

Students Commemorate 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Crooked Billet Ceremony

Crooked Billet Elementary School students donned their Colonial Era bonnets and hats in honor of the Revolutionary War heroes who fought for freedom on the school grounds 245 years ago, on May 1, 1778.

The annual Crooked Billet Day ceremony, for Pre-K through fifth grade students, opened with students raising the American flag and laying a tribute wreath at the Crooked Billet monument in front of the school.



During the ceremony, fifth grade students provided the background of the Battle of Crooked Billet. The battle occurred when revolutionaries under the command of General John Lacey were attacked in the early morning hours by the British Redcoats, led by Lieutenant Colonel Abercromby. The rebel troops had stopped on what is now school land to rest during their journey to deliver fresh food to troops at Valley Forge. Twenty-six of them died in the surprise attack, including John Downey, a young schoolmaster.

The outdoor ceremony concluded with fifth-graders taking the floor and dancing a colonial line dance.



Additionally, there were two assemblies for students to attend that day. Noah Lewis portrayed Edward “Ned” Hector, an African American soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War. He spoke to students about himself and the culture during the war.

Northampton County Historical Impressions provided K-5 students with a variety of presentations on topics such as culture, life of a soldier, spies in the army, experiences of a surgeon and doctor in the army, and so on. Students rotated through three of four of these sessions in 15 minute increments.

“Students look forward to celebrating and honoring the heroes of the Battle of Crooked Billet each year,” said Principal Kelli Sendel.