

THE PARK AT VALLEY FORGE

Site of Washington's Winter Camp Preserved.

MUCH WORK DONE ON ITS SITE

Improvements Carried Out by a Pennsylvania Commission at a Cost of \$201,000—Landmarks Being Protected.

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., Jan. 4.—The old school-book picture of George Washington praying in the snow at Valley Forge and the wide dissemination of the stories of suffering endured by Washington's army during the winter of 1777-78 were no doubt responsible for the long prevailing belief that the site of that winter camp is remote, bleak and inaccessible. That attitude of mind was responsible, no doubt, for the word "there" instead of "here" in the tribute inscribed upon the Maine monument erected at Valley Forge this year to commemorate the services and the sufferings of the troops from that part of Massachusetts which now forms the state of Maine.

The great increase in the number of visitors to Valley Forge of recent years—53,100 were recorded in seven months of 1906—is due to the creation of the Valley Forge park by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1893, to the increased interest in American history and the discovery that an hour's journey by rail or automobile from Philadelphia will carry one to the camp ground.

In acquiring possession of the ground, in the protection of the extensive evidences of its occupation by the army, in marking the position of its troops, in building macadam roads and other necessary work Pennsylvania had expended up to 1907 the sum of \$261,000. The bulk of this sum, or \$230,000, was appropriated during Governor Pennypacker's four-year term of office, only \$31,000 having been provided by the state in the ten years between 1893 and 1903.

Pennypacker Reviews Project. During most of that decade the park was in a moribund state and the project without funds. The supporters of the movement were discouraged by the indifference of officials and public and many persons advocated an appeal to congress. Governor Pennypacker thought the nation should not be called upon to do what the state ought and was perfectly able to do and he took practical steps to advance the undertaking to such a stage that the state might have no excuse for delaying the completion of the park and the public no warrant for turning its control over to the nation.

During the last four years, therefore, with the large increase of means furnished by the legislature of 1903 and 1905, the park has been greatly enlarged, from 520 to 500 acres, so as to include both the inner and outer line of entrenchments, the adjacent redoubts and the house, with its surrounding grounds, occupied by General Washington. The park commissioners have constructed about six miles of macadam road, making all the points of special interest easily accessible.

The redoubts, which are well preserved, have been enclosed for their protection, and platforms have been constructed of sufficient height to enable the visitor to see the interiors. On the top of Mount Joy an observatory seventy-five feet in height and 50 feet above sea level has been placed, and on it are fixed tablets showing the directions and distances of all the battle fields, camps and military localities connected with the campaign of 1777-78.

The positions of the regiments of the Pennsylvania brigades under Wayne's command have been marked with simple stones bearing bronze tablets which show the organization of brigade and regiments, with the commanders' names. The positions of the cannon have been marked by guns which are an exact duplication of the cannon used in the revolutionary war.

Fee No Longer Charged. The state forester has had charge of the forestry of parts of the ground denuded by the farmer and wood chopper. A superintendent and guards have been provided. The unseemly fee formerly charged for entrance to the Washington headquarters house was abolished as soon as the state came into possession.

An equestrian statue of Anthony Wayne, for which the state appropriated \$100,000, has been modeled by H. K. Bush-Brown, whose statues of Meade and Reynolds at Gettysburg had proved satisfactory. The Wayne statue shows the able soldier of so many battlefields in a pose of extreme naturalness. The horse is standing on one hand of the rider rests on the horse's rump and the rider's body is turned across the line of direction of the animal, a position which by its novelty in sculpture arouses interest and by its naturalness appeals to the horseman. Made within sight of Wayne's victory at Stony Point, it will be unveiled with due ceremony next June on the 120th anniversary of the evacuation of Valley Forge, and will stand within sight of the scene of Wayne's fight at Poell and of his home there, in which his room is still kept by his descendants just as he left it to fight, in the last battle, the most decisive and important victory won in all our Indian wars, the battle which opened the west to emigrants and gave birth to a new era in American civilization.

A half century after the continental army had marched away from Valley Forge, when Jared Sparks was preparing his "Life of Washington," he was unable to find a map showing the location of the troops during the winter camp. With the assistance of an old resident of the vicinity, named Davis, he prepared a map which is now in the possession of Cornell university. In the same library is also a contemporary French map.

