



*A Newsletter from the Princeton Battlefield Society – Fall 2025*

## LOOK WHO KIDS MET AT YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY



Beautiful weather and over 550 attendees, including area sites/organizations and PBS volunteers, craftsmen, reenactors firing muskets and artillery, living historians, and, of course, young patriots and their families. It all made for a fantastic Young Patriots Day 2025!



*A special thank you  
to Marc Dowdell,  
PBS volunteers  
and Staff at  
Princeton Battlefield  
State Park*

## YOUNG PATRIOTS DAY SUPPORTERS

Friends of White Hill Mansion  
Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
Abby Readlinger  
Bordentown Historical Society  
Old Barracks Museum  
Washington Crossing Park Association  
Sons of the American Revolution,  
Washington Crossing & Princeton Chapters  
Historical Society of Princeton  
Princeton Friends School  
Yankee Doodle Tap Room  
Ron Rinaldi  
Doug Aumack  
Erika Belfiore

Robert DeVitis  
Girl Scout Troop 71829, Princeton Service Unit  
Scot Lance  
New Jersey Greys  
Friends of Washington's Crossing Park,  
Pennsylvania  
Crossroads of the American Revolution &  
RevolutionNJ  
March to Yorktown Day  
Kim Gallagher  
Morven Museum & Garden  
David Price & Alison Roth  
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
West Jersey Artillery

## LORNA HAINESWORTH TO RECEIVE 2026 MERCER OAK AWARD

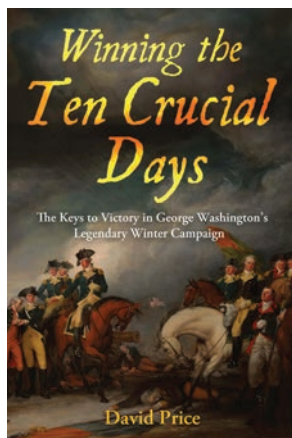


Lorna Hainesworth, benefactor of the Princeton Battlefield Society and Experience the Battle of Princeton, as well as numerous American Revolution sites and organizations, will be honored with the 2026 Mercer Oak Award at a reception on June 11 at The

Nassau Inn, Princeton. "We are thrilled to honor and thank Lorna for her involvement, partnership, and friendship," stated Ben Strong, president. "She is an ambassador in the mission of the Princeton Battlefield Society by helping us welcome thousands of visitors to the State Park."

## PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL EXPANDS "MEN WITHOUT SHOES" PROJECT

To advance the relevance for today's students, the Princeton Battlefield Society and the Princeton Day School have announced a collaboration for a hands-on project of research and discovery for students. "Our students will recover the forgotten stories of soldiers who were their same age, fighting for independence just miles from our campus," explained PDS Upper School Head, Katie O'Shaughnessey. "We're incredibly grateful to the Princeton Battlefield Society for this once-in-a-lifetime teaching and learning opportunity and the chance to give these men recognition they deserve."



## NEW BOOK BY DAVID PRICE

***Winning the Ten Crucial Days: The Keys to Victory in George Washington's Legendary Winter Campaign***, David Price's new book, examines this pivotal moment by focusing on five key factors: leadership, geography, weather, artillery, and contingency. Their impact thwarted British efforts to quash the insurgency and enabled the rebel forces to launch the revolutionary cause into a lengthy war of attrition that won American independence. This thematic interpretation differs from earlier works that largely rely on a chronological narrative. According to the late author and historian James Kirby Martin, this is "a compelling analysis [that] deserves a widespread readership among all students of the American Revolutionary era." Price's other books include ***The Road to Assunpink Creek***, ***Rescuing the Revolution***, ***John Haslet's World***, and ***The Battle of Harlem Heights, 1776***. (Learn more at [dppauthor.com](http://dppauthor.com).)

