

# A Tour of the Generals' Quarters

Mike Bertram and Tim Lander

The Valley Forge encampment of December 1777 – June 1778 has been a favorite topic of the *Quarterly* since it commenced publication in 1937. The residences of the generals, in particular, has been addressed on multiple occasions, starting with the fifth issue of the first volume, published in October 1938. A story in that issue recounts a field trip undertaken by members of the Tredyffrin Easttown History Club in the prior year. Such trips were common during that era of the club, when membership was much smaller than today and the logistics of traveling as a group were less daunting. On this occasion, the members toured the sites of the officers' quarters, following the route depicted by the map on the opposite page. The October 1938 article provided a brief description of each stop on the tour, as in the following excerpt, which picks up after stop #4, Stirling's Quarters:

5. Continue on Yellow Springs road to west border of Senator Knox's estate, turn right on Wilson road, cross creek bridge, Maj. Gen. Lafayette's quarters on the right. #5 on map. (Then home of Samuel Havard, now of Harry Wilson. Marquis de Lafayette and his staff occupied two rooms, but not constantly.)

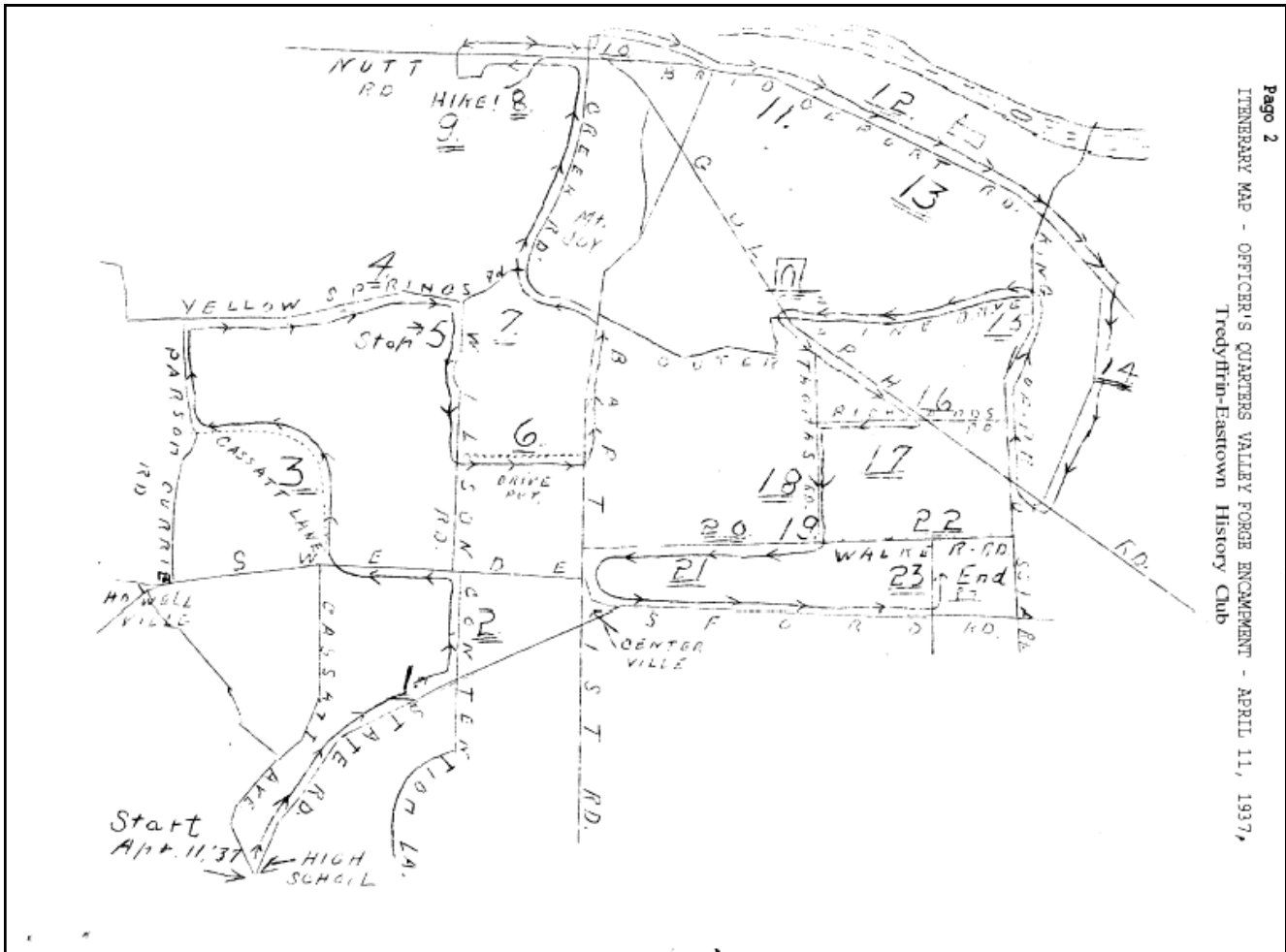
6. Continue on the Berwyn or Wilson road to top of rise, turn left on private land. Brig. Gen. Duportail's quarters on left. #6 on map. (Then home of John Havard, now Pennsylvania University Farm. Count Louis Chevalier Duportail was in command of the Engineers on the west side of the Valley Creek near its mouth.) The original house is said to have been built in 1740, represented on the lower floor by the dining room made by removing the partition between the old parlor and kitchen, and the bedrooms above. This is the house known to Duportail. The present house exhibits three distinct periods of early architecture.

As you can see, Lafayette's quarters was a private residence at that time, owned by a member of the Wilson family whose name lives on in Wilson Farm Park. Wilson Road was also navigable in its entirety at the time, and did not pass underneath the then-nonexistent Pennsylvania Turnpike. Duportail's Quarters was under the ownership of the University of Pennsylvania, a story recounted in *Quarterly* Vol. 48, No. 3.

In 1954, the *Quarterly* printed an article based on the 1937 tour, with more detail on the generals and their quarters. The article was accompanied by sketches of the houses drawn by History Club Vice President Franklin W. Wandless, who used 1902 photos by Lucy Sampson as the basis for his illustrations. Below is his drawing of cabins used by some of the officers, in the vicinity of the present Washington Memorial Chapel.



The 1954 article (Vol. 8, No. 2) was generous enough to include the quarters of British generals Howe, Knyphausen, Agnew, Grey, Grant, and Cornwallis. The homes used by Howe and Knyphausen were later used by generals of the Continental Army.



In 1990, the History Club embarked on another tour of generals' quarters, and published an article in Vol. 28 No. 1 titled "Some Distinguished Neighbors." The members wrote brief stories for each of the fourteen locations visited, and those stories are reprinted in this issue.

The primary contribution made by this issue is the addition of photographs, something that was not routinely done in the *Quarterly* until the late 1990s, due to the poor resolution of the printing process then in use. For a presentation to the Historical Society in February 2012, Mike Bertram compiled a roster of photos of the generals' quarters from the early 20th century, and those are reproduced on the following pages, along with more recent images of the houses.

And so we have in this issue a "virtual tour" following a route that uses current roads, with text, photos, and a few drawings from 1937, 1954, 1990, and 2012. No matter how often this topic is revisited, we always seem to learn something new.

Before we begin, it is necessary to provide some background on how we have come to associate the various officers with their respective quarters. A number of the assignments are based solely on oral history. Written information on the quarters can be split into two categories: primary sources, provided by people who actually participated in the encampment; and secondary sources, which are reports based on information from actual participants. The primary sources are potentially more reliable than the secondary sources, and should be given more weight in interpreting the evidence.

Primary sources can also be split into two types: first, those written at the time of the encampment; and second, those written from memory at a later date. Clearly the latter could suffer from the frailty of human memory. There are many writings from the encampment. Unfortunately, although there are a number of references to generals' quarters in these writings, they do not provide specific details about their locations.

One of the most valuable primary sources is General Weedon's orderly book, available online at Google Books, which includes a unique record of the daily activities in the encampment. Weedon mentions a variety of topics, such as courts martial (a surprisingly common occurrence), provisions, and a systematic record of the officers of the day. These posts rotated among the generals, providing valuable insight into the presence of the various senior officers throughout the duration of their stay at Valley Forge. One exception to this is the case of Major General Charles Lee. He did not arrive at Valley Forge until April 1778. This was after the discontinuation of the designation of Major Generals as officers of the day. The Brigadier Generals continued to assume the officer of the day position in rotation. The fact that several other generals are never mentioned as being officer of the day calls into question their involvement with the encampment.

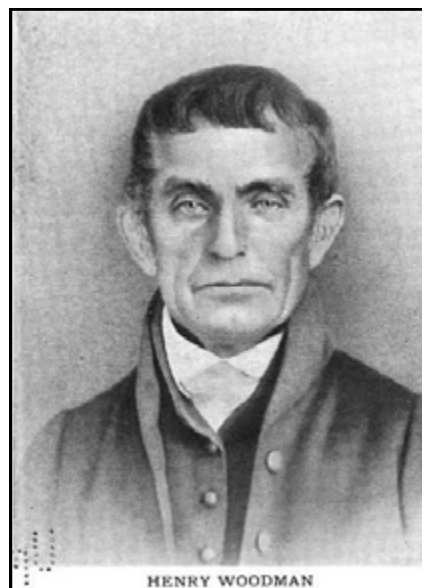
The earliest record of the location of quarters is the William Davis map. It was not drawn at the time of the encampment but rather at a later date. William Davis participated in the encampment, and later lived in one of the homes used as a general's quarters. While most maps of the encampment show the location of the troops, the Davis map is unique in that it shows the officers' quarters as well. A detailed discussion of the map and a biography of William Davis will be given in a future *Quarterly* article.

The primary secondary source is Henry Woodman's articles from 1850, which were later published in book form as *The History of Valley Forge* (available online at Google Books). Woodman's father, Edward Woodman, served in the Continental Army at Valley Forge and later lived in the encampment area, as did Henry. Woodman's articles include significant information on the generals' quarters, but are mainly based on his memories of stories told to him by relatives and neighbors over the many years since the encampment. The material provided by Woodman is invaluable, but it has to be remembered that it is a secondary source. It includes contradictions and some dubious statements that do not align with other evidence.

There are also many secondary sources that give no references and must be considered of questionable quality. The usefulness of such material in a systematic analysis is very limited.

There is another type of primary information source: the county records, including tax returns and deeds. These have been analyzed to produce a map showing the ownership and boundaries of the properties in Tredyffrin Township in 1777 (the map is available in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Tredyffrin section of the Society's website). The properties containing generals' quarters can be highlighted on this map and on similar maps that are available for Upper Merion. It is clear from this analysis that every house within the encampment area (as defined by the picket line) was occupied by a general. This was not a haphazard selection of quarters, but a systematic choice of the available housing by those who planned the encampment. The quarters of Generals Scott, Woodford, and Muhlenberg were outside the picket line, but still a short distance away from camp.

The 1937 tour began at the Tredyffrin Easttown High School, which was on the site of today's T/E Middle School, so that is where we will start. Directions to our first destination are found overleaf. Directions to each of the quarters are shown in italics to facilitate navigation for those who choose to follow the route in person.



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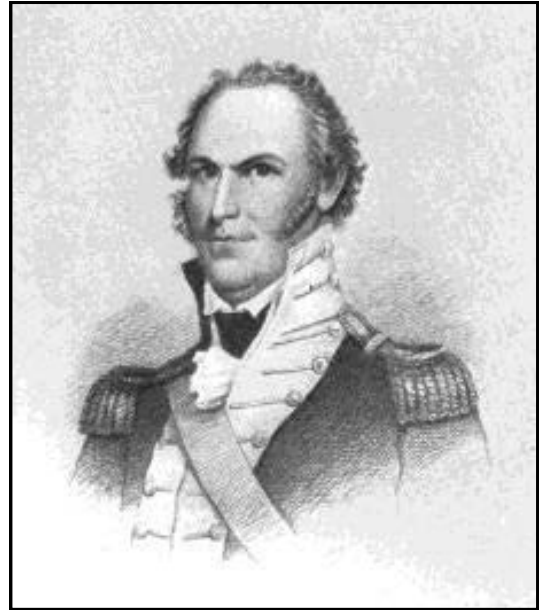
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## Brigadier General Charles Scott

*From Tredyffrin Easttown Middle School, we cross Conestoga Road and head north on Cassatt Road, turn right on Old State Road, and proceed downhill to Hickory Lane. At the time of the first tour in 1937, Old State crossed the Pennsylvania Railroad's Trenton Cutoff at a grade crossing. Since the crossing no longer exists, we'll turn right when we reach Hickory Lane, then turn left on Contention Lane, and left again on Old State Rd. Our destination is opposite Teegarden Park.*

Scott's quarters was the first stop on the 1937 and 1990 tours, and History Club member Nelson Klose provided the following write-up after the 1990 tour:

Charles Scott had his quarters in the home of Samuel Jones during the hard winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge. (The house, incidentally, had also served as General Sir William Howe's headquarters during the British occupation of Tredyffrin prior to the capture of Philadelphia.)



General Scott was a frontier-type of leader. He is less well known than many of the other generals we associate with Valley Forge, but he served a long and creditable career in public life. He began his career at only 17 years of age when he became a non-commissioned officer under George Washington in the Braddock campaign. He ended his long career in public service as governor of Kentucky. He died at the age of 74.

Scott raised several companies of volunteers in Virginia and commanded them at Williamsburg, Virginia in July of 1775. In the next year he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of a Virginia regiment, and reached the rank of Colonel the following year. In 1777 he was commissioned Brigadier General in the Continental Army, and spent the greater part of the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge serving under Baron von Steuben.

Scott is mentioned frequently but rather incidentally in my sources. This is especially true in connection with the Battle of Monmouth Court House in New Jersey. He served there under the English-born General Charles Lee, but was in no way associated with the questionable, and possibly traitorous, conduct of Lee, whose inactivity permitted the British and General Clinton to escape at Monmouth. Scott testified at Lee's court-martial as to Lee's exasperating conduct during the battle.

In 1780 Scott was captured at Charleston, South Carolina and paroled until being exchanged near the close of the war. In 1783 he received the rank of Major General.

In that same year, Scott was appointed to survey western lands for the soldiers of the Revolution. In 1785 he moved to Kentucky, and four years later represented Woodford County in the Virginia Assembly. (Kentucky had not yet become a separate state.)

From 1790 to 1794 Scott served in General "Mad" Anthony Wayne's campaign in the Northwest Territory against the Indians, and was at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

He continued his interest in public affairs after Fallen Timbers, and was four times chosen a presidential elector from Kentucky (by that time a separate state). In 1808 he won election as governor of Kentucky for a four-year term.

