



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Fall 2023

ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE BARN FOUNDATION

With funding support from The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey, the Princeton Battlefield Society initiated an archaeological investigation of the area where the original Clarke farm barn and subsequent structures once stood.



vegetation. Wade and a team of professional archaeologists began work in early September and continued through a demonstration at Young Patriots Day.

This barn foundation project was the catalyst for a LiDAR study of the entire

The project is under the direction of Wade Catts from South River Heritage Consulting. Wade was a principal author of the 2010 Battlefield Mapping Project funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program and author of the 2012 *Preservation Plan for the Thomas Clarke House*. He also directed the 2018 archaeological study of the former D’Ambrisi property, which is now incorporated in the Park, and served as an instructor for the Princeton University Battlelab Course in 2018. Recently he co-lead the team that uncovered the remains of Hessian soldiers at Fort Mercer National Park.

Numerous volunteers worked in 2022 and 2023 to clean up the area, which was heavily overgrown with brush and other



Battlefield. Originally proposed only for the barn foundation area, the opportunity to survey the entire battlefield was proposed and agreed to by the State, with funding from the American Battlefield Trust and the Princeton Battlefield Society. (LiDAR stands for “Light Detection and Ranging.” As explained and proposed by our archaeologists, “it is used to map topography and detect cultural features concealed beneath vegetation, providing detailed aerial overviews of an entire site.”)

Following the submission and a discussion of the initial barn foundation study report, a strategy for continued investigation will be determined. One opportunity will be to open the area to visitors with descriptive signage.

★ **THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY'S** ★
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES
2023 MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO
AMERICA'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

The following are thanked for their dedication to the protection and preservation of the Princeton Battlefield and the promotion of its cultural landscape.

(Members as of November 1)

1777 CIRCLE OF PATRIOTS

T. Jeffrey & Barbara Clarke
 Thomas Kane

GENERAL WASHINGTON (\$1000)

William Hupp
 Donald G. Trost
 Greg Wilson

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 Steve Kuchta
 David Price
 Todd Quackenbush
 Randall Riccardo
 Carlotta Rotman

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 Michael Clayton
 Joe Diehm
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 Alan Dybvig
 Stan & Ellen Fayer
 Victoria Fisher
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 Ken Gavin
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 Jerry Hurwitz
 Larry Kidder
 Denise & Tom McGough
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 Bill Meyer
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 Michael Russell
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 Ben Strong
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 Dr. Glenn F. Williams
 Carolyn Youngs
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 Tom Walsh
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We welcome your renewal in 2024 and look forward to others joining our growing family of members, donors, and friends. We need you!

Holiday Wishes!



The Board of Trustees of the Princeton Battlefield Society extend to you, your family, and your associates every best wish for the Holiday Season and throughout 2024. Thank you for being a part of our mission on behalf of America's history and the heritage of the Battle of Princeton.

YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY

Over 250 young people and their families enjoyed a fun- and history-filled day at the Princeton Battlefield on September 17. Starting with our traditional flag raising ceremony with General George Washington and a color guard from the 3rd New Jersey Grays, the day was highlighted by conversations with Ben Franklin, an archaeological demonstration at the barn foundation, 17th century medicine and nursing presentations,



colonial dress-ups, military drilling and musket firing with the New Jersey Grays, a tour of the new Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Clarke House, and information tables from area organizations and historic sites.

Thank you to our team of volunteers who did everything from start to finish, as well as to:

- Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
- Old Barracks Museum
- Washington Crossing Park Association
- Lawrence Historic Society
- Crossroads/RevolutionNJ
- Friends of Washington Crossing (activity center)
- D&R Canal Watch & Middlebrook Symposium
- Princeton Friends Meeting
- The Trent House
- Rockingham
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the American Revolution
- Bordentown Historical Society/Thomas Paine Site
- W3R-NJ
- Historical Society of Princeton



**THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES AND THANKS OUR FRIENDS AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR SUPPORTING OUR EVENTS,
PROGRAMS, AND INITIATIVES IN 2023.**

Alchemist & Barrister
Allen & Stultz
American Battlefield Trust
Americana Corner
Artist Preservation Group
John and Hilda Arnold Foundation
The Bank of Princeton
The Bent Spoon
Callaway Henderson Sotheby's
PF Chang's
Chase Field
Colonial Lords of Manors in America
Daughters of the American Revolution,
New Jersey State Society
Alan Davis
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Drew Estate by The Firm Cigar Society
Molly Dykstra, 1st Presbyterian, Trenton
Michael J. Duffy
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Fire & Safety Services
Friends of Washington Crossing Park
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Paul Kelley
Margaret Kelvar-Bushnell
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The League of Historical Societies of
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Princeton-Mercer Regional
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Princeton Airport
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Princeton Garden Theatre
Princeton Tour Company
Princeton University
Thomas H. Pyle
Rat's Restaurant
Ron Rinaldi
Michael Rothman

Ruth's Chris Steak House
The George F. and Estelle M.
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of New Jersey
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State of New Jersey
Society of the Sons of the
Revolution in the State of New
Jersey
Sons of the American Revolution,
New Jersey Society
Spectrum Screen Printing
Springdale Golf Club
TenCrucialDays.org
"The Crossing: A Revolutionary
New Musical"
Peter J. Travers
Triumph Brewery
Valley Forge
Wegman's - West Windsor
West Point
Wildflowers of Princeton Junction
Roger Williams
Wind Creek Hotel & Casino
Yankee Doodle Restaurant
Domenique Collins Yermolayev

Holiday Wishes!



