



THE RIVULET.

NUMBER 5.

.....

OCTOBER 2011.

Waynesboro — *During the Civil War.*

*** AHA's contribution to the Civil War sesquicentennial observance. ***

ANTIETAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION is accepting pre-publication subscriptions for a booklet titled *Waynesboro During the Civil War*. In approximately forty letter-size pages, it tells the story of what the citizens of Waynesboro, Pa., experienced during the American Civil War, between 1861 and 1865.

The front cover is a full-color detail from the late Landis Brent Whitsel's painting "General Lee's Retreat." The booklet will also contain both vintage and modern illustrations.

Pre-publication subscriptions will be sold until October 31, 2011. Subscribers' names will be printed in the book. Pre-publication price is \$10.00 per copy (Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax). Orders should include payment made payable to AHA.

A prospectus, including an order form, is enclosed with this number of *The Rivulet*. Additional copies of the prospectus may be downloaded from www.antietamhistory.org.

After October 31, the price per copy will be \$12.50 (Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax). AHA plans to have the book available for purchase as Christmas gifts.

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Association Fellows may discount both the pre-publication and post-publication purchase prices by ten per cent. Marion P. Grove Fellows receive the booklet as part of their fellowship.
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One of the featured articles in *Waynesboro During the Civil War* is the eyewitness account of the late Mrs.



Franklin Bender, first published in *The Outlook* in 1925. Its author was a sixteen-year-old girl in Waynesboro when she experienced the excitement and horrors of war. Another feature is the compilation "Waynesboro in Civil War Days" adapted from the writings of the late Miss Matilda R. Detrich.

The book also contains some letters written during the War as well as a number of items from the "Village Record," edited by William Blair, who spared no venom when attacking secessionists and local people suspected of disloyalty to the federal government. ❧



Please Save the Date for Spring Garden Fest!

Mr. and Mrs. Allen M. Baumgardner have graciously consented to host the Second Annual Spring Garden Fest at their country seat "Antietam Farm" (shown at left in an 1878 drawing by W. W. Denslow) from one to four o'clock on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Romantically situated on the east branch of Antietam near the Mason and Dixon line a short distance south of Waynesboro, Pa., it is the perfect setting for a pleasant afternoon of music, rambling, and refreshments. ❧



A Letter from a Young Lady.

Once again THE RIVULET transcends the Antietam country to present an interesting document from the Nineteenth century. The following was written by Miss Mary Ann Catharine Laubach (Mrs. Christian Kessler; 1843-1929), a halfsister of B. M. Nead for whom the Association recently named an honorary fellowship. She addressed Miss Mary Eliza Wark, a native of Ireland who taught school at Chambersburg, Pa., and boarded with the Nead-Laubach family there for over fifty years. Her topic was the burning of Chambersburg by Confederate forces under command of Brigadier-General John McCausland. Miss Laubach is pictured at left in a carte-de-visite taken in 1863 by John Keagy, a native of the Antietam country. Unfortunately the following fragment is all that remains of her letter.

AUGUST 1ST 1864
THE RUINS OF CHAMBERSBURG.

DEAR MISS MARY ELIZA,

The Rebels have been and—we are ruined. Our house, and all it contained, is in ashes. We saved the most of our clothing, but all the furniture is burnt. I got a very few of your things. No one thought of your pictures until all was over. It is enough to break anybody's heart to witness the destruction. From Ben Chambers' house to Dr. Suesserott there are only four houses on Main St. Market St. from Miss Denny's to J. M. McDowells is gone. [illegible] is gone. Second street, from Clines to the market house is all gone except from Seiberts to the Methodist church. Browns hotel is badly burnt but they can live in it. German Street from the Methodist Church to the creek is all gone. Some people haven't the second thing to their backs. Wm. G. Reeds lost everything—everybody's things are gone—Mrs. Stoner is safe. There were some of the noblest men among the Rebels. When they were ordered to fire the buildings, they refused and set to, to aid people in removing their goods and putting out the fire. Mrs. Jordan's and Capt. Austin's have only what they could carry in pillow cases. Gehrs and Brewers lost all their silver; they set the court house on fire with kerosene from Gerbriks Store and bundles of straw. You cannot imagine anything so fearful as the courthouse when burning. I am so thankful I did not see our house burning. We carried our things to Uncle D. K's and then when we thought their house would burn, out to Guthries, the last house on German St. I carried sheets full, just as full as they could be loaded away out to their house, on my back. Mrs. Stoner wanted some of us to come there but Uncle's house accommodates us all and more.