In summary, Scott was very much a rugged frontier type. He had only a rudimentary education, but on the frontier gained a practical knowledge. He was frank and unpretentious in personality. At the age of about 22, he married in Virginia and had several children. After his wife died, he remarried

within three years.

He died in Clark County, Kentucky in 1813.



Date and photographer unknown, but possibly taken by Lucy Sampson, prior to the fire of the 1920s. *From the TEHS Archives.*

At Valley Forge, Scott commanded a brigade of troops from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The stone farmhouse was owned by Samuel Jones in 1777. According to the Glass Tax records of 1798, it was 28' by 28', had two stories and two kitchens. It is interesting to note that all of the homes used as generals' quarters are listed as stone houses in 1798, where only half of all houses in Tredyffrin were stone at that time. This may indicate that farmers in the vicinity of Valley Forge were wealthier than most other residents. The original Jones house burned in the 1920s and was rebuilt. It remains a private residence.

Also of note, the property was the original site of the Jones Log Barn, which has been disassembled and awaits rebuilding at the site of Duportail's quarters in Chesterbrook.



The current house, in a 1989 photo from the TEHS archives.

## Brigadier General William Woodford

*Leaving Scott's Quarters, we'll return to Contention Lane, turn left, and proceed about two blocks to the Woodford quarters, on our right.* General Woodford commanded a brigade of Virginia soldiers at the time of the encampment. Lloyd Magill provided this summary after the 1990 tour:

The house in which Brigadier General William Woodford made his quarters during the Valley Forge encampment was built by Rowland Richards sometime between 1708 and 1722. The original structure, the east wing of the present building, had just two rooms, one above the other. A ladder led to the second floor, through a trap door that could be closed, and a bed put over it, in the event of attack by Indians.

In 1720 the property was inherited by his son Samuel Richards, who added to the house to provide room for his mother who lived with him. In 1764 it became the property of Samuel Richards' son, also Samuel Richards, the owner at the time of the encampment. (From September 18 to September 20, during the British occupation of the area, General Baron von Knyphausen had his quarters in the house; three months later the American general, William Woodford, moved in.)



General Woodford was born in Virginia in 1734. His father, a major in the British army, had emigrated to this country in the late 1600s.

During the French and Indian War, Woodford served as an officer. After the war he was a justice of the peace in Virginia. In 1762 he married Mary Thornton, a niece of George Washington.

Beginning in 1774 he served on several patriot committees, including the Virginia Committee of Safety, and in the following year was a member of the Virginia Convention and appointed a Colonel in the 3d Virginia Regiment. In October he repulsed an attempt by Governor Dunmore to burn Hampton, and in December his troops defeated a force of British regulars and loyalists at Great Bridge and at Norfolk.

He was commissioned a Brigadier General by the Continental Congress in February 1776, commanding the 1st Virginia Brigade. The brigade joined Washington's army in Boston, and after the evacuation of that city continued with the main army in New York and northern New Jersey.

On September 10, 1777 he was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine, but recovered in time to take part in the Battle of Germantown. He was also in the Battle of Monmouth after the Continental Army left Valley Forge in June of 1778.

In December 1779 General Woodford, with 700 Virginia troops, was sent by Washington for the relief of Charleston, South Carolina. With his men he marched 500 miles in twenty-eight days to reach his new post! He was captured with the Charleston garrison in the following May by the British, and evacuated to a prison in New York where he died on November 13, 1780.





Glass Tax records show a structure 26' by 21', with two floors and 21 windows. There is a date stone marking the addition as being built in 1722. The home is a private residence today, and an old barn still exists on the grounds. It should be noted that some records hold that Woodford was quartered in the house currently known as Duportail's quarters, including the 1908 photo at left by R. L. P. Reifsneider. Most sources are in agreement that the Contention Lane home is the correct address.

Above: Duportail House. *TEHS Archives*.

At right: The Contention Lane house in the early 1900s. Photographer unknown, but perhaps another by Lucy Sampson, who frequently posed residents with their homes. *TEHS Archives*.



Below: The current house, as photographed by Mike Bertram in 2009.



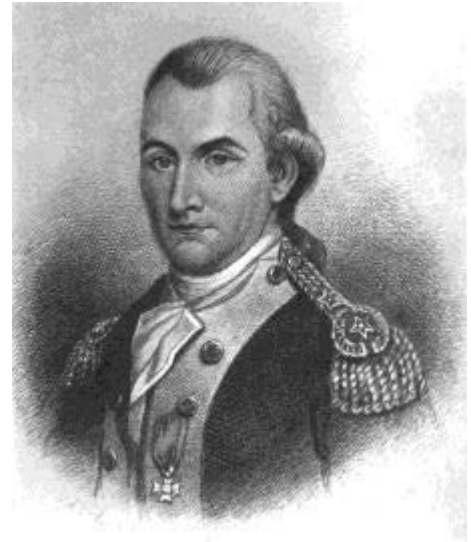


## Brigadier General Louis Lebègue Duportail

*Proceeding north on Contention Lane, we cross the single lane bridge over the former Chester Valley Railroad, soon to become the Chester Valley Trail. Turning right on Swedesford Road, then left on Valley Forge Road, we pass Valley Forge Middle School and proceed to the Green Hills entrance of Chesterbrook, turning left on Adams Drive. A sign for Duportail House marks our next stop.* The subject of several *Quarterly* articles, the home was described as follows by Skip Eichner after the 1990 tour:

A farm house built in 1740 by John Havard for his family served as the quarters for General Duportail during the Valley Forge encampment.

Louis Lebegue de Presle Duportail was born at Pithviere in France in 1743, the son of a French nobleman and lawyer. He was trained as an engineer, and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the French army. When Benjamin Franklin requested the services of trained military personnel for the young Continental Army, Duportail was one of five officers given a leave of absence and made available for duty.



He joined the American army in February 1777, and nine months later was made a Brigadier General and named chief of the engineers. Prior to the occupation of Valley Forge in December, he was sent to the site of the encampment to prepare defensive positions and prepare for the encampment. His map of Valley Forge, found many years later, provided much information on the location of the various units during that winter, as well as on the fortifications that were erected for its defense.

After the army left Valley Forge, General Duportail directed the engineering operations at Monmouth and worked on the defenses around Philadelphia. In March of 1780 he was sent south to plan the defense of Charleston, but arrived too late to be a factor there. He was taken prisoner of war in May, but was exchanged the following November and participated in the Yorktown campaign.

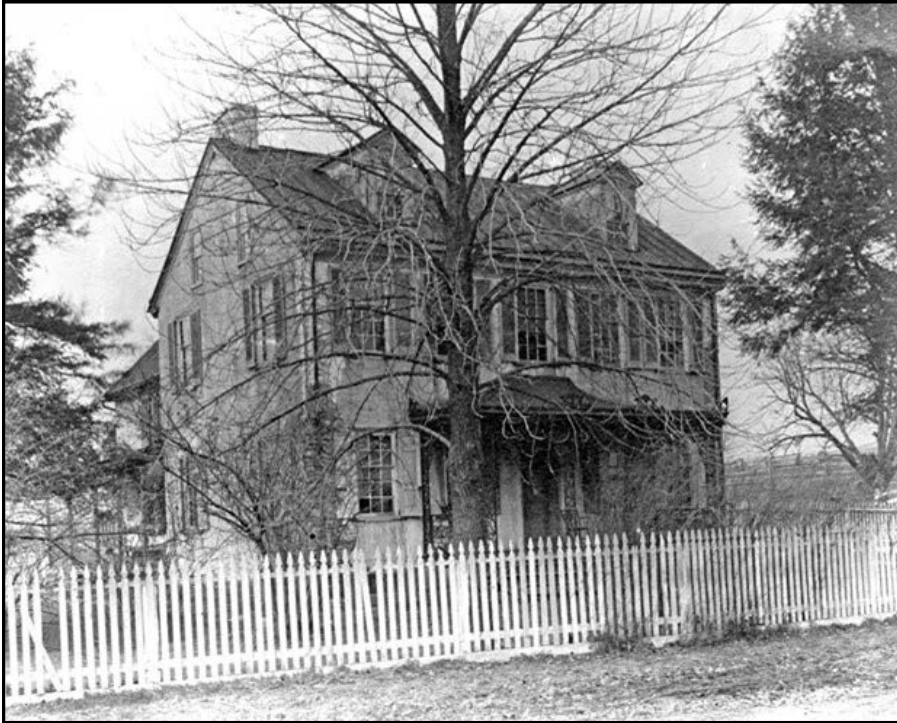
In October 1783 he resigned from the American army, rejoining the French army with the rank of brigadier general. In November 1790 he was named Minister and Secretary of State for War in the French government, but held the position for only a little more than a year.

When he learned that political charges had been brought against him, he went into hiding for two years before escaping to America, settling on a 250-acre farm near Valley Forge (in what is now Bridgeport). Although the charges against him were later dropped in 1797, he continued to live in America and make it his home.

On a trip back to France in 1802 he died on ship board, at the age of 69, and was buried at sea.

To be more accurate, Duportail's ship was lost at sea on his return to France.

The Glass Tax records show a two-story house, 30' by 18', with additional outbuildings. Duportail House is now owned by its board of directors. It is rented to private parties in order to raise funds for maintenance, and is open to the public for various events, as well as for open houses on most Sunday afternoons. Guests may



Front elevation of Duportail's quarters, showing the 19th century addition. Photo by William Burwell. *TEHS Archives*.

enjoy the grounds whenever an event is not underway. The Duportail board is actively seeking volunteers to assist with gardening and other maintenance, affording members of the general public the opportunity to help preserve this piece of local history.



Duportail House, in a 2006 photo by Mike Bertram.

## Major General Charles Lee Colonel William Bradford

*We depart the Duportail property and turn right on Chesterbrook Boulevard, passing Jefferson Lane and turning right on Bradford Road. The Lee-Bradford house is on the left, at the sign for the Picket Post Swim and Tennis Club. Bob Goshorn wrote the following for the 1990 tour:*

The home of David Havard was used as the quarters of General Charles Lee and Colonel William Bradford at the time of the Valley Forge encampment.

While it is known as the Lee-Bradford quarters, General Lee in fact used the farm house as his quarters for a only a brief period, from April to June 1778. Before that he had been a prisoner of war by the British, having been captured at Basking Ridge in New Jersey in November 1776.

Charles Lee was a professional soldier, and the second highest ranking officer in the Continental Army. He was born in England in 1731, and educated in schools in England and Switzerland. At the age of 16 he joined his father's regiment as an ensign, and four years later became a lieutenant in the 44th Regiment of Foot. During the French and Indian War he was with General Braddock's ill-fated campaign, and later was wounded at Fort Ticonderoga, but recovered in time to take part in the capture of Niagara and Montreal.

Returning to England, he was appointed a major in the 103d Regiment, and served with distinction under General Burgoyne in Portugal. He then resigned from the British army at half-pay and became a soldier of fortune in the Polish army, advancing to the rank of major general in 1767.

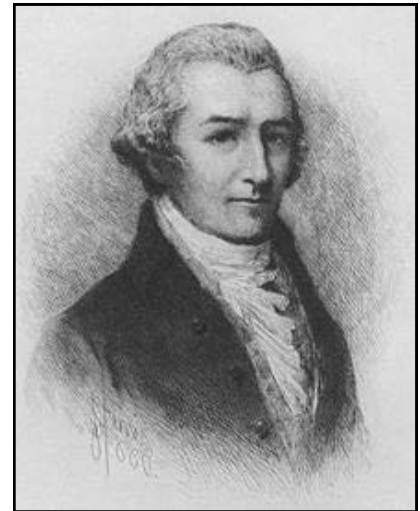
Lee came to America in 1773, and immediately became interested in the revolutionary cause. In June 1775 he was appointed a Major General in the Continental Army by the Continental Congress, which also agreed to compensate him for whatever losses he might suffer from the confiscation of his property in England.

After serving in the siege of Boston, he was sent to oppose the British in the south, supervising the defense of South Carolina and Georgia. Returning to the main body of the army in October 1776, he was overtly critical of his superior officers, and in disagreement with the overall American strategy. Captured at a tavern at Basking Ridge, NJ, while a prisoner of war he prepared a document showing how to defeat the American army by controlling the middle colonies and thus "unhinge the organization of the American resistance." In April 1778, his exchange for the British Major General Prescott was arranged by Colonel Elias Boudinot.

He rejoined the army at Valley Forge, but in the Monmouth campaign withdrew his troops without warning and for no apparent reason. In a court-martial that followed, he was found guilty of disobedi-



Charles Lee, above, and William Bradford, below.





The quarters of Generals Bradford and Lee, early 1900s. *TEHS Archives*.

ence of orders, misbehavior before the enemy, and disrespect to the Commander-in-Chief, and was dismissed from the army for a year. He never returned to the army, and in January 1780 was formally dismissed.

He lived the remaining two years of his life at his Prado Verde estate in Virginia. He is buried at Christ Church in Philadelphia.

Before Charles Lee's arrival at Valley

Forge, the David Havard house was the quarters of Colonel Boudinot and three members of the Bradford family.

Colonel Boudinot, a successful lawyer before the Revolution, was the commissary general of prisoners, responsible for the arrangements for the care of prisoners of war. (As noted earlier, he also negotiated the exchange of General Lee.)

The three members of the Bradford family were two brothers, William and Thomas Bradford, and their father, also William Bradford. Thomas Bradford was one of Colonel Boudinot's deputies, while the younger William Bradford, a brother-in-law of Colonel Boudinot, was deputy muster master general.

Their father, sometimes referred to as "the patriot printer of 1776," had been the editor and publisher of the *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, one of the most widely circulated newspapers in colonial America, and a prominent voice in opposition to Britain; at the age of 56 he had given up his printing business and joined the 2nd Battalion of the Pennsylvania militia as a major.



Photo by Mike Bertram, 2009.

Glass tax records indicate a two-story building with a 36' by 20' footprint, a washhouse, and other outbuildings. The house is currently used as a clubhouse by the Picket Post Swim and Tennis Club, with memberships open to anyone in the area, not just residents of Chesterbrook. The club also operates a clubhouse and pool on Chase Road in the Springdell Village area of Chesterbrook. The Chase Road facilities are on the grounds of the former Yohn farm, covered by an article in the *Quarterly* Vol. 44, No. 3.

