



# The Continental Chronicle

## Progress in Preserving Park Structures

Valley Forge National Historical Park has made strides in reducing its maintenance backlog over the last few years. This issue of *The Continental Chronicle* features highlights of ongoing preservation work.

At Valley Forge, the National Park Service is responsible for all the recurring maintenance and repairs necessary to keep 143 structures in good condition. In addition to regular maintenance by park staff, we also use federal project funds and national grants, partnerships, and increased volunteer services for special preservation projects. Continuing this success in the future is a high priority for the park.

### PRESERVING BUILDINGS

As any homeowner knows, water infiltration is the cause of much deterioration. At **Stirling's Quarters**, for example, the high water table and massive run-off from the hill above the house caused extensive moisture and termite damage to the foundation and floors. Eliminating water infiltration required trenching around the entire perimeter of the building, water-proofing the foundation, installing an underground drainage system, and re-grading.

Water infiltration also occurs through



Knox's stable with new roof installed by park maintenance staff.

failing roofs. The importance of a good roof to historic preservation is illustrated by the allocation of a federal *Save America's Treasures Program* grant, matched with grant money from private trusts and foundations, which made available \$900,000. With these funds, we were able to re-roof **Washington's Headquarters**, **Washington's Stable**, the **Philander Chase Knox House** (the site of Maxwell's Quarters), the **Maurice Stephens House** (the site of Huntington's Quarters), the **David Potts House**, as well as **Stirling's Quarters**, with historically appropriate yet fully effective materials.

New roofs also have been funded by the NPS. **Lafayette's Quarters** was re-roofed in 2000. **Knox's Stable** received funding for materials so that it could be re-roofed by the skilled park maintenance staff. The staff also re-roofed the **Whittle House** and three **field restrooms**. Contractors re-roofed the **Philander Chase Knox Chauffeur's Quarters**, **Thomas House Garage**, and the park's **Maintenance Building**.

**Knox's Quarters** is an encampment-era building that suffers from serious structural problems that developed over two centuries. With \$225,000 in funding from the *Save America's Treasures Program*, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and other donations, plans for the structural stabilization of the house will be carried out this spring.

Beginning in 2006, the historic **Valley Forge Train Station** will be completely rehabilitated using federal funds. The building will re-open to the public with services and exhibits about the leadership of General Washington and the history of the Village of Valley Forge.

Most American buildings constructed prior to the 1970s contain asbestos and lead paint. Through the years, the park has used federal funds to remove asbestos-containing materials (such as insulation, flooring and siding) from almost all park buildings. We also continue to make steady progress on



Philander Chase Knox House with new roof funded through the *Save America's Treasures program* at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

remediating lead paint through removal or encapsulation, ensuring that buildings can be fully used by the public and park staff.

Volunteers are increasingly important in preservation. Over the past three years the Rotary Club of Wayne, through Eadah Enterprises, has been responsible for over \$65,000 in repair work on eight buildings, such as repainting the exterior of the **Commissary Building**, and **Knox Stables**, and painting and siding repairs to the **Walker Barn**. Volunteers and service organizations frequently take on one-day painting and repair projects on buildings throughout the park.

### PRESERVING MONUMENTS

Through the years, more than forty monuments have been erected in the park by the states from which Continental soldiers came to the encampment, or by civic and historical organizations commemorating the history of the encampment. The monuments were meant to last through the ages, and we give them the best of care in order to ensure their longevity.

The Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania donated over \$1.5 million in architectural and engineering services coupled with skilled labor and materials to preserve the **National Memorial Arch**. Following on that successful effort, the NPS had a conservation firm re-set and re-pin

(Continued on Page 4)

## Message from the Superintendent

In the news this fall, you may have read of the end of the partnership between the National Park Service and the American Revolution Center (ARC), and the end of our joint plans to build a museum of the American Revolution within the park. Many people have asked me what "really happened." It's quite simple: we could not come to agreement on the size and financial sustainability of the proposed facility. In late October, ARC exercised its right to terminate the partnership, and it is pursuing opportunities outside the park.

