



The View from the Forge
June 2008

Hello, my name is Quinn Kess and I am a Park Guide here at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and I want to welcome you to this month's "The View From the Forge"

On May third and fourth, Valley Forge celebrated the Continental Army's alliance with the French with traditional cannon shot and musket fire. On Saturday, the Oneida Indian Nation partnered with park living history staff for three interpretive programs demonstrating artillery, small arms, and the native sport of lacrosse. Sunday held the Second Pennsylvania Reenactment Regiment's demonstrations of drilling, marching, and firing. Many thanks to our partners and our visitors for a highly informative and educational weekend.

The park memorialized soldiers past and present with special soldier programs on Memorial Day. The park's staff rolled out the canon for soldier program demonstrations to the delight of the visitors. At three PM, a moment of silence was observed, as proscribed by Federal Law. It was a thoughtful day for everyone involved, whether participant or visitor.

Valley Forge is more than just its history. Betzwood Picnic area held the National Trails Day celebration on Saturday, June 7. The American Hiking Society sponsors this event across the country, and Valley Forge is more than happy to add its own efforts to event. Park Natural Resources staff set up a tent with various displays on hiking and trails. A hike of the North side of the park was given by a park ranger, explaining the importance of the army's commissary department and the role the area across the river played in the revolutionary war.

On June 14, the summer season will kick off with the celebration of the March-Out of the Continental Army. Living History Staff will be at the Muhlenberg Brigade Huts from ten to four, giving a demonstration of soldier life as well as a demonstration of the camp kitchen and baking oven. The Oneida Indian Nation will

return for soldier life demonstrations and formal programs. Over eight hundred people participated in various ways in this event.

In addition to the special event, our summer schedule begins, with extended hours for Washington's Headquarters and the park's Welcome Centre. Each building will be open an extra hour for the convenience of visitors. In addition to extended hours, ranger led walking tours will expand to each day, at eleven-fifty and one-fifty, ending at our living history encampment and its accompanying soldier programs at twelve-thirty and two-thirty. General Varnum's headquarters will also be open from twelve until four, showing a quite different side of the Encampment story. All summer programs and extended hours will run until the first of September.

For the second year, Once Upon a Nation will partner with the National Park Service to provide various services to visitors. Storytelling benches will be at the Welcome Centre, the National Memorial Arch, Washington's Headquarters, and Varnum's Quarters, where OUAN storytellers will regale tales and anecdotes of the revolutionary war. Also, the "Story of Valley Forge" trolley tour will run yet again, expanding this year to four tours a day, at ten-thirty, twelve-thirty, two-thirty, and four-thirty. Finally, the ever-popular after-hours tour will still be running, up until the end of October.

The natural resource division of Valley Forge has a few programs prepared for the nature-minded visitors. A Wild About Nature walk will be given on Saturday mornings, centering on various topics of interest and importance to visitors. Also, as a coordination between natural resources and interpretation, a *Become a Junior Ranger* walk will take children ages six to twelve on a short nature hike, while learning about the history of Valley Forge. These walks are given Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. For more information, please phone 610 783 1044.

That is all for this month's *The View from the Forge*. Be sure to check out our other podcasts on iTunes titled *Valley Forge History and Culture*, *Valley Forge Nature and Science*, and *PECO Podcasts Through History*.