



THE RIVULET.

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MARCH 2013.

Dr. Steven Hatleberg to address third Annual Meeting on "Copper Mining around the ❁❁ South Mountain." ❁❁

Event moves to Fountain Head Country Club.

ANTIETAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at Fountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown. The festivities will begin at 5:30 P.M. with hors d'œuvres, cash bar, and an exhibit related to the feature presentation. At 6:30 P.M., a chicken dinner (or vegetarian alternative) will be served.

The event is open to the public, and is made possible in part by both the Franklin County Visitors Bureau and the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The cost of the dinner is \$35.00 per person, payable when making reservations. 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.

The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Also, AHA cannot give refunds on cancellations made after that date.

Further information is available by telephoning (717) 762-2006. Please refrain from contacting Fountain Head Country Club directly; only AHA will accept reservations.

Featured speaker for the event will be Dr. STEVEN HATLEBERG, of Hagerstown. He will narrate an illustrated

presentation about "Copper Mining around the South Mountain."

As early as 1833, prospectors made an opening for the discovery and extraction of copper on the Watson farm in Hamiltonban township, Adams county. For the remainder of the Nineteenth century, numerous excavations were made between Blue Ridge Summit and Orrtanna in search of native copper, but local deposits yielded too little to justify long-term capital investment.

Around 1850, a Pittsburgh company sank a shaft in Snyder's Hollow, Hamiltonban township. A Waynesboro tradesman, William A. Tritle, claimed he removed from the bottom of this pit, at twenty feet from the surface, a piece of native copper as big as his head.

As if any commentator could resist responding to Tritle's claim, one geologist wrote, "In interpreting all comparisons of this indefinite nature great care must be exercised, but there is no inherent impossibility in the story if we assume this as indicating any ordinary size" (Persifor Frazer, Jr., *The Geology of Lancaster County*, 1880).

Another Waynesboro businessman, D. B. Russell, purchased five hundred acres in the vicinity of Mount Hope, Hamiltonban township, and made openings in search of copper. His methods proved desultory and essentially ended in failure.

Yet another Waynesboro citizen, Dr. I. N. Snively (1839-1913), a physician and amateur geologist, became the most energetic proponent of mining for copper on the South Mountain throughout the last quarter of the Nineteenth century. He leased land on Musselman Hill, near Mount Hope, and made shafts which yielded some impressively pure native copper.

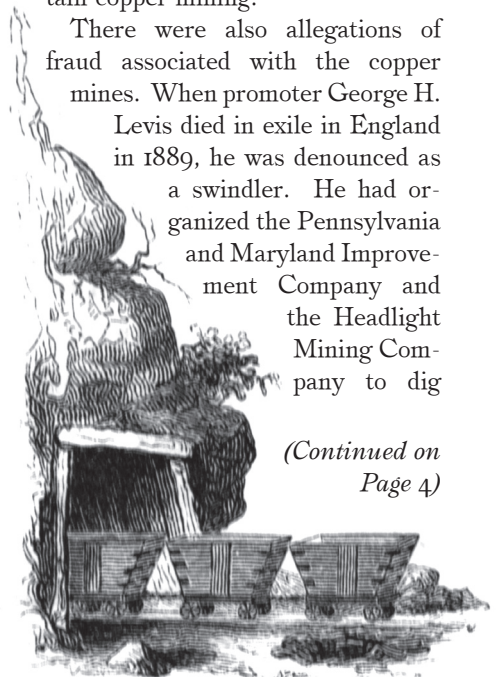
Although Dr. Snively usually had partners in his copper mines, yet the operation was never large-scale. At one point, an observer noted that the entire crew consisted of three men and a boy using primitive equipment.

Around 1900, Dr. Snively successfully marketed the idea of reopening the Snively mines to a Colorado mining mogul, Thomas Walsh (whose daughter, Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McClean, once owned the Hope diamond). Unfortunately, however, Walsh soon died, extinguishing Dr. Snively's last hope for full-scale development of South Mountain copper mining.

There were also allegations of fraud associated with the copper mines. When promoter George H.

Levis died in exile in England in 1889, he was denounced as a swindler. He had organized the Pennsylvania and Maryland Improvement Company and the Headlight Mining Company to dig

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Potomac Street Irregulars.