We thank the ARC staff for the many ways in which they helped us to be better connected to the world outside the park. In the last few years, the park and ARC accomplished a great deal together and we thank them for their efforts. The park has been working with ARC for an orderly transition so as not to impact the visitor experience. The transition will be almost complete by the time you read this newsletter. The Welcome Center's wonderful "Encampment Store," which has been operated by ARC is open under new management. In the Welcome Center museum, artifacts from the park's and other collections will replace those belonging to ARC.

The park is moving forward on a number of fronts, as you'll see in this newsletter. For updates in between these quarterly newsletters, please visit [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo), and click on "news" or "management docs." And please don't hesitate to write or call with any questions.

- Mike Caldwell



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Valley Forge National Historical Park

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Email: [vafo\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:vafo_superintendent@nps.gov)

### Park Welcome Center

610-783-1099

### Park Headquarters

(610) 783-1000  
fax (610) 783-1053

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# The *March In* Makes Memories

The *March-In* is the park's annual commemoration of the Continental Army's December 1777 arrival at Valley Forge. This year, to engage more visitors, it was expanded to three days, with greatly broadened activities and opportunities for participation.

The weekend included a recruitment station for kids, audiences with Generals Washington and Howe, and soldier demonstrations by the Oneida Indian Nation and the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. Volunteers from the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority staffed a station interpreting the contributions of African American patriots. Visitors to the encampment were charmed by tales told by Continental soldier "Joseph Plumb Martin," portrayed by Eric Olsen. Visitors enjoyed collecting stickers to earn an "I Marched at Valley Forge" button by attending at least three stations.

Sunday featured a wreath laying ceremony at the National Memorial Arch. Superintendent Mike Caldwell and Montgomery County Commissioner Jim Mathews reminded those in attendance of the sacrifice of not only the Continental soldiers, but also the continuing service and sacrifice of U.S. military personnel around the world. Members of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment and park staff served as an honor guard presenting arms as soldiers from U.S. Army Color Guard from Fort Dix marched through to take their place before the arch. Active duty soldier William Duer, recently returned from duty in Afghanistan and Kuwait, accompanied by Mr. Philip N. Steel Jr., a descendant of a Valley Forge soldier, presented the wreath. Father James Larson of the Washington Memorial Chapel gave concluding remarks and the benediction.



Preparing for a candlelit walking tour.



Superintendent Mike Caldwell and members of the Oneida Indian Nation during March-In activities.

Activities concluded Monday with candlelit walking tours on a windy, cold, night that gave participants a sense of what the soldiers experienced 228 years before. At nightfall, a ceremonial march commenced. Visitors, serving as "troops," were inspired by the words of Washington's December 17 General Orders to the troops, read by Bruce Baky of The Friends of Valley Forge. Led by the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard with colors proudly waving, the troops kept in step to the drumbeat of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment for the march to Muhlenberg Brigade. There the men and women of the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment portrayed the soldiers and camp followers of the Continental Army. After the tours, troops and volunteers were happy to return to the warmth of the theater for refreshments provided by The Friends and entertainment by the Colonial Revelers.

The *March-In* is a moving and meaningful event. Held annually for over 30 years, it is a favorite for visitors as well as staff. Park staff and over 100 volunteers were delighted this year to be able to enhance and share the tradition with so many participants.



Active duty soldier William Duer and Mr. Philip N. Steel Jr. (descendant of a Valley Forge soldier) present a wreath at the National Memorial Arch.

## Attention Volunteers: Save these dates!

**Mammals & Habitats**, Saturday, January 21, 9:30am-1pm, P.C. Knox House - Learn how habitats and opinions toward animals have changed over the last 200 years. Learn hands-on inventory and ID techniques as well as information on current preservation and management tools in use today. Presented with Mill Grove Audubon Center. Pre-registration required.

**Volunteer Meeting**, Saturday, January 28, 10am-11am, Education Center - We will discuss volunteer issues and Ranger Bill Troppman will give a program on *300 Years of Benjamin Franklin*. Join us for a discussion of the direct impact Franklin had on the army at Valley Forge.

