

VALLEY GENERAL LORD STIRLING

OLIMES have been written lauding the courage and endurance of the American army that braved the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. Memorials have been erected to the memory of brave men and officers. The site of the camp has been reserved by the state of Pennsylvania, and converted into a national park, but the women who shared the dangers and suffering with them, who nursed the sick, fed the starving and clothed the naked, are left unrecognized. There are no public records of them, even their names have been forgotten. The needy, the stage of the Conyway cabal (that was one of the remarkable and dramatic incidents of the war), the cradle of the first aid to the injured, and the setting for a love affair of one of the first presidents of the United States, was not included in the state reservation and taken under its protection, but is fast falling into decay. The shame and dishonor of the women who are neglecting one of the two houses at Valley Forge that are historically noteworthy, and for a people reason unworthy of a great commonwealth.

This little former's house was the headquarters of Major General Lord Stirling, one of the most gallant and loyal American soldiers. Born and bred in New York, he had inherited a title from his Scotch ancestors, just at the breaking out of the Revolution. He had served as major and aide-camp to General Shirley at the time of General Braddock's defeat. He has been in every battle fought against the British in New York and New Jersey, and was General Washington's most trusted general, as is proved by the numerous letters still preserved in the New York Historical society. The headquarters of this gentleman was shared by his brave wife and daughter, who abandoned their luxurious life and took refuge on the hills of New Jersey, and with the men contented with the discomforts and trials of the celebrated winter camp, in the wind-swept valley on the outskirts of the nation as bravely as any soldier, officer or general.

To these heroines of Valley Forge no history points, no centennials are raised, even their deeds are only tradition and oral history. The memories of a few lovers of bravery, self-sacrifice and feminine devotion.

It was early in the season when it was decided to camp near Philadelphia and under General Washington was collected at Valley Forge, when Lord Stirling wrote to his wife entreating her to join him there, as his duties demanded him with his men, but she was provided comfortable quarters, and he had no idea of the smallness of the house and its numerous discomforts. For it was a great demand to make of the delicately nurtured woman, who had been reared at the luxurious Livingston Manor house, on the Hudson river, or in Mr. Livingston's comfortable house in New York. Lord Stirling wisely determined that her place was at her husband's side, so with a full staff of servants (for she foresaw the demands that would be made on her hospitality) and near by her mother, Catherine, started in the great family coach, drawn by four gray horses, for the long drive to the Jersey hills to Pennsylvania.

When they reached their destination they found a small former's cottage had been assigned to Lord Stirling for his quarters. It was the former's house from General Washington's headquarters, under a hillside and near creek. It was a damp and lonely spot, and quite inadequate for the accommodation of family and servants. But with untiring good humor and the capability of splendid household management, she dealt with the situation and made the house ready for winter. They filled long flannel bags with earth and placed them against the door sill and the loosely fitting sashes to keep out the wind, so the house could be more readily kept warm. They pasted muslin on the walls and hung curtains before the windows for the same purpose. They sent to Baskingridge for many loads of hickory wood before the roads became choked with snow, for fuel was scarce, and the soldiers complained that there was to be found in the neighborhood.

General Washington welcomed them gladly and at once requested that they would assist him to ascertain the various needs of the army at the camp, either for political purposes, business or curiosity. Lady Stirling's household was composed of her husband and his aide, Dr. Snook Edwards, whose name will be recognized by many of his descendants in Philadelphia today. Then there was Lady Kitty and her friend, Miss Nancy Browne, the orphaned granddaughter of the general, and the orphaned granddaughters of the general, and these names may well be called the heroines of Valley Forge, although their ministrations and sufferings sound like exaggeration in the hand-written chronicles of that fortunate winter.

