



THE RIVULET.

NUMBER 2.

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FEBRUARY 2011.

Annual Meeting rescheduled.

Dr. Seachrist to discuss Snow Hill ("Nunnery") March 24.

ANTIETAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION has rescheduled its first Annual Meeting for Thursday, March 24, 2011, 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 March 15, 2011. 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.

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 a religious commune of the German Seventh Day Baptist Church. 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



COOPER SHOP, SNOW HILL.

Photographed circa 1975; since demolished.

were hospitably admitted in staggering numbers. A more detailed discussion of its history and Dr. Seachrist's acquaintance there appears in the first number of THE RIVULET.

Dr. Seachrist's own 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," published 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.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and inscription at the meeting.

The Annual Meeting was originally

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BEDCHAMBER, SNOW HILL.

Photographed circa 1990.

The correspondent known as "Aitch" contributed the following article to the July 10, 1879, edition of the Gettysburg (Pa.) Compiler. It is here given in its entirety, as an interesting piece of regional natural history, even though some parts of it transcend the history of the Antietam country.

HEADS OF STREAMS IN THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN.

The South Mountain contains numerous springs of fresh water. This is owing partly to the fact that it is broken up into many ridges and spurs forming deep and shady ravines, and partly no doubt also to causes which are beyond the power of human penetration. These springs produce a constant and exhaustless supply of water to regions near and remote. It is to be feared they have not received the notice and been held in the high estimation which their merits would seem to demand, by a public whom they so faithfully and uninterruptedly serve. Hidden away in the ravines and on the high table lands, oftentimes surrounded by a thick growth of alder, laurel and rhododendron, they issue from the fissures of the rocks or



South Mountain Headwaters of Antietam Creek.

bubble up through the sand, in many instances without a sound to announce their presence. Their waters, however, glad at being set free from their subterranean prison-house, at once set out on their joyous journey, and go dancing and leaping from rock to rock down the mountain's side and through ravines to find a quieter and sunnier home in the plains that stretch to the sea.

These streams, at and near their source, are the natural abode of the brook trout, which, shielded from the sun's rays and protected from the intrusion of the angler by the dense undergrowth, here sport and thrive and—do they die? The deer, the bear and the panther betake themselves to them to slake their thirst, to cool their blood when heated in the chase and to elude their pursuers. Their waters lave the roots of the trees, and encourage their luxurious growth. Farther on they are the life and soul of manufacturing and agricultural interests. They turn the saw-mills, the grist-mills, the woolen factories; they water thousands of acres of wood, farm and meadow lands; they refresh the flocks and herds of a thousand hills; they grow countless fish of various species, large and small; they cool and moisten the dry and heated air of midsummer, and yield the crystal ice, so grateful to the system when parched by heat or fever.

Adams county contains a large number of the springs of the South Mountain, among which, it can truthfully be said, are some of the most important. "Rambler's" articles have impressed me with the important relation which this county sustains to its neighboring counties, because of

the abundant supply of water furnished them by its numerous streams heading in the South Mountain. For it is not among the least remarkable things that Franklin, Cumberland and York counties, in this state, and Washington and Frederick counties, in the state of Maryland, receive no inconsiderable amount of healthful, running water, through streams whose main springs and affluents are in the South Mountain and within the borders of Adams county.

Another fact worthy of remark is, that no large stream having its rise outside of Adams county flows into it or through it. In the water line this county is singularly favored; it has enough and to spare. But whilst it is independent, it is not selfish, but, according to its abundant resources in this respect, pours its blessings freely and liberally into the laps of its sister counties. To the north, south, east and west the waters flow from our highlands, whilst none of them come [*sic*] back to us again, nor do we receive any comparative return for them.

There is a group of springs south of the turnpike leading to Chambersburg to which I beg leave to call attention. Leaving the mountain at Mr. E. D. Newman's and going in a southwesterly direction, by the Cold Spring road leading beyond the Green Ridge, a distance of four miles and within a mile of the Franklin county line, we come to what has been, for many years, known as Cold Spring. It is the farthest west of the group referred to. This spring, in connection with another, constitutes the head waters of the Big Antietam,

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made memorable by the victory of the Union army under the command of General McClellan during the late war. The smaller spring is about a half mile further to the north, making the stream so much longer, but the Cold Spring is of such volume and character as to have always been regarded as the principal source of the Big Antietam. This stream flows south, along the foot of Green Ridge on the west, a distance of about three miles, to where it gracefully and with cheerful song, rolls across the border into Franklin county. Its course is southward by the old Mt. Alto forge and rolling mill, leaving Waynesboro' to the west, beyond which place it receives the waters of the Little Antietam. Onward the grateful, refreshing waters flow through the central part of Washington county, Maryland, past the beautiful and flourishing county seat, and finally empty themselves into the Potomac river below Sharpsburg. The Little Antietam rises in Franklin county, about five miles west of the Cold Spring, the source of the Big Antietam. It takes a winding course southwest, leaving Waynesboro' to the east.

Another spring is situated on the east side of the Green Ridge about four miles south of Cold Spring and an equal distance west of the ruins of Maria furnace. It is the source of Tom's Creek. This creek flows eastward about five miles, and thence south into Frederick county, Maryland, passing near the ancient and pleasant town of Emmitsburg, and empties into the Monocacy some distance above the mouth of Pipe creek. It receives one accession worthy of mention before it leaves the county, that of Miney branch. Flat run also increases its volume after both have passed the borders of their native state.