An informal study group.

Fifteen persons attended the inaugural meeting of the Potomac Street Irregulars (PSI), a study group of Antietam Historical Association, on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at The Waynesburger restaurant, Waynesboro.

The group was enthusiastic about studying crimes in Antietam history, particularly unsolved ones or cases where the judicial result was based either solely or mostly upon circumstantial evidence. It was resolved to meet the second Tuesday of every month at some eatery along the route designated "Potomac" between Waynesboro and Sharpsburg.

The original Potomac Street Irregulars are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bock, Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Logan, Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Morningstar; Mesdames F. M. Rock and Darlene S. Weddle; the Misses Jody Henke, Sue Stoner, and Shirley A. Zeigler; and Messrs. L. Dean Calimer, T. A. Dorsett, Franklin Shockey, and Timothy Shockey.

The February meeting was held at The Parlor House, South Potomac Shopping Center, Waynesboro, with thirty-five persons attending. President Rock welcomed the party; Vice-President Dorsett served as moderator, and Mr. Franklin Shockey was lead detective. The feature cases were the shooting deaths of brothers Jacob and Samuel Shockey in the vicinity of Beartown, Washington township. The murders occurred in 1924 and 1928, respectively.

Mr. Shockey exhibited photographs of Samuel Shockey, including one of his

corpse, lightly dusted with snow, lying on a large rock in the mountain. While Samuel was convicted of killing his

brother, his own murder remains unsolved. He had escaped from a work detail while serving a term of incarceration in Eastern Penitentiary, and had returned to the mountain district, where he lived openly.

Various theories about the shootings were discussed. Both victims were involved with an Ohio woman named Iva Wills, and Mr. Shockey advanced the proposition that Samuel Shockey had confessed to Jacob's shooting in order to protect his paramour, who was present when Jacob was shot. A newspaper photograph of Miss Wills holding a firearm was circulated among the group.

Miss Wills was held as a material witness in the case about Jacob's death, but seems to have disappeared upon her release. Mr. Franklin Shockey has spent a great deal of time tracking her whereabouts in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Vice-President Dorsett suggested that she might have been the victim in the unsolved "Red-head Murder" along the Potomac river near Hancock, Maryland, in the early nineteen-fifties because she bore a resemblance to the victim in that case.

As for Samuel Shockey's assailant: The group mentioned the names of various suspects, with the consensus seeming to favour a woman who disapproved of Shockey's relationship with her daughter. The passage of time, apathetic police work, and reticence among the families of the parties involved,—all combine to thwart efforts to solve the shooting and axing death of Samuel Shockey. It is a mystery worth revisiting.

The next PSI meeting will be held in the meeting room of The Parlor House on Tuesday, March 12, at 6:00 P.M. Admission is free, but each attendee must order dinner from the restaurant menu. Seating is limited, so reservations must be made by telephoning (717) 762-2006



no later than Sunday, March 10.

March's feature case will be the Peabody bank robbery ring. Mr. Frank Bock will serve as moderator, and Vice-President Dorsett as lead detective.

Gerard Rushton Peabody (1900–1980) was the fifth of eight sons born to a wealthy Seattle shipping magnate. Gerard became troublesome in his teenage, and was sent first to Peru and thence to Australia. In the latter country, he married his first wife and eventually returned to Seattle after visiting her native England.

Peabody was incarcerated in New Jersey and Maryland prior to being admitted to the Maryland State Sanatorium in the nineteen-thirties. Upon his release from the hospital, he dwelt on Military road, near Highfield, Maryland, and opened a radio shop on Center square, Waynesboro, in full view of the two largest financial institutions in Franklin county.

The Peabody ring committed at least four bank robberies in Western Maryland in 1939. This, despite the fact that Peabody himself inherited what was then a princely sum of money. After a trial with some far-ranging consequences, Gerard Peabody began his long association with federal penitentiaries. For a time, he was confined on Alcatraz Island. While released on parole, he committed bank robberies in the Pacific Northwest in 1956 and 1974. He died in a nursing home while still technically a federal prisoner. His life exemplifies the perplexity of the human condition. ♦♦♦♦



ANTIETAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION has inaugurated a field study group called the "Antietam Ramblers." The purpose of this subculture of AHA is to make casual field trips to natural and historic sites in the Antietam country. The structure of the Ramblers is similar to that of the Potomac Street Irregulars; that is, there is little structure. The Ramblers themselves will decide the sites the group will visit.