## Major General William Alexander, Lord Stirling

*Retracing our route back to Chesterbrook Boulevard, we turn right, then right again on Duportail Road. Right once more on Mill Road to its terminus at Yellow Springs Road, and then right another time. If it seems as if we are going in circles, you may thank the Pennsylvania Turnpike, whose construction in the early 1950s created a barrier between homes that were previously a short walk from each other. Stirling's quarters are located on the left side of Yellow Springs Road, inside the Valley Forge Park boundary. Janet Malin provided a write-up after the 1990 tour:*



William Alexander, by birth William, Earl of Stirling, was born in New York City in 1726. He was a son of James Alexander, Lord Stirling, who fled from Scotland in 1716 after the War of the Pretender, and served as surveyor-general for New York and New Jersey. He supervised his son's education, and left him an ample fortune.

General Stirling, who signed all his papers "Lord Stirling" and was so addressed by General Washington, was a trained mathematician. Possessed of military spirit, he distinguished himself in the French and Indian War.

After the war he went to Europe and took the necessary steps to establish his claim to the Scottish earldom, as his father was direct heir to the title if not to the estate, in part to receive the legal rights to land grants which had been given some years before to his ancestors. He received support from influential people, and was recognized as the Earl of Stirling. [Editor's note: apparently the House of Lords failed to approve his rights to the land grants due to members of the royal family staking a claim to the property, which included vast tracts in New England and Canada.]

He returned to New York in 1761 and became interested in King's College [now Columbia University], of which he was a governor.

In 1764 he took an active part in opposing the Stamp Act. He had established homes in both New York and Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and was very much interested in the iron industry in New Jersey, where he was engaged as surveyor-general, and was a member of the Council of New Jersey. In 1770 he also opposed the Coercion Act, and in 1775 urged the people of New Jersey to defend their liberties as had the people of Massachusetts. Because of his military experience, he was placed in command of the 1st Military Regiment of New Jersey. (When Governor Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, learned of this appointment, he dubbed Colonel Stirling as "rebellious".) Colonel Stirling was also commissioned a Colonel by the Continental Congress, in command of the first two regiments of Continental soldiers in New Jersey. He raised his quota of men and began drilling them into a military organization.

Shortly afterwards, General Washington asked Colonel Stirling for troops to support General Lee in New York. On March 1, 1776, Lord Stirling was promoted to Brigadier General. When General Lee departed for the south, General Stirling was placed in command of the New York district. Although he strengthened and enlarged the defenses of the New York area, the enemy forces far outnumbered the Americans and Stirling, with about 400 men, was compelled to evacuate New York. Stirling was captured, but was exchanged for Governor Montfort Brown of Florida, whom the Americans had captured.



*Photo by William Burwell, TEHS Archives.*

Stirling was then ordered to guard the eastern shore of the Delaware River to prevent the British from crossing into Pennsylvania. On February 19, 1777 he was promoted to the rank of Major General, and ordered to report to Washington's winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. He was with the army at the Battle of Brandywine and did good service there.

When Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge in December 1777, Stirling was initially ordered to establish his quarters in Reading in order to protect and safeguard supplies for the army. While he was at Reading he was apprised of the Gates-Conway cabal, and immediately wrote to

General Washington enclosing an account of the conspiracy.

Returning to Valley Forge, General Stirling's quarters were at the home of Rev. Currie on Yellow Springs Road. Among his duties, he presided at the court-martial in which General Wayne was exonerated following the surprise attack at Paoli.

When the British evacuated Philadelphia on June 18, 1778 and marched into New Jersey, Washington ordered General Lee and General Wayne in pursuit. However, Lee disobeyed orders, and the entire army was endangered. Lee was placed under arrest, and Lord Stirling was made president of the ensuing court martial.

While the army was in White Plains, New York, General Lord Stirling was ordered back into New Jersey in conjunction with Major Henry (Lighthorse Harry) Lee to watch the movement of the enemy. In January 1780 he was ordered to make an attack on Staten Island, but the British learned of the proposed attack and after some skirmishing the Americans withdrew.

At this time the British were planning another invasion from Canada, and Stirling was sent to Albany to command the troops in that district. The British, under St. Leger, were again following Burgoyne's strategy of 1777, so Lord Stirling began concentrating on Saratoga. He was much liked by officers and men alike because of his ability and spirit of cooperation. The British, however, became disorganized, and General Stirling received reports that Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown. Accordingly, Stirling dismissed the militia, but kept the Continental troops at Saratoga under General Starke.

After the surrender, Lord Stirling was engaged in military service in New Jersey. In 1782 he reported to Fishkill, New York to preside over a military board to adjust difficulties among the officers of the Connecticut Line, and then was sent to Albany again. His health, however, began to fail as a result of fatigue, exposure and overwork, and he died on January 15, 1783, aged 77 years. He was buried in a Dutch Reformed cemetery, but was later moved to an Episcopal cemetery as that was his faith.



*Photo by Mike Bertram, 2008.*

General Washington wrote from Newburgh, New York to Lady Stirling, expressing his deep regrets, and extolling the many qualities of General Lord Stirling, whose death he regarded as a personal loss of a respected ally and friend.

Glass Tax records show a home of two floors with dimensions of 30' by 18'. The structure has been partially rehabilitated by the Park Service, but is not open to visitors.



## Major General Lafayette

*Leaving Stirling's quarters, we head east on Yellow Springs Road and soon turn right onto unpaved Wilson Road. There is a small parking area just before the bridge across Valley Creek. Walking across the bridge, we find the drive to Lafayette's quarters on our right. Eleanor Chworowsky had this to say after the 1990 tour:*

Marie Jean Paul Yves Gilbert Motier de Lafayette was born at the family estate in Auvergne, France on September 8, 1757, of a noble family. He was orphaned at 11, and at 16 married his cousin Anastasia.

As a very young man, he was inspired with a love of freedom and an aversion to any kind of restraint. Lafayette was very sympathetic to the cause of the American colonies in their fight against Great Britain, and offered his services to the colonies. Even though it was forbidden by the French government, he hired a vessel and sailed for Charleston in April 1777 and then came to Philadelphia. Because Congress had been besieged with foreign applications for commissions in the Continental Army, his offer was rejected. Lafayette then offered to serve as a volunteer at his own expense, and on July 31, 1777 Congress took him at his word and appointed him a Major General - with no pay and no command.



Gilbert du Motier, marquis de La Fayette

He then accepted an invitation from General Washington to live at his headquarters and serve on his staff.

He was badly wounded in the leg at the Battle of Brandywine, but recovered and was able to serve with Washington at Valley Forge. His quarters were in the home of Samuel Havard, near the banks of Valley Creek. He remained loyal to Washington through the intrigue and conspiracies of the Conway cabal.

France declared war on England on May 2, 1778, and also agreed to an alliance with the American colonies. Lafayette returned to his homeland in January of the following year, and was lionized and given a hero's welcome. His high reputation enabled him to raise money and troops for the American cause.

In 1780 he returned to this country with troops, and in February 1781 was sent to Virginia, where he found himself opposing General Lord Cornwallis. After a long series of skirmishes, Lafayette succeeded in shutting him up in Yorktown. In September the French fleet appeared, and two weeks later Washington and Rochambeau arrived with the main allied army. On October 14 Lafayette successfully led the Americans in an assault on one of the redoubts, while another was taken by French troops. The surrender of Lord Cornwallis, with his 7,000 troops, took place on October 19, 1781, and marked the end of the war, even though the final treaty of peace was not signed until January 20, 1783.

The house has a date stone inscribed 1763, and Glass Tax documents describe a stone structure 27' by 21', with two floors, plus a single-story addition of 26' by 16', and including a stone kitchen plus other buildings. The house is currently used as Park Service housing and is not open to the public.



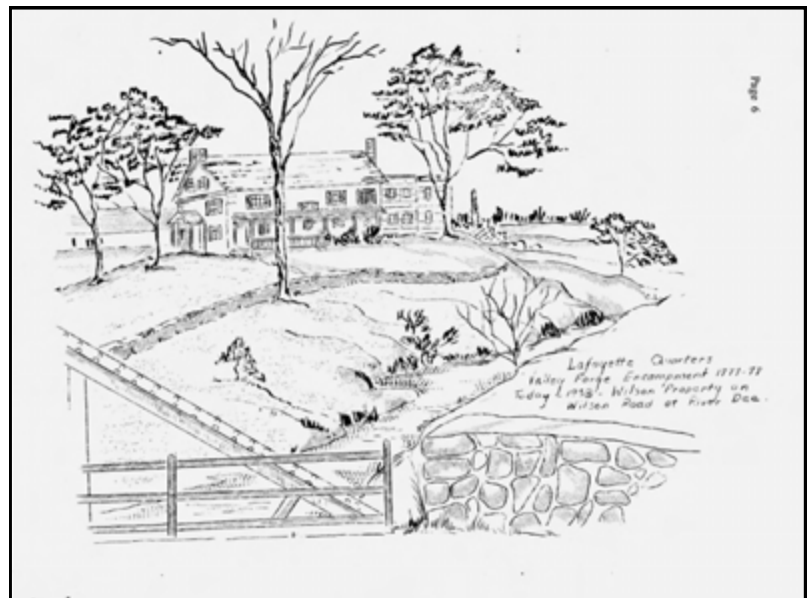


*Photo by William Burwell, TEHS Archives.*

History Club founder S. Paul Teamer drew this sketch of Lafayette's Quarters for the 1938 article. The inscription reads:

"Lafayette Quarters Valley Forge encampment 1777-78, today 1938 - Wilson property on Wilson Road at River Dee."

On occasion, Teamer fancifully described Valley Creek as the River Dee, after the river that flows past the Berwyn Hills in Merionethshire, Wales.



*Photo by Mike Bertram, 2006.*

## Brigadier General William Maxwell

*Heading back up Wilson Road towards Yellow Springs, we can turn right on Library Lane, the rear entrance to the supposed quarters of General Maxwell, and current home of the Valley Forge Park library and archives.* Because of the extensive renovations made to the house over the years, it is more properly referred to as the Philander Chase Knox House, the “traditional site” of Maxwell’s quarters. It is unlikely that the General would recognize the place today, if in fact he was ever quartered there in the first place.

There is no doubt that General Maxwell participated in the Valley Forge encampment. He was listed as officer of the day at times from January to May. The great mystery is the location of his quarters. The Davis map does not identify a location for Maxwell, although Lafayette, Stirling, and Knox are shown in their commonly accepted positions nearby. Woodman states Maxwell resided at the house now known as Knox’s Quarters.

Contemporary tradition has it that Maxwell was quartered in the home of John Brown, Jr. on the west side of Valley Creek, but there is no evidence to support that such a house was present in 1777-78. The 1798 Glass Tax return for the property in question, which extended on both sides of Valley Creek, lists only one house, the one known as Knox’s Quarters. The owner of the property in 1774 was Samuel Brown, who died around the time of the encampment. His estate was sold to John Brown through a sheriff’s sale in the 1780s. If John Brown, Sr. built a home for his son, it would appear to have happened after the encampment, and to have vanished by the 1798 tax rolls. Any relation between Samuel Brown and the John Brown family is unknown. The 18th Century Tredyffrin section of the Society’s web site will include a detailed deed history of the property for the reader to peruse.

When historical architects surveyed the Philander Chase Knox house they could not identify any 18th century aspects. After John Brown, Sr.’s death, his will split the land into two parts, with Valley Creek as the common boundary. Later transactions combined the two parts together again as one estate. Senator and Secretary of State Philander Knox (no relation to General Knox) purchased and enhanced the estate in the 20th century, as related in *Quarterly* Vol. 47, No.1.

Regardless of the quarters dilemma, it’s worth hearing more about Maxwell. Herb Fry provides our story from 1990:

William Maxwell was born in Ireland about 1733, the oldest of four children. When he was 14 he came to America with his Scotch-Irish parents, who settled in Sussex County, New Jersey. Maxwell grew up a farmer's son, with only ordinary educational advantages.

At age 21 he entered the military, serving with the British army in a number of campaigns of the French and Indian War, including expeditions to Fort Duquesne, Fort Ticonderoga, and Quebec. Later he was attached to the British commissary department at Mackinac, having risen to the rank of colonel.

Sensing the swelling tide of sentiment for revolution against Great Britain, Maxwell returned to his home in New Jersey in 1774. He played an active role in the revolutionary movement, and entered the service of New Jersey upon the first call for troops issued October 9, 1775. At that time, William Alexander (Lord Stirling) was made Colonel of the 1st, or Eastern Battalion; while Maxwell commanded the 2d, or Western Battalion; of the "First Establishment" of New Jersey continental troops.

The enlistment of the First Establishment in late 1775 served in the Hudson Valley, and in General Sullivan's unsuccessful invasion of Canada. Because of his bravery in the expedition against Canada,

the Continental Congress made Maxwell a Brigadier General on October 23, 1776, and placed him in command of four New Jersey regiments. The men had enlisted for a year, and were paid little while enduring privations from hunger and lack of shoes and clothing. Evidently this did not dampen the ardor of the men, however, for many re-enlisted, and they became the nucleus of the "Second Establishment" which encamped at Valley Forge.

Maxwell's troops gave a good account of themselves in the movements preceding the winter encampment. At Chadd's Ford and Birmingham Meeting House they made a gallant fight against overwhelming odds during the Battle of Brandywine, and they also saw combat in the Battle of Germantown. A handsome monument, located on the west side of Inner Line Drive just south of Gulph Road, marks the site where Maxwell's Brigade camped during the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge.

In May 1778, expecting that the British - now under General Clinton, replacing General Howe - would abandon Philadelphia shortly, Washington sent Maxwell and a detachment of troops across the Schuylkill River to harass the enemy and interfere with foraging parties. On May 25 he was ordered across the Delaware into New Jersey. His brigade took an active part when Washington's army clashed with Clinton at Monmouth in June.

Most of the remainder of Maxwell's army career was spent in New Jersey, except for a period in 1779 when his brigade was with General Sullivan's expedition against the Iroquois in western Pennsylvania and New York. His army service ended when he resigned his commission in July 1780. In forwarding the resignation, Washington spoke of Maxwell as "an honest man, a warm friend to his country, and firmly attached to her interests."

Maxwell never married. He is said to have been a "tall, stalwart man" with a "florid complexion." Because of his Scotch accent his soldiers, by whom he was greatly beloved, called him "Scotch Willie."

The state of New Jersey has always considered him one of its foremost soldiers. He died in November 1796.



The Park Service is considering leasing the house for events such as wedding receptions, as a means to help defray the cost of maintenance. Appointments may be requested to use the library, and the house has been the site of public events from time to time.

