



**Benjamin Franklin Chapter  
The Ohio Society  
Sons of the American Revolution**  
Chartered 1889

**OFFICERS:**

**President:**  
David M. Birthelmer  
6362 Clover Meadow Court  
Galloway, OH 43119  
Phone: 614-385-4341  
E-Mail: elderb42@wowway.com

**1st Vice-President:**  
James Shough  
5289 Wood Run Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43220  
Phone: 614- 832-6633  
jshough@columbus.rr.com

**2nd Vice President:**  
David G. Crombie  
764 Quaker Ridge  
Gahanna, OH 43230  
Phone: 614-476-2198  
djs-crombie2@att.net

**Acting Secretary:**  
Chuck Finley  
957 S. Remington Road  
Bexley, OH 43209  
Phone: 614-2356237  
E-Mail: cfinley@cscce.edu

**Treasurer:**  
William Harry Diehl  
3341 Big Run South Road  
Grove City, OH 43123-1070  
Phone: 614-871-2722  
E-Mail: wdiehl@columbus.rr.com

**Registrar/Genealogist:**  
Edward L. Hamblin  
2630 Bryden Road  
Columbus, OH 43209  
Phone: 614-231-5856  
E-Mail: kaw60uconn@netwalk.com

**Chaplain:**  
Rev. F. Raymond Sharritts  
1665 Lexington Dr.  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
E-Mail: fsharrit@columbus.rr.com

**Acting Historian:**  
Bill Finley  
9129 Haddington Court  
Dublin, OH 43017  
E-mail: wfinley@dublin.com

**Sergeant-At-Arms:**  
Vacant

**Board of Management:**  
Thomas W. Arend; Charles S. Brubaker  
Stephen C. Brubaker; Joseph F. Carvin;  
Charles H. Ingraham; Rev. George Miller,  
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# NEWSLETTER January 2013

## *Washington's Birthday dinner*

# Michael Dory to trace rise of Washington's leadership

This year's dinner in celebration of George Washington will be Friday, February 22, his actual birthday. The program will be "George Washington: Zero to Hero."

Historian Dr. Michael Dory will trace the life experiences and influential people who helped to shape the young Virginian into the charismatic leader whom we all know.

Washington's amazing growth occurred after he married Martha, served with the British in the French and Indian War, and culminated with his presidency.

This program is a good opportunity to invite someone who may be eligible to join the SAR or a DAR lady.

The dinner will again be at the Clintonville Woman's Club, 3141 North High Street and last from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Three dinner choices are available--Prime Rib of Beef (\$34), Baked Stuffed Flounder (\$30), and Chicken Florentine (\$30). Meals will include two Chef's Choice side dishes, a salad of mixed field greens with seasonal fruit, and a dessert buffet. Beverages will be coffee, tea, and ice tea.

**Dinner reservations should be**

sent to Bill Diehl, 3341 Big Run South Road, Grove City, OH, 43123-1070. Phone (614) 871-2722.

Reservations need to contain the guest's name(s), number of meals, meal selections, and a check for the full amount. Checks payable to *Benjamin Franklin Chapter, SAR.*



*Gen. Washington inspects his troops at Valley Forge.*

# Washington's December 22 at Valley Forge

We all know that the winter of 1777-76 was unusually harsh for Washington's army during its winter encampment in Pennsylvania. It should also be known that Washington had been assured by Congress that shelter and food would be awaiting his troops when they made their way to Valley Forge. We can imagine the Commander-in-Chief's disappointment and anger when his arrival was met by nothing more than a desolate, windswept, snow-covered valley.

Masking his disgust with this latest incident of Congress's lack of support, Washington gave orders to set up the tents that were available and told his staff to promise his already hungry soldiers that food would be provided the next day--although he did not know how that would be accomplished.

He next instructed his staff to set about felling trees and constructing huts for his army.

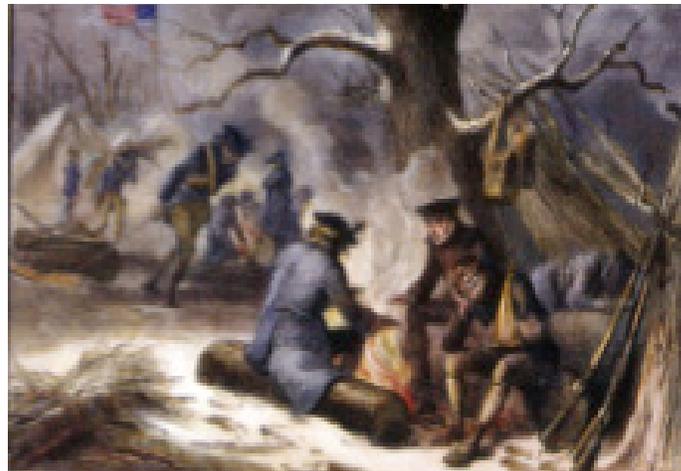
Four days later on December 22, Washington was in his tent when Colonel Tighman announced that a delegation of troops from the First Pennsylvania wanted to show him something. The six soldiers and their captain escorted the Commander-in-Chief through the mixture of ice and rain over a small ridge to see a 10' x 14' log cabin with a temporary roof of several tents draped over it.

Washington was invited to inspect it, and he moved forward as the cloth door was held open. Because the doorway was only 5 1/2 feet high, he had to stoop low, and once inside the flames in the fireplace cast a faint light on the crude bunks had been built against the walls.

The amazing part is that it took an entire regiment two whole days to build one hut without a real roof.

Because shelter had been promised, Washington's army was without proper tools. The First Pennsylvania built the hut with one axe, some hand axes and light hatchets, two shovels, and a pick.

During the next few days, Washington sent details out to forage for tools. A few weeks later, enough huts were built for the army. But that first hut demonstrated the resolve and resourcefulness of the American army on that bitter day, December 22, 1777.



*Before Washington's army acquired enough tools to build huts, soldiers and officers lived in tents and lean-to shacks.*

The January luncheon meeting is noon this Friday, Jan. 18, at the Florentine, 907 W. Broad.  
Officer elections will be held.



**Benjamin Franklin Chapter, SAR**  
Chuck Finley, Secretary  
957 S. Remington Road  
Bexley, Ohio 43209  
E-mail: cfinley@csc.edu

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