



Sons of the American Revolution **250th Anniversary** **Event Planning Guide**



Washington's Crossing / Ten Crucial Days **December 11, 12, 13 2026**

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The goal of this planning guide is to provide states and chapters with the tools and resources to support SAR 250 parallel events. National Society Sons of the American Revolution Strategic Plan 2035 (FINAL – Approved 3/1/25) - Strategic Objective 2A: Each state and chapter will support SAR 250 signature events with a parallel event they sponsor in partnership with local historical, veteran, and/or civic organizations

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Planning Guides

PURPOSE: Provide suggested guidance for a SAR 250th Anniversary Ceremony by Sons of the American Revolution Chapters and States. Images for contained in this guide suitable for printing are available at

<https://www.sar.org/committees/250th-anniversary-of-the-american-revolutionary-war-committee/>.

Preparations:

1. The first step to take is to correctly identify an event.
2. Locate a property for the commemoration and contact the individual responsible for the property to ensure a ceremony is allowed. Visit the property to determine if the event can be conducted.
3. Identify date and time of proposed ceremony.
4. Contact State Society to include the State President, State Color Guard Commander, Chapter leadership, Color Guard and Chaplain.
5. Determine what actions will commemorate the event.
6. After date/time are approved, prepare a draft agenda. Determine who will conduct the ceremony as emcee, lead the various pledges, conduct the commemoration and other needed presentations/participants. Below is a suggested format for the agenda.
7. Let people know we are Sons of the American Revolution! Specify the uniform of the day. To the extent possible and where appropriate encourage Color Guard or Colonial / period attire. To encourage maximum participation permit "Class B" (business attire). When wearing business attire, wear your SAR name tag.
8. Provide emergency operations by contacting local Fire & Emergency and Law Enforcement. Need to determine safe egress in case of detrimental actions. Need contacts in case of health emergencies. Let law enforcement know of musket firings.
9. Send invitations to local officials, media, the public, SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. Chapter/Societies. Determine who desires to participate in the ceremony. Identify the presenters, color guard, musket squad and VIPs.
10. Finalize the Agenda.
11. Send directions to the site with parking instructions and provide the agenda to participants.
12. Arrange podium, seating, and photography.

Ceremony Agenda

1. Welcome and Greetings (emcee)
2. Presentation of the Colors (Color Guard)
3. Invocation (Chaplain)
4. Pledge of Allegiance (designated compatriot)
5. SAR Pledge by SAR Compatriots (designated compatriot)
6. Introduction of guests, dignitaries and descendants of the patriot (emcee)
7. Introduction of the assembly to the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (designee).
8. Commemoration of the Event.
9. Presentation of wreaths (order as prescribed by National Policies) (representatives).
10. Presentation of suitable song (director) or music.
11. Musket Salute (fire 3 times) (musket squad).
12. SAR Recessional (designated compatriot)
13. Retire the Colors (color guard)
14. Make presentations as desired. (emcee)
15. Benediction (Chaplain)
16. Closing remarks (emcee)

After the Ceremony:

1. Clean up the area.
2. Provide appropriate appreciation to the responsible
 1. individual/organization for the cemetery and participants.
 2. Send thanks to the municipal organizations that participated
 3. Provide Information to all chapters/compatriots attending the ceremony.
 4. Send update report to the State Society, Americanism Chairs, provide the State Color Guard Commander with list of compatriots in colonial attire.
 5. Send local media notifications. Send articles to the SAR National Magazine, National Color Guard Magazine, local media and State Society newsletters/bulletins.

Event Ideas

- Have FUN! SAR events should be fun for you and should be fun, engaging, and enjoyable for your target audience – the PUBLIC!
- Cosponsor the event with your local DAR, C.A.R., veteran, civic, or historical groups. This will amplify your event and allow you to share the planning process.
- Promote your 250 events to the local council, chamber of commerce, community, and 250 commission

Key Events:

- Reading Thomas Paine's *American Crisis #1* and commentary (*See Appendix 1*) Suggested locations include: Town Hall, or town meeting, the library, and the schools. Consider reading it on December 7th to coincide with the 250th anniversary of Washington's first crossing of the Delaware into Pennsylvania, December 14th (250th Anniversary of Washington's move to the Keith House HQ), and December 19th (250th Anniversary of its publication).
- Consider reading the prepared **ten**-minute narrative on the history of the Ten Crucial Days (*See Appendix 2*).
- Consider reading the prepared **five**-minute narrative on the history of the Ten Crucial Days (*See Appendix 3*).
- Consider reading about the other significant dates as an alternative to our country's birth.

Other Event Ideas:

- Youth activities – scavenger hunt, recruiting day, interpretative station
- Reading at the courthouse or town square
- Library-based events: book readings for youth. Consider a library scavenger hunt.
- Sponsor an Art Poster Contest for different age groups to recreate their interpretation of Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*
- Plant and present "Liberty Trees" to the public.
- Place and present the SAR 250th benches
- Luncheons/receptions in a restaurant/tavern
- Color Guard Interpretive engagement at station tent/table

- Present Flag Certificates. These can be presented by anyone at anytime but what a powerful memento of our 250th that will be cherished!
- Present certificates of appreciation to city and town officials, schools, libraries and service members
- Present a poster-sized framed copy of Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware* to local and state officials. Present it to them (perhaps framed). Ask that it be displayed as a reminder of the semiquincentennial when the 275th and 300th come around.
- Present a copy of the American Crisis #1 at all booth events for signature or at Wreaths Across America. The latter will require permission of the sponsoring cemetery.
- Host watch parties of the A&E Production of "*The Crossing*," Starring Jeff Daniels as George Washington. Along with time-stamped corrections and, interpretive commentary the full film is available on YouTube at <http://tencrucialdays.org/Movie>
- Crafts / hands-on activities station or tent for youth and the public, to include demonstrations or giveaways
- Participate in your community's America 250 events in Color Guard or Colonial attire. Encourage all chapter members to join in. Those without uniforms or colonial attire can be in "Class B's." Remember the U.S., State, and Chapter flags and banners. Ask DAR, CAR, spouses and children to join your group. Large numbers of people provide a powerful optic to the public!
- Ring a "Liberty Bell." While not historically accurate, what better way to ring (announce) the 250th anniversary of significant moments of our country's birth?