The "traditional site" of Maxwell's Quarters in 1989, from the Historical Society archives, photographer unknown. The size and appearance of the building in 1777 is not known, if it even existed at that time.

## Brigadier General Henry Knox

*We leave the P. C. Knox house, cross the Knox Covered Bridge, and turn right to the quarters of Henry Knox.* The bridge was built in 1865, and it has never been clear which Knox the bridge is supposed to honor, so you are welcome to take your pick. The 1990 visit was summarized by Leighton Haney:

General Henry Knox used the home of John Brown Sr., on the east side of Valley Creek, as his quarters during the encampment at Valley Forge. He was the Continental Army's chief of artillery. Born in 1750, he was 27 years old at that time and weighed close to 300 pounds.

Prior to the war he had been the proprietor of "The London Book Shop" in Boston. One of his regular customers was Lucy Fletcher, a daughter of the royal secretary of the province. Despite her father's objections, in June 1774 they were married, and at the outbreak of the Revolution she accompanied her husband when he joined the patriot cause. (She was, incidentally, with him at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778.)



Knox's service at the Battle of Bunker Hill so impressed General Washington that in November 1775 he was made chief of the Continental artillery, even though it was virtually non-existent at the time. His first task was to move 66 pieces of cannon from Fort Ticonderoga (and other places) hundreds of miles through forest, in the dead of winter, to Boston where they played a large part in the defense of that city.

He then laid out the defenses for various strategic points in Connecticut and Rhode Island before joining Washington again to be in the action at the battles of Long Island, Trenton, and Princeton. In December 1776 he was made Brigadier General.

While the army was in winter quarters at Morristown during the winter of 1776-1777, Knox returned to Connecticut to establish the Springfield Arsenal. In the summer of 1777 Washington wrote of him, "General Knox has deservedly acquired the character of one of the most valuable officers in the service, and ... combatting the almost innumerable difficulties in the department he fills, has placed the artillery upon a footing that does him the greatest honors."

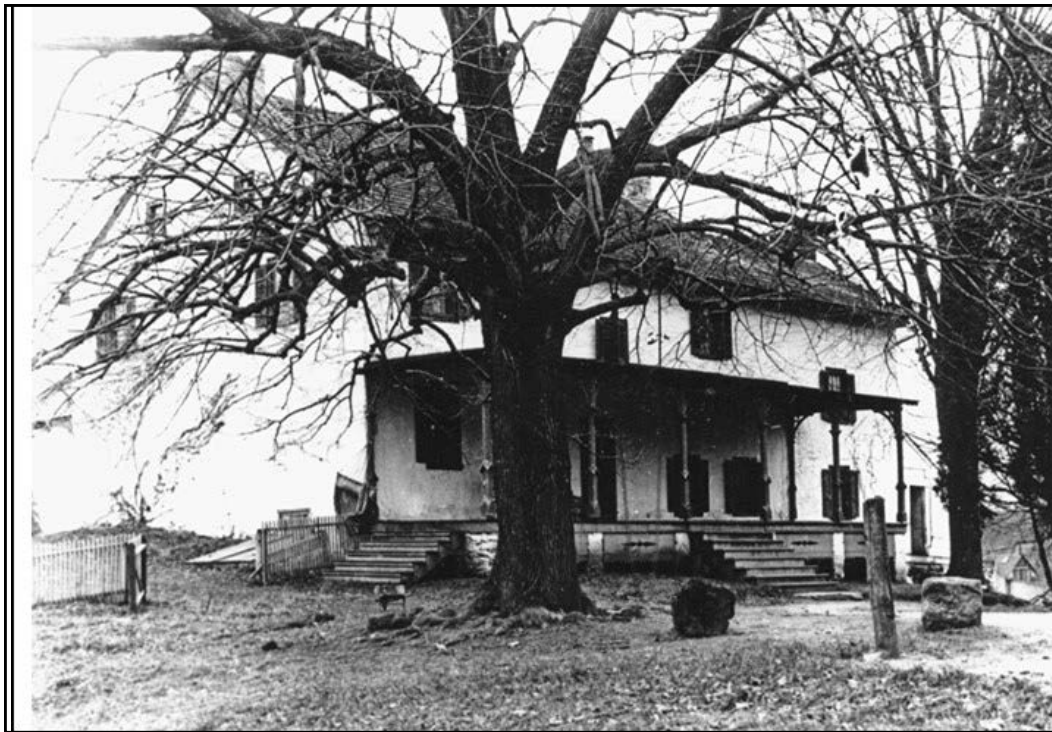
General Knox continued as commander of the artillery until the end of the war, performing conspicuously at Monmouth and Yorktown, and was appointed Major General in March 1783. He also succeeded Washington, as commander-in-chief, for six months from December 1782 to June 1783.

In March 1785 he was named Secretary of War under the Articles of Confederation, and continued in that post under President Washington, and the new Constitution, in 1789.

He died in 1806 when a chicken bone lodged in his intestines.

In the Glass Tax records the house is described as stone construction, two floors, 33' by 26', with a kitchen and other buildings. Remember that kitchens at the time were often separate from the main house. The exterior of

the house has been partially rehabilitated by the Park Service, thanks to volunteer efforts led by the late Ernest Eadeh and his daughter Heather. The house is not open to the public.



*TEHS Archives, Photographer and date unknown.*



Knox's quarters in a 1989 photo from the TEHS archives.



## Brigadier General Lachlan McIntosh

There is not much to see with respect to generals' quarters at our next stop, but it's still worth the trip. *Follow Valley Creek downstream past the covered bridge to the junction at Route 23, Nutt Road, and turn left. Make the next left into a private drive that also serves as the start of the Horse-Shoe Trail.* Visitors are commonplace—at least on foot. The 1954 tour provides only a brief description of McIntosh and his quarters:

The quarters of Brigadier General Lachlan McIntosh are reached by crossing the concrete bridge to Nutt Road and then going between a private drive and the P.O.S.A. Hall, then the home of Joseph Mann. The quarters themselves have been destroyed, and today are marked only by a corner column of masonry covered with ivy.

General McIntosh commanded a brigade of nine skeleton North Carolina regiments that were stationed on the northern slope of the rear hill above his quarters. He succeeded Brigadier General Nash who was killed at the Battle of Germantown.



P.O.S.A refers to the Patriotic Order Sons of America, whose national headquarters is housed in the former “Riddle Mansion” on the banks of Valley Creek, as shown in the old photo on the opposite page. In 1968, The Order erected a monument honoring General McIntosh, bearing the following inscription:

HONOR COURT TO  
BRIGADIER GENERAL LACHLAN MCINTOSH  
A General charged with the Safety of  
George Washington, the Commander in Chief of the  
Continental Army at Valley Forge 1777—78.  
A Native of Georgia in Command of the  
“Life Guard” Virginians and the North Carolina Brigade.  
His model unit was the nucleus of  
Friedrich Von Steuben’s Drill Corps.



For more information on the Patriotic Sons of America, see their website, [www.posofa.org](http://www.posofa.org).

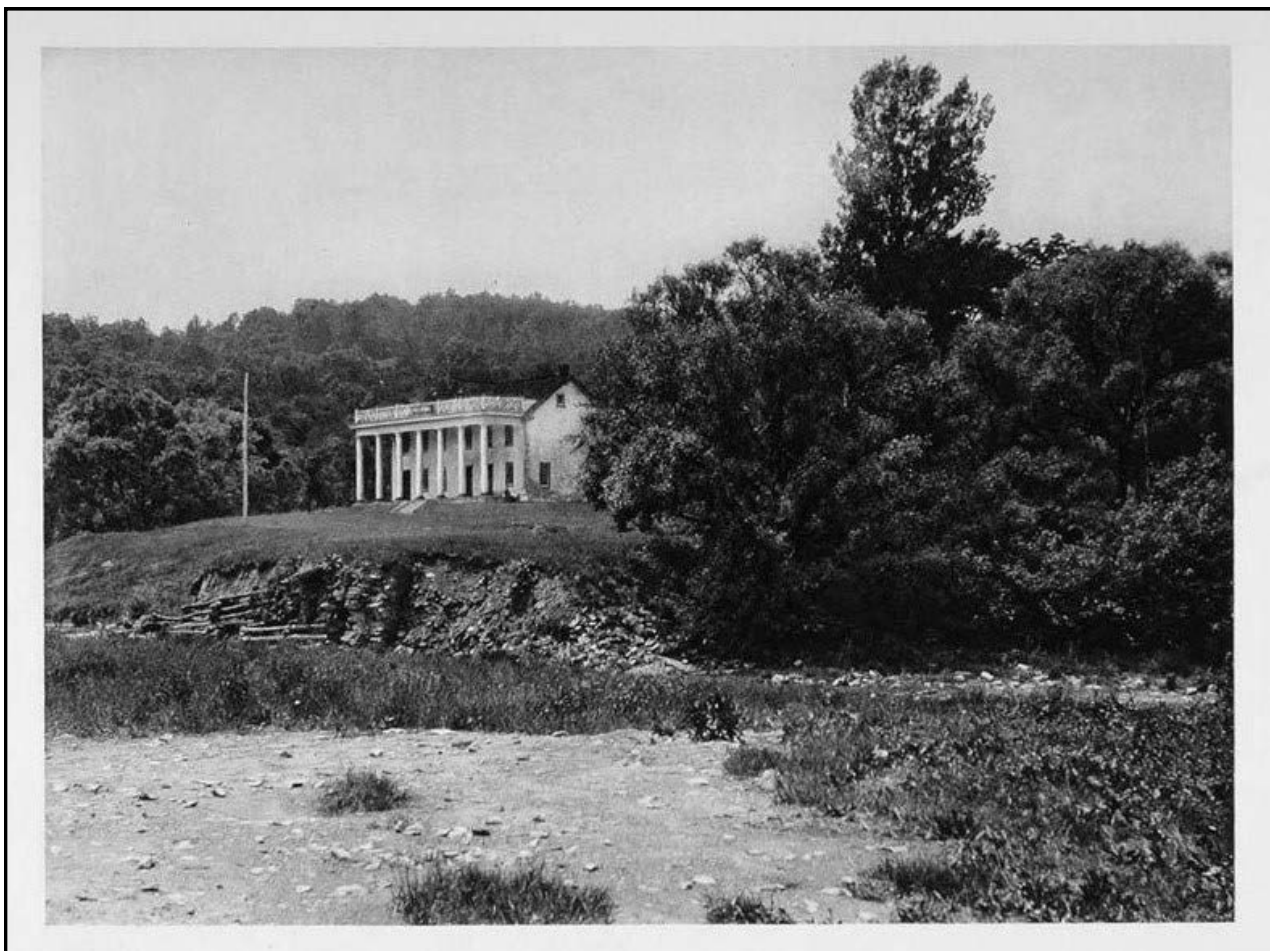
The house where McIntosh stayed was inhabited by Joseph Mann at the time. The property was part of the Forge tract owned by Potts and Dewees. Mann’s name does not appear in the tax records, so he was most likely employed by the Forge and rented the house.

A photo of the plaque honoring General McIntosh, partially obscured by the shadow of the flagpole that marks the site. *Tim Lander.*



The original P.O.S.A building was located on the opposite side of Route 23, to the north of the present structure. It was demolished by the Park Service in order to improve the view from Washington's Headquarters. The current building was originally a set of 19th century workers' cottages, with the colonnaded façade added to arrive at the imposing appearance we see today.

A pile of rubble adjacent to the headquarters of the Patriotic Order Sons of Americas is all that remains of the quarters of General McIntosh. *Photo by Mike Bertram.*



Patriotic Order Sons of America national headquarters, overlooking Valley Creek, circa 1929. *Photo from HMDB.org (historical marker database).*



## General Friedrich von Steuben

The quarters of General von Steuben are presumably located nearby, yet there is not consensus on the location. *As long as we are at the head of the Horse-Shoe Trail, we can provide directions as they were followed in 1938. At that time, von Steuben's quarters was thought to have been the structure known as the Slab Tavern, on today's Horse-Shoe Trail, opposite the ruins of the Colonial Springs bottling works.* Later research found that the Tavern building dated only to the mid-1800s. It's still a nice walk, so feel free to explore as long as you're in the neighborhood.

Once the Slab Tavern theory was dismissed, von Steuben enthusiasts settled their hopes on another nearby building, so let's see what that looks like. *Exiting the driveway of the Patriotic Order, turn left on Route 23 and proceed to the parking lot of the Valley Forge Post Office, a quarter-mile ahead on the right.* From there you can walk back the way you came, to the stone building depicted at the bottom of the opposite page. In a prior incarnation, this structure was the Mansion House hotel and restaurant, famed for its chicken and waffle dinners. After a National Park Service "restoration" that resulted in a more colonial appearance, this was touted as the Steuben Memorial.



It is generally agreed that the relationship of this structure to the Baron is tenuous at best, and the actual location of his quarters remains a mystery. Some records indicate he resided in one of the long-gone log cabins for a time.

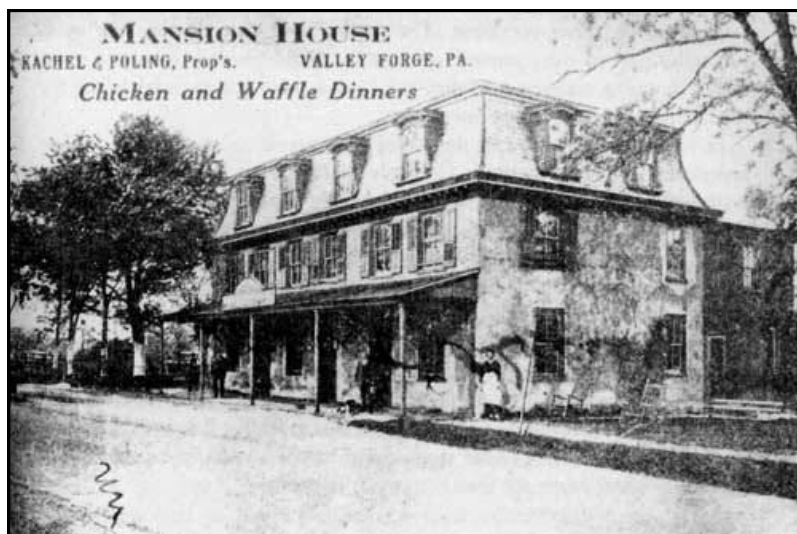
Steuben had 17 years experience with the Prussian Army, but had been dismissed from the army in 1763 after reaching the rank of captain. After his Prussian military career ended he found employment as a courtier. It was not his ideal career, but he did not have any other options. Steuben made contact in Europe with agents of Benjamin Franklin who were looking for potential officers for the Continental Army. He pursued the opportunity with vigor, and sailed across the Atlantic in order to present himself to Congress. Congress gave Steuben a commission. He joined the Continental Army after it encamped at Valley Forge, when the existing houses in the area had already been allocated to other generals. So it is not surprising that there is uncertainty about where Steuben was quartered.



