



A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Winter 2025

248TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON



January 5, 2025 was as cold as it was on January 3, 1777 when Continentals defeated Crown forces in the seminal battle at Princeton. Despite the cold, this year's *Experience the Battle of Princeton* had almost 1,700 spectators and over 350 reenactors, including cannon and horses. "A fantastic success," noted Ben Strong, PBS president.

Following the reenactment, a memorial wreath-laying ceremony, with representatives from lineage military and legacy groups, was held at the iconic Mercer Oak, with over 500 attending. We thank our sponsors, Lorna Hainesworth,

Society of the Cincinnati, New Jersey, NJM Insurance Group, and the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution as well as our narrator, Will Krakower, and the reenactment's director, Ken Gavin, vice president of the Princeton Battlefield Society. Thank you as well to our team of volunteers, which included scouts from BSA Troop 27, Lawrenceville.

Mark your calendars now – January 4, 2026 – and plan to join us for the 249th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton. Plan to be there for another exciting and memorable *Experience the Battle of Princeton*.

(continued)>



"We are thrilled to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary with the re-enactment of the Battle of Princeton," said Lieutenant Governor Way who oversees the New Jersey Historical Commission in her role as Secretary of State. "New Jersey played a pivotal role in our nation's founding story. I'm delighted to see efforts underway to highlight our state's rich history and significant contributions to the American Revolution."



THANK YOU TO OUR REENACTORS

Spencer's Additional Continental Regiment
1st Continental Regiment
1st Battalion New Jersey Volunteers
1st Delaware Regiment
1st Maryland Regiment
1st New Hampshire Regiment
1st New York Regiment, McCracken's Coy.
1st Pennsylvania Regiment
1st Rhode Island Regiment
15th Regiment of Foot, Light Infantry Coy.
2nd Regiment Light Dragoons, Tallmadge's Troop
22nd Regiment of Foot
2nd New Jersey Regiment, Helm's Coy.
2nd Virginia Regiment
3rd New Jersey Grays
42nd Regiment of Foot, Grenadier Coy.
4th Regiment Light Dragoons
43rd Regiment of Foot
4th Battalion New Jersey Volunteers
4th Connecticut Regiment
4th Battalion of Royal Artillery
54th Regiment of Foot
5th New York Regiment
5th Pennsylvania Regiment
6th Connecticut Regiment
6th Pennsylvania Regiment
7th Virginia Regiment

9th Pennsylvania Regiment, Light Inf. Coy.
Brigade of Guards, Grenadier Coy.
Clotz's Battalion of the Flying Camp
Colonel Ogden's 1st New Jersey Regiment
Colonel Bailey's 2nd Massachusetts Regiment
23rd Regiment of Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers
Friends of Washington's Crossing Fife and Drum
Glover's Marblehead Regiment
Heard's Brigade of New Jersey Militia
Lamb's Artillery
Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia
Lt. Trevet's Coy. of Marines
Northampton County Militia
Moses Hazen's 2nd Canadian Regiment
Mott's Artillery Company
Outwater's Militia
Pennsylvania State Regiment
Schott's Independent Coy.
The German Regiment
United Train of Artillery
Von Prueschen's Feldjaeger Kompanie
West Jersey Artillery

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Paul Breda	Steve Kuchta
BSA Troop 27	Crea Mallery
Ken Bullard	John Moyer
John Cassullo	Jason Phillips
Joe Diehm	David Price
Marc Dowdell	Kieran O'Shea
Mike Duffy	Karl Pusch
Rick Edelman	Todd Quackenbush
Ken Fredeen	Max Ricci
Kim Gallagher	Alison Roth
Brian Herkalo	Victoria Sharp
Mark Herr	Ben Strong
Sheri Hirzny	Ross Trube
Tom Kane	Judith Waidlich
Paul Kelley	Tom Walsh
Rosemary Kelley	Laura Wirpsza
Steven Knowlton	

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Lorna Hainesworth
Society of the Cincinnati, New Jersey
NJM Insurance Group
New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SENATOR ANDREW ZWICKER TO BE HONORED WITH 2025 MERCER OAK AWARD

Ben Strong, president, on behalf of the Princeton Battlefield Society's trustees, has announced that State Senator Andrew Zwicker will receive the 2025 Mercer Oak Award on June 12. "Senator Zwicker is a committed friend and advocate of the Princeton Battlefield as a primary American Revolution historic site," stated Strong. "Honoring him with this award offers us an opportunity to thank him for his leadership on behalf of the park, site of a seminal victory here in 1777."

Zwicker was the leader of legislative efforts in Trenton to secure a \$1.3 million grant to upgrade and improve the battlefield in preparation for the celebration of the Nation's 250th Anniversary. The grant will support the site's re-interpretation plans, directed by the American Battlefield Trust in partnership with the State's Department of Environment Protection and the Princeton Battlefield Society.