Promotional Flyer



The Sons of the American Revolution Invite you to participate in the 250th Anniversary Commemoration

Sunday, December 13, 2025, 1:00-3:00 PM, Town Common

On December 25, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years since the Washinton's iconic crossing of the Delaware. With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history.

Join us as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the dramatic actions that changed the course of history in just ten crucial days.

Event Highlights

- 250th Ceremony: Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor, Keynote Speaker, Patriotic Music, SAR Continental Color Guard, raising of the United States Flag and ringing of the Liberty Bell
- Independence is read for the first time at the 2nd Continental Congress
- Interactive Exhibits & Artifacts: Explore period artifacts and engaging displays that bring the revolutionary era to life.
- Family & Community Activities: Enjoy colonial crafts, storytelling sessions, and interactive games designed to educate and inspire visitors of all ages.

For more information, contact Chapter President at <email address

Timelines

Timeline of the Retreat Through New Jersey and the Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution.

This timeline draws from primary accounts, military dispatches, and modern analyses, highlighting how audacious leadership, weather, and militia support turned near-defeat into survival

November 20, 1776 – January 5, 1777. By late 1776, the Continental Army under General George Washington had suffered devastating losses in the New York campaign. After defeats at Long Island (August 27), White Plains (October 28), and the fall of Fort Mifflin (November 20), the army faced annihilation. On November 20, British and Hessian forces under General William Howe crossed the Hudson River at Red Bank Landing (near Alpine, New Jersey), forcing the immediate evacuation of Fort Mifflin. Washington's troops, already depleted, abandoned the fort and began an 80-mile march southwest across New Jersey, pursued by Lord Charles Cornwallis's vanguard. The army passed through Leonia and crossed the New Bridge over the Hackensack River, destroying bridges behind them to slow the enemy. Morale plummeted as desertions mounted and enlistments neared expiration on January 1, 1777. Washington later described the situation as dire, with the cause of independence hanging by a thread.

November 21–22, 1776: The retreating Continentals crossed the Passaic River at Acquackanonk Bridge (near modern Passaic), which they promptly destroyed. Skirmishes occurred at New Bridge as British forces pressed forward. Washington established headquarters briefly in Hackensack before moving south. The army, reduced to roughly 5,000 effectives, suffered from lack of supplies, shoes, and clothing; many soldiers marched barefoot through mud and cold. British pursuit was aggressive but slowed by destroyed bridges and local resistance.

November 23–28, 1776: The army encamped in Newark, enduring rain and exposure. British and Hessian troops crossed the Passaic River at Post Ford (Garfield) on November 26, closing the gap. Washington appealed to New Jersey militia for aid, but few responded amid widespread despair and Loyalist activity. The retreat continued southward, with the army shrinking further due to desertions and expired terms.

November 29–December 1, 1776: The Continentals encamped at (New) Brunswick, with Washington's headquarters at Cochrane's Tavern. British forces entered the town shortly after the Americans departed on December 1. A small rearguard action, including Alexander Hamilton's New York Provincial Company of Artillery, delayed the enemy, ing precious time. The army pressed on toward Princeton, its numbers now under 4,000 fit for duty.

December 1–7, 1776: The army marched through Princeton, where Washington briefly hoped to make a stand but recognized the futility against superior numbers. The vanguard reached Trenton by December 2. On December 7–8, the main body crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania at Trenton and nearby ferries, using every available boat. British forces under Cornwallis arrived in Trenton late on December 8—mere hours too late to intercept. Washington had seized or destroyed most watercraft, securing the river as a barrier. The army camped along the Pennsylvania shore from Bristol to Coryell's Ferry (New Hope), reinforced slightly by Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia but still critically weak.

December 9–24, 1776: The “long retreat” across New Jersey had reduced Washington's force to approximately 3,000–5,000 men by mid-December. Enlistments expired for many on December 31, threatening total dissolution. British and Hessian troops occupied a chain of outposts across New Jersey (from New Bridge and Hackensack to Burlington) and entered winter quarters. On December 12, General Charles Lee—second-in-command—was captured near Morristown after recklessly separating from his division; his 1,400+ troops under John Sullivan joined Washington in Pennsylvania. Thomas Paine's pamphlet *The American Crisis* (“These are the times that try men's souls”) was published (December 19). Some officers may have read the slim pamphlet to their units, boosting flagging spirits. Militia skirmishes at Petticoat Bridge and Mount Holly (Iron Works Hill, December 23) lured Hessian Colonel Carl von Donop southward, weakening Trenton's garrison. Washington and his officers plan a bold counterstroke.

December 25–26, 1776 (Day 1 of the Ten Crucial Days): In a raging northeaster of sleet and snow (temperatures near 24–33°F), Washington launched a surprise attack. Around 2,400 men (seven brigades under Greene, Sullivan, Mercer, Stirling, Stephen, Fermoy, and St. Clair, plus Knox's artillery) crossed the ice-choked Delaware at McConkey's Ferry starting at dusk. Two southern columns (under Cadwalader and Ewing) failed to cross due to ice.

Marching 9 miles through the blizzard, the main force reach Trenton attacking from both the north and west at 8 a.m. on December 26. They surprised ~1,500 Hessians under Colonel Johann Rall. In a fierce street fight lasting under two hours, Americans used artillery and bayonets to drive the enemy into an orchard. Rall was mortally wounded; over 900 Hessians surrendered with their camp followers, with 22 killed and 83 wounded. American losses: 2–5 killed or wounded (including future President James Monroe). Fearing reprisal, the victors recrossed to Pennsylvania with prisoners, arms, and supplies. This victory, Washington's first ever, electrified the colonies and prevented mass desertions.

December 27–30, 1776: Washington's council of war decided to recross into New Jersey. Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia had already advanced, finding Hessian outposts at Bordentown and Burlington abandoned. On December 29–30, the main army ferried back to Trenton, swelling to ~5,000–6,000 with fresh militia. Enlistment expirations loomed; Washington personally appealed to troops on December 31 at the Delaware banks, offering bonuses. Most agreed to stay six more weeks.