French Ways of the Camp. A few years ago Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania came into possession of another contemporary map, made by a French engineer, which gave the location of the troops and certain positions not indicated upon other maps. At the site of this part of the Pennypacker library this map passed into the ownership of the Pennsylvania Historical society.

In the main tradition and contemporary evidence coincided, and thus it has been possible for the Valley Forge Park commission to move with certainty and exactness. Nature also did much to assist the work of the historian.

The winner line of earthworks, which are well preserved for a distance of about two miles were constructed about Mount Joy upon ground so high and rugged as to have little value for farming purposes, and these embankments and trenches, with the outlying redoubts, have long been covered with a thick-like growth which has protected the works from the destructive influences of rain and frost.

These inner works, as well as the longer exterior line of entrenchments a mile to the eastward, faced to the south and east and commanded the roads leading to Philadelphia, twenty miles away, where the British army lay. Beyond the outer line were often the headquarters of many of the higher officers, and beyond these the outposts. Washington's headquarters were half a mile in rear of the inner line.

Not long ago the writer met a white-haired man of 70 years as he was coming

slowly down the steps of the observatory. His eyes were filled with tears and as he passed he said: "O! God ever made a more beautiful scene!"

How to Prepare for Visit.

The best preparation for a visit to Valley Forge is to read the oration delivered there in 1871 by Henry Armill Brown, which will probably furnish the most complete, informing and stirring treatment of the theme. Picturesque are the views of hills, woods and valleys, the winding Schuylkill and deeply shaded Valley creek in the summer time, it is in the winter, when the trees are bare and the air is keen, that the visitor may find himself most in harmony with the spirit of Valley Forge.

The necessary opening of the dense thicket has brought to light a number of hitherto unknown evidences of the occupation of the camp ground, including additional earthworks, several graves of soldiers, cellars of soldiers' huts and bake ovens. Not the least interesting of these discoveries illustrates the history not of war, but of peace.

Within the limits of the camp stood a quadrilateral school house, whose shingle roof, rafters and floor were much rotted, but whose stone walls remained plumb and firm. It was supposed to have been built about the year 1830 and was used for the storage of tools.

A casual examination by the governor of the state at once convinced him that the structure was of a much earlier date. He soon found the date 1783 cut by a school-boy, with his initials. Since then the outer coating of lime has been removed and the date 1774 was revealed cut in old-style figures upon an upper stone.

The school house is now believed to have been erected by Letitia Aubrey, daughter of William Penn, to whom he gave the manor of Mount Joy, said to be the oldest school house now standing in Pennsylvania. As such it possesses a peculiar interest for Dr. Martin G. Brumbaugh, who as commissioner of education for Porto Rico built up the public school system of the island. He is now superintendent of the public schools of Philadelphia, as well as one of the Valley Forge park commissioners.

The other commissioners are W. H. Sayen, president; A. H. Bowen of Philadelphia, secretary; Colonel John P. Nicholson, chairman of the national commission in charge of the Gettysburg battlefield, editor of the American edition of the "Compend of the History of the Civil War"; and the mainstay in all executive work of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; William A. Patton of the Pennsylvania railroad, Richard L. Jones, Samuel S. Hartranft and J. P. Hale Jenkins. The engineer is J. O. Clarke.

Chief Danger to Park. The chief danger to Valley Forge in the future is likely to lie not in the indifference, but in the over-enthusiasm of the American public. Henceforward the care of the park will call in an especial manner for self-restraint both in the public and the management.

As at present organized the commission is made up of men of unusual intelligence and experience, who were chosen not because of acquaintance but because of the appointing authority, but because of their fitness for the work in hand. It is to be hoped that that standard will be the measure of all future appointments to the body as vacancies occur. The great battlefields of the civil war have been marred by many pieces of crude sculpture whose presence makes the judicious griefer.

That a similar danger may exist for Valley Forge is shown by the proposition of the authorities of Rhode Island to erect a \$100,000 boulder, not where the Rhode Island troops were located, but inside one of the existing redoubts. A simple, unobtrusive stone similar to the markers already erected by the states of Maine and Pennsylvania and conforming to the military plan would be most in keeping with Valley Forge.