Two miles east of Cold Spring and east of the ridge, at what is called the old Seabrooks place, is the source of Middle Creek. It takes a southeastern direction, passes near by the town of Fairfield, after which it bends to the south. One of its most considerable affluents is Muddy run, which also

takes its rise in the South Mountain further to the east from the spring just mentioned above. Middle Creek is a fine stream of fresh water. It is rapid in its movement and goes cheerily along on its winding way, at least to the limits of the county line. It flows into and through the northern part of Frederick county, Md., and discharges its waters into Tom's creek.

To the northeast of Cold Spring, a distance of three miles, in a nook of the mountain formed by Green Ridge and a spur jutting out from the north and east, known as Gallagher's Knob or hill, is a secluded spring of sparkling fresh water. It is down on the county map as Poplar Spring. It is difficult of approach, owing to the luxuriant and interlaced undergrowth. It is the source of Marsh Creek. It flows towards the north a distance of about two miles, to a point a short distance west of Mr. Daniel Kuhn's place, where it is crossed by the Chambersburg pike. From that point its course is eastward through Pleasant Valley out into the open country. From Hilltown it inclines more towards the south, until it nears the eastern border of Highland township, where it turns abruptly to the south, which course it keeps, with slight variation, until its waters unite with those of Rock Creek to form the Monocacy. The waters of the South Mountain in Adams county form a large part of the last mentioned stream, which conveys them along through the central part of Frederick county, from its northern to its southern border, eastward of Frederick city, making it a well watered plane, and finally gives them up to the Potomac below Point of Rocks.

Little Marsh Creek rises a few miles west of Cashtown and empties into Marsh creek near Pfoutz's, in the northeastern part of Highland township.

Two miles north of Cold Spring, near where the Cold Spring road crosses to the west side of Green Ridge, is another spring, which is the source of a lively mountain stream, sometimes known as

McDowel's run, but it is in reality the source of the south branch of the East fork of the Conococheague. It flows to the west and meets the northern branch, of which we shall speak presently, and unites with it at Caledonia furnace. It takes a westward direction to a point several miles north of Chambersburg, where it curves to the south, and is joined by the West fork, which takes its rise in the North Mountain, near the Maryland line. It empties into the Potomac river at Williamsport. It is the largest stream in Franklin county, and is also a valuable source of water supply to the west central part of Washington county, Md.

Thus, within a radius of a few miles, we have six springs forming the main sources of as many streams going forth to water and refresh the lands through which they pass, and without which they would be a comparatively barren waste.

Near the Shippensburg road, on the west side of Green Ridge, or Piney Hill, as it is here called, on a flat, are two ponds produced by springs issuing from the earth. The ponds are only about one hundred yards apart in a northeasterly direction. The one towards the south is the source of the north branch of the East fork of the Conococheague previously referred to. It flows southward along the foot of the western slope of Piney Hill and Green Ridge to Caledonia furnace. It is augmented by the waters of Birch run,


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scheduled for November 17, 2010. Earlier in that month, however, Dr. Seachrist learnt that her elderly mother had been diagnosed with an aggressive, terminal illness.

Mrs. Seachrist, who had often accompanied her daughter to Snow Hill, and who also would have attended our Annual Meeting, succumbed but a few days following her diagnosis, and was buried on November 17. Her cheerful countenance would have added greatly to the scene.

THE RIVULET hopes that all those who had originally reserved places at the Annual Meeting will renew their reservations and will find Dr. Seachrist's address worth waiting for; and that the affair as a whole will set high standards for the pleasure and scholarship present in future Annual Meetings. Her resume is fully set forth in the first number hereof. 



DR. SEACHRIST.



SOME MEMBERS OF LAST CONGREGATION, SNOW HILL.

Photographed by Miss Helen Broadbent, of Leeds, England, at the meeting-house entrance circa 1990, from left: Mrs. Crist M. King, Crist M. King, Mrs. Elder S. Myers, Elder S. Myers, George O. Wingert, Todd A. Dorsett, Mrs. Lee C. Monn, and Mrs. Irene S. Funk. Not pictured: Mrs. Roy E. Linebaugh and Mrs. Elder G. Myers.

Together with Mrs. Catherine Kelly Kernes (who had not yet joined the society at the time this photograph was made), these were the major players in the autobiographical portions of Dr. Seachrist's new book about Snow Hill. Wingert commands a central role, and Dr. Seachrist's reminiscences of him add great personal warmth, as well as comic relief, to the story.

Of the individuals pictured, only Mrs. Myers and Dorsett survive. Mrs. Myers has attended church services at Snow Hill for ninety-six years, and is perhaps the best friend Snow Hill has ever had.


Why *The Rivulet*?

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Readers of the first instalment of this column probably noticed how our dingbat waterfowl tread gingerly when anticipating an explanation of THE RIVULET's position on matters of usage. Our web-footed friends waddle so anxiously because they know how humans will debate mole hills *ad nauseam* when they should be climbing mountains! And, indeed, here is yet another apology for what some persons may term "the Editor's idiosyncrasies."

Some readers object to certain of our spellings. The Editor hopes that these detractors read this newsletter anyhow, and he can only counter that in matters of grammatical usage, THE RIVULET follows logic and etymology, not nationalism or rote. And when in doubt, we consult *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.

Other readers probably wish THE RIVULET would abandon poor Logic and instead embrace Twenty-first-century Disrespectfulness, and represent persons' names improperly (that is, illogically). On this issue the Editor has already yielded, to a certain degree, when he agreed to publish AHA supporters' names on fellowship lists *as each fellow wishes his name to be listed*. That seemed only fair and courteous. But for the sake of consistency and clarity in the *text* of this humble little sheet,—and in all other instances of social usage,—we consult Emily Post's *Etiquette* (Tenth Edition), because Mrs. Post based her conclusions on logic and courtesy.

The Editor and his waterfowl hope in the future to use this space exclusively for historical purposes, and we hope that pleases our kind readers. 

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

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

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