



THE RIVULET.

NUMBER I.

.....

SEPTEMBER 2010.

❧❧ Author of Snow Hill ("Nunnery") book to address Annual Meeting. ❧❧❧

ANTIETAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (AHA) will hold its first Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at The Lodge at Blue Ridge Summit, 13026 Stahley Road, Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania 17214. The festivities will begin at 5:30 p. m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. At 6:30 p. m., a chicken dinner (or vegetarian alternative) will be served.

Little Antietam Creek, Inc., is co-sponsoring the programme, which is open to the public. The cost is \$25.00 per person, payable in advance of the meeting date.

The deadline for reservations is November 3, 2010. To reserve seats, please send remittance to "Antietam Historical Association," 119 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268. Those requesting the vegetarian alternative dinner need to do so when making reservations. Further information is available by telephoning (717) 658-6789. Please refrain from contacting The Lodge directly: only AHA will accept reservations.



Snow Hill Meeting-house.

The featured speaker for the event will be Dr. Denise A. Seachrist, director of the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University and a Marion P. Grove Fellow of AHA. She will address the Association on Snow Hill Institute, commonly referred to locally as "the Nunnery."

Snow Hill Institute was one of the numerous communal religious experiments undertaken in the United States during the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries. It thrived a short distance north of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, near the village of Quincy, during the first half of the Nineteenth century. It was an offshoot of the famed Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster county, and in its heyday was noted for its unique and weirdly beautiful vocal music as well as its own annual meetings, to which the general public were hospitably admitted in staggering numbers.

Dr. Seachrist is herself no stranger to Snow Hill. Some twenty years ago she spent one summer at Waynesboro, studying the music of the Seventh Day Baptist Monastical Society of Snow Hill. This research formed the basis of her doctoral dissertation. In the meantime, she has made numerous shorter visits to the community, as both scholar and friend of Snow Hill.

Her initial sojourn upon the Antietam coincided with a dispute among the Snow Hill Society of German Seventh Day Baptists,



DR. DENISE A. SEACHRIST.

arising partly from concerns about the future of the monastical society, a corporation which the congregation wholly owns. This schism eventually resulted in a suit in equity, with the issue essentially being, *Who are the members of the Snow Hill Society entitled to vote for the trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Monastical Society of Snow Hill?*

After a ruling by the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County adverse to the local members of the church, the fate of Snow Hill was sealed. The prevailing faction (based in western Pennsylvania) immediately took firm control over all church affairs. They auctioned nearly all the movable property which had been carefully preserved in the cloister for more than a century, and most recently

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Founders, Friends, and Fellows.

...Those who made it all possible. . .

Incorporators and Directors.

On June 20, 2006, Mrs. F. M. Rock, T. A. Dorsett, and the late Mrs. P. J. Fischer incorporated AHA for the purpose of collecting, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating historical information about the region drained by Antietam creek and its tributaries.

The stated mission of AHA provides a broad and exciting field of endeavour, straddling Mason and Dixon's line, which is rich in both history and scenic beauty. AHA is committed to fulfilling its purpose through both traditional publications and cyber-age technology.

The current Board of Directors comprises Mrs. F. M. Rock, *President*; T. A. Dorsett, *Vice-President*; Miss Paula E. Fischer, *Secretary*; and Miss Sarah E. Suszczyk, *Treasurer*.

President Rock (*nee* Stouffer) graduated from Yamato (Japan) High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Maryland, and an associates degree in Nursing from Hagerstown Community College. She is a teacher's assistant at Waynesboro Area Senior High School.

Vice-President Dorsett graduated from the Waynesboro high school. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Mount Saint Mary's University and a juris doctorate from Wake Forest University School of Law. He is managing member of Thaw Group.

Secretary Fischer graduated from Shaker Heights (OH) High School, and received a bachelor's degree in communications from Shippensburg University. She studied Elementary Education at Wilson College, and is currently enrolled in the graduate programme in Special Education at Shippensburg.

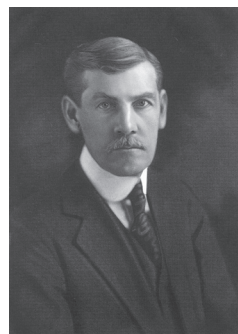
Treasurer Suszczyk graduated from

Golden (CO) High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a juris doctorate from American University's Washington College of Law. She is Assistant Regional Counsel for the National Association of Government Employees.

Fellows.

In keeping with modern trends in not-for-profit organization structuring, AHA is a non-member corporation; however, it recognizes supporters by bestowing various fellowships.