Christmas passed sadly with little merrymaking and good cheer, and daily the sufferings of the ill-clad, half-dressed soldiers were forced on the attention of the women, for the reports to the medical men became more and more distressing. There were no comfortable hospitals, trained nurses or even necessary nursing aids. The only lint for the poor fellows, Lady Stirling and her daughter were no strangers to the sick room; they were capable nurses and had learned from an old Indian woman many valuable hints made from herbs or simples, not the least of which was the celebrated Seneca oil. St. John's Wort and rattlesnake grass, all of which they had provided themselves with before leaving home. Without hesitation these brave women arranged a division of work among them, for it fell entirely on their individual shoulders, since the whole country was overburdened and there was no relief to be obtained from an organized sanitary commission or red cross association. Quietly and unobtrusively they carried on their work among them to do what was possible to alleviate the increasing horrors about them. Lady Kitty was assigned a daily visit to the camp, while the delicate Miss Nancy served

HEADQUARTERS OF LORD STIRLING AT VALLEY FORGE



LADY CATHERINE BROWN, LORD STIRLING'S DAUGHTER

scraped lint at the fire-side, and the head of the house superintended the food department and the ration to be doled out every morning. The labor of making the old fur-bags into black coverlets was doubled. She was not only called upon to provide delicacies for the Marquis de Lafayette and Major James Monroe, General Knox and Greene with many other distinguished officers, who crowded around Lady Stirling's hospitable table, but a huge soup kettle hung over the logs in an improvised kitchen, and the women were started into the camp was broken, great calls of nourishing soup were sent to the famishing soldiers who called at the door for food.

Every week vegetables, poultry, mutton, etc., were brought to Valley Forge by the general's own people, either from his farm eight miles from Morristown, N. J., or from the Livingston Manor house, for our heroes of the Revolution had to supply their own rations, and this was in particular, who raised a regiment and equipped it at his own expense, was never repaid for food, or services, by an ungrateful country.

Daily Lady Kitty went daily to the camp with a basket filled with goodies on her arm, followed by a servant laden with clothing for the soldiers. Her long cold walk from her home to the camp, but the young girl braved it in spite of snow and storm. The doors of her hut after but would be gently knocked at and the inmates questioned as to their pressing needs. No one could imagine what a blessing these visits were to the suffering men. There was hardly one who was not afflicted with frostbites, and for these Lady Kitty had the means of relief. She had an old squaw. This, with other remedies drawn from the handy reticulae, were lavishly given with many a cheery word or laugh at the traveling physician's bedside. The baskets containing delicacies for the very sick were soon emptied and besides many a man's heart was made glad by the gift of a warm, comforting for his neck or a pair of knitted stockings of mittens. Then there were underclothes made from the fleece of the sheep reared on the Jersey hills, the wool having been spun in the women's houses and woven on the looms that groaned and creaked unceasingly. This was the work of the women who stayed at home, while the men folk struggled with the winter army.

The fingers of the women of the day were never idle. We are told on page 417 of Mr. Irving's "Life of General Washington," that his wife set an example to lady visitors by diligent spinning, her needle for the needy and destitute soldiers. And, indeed, women's busy needles clicked far into the night, even when their own needles permitted the blaze of the fire to melt the room, for candles were scarce. In those days, although they were home-made, and these self-sacrificing women denied themselves every comfort they could, in hopes of being able to relieve the needs of the soldiers, and many a candle that had been made in the family kitchen, and perhaps from bayberries by the young women, found its way to the huts of the men. Most of these were illiterate fellows who had obeyed the call to arms, leaving their families in distant parts of the country. "Lady Comforter," as she was called by the men, "Lady Kitty" was called by the women, and she would ask each one about his life, and suggest that she would write letters to his home-bound family or friends. Pen, ink and paper would be whipped from the room, and the soldier would report officially on the condition of the men. This duty was not ungrateful to the young Virginian and the one bright spot in the dark days of suffering for the men in camp was watching the comings and goings of the general's daughter, and the frequent visits of the general, and his frequent and hurried arrangements made for a wedding in the spring at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Van Horne. She could not have asked

democracy everywhere. That democracy here was successful, it prospered and paid us so handsomely, it has been an irresistible argument for the democratic system in other lands. Transatlantic voyagers do not follow Columbus' sailing route, but it stands in his credit none the less that he was the first to cross the sea. So it is enough for us to know this day, when every nation of Europe, even to Russia and Turkey, is committing itself to the plan of a popular representative government, when Japan and China and India are opening their eyes to the "glittering generalities," that we were the first to make the venture and prove its virtue.

