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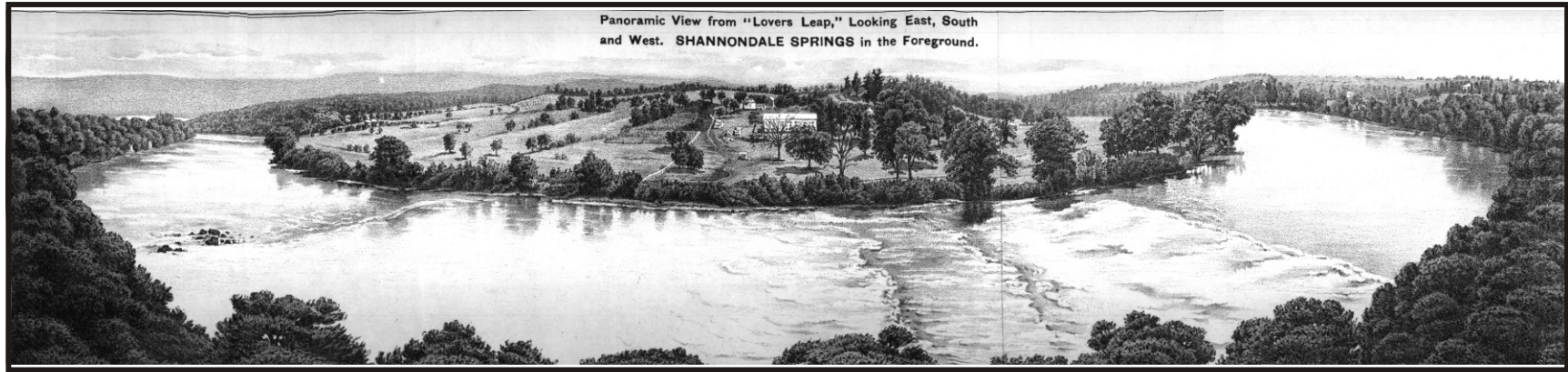
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# History of Shannondale Springs



**William D. Theriault**

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# Preface

A version of this study first appeared in *West Virginia History*, vol. 57 (1998). The following version has been updated to include additional illustrations and selections of primary source materials.

The current study builds upon the previous studies of T.T. Perry ("Shannondale," an address given to the Jefferson County Historical Society, August 9, 1940) and Susan E. Winter ("A Short History of Shannondale Springs," January 23, 1983). The former work, an undocumented lecture, provides tantalizing references to sources in the author's private collection. Thus far many of the references have not been authenticated. The second work provides an extensive record of the property ownership of the entire Shannondale estate as well as an analysis of the newspaper sources available to the author.

William D. Theriault, 2009



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# SHANNONDALE SPRINGS

The Shannondale Springs resort, located in Jefferson County, West Virginia, was one of the many 19th century enterprises developed ostensibly to profit from the curative powers of mineral springs. Like its competitors, Shannondale owed its patronage as much to its image and atmosphere as to the efficacy of its waters. Its fate depended as much on the owners' economic and political savvy as on the staff's ability to stamp out a stray spark or sidestep the inevitable floods. This study explores the ownership, construction, and renovation of Shannondale Springs and the factors contributing to its growth, decline, and demise.

The site now known as Shannondale Springs is part of a much larger parcel of land acquired by Colonel John Colville on May 17, 1739. Acting as Lord Fairfax's Agent, William Fairfax gave his ex-partner Colville a patent to the 29,000-acre tract called "Shannandale." The property was "situated partly in Loudoun and partly in Berkeley county aforesaid lying upon the Blue ridge and short hill mountains and in the valley between them and bounded on the west and north sides by the Shannondoah and the Potomack rivers ..." In contemporary terms, Shannondale stretched along the Shenandoah River from Castleman's Ferry in Clarke County, Virginia, to Harper's Ferry in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Colville transferred the property to William Fairfax by deeds of lease and release dated January 22 and 23, 1740.<sup>1</sup>

William Fairfax conveyed the whole estate to George Fairfax by deed of gift on October 20, 1754. George in turn bequeathed the property and other substantial holdings to his nephew Ferdinando Fairfax in 1787. Use of the property was subject to the life estate of George's wife, Sarah.<sup>2</sup>

