



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society - Fall 2020

Especially for You!

The Trustees of the Princeton Battlefield Society extend to you, your family, and your associates every best wish for the Holiday Season and throughout 2021. Thank you for being a part of our mission on behalf of America's history and the heritage of the Battle of Princeton.



★ Spirit of America Campaign ★

A year-long celebration of 50 years of the Princeton Battlefield Society's efforts to preserve, protect and promote the Princeton Battlefield, the historic Thomas Clarke House, and the heritage of the American Revolution is about to begin.

We are resolved to turn-around a difficult 2020 by strengthening a proud past through the expansion and implementation of exciting historic programs, activities and initiatives. We invite you and others to join us.



★★★★ LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2021 ★★★★★

We want to forget 2020! It was a year of frustrations, cancellations and postponements. But it also created opportunities for us to look ahead and plan for an exciting 2021 – a year to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. 2020, of course, was not totally forgettable because we focused on programs and plans that were manageable in the face of restrictions. So many members, donors and friends helped us during 2020 to:

- Move ahead with the creative aspects of a new educational exhibit in the historic Clarke House Museum.
- Print 12 new *Eyewitness of the American Revolution* cards, first-person narratives of people affected by the Battle of Princeton.
- Print an artistic rendering of “The Clarke Farms & Princeton 1776” to be used as a focal point in our new exhibit. (The map is available for sale.)
- Finish the year setting a new record of members and membership donations.
- Partner with “HistoryAuthorTalks.com” on three online presentations: “*Pandemics in British America and Revolutionary Healing*,” “*Revolutionary Physicians, Medicine and Healing in our Founding Era*,” and “*The Kids are Revolting: American Revolutionary Adventures for Children*.” Check our website.

■ Continue upgrading our website.

■ Create “*A Conversation with . . .*” These are personal talks with people of interest to the PBS community. (Our first was “*A Conversation with Dan Sivilich*.” Dan is the president of BRAVO, “Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization”). Check our website.

But that was 2020. What about 2021?”

We have plans for a full year of programs and events to celebrate the “*Spirit of America*” and our 50th anniversary, including an expanded Battlefield Tour Program and events at the Battlefield (Clean Up Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Young Patriots Day, Public Archaeology Day, and Experience the Battle of Princeton). We are also planning to work with affiliated and patriotic organizations in commemorating American holidays, such as Flag Day and Veterans Day. And let’s not forget honoring Mark & Rachel Herr with our Mercer Oak Award, producing ten new *Eyewitness of the American Revolution* cards, and activities to honor our proud 50-year history.

There is a lot on the drawing board for 2021, and we invite you, your family and your friends to join us.

PERSONAL STORIES COME ALIVE AS ★★★ EYEWITNESSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ★★★

One of our newest initiatives is *Eyewitness of the American Revolution* cards. Originally developed for classroom use by teachers and students, they have become popular with everyone. We currently have 18 cards, written as first-person narratives by Larry Kidder, to represent people who were involved in or affected by the Battle of Princeton - - military and civilian, British and American, men and women, free and enslaved.

The set is available to teachers and students without cost.

Current “eyewitnesses” include: Brigadier General Hugh Mercer (Greene’s Division), Captain William Shippin (Continental



Marine), Captain William Leslie and Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood (17th Regiment of Foot), Susannah (Slave of the Clarke Family), Colonel John Haslet (1st Delaware Regiment), Ann Clarke (Wife of William Clarke), Captain Joseph Moulder (Philadelphia Associator Artillery), Charles Willson Peale (Philadelphia Associator), and Dr. Benjamin Rush (Continental Army Medical Officer). Our plan is to print 10 new cards in 2021, one for each of the “ten crucial days” of 1776-77.

Please send your request for a set of cards to Eyewitness Cards, Princeton Battlefield Society, P.O. Box 7645, Princeton, NJ 08543 or email us at info@pbs1777.org.



★ BEHIND THE SCENES OF OUR HISTORY & HERITAGE FUND ★

With generous financial support from many friends like you, we were able to initiate our History & Heritage Fund and undertake the creation of new and exciting educational exhibits in the historic Clarke House Museum. Our first will be *The Battle of Princeton*. Our goals are to make the Clarke House a first-class living history museum, to expand interests and awareness of the American Revolution, and to increase the number of visitors to the Park through historic tourism.

