



Huzzah!



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Winter 2024

EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON – 2024



General Washington's troops had nothing on the 575 spectators and over 220 reenactors who braved the winter weather and rain to participate in the 246th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton on January 7. Both the reenactment, which featured the bayonetting of General Hugh Mercer, and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Colonnade, received positive reactions despite weather conditions rivaling those on January 3, 1777.

We hope to see you and others next January 5!

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Mark & Rachel Herr

Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission

New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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Princeton-Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce

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★ WE WELCOMED AND THANK ★

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL REENACTOR UNITS FROM
NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, MASSACHUSETTS, DELAWARE,
MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA:

UNITS REGISTERED REPRESENTING CONTINENTAL FORCES

1st Continental Regiment
1st Delaware Regiment
1st Maryland Regiment
1st New York Regiment,
McCracken's Coy.
1st New Jersey Regiment
1st Pennsylvania Regiment
1st Rhode Island Regiment
Colonel Bailey's 2nd Massachusetts
Regiment
2nd New Jersey Regiment, Helm's
Coy.
2nd Virginia Regiment
3rd New Jersey Grays
4th Connecticut Regiment
4th New York Artillery
5th Pennsylvania Regiment
6th Pennsylvania Regiment
7th Virginia Regiment
9th Pennsylvania Regiment,
Light Inf. Coy.
11th Pennsylvania Regiment
24th Connecticut Militia Regiment
Clotz's Battalion of the Flying Camp
Friends of Washington's Crossing
Fife & Drum
Glover's Marblehead Regiment
The German Regiment
Lamb's Artillery
Lt. Trevet's Coy. of Marines
Northampton County Militia
New Jersey Light Infantry
Outwater's Militia
The Pennsylvania State Regiment
Schott's Independent Coy.

Spencer's Additional Continental
Regiment
West Jersey Artillery

UNITS REGISTERED REPRESENTING CROWN FORCES

1st Battalion New Jersey Volunteers
4th Battalion New Jersey Volunteers

22nd Regiment of Foot
23rd Regiment of Foot, the Royal
Welch Fusiliers in America
42nd Regiment of Foot, Grenadier
Coy.
43rd Regiment of Foot
Brigade of Guards, Grenadier Coy.
Infanterie Regiment von Donop
Von Prueschen's Feldjager Kompanie



BSA Troop 27, Lawrenceville, with parents and reenactors



Sgt Thomas Edge and Lt. Samuel Williams, Queens Own Royal Lancers, with British reenactors

★ WE WELCOMED AND THANK ★

Legacy Units attending the reenactment and participating at the wreath-laying ceremony:

- 103rd Engineer Battalion of the Pennsylvania National Guard, legacy unit of the Philadelphia Artillery Battalion (known as “The Dandy First”)
- 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment Association, legacy unit of Smallwood’s Maryland Regiment (known as “The Fifth Maryland”)
- 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery of the New York, legacy unit of the New York Provincial Company of Artillery (also known as “Hamilton’s Own”)
- New Jersey National Guard, legacy unit of the New Jersey Militia
- Royal Lancers of the British Army (also known as “Queen Elizabeth’s Own”), legacy unit of the 16th Regiment of Light Dragoons (also known as “Burgoyne’s Light Horse”)
- Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, legacy unit of the First Troops, Philadelphia City Cavalry (also known as “The Philadelphia Light Horse”)
- United States Marine Corps, legacy unit of Major Samuel Nicolas Battalion of Continental Marines



Greetings and comments at the wreath-laying ceremony came from representatives from the New Jersey State Historic Sites & Parks, Sons of the American Revolution, Descendants of Signers of the Constitution, Crossroads National Heritage Area, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution, Order of Founders & Patriots, Free and Accepted Masons, Society of the Cincinnati, National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, and Mayflower Society.

We especially thank State Senator Andrew Zwicker and Princeton Mayor Mark Freda for participating and our dedicated volunteers who made our 246th Anniversary of the Battle of Princeton possible.

