

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Erika Byrnison

ebyrnison@morven.org

Photos: morven.org/press

MORVEN

MUSEUM & GARDEN

Morven Hosts Princeton 1776 Fest on Saturday, October 3, 2026

Step back in time 250 years into Revolutionary Princeton

PRINCETON, NJ (September 15, 2026) — On Saturday, October 3rd, Morven Museum & Garden hosts **Princeton 1776 Fest**, a multi-sensory immersive event for all ages to explore life in Princeton during the American Revolution. With **hands-on activities, historical demonstrations and displays, live music, food and drink, and costumed reenactors**, from the moment visitors arrive they will be engaged in the experience of everyday colonial life. This one-day-only event is a collaboration between the **Princeton Battlefield Society, Historical Society of Princeton, the Princeton Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)**, and **Morven**.

Throughout the grounds, visitors can play colonial lawn games with townspeople (watch out for a goat and chickens!) and join soldiers in singing tavern songs. They may even ask historical figures like Dr. Benjamin Rush about his role as Surgeon General of the Continental Army and Benjamin Franklin about signing the Declaration of Independence. There will be demonstrations of crafts and cidermaking (with tasty samples), plus displays of historic costumes as well as tools and apothecary supplies from how medicine was practiced.

There will be hands-on activities to enjoy from community partners, which include **Historical Society of Princeton** (hosting open archives and an archaeological dig activity), **League of Women Voters of the Greater Princeton Area, The Old Barracks Museum, Princeton Public Library, Rockingham State Historic Site, Sand Hill Historical Association, Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum**, and the **West Windsor Historical Society**.

The **Princeton Battlefield Society** will also unveil their **sprawling diorama of the Battle of Princeton**, General George Washington's crucial victory that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War. At least 14 Black men fought alongside him. **The Princeton Chapter of the DAR** will display an exhibition exploring the lives of Black soldiers who fought in New Jersey during the Revolution.

All day, there will be live music on the museum's front lawn from the **Ragtime Relics** (playing historic American folk songs and bluegrass) and **John Burkhalter of the Practitioners of Musick** (playing period music from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries). Guests are invited

to bring a blanket and/or chairs to sit, relax, and eat. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. **McCaffrey's Food Markets** will have a varied selection on offer, including vegetarian options, ranging from burgers and hotdogs to pre-made sandwiches and salads, as well as desserts and beverages.

Triumph Brewing Company will be on site with two special offerings: Ironbound Cider and their **Triumph '76 Ale**, created especially for the occasion! As an ale, the beer has British roots, and was designed with a 7.6% ABV from a blend of Liberty, Centennial, and Triumph hops. Only a couple of kegs will be available.

Morven's museum will be open with half-priced admission during the run of the event, 12-3 pm (a ticket to Princeton 1776 Fest is required). On view is the special 250th exhibition ***Five Independent Souls: The Signers from New Jersey***, featuring over 100 extraordinary historic objects related to the five men who signed the Declaration of Independence for New Jersey.

Attendees can save \$5 by purchasing tickets to Princeton 1776 Fest online in advance. In the event of rain, the event will take place the following day—Sunday, October 4, from 12-3 pm.

CALENDAR LISTING

PRINCETON 1776 FEST

Morven hosts Princeton 1776 Fest, an immersive event for all ages to explore life in colonial times. Along with live music all day from the Ragtime Relics and John Burkhalter of the Practitioners of Musick, visitors can join in tavern songs. Soldiers, townspeople, and historical figures (including notables like Benjamin Franklin) will interact with guests. There will be demonstrations of cidermaking and other crafts, as well as displays of historic costumes and tools and apothecary supplies from how medicine was practiced; the Princeton Battlefield Society will also unveil their diorama of the historic Battle of Princeton.

Play colonial lawn games (watch out for a goat and chickens!) and enjoy activities from community partners. Food and beverages will be available to purchase from McCaffrey's Food Market and Triumph Brewery Princeton. Triumph '76 Ale, created especially for the occasion, will be on draft while supplies last!

The museum will be open with half-priced admission during the run of the event, 12-3 pm (a ticket to Princeton 1776 Fest is required).

Attendees can save \$5 by purchasing tickets to Princeton 1776 Fest online in advance. In the event of rain, the event will take place the following day—Sunday, October 4, from 12-3 pm.

Presented by the Princeton Battlefield Society, Historical Society of Princeton, the Princeton Chapter of the DAR, and Morven Museum & Garden.

Date/Time: Saturday, October 3, 12-3 pm

Rain Date/Time: Sunday, October 4, 12-3 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$10 General Admission (advance registration); \$15 General Admission (at the door); FREE for kids ages 12 & under and active military or veterans (with ID).

Registration: <https://www.morven.org/events/princeton-1776-fest>

#

About Morven Museum & Garden:

Located steps from downtown Princeton, NJ, Morven is the only extant house of a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence that is open to the public.

Built in the 1750s for Richard Stockton and his wife, Annis Boudinot Stockton, an early published poet, Morven was home to five generations of the Stockton family and generations of enslaved men and women, as well as immigrant servants. It later became home to the innovative industrialist and humanitarian Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. and served as the state's first governor's mansion before becoming a museum in 2004.

Today, we welcome visitors to explore this layered history through permanent and special exhibitions; cultural and educational programs; community events; and historic gardens, the bounty of which is donated to a local mobile food pantry. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The gardens are open daily from dawn until dusk.

Learn more about Morven:

www.morven.org

Facebook: [@morvenmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/morvenmuseum)

Instagram: [@morvenmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/morvenmuseum)