Zwicker represents the 16th Legislative District. He serves as chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee, vice chair of the Higher Education and Labor Committees, and sits on the Budget and Appropriations Committee. A lifelong New Jersey resident, Zwicker is head of Public Engagement & Workforce Development at Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory, a world leader in developing an advanced form of energy.

There are opportunities for friends and associates of Senator Zwicker to join us in honoring him including attending the reception on June 12 or contributing a message of congratulations in the 2025 Mercer Oak Award Program. More information may be requested at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com.



A MILESTONE IN VISITOR EXPERIENCES

The most recent phase in the Princeton Battlefield's revitalization, occurred in November with the unveiling of new visitor-friendly signage to expand an understanding and appreciation of what happened here. The unveiling ceremony highlighted the American Battlefield Trust, Department of Environmental Protection, and Princeton Battlefield Society partnership to re-imagine the historic significance of the Princeton Battlefield.

A recent focus of these efforts was the unveiling of an innovative "battle window" at Moulder's battery on the battlefield. The sign applies elements from the James Peale painting on an acrylic window, allowing visitors to better visualize how battle actions unfolded on the landscape.



When completed, new battlefield signage will include ten additional signs as well as a new battlefield map funded by Americana Corner and the Society of the Cincinnati, New Jersey.

★★★ UPDATES ★★★

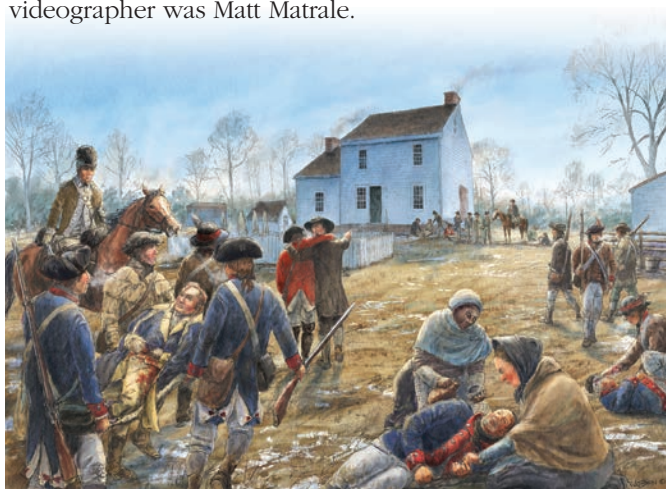
NEW THOMAS CLARKE VIDEO

A new education video, *Thomas Clarke, An Eyewitness to the Battle of Princeton* is now available for viewing. The twelve minute video can be viewed on our website (www.pbs1777.org). The battle on the Clarke farms, its impact on a Quaker farming family, and its aftermath are related by Thomas Clarke, portrayed by actor Ian Mulreaney of Burlington, New Jersey.



The video was made possible, in part, by the Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Mercer County Board of County Commissions and by members and donors of the Princeton Battlefield Society. It continues the Princeton Battlefield Society's educational initiative, including Eyewitness of the American Revolution cards and videos, interpreting the American Revolution and Battle of Princeton on behalf of those who fought and felt its impact.

The video was written and directed by Paul Kelley. The videographer was Matt Matrale.



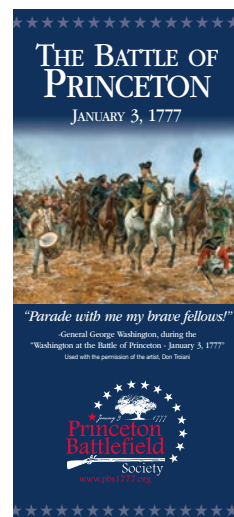
Artwork by Dale Watson/American Battlefield Trust

UPDATED BATTLE OF PRINCETON BROCHURE

The "workhorse" publication of our educational efforts has been our *Battle of Princeton* brochure which has been updated and redeveloped using artwork provided by Adam Zielinski.

Our new brochure was funded by The George H. & Estelle M. Sands Foundation.

A copy of the new brochure can be secured by writing to the Princeton Battlefield Society or by email at outreach.pbs1777@gmail.com.



A REENACTOR'S STORY

Ken Gavin, our vice president and director of *Experience the Battle of Princeton's* reenactment, speaks about the reasons he became a reenactor in a video available at www.pbs1777.org. It is a personal testimony of his commitment to teaching and learning about the American Revolution.



★★★ UPDATES ★★★

YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Your membership in the Princeton Battlefield Society is the lifeblood of our efforts to bring the importance of the American Revolution and the heritage of the Battle of Princeton to you and thousands more. Members this past year allowed us to stage Young Patriots Day, our Battlefield Tour Program, the Cadwalader Lecture Series, other battlefield activities, and most importantly, the exciting 2025 *Experience the Battle of Princeton*.