January 1–2, 1777 (Days 7–8): Cornwallis rushed 8,000 British troops to Princeton and marched on Trenton, arriving January 2. Washington positioned ~6,000 men south of Assunpink Creek. Three British assaults across the creek were repulsed in fierce fighting until darkness fell. Cornwallis, believing Washington trapped, planned a dawn attack. Instead, Washington executed a masterful night flanking march east and north around the British left flank along Quaker Road, leaving campfires burning as a ruse. Temperatures hovered near freezing; the army moved in silence.

January 3, 1777 (Day 10): At dawn near Princeton, Washington's advance guard under Hugh Mercer clashed with British Colonel Charles Mawhood's ~600 - 800 troops of the 17th Regiment of Foot marching south to reinforce Cornwallis. Mercer's men were nearly overrun; Mercer was bayoneted and mortally wounded. Washington personally rallied troops on horseback amid musket and cannon fire. Reinforcements under Cadwalader and Hitchcock turned the tide. Americans captured Princeton where ~300 - 400 reserve guard of the 40th and 55th Foot. A particularly brutal double enveloping battle, the Battle of Princeton inflicted ~200 British killed/wounded/captured, with American casualties about 40–70. The victory forced Cornwallis to withdraw to the Raritan River.

January 4–5, 1777: The Continental Army marched to Morristown, New Jersey, reaching winter quarters in the Watchung Mountains by January 5–6. Cornwallis withdraws to New Brunswick and eventually New York City, ceding most of New Jersey to American control. British forces retained only outposts at Perth Amboy, Elizabethtown and Brunswick. Washington’s army, now ~4,000–5,000 strong, regrouped safely. The Ten Crucial Days (December 25–January 3) reversed the Revolution’s momentum, secured reenlistments, and inspired recruits. What began as a humiliating retreat ended in strategic triumph, ensuring the war’s continuation.

News of the defeats at Trenton and Princeton stunned London; King George III and his ministers viewed them as a humiliating setback that shattered hopes of swiftly crushing the rebellion. Parliament expressed concern over the loss of momentum, the collapse of British control in New Jersey, and the revival of American morale. While some downplayed the events as minor, they privately recognized the blows to prestige and strategy. Lord George Germain, the colonial secretary, later lamented in Parliament that “all our hopes were blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton.”



SAR²⁵⁰ Washington Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days

December 25, 1776 – January 3, 1777

Commemoration and Reenactment

December 11, 2026 – December 13, 2026

NJSSAR.org/250



December 1776: Historical Outline of the “Ten Crucial Days”

By December 1776, the American Revolution was in its second year. Although the Declaration of Independence had been written and signed over the summer, the revolution was not going well for the Americans. The Continental Army, led by General George Washington, had recently faced several setbacks in the field. It was outmaneuvered by the British in a series of battles. By November 20, after the loss of Ft. Lee, Washington begins to move his army south to the Raritan River. The Crown troops were now fully in control of New York and its environs and began moving troops into East Jersey.

December 1, 1776: Anticipating a British advance across the Raritan, Washington begins to move his depleted army south to Trenton on the Delaware River. In a rear-guard action, New York Artillery Captain Alexander Hamilton’s battery delays the British crossing of the Delaware. Washington sends orders to multiple military units to commandeer all watercraft on the Delaware.

December 8, 1776: The Continental Army finished crossing the Delaware from New Jersey to Pennsylvania as the British arrived in Trenton.

December 10, 1776, Washington writes to his brother Lund, expressing dismay that enlistments in his army are coming to an end and that he is receiving no support from replacement militia.’

December 12, 1776: Both Washington and Congress are convinced the British will move on Philadelphia. After granting Washington near dictatorial powers to recruit reinforcements, Congress evacuates the city.

December 13, 1776: Given Washington’s dire situation, British Commander, Gen. William Howe, assumes the American Cause is lost. He orders a string of winter cantonments throughout the Jerseys and that his army stand down for winter quarters.

December 19, 1776: Pamphleteer Thomas Paine published “*American Crisis*,” which would soon become a rallying cry for the Cause and the continued quest for Independence.

December 20, 1776: Washington received reinforcements near McConkey’s Ferry in Pennsylvania, with 2,000 soldiers arriving from General Lee's division under General John Sullivan. Washington now has a numerical advantage over Col. Johann Raul’s 1,500 Hessian Garrison in Trenton, who were also exhausted from daily attacks by American units since December 14.

December 23, 1776: Gen. William Maxwell draws Hessian Col. von Donop away from Bordentown down to Mt Holly, New Jersey, thereby unable to support Col. Raul’s garrison,

December 24, 1776: Washington presents to his officers his plan to achieve his objective to retake control of New Jersey, which would begin with an attack on Raul’s garrison.

December 25, 1776: Three columns of the Continental Army began crossing the Delaware River in the evening as the weather worsened. The leading column, commanded by Washington, was the only one to successfully cross the icy river.

December 26, 1776: Washington’s column finished crossing around 3:30 a.m. and then marched nine miles over dark, icy roads to Trenton during a Nor’ester storm.. The Continental Army surprised the Hessians there with an early morning attack. The battle was over in only about 45 minutes, capturing about 1,000 Hessians along with muskets, gunpowder, and cannons. Later that day, the Americans begin crossing back into Pennsylvania.

December 27, 1776: Cadwalader’s 1,500-strong division crosses into New Jersey and reports to Washington the British and Hessian troops had retreated about 12 miles north to Princeton.

December 30, 1776: To continue the momentum after the Battle of Trenton, Washington and his officers decide to join Cadwalader in New Jersey, but many of the experienced Continentals enlistments were to expire at year’s end. About half of Washington’s agreed to stay with the army for another six weeks after having been offered a bounty. Washington now has from 5,000 to 6,000 men.

December 31, 1776: The Continental Army made its third crossing of the Delaware and moved back to Trenton. They are positioned on the more defensible high ground on the south bank of the Assunpink Creek.

January 2, 1777: After a brilliant delaying action by PA Col. Edward Hand, along the road south from Princeton, the Americans repelled a late-afternoon attack at the Assunpink by the British General Charles Cornwallis. With the creek separating the forces, the British planned to renew the attack the next day with 7,000 to 8,000 men. Acting on local intelligence, Washington's Council of War that night decides to have the army quietly leave the Assunpink in the middle of the night and march 12 miles north to attack the British 1,200-strong rear-guard in Princeton.

