



*A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society - Spring/Summer 2021*



★★★★ **SPRING CLEANING** ★★★★★

CLEAN UP DAY, April 17, 2021 – Our first activity since Experience the Battle of Princeton in December 2019 was also the first in our year-long celebration of our 50th anniversary. Over sixty-five volunteers cleaned up the gravesite and Colonnades, the trace road, and the area around the barn foundation, as well as removed bamboo and kudzo and prepared the Park to welcome 2021 visitors.

***HUZZAH! to our volunteers.***

Chaired by Chuck Johnson, Clean Up Day 2021 was affiliated with the American Battlefield Trust's National Park Day. We received donated garden tools and materials from Home Depot in Hamilton and West Windsor, as well as water, snacks, and sanitizers from Wegman's Princeton. National Park Day donated water bottles for all volunteers.



*Everyone chipped in!*



*Behind the masks and ready to work are (l-r) State Senator Kip Bateman, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, Mike Russell, PBS president, Chuck Johnson, Clean Up Day chair, Princeton Mayor Mark Freda, and Assemblyman Dan Benson*



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# DESPITE THE WEATHER, WE BOUNCED BACK!

The weather didn't cooperate with our May 30 Memorial Weekend event, forcing us to cancel demonstrations by the 2nd PA reenactors, a pre-owned American history book sale, and other activities. The planned memorial wreath laying ceremony at the Mercer Monument was postponed until the next day and 75 people came out to sign yellow ribbons and to participate in a memorial ceremony.



offered a memorial prayer.

Thank you to our volunteers and friends who attached yellow ribbons to a memorial wreath at the Mercer Monument. The wreath was created by Vaseful Flowers and Gifts, Princeton.

Other postponed plans for Memorial Weekend were reorganized for Sunday, June 13: pre-owned American history book

The ceremony recognized those who fought and died for America's freedoms and offered thanks to those who are defending these same freedoms today. Mike Russell, president, honored the sacrifices of men and women which, he related, is a constant reminder as he walks the field of the Princeton Battlefield, remembering the sacrifices of American citizen soldiers. His thoughts were echoed by Elder Kevin J. Bynes, Sr., Pastor of the Morning Star Church of God in Christ, President, who

sale, display of miniature hand-painted military figures, a PBS "general store," and battlefield tours.

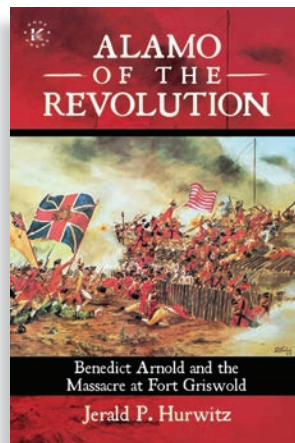


Funds raised from our book sale go to the new Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Thomas Clarke House Museum. PBS thanks our

volunteers and attendees who joined us on the 13th.

## ★★★★ BOOK RECOMMENDATION: ★★★★★ *ALAMO OF THE REVOLUTION: BENEDICT ARNOLD AND THE MASSACRE AT FORT GRISWOLD* - BY JERRY HURWITZ

Before the British surrendered at Yorktown, Benedict Arnold led 1,800 British troops on a punitive expedition to destroy the American privateer base in New London, Connecticut. The result, as told by Jerry Hurwitz, was a bloody assault on Fort Griswold and the near massacre of its defenders on September 6, 1781.



Following the capture of the British merchantman, the *Hanna*, with luxury goods destined for British officers in New York City, permission was given to Arnold to lead an amphibious expedition to destroy the American privateer base in New London. Being a native of the region, Arnold had intimate knowledge of the port and its defenses, including the most powerful

fortification, Fort Griswold. The fort was so important that one-half of Arnold's forces landed for the sole purpose of its capture.

But Arnold miscalculated the fort's strength and its defenders' determination, which would have grievous consequences both for the attackers and its outnumbered (161) defenders. In the end the British suffered close to 200 casualties and the patriots faced catastrophic losses amounting to 80%.

This long-forgotten American Revolution story is told by Jerry Hurwitz, president emeritus of the Princeton Battlefield Society. *ALAMO OF THE REVOLUTION* is available online or wherever books are sold.

# MERCER OAK AWARD RECEPTION, SEPTEMBER 23

You are invited to join the PBS in honoring Mark & Rachel Herr with the 2021 Mercer Oak Award. The award will be presented at a September 23rd reception at The Nassau Inn, Princeton. The Herts will join previous award winners, Peter J. Travers, Raoul Momo, and Jerry Hurwitz, in being honored for their personal commitment to and support of the Princeton Battlefield and our educational initiatives.

“After three postponements due to the COVID pandemic,” stated Ben Strong, vice president and a member of the Mercer Oak Award Committee, “our reception will once again honor those who have committed to the heritage of the American Revolution and the history made here on January 3, 1777. I am personally thrilled that Mark and Rachel will carry on the honor symbolized with the Mercer Oak.”