As others of the states unite in the work of commemorating the patriotism of their revolutionary soldiers it is to be hoped they will be guided by simplicity and sincerity. The John Waterman monument, erected before the park was created, stands some rods distant from the grave of the Rhode Island lieutenant. Unnecessary driveways and walks, "improvements," crude projects perpetuated in stone, marble or bronze, tasteless and uncalled for ornamentation, the uneasy doing of what would better be left undone, if permitted, would soon spoil another field of war beyond all hope of restoration. The refusal of the commission to permit the erection of the \$100,000 boulder in one of the redoubts augurs well for the future of Valley Forge.

Philadelphia a Menace. Among other influences to be resisted in the democratic tendency of nearby Philadelphia toward the commonplace, a park of great national beauty, has been marred and sacrificed by the introduction of unsightly buildings for the amusement of the public, and some of its best views have been utterly destroyed.

In Independence square, with the consent of Mayor Weaver, has been lately erected close to the state house where the declaration of independence was signed, a statue which suggests a sleight-of-hand performer, clad in a bolster case, in the act of snatching invisible dollars from the air.

Another Philadelphia left a sum of money to place a statue of Lafayette in front of Independence hall (the state house), but the present mayor, warned perhaps by the bronze figures that are springing up about the city hall, fortunately and with decision has said, "No."

There has been an invitation to turn the four open squares provided by William Penn over to the tender mercies of the youth who need a place to play hockey. In New York there was a similar pressure from horsemen for a speedway in Central park, a movement resisted with success during his life by the late William A. Stiles, editor of that mightily regretted periodical, Garden and Forest. He had a clear conception of the uses and educational service of parks, and very sound and definite ideas as to their development and the legitimate uses of sculpture. The principles which he outlined through a number of years will always be useful in determining what to do and what not to do at a place like Valley Forge.

M'CLAY SUCCEEDS HARRISON
Former Member of Legislature Becomes Deputy Clerk of United States District Court.

Colonel John H. McClay of Lincoln Saturday morning was appointed deputy United States district clerk for the Lincoln division of the federal courts to succeed Frank A. Harrison, resigned. Colonel McClay arrived in Omaha Saturday and was formally sworn in to his new office and will take hold at once.

January Pre-Inventory Sale 25% DISCOUNT

This week we offer our immense stock of CUT GLASS, CHINA, BRASS GOODS, BRICA-BRAC, PLATED SILVER and WATCHES (except American movements) at the unusual discount of 25 per cent, affording you an opportunity of getting first-class goods at exceptionally low prices.

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MONTREAL ORATOR TO BAR Robert C. Smith Will Address Nebraska Lawyers in Convention. SOME MODERN TENDENCIES Nebraska State Association Will Meet Two Days This Week in the Edward Creighton Institute.

THE TRAVELERS TIME SAVER RAILWAY GUIDE JANUARY ISSUE NOW ON SALE - 25 CENTS All Newsdealers or Travelers Guide Co. 208 Bee Bldg., Omaha. QUEER ACCIDENTS OF THE YEAR Some of the Strange Mishaps that Occurred in a Few Sections of the World.

Mahoney on Popular Judiciary. The day session will be held in the Knights of Columbus hall in Creighton Institute on Eighteenth street between Farnam and Douglas and will begin Wednesday afternoon, 7 J. Mahoney, president of the association, will deliver the president's address on the subject "A Popular Judiciary."

OMAHA GETS THE MILLSITE Bradford-Kennedy Lumber Company Succeeds in Litigation Out in Washington. After some litigation the Bradford-Kennedy Lumber company of Omaha has secured title to a millsite north of Spokane, Wash. Some time ago the Omaha firm bought a large tract of timber land on the Canadian side, but wished to secure a millsite in the United States which would be near the Canadian land. It bought from a Spokane firm 100 acres of land for the site, agreeing to pay therefor \$1,000.

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Important Change in Schedules Effective Sunday, January 5th, 1908, the following changes will be made: Iowa Local departs 7 A. M. instead of 6:30 A. M. Chicago Express departs 4:40 P. M. instead of 4:50 P. M. Chicago Flyer departs 6:10 P. M. instead of 6 P. M. Colorado Express departs 1:20 P. M. instead of 1:35 P. M. Oklahoma Express arrives 1:15 P. M. instead of 2:45 P. M. Fairbury Local leaving 5:45 A. M. and arriving 10:25 A. M. will be discontinued. For further particulars inquire 1323 Farnam St., or Union Station Rock Island