Individuals contributing at least \$25 annually are named *Subscribing Fellows*. They are entitled to THE RIVULET, access to AHA databases, invitations to AHA events, and a 10% discount on AHA merchandise and publications.



J. H. STONER.

in AHA services.

Supporters contributing at least \$100 annually become *J. H. Stoner Fellows*. Named in memory of Jacob H. Stoner (1861-1946), a Waynesboro banker who pioneered philanthropy in that community and wrote numerous papers on the history and lore of the Antietam country, this fellowship recognizes personal commitment to community and history.

Benefits attach to one or two persons in the same household, and include all of the foregoing benefits as well as free admission to AHA events (excluding dining charges).

The *Marion P. Grove Fellowship* is bestowed on supporters contributing at least \$250 annually. Named in memory of Marion Pfisterer Grove (Mrs. Walter Y. Grove; 1905-1991), best known for her untiring fund-raising efforts on behalf of charities in the Antietam country, this fellowship recognizes significant personal and financial sacrifice in the interests of Antietam History.



MRS. GROVE.

Benefits attach to one or two persons in the same household, and include all of the foregoing benefits as well as one free copy of every AHA publication and totally free admission to AHA events.

AHA gratefully acknowledges those persons who, despite difficult times, had the generosity and foresight to help establish AHA as a viable organization:

Charter Fellows.

MARION P. GROVE FELLOWS.

Dr. Denise A. Seachrist,
Mrs. Eunice G. Statler,
Mrs. Angela Grove Weagly.

J. H. STONER FELLOWS.

Mr. Patrick E. Fleagle,
Mr. Alex R. Margin, Jr.,
Dr. Howard A. Parker.

SUPPORTING FELLOWS.

Mr. Daniel W. Arthur,
Ms. Jean G. Dienstag,
Todd Andrew Dorsett,
Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy S. Maxwell, Sr.,
Mr. Scott K. Parker,

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Mr. and Mrs. William H. Payne,
Mr. and Mrs. F. Marshall Rock.

SUBSCRIBING FELLOWS.

Miss Paula E. Fischer,
*Mrs. P. J. Fischer,
Mr. Vernon M. Fox,
Mrs. Bernadine Newcomer Geesaman,
Mr. G. Bradford Shank,
Melodie Anderson-Smith,
Mr. Douglas R. Stine,
Mrs. Lewis S. Stouffer,
Miss Sarah E. Suszczyk,
Ms. Darlene Shockey Weddle,
Ms. Shirley A. Zeigler.

*Deceased.

Friends.

Thanks to some generous donations to the website fund in recognition of the fiftieth birthday anniversary of Vice-President T. A. Dorsett in December, AHA is finally online! Please visit our website at www.antietamhistory.org and see what our plans are.

Those who contributed are Mr. and Mrs. David S. Etter, Mr. and Mrs. William M. L. Etter, Dr. Howard A. Parker, Mr. Scott K. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. David Kelley Smith, Mrs. William O. Spangler, Mr. Cecil F. Wells, and Miss Shirley A. Zeigler.

AHA also has a Facebook page, on which we announce upcoming events. Each month, the page also features a different picture from yesteryear of some scene in the Antietam country, titled "Picture of the Month."

AHA currently has sixty-seven fans on Facebook. Please "like" AHA on Facebook and help us reach one hundred fans by the end of 2010. 🐾

The inaugural Hereditary Society of Waynesboro sponsored by AHA is the *Alexander Mack Society*, which recognizes lineal descendants of the founder of what is today the Church of the Brethren.

If you believe you are a Mack descendant, and wish a membership application, please contact the AHA genealogist at (717) 658-6789. 🐾🐾🐾



MRS. P. J. FISCHER.

IN MEMORIAM
JANE SHRIVER FISCHER

BORN JUNE 30, 1916
DIED MAY 4, 2010

World Traveller

Master Bridge Player

Incorporator and First Secretary
Antietam Historical Association

**Kentucky Derby
Party 2010. . . .**



Approximately thirty persons enjoyed the first Kentucky Derby Party to benefit AHA and Little Antietam Creek, Inc., at the 1912 Hoover House on May 1.



While the presidents of the sponsoring organizations, Mrs. F. M. Rock and Dr. Howard A. Parker (above), posed sedately inside the house, Hon. Pat Fleagle and Miss Shirley Zeigler (top left) took their refreshments to the veranda; Mr. Matt Myers (left, second from top) of M&M Electronics kept vigil over the audio system; LACI director Mrs. Stephen L. Monn and Mr. Monn (left, third from top) and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hollen (bottom left) enjoyed mint juleps and other drinks. 🐾🐾🐾

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they accomplished the demolition of the old cooper shop on the Snow Hill farm, one of the few trade shops surviving on the place.