The Slab Tavern on Mount Misery, demolished in the 1960s. *TEHS Archives.*

The *Quarterly* Vol. 1, No. 2 tells more about Steuben:

He was made inspector general of the army. He reorganized the army. On the open plain between the outer and inner lines he drilled the troops. He didn't just tell them how to do it, he took a musket in his hands and showed them, and he drove his lessons home with



*Courtesy Valley Forge National Historical Park.*

strings of stout German oaths, much to the delight of the soldiers with whom he soon became popular. He lived in a log cabin, not one of the adjacent snug farmhouses. He had one orderly who looked after his equipment. He rose each morning at four o'clock was shaved and had his queue plaited for the day and prepared the drill orders for the day. He developed a new system of infantry fighting. Recognizing the value of the skirmish type of fighting developed in Indian warfare, he combined that with the new Prussian system. In a way it survives in our infantry manuals

today. The irregular infantry squad rush of today is a part of it.

...  
Von Steuben turned an army of militia into an army of skilled soldiers. The army that marched out of Valley Forge on June 18, 1778 was never to know again defeat. The last engagement of the war, Eutaw Springs, was to see these men steadily driving before them superior numbers of British regulars with the English soldiers own favorite weapon--the bayonet.

Although the whereabouts of his residence are unknown, Baron Von Steuben is memorialized at Valley Forge with a statue located near Varnum's Quarters.



The "Steuben Memorial" building, 2012. No longer open to the public. *Tim Lander.*



Von Steuben statue. *Mike Bertram.*

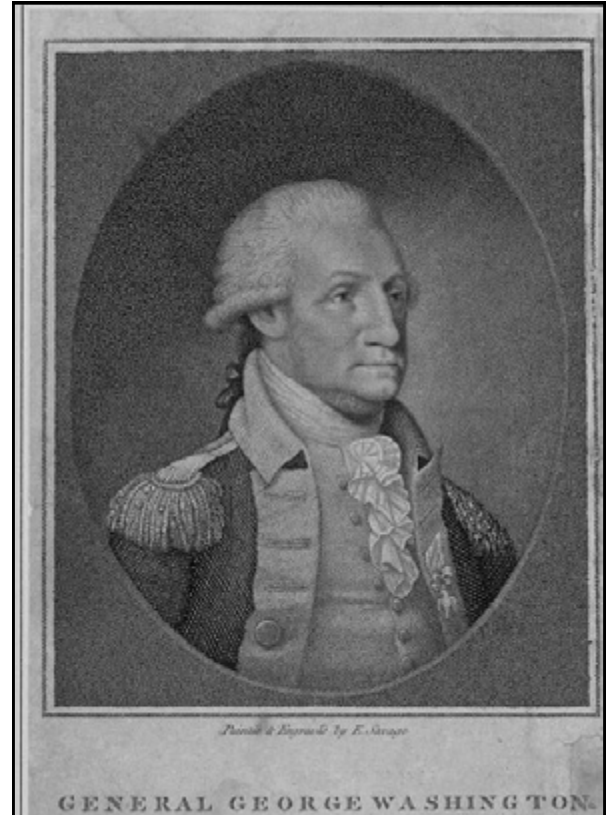


## Commander in Chief Major General George Washington

*Washington's Headquarters is reached by following Route 23 back across Valley Creek, bearing left at the fork, and following the signs for Headquarters parking on the left. Significant changes have been made in this area over the past few years, including the opening of a new exhibition center in the old Reading Railroad train station adjacent to the Headquarters building.*

In *Quarterly* Vol. 29 No.1, Bob Goshorn records that Washington spent his first weeks at Valley Forge in his tent, at least until his soldiers had constructed log huts for their own use. Once his troops were quartered in the cabins, he moved into the stone house of Isaac Potts. As related in *Quarterly* Vol. 36 No. 4, the occupant of the Potts house at the time was Mrs. Deborah Hewes. Washington rented the house from her; she moved in with nearby relatives. Martha Washington joined her husband at Valley Forge, and various aides also resided on the premises. It is worth noting that this is the only "headquarters" building at Valley Forge; all of the other residences were merely "quarters" in comparison.

Washington's role at Valley Forge has been well and frequently chronicled, and there is little benefit to be obtained by summarizing it here. Suffice it to say that the



Tours of Washington's Headquarters now leave from the rehabbed Reading Railroad station below the main parking lot off Route 23.  
*Tim Lander.*

efforts of Washington, his key leaders, and his troops to shake off their losses at Brandywine, Paoli, and Germantown and emerge from the encampment of 1777-78 as a renewed fighting force marked a turning point in the American Revolution, and is the primary reason that Valley Forge plays such a prominent role in American history.

Washington's Headquarters has been the focus of National Park Service restoration efforts on many occasions, as a major draw for tourists and one of the few colonial-era buildings open to the public on a regular basis. It contains replica colonial-era furnishings and features tours, occasionally by docents in colonial garb. You can sometimes find the Commander-in-Chief there as well, relating tales of his time at Valley Forge. An excellent



guidebook to the Headquarters is available on the Valley Forge Park website, [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo), under the History and Culture, Officer's Quarters page. If you only have time to visit one of the sites on this tour, this is the stop you do not want to miss.

*Photo by William Burwell, c. 1900. TEHS Archives.*



*2002 photo by Jennifer Zimmer, TEHS archives*

## Brigadier General James Varnum

*Exiting the Headquarters parking area, turn left on Route 23 and proceed to the parking lot on North Inner Line Drive, a short distance ahead on the right. Varnum's quarters is reached by a short path from the lot. The 1954 Quarterly provides this background:*

Brigadier General James M. Varnum's quarters, located on the Port Kennedy Road in the Valley Forge Park, is a two-story grey stone building. At the time it was occupied by General Varnum it was the home of David Stephens. It is now maintained as a part of Valley Forge Park.

General Varnum commanded the Rhode Island Brigade near the Star Redoubt, which was then known as Stephen's Fort. Fort Huntingdon stands nearby and was then a part of the same property which ran to the Schuylkill River where it connected with Sullivan's Bridge.

The Star Redoubt, a magazine fort, lies directly north of the David Stephens house. A spy was supposed to have been hung on this property during the time of the encampment. Most of the Courts Martial were held at Varnum's quarters.



Quote from Weedon's Orderly Book dated Jan. 17, 1778:

"The Brigadiers and Officers commanding Brigades are to meet at Gen'l. Varnum's quarters to consult and agree upon proper and speedy measures to exchange raw hides for shoes. They will as soon as possible critically examine into the state and condition of the arms in the respective brigades, and get those out of repair put in order as soon as possible and consult upon the most speedy method of procuring a sufficient number of proper sized bayonets to supply the deficiencies. The Gen'l desires that they will likewise agree upon the most proper and speedy means to have all the officers in their Brigades furnished with half spikes agreeable to Gen'l orders issued Dec. 22nd."

General Weedon's Orderly Book states:

"Feb. 8th, 1778. "The general officers are requested to meet at 10 oclock tomorrow at Gen. Varnum's quarters to take into consideration the propriety of altering the present rations. The Commissary General proposes that instead of the rations heretofore issued there should be issued a pound & a half of flour, one of beef, one and 3/4 salt pork & a certain quantity of spirits. Mr. Blaine will attend the meeting."

Weedon's Orderly Book, March 27th, 1778:

"Brigadiers and officers commanding Brigades meet at Gen. Varnum's Quarters at 11 oclock to receive assignments for the completion of the Interior line of Defense."





Photo by William Burwell, TEHS Archives.

Mike Bertram covered the restoration of Varnum's quarters in *Quarterly* Vol. 46 No. 3, in which he wrote that James Mitchell Varnum was a lawyer of Rhode Island. While at the Valley Forge encampment he lived with the David Stephens family in their farmhouse. The Stephens' ancestor, Stephen Evans, was one of the original partners in the forge on Valley Creek. In 1918, the state used eminent domain to acquire the property, which at that time included a more recent farmhouse as well as the old Varnum house. The Stephens fami-

ly fought the sale and were not evicted until 1929. The purchase was then appealed all the way to the Supreme Court, which delayed the demolition of the newer farmhouse until 1935.

The Park Service made major alterations to the building in the 1930s, and did further work for the bicentennial celebration of 1976, resulting in the appearance we know today. Varnum's quarters is open to the public on a limited basis; check the park website for dates and times.



Varnum's quarters is it looks today, in a 2009 photo by Mike Bertram.

## The Officers' Huts

*If we follow Route 23 towards King of Prussia, we soon come to the Washington Memorial Chapel. During the encampment, a group of log huts were located in the area between the Chapel and the Gatehouse to the west. The huts were used mainly by lower ranking officers, but some generals may have also been quartered there. Among the generals who have been suggested as residents of the huts are Brigadier Generals Thomas Conway, Alexander McDougall, John Patterson, and Steuben. It seems unlikely that either Conway or McDougall stayed in Valley Forge for anything other than short visits.*

Conway was born in Ireland and schooled in France. He served with the French Army and rose to the rank of colonel. Conway volunteered his services to the Continental Army, where he received an appointment as brigadier general. He participated in the battle of Germantown in October 1777. Afterwards, he wrote letters to Congress criticizing the Commander-in-Chief. The substance of the letters became known to Washington. In promoting the replacement of Washington, Conway and his supporters became known as the Conway Cabal. Washington had refused to propose Conway for promotion, but Congress promoted him anyway to major general and Inspector General of the Army in December 1777. Conway did visit Valley Forge, but was given a frosty reception by Washington. He resigned from the Army in March 1778, Washington never having given him a command after his promotion.

McDougall was a Scot by birth. His family emigrated to New York, where he eventually became an active and outspoken supporter of the independence movement. He was commissioned a colonel in the 1st New York Regiment, and was promoted to brigadier general in 1776. For his part in the Battle of Germantown, Washington recommended McDougall for promotion to major general. He then took command of West Point, taking the place of Benedict Arnold. At the end of the war, he served in the senate of New York. He was also the first president of the Bank of New York, which was founded in 1784 by Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton served as Washington's aide-de-camp during the Valley Forge encampment.

General John Patterson is a person of some mystery. Little has been written about him, except for a biography by a descendant, which includes many dubious statements. The location of his quarters in Valley Forge is also a mystery, but the officers' huts are a possibility. Patterson was born in New Britain, Connecticut and graduated from Yale in 1762. He moved to Massachusetts and joined the local militia as a colonel. He served throughout the Revolutionary War, fighting at Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga, Trenton and Princeton. Patterson was made brigadier general in 1777, and by 1783 was a major general. Patterson's brigade of Massachusetts troops was part of De Kalb's division at Valley Forge.

During Shays' Rebellion in 1786, Patterson, then a major general in the Massachusetts militia, commanded a unit that stayed loyal to Massachusetts. Afterwards he settled in Broome County, New York, and served as a



General McDougall

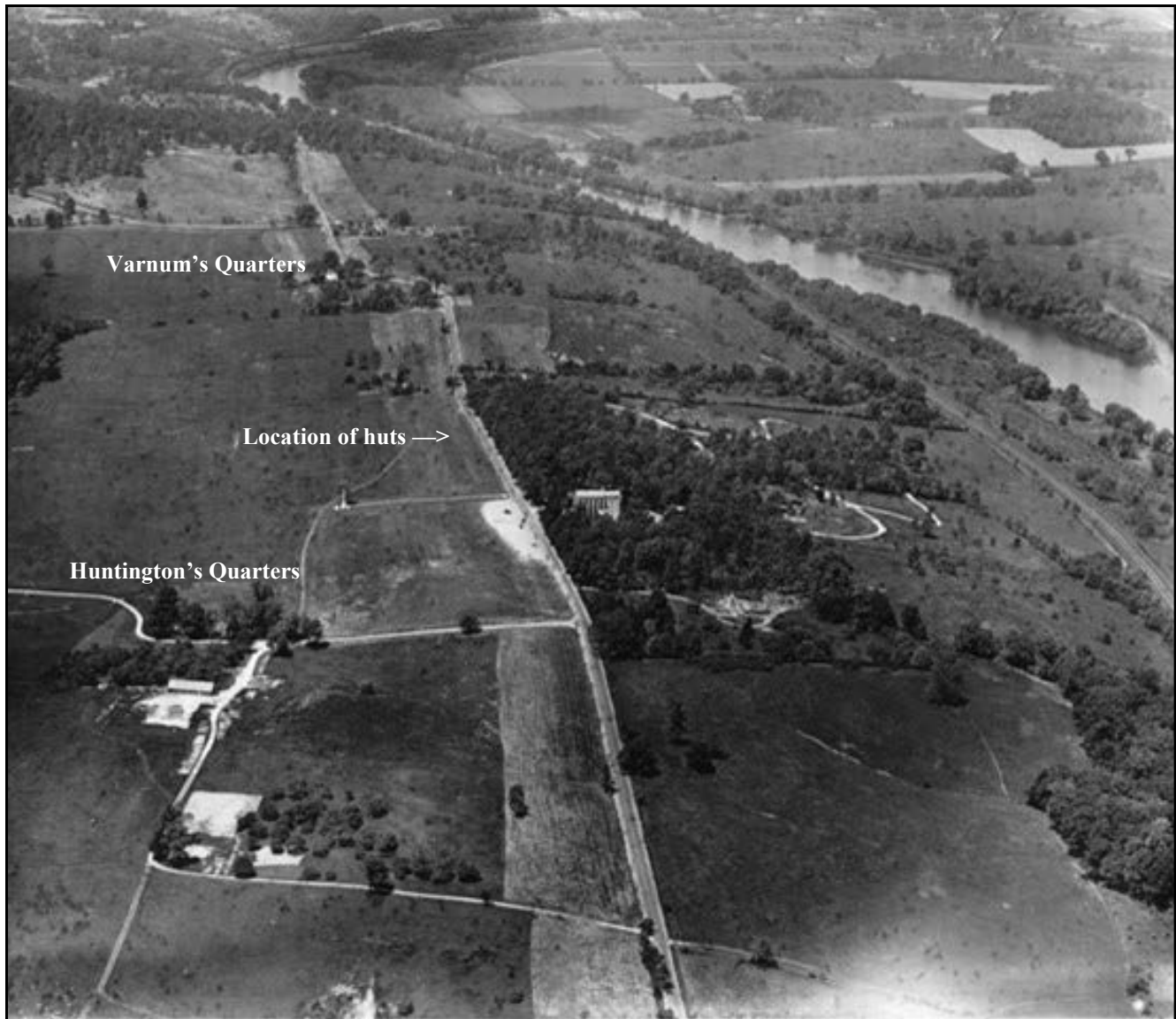


General Conway



General Patterson





This 1928 Dallin aerial photograph shows the wooded tract that is home to the Washington Memorial Chapel and includes the area where the officers' huts were located. Notice the island in the Schuylkill River at upper right. This was the location of Fatland Ford, a popular place to cross the river in colonial times. A greater part of General Howe's British Army crossed the Schuylkill by this ford on their way to occupy Philadelphia in September 1777. The ford went from the south bank of the river to the western end of the island, down the island, and then across the channel to the north river bank. This channel became silted up not long after the photograph was taken. If you take a walk along the north bank of the Schuylkill today and look carefully, you can discern where the channel was located. *Courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library.*

State Representative in 1793. He also served as a judge from 1798 to 1806, and was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1803 to 1805. He died in 1808.

