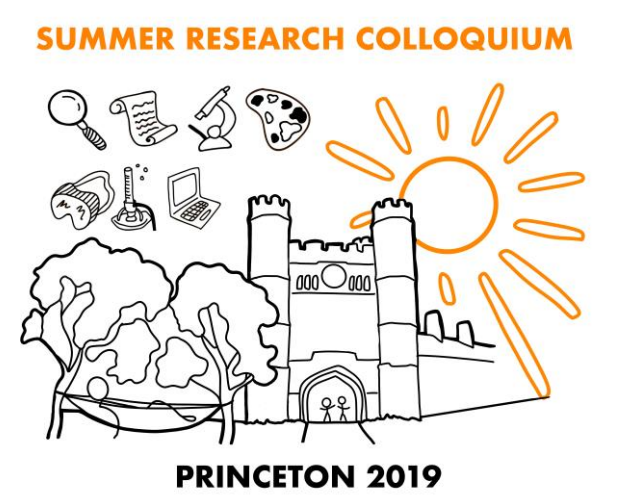
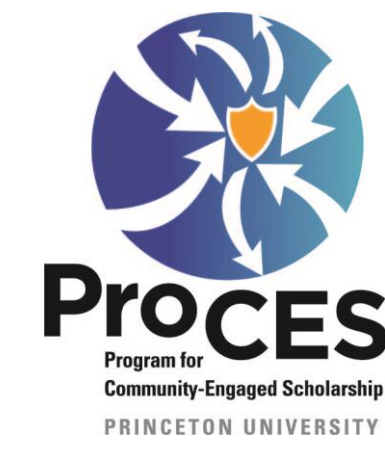


18th Century Princeton Digital Walking Tour

Abbie Minard, Historical Society of Princeton



Background

46 “green oval” plaques on 18th century structures in the Princeton area.

- A project of the Bicentennial celebration, 1976
- No interpretive materials before now

Research Goals

- Paint the history of Princeton in fine strokes (stories of individuals) and broad strokes (larger thematic)
- Tell a *complete* history – bring forth the stories of as many women, yeoman, enslaved people, and others as we can find sources for
- Provide interesting anecdotes and careful scholarship to tour-goers



Green oval plaque indicating buildings on the tour. Image features Stony Brook Bridge.

Research Methods

Throughout the research process, I consulted the following source types:

- HSP manuscript collections
- Architectural surveys
- Secondary accounts / local histories
- Historical newspapers
- Ancestry records

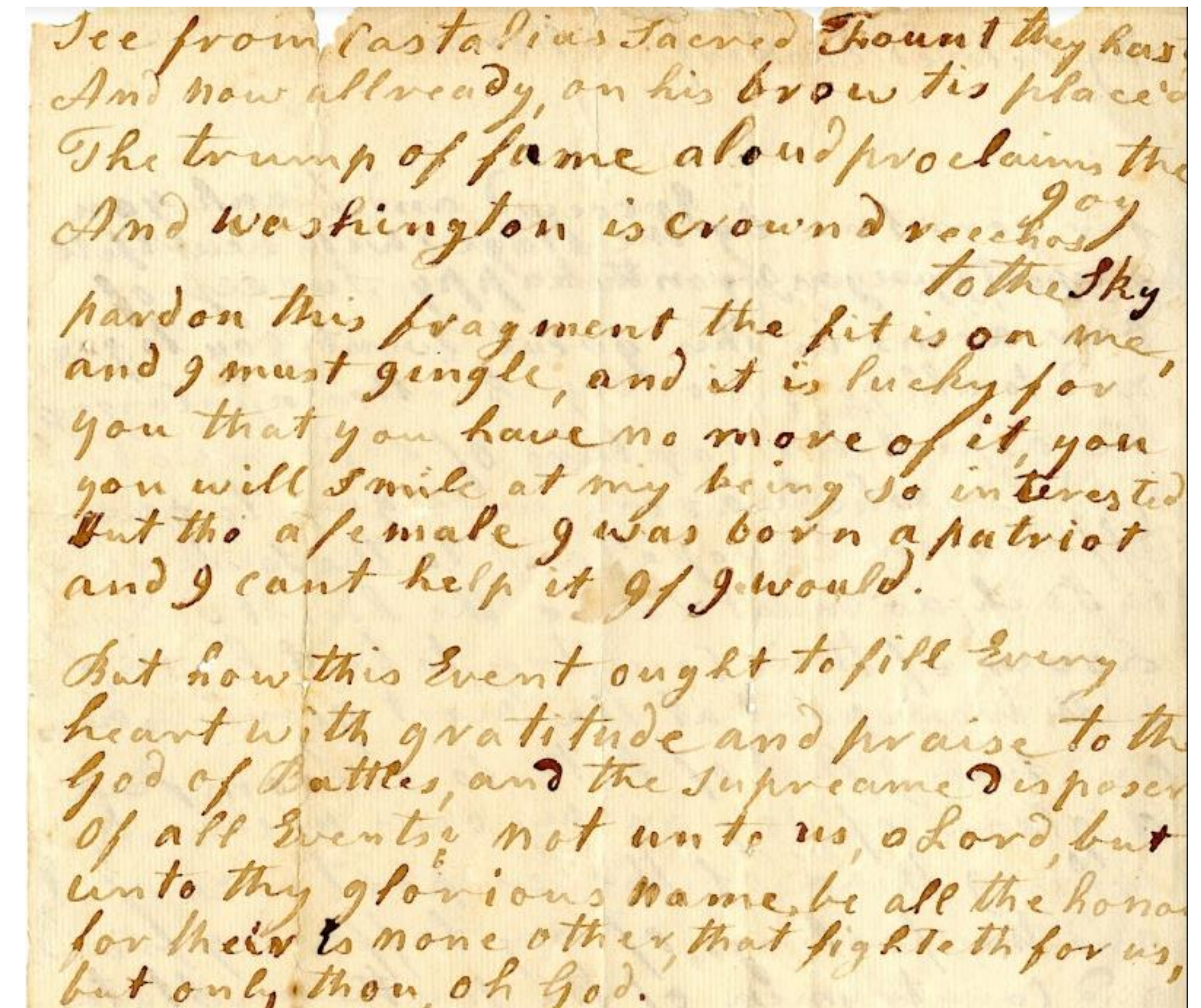
Tour Structure

Sites are grouped into thematic categories, which together illustrate the larger Princeton story:

- Kingston Mill District
- Early Stony Brook
- The Next Generation’s Yeoman Farmers
- The Emergence of Princeton Extravagance
- The College
- The Growth of Nassau Street
- Jugtown

Conclusion or Discussion

Princeton’s 18th century history, often simplified to the settlement of six Quaker families in Stony Brook, is a much more varied story. Princeton was a former Native American thoroughfare and later a busy stop for European travelers; it was home to common farmers, wealthier landowners, and enslaved people alike; it also saw pockets of industry on top of its fame as an intellectual hub.



Letter from Princeton poet Annis Boudinout Stockton, of the property Morven, to her brother, president of the Continental Congress who brought the U.S capitol to Princeton in 1783. Notable text in image is her line “but tho a female I was born a patriot and I cant help it if I would.”

Acknowledgments

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References

Stockton letter from the collections of the Historical Society of Princeton.