January 3, 1777: The Continental Army reached Princeton under cover of night using a lesser-known back road. The battle that followed was intense but brief, lasting less than an hour, ending in a clear American victory. However, with Cornwallis's superior force close at hand, Washington decides to evacuate Princeton and head northwest into the Watchung Mountains near Morristown.

Not knowing the position of Washington's army, Gen. Cornwallis withdraws northeast to Brunswick and Perth Amboy. The change of fortunes of the two armies in December had a profound impact on the course of the American Revolution. Washington's success in outmaneuvering and defeating the British boosts American morale and enlistments. The war would continue for another seven years, but never again would the British gain control of the land that would become known as "The Crossroads of the American Revolution." In his multi-volume work, *The American Revolution*, British historian Sir George Otto Trevlyan would write of the Ten Crucial Days, "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world."

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Revolution, organized in 1889 and federally chartered in 1906, are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of America, and have proclaimed 2023 to 2033 as the “Decade of the American Revolution.”

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Revolution honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

WHEREAS, after General George Washington and members of the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River on December 25, 1776, to surprise the Hessian garrison, leading to their defeat in the Battle of Trenton, and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 1777, the Continental Army, under General Washington’s command, withstood a furious counterattack, under Gen. Charles Cornwallis, during the delaying actions and the Battle of Assunpink Creek.

WHEREAS, on January 3, 1777, the Continental Army, under General Washington’s command, defeated the British 4th Brigade under Colonel Charles Mawhood at the Battle of Princeton.

WHEREAS, “The achievements of Washington and his little band of compatriots between the 25th of December and the 4th of January, a space of ten days, were the most brilliant of any recorded in the annals of military achievements.” (Frederick the Great)

WHEREAS, "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world." (Sir George Otto Trevelyan noted)

WHEREAS, during the period between December 25, 1776, and January 3, 1777, referred to as “Ten Crucial Days,” the crossings of the Delaware and the battles of Trenton, Assunpink, and Princeton, fought between the Continental Army and the British Army, provided a timely and much-needed boost to the morale of the Americans to persevere.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael J. Elston, Esq., President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, encourage all citizens to join with the Sons of the American Revolution, and other patriotic, community, and veterans organizations, on the 26th Day of December 2026, to commemorate this important event in the history of our great country.

Name

Title

Sample Address to the School Board

Mr. President, Mr. Superintendent, School Board Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

I am {Name} and am a proud member of the {State} Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Our organization was organized in 1889, federally chartered in 1906, and we seek to honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

In support of our mission, I am here this evening to express my appreciation to each of you for your public service on behalf of our students and the community in which we live.

We thank our teachers for educating our youth about the founding of our country, the American Revolution, and our foundational documents, including Washington's Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days. We also applaud you and our educators for recognizing veterans and their families and the sacrifices and service to our nation each year.

We are also appreciative of your permitting us, as a Recognized and Named National Presenter, to help recognize outstanding JROTC cadets.

You may be aware that we also offer scholarship or honorarium opportunities to students and social study educators at the elementary, middle and high school levels. We also have programs to help history come alive in the classroom. I leave brochures for your consideration.

We encourage you to continue your support and prioritize the Social Studies and Civic Education.

In recognition of your service, I have been authorized to present to each of you our Certificate of Outstanding Public Service, notated this 250th year of our Declaration of Independence.

I request that you designate a tree, existing or planted, to be designated as a Liberty Tree, and on an appropriate anniversary date in June, July, or August, a student and community shared reading of our founding documents.

Thank you for permitting me to speak, and I have presented to you your certificates.

Promotional Postcard

Upload and order these postcard designs (front and back) on Vistaprint



Washington Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days Commemoration and Reenactment December 11, 12, 13, 2026



The Ten Crucial Days of the American War for Independence, December 25, 1776 to January 3, 1777 were a remarkable series of engagements and maneuvers under General George Washington's leadership. At the fledgling nation's most desperate hour – *"the times that tried men's souls"* – Washington launched the campaign that turned the tide, and the fortunes of war, that eventually resulted in American Independence.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world," Sir George Otto Trevelyan

Join Compatriots and thousands of fellow citizens, on the banks of the Delaware at the site of the famous midnight crossing, the bridge at Assunpink in Trenton, and the Quaker farms outside Princeton where our founding patriots saved the Revolution, and changed the world!

Learn more at
NJSSAR.org/250



To learn more
about the Sons of
the American
Revolution, visit
SAR.org



Art, Clockwise from the upper right corner:

Washington Crossing the Delaware, Emanuel Leutze Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY
The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton, John Trumbull, Yale University Art Gallery, CT
The Death of Hugh Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, *ibid*
The Battle of Princeton, James Peale, Princeton Art Museum, NJ



Washington Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days 250

NJSSAR.org/250



Washington Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days Commemoration and Reenactment December 11, 12, 13, 2026



The Ten Crucial Days of the American War for Independence, December 25, 1776 to January 3, 1777 were a remarkable series of engagements and maneuvers under General George Washington's leadership. At the fledgling nation's most desperate hour – *"the times that tried men's souls"* – Washington launched the campaign that turned the tide, and the fortunes of war, that eventually resulted in American Independence.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world," Sir George Otto Trevelyan

Join Compatriots and thousands of fellow citizens on the banks of the Delaware, the site of the famous midnight crossing, the Trenton Battle Monument, bridge at Assunpink in Trenton, and the Quaker farms outside Princeton where our founding patriots saved the Revolution and changed the world!



Learn more at
NJSSAR.org/250



To learn more
about the Sons of
the American
Revolution, visit
SAR.org



About the art on the reverse side: New Jersey artist, Compatriot **Llyod Garrison** created the Ten Crucial Days Series which represent an accurate historical interpretation of the Crossing, the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Learn more at lloydgarrison.com

SAR Yard Sign



America 250

Door Hanger



Washington Crossing and the Ten Crucial Days Commemoration and Reenactment December 11, 12, 13, 2026

The Ten Crucial Days of the American War of Independence, December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777, were a remarkable series of engagements and maneuvers under General George Washington's leadership. At the fledgling nation's most desperate hour – *"The times that tried men's souls"*– Washington launched the campaign that turned the tide and the fortunes of war, eventually resulting in American independence.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short, a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world." Sir George Otto Trevelyan

Join compatriots and thousands of fellow citizens on the banks of the Delaware at the site of the famous midnight Crossing, the bridge at Assunpink Creek, Trenton, and the Quaker Farms outside Princeton, where our founding patriots saved the revolution and changed the world!