Already there is a growing list of places worthy of field trips. Possible destinations include ruins of South Mountain resorts, abandoned and projected railroads, the CG&W Street Railway, the mouth and headwaters of Antietam creek, scenes from the national romance *Katy of Catoctin*, Black Rock, Annapolis Rocks, historic bridges, charcoal hearths, historic sites of Leitersburg district, Mont Alto Park, copper mines, Mason and Dixon's line and its markers, the Underground Railroad, crime scenes, places associated with John Brown's army of liberation, Civil War sites, and historic settlements.

The trips may be made by foot, automobile, railroad, bus, bicycle, or boat.

The first meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2013, beginning at 9:00 A.M., in the private room of Golden Corral, Wayne Heights Mall, Waynesboro. Seating is limited, so persons interested in becoming Ramblers need to telephone AHA at (717) 762-2006 by March 7 to make reservations. Attendees also need to purchase breakfast from the restaurant.

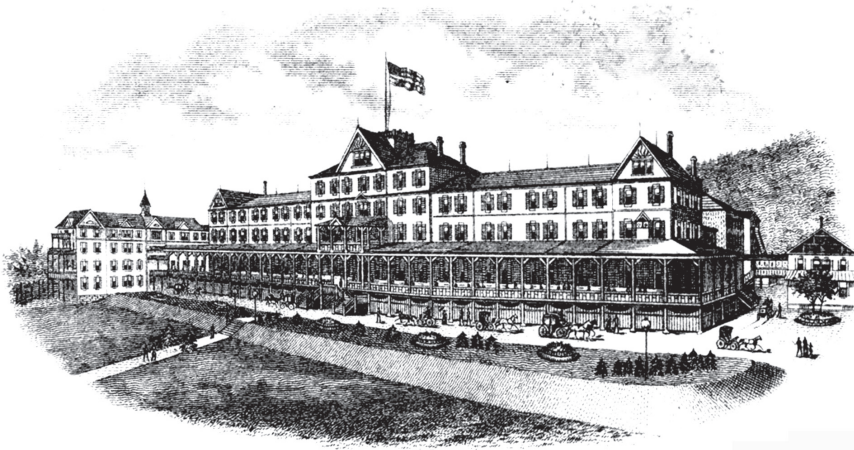
Following explanatory remarks and exhibits pertaining to the destination, the group will embark on the ramble of the day.

The ramble on March 9 will be a hike to the site of the Blue Mountain House, led by Messrs. Brett Reichard

and Jarred Wagaman.

Organizers selected Blue Mountain as the objective of the inaugural ramble because 2013 marks the centennial of the destruction by fire of the Blue Mountain House, which AHA is featuring throughout the year on our Facebook page and in *THE RIVULET*.

In 1883 a group of Baltimore and Hagerstown capitalists incorporated the Blue Mountain Hotel Company to erect a fashionable hotel on South Mountain near Pen-Mar Park. The result of their plans was the Blue Mountain House, a three-hundred-room Georgia



BLUE MOUNTAIN HOUSE.

pine structure completed in seventy-six working days.

Blue Mountain House quickly became one of the most popular resorts on the eastern seaboard. It catered to the fashionable, affluent trade; and its clientele included business, political, and religious leaders.

Soon after completion of the original buildings, an annex was constructed across the driveway at the northern end of the hotel; it is visible at left in

the accompanying illustration. Blue Mountain also had its own station on the Western Maryland Railroad and a chapel, located on the path leading from Pen-Mar Park to the hotel.

Early in the morning on Tuesday, August 5, 1913, fire reduced the sprawling Blue Mountain House to ruins in one hour. Approximately one hundred seventy-five guests escaped in their nightclothes, leaving behind clothing, jewelry, and other possessions. Porters courageously guided guests through the hallways to safety. One porter, Frank Thomas, was hailed as a hero; for he

remained in the building, almost overcome by smoke inhalation, until he was assured that everyone had escaped to safety.

Only two persons were seriously injured escaping from the inferno: two gentlemen from Norfolk, Virginia, who suffered severe burns.

