

The Valley Compatriot

San Fernando Valley Chapter



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



July ~ ~ ~ 1987

Volume 7

Number 7



★ **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER** ★

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THE FRONT COVER

VALLEY FORGE, PA. - 8 June 1987 - - - Compatriot
 CHARLES M. PITCHFORD receives the S.A.R. War
 Service Medal from President ROGER E. ROBERTSON

THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT

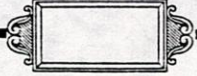
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The editorial content of the VALLEY COMPATRIOT reflects the opinions of the Editor or the authors of the various articles and is not necessarily the official position of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, unless so stated. Back-issues of this publication are available for the cost of postage.



COMPATRIOTS IN THE NEWS



COMPATRIOT CHARLES PITCHFORD RECEIVING HIS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM PRESIDENT-GENERAL CLOVIS H. BRAKEBILL



Charles Pitchford, who as reported on page 73 was presented his membership to the Sons of the American Revolution by President General Clovis H. Brakebill during the opening session of the 97th National Congress was also presented his S.A.R. War Service medal by President Roger E. Robertson for his service in the U.S. Navy during World War Two. The photo of that presentation is on the front cover.

President Roger Robertson will be addressing the staff and boys of the nationally famous BOY'S TOWN. We report the details of his address in the next issue of this publication.

Compatriot Walter H. Walley has been elected Chaplain of the La Rochelle Chapter of the California Branch of the National Huguenot Society. The Huguenot Society is a Hereditary group that requires that its members be descendant from a French Protestant, who between 1520 and 1787 emigrated from France to America.

BIRTHDAYS

JAMES L. NORMAN.....07-03
 PHILLIP R. GILTMIER.....07-13
 DONALD R. McDOWELL.....07-13
 DONALD N. MORAN.....07-16
 GEORGE S. VAN DORN.....07-29

ANNIVERSARIES

DONALD & LINDA MORAN...07-08-62
 JEFF & KATHRYN TOWERY...07-18-70
 KEITH & ELEANOR GOUGER..07-21-38

A THOUGHT TO PONDER



The Veteran's Administration periodically publishes statistics on our veterans. Usually these are typical and rather dry. But every once in a while a 'stat' is published that is surprising. Below is a 'stat' that we know you will find interesting:

"The widows of thirteen (13) CIVIL WAR veteran's are on the pensions rolls as of January 1st, 1987!"

This fact makes it easy to believe that there are people alive today that have spoken to people who knew veterans of the American Revolution!

CHAPTER MEETING NOTICE

27 JULY 1987



The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. will be holding its monthly dinner meeting on July 27th, 1987 at Leon's Steak House, 10945 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood. Social Hour 6:30 P.M., Dinner at 7:00 P.M. Applicants, wives and guests are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

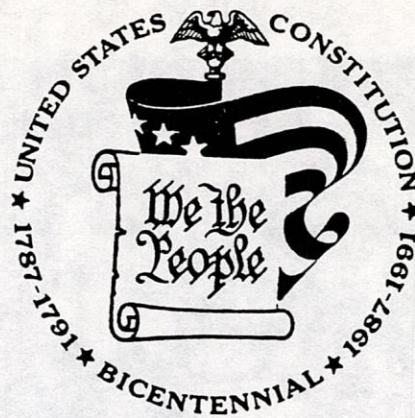
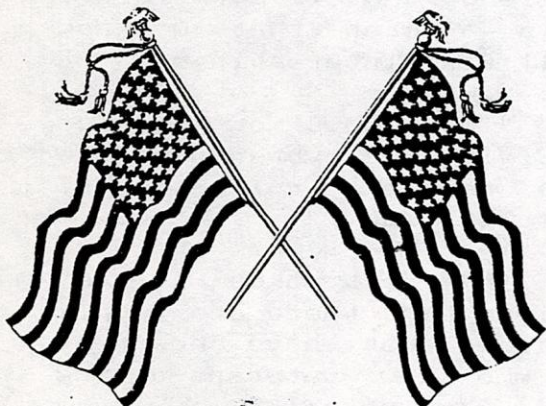
Be sure to mark your calendar and please don't hesitate to bring a guest.