**Sewing Circle**, To Be Announced - we'll discuss a date at the Jan. 28 Volunteer Meeting, Education Center - Bring your sewing, knitting, quilting, or any transportable handi-work. Park staff are invited, too!

**The Nuts & Bolts of Interpretation**, Saturday, February 11, 8:30am-noon, Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (Pennsburg, PA) - Learn strategies, stories, and skills that help create a memorable visitor experience. Pre-registration required.

**President's Day Weekend**, February 18-20 - A weekend of activities including the annual **Boy Scout Pilgrimage**, soldier life demonstrations, and programs celebrating George Washington's life and achievements. Contact Bruce Stocking at 610-783-1072 to volunteer.

For more information on these activities or to pre-register, contact Michelle Ortwein at 610-783-1044 or michelle\_ortwein@nps.gov.

## VF Artifacts in Ben Franklin Exhibit

Park museum artifacts are currently on display at the National Constitution Center in the Franklin Tercentenary Exhibit *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. All Valley Forge items are in a section that describes Franklin's involvement in obtaining supplies from France for the Continental Army. A Congressional order (July 1779) for needed military equipment sent to Franklin in France is highlighted here. Valley Forge artifacts on exhibit are all French in origin and represent the types of items Franklin might have sent back to the States. The original Duportail map of the encampment (on loan from The Historical Society of PA) is on exhibit there, too.

The exhibit runs through April 30, 2006. After Philadelphia, the exhibit will go to St. Louis, Houston, Denver, Atlanta, and Paris. For more information and to buy tickets, go to <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>.

## People News

Welcome to **Jeff Bransford** who joins us as a Student Conservation Association intern. Over the summer he worked on the park's Business Plan. He will work for the Superintendent and Administration Offices.

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**Mike Kvietkauskas** joins us as a Student Conservation Association intern. He will provide interpretation throughout the park and staff the park's Welcome Center desk.

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Welcome back to Archaeologist **Dr. David Orr** who worked many years at Valley Forge NHP and who knows its archaeological resources well. He will work on park archaeology projects, as well as initiate a public archaeology program here.

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Welcome to **Kim Szewczyk**, in a new position as Business Management Assistant. Kim, who was on temporary detail here from the NPS Northeast Regional Office in Lowell, MA, will continue her work on the park's new property leasing program.

## VIP Spotlight



**Name:** Mark Messinger

**Age:** 42

**Residence:** East Vincent, PA

**Family:** Wife Meg, twin daughters Alex and Casey (5), son Joshua (3)

**Occupation:** Systems Engineer for Lockheed Martin

**Special Interests/ Hobbies:** Computers, golf, woodworking, hiking, biking, and the Valley Forge muster roll

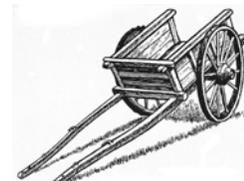
**How long have you been a volunteer at Valley Forge?** Since 1999. I started with Tom McNichol, Frank Resavy, and Tom Griffin working with the Muster Roll when Lockheed Martin was requested to help digitize the rolls from the encampment. I started to volunteer on a cold night at Dewees, along with my wife, and have been hooked ever since.

**Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** I have always loved the park and the Muster Roll was an exciting project to help me to give something back. This was also a great chance to help the park broadcast the message of Valley Forge and what it stood for in the creation of our great nation. I am constantly and consistently impressed with all the great people that come together to support this park and I take great pride in having the ability to do my small part to help.

**What is the most interesting thing you have done in your life?** Rock climbing in Utah at Red Rock Canyon.

**What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try?** I'd love to have the chance in my life time to travel into space.

**Where did you grow up?** In the Media, PA area.



## Volunteer Statistics

A special thank you to all the volunteers who worked at Valley Forge National Historical Park during fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005). See what you've accomplished!