## THE SPRINGS UNDER FERDINANDO FAIRFAX

Ferdinando Fairfax (1769-1820), the third son of Reverend Bryan Fairfax, was just eighteen years old when he inherited the 29,000-acre Shannondale tract as well as Piedmont plantation and the Belvoir estate in Fairfax County. Both his uncle and father were good friends of George Washington, who had stood godfather to Ferdinando.<sup>3</sup> Ownership of these properties placed Fairfax in the company of other large local landowners and entrepreneurs such as John Semple and Henry Lee. Like Semple and Lee, Fairfax was eager to develop the industrial potential of his property, erecting mills and utilizing the timber and iron resources at his disposal. Unfortunately, he too appears to have been short of the capital needed to realize his dreams and was plagued by debt during the last years of his life.

Ferdinando Fairfax was the first owner who attempted to develop the potential of the Shannondale tract, which contained tillable land, iron ore, timber, and water power suitable for industrial use, in addition to the mineral springs. Details of Fairfax's use of the property before 1800 are sketchy, although he did erect a residence on it called "Shannon Hall" across the Shenandoah River from the Springs. A fire burned through part of the property shortly before May 1793, although its precise location and the extent of the damage are not known. Possibly to pay his debts or raise capital for his industrial enterprises, Fairfax had signed a bond for the property over to William Byrd Paige in December 30, 1799, for \$55,542.32. Fairfax made a payment on the mortgage to Paige for \$6,542.32 on April 1, 1800. Payments were due annually, and the full amount was to be repaid by September 1, 1809.<sup>4</sup>

The Springs or other natural resources at Shannondale were probably not developed for public use until at least 1820. Although maps by Charles Varle (1809) and John Wood (1820) both record Fairfax's residence, neither one shows a ferry or any structure on Horse Shoe Bend (the name first given to the area). (See Figure 1.) Varle's *Topographical Description of Frederick, Jefferson, and Berkeley Counties* is also silent on Shannondale Springs while mentioning Berkeley Springs and other local resources.<sup>5</sup>

Fairfax's activities from the time that he inherited the Shannondale tract until his death in 1820 are important to the history of the smaller Shannondale Springs property because they may help to date the Bath/Spring House still standing at the Springs and determine the function of other sites in the area.

By the start of the new century, Fairfax was one of the richest and most prosperous residents of the area. He was one of the original trustees of the Charlestown Academy (1797), the largest slaveholder in the area, and one of the original members of the Jefferson County Court in 1801. He owned or leased several properties in Charlestown, was a justice of the peace during this period, and played a major role in the design and construction of the original jail in Charlestown (1802) and the Market House (1806).<sup>6</sup>

His attempts to develop the commercial potential of his property appear to have begun in earnest by 1808, when he gave notice of his intent to apply to Jefferson County February Court to establish a ferry across the Shenandoah River from his land to the public road opposite Shannon Hill.<sup>7</sup> The Shannondale Ferry was probably established in Spring 1809. Since the road to the ferry landing went past the springs, there is no doubt that this resource was well known, at least locally, by this period.

By 1809, he had extracted iron ore samples from five sites on his property and sent them to several ironmasters for conversion into bar iron and thence to James Stubblefield at the Harpers Ferry Armory to determine their suitability in the manufacture of firearms. These activities suggest that Fairfax did not have his own furnace or forge at Shannondale at this time. Nevertheless, he appears to have been moving in this direction, for between 1809 and 1811 he purchased the furnace bellows, various pieces of equipment, and available cast and wrought iron of the defunct Keeptyrst Furnace from the Armory.<sup>8</sup>

In 1811, Fairfax sold a 1395.5 acre segment of the Shannondale tract to the U.S. Government. The land was on the east side of the Shenandoah River, beginning at a point below Harpers Ferry and running up the river. The following year, he advertised for an individual to build a flour warehouse on the Potomac River just below Harpers Ferry and very near Digg's Island, and mortgaged part of his Piedmont estate in Loudoun County to Elijah Chamberlain. In 1813 he purchased the 196-acre farm in present day Harpers Ferry that included the Lee-Longworth House. The land was leased by the U.S. Government. The same year Fairfax mortgaged his Shannon Hill tract to Charles Gibbs.<sup>9</sup>