WELCOME NEW COMPATRIOT



CHARLES MABEN PITCHFORD was presented his membership in the Sons of the American Revolution at the National Congress is Valley Forge by President-General Clovis H. Brakebill. Charles is a descendant of Colonel Samuel Lockhart, Col. Lockhart was in command of the 3rd Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line.

FLY OUR FLAG ON JULY FOURTH



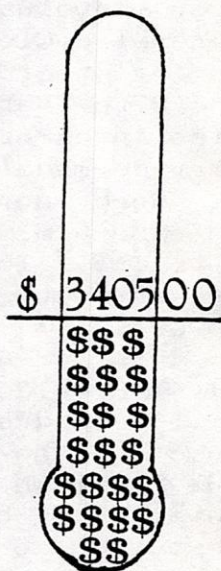
A REMINDER THIS NEWSLETTER IS SENT TO YOU EVERY MONTH UNCENSORED BECAUSE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

OUR CHAPTER'S PERMANANT FUND

THE DONORS

THE FUND

- Anonymous
- Berni K. Campbell
- Robert C. Emrey
- Donald Norman Moran
- Norman Philip Moran
- Roger E. Robertson
- Jeffrey L. Towery
- Walter G. Turnell
- Walter H. Walley



THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER'S
 INTERSERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD



THE INTERSERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD LEADING THE PARADE IN VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA.



The Chapter's INTERSERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD was invited by the President-General to participate in the 37th National Congress, and we did, representing California.

To man the "Guard" we called for volunteers from those who already planned on attending the Congress. We were successful and they were:

- ARTHUR Wm. BARRETT
 Vice-President - CASSAR
 (Long Beach Chapter)
- PAUL H. DAVIS
 Treasurer - CASSAR
 (San Diego Chapter)

- DONALD NORMAN MORAN
 President - CASSAR
 (San Fernando Valley Chapter)
- ROGER E. ROBERTSON
 Chancellor - CASSAR
 (San Fernando Valley Chapter)
- WILLIAM J. TAYLOR
 Chairman - CASSAR Audit Comm.
 (Fresno Chapter)

Our Color Guard led the Parade on Sunday, following the Drummer and fifer. (The Drummer being none other than ANN FLECK, President-General of the D.A.R.) Other functions included both the opening and closing flag ceremonies. WE WERE A SUCCESS.

OUR VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE PROGRAM



CHAIRMAN BERNI K. CAMPBELL
MAKING A DELIVERY OF BOOKS
TO THE SEPULVEDA VETERAN'S
HOSPITAL



CHAPTER PRESIDENT ROGER E.
ROBERTSON PRESENTING CLOVIS
H. BRAKEBILL, THE PRESIDENT-
GENERAL WITH THE CERTIFICATE.



Chairman Berni K. Campbell and his wife Mary made yet another delivery to both the Sepulveda and Sawtelle Veteran's Hospitals. Each hospital received over 300 books.

We have often reported that this effort is greatly appreciated by the veteran's and the staffs of both hospitals. That report is an understatement as the Veteran's Administration has singled out the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. for special recognition. The V.A. doesn't do that unless there is exceptional justification for such an honor. On May 14th,

1987, Compatriot Berni and wife Mary attended a recognition night at the Sepulveda Medical Center. The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. was presented the "Outstanding Service Award" certificate which is reproduced on the facing page. A second certificate was presented to Berni to be given to the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

At the 97th National Congress, held in Valley Forge, President Roger E. Robertson made the presentation to the President-General, Clovis H. Brakebill during the second session of the Congress.

