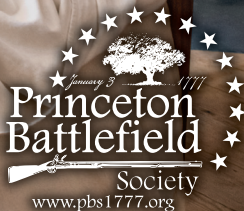


A woman in 18th-century attire is seated at a wooden table in a colonial-style room. She is wearing a brown dress with a white ruffled collar and a red bow at the waist. She is looking to her left. The room features a fireplace with a marble surround and a window with a view of a landscape. The table has a glass of wine and some papers on it.

# Eyewitness of the American Revolution

Courtesy of  
The Colonial  
Williamsburg Foundation

The logo for the Princeton Battlefield Society features a stylized tree in the center, flanked by the dates "January 3" on the left and "1777" on the right. Below the tree is a silhouette of a rifle. The entire logo is framed by a circular border of stars.

Princeton  
Battlefield  
Society  
[www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org)

# Jan 1 - Anna Richmond

## Richmond's Tavern on Mill Hill



26

January 1, 1777 was a busy day around my husband Jonathan's tavern on Mill Hill in Trenton. Mill Hill got its name from a grist mill located on the Assunpink Creek running along the south side of Trenton and marking the boundary between Hunterdon and Burlington Counties. The rising ground behind the grist mill became known as Mill Hill. While no fighting had taken place around our tavern at the battle on December 26, Mill Hill was now being set up as the focal point for a new battle if the British attempted to destroy General Washington's army.

Colonel Rall had not felt it necessary to construct defensive positions on any side of Trenton even though he had been advised to do so – including on Mill Hill. But now, Washington's army had spent the past several days constructing defensive positions, including artillery emplacements, on the slope of the hill as additional troops joined him with renewed vigor after his victory against the Hessians. We civilians feared that a second battle would take place at our town because the Trenton area was becoming more and more an army camp preparing for battle. From scouting reports we had learned that British general Lord Cornwallis was collecting somewhere between 8,000 and 10,000 men at Princeton preparing to attack Trenton tomorrow.

I had decided not to leave Trenton when the war came to our town in December and we suffered through the Hessian occupation. Now it looks like our part of town will be the center of a battle tomorrow. We can only hope that the British don't get here until so late in the day that the battle will be ended by darkness rather than victory, although that will just delay things. Hopefully, our tavern will survive. If the British have as much artillery as Washington has placed on Mill Hill, the cannon fire will cause great damage to our town's buildings.

The weather warmed up today causing the ice and snow to melt so that things are very muddy. Perhaps that will slow things down tomorrow. I hear that Washington has his headquarters at the Barnes house in Trenton. If the British fight their way into town, he will need to move from there and make his headquarters somewhere on Mill Hill, perhaps at our tavern. *Text by Larry Kidder.*