NJSSAR.org/250

*Art on reverse side:
Top - Leutze, Center and below - Trumbull*

250 Event Report

State/Chapter Click or tap here to enter text.

When - Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

What - Event Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

What - SAR Significant Event Celebration: Click or tap here to enter text.

What - Brief Description:

Where: Click or tap here to enter text.

Who - Participating Organizations:

Who - Total Number of Participants: Click or tap here to enter text.

Who - # of Public Participants: Click or tap here to enter text.

Value Added - Media Coverage:

Value Added - Proclamations: ☐Y ☐N

Value Added - SAR Postcards at Event ☐Y ☐N Brochures ☐Y ☐N Business Cards ☐Y ☐N

Other Value Added:

Send this report and photos to the America 250 Committee at SAR250Events@gmail.com

Additionally, submit photos and a brief description of the event to The Colorguardsman e-magazine by logging in to the National website at <https://www.sar.org/committees/color-guard-committee/> for submission criteria and contact information.

Public Domain Images



Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851), by Emanuel Leutze (*Lew-OIT'-sa*)



George Caleb Bingham, c 1856-1871, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA



Passage of the Delaware, by Thomas Sully, 1819 (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



Battle of Trenton, a 1975 by H. Charles McBarron Jr.



George Washington at the Battle of Trenton 1870 engraving by the Illman Brothers



The future president James Monroe fought in the Battle of Trenton alongside George Washington



The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton, December 26, 1776 by John Trumbull

The Battle of Princeton



The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777
John Trumbull



General George Washington at Trenton on the night of January 2, 1777
by John Trumbull (1792)



Battle of Princeton by James Peale (1782), depicts Washington and his headquarters flag.



George Washington by Charles Willson Peale (1784) at the Battle of Princeton

“These Are the Times That Try Men’s Souls...”

Thomas Paine’s The American Crisis

15-Minute Presentation Script



This script is self-contained, historically accurate, and ready to deliver. Practice once for timing, and you’ll have a powerful, moving presentation that brings Paine’s masterpiece to life. No slides or props needed—this is pure spoken word, perfect for a classroom, library, or living-history event. Practice with a timer: speak at a natural, engaging pace—about 130–140 words per minute for the narrative and/or oration; dramatic, deliberate pace for the reading with pauses for emphasis.

The Scene That Inspired the Pamphlet (0:00–2:00)

Ladies and gentlemen, picture this: It is December 1776. The American Revolution is on the brink of collapse. Just months after declaring independence, General George Washington’s Continental Army had been driven out of New York in a string of humiliating defeats. Now, in the dead of winter, they are retreating across New Jersey—hungry, barefoot, exhausted. Enlistments are expiring at the end of the month. Desertions are soaring. The British and their Hessian mercenaries are in hot pursuit, and Philadelphia itself—the capital of the rebellion—is only days away from falling.

Many soldiers and civilians believe the cause is lost. Washington’s force has shrunk to a few thousand ragged men. Morale is at rock bottom. Thomas Paine, the same fiery writer who had electrified the colonies with *Common Sense* earlier that year, is right there with the troops—marching, freezing, witnessing the despair firsthand. On December 19, 1776, Paine published a new pamphlet, the first in a series he called *The American Crisis*. He wrote it not from a comfortable study, but from the very edge of defeat, hoping his words would steel the hearts of soldiers and citizens alike. Little does he know that his opening line will become one of the most famous rallying cries in history. Contrary to historical myth, there are no supporting documents indicating that George Washington ordered Paine’s pamphlet read aloud to the troops, though it would most likely have been read by some officers and their soldiers.

(Pause 2–3 seconds for effect, then transition smoothly.)

Regardless, just six days later, Washington and the Army would make their desperate crossing of the icy Delaware River -- these truly were the times... that tried... men’s souls.

The Opening Paragraphs of The American Crisis, Number I (2:00–11:00)

Read slowly, passionately, with rising intensity on key phrases. Pause after powerful sentences. The text below is the complete verbatim opening section— 1,182 words—which takes roughly nine (9) minutes at a dramatic oration pace. Speak as if you are Paine himself, addressing exhausted soldiers around a campfire.

"THESE are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: It is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared, that she has a right (not only to TAX) but "to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER," and if being bound in that manner is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to GOD.

Whether the Independence of the Continent was declared too soon or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument; my own simple opinion is that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame but ourselves. But no great deal is lost yet; all that Howe has been doing for this month past is rather a ravage than a conquest, which the spirit of the Jerseys a year ago would have quickly repulsed, and which time and a little resolution will soon recover.

I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that GOD Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me as to suppose that HE has relinquished the government of the world and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us: A common murderer, a highwayman, or a housebreaker has as good a pretence as he.

It is surprising to see how rapidly a panic will sometimes run through a country. All nations and ages have been subject to them. Britain has trembled like an ague at the report of a French fleet of flat-bottomed boats; and in the fourteenth century, the whole English army, after ravaging the kingdom of France, was driven back like men petrified with fear; and this brave exploit was performed by a few broken forces collected and headed by a woman, Joan of Arc. Would that heaven might inspire some Jersey maid to spirit up her countrymen and save her fair fellow-sufferers from ravage and ravishment! Yet panics, in some cases, have their uses; they produce as much good as hurt. Their duration is always short; the mind soon grows through them and acquires a firmer habit than before. But their peculiar advantage is that they are the touchstones of sincerity and hypocrisy, and bring things and men to light which might otherwise have lain forever undiscovered. In fact, they have the same effect on secret traitors which an imaginary apparition would upon a private murderer. They sift out the hidden thoughts of man, and hold them up in public to the world. Many a disguised Tory has lately shown his head, that shall penitential solemnize with curses the day on which Howe arrived upon the Delaware.

