



*A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society - Fall 2021*

## MARK & RACHEL HERR HONORED WITH MERCER OAK AWARD

With applause from family, friends and associates, Peter J. Travers, 2019 recipient, presented the 2021 Mercer Oak Award to Mark & Rachel Herr at a September 23 reception at The Nassau Inn. They received the award in recognition of their commitment to the Thomas Clarke House and Princeton Battlefield and to the Society's efforts to preserve and promote our American Revolution heritage.



*Peter Travers, 2019 recipient, presenting the 2021 Mercer Oak Award to Rachel & Mark Herr.*



*Michael Russell, president, Princeton Battlefield Society welcoming attendees.*

The Mercer Oak Award is a unique and meaningful symbol of a personal commitment to the Battlefield and a partnership with the Princeton Battlefield Society.

It is a section of the original tree, with an engraved plate honoring the recipient.

In addition to Mr. Travers taking part in the tribute were Michael Russell, Society president, and Ben Strong, vice president, who served as emcee. Proceeds from the award ceremony will support the Society's History & Heritage Fund and the creation of a new Battle of Princeton educational exhibit in the the historic Thomas Clarke House. A silent auction was held and a tribute program printed.



The enduring symbol of the Princeton Battlefield and the January 3, 1777 battle is the Mercer Oak against which, tradition suggests, General Hugh Mercer was placed after being mortally wounded. He eventually gave his life for the American cause. Today, a new-generation Mercer Oak grows at the battlefield still symbolizing how Princeton fundamentally altered the Revolution in favor of independence.

The Mercer Oak Award is the spirit and heritage of America's fight for independence. It represents what every American who visits the Battlefield senses – it is invested with the freedom and independence that Washington and Mercer fought to secure.

The Mercer Oak Award is given by the Princeton Battlefield Society to recognize a personal dedication to American history and the heritage of the Princeton Battlefield. The honor embraces the spirit of January 3, 1777.

# ★★★★ YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY - 2021 ★★★★★



We welcomed about 150 kids and families to the Battlefield on September 12 for the first Young Patriots Day since 2019. With activities and demonstrations by the New Jersey Greys, living historians, educational presentations, and information tables, a full afternoon of activities and excitement was assured. Our day started with General George Washington, accompanied by the New Jersey Fifes & Drums, a New Jersey Grey Color Guard, and Michael Russell, Princeton Battlefield Society president, raising the American flag at the battlefield. Thank you to everyone who made Young Patriots Day 2021 an educational success for kids and their families.



# A JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

“We had an incredible turn out for our July 4th ‘Celebrate Independence Day’ event,” reported Michael Russell, president. “Over 200 people joined us to hear our guest speaker, CSM John Zimmerman, talk about American patriotism and his ancestor who fought



CSM Zimmerman spoke about his “sixth great grandfather [also John], a young Continental soldier who was among those fighting on this very soil. He fought in seven major battles and campaigns of the Revolutionary War. I, too, have served on

at the Battle of Princeton. He was joined by soprano soloist, Krista Hastings, and our park historian, Will Krakower, on a beautiful, sun-filled day. We were

surrounded by people who were a true spectrum of American citizenry. There were people of all ages, several from different states, and many with youngsters, baby carriages, and dogs. Our guest speaker earned a standing ovation, our singer’s gorgeous voice made people cry, and our resident historian spiritedly delivered the entire Declaration with strength and artistry.”



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Battlefield tours, before and after the ceremony, had 100 people participating. Tours of the historic Clarke House were also available.



**REMEMBER THE DATE:  
July 4, 2022 and join us as we  
“Celebrate Independence Day.”**



# ★★★★ AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD ★★★★★

## National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association Receives a Princeton Welcome.



*Michael Russell, president, presenting a PBS 50th Anniversary challenge coin welcoming Sal Lilienthal at the Princeton Battle Monument.*

The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association was welcomed to Princeton at the Battle Monument on August 20, highlighting the first 680 mile cycle-kayak event along the historic trail. Sal Lilienthal and Julie Diddell, National Vice Chair of the Association, were joined by Princeton Mayor Mark Freda, Janice Sellinger of Crossroads of the American Revolution, Roger Williams of TenCrucialDays.org, and Michael Russell.



**“SAVE THE DATE” NOW!**  
**Experience the Battle of Princeton**  
**Planned for January 2, 2022.**

## Nathaniel Philbrick at PBS Breakfast

Bestselling author, Nathaniel Philbrick, was the special guest of PBS at breakfast at The Nassau Club on September 16. He discussed his recent book, “Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy.” As Philbrick notes, “When George Washington became president in 1789, the United States of America was still a loose and quarrelsome confederation.” His book retraces his journey as new president through all thirteen former colonies, which were “an unsure nation.” As a review states: This book is “a new first-person voice for Philbrick, weaving history and personal reflection into a single narrative.”



*Nathaniel Philbrick signing books for attendees.*

Breakfast attendees, including Princeton Mayor Mark Freda, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, and Liza Morehouse, chair of Morven, had extended discussion with the author, who signed copies of his book given to attendees. Philbrick’s visit to the Princeton area was coordinated by Roger Williams of TenCrucialDays.org.