*The Princeton Battlefield
Society wishes each of you
and your associates every
best for the Holidays and
throughout 2024.*

LiDAR STUDY

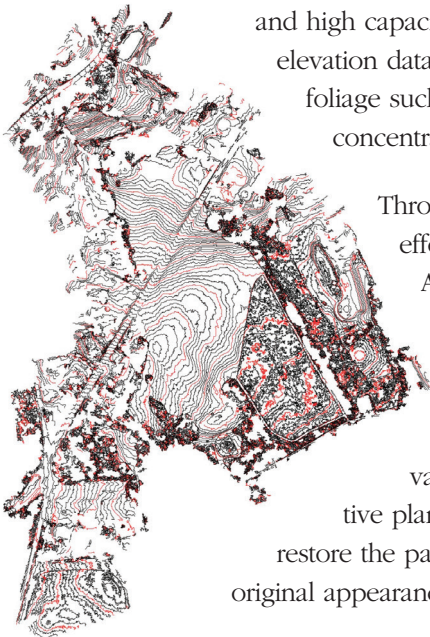
On August 31, 2023, the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS), in cooperation with the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), initiated an all-day comprehensive aerial LiDAR topographic survey of Princeton Battlefield State Park and the neighboring Stony Brook Quaker campus.



With professional guidance and management from SkyVue Aerial Photography out of Pine Beach, New Jersey, the 85 inclusive acres of Princeton Battlefield State Park, and the adjacent 15 acres currently owned by the ABT, became one of the first battlefields in the United States, and perhaps the first Revolutionary War battle site, to be surveyed using the advanced technologies of aerial LiDAR imagery.



LiDAR, short for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that utilizes pulsing light beams to measure exact distances to objects and terrain on the Earth's surface. Attached to an 8-rotor remotely operated drone, aerial LiDAR is an advantageous surveying method due to its precision and high capacity to collect surface elevation data through dense foliage such as trees and concentrated vegetation.



Through the combined efforts of PBS, the ABT, and the NJDEP, Princeton Battlefield State Park is currently going through a multi-phase preservation and interpretative plan that will eventually restore the park landscape to its original appearance at the time of the

battle on January 3, 1777. To accomplish this, it was determined that a broad survey of the park would be necessary in order to distinguish accurate topography and opportunities for potential archaeological projects. Mark Texel, Director of Historic Sites for the NJDEP noted that, "Having a detailed, accurate topographic map is

a key element of the park's new Preservation and Interpretation Plan. Data from this LiDAR survey will guide future archaeology; revealing new details and understanding of the events which unfolded on the morning of January 3, 1777. The DEP's State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites work group extends its sincere gratitude to the Princeton Battlefield Society for their support of this important LiDAR project at Princeton Battlefield State Park."

In response to the survey work at the park, battlefield Historical Interpreter, Will Krakower, stated that "We are absolutely thrilled with the results from the LiDAR survey. The information we have gotten back, let alone the incredible shots of the Clarke House and the Park, will be invaluable to our ongoing mission to rehabilitate the park to its 18th century look. We have a lot of big projects in the works for the nation's 250th anniversary and beyond and this survey was the first step in making a lot of these projects a reality."



Data from the LiDAR survey will be analyzed and interpreted over the next several months. Ultimately, these findings will be used to help guide further research initiatives on the battlefield and assist designers in creating impactful and seamless visitor experiences, onsite and online.

- Michael Russell, President

WELCOME TO THE NEW BATTLE ★★★ OF PRINCETON EXHIBIT ★★★

Our new exhibit in the Clarke House Museum opened over the summer to rave reviews! Thank you to the donors of our History & Heritage Fund who made it happen and are publicly acknowledged in the exhibit.

The exhibit, located in the two first-floor rooms connecting to the original Clarke House, traces the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77, from Washington's crossing of the Delaware, his defeat of the Hessians in Trenton, his return and the battle of Assunpink Creek (Second Trenton), and his overnight march to Princeton and the January 3 battle.

An outline of the Battle of Princeton is provided and supported by our "Battle of Princeton" brochure. The land and farms of the Clarke family are reviewed, along with the people, military and civilian, who experienced the battle. Our Eyewitness of the American Revolution cards are available there as well. Two windows open to a view of the battlefield and display cases highlight the weapons and military equipment commonly used by the combatant forces.

You have a standing invitation to visit and see first-hand what the excitement is all about. Come along with your family and friends.