As I was with the troops at Fort Lee and marched with them to the edge of Pennsylvania, I am well acquainted with many circumstances which those who live at a distance know but little or nothing of. Our situation there was exceedingly cramped, the place being a narrow neck of land between the North River and the Hackensack. Our force was inconsiderable, being not one fourth so great as Howe could bring against us. We had no army at hand to have relieved the garrison, had we shut ourselves up and stood on our defense. Our ammunition, light artillery, and the best part of our stores had been removed on the apprehension that Howe would endeavor to penetrate the Jerseys, in which case Fort Lee could be of no use to us; for it must occur to every thinking man, whether in the army or not, that these kind of field forts are only for temporary purposes, and last in use no longer than the enemy directs his force against the particular object which such forts are raised to defend.

Such was our situation and condition at Fort Lee on the morning of the 20th of November, when an officer arrived with information that the enemy with 200 boats had landed about seven miles above: Major General Green, who commanded the garrison, immediately ordered them under arms and sent express to his Excellency General Washington at the town of Hackensack, distant by the way of the ferry six miles. Our first object was to secure the bridge over the Hackensack, which laid up the river between the enemy and us, about six miles from us, and three from them. General Washington arrived in about three quarters of an hour and marched at the head of the troops towards the bridge, which place I expected we should have a brush for; however, they did not choose to dispute it with us, and the greatest part of our troops went over the bridge, the rest over the ferry, except some which passed at a mill on a small creek between the bridge and the ferry and made their way through some marshy grounds up to the town of Hackensack, and there passed the river. We brought off as much baggage as the wagons could contain; the rest was lost.

The simple object was to bring off the garrison and march them on till they could be strengthened by the Jersey or Pennsylvania militia, so as to be enabled to make a stand. We stayed four days at Newark, collected our outposts with some of the Jersey militia, and marched out twice to meet the enemy on information of their being advancing, though our numbers were greatly inferior to theirs. Howe, in my little opinion, committed a great error in generalship in not throwing a body of forces off from Staten Island through Amboy, by which means he might have seized all our stores at Brunswick and intercepted our march into Pennsylvania; But, if we believe the power of hell to be limited, we must likewise believe that their agents are under some providential control.

(End reading at 11:00. Pause 3–5 seconds for the words to sink in.)

The Pamphlet's Electrifying Effect on Soldiers and Civilians (11:00–15:00)

Paine's words did not merely describe the crisis—they ignited the turning point of the Revolution.

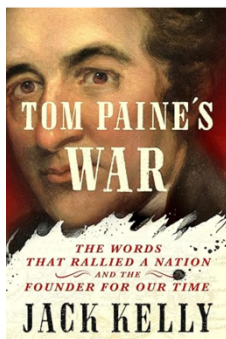
Imagine those frozen, half-naked soldiers huddled around campfires, hearing Paine's voice (through their officers) declare that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. The effect was electric. Men who had been ready to quit suddenly felt their spines stiffen. On December 26, that same ragged army surprised the Hessian garrison at Trenton in a stunning victory. A week later, they faced revenge-minded Hessians and angry British Grenadiers at Assunpink Creek. Washington would then order a brilliant midnight march 12 miles to Princeton and defeated the British 4th Brigade. Three victories in ten days—won not by numbers, but by renewed spirit—saved the Revolution when it seemed doomed. As many more thousands of civilians heard Paine's inspiring call to arms, re-enlistments surged. The Third Establishment of the Continental Army took shape for the winter war in Central New Jersey.

For the civilian population, the impact was profound. The pamphlet flew off the presses and spread like wildfire through the colonies. It shamed the “summer soldiers” and “sunshine patriots,” exposed hidden Tories, and rallied neutrals who had been sitting on the fence. Farmers who had been reluctant to supply the army now volunteered food, blankets, and horses. New recruits poured in. Paine's plain, powerful language—read in taverns, churches, and family parlors—reminded every American that freedom was not cheap, but worth any price. By turning despair into defiance, *The American Crisis* kept the flame of liberty alive through the darkest winter of the war.

Thomas Paine did not fire a musket at Trenton or Princeton, yet his pen proved mightier than any British bayonet. In fifteen minutes of reading and reflection, we have traveled from the edge of defeat to the first bright dawn of victory. Let us remember: these are still the times that try men's souls—and the words that once saved a nation can still inspire us today.

Thank you.

For more information, we recommend: **Tom Paine's War** by Jack Kelly



(End at 15:00—bow or step back.)

Appendix 2 - (10 Minute Talk) - Ten Crucial Days

The Ten Crucial Days that Changed History

Washington Crossing and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton

10-Minute Presentation Script



Read at a natural speaking pace of ~130 words per minute—this script is timed to run approximately 10 minutes when delivered aloud. Sections include approximate timings for easy pacing in a presentation or recording.

Introduction [0:00 – 1:30] 1.5 minutes

Imagine it is late December 1776—just six months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution is on the brink of collapse. British forces have crushed George Washington’s Continental Army in New York. His army has dwindled from over 18,000 to fewer than 8,000. Washington and his exhausted, hungry,, and freezing survivors march wearily south through New Jersey to escape the victorious British and Hessian army. Enlistments are set to expire on January 1, 1777. Many soldiers are ready to go home. Morale is shattered. Thomas Paine, marching with the troops, captures the moment in his new pamphlet *The American Crisis*: “These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.” The cause of liberty seems doomed—unless something miraculous happens. That miracle unfolds over the next ten days, from December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777: a lightning campaign known today as the Ten Crucial Days.

The Background and the Bold Gamble [1:30 – 3:30] 1.5 minutes

After devastating losses at Brooklyn, White Plains, and Fort Mifflin, Washington’s army limps across New Jersey. Under the command of General Charles Cornwallis, British General William Howe’s British Army and his Hessian auxiliaries—professional German troops hired by the British are shadowing the remnants of Washington’s beleaguered patriots. The Americans cross the icy Delaware River into Pennsylvania on December 7–8, commandeering or destroying all watercraft behind them to deter the enemy. They huddle on the Pennsylvania shore, short on food, blankets, and hope. Washington knows the game is nearly up. In a letter to his brother, he writes that unless “some miraculous feat” occurs, “the game is pretty much up.” But Washington refuses to quit. Believing the war was won, Howe does not press the attack. The enlistments of the remaining Americans are up at the end of the month; reinforcements and new recruits are not turning out. Accepting defeat, New Jersey citizens signed amnesty pledges by the thousands, faith in “The Cause” that had seemed so promising just six months prior at the signing of the Declaration of Independence seemed all but lost.