BENJAMIN STRONG ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT

Benjamin Strong was elected President of the Princeton Battlefield Society at its January 16th Board meeting. Strong, a recently retired public health emergency preparedness coordinator, has been a history buff all of his life. He joined the PBS Board during the contested campaign to preserve the Maxwell’s Field section of the Princeton Battlefield in 2006 and has served as vice president since 2016. Strong has also been involved with other Revolutionary War patriotic lineage societies. He is currently President of the Sons of the Revolution, New Jersey and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Strong succeeds Michael Russell as president. “Mike did a great job growing Princeton Battlefield Society,” he stated. “During his time as president, we increased membership, grew our social media presence, and sponsored new events both at the Battlefield and for the

benefit of PBS’ mission. We made major strides towards our goal of becoming a nationally recognized historic site.”

“This year we will add new signage to the battlefield for increased visitor experiences and will initiate a major push to prepare for the 250th Anniversary in 2026,” Strong explained. “Our goal during this time will be to focus visitors on our Revolutionary War history and the importance of Washington’s victory at Princeton in the cause of independence. A key part of this will be continuing to grow our annual ‘Experience the Battle of Princeton’ re-enactment, aiming at staging a major event for the 250th anniversary of the Battle in January 2027.”

Also elected at the January meeting were Ken Gavin as Vice President, Crea Mallery as Treasurer, and Jerry Hurwitz as Secretary. Mark Herr was also elected as a new trustee.

REIMAGINING THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

The Princeton Battlefield Society, in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and the New Jersey State Historic Sites and Parks, is working to improve interpretation of the site of the climactic victory in General George Washington's Ten Crucial Days campaign.

Our partnership goal is to advance the profile of Princeton Battlefield State Park, a National Historic Landmark. It is a not-to-be-missed historic site that attracts and engages diverse visitors from not only across the state, but across the globe. We want to bring even more visitors to experience this hallowed ground.

Referred to as "Washington's Legacy," the plan will "lift a curtain on today's battlefield and transport visitors to the 1777 wartime landscape." Heritage tourists, visitors, and special event participants will have firsthand opportunities to explore and experience the January 3, 1777 battle, the



Vision of the Battlefield (Note location of a Visitor-Education Center)

Revolutionary era, and life in the 18th century. (See www.battlefields.org/preserve/washingtons-legacy.)

As envisioned by the ABT, activities like the installation of a walking path, replanting of an orchard near where the William Clarke house once stood, the restoration of historic tree lines and the removal of 20th century intrusions, and the relocation of visitor

services to outside the core battlefield land will help turn back the clock to the year 1777.

New interpretive signage and development of interactive digital technology will further help engage battlefield visitors in the days leading up to and following the Nation's 250th Anniversary. One such piece of signage is a tactile battlefield map table funded in part by grants from Americana Corner and the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Jersey.

"The continuing support of Princeton Battlefield Society members, donors, and friends," confirmed Ben Strong, president, "will help us reimagine the Princeton Battlefield for future generations."

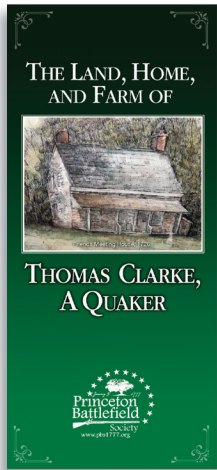
"Visitors will get to walk the same pathways that Washington and his men took 250 years ago. They'll get to survey the grounds and see in their mind's eye what it would have been like to witness hundreds of British troops on the hill opposite them. They'll march over the same ground, stand on battle lines, charge through the recreated apple orchard – it's going to be an amazing experience."

- Will Krakower, Resource Interpretive Specialist, Princeton Battlefield State Park



Battle Window Mock-Up

★★★ UPDATES ★★★



OUR NEW “THOMAS CLARKE” BROCHURE

Before the Battle of Princeton, the land on which it was fought formed the farms of William & Thomas Clarke, Quakers. With funding assistance from the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, we are proud to introduce a new educational brochure exploring the life of Thomas Clarke as well as his home and farm. A copy can be

requested at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com or can be picked up when you visit the Clarke House, which houses our new Battle of Princeton exhibit.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF A SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT AT THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON?

A new initiative, “Descendants of the Battle of Princeton,” was created to involve the families of men who battled here on January 3, 1777. If you are descended from someone who fought at the Battle of Princeton, please let us know at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com. A member of the initiative’s committee will be in touch with you.