All of these events point to Fairfax's attempts to find a market for his own goods (certainly iron ore and possibly wheat or flour) at Harper's Ferry. Lacking the capital to finance an iron furnace at Shannondale, Fairfax advertised for partners in a 1815 prospectus published in Washington, D.C. In his *Description of Ferdinando Fairfax's Shannondale Iron Estate, with A Plan of a Company for Improving the Same*, he describes the existing improvements on the whole tract, noting:

The Valley run has been thought adequate to carry a saw-mill with a single flutter-wheel, which I have accordingly erected upon it, preparatory to other works... In the present state of the works of the Potomac Company, the river Shenandoah is navigable for flour-boats, and other boats, from Harper's Ferry (at its mouth) through the whole extent of this property, and many miles above, a great part of the year... The small tenements upon the whole tract offered to the company, are so interspersed, as to serve rather to protect from fire, &c. than to destroy in future the wood-land. Some are rented for lives, some for terms of years, all under very strict covenants; but the leases of the most important are already in my hands, for the good of the company.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 1. Portion of Varle's 1809 map, showing Hammond's Ferry (possibly the precursor to Shannondale Ferry)

Thus, with the exception of a saw mill and some scattered tenant farms, Fairfax's property, including the Springs, seems to have undergone relatively little development by 1815. His efforts to find financial backing for the Shannondale Iron Estate found little support.

By 1814, Fairfax's financial empire was unravelling. In that year, the administrators for William B. Page, deceased, initiated a chancery suit against him. Under the terms of the settlement, issued in 1816, Fairfax was obliged to auction his 10,000-acre Iron Mine tract to settle his debt.<sup>11</sup> The land was purchased by William Herbert, Jr. In April 1817, Fairfax was involved in another chancery suit, this time with George Reynolds,<sup>12</sup> and in September of the same year his Short Hill tract in Loudoun County went on sale to repay the mortgage issued in 1812.<sup>13</sup>

In the context of all the previously mentioned financial activities, Ferdinando Fairfax "of the city of Washington" sold Thomas Griggs, Jr., and Benjamin Beeler an undivided two-thirds of the land containing Shannondale Springs in November 1819. The property was described as being "opposite the Shannon Hill tract, containing by estimation about sixty acres more or less and being commonly called the Horse Shoe Tract..." Of the undivided two-thirds owned by Beeler and Griggs, Beeler was to have two-thirds. (In other words, when the sale was concluded Fairfax owned 3/9ths, Beeler, 4/9ths, and Griggs 2/9ths.) On July 1 of the following year, Fairfax sold Griggs his remaining one-third interest in the Horse Shoe Tract in order to secure payment for a debt of \$2,850 owed John Hopkins, Jr., of Winchester. Ferdinando Fairfax, age 52, died at his residence in Fairfax County, Virginia, on September 24, 1820.<sup>14</sup>

## THE BIRTH OF SHANNONDALE SPRINGS RESORT

The foregoing discussion provides strong evidence that Shannondale Springs was not used for commercial purposes until after Beeler and Griggs acquired two-thirds interest in the property in November 1819. John S. Gallaher, a life-long resident of the area and later part owner of the resort noted in 1838 that "The Shannondale Springs first attracted public attention in the Fall of 1819.... The late Dr. De Butts analyzed the Shannondale water in 1821."<sup>15</sup>

Houses were definitely erected on the site by Beeler before July 1821. No work could have been done at the property until the spring of 1820, and there are indications that facilities were available by the summer of that year. First, Thomas Deakin of Harper's Ferry advertised in the *Farmers Repository* for June 21, 1820, that "he intends keeping neat and substantial hack for hire at Harpers Ferry for accommodation of persons visiting Shannondale Springs." Furthermore, Rosalie Stier Calvert reported visiting the Springs about the 15th of July 1820. Noting the efficacy of the waters, she lamented, "I would have liked to drink them for a whole week, but all the houses were full. We would have had to go back the same day except for the courtesy of a gentleman who had dined at our home several years ago and who gave up his room to us. However, it was so uncomfortable that we only stayed for two days."<sup>16</sup> Thus the opening of the Shannondale Springs resort can be pinpointed with some confidence to the summer of 1820.<sup>17</sup>