Will you join us with a membership now so we can plan for events and activities throughout 2025 and, of course, for the Nation's 250th Anniversary in 2026?

We can do a lot to preserve, protect, and promote the American Revolution and the heritage of the Battle of Princeton with you as a member. Go to www.pbs1777.org or send your membership to Princeton Battlefield Society, P. O. Box 7645, Princeton, NJ 08543. Please join us today.

Your help will be missed if you don't do it today.

TRACE/SAWMILL ROAD CAMPAIGN

Last year the PBS board authorized a campaign to raise \$25,000 to assist with the re-creation of the Trace/Sawmill Road, the path of Continental forces heading to Princeton on January 3, 1777. "We are excited to report," announced Mark Herr, trustee and campaign chair, "we sent a check for \$28,100 to the American Battlefield Trust to advance this historical recreation effort."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

At its January 2025 meeting, PBS trustees reelected:

Ben Strong, President
Ken Gavin, Vice President
Crea Mallery, Treasurer
Jerry Hurwitz, Secretary

Committee chairs for 2025 will be:

Finance, Crea Mallery
Events, Ken Gavin
Site, Todd Quackenbush
Communications, Mark Herr
Development, Ben Strong

Photos Credits in this Newsletter: Matt Matrale, Shaolin Liu, Lesley Schierenbeck, Kevin Bullard, Dan Komoda

ONE STEP CLOSER – A VISITOR-EDUCATION CENTER

The Princeton Battlefield Society's board has approved the History & Heritage Fund as the depository for funds to help plan and build a visitor and education center at the Battlefield. The History & Heritage Fund was initially developed in 2019 to raise money for a new educational exhibit in the Clarke House Museum. "The success of these efforts," noted Ben Strong, president, "was the opening in 2023 of a dramatic presentation of the ten crucial days, the Battle of Princeton, and its cultural landscape. The money we raised then shows we can do the same for a new center."

We look forward to thanking you for your donation. It will bring us one step closer toward our shared dream for a visitor & education center" at the Princeton Battlefield State Park.



Photo by Al Pochek

IN MEMORIAM

We send our condolences to the family of

❖ Al Pochek ❖

*a friend of the Princeton Battlefield Society
and an unforgettable photographer of the
Princeton Battlefield.*

Al's memory will last for years as we promote his outstanding photos of battlefield events. His beautiful photos will be missed but not forgotten.

Thank you to the following for contributing in Al Pochek's memory: Ken Gavin, The Pochek Family, Friends of Washington Crossing Park, Jenny Goodell, Judy Verrilli, The Brigade of the American Revolution, 24th Connecticut Militia Regiment, Rita & Robert Keane, William & Kathleen Pasko and On the Army's Strength.



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MORVEN MUSEUM & GARDEN
and the
PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY
present

Cadwalader Lecture Series

JOHN U. REES

Author of *Don Troiani's Black Soldiers in America's Wars, 1754 - 1865*

Mr. Rees will discuss African-American soldiers who fought in America's war of independence and his teaming with prominent military artist, Don Troiani.

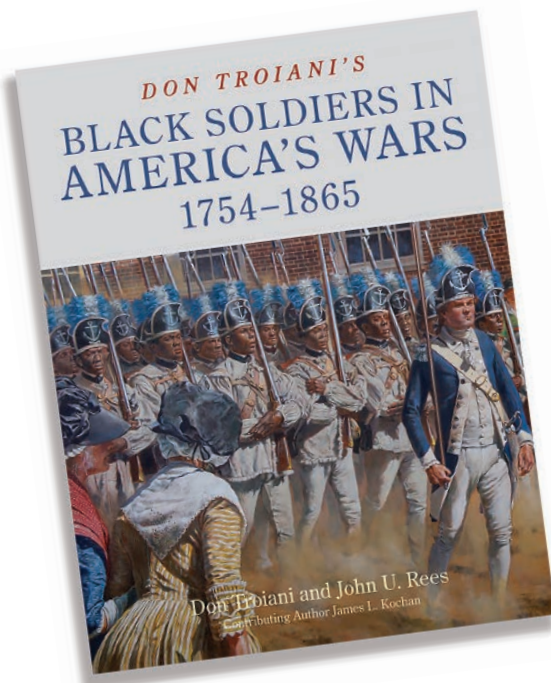
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Stockton Education Center at Morven Museum & Garden

6:30 pm reception

**7:00 pm John Rees' presentation
& interview**

Thank you to our evening's sponsors:
Sandra L. Cadwalader
Liza & Schuyler Morehouse



*You may purchase the Troiani-Rees
book at the event and Mr. Rees
will sign your copy.*

Tickets: \$40 DONATION

Learn more and register by visiting:
www.morven.org/upcoming/cadwaladerlecture



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