**Total VIP hours at Valley Forge NHP: 20,168**

(That's a 12.6% increase over last year!)

**Total number of VIPs: 1,328**

A very special thank you to these high-achievers who volunteered more than 200 hours during fiscal year 2005!

**Otto Jommersbach**

**Donald Shore**

**Pete Peterson**

**Nina Rowe**

# Preserving Park Structures

(Continued from page 1.)

the **Baron von Steuben statue**. That work inspired the Pastorius Unit # 38 of the Steuben Society of America to donate toward the repair and upgrade of the stone plaza, handicap ramp, and knee wall around the statue.

The park has nearly finished preservation of the **Soldiers of Massachusetts Memorial**, erected in 1911. This \$39,000 project included historical research, dismantling the east granite bench and resetting it on a new concrete foundation, cleaning and repointing all the granite, and cleaning and rewaxing the two bronze tablets.

This summer five major monuments will be treated. A detailed physical assessment will analyze their condition and the type of work needed. Each monument will be entirely cleaned, and the bronze sculpture and plaques will be waxed. This effort is repeated every four years.

The monuments to receive treatment include:

- **Daughters of the Revolution Memorial** (1901),
- **General Anthony Wayne Statue** (1907),
- **Pennsylvania Memorial Columns** (1912),
- **New Jersey Memorial** (1913), and
- **General Baron von Steuben Statue** (1915).

The park has been fortunate in recent years to receive funding, donations, grants and volunteer services for the preservation of buildings and structures. The projects highlighted do not tell the whole story of the work that is being done. Many other preservation projects and ongoing repairs continue to take place to save and maintain what we have for future generations. We continue to seek support from all sources to reduce the maintenance backlog, treat structures with the care they deserve, and more importantly, to preserve the resources for the continued use, enjoyment and inspiration for those who visit and work in this very singular American place.

# Walnut Hill Barn to be Re-Roofed in 2006

The massive Walnut Hill Barn, located off Pawling Road on the north side of the park, is said to be the largest stone barn remaining in Montgomery County. Originally built in 1826 by Samuel Wetherill and doubled in size in 1845, it now measures just over 40' wide x 116' long, and stands over three stories high. The Wetherill Farm was one of several very prosperous farms located on the "Perkiomen Peninsula." The excellent soil, proximity to transport to market by means of the Schuylkill Canal and later railroads, and the farmer's talent and willingness to try new methods of "scientific agriculture" contributed to the success of the farm and the need for an immense barn. This agricultural history and the barn itself contribute to the park's National Register of Historic Places significance.

Valley Forge NHP acquired the barn and the land around it in the 1980s. For many years prior, the barn had not been actively used and portions had deteriorated. Once ownership passed to the NPS, large portions of the stone side walls were re-pointed and the walls stabilized.

In 2004, a large brick vault beneath the banked ramp of the barn and the adjacent, supporting stone wall of the carriage-way were rebuilt and stabilized. This preservation

project was funded by the NPS at \$43,000. With almost all of the masonry now stabilized, the park is turning its attention to the roof, which is now beginning to fail and jeopardize the interior timber framing. Originally, the barn was roofed with wood shingles, and the private owners sought to keep water out by covering the shingles with sheets of metal roof. In keeping with the NPS tradition and mandate for preservation, the non-historic metal roof will be removed as well as old wood shingles, and new wood shingles will be applied. The cost will exceed \$120,000, but will have a water shedding performance expectation of over 25 years.



Walnut Hill Barn located on the north side of the Schuylkill River.

## The Friends of Valley Forge



The Friends co-sponsored the **annual holiday party** in December for the employees and volunteers at Valley Forge National Historical Park. This is always a large, festive event, enjoyed by all, and a wonderful opportunity for park staff and volunteers to mingle.

The **March-In**, commemorating the arrival of General George Washington and the Continental Army to Valley Forge was celebrated the weekend of December 17-19 at the park. The Friends welcomed hundreds of guests and participants with hot cider and ginger cookies the night of December 19<sup>th</sup>.