An undated painting of the Springs may document this phase of its construction. Entitled "A view of the Shannondale Springs and the Horse Shoe bend on the Shenandoah River," the scene depicts a man, woman, and baby sitting on a hill on the north side of the Shenandoah River (possibly at Shannon Hill). Behind them, on the south side of the river lies a U-shaped collection of one and two-story buildings. No hotel is visible. In the lower right portion of the picture, the road leading to the ferry is shown as well as a structure on the riverbank and a boat crossing the river.<sup>18</sup>

During the construction of the “houses” at Shannondale Springs, Beeler had become indebted to William Clark, John Griggs, and Thomas Griggs, Jr., in the sum of \$1,590.40. To repay this debt, he mortgaged his interest in the property to Samuel W. Lackland and James Stephenson. The transaction included Beeler’s 4/9ths share in the 60-acre parcel, the ferry, and the mineral waters and full possession of the houses already erected by Beeler.<sup>19</sup> In August 1821, Lackland and Stephenson sold their newly purchased 4/9th share in Shannondale Springs to James L. Ranson.<sup>20</sup> Almost immediately, Ranson sold three of his four 1/9th shares to Thomas Brown, Samuel W. Lackland, and Thomas Griggs, Jr.<sup>21</sup> At the same time, the four men entered into an agreement under which:

... the rent of the boarding establishment already erected for the next season shall be in proportion to the improvements for which each party has paid, To wit, said Griggs shall receive rent in proportion to the buildings heretofore erected by himself and for one fourth part of the improvements which were erected by Benjamin Beeler said Griggs having purchased one fourth part of Beeler’s interest in said property and that the said Lackland, Brown & Ranson shall each receive rent in proportion to his proportion to the improvements erected by said Beeler, to wit, each one fourth.... The rents and profits of the ferry and any buildings which may be attached to it shall always be received in proportion to the interest of each party therein, as first stated, and all the profits arising from the sale of water or other money for the use of it, and all baths and bath houses, shall also be in proportion to the shares of the said parties their heirs or assigns.... The parties herein further agree that John W. Page Esqr. of Fredk. County who holds the other [illegible] of said property shall at his option become a party to this agreement...<sup>22</sup>

This agreement indicates that the “boarding house” (i.e., hotel) was erected in the summer of 1821 by Thomas Griggs, Jr., along with several other structures (baths or bath houses) which augmented the houses constructed by Beeler the previous year. This sequence of events is substantiated by Samuel Kercheval (1835), who noted that “A company of gentlemen in its neighborhood joined and purchased the site, and forthwith erected a large brick boarding house, and ten or twelve small buildings for the accommodation of visitors.”<sup>23</sup>

To summarize ownership of the property in 1821, the 66+ acre tract containing the ferry, “houses,” “boarding house,” “baths and bath houses,” was owned by James L. Ranson (1/9th), Thomas Brown (1/9th), Samuel W. Lackland (1/9th), and Thomas Griggs, Jr. (6/9ths). Thomas Griggs, Jr., also owned 1/3rd of the adjacent 125-acre parcel. The remaining 2/3rds of the larger tract was owned by James Milton, a relative of Benjamin Beeler, who transferred his ownership of the property to Robert Milton in 1825.<sup>24</sup>

According to one contemporary source, James Monroe and his cabinet used Shannondale Springs as their summer White House (until 1825). Such presidential patronage may account for the resort’s initial success. After getting off to a good start in the early 1820’s, the Springs appears to have fallen upon hard times, lasting perhaps until the late 1830’s. Until the arrival of the railroads and the C & O Canal, access to the resort from Washington, Richmond, or Baltimore would have been difficult. The reputation of the resort also appears to have suffered during this period. Kercheval noted that, when it first opened, “A few extraordinary cures were effected by the use of the water, of obstinate scorbutic complaints, and it suddenly acquired a high reputation.” Writing in 1838, John S. Gallaher observed that, “After passing through various vicissitudes, and encountering many prejudices, as well as no small share of obloquy, the most impartial, as also competent judges, have at length stamped upon these waters that character to which they were early entitled, and which gives them a just claim to rank with the most celebrated mineral waters of this country.” Another writer recalled that “The few bilious cases that occurred here in the summer of 1822, — a season well remembered of general bilious sickness throughout the country, — has unfortunately but unfairly been remembered to have occurred here, when forgotten as having happened at other places.” Another visitor to the Springs writing in 1838 believed that disagreements among the original owners had led to the resort’s being only partially completed and that the original buildings deteriorated to the point where no guests could be accommodated.<sup>25</sup>

The layout of the early resort was well documented by the pen of Charles Burton about 1831.<sup>26</sup> (See Figures 2 and 3.)