The area of the huts has been the site of archeological excavations in recent years. The results of these investigations have not been published at this time.

## Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington

The 1954 *Quarterly* provides us with directions to Huntington's quarters:

Brigadier General Jedediah Huntingdon's quarters were just beyond the Valley Forge Memorial Chapel, across the road. It was acquired by the Park Commission in 1917 and is now a part of Valley Forge Park.

At the time of the Revolution it was the home of Zachary Davis, a tenant of David Stephens. The original house was destroyed in 1812. The only original structure is the springhouse.

On this property is the grave of John Waterman, a commissary officer under General Varnum.

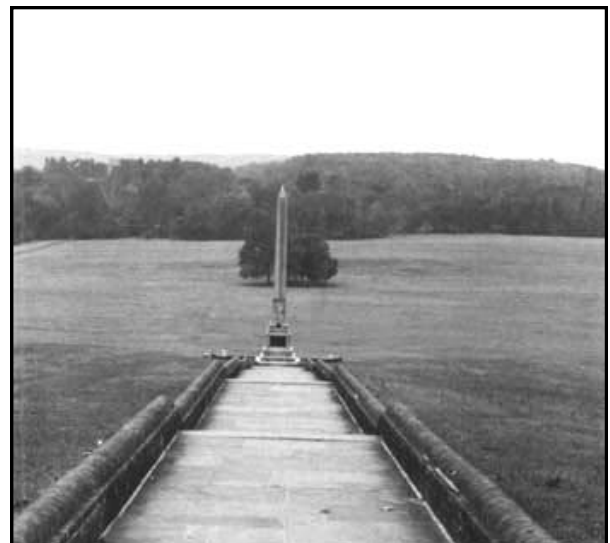
General Jed Huntingdon commanded the Connecticut brigade, inner line. His troops were better dressed, healthier and better clothed than any others. He was always looking out for his men and was the first to provide huts for them. A number of huts were built right on this property. In one of them Von Steuben lived until he moved to Slab Tavern. General Huntingdon allocated a doctor to each regiment.



Note—and ignore—the reference to the Slab Tavern, as already discussed. As for Huntington's troops being better dressed than others, perhaps his upbringing played a role. Son of a wealthy shipping merchant, Huntington had degrees from Harvard and Yale, but nevertheless committed himself to the cause of the Revolution.

While the house itself is not original, it is still quite old by modern standards, and commands a wonderful view of the park. It has been used for park housing, offices, and as a nature center. In February 2008, the Park Service published an Historic Structure Report detailing the history of the house, and recommending additional actions for the house and immediate surrounding land. The report may be found on the park website at [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/vafo/maurice\\_hsr.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/vafo/maurice_hsr.pdf). It's well worth a look, and the property is well worth a visit, if only to enjoy the view.

The grave of John Waterman is noteworthy, since of all the burials during the encampment, this is the only one whose site was clearly marked. The stone obelisk near the Huntington house memorializes Waterman, of Rhode Island, as well as all of the other soldiers who passed away at Valley Forge. The majority of the deaths were caused by disease.



The Waterman Monument. Courtesy of Valley Forge National Historical Park.



*William Burwell, c. 1900, TEHS Archives.*



*Photo by Mike Bertram, 2009.*

## Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg

*In order to reach Muhlenberg's quarters, we continue towards King of Prussia on Route 23 and follow it as it turns left at the traffic light by the park visitor's center, crossing over Route 422 and turning right at the intersection with Moore Road. The property is accessed via a commercial parking lot on 8th Avenue, at the rear of a credit union office. In 1954, the Quarterly told this story:*

General Muhlenberg's quarters was then the home of John Moore, who bought the land on which the house stands in 1709; the house was built soon after that. It stands well back from Moore Road; the grounds slope to Mashilmac Creek. The farm was divided between Moore's two sons Mordecai and John in 1790. Mordecai bought 128 acres on King of Prussia Road.

This house is now called "Winter Quarters Farm" and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Irwin.

Brigadier General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was a Lutheran Pastor in Woodstock, Virginia, and is the minister who stood in his pulpit and said

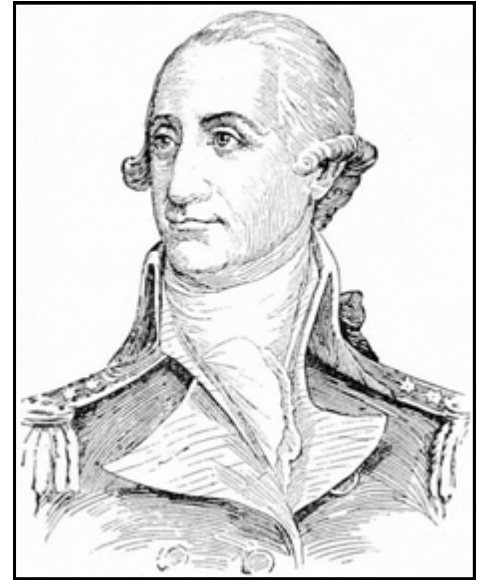
"There is a time for all things - a time to preach and a time to pray. But there is also a time to fight, and that time is now come."

He commanded the Eighth Virginia Regiments. Muhlenberg's brigade consisted of the First, Fifth, Ninth and Thirteenth Regiments of the Virginia Line. It was a part of General Greene's Division.

While the Moore name lives on with the adjacent roadway, the house is no longer inhabited. Surrounded by commercial development, it has fallen into disrepair. It will likely be a victim of demolition by neglect unless someone with significant financial resources takes an interest in the property.

The Biographical Directory of the United States Congress tells us more about Muhlenberg. Born in Trappe, PA, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, then known as the Academy of Philadelphia, followed by studies at the University of Halle, Germany. In addition to being an ordained Lutheran pastor, he was ordained as an Anglican priest during a visit to England in 1772. He served in Virginia's House of Burgesses prior to the war. After the war he resided in Montgomery County and returned to political service as a member of the First Congress (1789-1791), Third Congress (1793-1795), and Sixth Congress (1799-1801). He also served briefly in the Senate in 1801. President Jefferson appointed him as supervisor for revenue in Pennsylvania in 1801, then to the post of collector of customs in Philadelphia the following year. He remained in that position until his death in 1807.

Muhlenberg's father, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, is considered the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. Henry was married to Anna Weiser, daughter of colonial leader Conrad Weiser. The families remained prominent in early American history, and their surnames are found throughout southeastern Pennsylvania to this day.





*Photo by William Burwell, c. 1900, from the TEHS Archives.*



*Photo courtesy of Roger Thorne, 2010.*



## Colonel Daniel Morgan

*We retrace our path to find Morgan's quarters, following Route 23 back into the park, then turning left at the intersection of 23 and North Gulph Road. The Morgan house is the first driveway on the right. The 1954 Quarterly tells us about Colonel Morgan:*

Woodman states that Colonel Daniel Morgan's quarters were at the home of Mordecai Moore, situated at Morgan's Corner near Radnor on a high bluff overlooking Trout Run at the eastern extremity of the old encampment.

Colonel Morgan commanded an outpost in Radnor Township, and it is probable that his riflemen manned John Moore Fort, since his quarters were nearby.

He had worked his way through Pennsylvania to the Virginia frontier. Here he was a teamster in the quartermaster's department during Braddock's campaign against the French and Indians.

Morgan's troops were backwoodsmen from Virginia and Pennsylvania and were noted sharpshooters; they were generally found in the most strategic place in the line of march.

He was not at his quarters all of the time and is said to have gone home to Virginia during the winter.

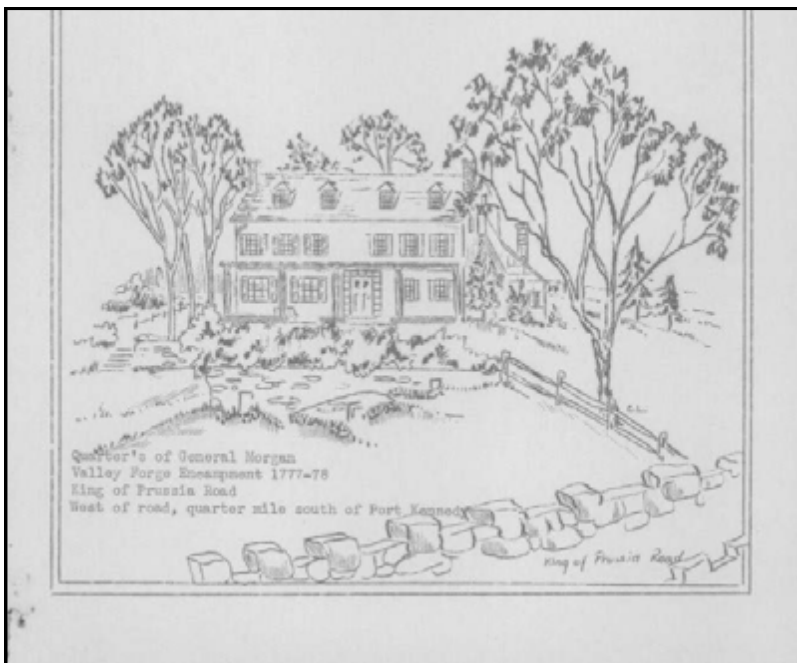
The reference above to Morgan's Corner is not quite accurate. Morgan's Corner was located near the current Radnor train station, at the other end of King of Prussia Road from Morgan's quarters. In fact, the Radnor rail-



road station was originally named Morgan's Corner. While some would connect Colonel Morgan to the Morgan family of Radnor, the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress states that the Colonel was born in northern New Jersey and spent most of his life in Virginia, so any connection would appear to be distant. Morgan did achieve the rank of Brigadier General in 1780.

The quarters building remains within the boundaries of Valley Forge Park, and currently serves as a Park Service ranger station.

The sketch at left was featured on the cover of *Quarterly* Vol. 1 No. 5, which tells of the History Club's first tour of the Generals' Quarters. The artist is Caroline Logan, of Strafford.





*William Burwell, c. 1900, from the TEHS Archives.*



*Mike Bertram, 2009.*



## Major General Johann De Kalb Brigadier General George Weedon

*We turn right out of the Morgan driveway, then right on Richards Road. Follow Richards to your next right on Gulph Road. The site of the DeKalb and Weedon quarters is a prominent house on the right, just after Gulph Road crosses over Trout Creek. Betty Haney wrote the following in 1990:*

Johann Kalb was born in Huttendorf in Bavaria in 1728, and came from a peasant background.

At the age of 16 he left home to become a waiter. Six years later he became a lieutenant in a regiment in the French infantry, changing his name to Jean DeKalb to make it sound more French and less Teutonic. After serving briefly in both the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years War, he also assumed for himself the title of Baron despite his humble, peasant origins. By 1756 he held the rank of major in the French army.

In 1764 he married a wealthy heiress, and the following January retired from the army to continue his study of languages and mathematics.

DeKalb first came to America in 1768, as a secret agent for France, to determine the feelings and attitudes of the French colonies towards Great Britain, and also their military resources. After five months, however, he was recalled to France.

At the suggestion of Silas Deane, he returned to America in the summer of 1777 and, after some controversy, was commissioned Major General in the Continental army that fall. He was quite ill with a violent fever, perhaps malaria, during much of the winter of 1777-1778, but fortunately was quartered in the home of a self-taught physician, Abijah Stephens, who attended him with home-made remedies and salves.

General DeKalb later took part in the southern campaign. In 1780 he was ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, but the city fell to the British while he was marching south. He was wounded eleven times in the Battle of Camden in August 1780, and died three days later. When Lafayette made his triumphal return to America in 1824, he laid the cornerstone for a monument in honor of General DeKalb at Camden.

Also quartered in the home of Abijah Stephens during the encampment was General George Weedon of Virginia. He had known Washington before the outbreak of the revolution, having been an inn-keeper in Fredericksburg. He was also active in the patriot cause before the war.

In February 1774 he was named a lieutenant in the Virginia militia, and was promoted to full colonel in September, joining Washington to take part in the New York and New Jersey campaigns. In February 1777 he was made brigadier general in the Continental Army by the Continental Congress, and



DeKalb above, Weedon below.





*William Burwell, c. 1900, from the TEHS Archives.*

was with the army at the Brandywine and Germantown before the winter encampment at Valley Forge. The Orderly Book he kept at Valley Forge is a valuable source for information about the ac-

tivities of the troops at the camp that winter. General Weedon saw little service after Valley Forge, resigning from the army in August 1778 after controversy over promotions.



*From the TEHS Archives, 1989.*

Weedon commanded Virginia troops under General Greene.

The original house burned down, with a replacement structure being erected in 1802, overlooking Trout Creek as seen in the photo above. It is interesting to note that the daughter of Abijah Stephens married Edward Woodman, Revolutionary War veteran and father of author Henry Woodman. Although Henry and family lived nearby on Trout Creek, he spent a great deal of time at the Stephens house.

## Major General John Sullivan

*After passing the DeKalb and Weedon quarters, make the second left on Weedon Road, then right on Richards. On the left is the site of Sullivan's quarters. Bob Ward and Bob Goshorn wrote about this location in 1990:*

John Sullivan was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1740. He was the son of John and Marjory Brown Sullivan, both of whom had come to this country from Ireland in about 1723 as redemptioners.