## Tours of the Princeton Battlefield.

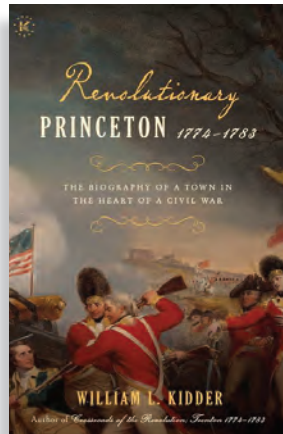
Thanks to Larry Kidder, Roger Williams, David Price and Will Krakower, all serving as Historical Interpreters, and to Kim Gallagher, our tour facilitator, for contributing to the success of this year’s program. Dates for 2022 tours will be announced on the website and in our newsletter.

Customized, private, and group tours of the Princeton Battlefield, Revolutionary Princeton, Washington Crossing, and other sites of the TenCrucialDays.org Historic Areas in Mercer and Bucks Counties may be arranged through the TenCrucialDays.org. For more information, go to [tencrucialdays.org/tours/](http://tencrucialdays.org/tours/) or contact Roger S. Williams, 609-389-5657, [roger@tencrucialdays.org](mailto:roger@tencrucialdays.org). Princeton Battlefield State Park also has a staff historical interpreter who can give tours of the Battlefield and the Thomas Clarke House. Call 609-921-0074.

★★★★ RECOMMENDED READING: ★★★★★

## REVOLUTIONARY PRINCETON, 1774-1783: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN TOWN IN THE HEART OF A CIVIL WAR

Larry Kidder's most recent book tells the story of Princeton between 1774 and 1783, a microcosm of the struggles faced by ordinary Americans during the Revolution. By 1774, Princeton was a small college town and stagecoach stop on the main road between New York and Philadelphia. During the next ten years, the people of Princeton had to figure out how to live their lives in the midst of continually changing ideas and events beyond their control.



government to sit periodically, and in the final months of the war, the Continental Congress relocated to Princeton.

All this activity created stresses for some and opportunities for others, but everyone, including the enslaved, had to deal with it daily, and many inhabitants played significant roles in the life-changing conflict taking place around them. Events in Princeton connected to just about every aspect of the Revolution. The stories of

the people who lived in Princeton, or who spent time there because of the Revolution, helps us better understand the hitherto untold importance of this town beyond the one, well-known, day of battle.

Larry Kidder's book effectively tells the story of Princeton and the people living here during the American Revolution. Add it to your 'must read' list.

Those events brought soldiers to their town every year of the war. At various times American Continentals, militia, Continental mutineers, British regulars, Hessians, and the French army occupied Princeton. For much of the war, Princeton hosted a Continental Army hospital and a military supply depot. Princeton's location made it the spot chosen for the new State

## ★★★ A PARTNERSHIP WITH US MILITARY UNITS ★★★

With support from Alan Davis, a PBS volunteer, and Will Krakower, the Park's Historical Interpreter, we are reaching out to the US Army and Marine Corps, including Reserves and ROTCs, to use the Battle of Princeton as a training platform via staff rides. In recent months we have hosted 3rd Brigade, 78th Training

Division, 84th Training Command and the Army National Guard, Leader Development, Combat Field Studies Program. On the schedule are staff rides for Princeton University and Rutgers ROTC units. We look forward to continuing our support and involvement of US Military units in our educational, outreach efforts.



# WE GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZE AND THANK OUR 2021 MEMBERS FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION TO PROTECT, PRESERVE & PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA AT THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

## 1777 Patriot Members

Dr. Daniel J. Beattie  
Mark & Rachel Herr  
William J. Hupp  
Peter J. Travers

## General Washington Members

T. Jeffrey & Barbara T. Clarke  
Tom Kane  
Gregory P. Wilson

## General Mercer Members

Mary Ann Avola  
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Michael Duffy  
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Brann & Ellen Wry  
Carolyn Youngs  
Vincent J. Zito

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Julie Diddell  
Ellen & Stanley Fayer  
Patrick Frawley  
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Eugene Fridkin  
Paul Fritts  
Hugo Gobbi  
David A. Goldfarb  
Mark Henderson  
Lary Kidder  
Christian Kirkpatrick  
Nancy MacNeill  
John McCorry  
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Bill Meyer  
Rand Mirante  
Steven Misiura  
Joseph Novak  
Jeffrey & C. Tracy Orleans  
Irving G. Paris  
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Fredrick G. Stengel  
Ben Strong  
Thomas E. Tompkins  
Dr. Bruce Venter  
Dr. Glenn Williams

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Howard Bellizio, Jr.  
Craig Benson  
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Todd Bolton  
Davis Bruce  
Bonnie Cierkowski  
Bill Cleave  
James Cunningham  
Michael Czech & Donna Sukiennik

Thomas Doyle  
Dennis J. Duffy  
Douglas Emery  
Gray & Dee Ferrante  
Margaret Foglietta  
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Jean Garzillo  
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Timothy Iten  
Jerry Hurwitz  
Kathleen Hyland  
Richard Kane  
Rosemary Kelley  
Judith King  
Michael La Place  
Guy C. Lisowski  
Lt. Col. Donald Londahl-Smith (ret)  
John J. Magovern  
Candace McCoy  
William E. Miller  
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Sidna Mitchell  
Chris Mlynarscyk  
Paul Murphy  
William Myers  
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Robert Wong

## PARTNERS

**We acknowledge and thank our  
community partners for supporting our  
programs and services.**

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of the American Revolution  
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Ten Crucial Days Association  
Wegmans – West Windsor  
Wildflowers of Princeton Junction

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