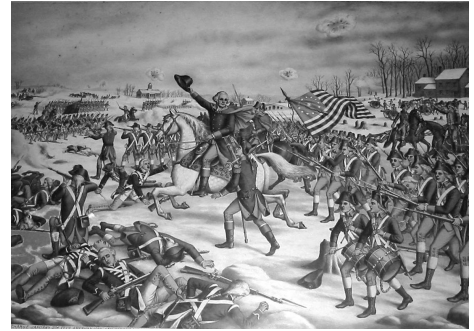


# 1777

## A NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCETON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY

Volume 1, Issue 2



## SPRING FESTIVAL MAY 21ST

Event to feature book signing, weapons and  
Farm-life demonstrations

Mark your calendars now for our Spring Festival. The event will take place on the Battlefield, on Sunday, May 21. Come rain or come shine, we will gather at the Clarke House beginning at 1 PM until 5 for another exciting, fun filled afternoon on Princeton Battlefield. What's on the agenda for that event? Well, weapons, food, farm life and surgery!

Surgery?

Yes, surgery, 18<sup>th</sup> century style. Nancy Webster, a member of that wonderful organization, Past Masters of Early American Domestic Arts, will not only have her many surgical instruments out on display, she will be giving two presentations on just how those instruments were used including a few details of how wounds inflicted by a musket ball were treated. Believe me when I say this is not for the faint of heart. Of course, all the 11-year-old boys will love it!

Another Past Master, Clarissa Dillon, will demonstrate cooking over an outdoor fire. When she isn't talking about food, Clarissa will be discussing other aspects of farm life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

For all of you war and weapons buffs, John Mills and Trustee, Bill Ahearn have all the information you want on the guns used during the colonial and Revolutionary periods. Bill has written a fantastic, and I will add, gorgeous book, titled *Muskets of the Revolution and the French and Indian Wars*. The books will be on sale at the Clarke House during the day, and Bill will sign your copy. Or, if you have already purchased the book, bring it by and get it signed. While you are there, take a look at Bill's collection, and then wander outside to enjoy John's demonstration on the care, loading and firing of these weapons that were instrumental in the winning of our independence from Britain.

In addition to all of the above, there will be battlefield tours during the day.

There is no charge to members for this event. Non-members are requested to give a \$3 donation for each adult, and \$1 for each child over the age of 5.



## Curator's Column

I am pleased to see that the Society has started the "1777" newsletter. It will be a great way to keep the membership and other interested parties aware of the programs and projects at Princeton Battlefield and the Clarke House Historic Site. For this initial column I would like to explain how the historic site fits in the New Jersey State government.

I am the Resource Interpretive Specialist 2 (RIS-2) for this historic site and come under the supervision of the Superintendent of Washington Crossing State Park, David Donnelly. These two Parks are within the NJ State Parks' Central Region, one of 4 regions administered by Regional Superintendent Joseph Winnicki. New Jersey State Parks is administered in Trenton by Assistant Director Lynn Fleming, which in turn is part of the Division of Parks and Forestry under Director Jose Fernandez and Deputy Director Amy Cradic. Parks and Forestry is within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Additional support for the historic site comes from the Regional RIS, Elizabeth Dowd and her supervisor, the Interpretive and Educational Administrator Thomas Laverty and support also from the Office of Historic Sites supervisor, Beverly Weaver.

Princeton Battlefield State Park was dedicated in October, 1946, named a National Historic Landmark in 1961, and currently has 85 acres, as well as the Princeton Battle Monument next to Princeton Borough Hall. Within the Park is the 1772 Thomas Clarke House, The Colonnade, originally part of Philadelphia's 1836 St. George's Hall, the Gravesite with 36 British and American soldiers, and the site of the Old Mercer Oak lost to old age in March 2000.

I look forward to working with the Society on projects in the future to both preserve this National Landmark and to provide more ways to educate the public on the remarkable history of this site.

John Mills, RIS 2

*Preserving and  
Enhancing  
Princeton Battlefield  
State Park*

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Princeton, NJ 08543

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[www.SavePrincetonBattlefield.org](http://www.SavePrincetonBattlefield.org)

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## Message From the President

Fellow members! Welcome to our second edition of the Princeton Battlefield Society newsletter, which we intend to publish for our members and supporters around four times a year. I want to thank and congratulate our fellow board member Laura Crockett on making this long-standing goal of our organization a reality. Her dedication to our organization has been unflinching and inspiring.

When I attended my very first meeting with the organization back in the winter of 2000-2001 we were on the brink of extinction. Through the hard work of the remaining members and a new board we were able to bring the organization back. It has been tough going but I feel we are at long last on the road to accomplishing our goals of restoring Princeton Battlefield. We have held our first successful fundraiser with our October 30th Fall Fest.

At this time one of our gravest concerns is the preservation of the battlefield lying outside the boundaries of the tiny state park. Our predecessors in the seventies were successful in saving and

adding two major tracts to the state park. We know the Institute is pressing ahead with plans to build where there is strong evidence of fighting, and we know we must do all that we can to save this hallowed ground. That is why I am asking our membership to assist us in raising the monies necessary to get our message out.

We are coming out with a new form letter to send to our local politicians and another to direct to the Institute. We will make those letterforms available shortly.

With your help and support we can save our battlefield. Talk to your neighbors, friends, and local representatives about what the Battle of Princeton means to you and this nation. Tell them of the proposed development by the Institute. Help us recruit new members. And by all means, become active! Join us at our Spring Fest on May 21<sup>st</sup> and find out how much fun volunteering can be. Please think about making a tax-deductible donation to the society.

Our next board meeting is at Panera's on Nassau Street, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

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### Princeton Battlefield Society

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