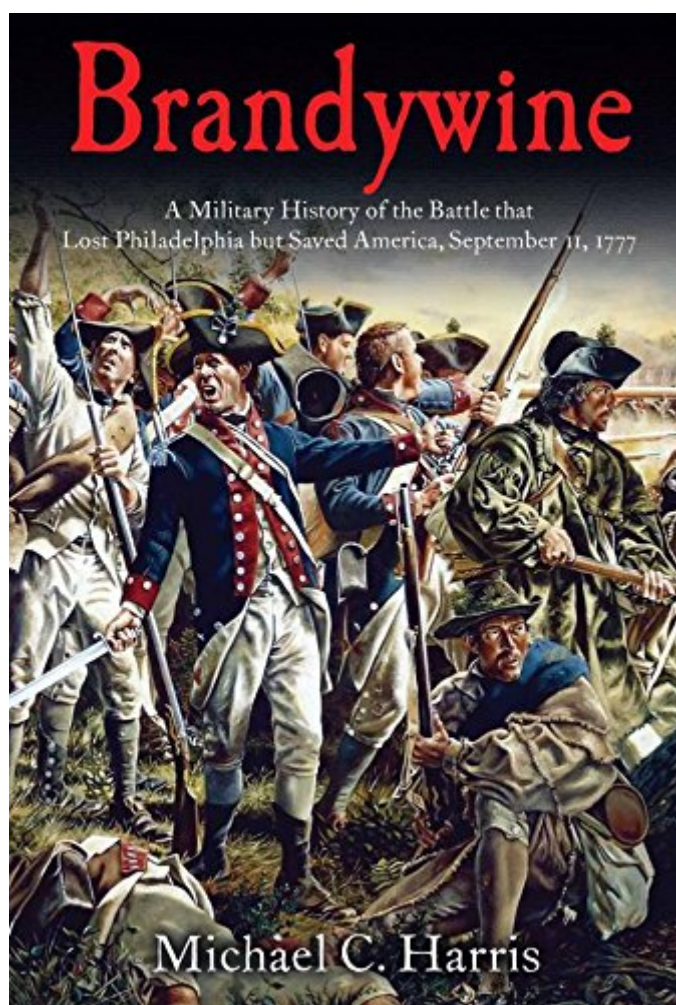


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# Brandywine: A Military History Of The Battle That Lost Philadelphia But Saved America, September 11, 1777



## Synopsis

"Brandywine Creek calmly meanders through the Pennsylvania countryside today, but on September 11, 1777, it served as the scenic backdrop for the largest battle of the American Revolution, one that encompassed more troops over more land than any combat fought on American soil until the Civil War. Long overshadowed by the stunning American victory at Saratoga, the complex British campaign that defeated George Washington's colonial army and led to the capture of the capital city of Philadelphia was one of the most important military events of the war. Michael C. Harris's impressive *Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777*, is the first full-length study of this pivotal engagement in many years. General Sir William Howe launched his campaign in late July 1777, when he loaded his army of 16,500 British and Hessian soldiers aboard a 265-ship armada in New York and set sail. Six difficult weeks later Howe's expedition landed near Elkton, Maryland, and moved north into Pennsylvania. Washington's rebel army harassed Howe's men at several locations including a minor but violent skirmish at Cooch's Bridge in Delaware on September 3. Another week of hit-and-run tactics followed until Howe was within three miles of Chad's Ford on Brandywine Creek, behind which Washington had posted his army in strategic blocking positions along a six-mile front. The young colonial capital of Philadelphia was just 25 miles farther east. Obscured by darkness and a heavy morning fog, General Howe initiated his plan of attack at 5:00 a.m. on September 11, pushing against the American center at Chad's Ford with part of his army while the bulk of his command swung around Washington's exposed right flank to deliver his coup de main, destroy the colonials, and march on Philadelphia. Warned of Howe's flanking attack just in time, American generals turned their divisions to face the threat. The bitter fighting on Birmingham Hill drove the Americans from the field, but their heroic defensive stand saved Washington's army from destruction and proved that the nascent Continental foot soldiers could stand toe-to-toe with their foe. Although fighting would follow, Philadelphia fell to Howe's legions on September 26. Harris's *Brandywine* is the first complete study to merge the strategic, political, and tactical history of this complex operation and important set-piece battle into a single compelling account. More than a decade in the making, his sweeping prose relies almost exclusively upon original archival research and his personal knowledge of the terrain. Enhanced with original maps, illustrations, and modern photos, and told largely through the words of those who fought there, *Brandywine* will take its place as one of the most important military studies of the American Revolution ever written."