Uncle John came up Yesterday (Sunday) and took Ella, Sallie and Dannie to Shippensburg. The people from below sent the heaviest trains with provisions and clothing. People that it would have been an insult to offer anything to, come for their rations, which are distributed from our warehouse. Mrs. Wallace's splendid house is burnt. McClures are burnt out, too. Mrs. McClure and Jimmie Orr and the rest of their family walked within three miles of Shippensburg. They (the Rebels) didn't burn any of the railroad buildings nor warehouses, except Dietz and Eysters. Seven Hotels. All except Browns are gone. . .two churches, Seceder and Bethel. I am writing with pen and ink from the provost's office. * * *

Mrs. Stoner told me to tell you not to come up and not to think hard of her for sending such word. The schools won't open, and your school house is to be taken for a hotel. Everybody is full of burnt-out people. Mrs. Stoner has Wallaces and Lanes. Mrs. Leggit said you shouldn't send anything for Mrs. Boyle. The whole family have gone to Elmira. I am sorry that I could not save your things. I have your blue bonnet and your dark delaine. We did not know what to do, we had no warning. We had about 15 minutes to get our things out. The Rebels were not in our house. We locked it up when we left. Papa broke windows out to get himself out. Col. Austin shot a Rebel Major on Reasners steps on Saturday, thought to be Harry Gilmer, next to McCausland the head devil among them all.

There is the most awful excitement. . .but don't come up. I wish you could see the ruins, but there is no place for strangers; people intend giving their parlors for stores. We are all well, except Ella; she had cholera morbus on Friday night. They kindled a

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The

Hereditary Societies of Waynesboro.

Captain John E. Walker Society.

In keeping with the Civil War theme of these days, and on the recommendation of Mr. Michael R. Flohr, AHA has selected the Captain John E. Walker Society to unveil as the third group of The Hereditary Societies of Waynesboro. Anyone is eligible for membership who can prove lineal descent from a soldier or sailor who served in the American Civil War



CAPT. JOHN E. WALKER.

person for membership.

The new society is named for Waynesboro native John Edmund Walker. He was one of five sons of Dr. Thomas Walker and his wife, *nee* Harriet Coskery, all of whom served in the Union army.

John E. Walker began his military career as a private in Company A, Second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was the first regiment raised in Franklin county, Pa. Soon he was promoted to orderly sergeant of that company.

During his service with this regiment, Walker was detailed several times as a recruitment officer at Waynesboro, and then returned to active duty.

Walker was subsequently promoted to lieutenant. He was wounded in the knee at the battle of Stones river (Murfreesboro). While recovering from his wound, he was furloughed, and returned to Waynesboro for several weeks.

Around the time of his furlough, Walker was promoted to captain. He

returned to active service, and was engaged in a skirmish near Atlanta, Ga., on August 5, 1864, when he was fatally shot through the temple. At the time of his death he was captain of Company A, 77th Pennsylvania Volunteers. His friends never recovered his body.

During his career, Captain John E. Walker served in various battles, including Stones river, Shiloh, and Corinth. According to *Waynesboro During the Civil War*, the men of his company presented him with a magnificent sword, sash, and belt.

A cenotaph to his memory was inscribed on one side of the Walker family monument which now stands in Burns Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro.

On September 10, 1882, the Grand Army of the Republic post at Waynesboro was organized as the "Capt. John E. Walker Post, G. A. R." The post was named for Walker in recognition of his faithful service and his death in combat.

The two companies most readily



identified with Waynesboro residents were Company E, 126th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and Company G, 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Information on these companies will be available on the Hereditary Societies page of the AHA website.

Applications for membership, together with application instructions are available on the AHA website or by telephoning AHA at 717-658-6789. A \$25.00 fee must accompany each completed application.

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Captain Thomas Wallace Society.

