



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Summer 2023

NEW JERSEY’S SONS OF THE REVOLUTION HONORED WITH 2023 MERCER OAK AWARD

Ben Strong, president of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey, accepted the 2023 Mercer Oak Award on behalf of his fellow members at a reception at Princeton’s Nassau Inn on June 14.



The award was presented by Roger Williams, 2022 Mercer Oak Award recipient, on behalf of the Princeton Battlefield Society. Mike Russell, president, and Mercer Oak Award recipients Raoul Momo, and Mark Herr joined with words of praise and appreciation.

The Sons of the Revolution-New Jersey is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and promotion of the Princeton Battlefield, and continues to contribute significantly to its growth and development as a historic tourist destination and educational resource on behalf of the American Revolution. Its partnership with the Princeton Battlefield Society has kept alive the history of the American Revolution and highlighted the role of the Battle of Princeton in the nation’s eventual independence.

“Groups like the Princeton Battlefield Society are important in keeping our historical memories alive,” stated Strong. “It preserves the memory of our struggle and continually relates important stories. We all like visuals, and when you’re at the battlefield, you can see where the battle took place and feel what soldiers and civilians must have felt. Preserving this site, including the Clarke House as an eyewitness of history, helps greatly to understand and appreciate what happened here. We are proud that we are a partner with the Princeton Battlefield Society in its mission.”

In addition to honoring the Sons of the Revolution, attendees enjoyed a silent auction and the American Battlefield Trust’s display of interpretive plans for the Battlefield.



The money raised will be used to fund the completion of the new “Battle of Princeton” exhibit in the historic Thomas Clarke House. Congratulations to the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey.

NEW “BATTLE OF PRINCETON” EXHIBIT

By the time you receive this newsletter, the final touches on our new “Battle of Princeton” exhibit in the Thomas Clarke House Museum will be finished and open to public visitation. After years of pandemic restrictions and repairs/

upgrades, our efforts are now complete. We thank all of our History & Heritage Fund donors, listed on a special honor roll, for making this new educational exhibit possible for visitors. Hopefully, you will be one of them.



AN ACORN GROWS AT SPRINGDALE

Kristina Miller, a member of Springdale Country Club, came to the Society early last year asking if we could locate a tree grown from the original Mercer Oak. Her plan was to plant the tree and a historic Frog Hollow marker on the golf course in honor of the 250th Anniversary. We searched locally without success. Then one day last Fall we found ourselves picking up acorns within the enclosure at the current Mercer Oak. The acorns were planted and our fingers were crossed. This Spring one of them became a Mercer Oak seedling.

Donovan Maguigan, Springdale superintendent, shared this photo and a status report. *“After a few weeks of little progress coming out of the Spring, we have seen the sprouting of new sets of leaves on the sapling. [Recently] two leaves that were on the sapling fell but as you can see, we have an additional lower leaf and new growth from the top.”*

Our fingers are still crossed, but at this point “an acorn grows at Springdale.”



Historic significance of Frog Hollow

“While Washington led one wing of the Continental Army to victory on the Clarke Farms, General John Sullivan continued the other wing’s advance another mile and a half into Princeton via the trace road. Sullivan’s column engaged and nearly surrounded the British 40th Regiment of Foot and elements of the 55th Regiment of Foot at a small rivulet known as Frog Hollow, forcing the British to withdraw into town and take cover in Nassau Hall, roughly a half-mile to the north-west of the Hollow.” - Will Krakower, DEP

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Volunteers enjoyed a pizza party after almost 3 hours of “cleaning up” the Princeton Battlefield State Park on April 22. Visitors who will enjoy the Park’s historic and recreational attractions this Summer and Fall thank them.

Among our teams was one, which included area college students, preparing the barn foundation area for an archaeological project, funded by the Society of Colonial Wars. Under the guidance of Wade Catts and Ian Burrow, archaeologists, the area was cleared of plant overgrowth to further reveal foundation areas.

Our volunteer teams also refreshed the plantings at the Raoul Momo Kiosk at the visitor parking lot, power washed the Clarke House, spruced up the Colonnade and Memorial Grove, and raked up winter debris. Congratulations to Laura Wirpsza, chair of Clean Up Day.

Our annual Spring Clean Up Day was a site for the American Battlefield Trust’s national Park Day.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION!

Members and donors are building blocks for opportunities to preserve, protect and promote the Princeton Battlefield through programs, events, and initiatives. If you have already joined us in 2023, we all say THANK YOU!

If you are not a member or donor, we invite you to join us in plans and programs to bring American history alive for today’s and tomorrow’s kids, families, and all others who visit and learn at the Princeton Battlefield.

There are other ways for you to make a difference . . .

■ Consider asking your employer or an organization you’re associated with if there is an interest in sponsoring a community event like Young Patriots Day or Experience the Battle of Princeton. There are benefits for full or partial sponsors. If you provide contact information at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com, we will follow up.

■ Whatever your interest or current support, why not ask family members, friends, neighbors, and business associates to become a part of the Princeton Battlefield Society. They can go to our website – www.pbs1777.org – and learn more.

■ Volunteer. We value and welcome everyone who works with us at Clean Up Days, Young Patriots Day, Experience the Battle of Princeton, and for our Mercer Oak Award Reception. If you have skills and expertise to help in developing and implementing annual plans, and are willing to share them, let us know.

■ And once you become a member or donate, don’t forget to ask your employer to match your gift.

We are a growing family of friends of the Princeton Battlefield and invite your partnership with us in the history and heritage of the American Revolution. Join us in any of these ways.

★★★★ UPDATES ★★★★★
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Our Memorial Day ceremony was on May 27, with guests offering remembrances with a yellow ribbon on our wreath. Thank you to Molly Dysktra of First Presbyterian, Trenton, Princeton Mayor Mark Freda, and reenactors from the First New Jersey for helping us commemorate Memorial Day.

APPRECIATION TO OUR MERCER OAK
AWARD SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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(The Nassau Inn) |
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2023 MEMBERSHIP

If you have joined us as a 2023 Member, underwriting our historic mission, "thank you." You're helping to make this year the best ever for the history and heritage of the Princeton Battlefield.

If you are not a member, we invited you to join others and become a building block in our efforts to plan events, programs, and initiatives that will advance the protection, preservation, and promotion of the battlefield, the historic Thomas Clarke House, and America's history. Go to www.pbs1777.org and click on "Support" to become a part of our American history.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon? We have the perfect solution – Join us for a tour of the Princeton Battlefield.

Remaining tours for 2023, all conducted by our team of historical interpreters – Larry Kidder, David Price, Will Krakower, and Roger Williams – are scheduled for: July 23, August 6 & 20, September 3 & 24, October 15 & 22. You can register for any tour on our website, www.pbs1777.org. Included in the tour is a visit to the historic Thomas Clarke House and Museum.

FOX & FRIENDS IN PRINCETON

Board members and Princeton University graduates, Tom Pyle and Todd Quackenbush, attended a *Fox & Friends* live broadcast at the Yankee Doodle Tap Rom (Nassau Inn) in March and had an opportunity to talk about the Princeton Battlefield Society with host, Peter Hegseth. Invitations to visit the Princeton Battlefield were extended to the *Fox & Friends* crew and its audience.



Mark your calendar now for this year's YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY on Sunday, September 17. More information will be posted on our website, www.pbs1777.org.



Princeton Battlefield Society

P.O. Box 7645

Princeton, New Jersey 08543

www.pbs1777.org