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Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly



Perspectives on Valley Forge Village

The Centennial Celebration of The Evacuation of Valley Forge, June 19, 1878

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From the Editor

Long-time Society member and prolific contributor Jim Brazel has kept a vigilant watch for opportunities to collect images and other assets relevant to history of the local area, and acquired an intriguing illustration from *Harper's Weekly* that inspired him to investigate and document the story of the Centennial Celebration of the Evacuation of Valley Forge, held on June 19, 1878.

Veteran researcher Mike Bertram collaborated on Jim's project by transcribing an extended article found in the June 20, 1878 issue of the *Philadelphia Times*, providing a valuable additional perspective.

A number of threads contained within these two pieces connect with some of the noteworthy but as yet unpublished historic photos of the Valley Forge area from the Society's archives, the stories behind them, and some of the findings from Mike's ongoing deed research on the properties now within the borders of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

The development of the Park—initially by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and after the United States Bicentennial in 1976 by the National Park Service—as a way to preserve the important history of the legendary encampment, had consequences as some earlier structures and landscape features were removed when they were deemed to be unrelated to the 18th-century history focus and the area's new role as a park. The process of restoring the Valley Forge area to its appearance at the time of the encampment of the Continental Army resulted in the removal of nearly all traces of the industrial community that flourished along Valley Creek in the 1800s.

Much of the material in the compilation article entitled "Perspectives on Valley Forge Village" has been adapted from information originally published on Mike Bertram's ever-expanding Documents area of the Society website, and some is previously unpublished. Special thanks to Nancy Kimmons for editorial support, and Roger Thorne for his valuable contributions and assistance with some of the images, and to Heidi Sproat for her essential research on the images and related content.

We are also pleased to present several shorter features provided by Joyce DeYoung, Justin Clement, and Meg Wiederseim.

Lastly, editors past and present share a remembrance of our late friend and valued collaborator Bonnie Haughey.



A 1911 oil painting by American artist Charles Morris Young (1869-1964) titled "Valley Forge" first shown at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in "The Exhibition of Paintings by Charles Morris Young" December 30, 1911–January 17, 1912. Catalogue No. 25.

Charles Young was an accomplished painter, and lived in Radnor in his later years. A tragic house fire in 1962 destroyed more than 300 of his paintings that had been gathered by his son Christopher for a film biography of his father titled *Nature Is My Mistress*, sadly the only visual record of many of those paintings.

Trash or Treasure?

It is not uncommon for us to hear from or about people who are in possession of some items that they may be uncertain how to value, but for which they would like to find a new home.

If you (or people you know) have photographs, drawings, maps, letters, documents, books, or other items of possible (or definite) historic interest that might be donated to the Society, please visit the Archives page of our website (**http://www.tehistory.org/archives.html**) and review our Collecting Policy, or contact us directly for more information. Email: **archive@tehistory.org**

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Image Descriptions

Front Cover: An exceptional photograph showing a view looking southeast of Valley Forge Village in 1878, the year of the Centennial Celebration. *Courtesy of Lee Kirts.*

Back Cover: (UPPER) An excerpt from a lithograph entitled "Valley Forge, Pa. 1890" by Albert E. Downs of Boston, and published by James B. Moyer, Washington Camp No. 64 P.O.S. of A. Myerstown, Pa. *Retrieved from the Library of Congress,* **https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71005360/**

(LOWER) "The Grand Review" at The Centennial Celebration of The Evacuation of Valley Forge, June 19, 1878. An excerpt from an illustration published in *Harper's Weekly* July 6, 1878, page 529. Artist's interpretations of scenes from the Centennial Celebration. *Courtesy of Jim Brazel.*

Above: "Centennial of Breaking Camp at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania," 1878. Bronze medallion by artist William Barber (1807–1879). Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Wait, 1907.

