supply train to Burlington to be ferried over to Pennsylvania. General Knox, the chief of artillery declared that the roads were in such a condition that the trains could not reach Burlington, and that the artillery could not possibly move across the country to New Brunswick. The council broke up without action being taken. Later in the night the temperature became cold and windy and the soft ground became hard enough for travel. Washington taking counsel only of his own brave heart, ordered his baggage and supply trains to move to Burlington. To deceive the British he left a small detail to keep up the camp fires, while he with his men moved quietly off to Sandtown and thence took the Quaker Bridge road, and as the sun rose over the hills on the morning of January 3rd, 1777, the head of the column appeared at Princeton. Colonel Mawhood was in command of the British force at Princeton, which consisted of three regiments, the 17th, 40th and 55th Regulars. They had received orders to march to Lawrenceville, or if necessary to Trenton, in support of Cornwallis. Colonel Mawhood with the 17th had crossed Stony Brook bridge near the residence of Mr. Joseph H. Bruere, and were hastening toward Lawrenceville. Washington ordered General Mercer to take 400 men and seize and destroy the bridge to prevent the British at Princeton from proceeding to Trenton, and also to prevent the British at Trenton from attacking his rear. Mawhood saw the movement, and countermarching his column, recrossed the bridge and crossing the fields attacked Mercer. The forces were nearly equally divided, but the American soldiers were poorly equipped. Mawhood advanced and delivered a volley against the forces under Mercer, posted behind a rail fence, and then charged with fixed bayonets. Mercer’s horse was shot under him, and he while fighting gallantly on foot at the head of his men was knocked down by a British soldier with a clubbed musket, and bayoneted thirteen times as he lay unconscious on the ground.

Mawhood then, flushed with success, advanced to attack the rest of the American forces, but a battery which had been planted by Washington soon caused him to turn and retreat. Washington for a time was himself between the fire of the two armies and his staff expected to see him fall, but when the smoke had rolled away he was seen calm and immovable as he led his men on to victory. In this affair the British lost about fifty killed and all their artillery.

The Stony Brook bridge was now completely destroyed and Washington and his forces advanced on Princeton. The two British regiments at Princeton upon the approach of Washington took refuge in old Nassau Hall. Washington ordered them to surrender, and upon their refusal brought up his infantry to drive them out. A battery being planted, the first shot went booming