



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Winter 2023

OVER 1,000 EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON



The temperature edged up to 40 degrees, but the sun was shining, as 250 British and American reenactors approached each other on the Princeton Battlefield to begin the 246th anniversary reenactment of the January 3, 1777 battle. Spectators – 800 in all, including almost 150 children – lined the battlefield from the hill where Moulder’s Battery fired on advancing British soldiers to the Mercer Oak.

Mike Russell, Princeton Battlefield Society president, welcomed everyone and introduced current military representatives from lineage groups who fought here in 1777. And then, with muskets and six cannon firing, Will Krakower, Historical Interpreter at the Princeton Battlefield State Park, narrated the ebb and flow of the battle and

ended about an hour later with a loud “Huzzah!” and a rousing applause from the crowd of spectators.

The reenactment was followed with reenactors and spectators mingling across the battlefield to ask questions and to learn more. Reenactor units and spectators then marched to the Colonnade to join military and lineage/heritage groups for a memorial wreath-laying ceremony. (Just beyond the Colonnade a memorial plaque commemorates the nearby burial of British and American soldiers.) This solemn ceremony capped the day of “experiences” which ended with tours of the historic Thomas Clarke House and continuing conversations between reenactors and spectators.





We thank many people for making our 2023 Experience possible. At the top of the list are our sponsors:

Citizens Philanthropic Foundation

Tom Kane

NJM Insurance Group

New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Princeton-Mercer Convention & Visitors Bureau

The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation

The committee organizing this year's event began working last June and deserves special recognition for a job well done: Alan Davis, Ken Gavin, Jerry Hurwitz, Will Krakower, Todd Quackenbush, Mike Russell, and Roger Williams.

Our hats off to 25 volunteers who provided outstanding services for parking, registration and field services, including scouts from Troop 27, their leaders and parents.

Also supporting the event was a team from Wawa providing coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, Raoul Momo for providing trays of pastries for the reenactors, Princeton University with off-site parking and shuttle service, Princeton Police and Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad, and the Historical Society of Princeton and the Institute for

Advanced Study for allowing us to use their parking lots.

And, of course, a loud HUZAH! to the 1,000+ people who experienced the Battle of Princeton on January 8!



Photo Credits: Al Pozbek, Matt Matrale, Ken Bohrer

Providing the excitement and drama of the reenactment, PBS thanks the following participating reenactor units and living historians from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia:

- Spencer's Additional Continental Regiment
- 1st Continental Regiment
- 5th Pennsylvania Regiment
- Lamb's Artillery
- Donegal Township Riflemen
- Colonel Ogden's 1st New Jersey Regiment
- 1st Maryland Regiment
- 1st Pennsylvania Regiment
- 2nd New Jersey Regiment, Helm's Coy.
- 3rd New Jersey Grays
- 1st Delaware Regiment
- 1st New York Regiment, McCracken's Coy.
- 1st Rhode Island Regiment
- 6th Pennsylvania Regiment
- 9th Pennsylvania Regiment, Light Inf. Coy.
- Mott's Artillery Coy.
- Friends of Washington's Crossing Fife and Drum Outwater's Militia
- Glover's Marblehead Regiment
- The German Regiment
- 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment
- Lt. Trevet's Coy. of Marines
- 24th Connecticut Militia Regiment
- Colonel Bailey's 2nd Massachusetts Regiment
- 7th Virginia Regiment
- 2nd Virginia Regiment
- 5th New York Regiment
- 4th Continental Light Dragoons
- Clotz's Battalion of the Flying Camp
- Heard's Brigade of New Jersey Militia
- Coren's Independent Artillery
- 22nd Regiment of Foot
- 42nd Regiment of Foot, Grenadier Coy.
- 4th New York Artillery
- 43rd Regiment of Foot
- 1st Battalion New Jersey Volunteers
- Von Prueschen's Feldjaeger Kompanie
- Von Wreden's Field Jaeger Kompanie
- 54th Regiment of Foot
- 23rd Regiment of Foot, Col's Coy.

