



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society - Summer 2022

ROGER S. WILLIAMS RECEIVES 2022 MERCER OAK AWARD

Roger Williams received the 2022 Mercer Oak Award at a June 16 reception at The Nassau Inn, Princeton. In recognizing his dedication to the battlefield and the preservation of American Revolutionary War history, Board President Mike Russell, stated, “Roger has been a very supportive and loyal friend of the Princeton Battlefield Society and the Princeton Battlefield for many years, working both in the spotlight and behind the scenes. He is a tireless advocate, ambassador and educator of New Jersey’s history in the American Revolution. The Princeton Battlefield Society is truly honored to have Roger as our most recent honoree.”



Roger Williams, Board President Mike Russell and Mark Herr, 2021 Mercer Oak Award Honoree

In accepting his award, Williams reflected that “as a child, my father and I often walked on the battlefield.” He continued, “We live in this historic area that is one of America’s most important open space classrooms. The men who fought here and endured war in our backyard were not fighting for ill-gained wealth. They were fighting for the right to self-determination and for the common good of their communities. What we have inherited from them is a nation based on the principle of community and equity. That is the echo of musket and cannon that was won here.”

As a challenge to all, Roger highlighted that “more battles and skirmishes were fought in New Jersey

than in any other state. We are the Crossroads of the Revolution and, while yes, we have very nice beaches, we can invite a nation, and the world, to where the war for modern democracy was fought. As Mark Di Innio of the *Newark Star Ledger* encourages us, our slogan should be ‘Do Something Revolutionary . . . Visit

New Jersey.’ We need to make that statement, here in Princeton.”



Congratulations to Roger S. Williams, our 2022 Mercer Oak Award honoree.



ROUND UP OF SPRING & EARLY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Our commitment to historic education, commemoration, and the preservation of the battlefield continued over the past few months.



The memorial wreath at the Mercer Monument



The 2nd PA's military ceremony



Board President Mike Russell speaking at the ceremony

The 2022 Day of Remembrance on May 28 included the laying of a memorial wreath, with personal yellow ribbons attached, at the Mercer Monument. Chaplain David Boyles, PA ARNG, offered a prayer and a military ceremony was offered by the 2nd PA. A bagpiper underlined the solemnity of the day with a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

The 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Princeton Monument was celebrated on June 9. Organized by Morven Museum & Gardens, the ceremony included remarks by local political and organizational leaders.



Tom Pyle, Major General Faulk, and Krista Hastings



Some of the estimated 200 people who joined us in celebrating July 4

Our July 4th Celebration, hosted by Board President Mike Russell, featured inspirational comments from Major General Rodney L. Faulk, Commanding General, 99th Readiness Division, patriotic songs from Krista Hastings, Westminster Choir College, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by PBS trustee, Tom Pyle, who celebrated his July 4 birthday with us.



The Spring 2022 Clean Up Team

Spring Clean Up Day, on April 9, chaired by Mike Duffy, was another public service to the Park by a great team of volunteers. One surprise, during the removal of bamboo and evasive growth around the barn foundation, another structure was uncovered.



The days before the Battle of Princeton, known collectively as the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77, are detailed during a tour to understand the battle on January 3, 1777

Battlefield Tours began again in May and will continue through mid October. We appreciate our Tour team: Kim Gallagher, David Price, Larry Kidder, Roger Williams, Will Krakower and Patricia Kelly. Check our website (www.pbs1777.org) for tour dates.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Remaining 2022 Battlefield Tours:
September 11 & 25, October 2 & 16
(Register at www.pbs1777.org)

- ★ **September 18** – Young Patriots Day
- ★ **October 22** – Fall Clean Up Day
- ★ **December 17** – Wreaths Across America (Colonnade)
- ★ **January 8, 2023** – Experience the Battle of Princeton

★★★★ UPDATES ★★★★★

250TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING GRANT

The Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission awarded the PBS a leadership grant to undertake a survey of historical organizations and their plans for the Nation’s 250th Anniversary. Area historic sites and organizations met in June to discuss cooperation and to explore coordinated programming. A follow up meeting is planned in order to take the next steps to encourage a 250th anniversary planning group.

MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may have a matching gift program that doubles or even triples your donations to non-profits like the Princeton Battlefield Society. Some of these companies include: Allstate Insurance, Bank of America, Bristol Myers Squibb, ChevronTexaco, Chubb and Son, Coca-Cola, GE, Home Depot, IBM, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Pfizer, PNC, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Verizon, and Wells Fargo. Check to see if your employer will match your donations to support our historic, preservation and educational mission.