Outstanding Service Award

This certificate is awarded to

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SAN FERNANDO CHAPTER

by the Veterans Administration

in recognition of outstanding service

to the Nation's Veterans

through the Voluntary Service program

Given at V.A. MEDICAL CENTER, SEPULVEDA, CALIF. this 14 day of MAY 19 87

Norman E. Hensley
NORMAN E. HENSLEY, DIRECTOR



VA FORM 10-7042 July 1981

THE "OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD" CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

REPORT ON THE NINETY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS - VALLEY FORGE



THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, S.A.R. DELEGATION

(left to right)

Front Row: June Cook; Irene Rupert; Toni Pitchford; Linda Moran; Helen Barrett; Mary Lou Robertson; Louise Locke.
 Second row: Rosella Davis; Jonathan Cook; Fred Rupert; George Van Dorn; Mary Van Dorn; Jane Hawkins; Lee Hawkins; Roger Robertson; Bernice Taylor; Margaret Pharr; Marcia Barry
 Third Row: Mildred Lanning; Maurice Lanning; Donald Moran; Charles Pitchford; Art Barrett; Dori Vencill; Charles Vencill; Paul Davis; Bill Taylor; Vernon Pharr; Fred Barry; Dick Locke (not shown: Carl H. Lamb)

THIRTY-ONE CALIFORNIANS!

(copies of this photograph (Photo No. 209) can be obtained by writing Silhouettes, Penny L. Rogo, 9322 Floriland Mall, Tampa, Florida, 33612



f the many things to report from the 97th National Congress, first and foremost is the unanimous election of California's own CHARLES A. VENCILL to the post of Registrar General!

It will no surprise that the large California delegation was honored with the 'WILLIAM Y. PRYOR AWARD' for the largest

State Society delegation (with consideration given for distance travelled).

The Pennsylvania Society did an exceptional job. It was one of the best. Congratulations Pennsylvania.

Numerous important issues were handled at the Congress, one of which was of particular

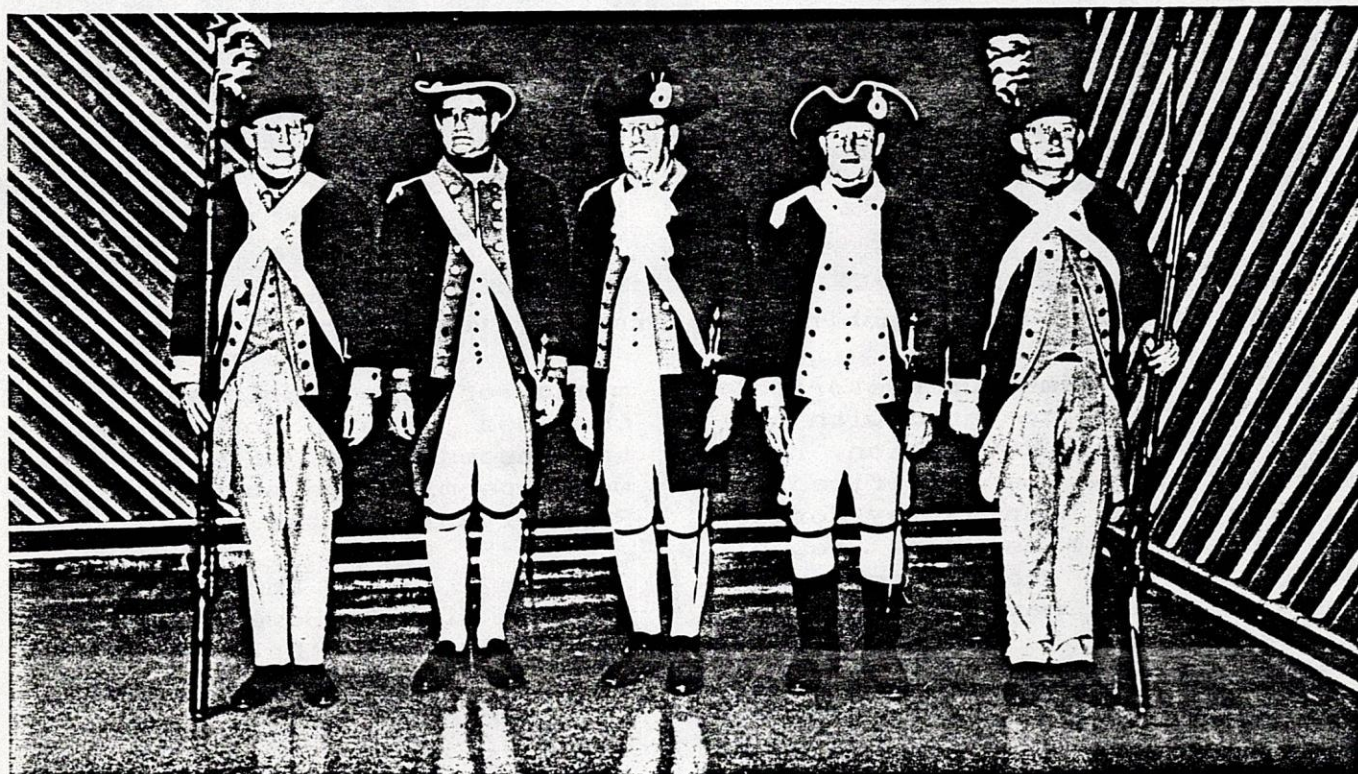
interest to the California Society, S.A.R. was a resolution introduced to combat a movement to stop the testing (in high School) of all history prior to 1860! Sound familiar? The resolution was unanimously approved, however, we addressed the Congress on the subject, declaring that it did not go far enough! Of what value is it for a student to attain an "A" on a test that (here in California) is covers total of THIRTY-EIGHT (38) PAGES of text, out of a text book of 878 pages! NONE !!!