UPDATES

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



Our successes in 2023 would not have taken place without a dedicated team of volunteers

who continued to step up and take on the many “background things” that always make the difference. Whether at Experience the Battle of Princeton or Young Patriots Day, Clean Up Days or our Battlefield Tours, for our Mercer Oak Award Ceremony, on our board of trustees and committees, and for all other events and programs involving them, a loud *THANK YOU!*

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER HAVE A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM?

Your employer may have a matching gift program which may double or triple your donation to the Princeton Battlefield Society. We mention a few:

- Bank of America
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Chubb and Son
- GE
- Home Depot
- Johnson & Johnson
- Merck
- PNC
- Prudential
- State Farm
- Companies
- Verizon
- Wells Fargo

PROPOGATING THE MERCER OAK



Professor Amy Ricco, Program Coordinator for Horticulture, Plant Science and Sustainability at Mercer County Community College, and a class of students have taken on a much-appreciated task of propagating the Mercer Oak. Class members were at the Park on September 27 to secure acorns dropped by the oak. Will Krakower, the Battlefield’s Resource Interpretive Specialist, talked to the class about the heritage of the Mercer Oak and answered questions. Stay tuned for progress reports.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

We ended another successful Battlefield Tour Program year on October 22. A participant from Pennsylvania wrote, “What a lovely way to spend an afternoon! The Clarke House exhibit was perfect viewing after the tour, the artifacts speaking to Larry’s descriptions. I loved the emphasis on the human stories.” Thanks to our Historical Interpreters, Larry Kidder, David Price, Roger Williams, and Will Krakower, along with the support team of Kim Gallagher, Peter Guzik, and Tom Kane. Our schedule of tours for 2024 will be announced in the Spring.

NEW BROCHURE

A new Princeton Battlefield Society brochure, “*The Land, Home, and Farm of Thomas Clarke, A Quaker*,” will be available in January 2024. You can obtain a copy by requesting one at info@pbs1777.org. We appreciate the collaborative effort by Larry Kidder, Daniel Rodgers, Don Stryker, Will Krakower, Ken Gavin, the Princeton Friends Meeting, and staff from the Historical Society of Princeton. The brochure was funded, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

DISCOVER YOUR REVOLUTION IN NEW JERSEY!

The Princeton Battlefield Society has become a Proud Partner in *RevolutionNJ*, “a once-in-a-generation opportunity to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.” The program is coordinated by the New Jersey Historical Commission and Crossroads of the American Revolution. Learn more at www.revnj.org.

1777 CIRCLE OF PATRIOTS MEMBERSHIP

We were honored in 2023 to welcome two members to our 1777 Circle of Patriots, who gave \$1,777 as membership donations to support the Princeton Battlefield Society. We invite you to join the Circle in 2024. If interested, please contact us at info@pbs1777.org.



UPDATES

THE CROSSING

A Revolutionary New Musical
www.TheCrossingMusical.com



A special concert of musical highlights from *THE CROSSING: A REVOLUTIONARY NEW MUSICAL* was held for friends of the Princeton Battlefield Society on Sunday, July 2, at Gara Pavilion at the Princeton Junior School. We thank *THE CROSSING* team of John Allen Watts, Jason Alexander Huza, Misti Wills, and Roger Williams, for providing an “afternoon of song” to celebrate Independence Day.

THE TRAVERSING TEN CRUCIAL DAYS BUS TOUR IS BACK!

Spend the day retracing the path of George Washington and his men with historical interpreters Roger Williams and Larry Kidder. The public bus tour will be offered on December 9th and December 29th, 2023 and January 6th, 2024 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Cost is \$145 per person and includes bus fare, lunch, and donations to Washington Crossing Historic Park, The Washington Crossing Park Association in New Jersey, The Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, and the Princeton Battlefield Society. Traversing the Ten Crucial Days Bus Tour begins and ends at Washington Crossing, PA. Tickets are limited. Register today at www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/traversing-bus-tour

YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

You will receive your invitation to become a Member of the Princeton Battlefield Society in January and we hope you will become a partner with us. Every year, members help us fund exciting programs, events, and initiatives. With the Nation's 250th anniversary in 2026, your support is even more critical as we prepare for a full year of celebration.

Photos in this Newsletter provided by Al Pocek and others.

EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

At Princeton Battlefield State Park
Sunday, January 7, 2024

A reenactment of the January 3, 1777 Battle of Princeton, followed by a memorial wreath-laying ceremony at the Colonnade and Memorial Grove with military representatives, color guards, and lineage groups.

Register at www.pbs1777.org after November 15



BREAKFAST WITH MAJOR GENERAL JASON Q. BOHM, USMC



General Jason Bohm, USMC, author of the new book “*Washington's Marines: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution, 1776-77*,” was guest at a Princeton Battlefield Society breakfast on November 4 at The Nassau Club. The breakfast was chaired by Ben Strong, vice president of

the Board. His presentation, and questions that followed, went into details of when, where and why the US Marine Corps was formed. He also clarified the place of Captain William Shippin in Corps history as the first Philadelphia Marine to die in a land battle at the Battle of Princeton. The 26 attendees had an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of the USMC, which occurred at the Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, on November 10, 1775.



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