The Family Cashier. Mudge—Here's a man figured out that if all the money in the world were to be divided equally, each adult would get about thirty dollars. Meek—Here's wrong. My wife would get \$60.—Boston Evening Transcript.

BERBERIC GINSENG PASSES GOES TO AGRICULTURE

By M. J. DANIELS. It is estimated that within the next 25 years most of the merchantable ginseng in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan will be razed off. This means that in many counties there will be a change from lumbering to farming, and that the problem of clearing (logged) lands will be one of great importance. At the present time there are nearly 12,000,000 acres of such land in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and about 11,000,000 in Wisconsin. The greater part of these millions of acres is not only utterly useless now, but on account of danger to life, actually a menace.

Hitherto the development of these lands for agricultural purposes has been seriously retarded by the high cost of clearing. A recent investigation conducted by the department of agriculture reveals the fact that this cost runs from \$20 to \$30 an acre, and the cost of clearing and seeding from \$35 to \$115 an acre. The average, it was found, was \$65 an acre. This when the expense of other necessary improvements is taken into consideration, is more than equally good farming land in other sections can be bought for. In view of these facts the proper disposition of such logged-off areas becomes an important question. Investigators recommend that in every tract sold by land companies there should be at least ten acres cleared and ready for the plow. This will enable the farmer to raise hay and other crops while putting the logged-off land into condition for the most economical return. The cost of clearing can be done much more cheaply after the ground has been in pasture for several years.

NEW FRUIT PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Northern Orchards company has been organized at Marquette for the purpose of engaging in the growing of fruit in the neighborhood of Marquette. The company is capitalizing \$25,000, and its incorporators are mostly men of Marquette and lab-leeming. William P. Heiden of Marquette is president; D. W. Powell, Marquette, vice-president; V. S. Hillier, secretary and general manager; F. J. Jenkinson, treasurer. The company has purchased the land between the highway and the garden, which is a short distance from the best kind of a highway, and but a mile from a railway. The farm contains a large tract of land which is now under cultivation. It is the plan of the concern to raise apples, cherries, plums and other fruit.

STRAWBERRIES CLAIM HONORS IN GRAND TRAVERSE

Strawberries paid well in the Grand Traverse region again this year, the better returns on the investment. The chances as to make one believe that after all the apples is not king there, but that the honors belong to the berries. J. A. Snyder of Peninsula, who is one of the leading growers of that luscious fruit. He believes there is no branch of farm work that gives better returns on the investment than strawberries, and the apparently poor of the north and west parts of the state is giving excellent service in strawberry growing. The soil is heavy enough, and the warmth of the sand is what is needed to bring out the berries early and much sweeter than they are on the heavier soil. The year there was a market for every berry that was produced in the Grand Traverse region, with the price good throughout the season. Mr. Snyder finds that the strawberry

GREAT VALUE OF SPREADERS

That of unloading the wagon by hand, as the driver rests while the manure is being unloaded, says Farm and Home, he can load the spreader again quicker and easier than when he is himself unloading by hand. This saving in time and work enables one to do from two to three times more hauling, which reduces the cost accordingly. But the greatest profit in connection with the work of the spreader is that of economy in the use of the manure. It is distributed by the spreader in a more uniform manner than when it is piled up in a heap.

Loss by Guessing.

According to tests made by the Indiana experiment station, it was shown that through incorrect operation of the speed indicator a dairyman owning 20 cows lost \$554.10 in one year, because he "guessed" at the speed of his cream separator.

Equipment of Barn.

In all our plans for the most perfect equipment of the farm barn, the most important consideration is a most important one in the future. Modern Necessity. A work bench which is a modern farm necessity.

field will insure a catch of alfalfa when grown. Grasshoppers ruined the young clover in many of the Wayne farms this spring, but the pests do not appear to like sweet clover so well and are not bothering that crop. Experiments with sweet clover in other parts of the state are meeting with success, and in some places farmers propose to go ahead with it for what it is worth as a forage, and to get land in good condition to broadcast fields for alfalfa.