As a result of our concern, CASSAR Chancellor, Roger E. Robertson set up a meeting with Historian- General James R. Westlake. It was decided that a Committee of investigation must be set-up to see how extensive this ANTI-U.S. History movement is, and what simular problems

the other 50 States are having. After a determination is made to the extent of the problem, than a plan of action will be developed. The stated goals of this Society are PATRIOTIC, HISTORIC and EDUCATIONAL.

Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the participation of the San Fernando Valley Chapter's Color Guard in the ceremonies at the Congress. It was great seeing the California Society represented so prominently. The Congress unanimously passed a resolution thanking the Color Guards for their efforts. (and wearing wool uniforms in 90 degree, humid heat is an effort)

The 97th Congress was a marvelous affair and all who were there appreciate the efforts of The Pennsylvania Soc.



THE INTERSERVICE CONTINENTAL COLOR GUARD AT VALLEY FORGE
 left to right: Roger E. Robertson; Paul H. Davis; Arthur Wm. Barrett;
 William J. Taylor and Donald Norman Moran.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR REVISITED

VALLEY FORGE

1777 - 1778



19 December 1777 - Washington's Army arrives at Valley Forge

If the numerous historical sites associated with the American Revolution, none conveys the sacrifices of that war more than Valley Forge. No pitched battles were fought there, with the accompanying heroics that have a way of overshadowing the hardships. It was only a winter encampment. But a place where thousands of our men died of disease, hunger, and the unrelenting cold of winter.

Valley Forge is the story of a ragged Army's struggle to survive against the terrible

might of the British Empire combined with a total lack of the necessities of life that would permit the survival of a Pennsylvania winter.

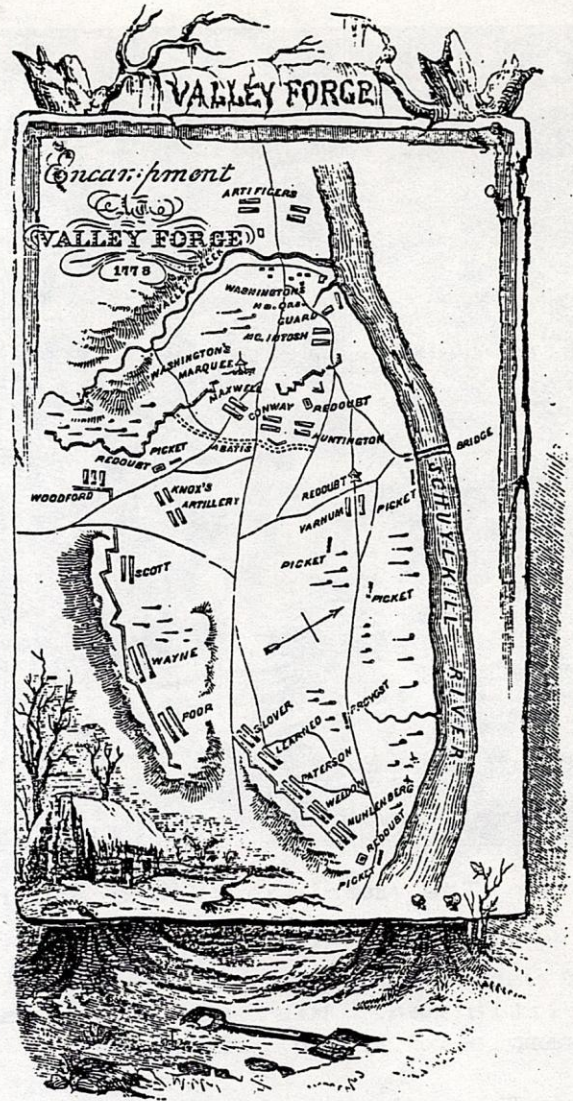
In late August, 1777, General William Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in North America elected to capture Philadelphia, which was the patriot capital. Using his brother's fleet, he sailed from fortified New York and landed at the upper end of Chesapeake Bay. George Washington and his Army counter-attacked at Brandywine and were defeated after a hard