Figure 2. "Shannondale Springs, Virginia." Drawing by C. Burton, New York, engraved and printed by Fenner, Sears & Co. Published: London, September 1, 1831, by I.T. Hinton & Simpkin & Marsh.

Burton's illustration shows the hotel as a two-story red-roofed, white structure with an additional basement and a porch spanning the entire first floor. The first and second floors show eight rectangular windows evenly spaced across the front; the basement level reveals eight evenly spaced square windows. Ten single-story structures form a rough semicircle around the hotel. A barn-like structure and a two-story house lie close behind the cottages on the southeast. Far in the distance to the southwest, two other buildings can be seen near the edge of the woods. Near the river's edge, to the northwest of the hotel, two small buildings are located near the Shannondale Ferry. The latter structures may include the ferryman's house (known to be located there in 1848 and 1852) and another building associated with the ferry operation. Up hill from these structures, several people can be seen lounging in the shade of a tree, possibly at the site of one of the springs.

An undated pencil sketch of Shannondale Springs (probably from the 1840's) presents an additional view of the resort from across the river (Figure 4). At the far upper left is the cliff later known as Lover's Leap; a cabin appears on the lower left. Several boats and bathers are in the river between the near riverbank and the ferry landing. Two structures appear on the far side at the ferry landing. Six cottages are visible near the hotel. A farmhouse and barn is shown up hill. At the crest of the hill is a long, narrow building, possible the bowling alley.

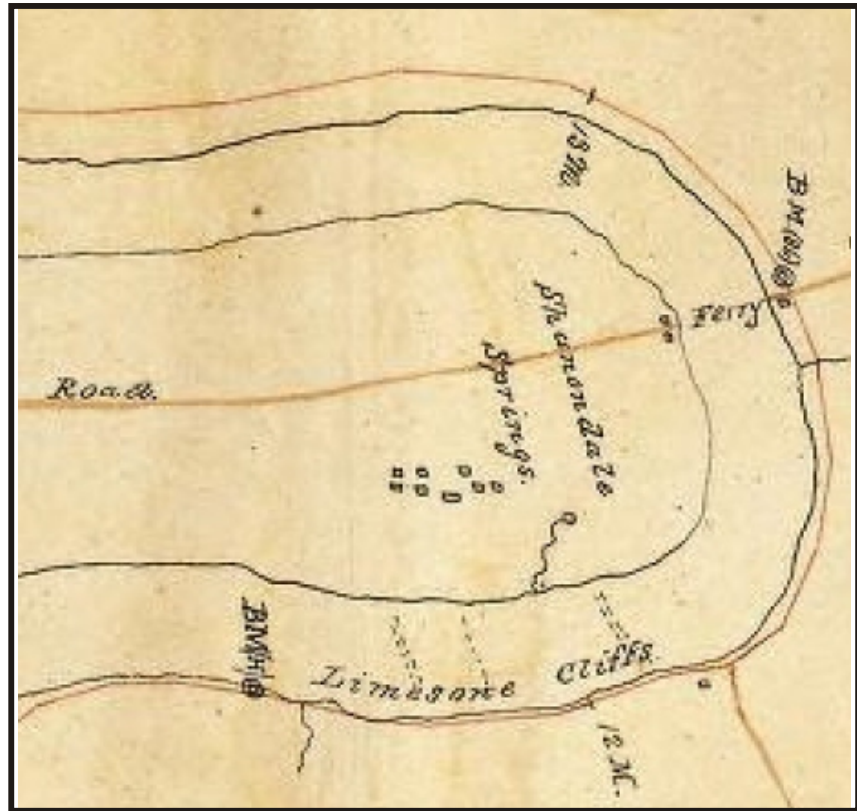


Figure 3. Portion of an 1832 map, showing the Shannondale Springs resort. The map has been turned so that its orientation matches that of Burton's illustration.