The funds raised at this year’s reception will be used



for the PBS’ History & Heritage Fund, and specifically for the new Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Thomas Clarke House Museum.

You are invited to join us by attending the reception or adding your support of the Herts and the PBS with a donation, a congratulatory message in our evening’s program, or with a silent auction donation. Further information will appear on the PBS website, [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org). Invitations will be in the mail in early August.

Members of the 2021 Mercer Oak Award Committee are Evan Beidler, Michael Duffy, Caroline Furey, Kim P. Gallagher, Doug Havel, Keith Hofmann, Jerald P. Hurwitz, Paul & Rosemary Kelley, Jeffrey Mershon, Raoul Momo, Todd Quackenbush, Michael Russell, Maureen Siegel, Ben Strong, Peter J. Travers, and Anne Weber. If you are interested in joining our Committee, please contact Bill Marsch at [info@pbs1777.org](mailto:info@pbs1777.org).

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We’re looking for volunteers to serve as “ambassadors” to weekend Park visitors. It’s an opportunity for you to help us introduce the Park, the Battle, and PBS to people who are visiting – walkers (with and without dogs), naturalists, picknickers, historic tourists. We will provide identification, materials and a briefing for all interested volunteers. Give us a few hours of your time over a summer weekend and share with others.

## SAVE THESE DATES

- Battlefield Tour Program to begin on July 11. All tours are on Sunday, starting a 1 pm. Online registration is required. The other 2021 dates are July 25, August 8 & 22, September 26, October 3 & 17.
- Young Patriots Day – Sunday, September 12 (rain date – 19).
- Mercer Oak Award Reception – Thursday, September 23.
- Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony – Thursday, November 11.
- Experience the Battle of Princeton – TBD either Sunday, December 26 or January 2, 2022.

# ★★★★★ UPDATES ★★★★★

## Your Personal Battlefield Scavenger Hunt



We offer you, your family, and friends a great activity, one available to you at any time. It is a fun-filled way to introduce you to the Princeton Battlefield. Our Scavenger Hunt, developed by Will Krakower, Historic

Educator at the Park, offers a few hours in the out-of-doors, learning about American history, and challenging you with Battlefield questions (and, hopefully, with your right answers). Go to [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) and download your personal Scavenger Hunt.

## NJ Historic Commission Awards PBS a Virtual Programming Grant

The PBS was awarded a NJHC grant to develop a video of 5 or 6 "eyewitnesses" of the American Revolution (PBS card series) for virtual programming. First-person narratives will be acted out by amateur actors in period dress and filmed at the Princeton Battlefield. The selection of the "eyewitnesses" is under review. Our plan is to film over the summer and to release the video in the fall. More information to follow. (We have added Eyewitness of the American Revolution cards to our website - - [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) - - and have a complete free set available to teachers. Contact the PBS.)

## ROTC Staff Rides

Staff rides are planned with Rutgers and Princeton University ROTC on October 15 and 29. Through the efforts of PBS volunteer, Alan Davis, we are discussing similar activities with military units with lineage to the Battle of Princeton.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PBS continually invites members and friends to support new and expanding programs and services as volunteers. With a growing list of needed skills and experiences, we are eager to talk with you about your interests. Consider helping at Battlefield events, marketing, social media and website support, photography, involvement with our tour and ambassador programs - - there is a volunteer opportunity ready for you. Let's explore your interests. Contact us at [info@pbs1777.org](mailto:info@pbs1777.org).

## USMC Visit and Discussions

PBS and Park staff met with representatives of the USMC's History Company from Quantico, Virginia, on June 9 to discuss the potential of staff rides and other cooperative initiatives. A dinner for our USMC guests was hosted by Raoul Momo at Eno Terra in Kingston.



*Will Krakower, Historic Educator, pointing out battlefield details with volunteer Alan Davis to GySgt Thomas E. Williams, SgtMaj Ken Conover, and MSgt Phil Gibbons"*

## Thank You to Our 2021 Partners

The Board of Trustees recognizes and thanks the following 2021 Partners (as of June 1) for supporting the Princeton Battlefield Society:

### ■ New Jersey Historic Trust

Promotion of historic tourism for Experience the Battle of Princeton

### ■ New Jersey Insurance Group

Sponsorship of Young Patriots Day and Experience the Battle of Princeton

### ■ Mercer County Cultural & Historic Commission

Support of 2021 general operating expenses

### ■ Curtis W. McGraw Foundation

Support of the Princeton Battlefield Society's mission

### ■ Colonial Lords of Manors in America

Support of the Princeton Battlefield Society's mission

### ■ New Jersey Historic Commission

Video taping of 5-6 Eyewitness of the American Revolution individuals as a virtual educational program

### ■ Home Depot - Hamilton & Princeton

Clean Up Day garden tools and materials

### ■ Wegman's - Princeton

Clean Up Day bottled water, snacks and hand sanitizers