

Voices of the 250th Interview with Samantha Libby,

06-18-2026

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Samantha Libby and Cliff Robinson conducted on June 18, 2026. The interview took place at Dohm Alley in Princeton, NJ as part of the Voices of Princeton Project.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

TRANSCRIPT

Cliff Robinson: [00:00:00] My name is Cliff Robinson. Could you please state your name?

Samantha Libby: [00:00:03] I'm Samantha Libby.

Cliff Robinson: [00:00:05] Samantha, how did you come to Princeton, and how long have you been here?

Samantha Libby: [00:00:08] So I'm a student in the area, and I've been here roughly around two years now.

Cliff Robinson: [00:00:14] Okay, excellent. So, what does the 250th anniversary of the United States mean to you personally? Does it feel like a significant milestone? Why or why not? What would make it more meaningful for you?

Samantha Libby: [00:00:29] The United States 250th, it's important. It means a lot to me personally, being a historian and seeing how far we have come from just being British colonies to now where we are at in this climate, I feel that it would make it more meaningful having more of a connection between its people, being the United States that we always have claimed to be, yet there's still such great discourse and great separation in how we hold each other accountable, how we work with each other, and just overall, just how we function as a society in the United States.

Cliff Robinson: [00:01:18] Okay, thanks. So, do you feel like the revolution of 1776 is still relevant today, or is it a thing of the past? Are there ways in which it feels like an unfinished project?

Samantha Libby: [00:01:29] I'm always saying that there's nothing that's ever actually finished or done. It's just always evolving. So I would say that the spirit of 1776 and the revolution is very relevant today, and that it's still always evolving as we evolve. So it does feel like an unfinished project right now. Yes.

Cliff Robinson: [00:01:52] Excellent. Thank you. Okay. Is there anything else that we haven't talked about, but you wish to include in your interview? For example, are there stories about Princeton's past which you feel aren't well known enough.

Samantha Libby: [00:02:02] Honestly, right now, no. But I would love to hear more about those unknown histories in Princeton's past.

Cliff Robinson: [00:02:10] Excellent. Thank you so much.

[END OF INTERVIEW]