PROPAGATING THE MERCER OAK – AN UPDATE



Professor Amy Ricco at Mercer County Community College reports on her project to propagate a new generation of Mercer Oaks. As this photograph demonstrates, there is one growing at the College. We now have at least one more “son of the Mercer Oak” to join the one propagating at Springdale Golf Course.

2024 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Take a look at your calendar and pick a date to take family and friends on a tour of the Princeton Battlefield and the Thomas Clarke House. Each tour starts at 1 pm and includes an exciting narration from one of our historical interpreters: Larry Kidder, Will Krakower, David Price, Roger Williams, and Tom Kane. 2024 tour dates are: May 19, June 9 & 23, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20. You will be able to register at www.pbs1777.org starting on March 1.

TRUSTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Someone recently asked: “How do I become a trustee?” The board is always interested in identifying people with a diverse array of expertise, experiences, and leadership capabilities needed to advance the mission of the Princeton Battlefield Society. Interested individuals are always measured against the needs of the board and organization as well as long-term goals. Not all who express interest are elected. There is a vetting process that starts with a simple communication stating interest, which is followed up with initial conversation.

PRIORITIES FOR 2024

The board, in its discussions of the 250th Anniversary and of the Princeton Battlefield State Park’s needs, approved funding priorities for 2024, including:

- Restoration of the bronze medallion in the Memorial Grove (behind the Colonnade) which memorializes unknown British and American soldiers buried nearby. The medallion features the poem, “Princeton,” by Alfred Noyes.
- A study to determine needed repairs and upgrades to the Clarke House chimney, as well as the costs, in order to allow for the use of the kitchen fireplace.
- Studies of the history of and refurbishments for the “Mercer room.”

The Order of Founders and Patriots has committed funds for the bronze medallion’s restoration, our Clarke House Fund will help with the costs of a “chimney study,” and grants will be sought for the “Mercer room” studies.

Long-term, the Princeton Battlefield Society will undertake studies and discussions for the construction of an education/visitor center at the Park.

YOUR PERSONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR . . .



★ INVESTMENT ★

Preserving the historic Clarke House and protecting the Battlefield's military and cultural landscape



★ COMMITMENT ★

Educating others for increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the heritage of the American Revolution



★ PRIDE ★

Honoring the Princeton Battlefield as a national treasure and celebrating America's 250th Anniversary



★ SHARING ★

Growing numbers of visitors and participants - children, families, and others

The Princeton Battlefield is a window to America's founding. With your 2024 membership donation the Princeton Battlefield Society can preserve, protect, and promote its heritage now and in the future.

- ★ Repairs and upgrades to the historic Thomas Clarke House
- ★ Repair the medallion and redevelop the Memorial Grove
- ★ Young Patriots Day, Experience the Battle of Princeton, Battlefield Tours
- ★ Enhancements at the Park such as fencing for the Colonial Garden
- ★ Bringing the Princeton Battlefield to others through community events and outreach
- ★ Promoting the Battlefield through educational materials
- ★ Strengthening our work with the State of New Jersey and the American Battlefield Trust on behalf of the Princeton Battlefield State Park

Your support brings the Princeton Battlefield Society one step closer to a meaningful and dramatic celebration of America's 250th Anniversary and to the fulfillment of our long-term dream – a visitor-education center.

COMPLETE, CLIP AND SEND

Membership Levels:

- 1777 Circle of Patriots (\$1,777 or more)**
A personal opportunity to become more involved with the Princeton Battlefield Society. We will personally contact you and follow up with information.
- General George Washington (\$1,000)**
- General Hugh Mercer (\$500)**
- Continental Line (\$250)**
- Militia (\$100)**
- Revolutionary (\$50)**
- Member (\$25)**

Your check may be made payable to Princeton Battlefield Society or you can join us as a member online at www.pbs1777.org.

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City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Your email address helps to keep you informed:

E-mail _____

Do not identify this donation publicly.

THANK YOU!

The Princeton Battlefield Society is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) national / non-profit organization.



PO Box 7645
Princeton, New Jersey 08543
www.pbs1777.org
info@pbs1777.org