SHOW BENEFIT OF CARE.

There is a young peach orchard of 700 trees on a farm near Downport, Pa. The orchard was planted last year, and every one of the trees is doing well. When these trees were planted, the ground was quite dry. Around every tree was poured a pint of water when the hole was about half filled with dirt. The hole was then filled, and the very first year they showed the benefit of this care.

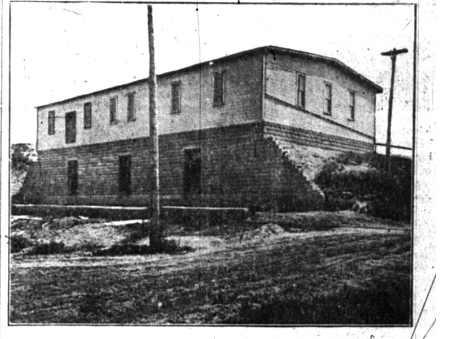
SUCCESS WITH WHITE CLOVER

The operator of the former Erie Gage farm in Wayne township, Cass county, has sown four acres on the farm this year to sweet clover and has secured a splendid catch. It was not supposed sweet clover could be secured so easily, and as it makes good hay when cut at the right time his experiment may be of value.

PLANT SIX WALTER RALEIGHS.

Heart throbs of Wilson, Missouri, new county, have planted 700 bushels of Sir Walter Raleigh potato seed in 20 acres of ground. All were treated with a sulphur solution to keep the potatoes free from scab and disease. The seed was carefully graded and spraying will be continued throughout the summer. This will be the first year.

GLEANERS MAKE PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.



Gleaner Hall at Angell.

The Gleaners of northern Michigan continue to be a body of farmers with much efficiency in their methods. Each year sees them accomplishing more in the way of co-operation. At Angell one substantial method of their cooperative idea is shown in the building of a large hall. The hall is a mighty convenient place for the people around Angell. It is put to much the same use as a church building, and is highly convenient to a large number of people than any church for miles around, another point in its favor.

FARM BRINGS BIG PRICE.

That all the spot farms in the state of Michigan are not located in the south or central sections was shown by a deal that was made in Wexford county a few days ago. Harry J. Rogers of Indiana purchased the Bush farm near Pleasant Lake, 165 acres, for \$10,000 spot cash. Mr. Bush will leave the farm at the end of the year and next spring Mr. Rogers will move to the farm from his Indiana home and take charge of the property. This year Mr. Bush has the farm in clover and alfalfa—all but 20 acres of it.

DEMING'S NOVEL IDEA.

Ira Deming of Glenwood, near Downport, has cut down four acres of his six-acre vineyard. His reason there for is rather a novel one. He says that under the law if one sells a basket of grapes on which the owner's name is stamped, they are supposed to be guaranteed, and that he could not guarantee the grapes in every basket, as some farmers do. He therefore keeps just what he can harvest for himself, and the rest he sells by weight.

PLANS BIG ORCHARD.

The Hunting of Downport has purchased 320 acres of land near Piquette, in the vicinity of Onaway, for a commercial orchard. Around that orchard, the state orchard, are becoming very common, a fact that pleases Onaway, as each one means a bit brighter future for that growing little town.

Good Grafting Wax.

A good grafting wax may be made of the following ingredients: Resin, four parts; beeswax, two parts; talow or lard oil, one part by weight.

Pure Water for Stock.

Provide plenty of pure water for the stock on the farm.

Feed for Milk Production.

When the heifer has straightened out after calving feed her for full milk production. Remember, too, that she is still growing and she will require more liberal feeding than the mature cow giving the same amount of milk.

Watch the Coddling Moth.

Be sure to watch for the coddling moth and pick off the blossoms from the very young trees. Keep on back.

REAL PIONEER IN DEMOCRACY

World Owe Much to the United States as the Standard Bearer of Freedom. It is neither necessary nor possible to prove that the American revolution was the direct cause of the world-wide revolution which has followed it. It is often difficult for us to say who or what led us to take a giant step, so it is not easy to trace to its springs the action of a nation.