## Book Information

File Size: 28635 KB

Print Length: 528 pages

Publisher: Savas Beatie; Reprint edition (March 19, 2014)

Publication Date: March 19, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00LCAEAE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #32,789 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Confederacy #24 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Revolution & Founding #24 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields

## Customer Reviews

Congratulations to Mr. Harris for finally producing a well researched and accurate account of the Revolutionary War battle at the Brandywine. This was after all one of the two largest and most costly battles of the war, both in terms of participants and casualties. In addition it represents a critical phase in the birth of our Nation ! It is therefore surprising that so little accurate historical information had been available to date . Instead numerous stories and fables have evolved over the years, few of which can be verified..Mr Harris now fills this gap with his years of research involving American, British and Hessian accounts, letters and and documents.His intimate knowlege of the locale and site of the battle, illustrated by excellent maps and photographs, helps the reader to follow this crucial battle hour by hour and place to place as well as the events leading up to September 11, 1777.I therefore highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Revolutionary War and the birth of our Nation.Finally, take an afternoon off, visit the scenic Chads Ford area in Pennsylvania and follow the enrie battle using this book as a guide !.tionIn addition I highly recommend this book to anyone interessted in the Revolutionary War and the birth of our nation

Fantastic book! I drive through many portions of the vast battle area each day on the way to work. If there was one thing that I would like to see in this book would be GPS or latitude/longitude coordinates on for all the places referenced which would permit a detailed self-tour on less obvious portions of the battle locations. I have always had an interest in this battle due to living so close to it, the Battle of the Clouds and Paoli Battle. I think it is sad so little overall attention is directed to these places except for some dedicated individuals and groups. And given Brandywine was the largest battle of the American Revolution it is even distressing that development continues today in many parts where this battle took place. As a side comment, all these years of coin production by the mint on statehood quarters, national park quarters, not one coin produced by mint for this or any other revolutionary battle. A quarter this year in Saratoga will be the first. Brandywine....such a massive and significant event leading to the creation of this country is all but forgotten by a relative few.

An excellent IN DEPTH account of a battle which usually only gets a few pages, at most, in other works. It clarifies much of what has been either misunderstood or misrepresented in the past and does away with many myths. I can only hope Mr. Harris follows it up with another book which takes us through to the end of the Philadelphia Campaign. I highly recommend it.

For aficionados. I lived more than half my life in Brandywine country, much of it before builders developed it. No place like home rings true. In still morning fog, the battle sounds ride gently on the wind as it blows through the vale. If you want to be there in the line, you'll enjoy this book.

Straight-forward, clear, and engagingly written. Enjoyable and enlightening - what more can one ask from popular history? Highly recommended for anyone looking to understand an overlooked chapter of the Revolution.

Excellent detailed history of this major battle in early American Revolution.

Drove an hour up to the Brandywine visitor center to get a hard copy of this book (because the kindle version wasn't going to do it justice) and paid close to \$40 for it. So obviously expectations were high, and the book didn't disappoint. One could argue that this book is a bit of a rehash of Tom McGuire's Philadelphia Campaign series. However, if you found that book too comprehensive/technical/confusing (like I did at times) than this book is for you. Don't get me wrong,

Tom Mcguire is an expert on the Philadelphia Campaign and his books are great, but there were certain parts of his book that would just lose the casual reader. Mcguire also didn't have very good maps which sometimes added to the confusion. Harris' "Brandywine" offers a much more digestible text and fairly good maps that makes understanding the battle much easier. I also like how Harris wrote a summary of the war and gave short bio's of the major players at the beginning of the book. There are a lot of characters in this story and for someone just starting to learn about the American Revolution is it great to know a little about them up front. This helps to enhance the overall story.

Extremely well researched and presented, the reader fully understands the thinking and rationale of all the key players on both sides of this war leading up to the battle, during and after the battle. The book moves along at a fast pace and draws you in. Hard to put down.

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