



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society - Fall 2021

MARK & RACHEL HERR HONORED WITH MERCER OAK AWARD

With applause from family, friends and associates, Peter J. Travers, 2019 recipient, presented the 2021 Mercer Oak Award to Mark & Rachel Herr at a September 23 reception at The Nassau Inn. They received the award in recognition of their commitment to the Thomas Clarke House and Princeton Battlefield and to the Society's efforts to preserve and promote our American Revolution heritage.



Michael Russell, president, Princeton Battlefield Society welcoming attendees.

It is a section of the original tree, with an engraved plate honoring the recipient.

The Mercer Oak Award is a unique and meaningful symbol of a personal commitment to the Battlefield and a partnership with the Princeton Battlefield Society.



Peter Travers, 2019 recipient, presenting the 2021 Mercer Oak Award to Rachel & Mark Herr.

In addition to Mr. Travers taking part in the tribute were Michael Russell, Society president, and Ben Strong, vice president, who served as emcee. Proceeds from the award ceremony will support the Society's History & Heritage Fund and the creation of a new Battle of Princeton educational exhibit in the the historic Thomas Clarke House. A silent auction was held and a tribute program printed.



The enduring symbol of the Princeton Battlefield and the January 3, 1777 battle is the Mercer Oak against which, tradition suggests, General Hugh Mercer was placed after being mortally wounded. He eventually gave his life for the American cause. Today, a new-generation Mercer Oak grows at the battlefield still symbolizing how Princeton fundamentally altered the Revolution in favor of independence.

The Mercer Oak Award is the spirit and heritage of America's fight for independence. It represents what every American who visits the Battlefield senses – it is invested with the freedom and independence that Washington and Mercer fought to secure.

The Mercer Oak Award is given by the Princeton Battlefield Society to recognize a personal dedication to American history and the heritage of the Princeton Battlefield. The honor embraces the spirit of January 3, 1777.

★★★★ YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY – 2021 ★★★★★



We welcomed about 150 kids and families to the Battlefield on September 12 for the first Young Patriots Day since 2019. With activities and demonstrations by the New Jersey Greys, living historians, educational presentations, and information tables, a full afternoon of activities and excitement was assured. Our day started with General George Washington, accompanied by the New Jersey Fifes & Drums, a New Jersey Grey Color Guard, and Michael Russell, Princeton Battlefield Society president, raising the American flag at the battlefield. Thank you to everyone who made Young Patriots Day 2021 an educational success for kids and their families.





CSM Zimmerman spoke about his “sixth great grandfather [also John], a young Continental soldier who was among those fighting on this very soil. He fought in seven major battles and campaigns of the Revolutionary War. I, too, have served on

numerous battlefields in my 37-year career and I am proud to continue the legacy of service to this nation started by Private Zimmerman nearly two-and-a-half centuries ago.”



Battlefield tours, before and after the ceremony, had 100 people participating. Tours of the historic Clarke House were also available.

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REMEMBER THE DATE:
July 4, 2022 and join us as we
“Celebrate Independence Day.”

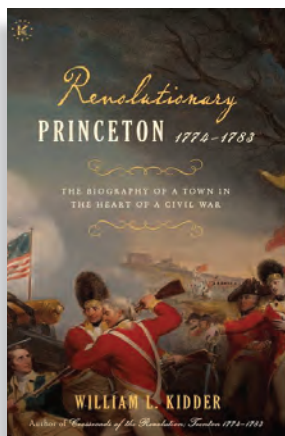
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★★★★ RECOMMENDED READING: ★★★★★

REVOLUTIONARY PRINCETON, 1774-1783: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN TOWN IN THE HEART OF A CIVIL WAR

Larry Kidder's most recent book tells the story of Princeton between 1774 and 1783, a microcosm of the struggles faced by ordinary Americans during the Revolution. By 1774, Princeton was a small college town and stagecoach stop on the main road between New York and Philadelphia. During the next ten years, the people of Princeton had to figure out how to live their lives in the midst of continually changing ideas and events beyond their control.



government to sit periodically, and in the final months of the war, the Continental Congress relocated to Princeton.

All this activity created stresses for some and opportunities for others, but everyone, including the enslaved, had to deal with it daily, and many inhabitants played significant roles in the life-changing conflict taking place around them. Events in Princeton connected to just about every aspect of the Revolution. The stories of

the people who lived in Princeton, or who spent time there because of the Revolution, helps us better understand the hitherto untold importance of this town beyond the one, well-known, day of battle.

Those events brought soldiers to their town every year of the war. At various times American Continentals, militia, Continental mutineers, British regulars, Hessians, and the French army occupied Princeton. For much of the war, Princeton hosted a Continental Army hospital and a military supply depot. Princeton's location made it the spot chosen for the new State

Larry Kidder's book effectively tells the story of Princeton and the people living here during the American Revolution. Add it to your 'must read' list.

★★★ A PARTNERSHIP WITH US MILITARY UNITS ★★★

With support from Alan Davis, a PBS volunteer, and Will Krakower, the Park's Historical Interpreter, we are reaching out to the US Army and Marine Corps, including Reserves and ROTCs, to use the Battle of Princeton as a training platform via staff rides. In recent months we have hosted 3rd Brigade, 78th Training

Division, 84th Training Command and the Army National Guard, Leader Development, Combat Field Studies Program. On the schedule are staff rides for Princeton University and Rutgers ROTC units. We look forward to continuing our support and involvement of US Military units in our educational, outreach efforts.



WE GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZE AND THANK OUR 2021 MEMBERS FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION TO PROTECT, PRESERVE & PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA AT THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

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of the American Revolution
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in the State of New Jersey
The Bank of Princeton
Ten Crucial Days Association
Wegmans – West Windsor
Wildflowers of Princeton Junction

*Photo Credits: Mercer Oak Award, Steven Garelick.
Young Patriots Day, Meredith Barnes.*



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