The future general studied law at Portsmouth under Samuel Livermore, and became what the *Dictionary of American Biography* described as an "able, if somewhat litigious lawyer." It would appear that he remained "somewhat litigious" throughout his life.

An early adherent to the patriot cause, he served in both the first and second sessions of the Continental Congress. He had also been made a major in the New Hampshire militia, and in April 1775 led a group that captured Fort William and Mary at the mouth of Portsmouth harbor and appropriated about 100 barrels of gunpowder from the British.

In June 1775 he was one of eight brigadier generals commissioned by the Continental Congress for the Continental Army, and joined Washington in Boston. After the evacuation of Boston in March of 1776, he was assigned to the northern army in Canada, and was briefly its commander until superseded by General Horatio Gates. (When this happened he threatened to resign from the army, but apparently was talked out of it by John Hancock, the president of the Continental Congress.)

Promoted to major general, he returned to the main army, but was captured by the British at the Battle of Long Island. Soon afterwards, however, he was exchanged for Richard Prescott, a British general, and rejoined the American army at Westchester, New York, participating in the retreat across northern New Jersey and taking part in the battles at Trenton and Princeton.

In the summer of 1777 General Sullivan (along with both General Knox and General Greene) again threatened to resign from the army when it appeared that a newly-arrived French officer, DuCordray, was to be given a rank above theirs. While the issue resolved itself with the accidental drowning of DuCordray, the incident led to some ill-feeling on the part of some members of the Continental Congress towards General Sullivan, which was exacerbated by Sullivan's failure in a subsequent attack on the British posts on Staten Island. In September 1777 a court of inquiry was held to investigate his conduct at Staten Island, but he was exonerated from any blame.

That fall he also participated in the Battle of Brandywine, where his actions were again criticized by one of the members of the Continental Congress, Thomas Burke of South Carolina. General Sullivan was also at the Battle of Germantown.

His quarters during the encampment at Valley Forge that winter were in a house owned by Thomas Waters, on Trout Run.





The quarters of General Sullivan, in a photograph by J.G. Francis for *The History of Valley Forge*, by Henry Woodman. Date of the photo is between 1905-1915. Courtesy of Elizabethtown College, Church of the Brethren Photo Collection, in the Access Pennsylvania Digital Repository.

In the spring of 1778 General Sullivan left Valley Forge to take command of troops in Rhode Island defending Newport. When hoped-for help from the French navy did not materialize, he was forced to withdraw back to the mainland and the town of Providence. In March of 1779 he was sent to western Pennsylvania, where his unit completely routed a combined force of Indians and Loyalists, pushing them back into northern New York state.

Impaired health led him to resign from the army in 1779. Upon his return to New Hampshire, he was again elected to the Continental Congress, and later was three times elected president (or governor) of the state. He was also chairman of the New Hampshire convention that ratified the

new federal Constitution in 1788, enabling it to go into effect. In 1789 he was appointed a United States District Judge, a position he held until his death in 1795.

In summary, in the DAB he was described as "reveal[ing] traits typical of his Irish ancestry; he was brave, hot-headed, oversensitive, fond of display, generous to a fault, usually out of money, and a born political leader."

Sullivan is also known as the builder of a bridge over the Schuylkill during the encampment, downstream of Washington's Headquarters towards Fatland Ford. This provided access to quartermasters supplies on the opposite shore, as well as a means of retreat should the British attack from the near side of the river. A stone marker placed by the Historical Society of Montgomery County marks the approximate location of the bridge.



Thomas Waters, owner of the house, was possibly the wealthiest person in Tredyffrin at the time. He owned land in Upper Merion and also had a home in Philadelphia. As recorded in the previous issue of the *Quarterly*, Vol. 48 No. 4, he filed a claim of reparations for the loss of 140 pounds of paper currency, 55 pounds in gold and silver, silver tablespoons, a silver watch and chain, and a gold ring. The dimensions of the house at the time of the Glass Tax were 42' by 21'. The home today is often referred to as Mifflin House, although General Thomas Mifflin is believed to have resided in a separate house on property nearby at the time of the encampment.

From the TEHS Archives.



## Brigadier General James Potter

*We now follow Richards Road to the end, turn left on Thomas Road, then right on Red Coat Lane. The house we're looking for is down a long driveway and not visible from the road.* Elizabeth Goshorn provides our background from the 1990 tour:

At the time of the Valley Forge encampment, the small stone house owned by Jacob Thomas, a son-in-law of the late Daniel Walker and his widow Lydia, was taken over as the quarters for General James Potter, though he was at his home in central Pennsylvania during much of the winter.

Unlike the other generals at Valley Forge, General Potter had not been commissioned a general in the Continental Army by the Continental Congress, but was a general in the Pennsylvania militia, appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council.

He was born in County Tyrone in Ireland in 1729, and came to this country with his parents and their family when he was twelve years old, in 1741. The Potters settled on a farm in "western" Pennsylvania, and his father was the first sheriff of Cumberland County.

At the age of 25 James Potter was a lieutenant in the border militia, and in 1756 he served with his father in the Kitanning campaign in the French and Indian War under Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong. He remained active throughout the French and Indian War, and by 1764 had himself been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After the war he and his family settled on a larger tract of land, located in Penn's Valley in central Pennsylvania, and he became a successful farmer and an early leader in the revolutionary movement. He was also a member of the 1776 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, but was active with the militia during most of its meetings.

After participating in the battles at Trenton and Princeton he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the militia in April 1777. His troops were also at Brandywine and Germantown, and their efforts to harass enemy foraging parties after the British occupation of Philadelphia earned for him the personal commendation of General Washington.

Shortly after the American army moved into Valley Forge, in early 1778, General Potter's wife became seriously ill, and he returned to his home in central Pennsylvania to care for her and to attend to other personal business. In March he rejoined the army at Valley Forge, at Washington's request, the Commander-in-Chief having written, "If the state of General Potter's affairs will admit of his returning to the army, I shall be exceedingly glad to see him, as his activity and vigilance have been much wanted during the winter."

When the army left Valley Forge General Potter was called to Fort Augusta on the Susquehanna to organize the militia to turn back the Indian raids and incursions into central and western Pennsylvania.

In 1780 he was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council, and was its vice-president the following year. He was also promoted to major general in the militia in May of 1782. From 1784 until his death in 1789 he was deputy surveyor for Pennsylvania in Northumberland County, and engaged successfully in land speculation, amassing for himself what is described in the *Dictionary of American Biography* as "a large and valuable estate consisting principally of choice lands in central



*William Burwell, c. 1900, from the TEHS Archives.*

Today the house is a private residence. Along with Poor's quarters, it was opened to the public for the Historic House Tour of the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust in 2007. Glass Tax records show a two-story stone house, 28' by 20', with a two-story stone addition, and a 20' by 10' stone kitchen. The house has been extensively remodeled in more recent years, but a portion of the old home is still preserved.



*From the TEHS Archives.*

Pennsylvania." He died from injuries received while helping to raise a barn.

Potter County, established in north central Pennsylvania in 1804, was named in honor of James Potter. (It was originally called Sinnemahoning County, but was renamed for the general.)

More recent research indicates that Potter may have been quartered—for the brief time he was at Valley Forge—at the home of Daniel Walker's son, Jacob Walker, rather than at the home of his son-in-law, Jacob Thomas. The home of Jacob Walker burned down in 1791 and is not listed in the 1798 Glass Tax records. It had been located on the west side of Thomas Road, south of Poor's quarters, and thus not far from the house of Jacob Thomas.



## Brigadier General Enoch Poor

*Retracing our route back to Thomas Road, turn right, and we'll come upon Poor's quarters on the right, opposite Colonel Dewees Road.* General Poor commanded a brigade of troops from New York and New Hampshire. Richardson Onderdonk tells about Poor from the 1990 tour:

Enoch Poor, born in Andover, Massachusetts, was the third generation of his family that had emigrated from England. His family were primarily farmers, but also soldiers, his father having fought at Louisburg against the French in 1765, and Enoch Poor also having participated in the expedition to Nova Scotia during the French and Indian War.

He had little education, and was apprenticed as a cabinet maker. In 1760 he moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, where he became a ship builder.

Protesting the Stamp Act, he served on a committee to restrict the consumption of English goods.

He also formed a regiment of militia, and joined Washington and his army during the siege of Boston in 1765. He was then sent to help Arnold at Saratoga, but in December 1776 left Fort Ticonderoga to come down and rejoin Washington's army at Trenton and Princeton.

Commissioned brigadier general in February 1777, he was again assigned to the operations in northern New York. When he advocated relinquishing Fort Ticonderoga to the British, Congress ordered an investigation but Washington squelched the charges, describing Poor as "intrepid and an officer of distinguished merit."

General Poor shared the miseries of Valley Forge, with his quarters in the home of Benjamin Jones, a blacksmith, during the winter of 1777-1778. While at Valley Forge he participated with Lafayette in the action at Barren Hill.

After the army left Valley Forge, General Poor and his troops saw action at Monmouth, and then accompanied General Sullivan on his expedition to western New York against the Iroquois Indians. In 1780 his troops were made a part of a light infantry division under Lafayette.

General Poor died in Paramus, New Jersey in September 1780, either from fever or possibly from wounds received in a duel with a junior officer. His portrait hangs in the state capitol in Concord, New Hampshire.

[During the visit to Poor's quarters, the present owner of the property also reported that the house has a ghost -- but whether it is that of General Poor or of one of the owners of the house is not clear. It was also reported that it makes an appearance only after some change has been made in the house.]

The 1954 *Quarterly* article adds more information about the house:

It was then [1777-78] the home of Benjamin Jones, and known as "Little Place Farm." It is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. McCready.





The house was built on a land grant from William Penn to the Walker family, and was for many years the home of Nathan Walker. The oldest part of the house is a three story stone building of six rooms, and the date stone is either 1740 or 1748. The curved stairway is closed. The addition was built between 1812 and 1825.

The house has original floors, hardware and window panes. In the library hangs a small Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, and a portrait of Enoch Poor made by the present owner of the house.

The quarters of General Poor, in a photograph by J.G. Francis for *The History of Valley Forge*, by Henry Woodman. Date of the photo is between 1905-1915. Courtesy of Elizabethtown College, Church of the Brethren Photo Collection, in the Access Pennsylvania Digital Repository.

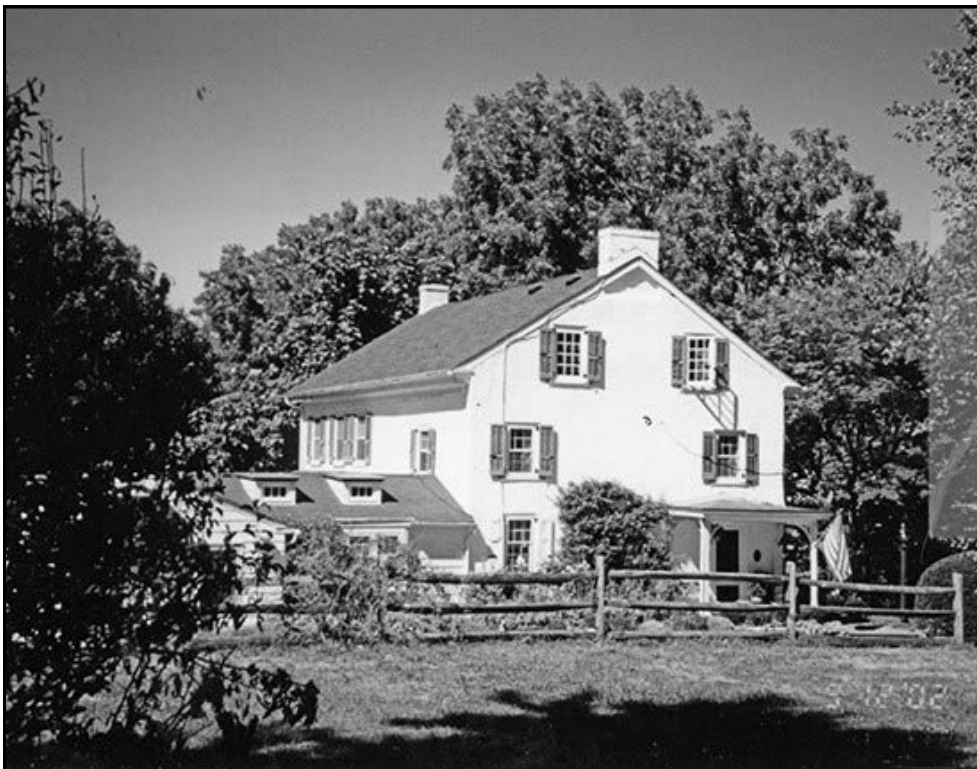


Photo by Sue Andrews, 2002, from the TEHS Archives.

## Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski

*Continuing on Thomas Road past Poor's quarters, make a right at Walker Road. Pass Prussian Lane, and we find the quarters of General Pulaski on the right, set far back from the road. Barbara Fry wrote the 1990 article:*

Casimir Pulaski was both a Polish patriot and an American Revolutionary War hero. He was born in Podalia, Poland in 1748, and died in Savannah, Georgia in 1779.

When he was only 20 years old he joined with his father, Count Joseph Pulaski, in the organization of the Confederation of the Bar. The two Pulaskis led an active rebellion in Poland in an attempt to drive out foreign domination.

Casimir Pulaski was soon made commander-in-chief of the Polish patriot force. He was brave in battle, and at first was successful, but in 1772, after four years, his forces were crushed and young Pulaski fled to Turkey. All his estates were confiscated at that time.



In Turkey he tried to convince the Turks to attack Russia. Failing this, he arrived in Paris in 1775 penniless and unemployed. There he was introduced to Benjamin Franklin, who wrote a letter of introduction to General Washington. Another American lent Pulaski money for the ocean voyage, and he arrived in Boston in July 1777. In August he met General Washington.

Up to this point, during the first eighteen months of the war, there had been no cavalry, but a reorganization of the army in the summer of 1777 included four cavalry units. In late August Washington wrote to John Hancock, suggesting that Pulaski be given command of the cavalry units.

In September 1777, Pulaski joined Washington as a volunteer and participated in the Battle of Brandywine. He distinguished himself in the battle, and soon afterward was made brigadier general and chief of cavalry by the Continental Congress. With Washington, he also fought at Germantown before the army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

General Pulaski was at Valley Forge only a short time, but had quarters there in the home of John Beaver. In December 1777 Washington sent him with his cavalry to Trenton, as food was becoming scarce at Valley Forge for both men and horses. He commanded the cavalry at Trenton most of the winter, and later was at Flemington. He was sent with General Wayne to scout for supplies for the troops at Valley Forge, but before long refused to serve under Wayne.