But Washington, saw an opportunity. The British have scattered their forces into outposts across New Jersey for the winter. The hubris of British commanders led them to underestimate the resolve and determination of Washington’s remaining corps. The 1,400

Hessians posted at Trenton, under Colonel Johann Rall, dismissed the Americans as beaten rabble. Washington's plan is audacious and complicated. There were to be three nighttime crossings. They would surround the Hessians and attack before dawn. On December 25, at McKonkey's ferry, nine miles north of Trenton, Washington assembled his best troops -- 2,400 of his most experienced soldiers for the main attack, with the two reserve corps in support. The officers knew, the password was literal -- "Victory or Death."

The Crossing, the March and the Battle of Trenton [3:30 – 5:30] 2 minutes

Both a blessing and a curse, that night, a nor'easter rages—sleet, snow, howling winds. While the Delaware River is choked with ice floes, and the men toil in darkness against the elements, the Hessian guard takes for granted that no one in their right mind would attack in such conditions. They curtail their patrols. But Washington was not in his right mind. He had no other options. What was at stake was indeed victory or death. Washington's men climb into heavy Durham boats, poled by the unsung heroes of the night, Delaware civilian Rivermen. The crossing takes nine grueling hours instead of the planned few. Washington's artillery chief, a 24-year-old Boston bookseller named Henry Knox, had convinced Washington to transport their overwhelming firepower of eighteen cannon. Given the conditions, the guns were critical. Known as the "foul weather weapon," they were essential. But this, too, slowed the crossing. By 3:30 am, the last of Knox's guns were wheeled onto the flat-bottom ferries. At 4 a.m. on December 26, the Americans begin a nine-mile march through the blizzard to Trenton. Three hours behind schedule, they arrive in Trenton at dawn. Due to the weather, the two supporting columns failed to cross, leaving Washington with only half his planned force for this battle. With no defensive redoubts, and unimaginable weather, the Hessians were caught completely off guard. As the scramble to form American artillery thunders down King and Queen Streets. In just 90 minutes, the battle is over. The Hessians suffered 22 killed, 83 wounded, and nearly 900 captured - Colonel Raul was mortally wounded. Two American soldiers are recorded as having perished from exposure on the march to the battle; a few are wounded in the fighting. The Americans seize desperately needed muskets, cannons, ammunition, and supplies. They march their prisoners back across the Delaware to Pennsylvania. It was George Washington's first battlefield victory ever, and the first major American victory in the northern theater of the war. News of the Battle of Trenton electrified the colonies and shocked the British. Washington collects almost 1,000 prisoners and crosses back to Pennsylvania victorious.

Act Two: Assunpink Creek and the Night March [5:30 – 7:30] 2 Minutes

Emboldened and determined to take back New Jersey, Washington recrosses the Delaware on December 30–31 with new recruits from Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia. British General Charles Cornwallis rushes south with 8,000 men to crush the upstart Americans once and for all. On January 2, 1777 the Battle of Assunpink Creek—Cornwallis slams into Washington's defensive line along the south bank of the creek. Three times the British charge across the bridge and frozen ground; three times the Americans hold. As night falls, Cornwallis is confident: "We've got the old fox trapped."

But Washington has one more trick. Leaving campfires burning brightly to fool the British, he quietly pulls his army out under the cover of darkness. They slip around Cornwallis's left flank on a back road and march 12 miles north toward Princeton.

The Battle of Princeton and the Escape to Morristown. [7:30 - 8:45] 1.25 hours

At dawn on January 3, Washington's tired but determined force collides with a British brigade marching to reinforce Cornwallis. The fighting is fierce. American General Hugh Mercer is mortally wounded. British bayonets push the Continentals back—until Washington himself rides forward on his white horse, rallying his men under a hail of fire. "It's a fine fox chase, my boys!" he shouts. The Americans counterattack. The British break. In just over an hour, nearly 400 redcoats are killed, wounded, or captured. Washington's losses are around 40–100. Cornwallis, realizing he has been outmaneuvered, races north but arrives too late. The British abandon most of New Jersey and retreat to New York. Washington leads his victorious army to winter quarters at Morristown. The Ten Crucial Days are over.

Significance to American History [8:45 – 10:00] 1.75 hours

These ten days did far more than win three battles. They saved the Continental Army from dissolution. Enlistments surged; thousands of new recruits and militia flocked to the cause. The victories proved that the Declaration of Independence was not empty words—that the "glorious Cause" might actually succeed. News raced across the colonies and across the Atlantic. France and other European powers began to take the Americans seriously. For the British, the embarrassment forced a strategic rethink. And for George Washington, the campaign cemented his reputation as a brilliant commander. Years later, after the British surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, Cornwallis would toast Washington, "When history shall have made up her verdict, the fairest laurels will be gathered for your Excellency, not from the shores of the Chesapeake, but from the banks of the Delaware."

The Ten Crucial Days were a turning point — the moment when all seemed lost, to all but Washington, became a triumphant counteroffensive. They kept the Revolution alive at its lowest ebb and set the stage for eventual victory in 1783. Today, these events remind us that American independence was not inevitable. It was won by ordinary soldiers enduring unimaginable hardship, led by a commander willing to risk everything on a frozen river and a midnight march. The Ten Crucial Days are not just military history—they are the heartbeat of the American story: resilience, audacity, and the refusal to quit when the odds seem impossible.

Thank you. That's the Ten Crucial Days in ten minutes—a chapter that truly changed the world.

For more information and resources, go to



Appendix 3 - (5 Minute Talk) - The Ten Crucial Days

The Ten Crucial Days that Changed History

Washington Crossing and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton

5-Minute Presentation Script



Introduction [0:00 – 0:45] 0.75 minutes

Picture late December 1776, just months after the Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution is in crisis—Washington’s Continental Army is battered, morale is low, and enlistments are about to expire. Thomas Paine captured the mood: “These are the times that try men’s souls.” The cause of liberty seems doomed—unless something miraculous happens. That miracle occurred over the next ten days: the Ten Crucial Days.

