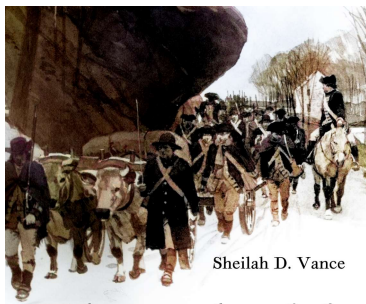




Threshold to Valley Forge

THE SIX DAYS OF
THE GULPH MILLS ENCAMPMENT

Sheilah D. Vance

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Threshold to Valley Forge

The Six Days of the Gulph Mills Encampment

Sheilah D. Vance (Author)

KEY FEATURES:

- 2025 will be 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, which the nation will celebrate with numerous America250 events.
- This is the first book to focus on the Gulph Mills Encampment, a microcosm of the Revolutionary War.
- Washington's General Orders on 12/17 about the new nation's First Thanksgiving provide great insight into his thinking at that point in the war where he and the army, the Continental Congress, and the people were tired of not having success.
- At Gulph Mills Encampment, George Washington made very significant decisions regarding the war, the states and the Continental Congress regarding the Articles of Confederation, and France regarding official recognition of and support for the United States.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sheilah Vance, Esq. grew up on Rebel Hill in Gulph Mills, Pennsylvania and resides in Washington, D.C. She has written and presented extensively about the Philadelphia Campaign of the Revolutionary War. She is the author of the article, "Valley Forge's Threshold: The Encampment at Gulph Mills," in the Journal of the American Revolution; the award-winning novel, *Becoming Valley Forge*; and the book, *Six Days in December: General George Washington's and the Continental Army's Encampment on Rebel Hill and Gulph Mills, December 12–19, 1777*. A practicing attorney and higher education administrator, Vance has a BA from Howard University School of Communications and a JD from Georgetown University.

PRAISE for *Threshold to Valley Forge*:

"Sheilah Vance's book, *Threshold to Valley Forge*, is an important, unique, and detailed examination of the role of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the issues that faced the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the pivotal and overlooked Gulph Mills Encampment of the Revolutionary War on December 12–19, 1777. This book is a major contribution to Pennsylvania history, to the understanding of the Commonwealth's significance during the American Revolution, and to the examination of Pennsylvania's intersectional relationship with General George Washington, the Continental Army, and the Continental Congress during this critical time in the founding and progression of our United States. It is a must-read for every student of the history of the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania."

The Honorable Joanna McClinton, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

"Often the most familiar things are the least understood. Simply because they are so familiar, we never stop to really look at them. Nowhere is this more true than in American history where we think that we have the whole story, that we see the entire tapestry of events leading to where we are today, when in fact what we have is the barest outline of the facts - a mere sketch. And sometimes, as this book demonstrates, whole chapters can be missing.

Like a restorer of fine art, Sheilah Vance has carefully and lovingly revealed a whole section of that tapestry leading up to the encampment at Valley Forge. As we gaze at the events of the Gulph Mills encampment now restored to our consciousness by this book, we can truly appreciate the sacrifices and hardships of those who fought for the freedom we have today. There is no true understanding of the American Revolution without knowing the events at Valley Forge, and there is no true understanding of Valley Forge without an examination of the Gulph Mills encampment that immediately preceded it.

Perhaps at no other time in American history has it been more important to grow beyond the simplified stories we were taught when we were young into a fuller understanding of where we have come from, which of course enables us to understand who we are and where we are going. This book is a major step in that direction."

Dave Montalvo, President, King of Prussia Historical Society

"Threshold to Valley Forge adds an important, untold chapter to Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War history. Through extensive research, Vance illuminates how six days in Gulph Mills shaped the Continental Army's path to Valley Forge, while highlighting the complex challenges faced by Pennsylvanians during this pivotal time."

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr., United States Senator for Pennsylvania