# HELP US START OUR CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH

At this time of year we ask for your support for the coming year's programs, services, and initiatives. Our Year-End Appeal is even more critical in 2025 because donations will help the Princeton Battlefield Society initiate a banner year of celebrations for the 250th year of American Independence. Your generous donation can be made online at [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org) or by sending your check to *Princeton Battlefield Society*, P. O. Box 7645, Princeton, NJ 08543.

*Help us kick off our celebration with a loud bang!*



## EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

Our first celebration of the 250th will be on Sunday, January 4, 2026 when we stage our annual Experience the Battle of Princeton — the reenactment of the Battle of Princeton and a memorial wreath-laying ceremony. More than 350 reenactors (British and American units, artillery and dragoons) are expected to participate. Be one of the many who applaud the American victory as well as the start of our anniversary year. Register to attend on our website, [www.pbs1777.org](http://www.pbs1777.org). (Registration open November 15.)

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES' GRANT TO SUPPORT EXPERIENCE THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

We thank the National Endowment for the Humanities for its recognition of our annual reenactment with a Chairman's Grant in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary. The grant will support two reenactments.



## ZWICKER-DRULIS-FREIMAN DO IT AGAIN!

State Senator Andrew Zwicker, our 2025 Mercer Oak Award honoree, spearheaded another successful effort in Trenton, with Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis and Assemblyman Roy Freiman, to renew support of "Reimagine Princeton," the cooperative project of the American Battlefield Trust, the NJDEP, and the Princeton Battlefield Society. The State's renewed commitment, helping to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary at the Battlefield, came with a \$500,000 check. This brings the State's and the efforts of the "Zwicker-Drulis-Freiman team" to \$1,800,000 in the past two years.

# THE COLONNADE UNDERGOES REPAIR AND RESTORATION

As a 250th Anniversary project, the New Jersey DEP is repairing and restoring the Colonnade. The project involves its cleaning, repointing the structure (in places where mortar and grout have chipped away), and, finally, a structural overhaul to include repairs to damaged sections and internal support to ensure stability. For those who recently travelled Mercer Road, our beloved Colonnade is starting to look like it did on Veterans Day, November 11, 1959 when it was dedicated.

In the process of restoration, workers discovered a glass pill box purchased in November 1956 from Thorne's Drug Store in Princeton (168 Nassau Street). Likely intended as a time capsule, the bottle contained a blank timesheet (August 19, 1959) that lists the names of several masons who reassembled the Colonnade.



## TCNJ STUDENTS TO CREATE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD VIDEO

Under the direction of Dr. Warren Buckleiter, Design and Creative Technology at The College of New Jersey, film class students will undertake creating a Battlefield and Battle of Princeton video this semester. Students visited the Battlefield in September for a detailed tour conducted by Will Krakower, Historical Resource Specialist, to prepare for video work. Mark Herr, PBS trustee, is managing the project.

## REVOLUTIONNJ 5-K RUN AT PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD

Despite the rain, Ben Strong, president, with Ken Fredeen and Laura Wirpsza, PBS volunteers, completed the 5-K race at the Battlefield on September 6. It was sponsored by RevolutionNJ for the second year.

## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST HOSTS MEETING TO SHOWCASE PLANS FOR A VISTOR-EDUCATION CENTER

The meeting held at Morven Museum & Garden on October 7 will be detailed in the Winter newsletter.

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION ROUND TABLE (ARRT) PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

For everyone interested in expanding their understanding and awareness of our American Revolutionary War history, programs are offered by the New Jersey ARRT and the Washington Crossing ARRT. Details for participation and program schedules can be found [arrt.nj@gmail.com](mailto:arrt.nj@gmail.com) and [wroundtable@gmail.com](mailto:wroundtable@gmail.com).

## WAR CANNON SPIRITS SUPPORT PBS

Paul Besignano, founder of War Cannon Spirits, Crowne Point, New York, met with PBS leaders this past Spring to confirm support for PBS programs and services through the sale of his new "Battle of Princeton" bourbon. PBS will receive a percentage of sales. Ben Strong, president, stated, "We welcome Paul's support of our efforts, which he has already forged with other American Revolution sites."