He also often aroused the hostility of his own troops. Pulaski usually had Washington's ear -- when subordinates did not prevent him from seeing the Commander-in-Chief -- but he did not move comfortably with the Americans. His English was poor, and he had made enemies of the American officers who had sought to lead the cavalry. (Washington had envisioned a dashing, plumed, European-type cavalry, and Pulaski's was a skilled and sweeping style. He would throw his hat onto the ground, ride out, and then ride in again, sweeping the hat into the air. Some Americans thought him more a



*William Burwell, TEHS Archives, c. 1900.*

comic or circus figure!) Since his appointment was not working out, he resigned his command after six months in March 1778.

Congress, with Washington's approval, then allowed him to organize an independent corps of cavalry, with headquarters in Baltimore. In September 1778 he appeared before Congress to plea for an end to the inactivity of his troops. He was then sent to Egg Harbor, where his unit was badly cut up. He was then sent to Minisink, on the Delaware River, where he again became restless and complained that there was "nothing but bears to fight". Finally, in February

1779, he was ordered to Savannah to support Benjamin Lincoln in South Carolina.

Arriving at Charleston in May, he heard of a movement by the British army. He rushed to attack its advance guard, but was decisively defeated. He then joined General Lincoln.

In August he again wrote Congress a long letter, detailing the disappointment and ill-treatment he had encountered in the army, and expressing the hope that he could still be of service and prove his devotion to the American cause. At Savannah on October 4 he bravely, if impetuously, charged the British line at the head of his cavalry troops, and was mortally wounded. Surgeons could not remove the bullet, and he died two days later.

Not a lot appears to have been written about Pulaski, and what has been written usually ignores his mistakes and records his gallant death that served to enoble the young soldier who died in Savannah when he was only 31 years old.

The 1954 *Quarterly* has more to share: The original building was built about 1715 or 1720. It is made of Penn-



*Mike Bertram, 2006.*

sylvania field stone with walls two feet thick. The original house had two rooms on the first floor with a hall and unusually wide stairs, two large and one small room on the second floor and the same on the third floor. The windows were very narrow and have since been made into casement windows. There is one fireplace on the first floor of the original building now. It is believed . . . that there were originally two corner fireplaces on the first floor, but these had been removed many years ago. There have been three additions to the original building. The dining room was added about 1800 and this has a beautiful colonial fireplace. The final addition, the kitchen, was made after 1900.

## Brigadier General Anthony Wayne

*After we pass Pulaski's quarters, our next left onto Anthony Wayne Drive takes us to Wayne's quarters, on the left. Wayne is the well-known commander of Pennsylvania troops. Bob Goshorn relates the story in 1990:*

Although General Anthony Wayne's home (and birthplace) was located only about four miles from the Valley Forge campsite, he felt it more prudent to use the home of his cousin Sarah Thomas Walker and her husband Joseph Walker, behind the picket line, as his quarters during the encampment. The house had been built about twenty years earlier by Walker.

The activities of General Wayne are familiar to most club members. He was born on New Year's Day 1745 at "Waynesborough" in Easttown Township, and started his schooling at his uncle Gilbert Wayne's school nearby before attending the Philadelphia Academy, the progenitor of the later University of Pennsylvania. Fond of mathematics, he became a surveyor, working in Canada for Benjamin Franklin and others.

Returning to Philadelphia, he married Mary Penrose and cultivated his Waynesborough estate, establishing a tannery there. He was also active in the Committee of Safety and other revolutionary groups. He first saw military action in the ill-fated expedition to Canada in the spring and summer of 1776, and in November was made commander of Fort Ticonderoga.

Three months later, in February 1777, he was commissioned brigadier general and joined the main army at Morristown. During the British campaign to capture and occupy Philadelphia that fall his services at the Brandywine, Paoli, and Germantown were conspicuous. During the winter at Valley Forge he led several successful foraging expeditions, earning for himself the derogatory nickname of "Drover Wayne" by John Andre.

After the Battle of Monmouth following the evacuation of Valley Forge, General Washington wrote: "I cannot forbear mention of Brigadier General Wayne, whose conduct and bravery through the whole action deserves particular mention." But perhaps his most notable achievement was the taking of Stony Point in New York in June 1779, a bayonet assault at which "Remember Paoli!" was the rallying cry.

In 1781 he joined General Lafayette, and later General Nathanael Greene, in the southern campaign which culminated at Yorktown. For his part in the recapture of Savannah, he was given a large estate and plantation by the state of Georgia. He was made brevet major general in October 1783.

General Wayne's military career continued after the Revolutionary War. In 1792 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States by President Washington, with the delicate mission of subduing the Indians in the west without rekindling war with Britain. With his victory over







*R. L. Reifsnyder, 1905, from the TEHS Archives.*

the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, and the ensuing Treaty of Greenville, the mission was accomplished.

General Wayne died at Presqu'Isle [now Erie, PA] in December 1795. He was originally buried near the blockhouse at the fort, but was re-interred at St. David's Church in 1809.



*From the TEHS Archives, 1989.*

Built in 1757, the home known as Many Springs Farms sits adjacent to a tributary of Trout Creek. Glass Tax records show a two-story stone house of 30' by 28' with a stone kitchen, 22' by 16'.

## Major General Nathanael Greene

*Returning to Walker Road, turn right, and head away from Chesterbrook. At the corner of Walker and Old Eagle School Roads is a large undeveloped tract (at least as of this writing) that once held the quarters of Rhode Island native General Greene. The 1954 Quarterly article tells the following story:*

This New England-born Quaker is usually conceded to have been next to Washington in ability among the American generals. Supplied with inadequate troops, it has been said of him that he never won a battle nor lost a campaign. Always dependable, perhaps his greatest work was in the south toward the close of the war. In the fall of 1777 he was directed by Washington to examine and report upon the forts on the Delaware and then to retire to Valley Forge.

His quarters were in the Isaac Walker home "Rehobeth" on the north side of Route 202 west of Eagle School Road. To reach them turn north from Route 202 at Eagle School Road and take the lane leading to the west at a point a short distance north of Valley Friends Meeting. It is a two-and-a half story house. The



A photo of Rehobeth, the Walker home at the corner of Walker and Old Eagle School Roads, c. 1896. Photo from Priscilla Walker Street's book, *Lewis Walker of Chester Valley and his Descendants*.

original house was built prior to 1709; this is now the east wing of the house. A large addition was built by Isaac Walker in 1799 and more was added in 1899 by Charles Walker. The house is now owned by J. Edgar Hires of Philadelphia.

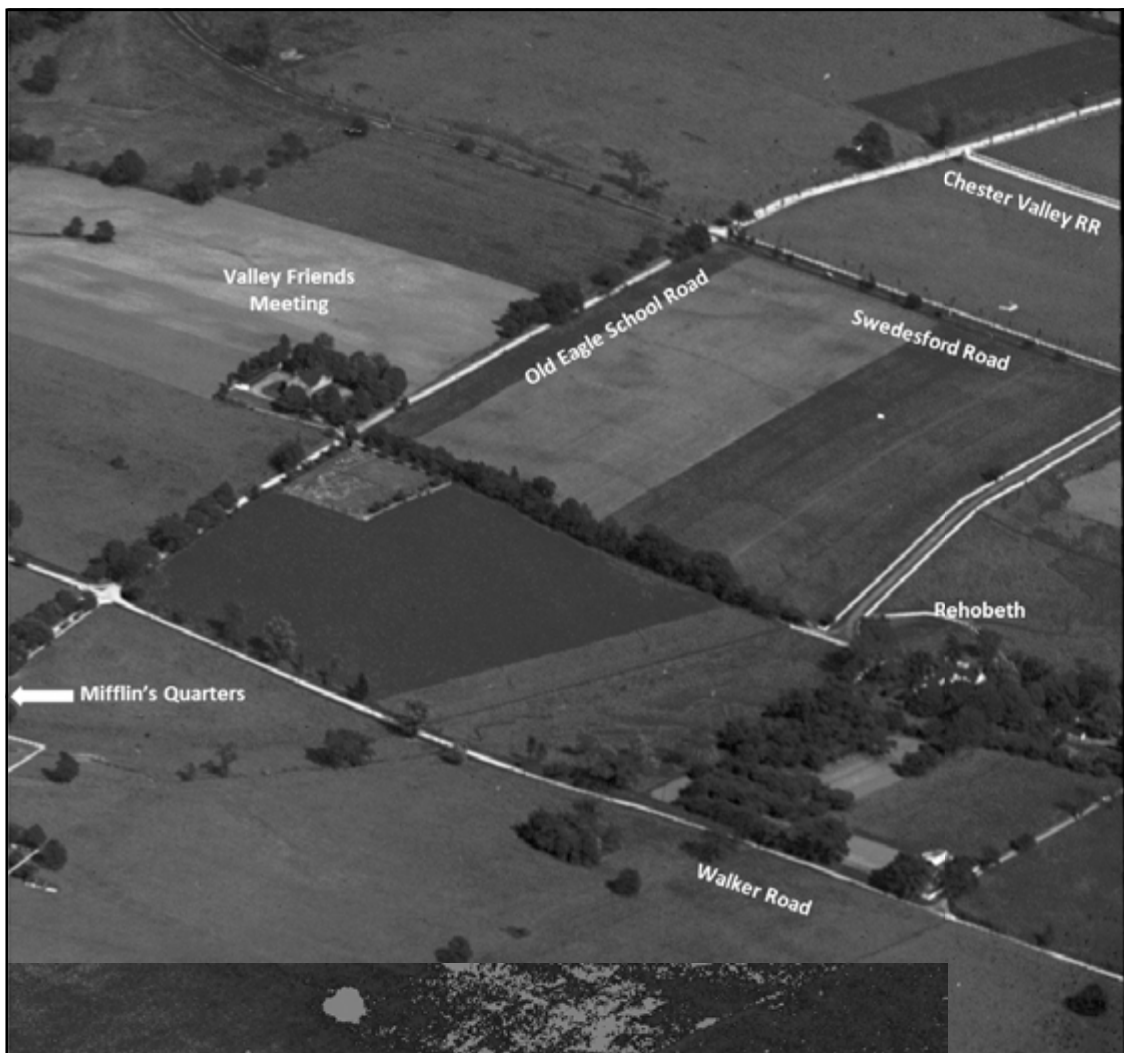
Major General Nathaniel Greene was born in New England in the town of Warwick, situated at the head of a small stream known as Potowhommett. His father was a Quaker preacher and his early knowledge all came from one book, the Bible. His

mother died when he was ten years old. He married the niece of Governor Green's wife on July 20, 1774, and she was one of the several wives who joined the officers at Valley Forge.

General Greene commanded Muhlenberg's and Weedon's brigades of Virginia troops and the center or reserve of the array. Upon the resignation of General Thomas Mifflin of Pennsylvania, General Greene took over the management of the Quartermaster's department to the great satisfaction of the army.

His troops were pronounced as the best disciplined men in the service by a member of Washington's staff. General Greene presided at the trial of Major Andre.

The Glass Tax records indicate that the house was only one story, but with a fairly large 45' by 17' footprint. The house has been demolished. The property, now owned by the Richter family, is one of the largest remaining undeveloped properties in Tredyffrin, although a developer is currently working on plans to change that. Office buildings and townhomes could occupy the site by the end of the decade.



East end of the Walker tract, by the Dallin Aerial Survey Company, 1927. *TEHS Archives and Hagley Museum and Library.*

## Major General Thomas Mifflin

*Across Walker Road from Rehobeth stood the quarters of General Mifflin, also demolished. The 1938 tour provides a brief description of the location and the General:*

Northward on a line with Old Eagle Road, some distance in from the road, approach by lane, opposite the gable end of a barn; can be seen, the site of Maj. Gen. Thomas Mifflin's quarters #22 on map. (. . . The confusion and derangement of the Quartermaster's Dept. while filled by Gen. Thomas Mifflin was the source of perpetual embarrassment to Washington. That officer, however capable of doing his duty, was hardly ever at hand. His resignation, and the appointment of Gen. Nathaniel Green to fill the office, was to the great satisfaction of the army.)

The 1954 *Quarterly* also provides some information:

He [Mifflin] was dissatisfied with the way Washington was conducting the war and conspired to remove him. The plan failed, however, and Mifflin was removed from the War Board in 1770. On December 31, 1790 he became Pennsylvania's first Governor and served until December 17, 1798. He died January 20, 1800.



Mifflin's reputation has also been tainted by his association with the Conway Cabal, whether or not there is sufficient justification.

Research of deed history shows that the property was owned by William Godfrey for many years, then sold to Isaac Potts in 1773. A few months later, Potts sold it to business partner William Dewees, whose first marriage had been to a member of the Potts family. Dewees was the ironmaster of the forges on Valley Creek, and their destruction by the British led to his financial downfall. He managed to hold off his creditors for a number of years, but by 1788 the creditors were closing in. He then participated in a financial maneuver with his father-in-law from his second marriage, Thomas Waters, in order to shelter it from creditors outside the family. Dewees owed Waters money and Waters sued him to recover it. The property was sold at a sheriff's sale and Thomas Waters purchased it. Presumably Dewees still lived there until his death. Waters died in 1794 and willed the property to Dewees' son, thereby keeping it in the family.

The property was eventually owned by John R. K. Scott, a wealthy attorney, whose son Hardie Scott provided the name for the Glenhardie neighborhood of Tredyffrin. The site of Mifflin's quarters, as identified by Woodman, is located on the grounds of the Glenhardie Country Club. The Glass Tax records show that the home was a two-story stone dwelling, 25' by 22', with a large stone kitchen, 33' by 18'.

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Here ends our tour. Hopefully you have gained an appreciation for the remnants of history that remain in our area, both inside and outside Valley Forge Park. We are fortunate that so many historic houses have survived the onslaught of suburbanization, even if a few have not. Once you return home, it would be worthwhile to read Woodman's book, *The History of Valley Forge*, which is available on-line at no charge from Google. Go



to <http://books.google.com/> and search for the title or author. Copies are also available through the Chester County Library System, but they are not permitted to be removed from the library premises. Also keep an eye out for local house tours, in case any of the private homes in this article are included in the itinerary. Reading about history is educational, but nothing beats the experience of visiting historic sites in person.



*Photo by William Burwell, c. 1900. TEHS Archives.*



*Photo from *The History of Valley Forge*, by Henry Woodman*

#### **Quarters of Gen. Mifflin**

**original house razed, site designated by x, having stood across lane from the barn, present house some distance to northeast**