The **annual meeting** of The Friends of Valley Forge will be February 8, 2006, in the Education Center at Valley Forge NHP.

The Friends will co-sponsor the **first annual 5-mile Revolutionary Run** on Saturday, April 23, at 8:30am. There will be a 5-mile run, 3-mile walk, and a 1-mile fun run for kids. Proceeds will benefit the trails of the park; this time funds will go towards the newly-named Joseph Plumb Martin Trail (formerly the multi-use trail). For more information and to pre-register, go to [www.revolutionaryrun.org](http://www.revolutionaryrun.org).

A big **"Thank You"** to the following individuals for supporting The Friends as sponsors:

Mrs. Eleanor Hertzog,

Dr. Magen D. Marcus

Mr. Jeff Strider

To contact The Friends of Valley Forge, please telephone 610-640-9681 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

## Library at Valley Forge NHP:

# Access Extensive American Revolutionary War Literature



The Philander Chase Knox House -- location of the park's library.

The park's Horace Willcox Memorial Library is a gem. It contains over 7,000 books and periodicals on the American Revolutionary War, with an emphasis on the Valley Forge encampment. Microfilm copies of the American Revolution military records housed at the National Archives are available here. The library has several copies of the *Valley Forge Report* that details the Valley Forge encampment and copies of the original 18<sup>th</sup> century documents obtained from all over the world that were gathered for the report's production. Information about the political, social, and industrial history of the area can be found in the library, as well as numerous NPS studies and reports on the administration and history of

the park.

The Horace Willcox Memorial Library can prove to be a wonderful resource when researching the American Revolutionary War. Materials are available to the public by appointment Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Employees and volunteers may check out most books for a 30-day period. As with most libraries, reference and rare books may not be checked out and must be used in the library. To make an appointment, call Dona M. McDermott at 610- 783- 1034 or email her at [dona\\_mcdermott@nps.gov](mailto:dona_mcdermott@nps.gov). The library is located in the Philander Chase Knox House on Yellow Springs Road near the Knox Covered Bridge .

Employees and volunteers also can use several satellite libraries. For those involved in interpretation there is a library in the Welcome Center lunch room and another in the Interpretation Field Office (IFO). For those interested in military collections there is a library in Michelle and Dona's office at the Welcome Center. And for naturalists there is a library at the Maurice Stephens House. To check out books from these libraries, see each area's supervisor. Come access these resources and embark on a truly revolutionary experience.

## Volunteers Wanted For Hut Rebuilding Project

Are you interested in splitting shingles and chinking walls and chimneys? In late spring 2006, the park will begin building a new hut at Muhlenberg Brigade to replace one destroyed by fire this summer. This is a great opportunity for the community to be involved, and also to build a hut that will more closely resemble those constructed by the soldiers in 1777 than any in the park today. Park staff and volunteers will contribute their time, including volunteers from Lockheed Martin/NOVA.

While some modern tools and materials will be used for efficiency and sustainability, we plan to use period tools and materials and offer special programs to highlight hut building in Revolutionary times. If you would like to participate in the hut rebuild, contact Michelle Ortwein, volunteer coordinator, at 610- 783- 1044 or [michelle\\_ortwein@nps.gov](mailto:michelle_ortwein@nps.gov).

In preparation for the upcoming project, the park will offer a program series on the log cabins at Valley Forge entitled **Shelter and Symbol** (see this page). We encourage all volunteers who work on this project to attend these special hut programs.



## "Shelter and Symbol"

### A series on the log cabins at Valley Forge

February 26, March 5, March 19  
(Muhlenberg Brigade)

*"I am going to build me a house in the woods, what do you think of the Army's making two thousand log Houses in all the regularity of a town."* General Jedediah Huntington to his brother, 20 December 1777.

When the Continental Army trudged into Valley Forge on December 19, 1777 and established its winter quarters, the first priority was to build shelter. The industrious soldiers,

who one observer compared to a family of beavers, quickly rendered trees into building materials. Eventually, a log city of some 2,000 huts rose on the hillsides. Individual huts, if properly built, offered welcome respite from harsh field conditions. After the army left, the huts fell into disrepair, and none of the original huts remain. Today, about forty reproduction log cabins serve as representatives of the originals.

