



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Summer 2025

SENATOR ANDREW ZWICKER RECEIVES 2025 MERCER OAK AWARD

Senator Andrew Zwicker, New Jersey's 16th District, received the 2025 Mercer Oak Award on June 12 at a reception at The Nassau Inn, Princeton. Zwicker was recognized for his leadership in gaining a \$1.3 million State grant for the Princeton Battlefield State Park. Working with him on this grant were Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis and Assemblyman Roy Freiman, also District 16. Friends and supporters joined PBS president Ben Strong in honoring Zwicker for this leadership



Assemblyman Roy Freiman, Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis, Senator Zwicker with Proclamation from Mercer County Executive, Dan Benson, and President Ben Strong

the Revolution in New Jersey, and Liza & Sky Morehouse.

"The significance of this award," noted Will Krakower, Historical Resources Interpreter at the Battlefield, "reflects the spirit and legacy of General Hugh Mercer, a refugee from Scotland and doctor, who became a close

friend and patriot with General George Washington. He represents the true spirit and legacy in our fight for independence."



and commitment to protecting and preserving New Jersey's Revolutionary War history and its heritage at Princeton. Also applauding Zwicker were Princeton Mayor Mark Freda and all

past Mercer Oak Award recipients, Jerry Hurwitz, Raoul Momo, Peter Travers, Rachel & Mark Herr, Roger Williams, Charles Scammel of the Sons of



"HUZZAH!"
***to Senator Zwicker and to the
Mercer Oak Committee.***

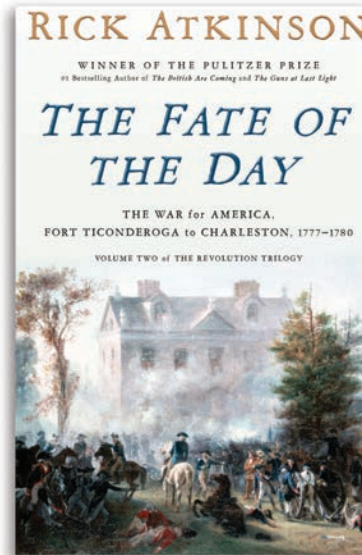
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK HIGHLIGHTS THIRD CADWALADER LECTURE



Rich Atkinson, the nationally renowned historian, delivered the third Cadwalader Lecture on June 10 at a partnered event with the Friends of Washington Crossing Park, Pennsylvania.

The standing-room-only audience at the Pennsylvania center rated Atkinson's presentation as "excellent" as he discussed his newest book, *The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780*. This is the second book in his American Revolution trilogy.

"We are excited that The Friends of Washington Crossing Park invited us to partner with them on the Atkinson event," stated Ben Strong, president. "Atkinson, The Friends of Washington Crossing Park, and PBS all share the same goal to remind modern Americans that 250 years ago tired, hungry, cold but determined men would not let their independence, declared in Philadelphia, slip



away on the Delaware River, in the frozen battlefields of Trenton and Princeton, and throughout the Revolution."

The previous Cadwalader Lecture featured John Rees, who discussed his book, with Don Troiani, on Black Patriots. It was held

at Morven Museum & Garden on February 27.

Jennifer Martin, Executive Director of the Friends, noted "it was an honor to partner with our friends at the Princeton Battlefield Society in welcoming a writer and historian of Rick's stature to our communities. As we develop events for the 250th anniversary, these collaborations allow us to tell a deeper and more connected story of how the Revolution shaped our nation, our history, and our region."

YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY-2025



Plan to join us at our sixth annual Young Patriots Day for kids and families on Sunday, September 21, from 11:30 to 3:30. Mark your calendars now!

Fall Clean Up Day, October 18



★★★ SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS ★★★

Behind the scenes at our events and activities at the Battlefield is a corps of PBS volunteers contributing their time and energy to fulfill our commitment to American Revolution education and the landscape of the Princeton Battlefield State Park. We tip our hats to our volunteer team of almost 100 who give thousands of hours to make a difference. Thank you!



We recognized and thanked our team of volunteers at a reception at Eno Terra, Kingston, on March 15 for their commitments throughout the year. Our annual recognition program is one way to say “Thank You” on behalf of everyone who visits and participates at the Battlefield. All attendees received a special gift, an etched replica of the Clarke House, on a piece of wood from an ash tree at the Battlefield, designed by Mark Dowdell.