To her credit, Dr. Seachrist remained above the fray. She cultivated enduring friendships with church members on both sides of the dispute, and did her best to minimize the loss of historical material while not alienating those in control of the congregation's affairs.

This personal and professional involvement with Snow Hill has resulted in a book titled *Snow Hill: In the Shadows of the Ephrata Cloister* (2010). In this "engaging narrative," to be published this fall by the Kent State University Press, Dr. Seachrist "chronicles with humor and insight her research into this fascinating community of German Seventh-Day [sic] Baptists." After reciting the history of Snow Hill—"its spiritual and work life; its music, writings, architecture, and crafts tradition,"—she turns to "its sad demise in the waning days of the twentieth century" which she witnessed firsthand.


Snow Hill: In the Shadows of the Ephrata Cloister is not merely a great Christmas gift for those interested in local history; it will undoubtedly take its place among the authoritative works of Antietam History. Upon the book's release, AHA will sponsor a book-signing reception at Waynesboro, so that the public may both purchase copies and obtain Dr. Seachrist's inscription at one convenient time. Details are forthcoming.

Dr. Denise A. Seachrist was born at Youngstown, Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Heidelberg College, a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Youngstown State University, and her doctorate in musicology-ethnomusicology from Kent State University. She is a specialist in the music of both historical and surviving German religious communities of Pennsylvania and, as such, serves on

the board of the Communal Studies Association. She is a member of the editorial board of the Pennsylvania-German History and Culture book series published by the Penn State Press, and is series editor of the *World Musics* series published by Kent State University Press. The latter is part of a joint effort by Kent State University Press, Indiana University Press, and Temple University Press.

Additionally, Dr. Seachrist has authored twenty-five refereed journal articles, two book chapters, and entries in *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Allgemeine Enzyklopädie der Musik* (second edition), *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (second edition), and *The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music* (Volume 3, "The United States and Canada"). She is also the author of *The Musical World of Halim El-Dabh* (2003) and the forthcoming book on Snow Hill.

Dr. Seachrist holds the rank of Associate Professor at Kent State University. She has served as interim dean for Academic and Student Services, Regional Campuses, and as interim assistant dean of the Trumbull Campus. In 2004 she received the Trumbull Campus Outstanding Administrator Service Award. In both 2001 and 2003 she received the Trumbull Campus Dean's Award for Leadership and Service. In 1999 she received the Trumbull Campus Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Service Award and was selected as one of four delegates to represent Kent State University in a seventeen-day educational exchange to China. She served on the board of directors of the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra from 1998 to 2005, is a past chairman of the University Teaching Council, and was a member of the 2004–2005 University's Leadership Academy.

AHA considers it a privilege to have one on whom so many laurels have been bestowed as our first featured speaker. May it bode well for future Association events! 

Why *The Rivulet*?


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The reader may wonder at the peculiar name of this little sheet. Why not just call it "The Newsletter"? The answer to that question lies in the stated mission of AHA, in the organization's future plans, and perhaps even in the idiosyncrasies of its editor.

First, the course of a stream of water establishes the scope of AHA's work: the region drained by Antietam and its tributaries. Because these waters pervade the scene of our activities, it seems logical to incorporate them into the AHA logo and use them as the theme of this irregular publication.

Second, AHA does plan to publish other, larger works; for example, the annual *Antietam Heritage*. Consequently, this newsletter is, and likely always will be, the briefest, most ephemeral of AHA publications. And so its name denotes its status among the products of a society with a creek as its symbol; for a rivulet is a "small brook or stream."

Finally, the Editor appreciates the unusual; he hesitates to use some generic term to describe even this humble page. Instead, he has striven to infuse the nature theme of AHA into every aspect of this publication. Typefaces, ornaments, and most illustrations are chosen to evoke the mood of the turn of the Twentieth century, when the romantic age made its last stand. Even its dingbats are waterfowl escaped from the rivulet flowing through our logo. So why not its title?

Speaking of last stands: In the next number, we shall explain for the perplexed Twenty-first-century reader THE RIVULET's positions on spelling, usage, and perhaps even etiquette. 

THE RIVULET is published every little now and then by Antietam Historical Association, 119 West Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Elizabeth S. Rock, *President*.

T. A. Dorsett, *Vice-President and Editor*.

Paula E. Fischer, *Secretary*.

Sarah E. Suszczyk, *Treasurer*.