## *Holiday Wishes!*



*The Trustees of the Princeton Battlefield Society extend their best wishes for the Holidays and throughout 2026*

# Cadwalader Lecture

## CADWALADER LECTURE IV FEATURED KEN BURNS' TEAM

An advanced screening of Ken Burns' new documentary, *THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*, was held on October 23 at Washington Crossing Park, Pennsylvania. This was a partnership program with the Friends of Washington Crossing Park and the Princeton Battlefield Society's Cadwalader Lecture Series. Members of Burns' production team discussed the making of the documentary after the screening.



## NEW BATTLEFIELD MAP

The newest addition to signage at the battlefield is an exciting new topographic map funded with generous donations from Americana Corner and the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Jersey. You have to see it to understand why we are so excited.

## THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES 2025 PARTNERS

American Battlefield Trust  
John and Hilda Arnold Foundation  
Artist Preservation Group  
John and Marsha Beidler Family Charitable Fund  
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Donors to the William Clarke Apple Orchard Campaign  
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Experience Princeton  
Friends of Washington Crossing Park  
Lorna Hainesworth  
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Lee Herring Family Fund  
Historical Interpreters: Kim Gallagher, Tom Kane,  
Larry Kidder, Will Krakower, David Price &  
Roger Williams  
The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
Raoul Momo

Morehouse Family Charitable Fund  
Morven Museum & Garden  
The Nassau Inn/Palmer Square  
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New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
The Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America  
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Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey  
Staff at Princeton Battlefield State Park  
Peter J. Travers  
Trustees and Committee Members of the Princeton Battlefield  
Society  
Volunteers at all of our events  
Greg Wilson  
Denise Wright

# THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES 2025 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

## 1777 CIRCLE OF PATRIOTS

T. Jeffery & Barbara J. Clarke  
Mark Herr  
Tom Kane  
Peter J. Travers

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Candace Preston  
Thomas C. Tsai

## GENERAL HUGH MERCER

Tim & Mercy Byrne  
Charles S. Stults, III  
JoAnn & Michael Youngman

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Robert Cohen  
Michael Duffy  
Alan Dybvig  
Carl & Beverly Ellman  
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Thomas Hannigan  
Steve Kuchta  
Kevin O'Dowd  
David Price & Alison Roth  
Tom Pyle  
Randall Riccardo  
Ben Strong  
Alexandra Tatnall  
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Robert & Betina Bandel  
Kevin M. Cale  
John Cassullo

Weyman Cox, II  
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Joseph R. Diehm  
Douglas Dixon  
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Justin Hizny  
Randy Larrimore & Cathy

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Selina Man  
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Milton J. Moser  
Jeff & Tracy Orleans  
Dorothy & Charles Plohn, Jr.  
Todd Quackenbush  
Pat & Bill Russell  
Barry Singer  
Barry Snyder  
Eric Van Heyst  
Warren & Sara Wilson

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Bonnie Cierkowski  
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Mary D'Amore  
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John Frederick  
Paul Fritts  
Ken Gavin  
Hugo & Linda Gobbi  
Christopher Gribbin

Joseph Guarnaccia  
Thomas Hurley  
Jerald P. Hurwitz  
Deanne Smith Johns  
Richard Kane  
Karen Kelley  
Rosemary Kelley  
Larry Kidder  
Judith King  
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Kristina Miller  
Brewster Miner  
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Bruce A. Ryno  
Mary Skevington  
Barbara Thompson  
Nancy Tindall  
Thomas E. Tompkins  
Bruce Venter  
Andrew Wagner  
Anne Weber  
Christian Wethe  
Rev. Bennett B. Wethered  
David Woffindin  
Carolyn Youngs

## MEMBER

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Kraig Benson  
Dean Christie  
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Kathleen Hyland  
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