One female guest who pan-

icked, jumped from a third-floor window, landed on her head on the roof of the second-floor porch, and lost consciousness for a short time. Some guests dropped their children from second-storey windows into the waiting arms of rescuers.

Despite several optimistic plans to construct a more compact hostelry on the site of Blue Mountain House, the place remains a wilderness marked by ruins and vegetation. *tb*

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for copper around Blue Ridge Summit and Fountaintdale. Geologists insisted that there was no copper present at Levis's site; so he supposedly "salted" the mine with copper, and consequently obtained numerous financial backers hereabouts who, when Levis expired, were still embroiled in lawsuits aimed at recovering their capital.

Those who enjoy exploring the natural and historic sites near the headwaters of Antietam creek are familiar with the vestiges of these abandoned copper mines: they stand with the ruins of Maria Furnace and the "Tapeworm" railroad as forelorn reminders of the vanity of human ambitions.



Dr. Steven Hatleberg was reared in Bethesda, Maryland, and graduated from Georgetown University Medical School. He practises internal medicine at Hagerstown.

Having a strong interest in local mineralogy and geology, our speaker considers the unique combination of copper, greenstone, and quartz in the South Mountain its "calling card." The story of the origin of these minerals, their discovery, and development of the mines has given rise to "a great hobby" for the doctor, who enjoys spending time amid Nature's splendour while pursuing these interests.

Dr. and Mrs. Hatleberg moved to Hagerstown eight years ago. They have three children residing in Boston, Washington, and New York. 🐾🐾🐾



For the Village Record.

SUNDAY AMONG THE MOUNTAINS.

BY J. HARRY BARNES.

Sunday morning dawneth on me,
Far from all the haunts of men;
On the path to sky-top leading
Through the laurel-covered glen,
Where I sit alone and listen,
Hidden from human ken.

Listen to the pine trees chanting
From the crags that pierce the sky;
To the glad and quiet music
That the breezes carry by,
From the rock encircled prison
Where the rippling waters lie.

'Tis no surpliced choir that singeth,
'Tis no pealing organ rings,
Yet the song of praise ascendeth
From all green and growing things,
And the rustling of their leaflets
Is as that of unseen wings.

Here is no discolored daylight
Painted windows streaming through,
But the perfect light of heaven,
Clear as crystal and as true
Floods of sunshine, glorious, golden;
Skies of deep and earnest blue.

Stretching ever onward, upward
From the mill-dam's further brim,
Rise the everlasting mountains
Fading into distance dim,
Singing their song of silence,
Their own perpetual hymn.

Where the rocks, ah, who can fathom
All the terror they inspire!
Those upheaved, dissorted masses
Scared and blackened as by fire,
Telling of some fierce convulsion,
Chaos and confusion dire.

Now they serve for the foundations
Of a temple great, and grand;
They who list may read the sermon
Written upon either hand,
May learn something from their voices
That go out to every land.

Come up hither, all whose burden
Greater grows than ye can bear;
Come up hither to this temple
So remote from pain and care,
And join with me in the worship
That is ever sounding there.

MONT ALTO, August 22, 1873.

Miss Stanley elected Treasurer.

Miss Sally T. Stanley, Supporting Fellow of AHA from Blue Ridge Summit, has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors created by the resignation of Mrs. Sarah Suszyk, who has married and removed from the region.

Miss Stanley is a graduate of Waynesboro Area Senior High School. She received the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from The Pennsylvania State University and the Master of Arts degree in Thanatology from Hood College. She is a telecommunications analyst with M&T Bank.

Miss Stanley will also succeed Mrs. Suszyk as Treasurer.



New Fellows.

SINCE our last number issued, the following have become Fellows of AHA:

MARION P. GROVE FELLOWS

*Mr. Scott K. Parker

SUPPORTING FELLOWS

Mr. Kevin Bilder

Frank and Barbara Bock

**Ms. Sally T. Stanley

SUBSCRIBING FELLOWS

Ms. Sally Bercaw

Ms. Barbara E. Hahn Gunter

*Formerly a Supporting Fellow

** Formerly a Subscribing Fellow

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

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Elizabeth S. Rock, *President.*

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

Paula E. Fischer, *Secretary.*

Sally T. Stanley, *Treasurer.*