The Background and Washington’s Gamble [0:45 – 1:30] 0.75 minutes

After losses in New York, Washington’s army retreated across New Jersey, chased by British and Hessian forces. Crossing the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, Washington knew defeat seemed imminent. Yet, he saw an opportunity—the British had scattered their forces for winter, and the Hessians at Trenton were vulnerable. Washington resolved on a daring nighttime crossing and attack, risking everything for “Victory or Death.”

The Crossing and Battle of Trenton [1:30 – 2:15] 0.75 minutes

On Christmas night, Washington’s troops braved a brutal nor’easter to cross the ice-choked Delaware. Despite delays and harsh conditions, they surprised the Hessians at Trenton. In a brief, intense battle, the Americans captured nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers and essential supplies, winning Washington’s first victory and reigniting hope throughout the colonies. Immediately crossing back into Pennsylvania, Washington and his officers considered their next move.

Assunpink Creek and Princeton [2:15 – 3:15] 1 minute

Just seven days later, Washington recrossed the Delaware back into New Jersey again, this time with fresh troops. At Assunpink Creek in Trenton, his forces held firm against repeated British attacks. That night, Washington pulled off a stealthy escape, marching his army around the enemy to Princeton. There, the Americans fought fiercely, and Washington rallied his men, turning near defeat into victory. The British, shocked and outmaneuvered, retreated, and Washington’s army marched to winter quarters at Morristown.

Significance [3:15 – 4:45] 1.5 minutes

These victories saved the Continental Army, inspired thousands to enlist, and proved the fight for independence was not hopeless. The news spread quickly, leading France and other nations to take the Americans seriously and forcing the British to rethink their strategy. Washington's reputation as a leader was secured, and the Ten Crucial Days became a turning point in the Revolution.

The Ten Crucial Days remind us that American independence was won by perseverance, boldness, and the willingness to risk everything when the odds seemed impossible. It's a story of resilience that changed history.

Thank you. That's the Ten Crucial Days in five minutes—a chapter that truly changed the world.

For more information and resources, go to TenCrucialDays.org



SAR250 Logos

Use these images in programs or on other event promotional materials



Recommended for Readers

1. **TEN CRUCIAL DAYS: Washington's Vision for Victory Unfolds** by Larry Kidder (Knox, 2019). The most authoritative modern narrative on the Ten Crucial Days.
2. **FACING WASHINGTON'S CROSSING: The Hessians and the Battle of Trenton** by Steven Bier (Westholme, 2025)
3. **WINNING THE TEN CRUCIAL DAYS: The Keys to Victory in George Washington's Legendary Winter Campaign** by David Price (Brookline, 2025)
4. **WASHINGTON'S MARINES: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution** by Gen. Jason Bohm (Savas Beattie, 2023)
5. **THE INDISPENSABLES: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware** by Patrick K. O'Donnell (Grove 2021)
6. **THE ROAD TO ASSUNPINK CREEK: Liberty's Desperate Hour and the Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution** by David Price (Knox 2019).
7. **VICTORY OR DEATH: The Battles of Trenton and Princeton** by Mark Maloy (Savas Beattie, 2018) . Good overview and great for a self-guided tour.
8. **RESCUING THE REVOLUTION: Unsung Patriot Heroes and the Ten Crucial Days of America's War for Independence** by David Price (Knox 2016). Fascinating biographical vignettes about names clouded in history.
9. **TRENTON AND PRINCETON 1776-77: Washington Crosses the Delaware** by David Bonk (Osprey 2010)
10. **1776** by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster, 2006)
11. **WASHINGTON'S CROSSING** by David Hackett Fischer (Oxford, 2004) . Despite having included some of Stryker's challenged references, this is the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling book on the subject.
12. **THE LONG RETREAT: The Calamitous Defense of New Jersey, 1776** by Arthur S. Lefkowitz (Rutgers, 1998)
13. **THE DAY IS OURS! An Inside View of the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, November 1776-January 1777** by William M. Dwyer (Viking, 1983) ▼ Relies heavily on Stryker; written in a thrilling, journalistic style.
14. **THE WINTER SOLDIERS: The Battles for Trenton and Princeton** by Richard M. Ketchum. (Doubleday, 1973) ▼ Relies heavily on Stryker. Good military history for the modern reader
15. **THE BATTLE OF TRENTON/THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON: Two Studies** by Samuel Stelle Smith (Philip Freneau 1967) ▼
16. **THE BATTLES OF TRENTON AND PRINCETON** by William S. Stryker (Houghton Mifflin, 1898) ▼ The earliest history from which many following works have been based. While detailed, there are unsourced references that are either questionable or have since been proven inaccurate. Still, a must-read for anyone interested in the Ten Crucial Days.

▼ - Out of Print

Recommended for Young Readers

1. ***CROSSING THE DELAWARE: George Washington Fights the Battle of Trenton*** by Arlen Dean (Rosen 2004, Ages 5 – 9) Buy
2. ***WHEN WASHINGTON CROSSED THE DELAWARE*** by Lynne Cheney (Simon & Schuster 2012, Ages 5 – 9) Buy
3. ***REVOLUTIONARY WAR ON WEDNESDAY: Magic Tree House #22*** by Mary Pope Osborne (Random House 2000, Ages 6 – 9) Buy
4. ***THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FOR KIDS: A History with 21 Activities*** by Janis Herbert (Chicago Review 2002) (Ages 6 – 9) Buy
5. ***IF YOU WERE A KID DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*** by Wil Mara (Scholastic 2016) (Ages 6 – 9) Buy
6. ***THE CROSSING: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution*** by Jim Murphy (Scholastic 2016, Ages 8 – 12) Buy
7. ***CROSSING THE DELAWARE: A History in Many Voices*** by Louise Peacock (Aladdin 2007, Ages 8 – 12) Buy
8. ***GEORGE WASHINGTON: The Crossing*** by Jack E. Levin, Mark R. Levin (Threshold 2013, Ages 8 – 12) Buy
9. ***TIME ENOUGH FOR DRUMS*** by Ann Rinaldi (Laurel Leaf 2000, Fiction, Ages 12+ -)

Musical



Resources

Maps, Videos, Art, Tours, Orders of Battle, Muster Roll, Calendar, Links, etc.