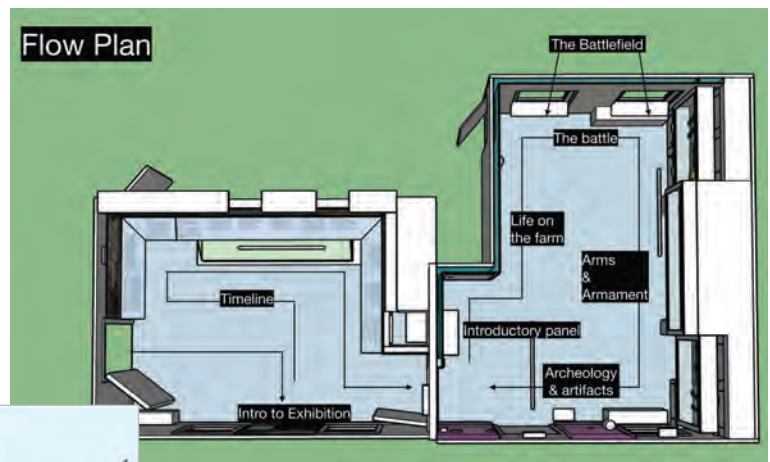
During most of 2020 we focused on the educational and interpretive aspects of a new exhibit despite our inability to get into the Clarke House for hands-on work. The outcome is a creative plan for a new exhibit dramatizing the Ten Crucial Days, the farms of the Clarke families and their Quaker heritage, the people – military and civilian, British and American, men and women – who were affected by the Battle, the Battle itself, and the results for our struggle for independence. A new “The Clarke

Farms & Princeton 1776” map, funded by the History & Heritage Fund, will be a focal point in the new exhibit. A copy is offered for sale by contacting info@pbs1777.org. We eagerly look forward to “getting into the Clarke House” to start the production phase and to announce its completion. We encourage your visit.

The History & Heritage Fund raises funds to create educational and interpretive exhibits and displays both inside and outside the Clarke House. This is in contrast to the Clarke House Fund which raises money to repair and protect the structure as it battles age, weather and other preservation needs.

Once the new exhibit is completed, we will confer with Park officials to determine other exhibits or displays, possibly to reflect the House’s role as a field hospital after the Battle or to further interpret the life of a Quaker farming family.

Preliminary plans for the new exhibit include changing the entrance door, removing current displays covering windows, and expanding historic information to more completely tell the Battle of Princeton story. Sketches, clockwise from right: Flow plan for the two museum rooms, panels for the Ten Crucial Days, and the weapons wall.





As we look ahead to our 50th Anniversary and new projects to undertake in celebration, Rand Mirante, a PBS member, brought to our attention the October 9, 2019 issue of the *Journal of the American Revolution* and its appeal for comments on remembering our struggle for independence. In response, he wrote to the *Journal*:

"Years ago a visitor to the Princeton Battlefield would have seen a ceramic map, stacked cannon balls topped by an eagle, and a plaque marking where the British 17th Regiment of Foot spotted the Americans and fatefully reversed course. All these have disappeared. A wooden British mass grave marker is also gone. Remaining are a granite-mounted plaque honoring General Mercer and a somewhat incongruous colonnade designed by prominent architect Thomas Walter and positioned on the battlefield as a memorial after an adjacent estate was demolished. So the site of a pivotal moment of the Revolution is strikingly 'under monumented.' I'd suggest rectifying this with an equestrian statue of Washington riding to the sound of guns and saving the day. It could be situated on Maxwell's Field."

Thanks, Rand. It's a great opportunity for PBS to recognize our *Spirit of America Campaign* by asking members, donors and friends to "Remember the



This remembrance card is in your End-of-the-Year letter from Jerry Hurwitz. We hope you use it!

At the space provided on the back of this form are photo you to share your remembrance. (A separate page is also available.)

☐ I am using a separate page.

IF NOT USING A SEPARATE TYPED PAGE, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

☐ Do not use name.

Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____

Princeton Battlefield" — to share an experience or visit, attending a PBS event, or a special occasion at the Park. A photo, postcard or newspaper clip would be great as well. Remembrances will appear on our website. So we invite you to share with others your personal remembrance of the Princeton Battlefield.

Send your remembrance by email to info@pbs1777.org or mail your card to "Remembering the Princeton Battlefield," PBS, P.O. Box 7645, Princeton, New Jersey 08543. Your remembrance must be limited to 50-75 words and clearly hand-printed or typed. Include your name and email or phone number (just in case we need to contact you). Your submission is your permission for us to use your comments and any personal photos.



*****UPDATES*****

CONGRATULATIONS

Mike Russell, a PBS trustee and 8th grade teacher at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School, New Jersey, received the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, Grades 6-8" in February 2020 from the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. He followed it up in March by winning the "VFW Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year for Middle School Award," given by the VFW National Headquarters, for his outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to students.

A belated "Congratulations," Mike! We're all proud of your dedication to bringing American history alive for young people.

GET INVOLVED

As we begin our 50th anniversary year, our call goes out to everyone interested in joining the Princeton Battlefield Society as a volunteer or, possibly, as a trustee. With new programs and activities on the drawing board, along with the expansion of annual events, we need your help. Go to our website (www.pbs1777.org) and visit our "Support" pages to review volunteer opportunities and, hopefully, to offer your help.

If you are looking to expand your community involvement through leadership and sharing personal expertise as a trustee, we invite your inquiries. Expertise and experiences to increase Board leadership is critical for our continued growth and development. (An interest in the American Revolution is a plus.) Some areas of need: accounting and finances, development of programs specifically for teachers and students, advocacy, website management, virtual programming, marketing and communications. Interested? Let us hear from you by sending an inquiry to info@pbs1777.org.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX!

Our "End-of-the-Year Appeal" to members, donors, and friends will be out before the end of November. Jerry Hurwitz, president, is asking you to remember the Princeton Battlefield Society with your year-end donation. Your support will help us overcome a difficult 2020 as well as plan for an exciting 2021, hopefully the most successful year in our proud 50 year history. Included in our appeal will be information on the 2020 CARES Act's provision for tax benefits for charitable donations. We will also

provide a card asking you to share your personal remembrance of the Princeton Battlefield with us. Let us hear from you.

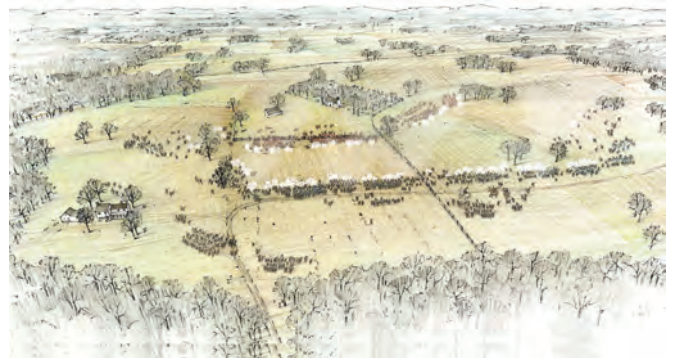
And then, early in the new year, you will receive our annual appeal for renewed or new membership. Our "*Spirit of America Campaign*" begins with you becoming a member.

NEW MAPS DEFINE AND INTERPRET THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

Two maps that define and interpret the landscape and the battle are now available. The first, by historic artist John Wright, is "The Clarke Farms & Princeton 1776," which was commissioned by PBS for the new Clarke House Museum exhibit (panel describing "The Land and The People").



The second was created by the American Battlefield Trust to demonstrate the highpoint of the Battle of Princeton at Maxwell's Field.



The "Clarke Farms" map measures 12" x 18" and the ABT map is 9" x 16". Both are suitable for framing. These maps will be sold at Battlefield events in 2021 and are available for sale. Request information at info@pbs1777.org.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK OUR 2020 MEMBERS

(as of October 2020)

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*We welcome your renewal
in 2021 and look forward to
others joining our growing
family of members, donors,
and friends. We need you!*



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