National Park staff from different disciplines will share their expertise in this program series. Look for the "Shelter and Symbol" hut programs in the winter program guide and on the park website [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo).

### New Winter Hours For Park Operations

**Welcome Center:**  
Daily, 9am-5pm.

**Muhlenberg Brigade:**  
Weekends, 12pm - 4 pm.  
Ranger talk at 2:30pm

**Washington's Headquarters:**  
January 2 - February 18  
Wednesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm  
February 19 - April 30  
Daily, 9am - 5pm

# Archaeology Update



Direct Dimensions personnel operate the laser scanner equipment to detect historic building ruins.

When General Washington stood on the front step of the Isaac Potts house (now known as Washington's Headquarters) in the Village of Valley Forge, he would have seen a gristmill on the banks of Valley Creek directly in front of him. The mill was later destroyed. This year, erosion caused by uncontrolled stormwater upstream has exposed some of the remaining walls of the mill. The erosion cannot be controlled, and the park has undertaken a project to record the walls while they remain.

Direct Dimensions, Inc., of Owings Mills, Maryland, in association with archaeologists from John Milner Associates, recently completed the laser scanning of the ruins. The laser scanning process is a new technology that permits the three-dimensional recording of these structures with better than one centimeter accuracy. This process will also generate accurate maps and elevation drawings, as well as a three dimensional model of the site.

Archaeologists from John Milner Associates will conduct an intensive excavation of the

site in order to ascertain whether or not any materials dating from the encampment period have survived.

John Milner Associates also recently completed an archaeological investigation near the park Administration Building. After an extensive geophysical survey which used Ground Penetrating Radar, a series of anomalies (subsoil features located by the radar) were plotted. A selected number of these were excavated and we await the final report on their significance.



John Milner Associates archaeologists excavating one of suspected sites revealed by their survey.

Additionally, a metal detecting survey was conducted which located large numbers of musket balls, some of them in discrete clusters. Could this refer to a practice firing range used during the encampment? More to come in the final report of this activity.

From **January 17 through March** in the park's Welcome Center, archaeologists and volunteers will process artifacts excavated from Wayne's Woods. Archaeology finds and newly mended artifacts will be on display. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk with archaeologists. Depending on the work for that day various kinds of archaeological issues and artifacts will be discussed. The analysis of the artifacts will be ongoing during this period. Visit the Welcome Center to see their progress.

On **March 5** at 1pm come to the Welcome Center to learn about "Revolutionary Archaeology." Join Dr. David Orr, one of the most experienced archaeologists in the area of the American Revolution, as he reveals the buried past of Valley Forge's history through the artifacts excavated at park sites. This talk will concentrate on the archaeology associated with the soldiers' huts and how the physical layout of the encampment might have appeared during 1777-1778.

## Volunteers at Work



Boy Scouts clean around the greenhouse area at the Philander Chase Knox Estate.

Boy Scout Troop 823 and Girl Scout Troop 375 teamed up to assist Michael Frampton gain his Eagle Scout Badge on November 19, 2005. Under Michael's leadership, volunteers donated 121.5 hours to the park at the Philander Chase Knox Estate. They removed invasive weeds and overgrown vegetation from the greenhouse area, ruins adjacent to the greenhouse, shrubs, stone steps, stone wall, parking area and garden beds. Together the Scouts removed years of overgrowth from a beautiful stone pathway that leads to the greenhouse.



Sierra Club Outing Vacation members on Mount Misery Trail.

The park was very fortunate to receive the services of a special group of national Sierra Club members. These amazing volunteers spent a week in the park on a Sierra Club Outing Vacation in October. Over the course of the week, they contributed a great amount of time and energy to help preserve a section of one of the most popular hiking trails in the park, the Mount Misery Trail, while at the same time learning about one of America's most historically significant places, Valley Forge NHP.

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