NEW VISITOR “WELCOME KIOSK” FOR PARKING LOT

With proceeds from a past Mercer Oak Award honoring Raoul Momo, we have purchased a new “welcome kiosk” for the visitor parking lot. This will provide more space for announcements and offer information for visitors to enjoy their time at the Park. We anticipate the kiosk’s installation by the Department of Environmental Protection in September.

COMMEMORATING LAFAYETTE’S VISIT



Board President Mike Russell with Julien Icher of The Lafayette Trail at the unveiling of a new sign in Rabway commemorating Lafayette’s 1824-25 return to the United States

CEREMONY AT YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY

Join us on September 18 at 2:30 during YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY for an unveiling ceremony of a mortuary cannon plaque at the Thomas Clarke House. The plaque commemorates the death of Brigadier General Hugh Mercer in the Clarke House and was donated by the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We hope you received your Clarke House Fund appeal and have already responded with a donation. Your donation, in honor of the Clarke House’s 250th Anniversary, will be used for needed preservation and repair plans developed by the State. To increase your generosity and partnership with us, we will be sending a year-end appeal to you in November. This appeal will help us plan 2023 programs and activities as well as support the completion and opening of our new Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Clarke House Museum. Thank you for your much needed support. We appreciate all you do.

EXPANDING OUR EYEWITNESS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INITIATIVE

We have added ten new “eyewitnesses” to our card series – now 28 in all! These new cards represent people impacted on each of the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77. We will send a set of cards, at no cost, to educators for in-class use. Inform a “teacher you know” about the cards and how to receive them or share contact information with us and we will send a set in your name.

Our educational initiative took another major step forward earlier this year with the release of a videotape of six eyewitnesses, made possible with a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. View these first-person narratives (Sergeant Nathaniel Root, Captain William

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UPDATES *(continued)*

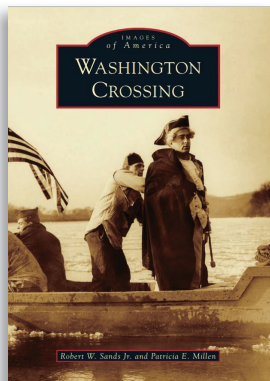
EXPANDING OUR EYEWITNESS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INITIATIVE (CONTINUED)

Leslie, Susannah, Ann Clarke, Captain Joseph Moulder, and Dr. Benjamin Rush) on our website, www.pbs1777.org. Please share this link broadly with others.

The success of our first video resulted in a second grant from Americana Corner to have six other eyewitnesses videotaped. They will include Colonel Edward Hand, Major John Kelly, John Hood, Joseph Clark, Colonel John Haslet, and Brigadier General Hugh Mercer. We thank Paul Kelley, video director, and Matt Matrale, videographer, for their efforts to make our videos possible.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION



A new book released in April, *Images of America, Washington Crossing*, by Robert W. Sands Jr. and Patricia E. Millen (Acadia Publishing) explores the events that took place at Washington Crossing - - from the Christmas 1776 crossing through the formation of two parks that now flank the shores of the Delaware River.

Using archival and modern imagery, General George Washington's harrowing crossing of the Delaware River is told using first-hand accounts as well as dozens of never-before-seen images from repositories and private collections. The book contains photographs of the yearly crossing reenactments, beginning with a fraternity crossing by Rider College students highlighted in a 1947 photo spread in *Life Magazine*.

Robert Sands is the author of three previous *Images of America* books including *Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell*. Patricia Millen began her career at Washington Crossing State Park before taking over as resident Site Administrator at the Thomas Clarke House at Princeton Battlefield from 1977 to 1984.

The book is available through Arcadia and many local sale outlets, as well as from the authors directly by emailing them through their website at www.washingtoncrossingbook.com.

REGISTER TODAY FOR YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY



Bring your family for a day of Revolutionary fun to Princeton Battlefield - Sunday, September 18 from 11:45 to 3:30

Learn about the American Revolution and have fun. Cannon, musket firing and drilling with the New Jersey Greys. Meet George Washington & Benjamin Franklin. Colonial presentations and demonstrations. Battlefield and Clarke House tours. Talk with living historians. Flag raising at 11:45.

A schedule of times and activities will be posted on our website.

Register today at www.pbs1777.org.



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