PRIMARY SOURCES ON HUT CONSTRUCTION


“The sick in Regiments are by no means Provided for, as they ought to be; and the Trifle of small Comforts provided for the Men, it is said, are commonly used by the Surgeons, to the great injury of the Sick: Each Regt ought to be furnished with a Hutt in Winter, and a large Hospital Tent in Summer, and no more of the Sick sent to Hospitals than cannot be avoided, as their Distance from the Regiments, affords great opportunity for unnecessary absence from Camp, & finally Desertion.”

General Jedediah Huntington
December 20, 1777
“We are going to work with all our might and Diligence to House the Army in huts at this Place. General Washington seems resolved to concentrate our army here. Our Men are almost worn out with the constant Marches and Fatigues of the Campaign, but the army is well disposed and will try to make the best of it. I wish could tell you that I was coming home to see you, instead I am going to build me a House in the Woods.”

Thomas Paine
“General Washington keeps his station at Valley Forge, I was there when the Army first began to build huts. They appeared to me like a family of beavers, everyone busy; some carrying logs, others mud, and the rest plastering them together. The whole was raised in a few days and it is a curious collection of buildings, in the true rustic order.”

Jonathan Todd
December 25, 1777
“We are now about to build Hutts for shelter this winter Expect in a few days to be comfortable, tho we have nothing convienion to work with - Axes are very scarece - […] we have but one dull ax to build a Logg Hutt When it will be done knows not […]”

“That the timber prevalent about Valley Forge, previously to its being fallen for the use of the American army, in the autumn of 1777, and winter and spring of 1778, consisted of white oak, black oak, spanish oak, rarely interspersed with scrubby chestnut and hickory.”

Read Also:


2 General Jedediah Huntington to Relatives, 20 December 1777, Jedediah Huntington Papers, Chicago Historical Society.


4 Jonathan Todd to Timothy Todd, 25 December 1777, Roll 1561, M806, RG 15, National Archives, Washington, DC.