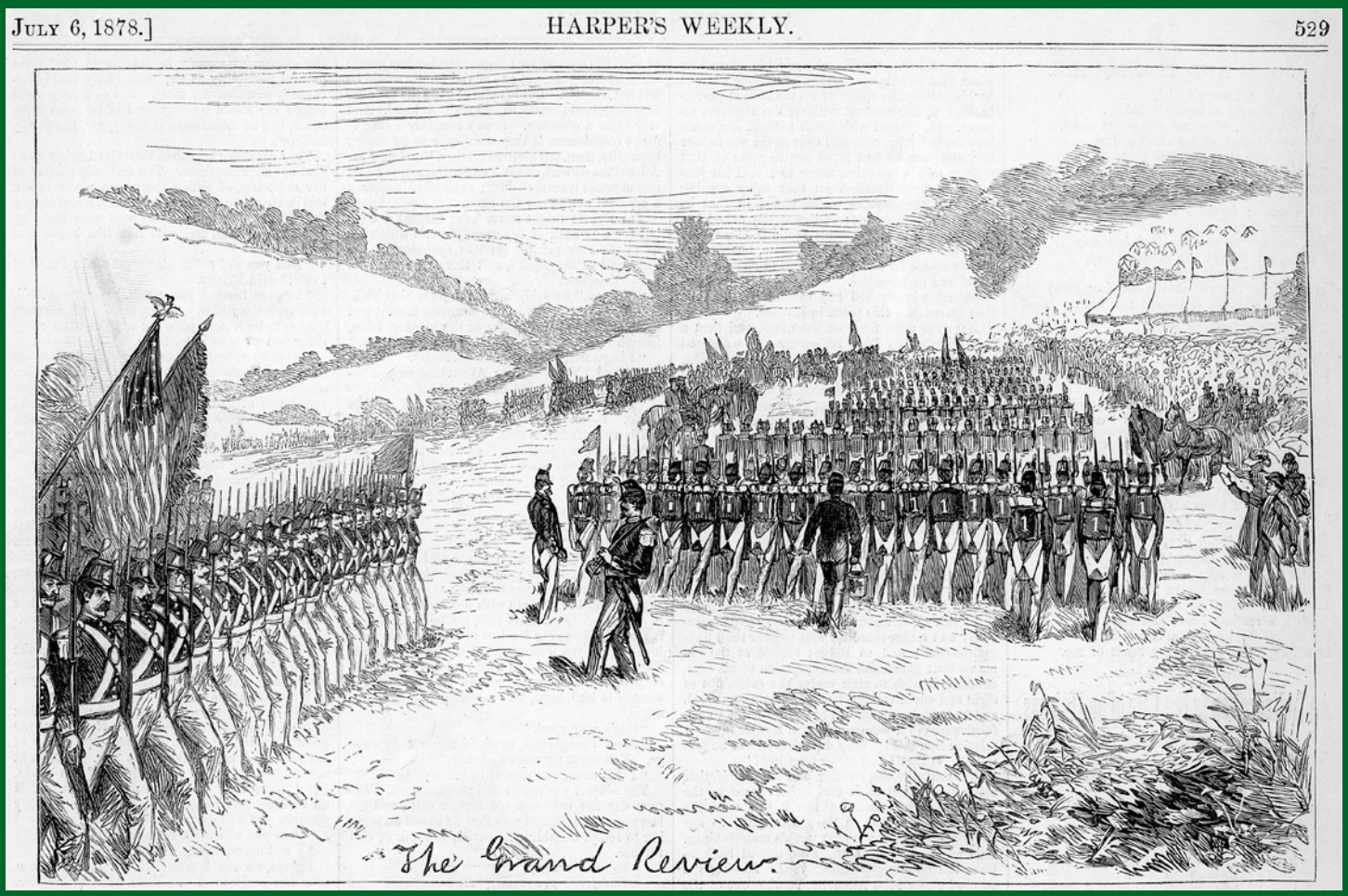
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"Valley Forge, Pa. 1890" — Lithograph by Albert E. Downs of Boston



"The Grand Review" at The Centennial Celebration of The Evacuation of Valley Forge, June 19, 1878

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