fought battle. General William Howe triumphantly marched his Army into Philadelphia while the Continental Congress was forced to flee to the interior of the State.

In hopes of dislodging Howe before he could fortify the City Washington attacked. Germantown was the site of another costly battle. This battle had far reaching effects. After the defeat of Brandywine, the loss of Philadelphia, The Patriot army was strong enough to attack the bulk of the British Army in America - and almost win!

Further hopes of continuing the Campaign of 1777 were frustrated by the onset of Winter. Washington considered several locations for the Winter encampment of his exhausted army. Ideally moving into the rich interior of the State would greatly assist the supply situation and reduce the fear of a winter attack by the British. But, by doing that it would leave Howe free to ravage all of the Delaware Valley. To protect as much of our country as possible, Washington selected a naturally strong position on the Schulykill River, named Valley Forge, only 18 miles from Philadelphia, thereby threatening the British. The plan worked.

On December 19th, 1777 Washington and the Continental Army arrived at Valley Forge. 12,000 WEAK, ill-equipped, ill-fed, weary from their hard campaigning they struggled into the camp area. Six inches of snow covered the ground and a freezing wind chilled all of them to the bone. Washington directed the construction of 2,000 huts to protect the men from the fury of winter.



On December 23rd, 1777 Washington wrote: "To see men without clothes to cover their nakedness, without blankets to lie upon, without shoes, without a house or hut to cover them until those could be built, and submitting without a murmur, is a proof of patience and obedience which, in my opinion, can scarcely be paralled." Private Joseph Plumb Martin wrote in his account of the arrival at Valley Forge that he was so desparate that he "would have taken victuals or drink from the best friend I had on earth by force." He paid all of his money, 3 pence, for a single



The American troops enduring the winter at Valley Forge

of water from two Pennsylvania Militia men. His was a typical example of their plight.

The undernourished, freezing troops soon were ravaged by disease. Typhoid fever, typhus, dysentery and pneumonia ran rampant, killing an estimated 2,000 soldiers. All, except one, Lt. John Waterman, Quartermaster of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, were buried in common, unmarked graves. There were problems, to be sure, but for the most part, the men put up with these inexcusable hardships and stayed loyal to the cause.

Washington spent most of his time trying to get the needed support for his army. Many of his letters still exist today, and as one reads them, the

desperate plight of his men is clearly seen. Aside from the physical needs of his men, Washington realized that he had to prepare the Army for the coming 1778 campaign. Training was needed.

Fortunately for the American Cause, the Baron Friedrich von Steuben arrived from Prussia. He had the experience and skill that Washington so desperately required.

A forceful soldier, and willing to forego his position as a General Officer to act the part of a Drill Sergeant, Von Steuben tirelessly drilled the army, shaping it into an effective fighting force. He realized that the American's were not "cut from the same mold as Europeans", hence needed a

drill manual unique to them. He promptly prepared one, which was hand copied and distributed to every regiment of the Army. He instilled in the Continental Army a confidence they never had. At Valley Forge, the American Army became "Lean and Mean" and well trained!