Volunteer teams also came out to address invitations for our 2025 Mercer Oak Award Reception and for our May 4 Clean Up Day at the Park.



MEMORIAL DAY



Reenactors from Spencer's Additional Continental Regiment and the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, organized by trustee, Ken Gavin, after participating in the Princeton Parade, interacted with visitors at the Battlefield and led them in a memorial ceremony at the Mercer Monument.

BATTLEFIELD TOUR PROGRAM OFF-AND-RUNNING

Our 2025 tour season began on May 18 and will go to October 26. New this year will be special presentations by author and historian, Larry Kidder, who will discuss aspects of Battlefield history. In addition, we will offer two special tours for members and guests.

Information on the dates for tours and special presentations can be found on our website (www.pbs1777.org).

We thank our 2025 Historical Interpreters, David Price, Roger Williams, Tom Kane, Will Krakower, and Larry Kidder, and coordinator, Kim Gallagher.

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION RECOGNIZES PBS

The New Jersey Historical Commission recognized the Princeton Battlefield Society with an award of achievement for its development of a new Battle of Princeton exhibit in the Clarke House Museum in preparation for the Nation's 250th Anniversary. The award was presented to Ben Strong, president, by Margaret Westfield, NJCH vice chair, at an award reception at Morven Museum & Garden on March 4.



CLARKE HOUSE ARCHIVES PROJECT

Between June 2024 and February 2025, DEP staff and the Princeton Battlefield Society embarked on an archive project to establish the Thomas Clarke House Archives Collection. Funded with a grant from the Society of Colonial Wars in New Jersey (SCWNJ), the Clarke House's historic educator, Hannah Lee, directed the project. The result has been the organization of many documents, artifacts, and other items found in the house that are pertinent to the history of the Clarke family, the land, Thomas' home, and the Battle of Princeton. A copy of the final report can be secured by request to outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES

Three new trustees joined the Princeton Battlefield Society's board on March 18. Welcome to our new trustees: Constance Wieler (Princeton), John Cassullo (Washington), and Robert Cohen (Princeton).

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN AS A MEMBER

Membership is our building block for success. This year, in planning and preparing for our celebrations of the Nation's 250th anniversary, members are critical. If you haven't joined yet, we invite you to join us or to renew your support.

Go to our website, www.pbs1777.org, and click "Ways to Give." It will be one of the best things you do today!

NEW BATTLEFIELD MAP

For many years we promoted the replacement of a battlefield map on the empty stone pedestal near the Mercer Monument. Huzzah! With grants from Americana Corner, the Society of Cincinnati in the State of New Jersey, and the American Battlefield Trust, a new map will be installed in June. The map outlines the Battle of Princeton with a metal relief of the battlefield. This is another success in our dreams for the Princeton Battlefield and its cultural heritage. We're eager to move on to the next opportunity!

2025 CHALLENGE COIN FEATURING PATRIOT COLONEL JOHN CADWALADER



Colonel John Cadwalader is recognized on this year's PBS challenge coin. Previous coins included General George Washington in 2020, followed by the 50th Anniversary of the Princeton Battlefield Society (2021), the Anniversary of the Clarke House (2022), the U.S. Marines (2023), and Brigadier General Hugh Mercer (2024). A limited number of 2025 coins are available for sale. For more information email outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com.

ABT ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BOSTON

The American Battlefield Trust's annual conference was an opportunity to show our appreciation and to recognize the Trust's plans to "re-imagine the Battle of Princeton." It was also another way for PBS to applaud the Trust's purchase of Maxwell's Field and its continuing commitment as a partner with PBS and the DEP. Ben Strong, president, and his wife, Christina, were guests of the ABT.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS FOR EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

Our annual reenactment of the Battle of Princeton and memorial wreath-laying ceremony is a major undertaking and requires financial support from event sponsors. With over 2,000 spectators and reenactors, it is a great promotional opportunity that supports historical awareness, appreciation, and understanding. We have been fortunate in receiving support from Lorna Hainesworth, NJM Insurance Group, and legacy organizations, but need additional sponsors to meet growing expenses. Promotional opportunities and involvement are benefits of your community service.