Meanwhile, Mr. Michael R. Flohr was accepted as the first member of the Captain Thomas Wallace Society. He submitted an application based on de-

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Mr. Michael R. Flohr (left) receives his certificate as the first member of the Captain Thomas Wallace Society of The Hereditary Societies of Waynesboro from Mrs. F. M. Rock, AHA President. Photograph by Mrs. Darlene S. Weddle.

A Letter from a Young Lady.

(Continued from page 2)

fire in Clark's house. We have our two new carpets and the piano stool, three or four quilts, three comforts and our clothes, with about a dozen books. I am astonished when I look at what we have; no one to help but Mag Seibert Linder. [Illegible] went to Newville yesterday. If you can read this, well and good; if not you can hear after a while. Andy Miller shot two Rebels and let them burn up. Good for them.



MRS. CHRISTIAN KESSLER.

They burnt the Academy; the Post Office is at Deal's house. I am hurrying to get this off at one o'clock. People came in droves from the cars just now. I don't know how they'll live, for we all have to depend for subsistence on the surrounding towns. Don't come up, at any rate until you hear again. Your trunk is at 808 Market St. Hinchman's sent Friday night; I am so glad. The Piano is gone—one dare not stop to think or they would cry their eyes out. People with not a cent seem cheerful. It's awful. Mother says for mercy's sake not to come back. Oh, Miss Mary E. what shall we do? We are going

to Harrisburg this week to buy and get things to go to housekeeping with.

Give our love to all. I guess you will see plenty of town people down there. They'll tell you all. Just think of my nice row of Harpers. Oh, it's all Couch's fault! There couldn't have been 600 of them. The battery would have kept them out but they had orders to go. Lieut. Underhill burst into tears when he got to Shippensburg. Burt and the whole staff wanted to stay. Hamiltons haven't a piece of clothing. If you write, direct to Uncle John's, care of Shippensburg.

* * *

MARY ANN CATHARINE LAUBACH was born August 25, 1843, in Franklin county, Pa. She was the posthumous daughter and only child of the Reverend Benjamin Laubach and his wife, *nee* Eleanor Wunderlich. When Mary Ann was still a small child, her mother married (second) Benjamin Franklin Nead, and they had a large family of children.

On July 17, 1872, Mary A. C. Laubach married the Reverend Christian Kessler, whom she bore but one child, Eleanor Walzer Kessler. Christian Kessler died in 1874.

During her long widowhood, Mrs. Christian Kessler taught school, part of that time at a female seminary at Hagerstown, Md. She resided at Chambersburg with the Nead family, and died there on October 5, 1929.

Eleanor Walzer Kessler also became a school teacher and, later, a concert singer. She married Walter Coates, of East Hendred, Berkshire, England.

Miss Mary Eliza did indeed return to Chambersburg, and dwelt with the Neads until her death. A small tombstone in the graveyard of the Presbyterian Church of the Falling Spring is inscribed thus:

"MARY ELIZA WARK entered into rest May 8, 1901. For over half a century a faithful teacher of the young." ❧

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scent from Jacob Welty, one of Captain Wallace's militiamen.

His lineage is as follows:

Michael Richard Flohr was born at Waynesboro, Pa. He is the son of Donald Clifton Flohr and Beulah Madaline Minnick, his wife, both deceased.

Beulah Madaline Minnick was the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Minnick and Grace Maxwell Royer, his wife.

Benjamin Franklin Minnick was the son of Jacob Newton Minnick and Mary Bell Ruthrauff, his wife.

Many Bell Ruthrauff was the daughter of Joseph L. Ruthrauff and Anna Welty, his wife.

Anna Welty was the daughter of Abraham Welty and Catharine Harbaugh, his wife.

Abraham Welty was the son of Jacob Welty and Anna Maria Hoover, his wife.



New Fellows.

The following persons have become Fellows since THE RIVULET last issued:

SUBSCRIBING FELLOWS.

Mrs. Catherine Kelly Kernes,
Mr. Benjamin Kelly.

Both new Fellows are natives of the village of Quincy, as well as offspring of the late John Kelly, popularly known as "Kelly of Quincy." ❧

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

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