Major General, The Baron,
Friedrich von Steuben.

As the winter months passed, the Army, under the inspirational leadership of General George Washington underwent a complete transformation. The endurance of the elements toughen the tough, The brave soldiers steadily became "professionals". The Army was molded and re-shaped into a well disciplined organization, ready to tie a knot in the English lion's tail. In the Spring they intended to do just that!

Having received word that the British Army had abandoned Philadelphia and was marching across New Jersey, General Washington ordered his Army into action. On June 19th, 1778, six months after going into winter camp, the Continental Army marched in pursuit of the British Army. The ordeal of Valley Forge was over, and five years of warfare laid ahead of them. Washington and his Army were ready. The horrid conditions of the winter of 1777-1778 had forged an Army that would gain the independence they all sought to win. The die was cast, and George the Third was soon to become George the last!

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THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR REVISITED
VALLEY FORGE

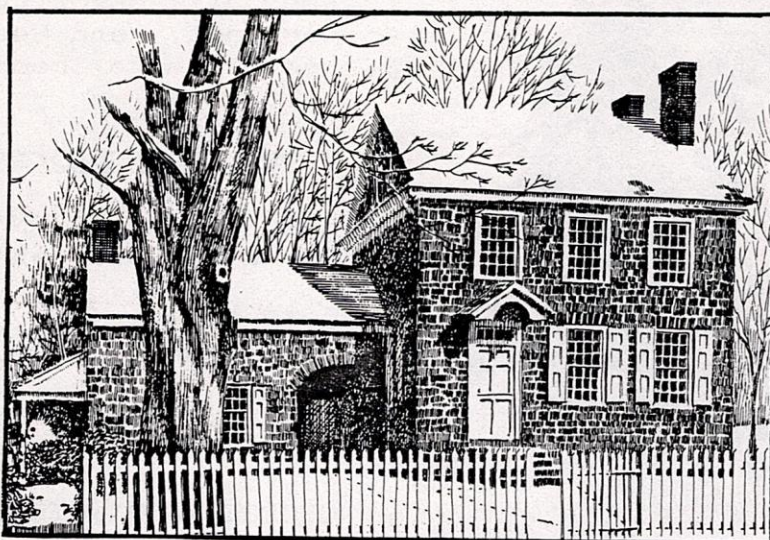
1987

Sitting in the shade of the heavily leaved trees adjacent to Gen. George Washington's Headquarters (the Isaac Potts home) at Valley Forge, it was utterly impossible to envision the hardships and suffering our Continental Army endured here. Every vista was one of quiet serenity, dense vegetation and lush pastures. A sense of plenty prevailed. Perhaps would be necessary to visit the Park in the harsh of winter to jar the mind's eye to the true horrors our soldiers had to experience during that infamous winter of 1777-1778

When thinking of the many sites of the American Revolution, the name of VALLEY FORGE usually is the first to come to mind. And, in keeping with that belief, the National Park Service has done a remarkable job of preserving our heritage there. Owing to the dense vegetation it has been possible to obscure most of contemporary Valley Forge from view. That factor allows the visitor to visualize the terrain as it was in Revolutionary War times. Although we understand there are more trees present today than there were in 1777-1778, owing to the numerous clearings made by the Pennsylvania farmers.

A well marked, self-guided, tour route gives the visitor the freedom to roam with the leisure that we all enjoy so much. That tour takes you past the extensive remains and re-built forts and earthwork lines that still abound. General Henry Knox's artillery Park, with dozens of cannon, Washington's Headquarters, and the "Grand Parade Grounds" where General von Steuben trained the Army and

where the announcement of the French alliance was made on May 6, 1778. Throughout the park there abounds monuments and statues to the Officers and men who served there in 1777-1778. Some of these are very impressive and visually reinforce the significance of Valley Forge.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS,
VALLEY FORGE

One feature of Valley Forge that we found of particular interest is the various farm houses that were used as headquarters by the generals. Washington's and Varnum's are open to the public, while Lord Stirlings, Maxwell's, Huntington's, Lafayette's and Knox's quarters were not, but are still being used as private residences, and we understand, some of them are still owned by the descendants of the original owners! The small house that General Varnum used was only recently deeded to the Park Service.