Interested in helping? Contact us at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com. We would be thrilled to welcome you, your organization, or your employer as a sponsor.

SPRINGDALE GOLF CLUB COMMEMORATES FROG HOLLOW



A commemorative plaque was unveiled at Frog Hollow at the Springdale Golf Club on May 23. Kristina Miller's dream of remembering the skirmish at Frog Hollow, after the battle on the Clarke farms, was realized with a commemorative plaque to highlight the skirmish.

MERCER COUNTY FESTIVAL



The Princeton Battlefield was well represented with a day-long information table at the Mercer County Cultural and Food Truck Festival on June 7. Thanks to Kim Gallagher, Lesley Schierenbeck, Todd Quackenbush, Tom Pyle, and Mike Duffy for their efforts.

UPDATE ON MERCER OAK AT SPRINGDALE GOLF CLUB



We have followed the growth of a new Mercer Oak at the Springdale Golf Club for the past few years. Thanks to the efforts of Kristina Miller and Amy Ricco, we now have a healthy new tree and a commemorative marker.

RE-CREATING THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD – LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR

Princeton Battlefield William Clarke Commemorative Orchard

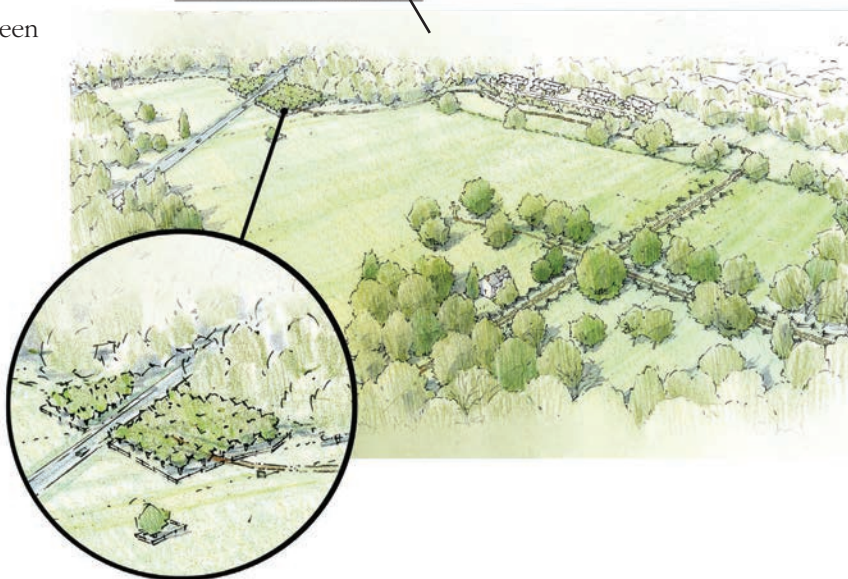
Last year we coordinated a fundraising campaign to support the American Battlefield Trust's plan to re-create the Trace/Saw Mill Road by pledging \$25,000 toward the project. We raised almost \$28,000. An update on this project from the project's director:

We have just completed an extensive archaeological study intended to identify the location of the historic Saw Mill/Trace Road and identify resources in areas likely to be disturbed by construction. This research has confirmed the historic alignment, and better still, allowed for the identification of other important resources including the historic road trace to the William Clarke farm, and confirmed the location of the historic orchard. Now that these features' positions have been accurately identified, the project team is finalizing construction documentation this spring and summer. We will advance permitting and begin construction of the historic road, trails and fence lines in 2025/2026.

Our 2025 campaign, to be announced this summer, will target the re-creation of a commemorative apple orchard near where the William Clarke farmhouse stood. The orchard was the site of initial contact between British and Patriots soldiers on January 3, 1777. As a period ballad noted:

*They rushed thro' Will Clark's orchard
among the naked trees;
With horse and foot they hammered
hard; their bullets sang like bees;
And Mercer fell, and Haslet fell;
The bayonets cut us up like bell;
The chain-shot mowed a bloody path
beneath the twisted trees,*

**Stay tuned for more information on our
"Apple Orchard Campaign."**



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