Appreciation is extended to Color Guards from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the General Society of Sons of the Revolution who were joined by representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution (New Jersey and Pennsylvania), the Society of the Cincinnati, and local dignitaries. Also joining them were the United States Marine Corps and legacy units with lineage to the battles of Trenton and Princeton:

- Queen Elizabeth's Own Royal Lancers representing the 16th Light Dragoons (Catterick Garrison, U.K.)
- 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (Fort Reilly, Kansas) representing the New York Provincial Company of Artillery (aka "Alexander Hamilton's Own")
- Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1st Division representing the Philadelphia Associators, 111th Infantry Battalion
- Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1st Division, representing the Philadelphia Artillery Battalion, 102 Engineer Battalion (aka "The Dandy First")
- Delaware Army National Guard, representing Haslet's 1st Delaware Regiment, the 198th Signal Battalion
- New Jersey National Guard, representing Neil's Battery, East New Jersey Artillery, the 112th Field Artillery Battalion
- Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, representing First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry



★★★★ UPDATES ★★★★★

MERCER COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION AWARDS 2023 GRANT

PBS received a 2023 General Operating Support grant from the County Commission to expand and strengthen historic programming and the promotion of events and activities. This was the fifth straight year that PBS has received the Commission's support.

NEW EYEWITNESS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION VIDEO

Thank you to Tom Hand, founder of Americana Corner, for the funds to provide our second video of Eyewitnesses of the American Revolution. This video features the Battle of Princeton and key eyewitnesses: Colonel Edward Hand, Major John Kelly, John Hood, Joseph Clark, Colonel John Haslet, and Brigadier General Hugh Mercer. Special thanks to direction and videography to Paul Kelley and Matt Matrale and to our cast, all reenactors, Tom Bowen, David Niescior, Alex Robb, Lawrence Schmidt, James Smith, and Michael Funk. You may view the new video on our website, www.pbs1777.org – and encourage others to view it as well.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 22 – Spring Clean Up Day
- May 21 – Start of Battlefield Tour Program
- May 29 – Memorial Program – “Tie A Yellow Ribbon”
- June 14 – Mercer Oak Award Reception

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST: “WASHINGTON’S LEGACY”

Plans for the incorporation of almost 15 acres of Maxwell's Field into the Princeton Battlefield State Park is moving forward, as is the American Battlefield Trust's development of an interpretative plan to increase a visitor's experiences, called “Washington's Legacy.” This plan will introduce new and refresh physical and digital educational elements, including a 3-dimensional, topographic map. The project is now out for bid.

While “Washington's Legacy” hasn't been announced for fundraising, a donor portal was launched in January. For interested Princeton Battlefield Society members, donors and friends, visit www.battlefields.org/princeton2023.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

PBS will once again host a clean up day at the Battlefield to welcome Spring and to prepare the Park for visitors. The date is Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day). Past Clean Up Day volunteers will be notified of details. If you would like to join them, request information at info@pbs1777.org.

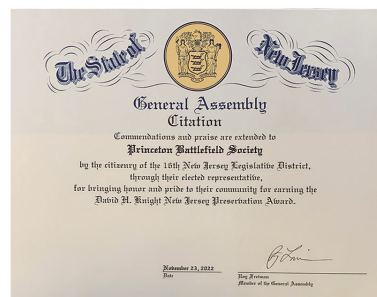


Renewal letters to PBS members and donors were mailed in late January for the 2023 Annual Campaign. This annual effort raises funds to plan and organize historical and community programs and services throughout the year. Members and donors are vital links in our abilities to

educate, promote and protect. If we missed you, you can go to our website (www.pbs1777.org) and join us in our exciting historical mission.

MISSED THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON?

If you missed the reenactment and memorial wreath-laying ceremony on January 8, you can view highlights, courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust, by experiencing the Battle of Princeton on *YouTube* – *Battle of Princeton Reenactment Highlights – Honoring the Memory of Princeton & Trenton*.



The New Jersey State Legislature, on behalf of the 16th Legislative District, recognized PBS for receiving the David H Knight New Jersey Preservation Award.



Princeton Battlefield Society

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