COMPATRIOT BILL TAYLOR AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARCH

One of the most impressive sights at Valley Forge is the massive National Memorial Arch which was dedicated on June 13th 1917 and overlooks the point on Gulph Road where the Continental Army entered Valley Forge. It has several inspiring inscriptions, but most prominent is the one carved upper most on the monument which reads: "NAKED AND STARVING THEY ARE, WE CANNOT ENOUGH ADMIRE THE PATIENCE AND FIDELITY OF THE SOLDIERY."

We also found that the Park Service is making extremely good use of Re-enactors, who dressed either in Revolutionary War uniform or the ladies in period dress added much to the various recreated camp sites.

Two of Linda's ancestors were members of the Commander-in

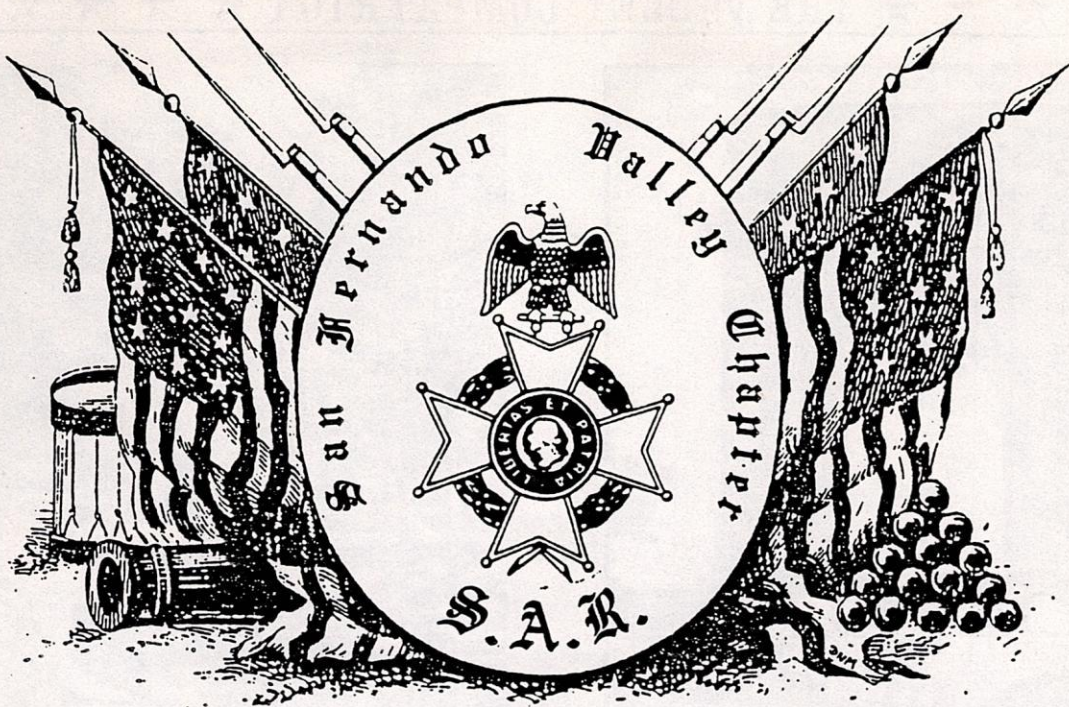


LINDA MORAN IN FRONT OF WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS

-Chief's Guard (Washington's Life Guards). They both served at Valley Forge, therefore we can be sure that during the six months of duty with General Washington, at Valley Forge, they pulled many tours of guard duty, undoubtedly standing guard at the headquarters.

It always adds a great deal to any historical site to know you had an ancestor link to it, more so when you know the exact location of that ancestors participation. With the presence of the re-enactors, one could visualize them standing guard. As an aside, they both received bounty land in Ohio, and their children married.

Valley Forge is well worth a visit as it is most inspirational and must be experienced.



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To:

First
Class

Dated Material