Figure 4. Undated (1840's?) pencil sketch of Shannondale Springs from across the river. Photograph by W. Theriault from original drawing. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum

Shares of the resort property were frequently bought and sold throughout the first half of the 1830's, perhaps reflecting economic hardship, cholera epidemics, or speculation based on the arrival of the railroads.<sup>27</sup> The C & O Canal reached Harpers Ferry in 1833, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1834, and the Winchester & Potomac Railroad in 1835. Extolling the virtues of the Springs, John S. Gallaher, owner of Charlestown's *Free Press*, noted in 1835 that:

Shannondale Springs ... can be reached in less than a day by travellers from Baltimore. They may start from that city at 5 in the morning, dine at Harpers-Ferry at 1, and be here by 3. They can then ride out, in one hour more, to the Springs, or, (which would be far preferable by-the-by,) they can defer riding out till the cool of the morning, and, in the meantime, rest themselves at some of our hotels, where they will be regaled with delicacies not surpassed by the rich tables of Hussey himself. On the other hand, the citizens of the District have ready access to this watering place, by way of the Little River Turnpike, which crosses the river a few miles above, and by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. From the west, too, is ready access by means of stages, two lines of which run daily from Winchester to this place and Harpers-Ferry.<sup>28</sup>

Shannondale Springs was now accessible to the wealthy and influential from Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond and the improvements in transportation were opening up new markets for the area's natural resources. The heyday of Shannondale Springs was about to begin.

## THE HEYDAY OF THE SPRINGS

During the early 1830's, Samuel W. Lackland gained control of most of the Shannondale Springs property. On September 1, 1837, he and his wife sold their 8/9ths interest in the 66 ½ acre Shannondale Springs tract and the entire 121-acre tract adjoining it to a new group of investors. The group included Andrew Kennedy, Joseph T. Daugherty, Robert T. Brown, George W. Hammond, William Yates, John S. Gallaher, William Crow, John B.H. Fulton, and Charles G. Stewart.<sup>29</sup> This group, plus James L. Ranson, comprised the ownership of the Shannondale Springs Company when it was incorporated in March 1838 by the Virginia General Assembly. The men had their share of power, influence, and financing. To finance the purchase of the property from Lackland, each member of the group placed his 40 shares in the company in trust to Richard Parker. A loan of \$5,000 for improvements was obtained from the Charlestown branch of the Valley Bank, whose president was their long-standing associate, Thomas Griggs, Jr.<sup>30</sup>

The birth of the Shannondale Springs Corporation in 1838 takes on additional significance when we recognize that the incorporators were members of Virginia's Whig party who had been working for more than a decade to have the legislature fund internal improvements projects such as railroads, highways, and canals. One of the former owners, Thomas Griggs, Jr., had served in the House of Delegates in 1835.<sup>31</sup> John S. Gallaher, in particular, was an important force in the success of the resort. Gallaher had fought for internal improvements from his seat in the Virginia House of Delegates and from his position as editor or investor in several Whig newspapers in Virginia. As the fame of Shannondale Springs grew during the next 20 years, it would become more than a resort for the wealthy. It would become a Whig enclave with strong ties to Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond.

The hotel, under its new ownership, reopened on June 10, 1838. Isaac N. Carter was hired as proprietor of the hotel, and a writer noted that the "company are erecting bath houses where persons can be provided with warm or cold baths, for which purpose they can use either the mineral waters, or the river water, as may be preferred." Gallaher lost no time in promoting the virtues of his new investment. In 1838, his Charlestown newspaper, the *Free Press*, published a prospectus entitled *Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters and Their Effects upon Various Diseases*.<sup>32</sup>

Gallaher's prospectus includes the following description of the resort by a Professor Hall of Maryland:

How can invalids of the Monument City, get to these Springs? Nothing in the world is easier. Step into an elegant car on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, early in the morning, and you will be transported to Harpers-Ferry before 2 o'clock, 82 miles. Here you will have leisure to breathe and to take a bird's-eye view of those beauties and sublimities of nature, so graphically described by the pen of the philosophic Jefferson. By this time, you will be summoned into the dining-room, where you will find as sumptuous a repast, and as good attendance, as you will meet with at Barnum's or at Page's. After dinner, you get into the cars of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company, and in three quarters of an hour will reach Charlestown, ten miles. Here, a good Stage will be found in waiting, with a most obliging and careful driver. In this vehicle you proceed to the Ferry, by which you cross the Shenandoah, and are bro't on to the broadest part of the horse-shoe. Moving along the margin of the winding river, your ears are now greeted, for the first time, by its never ceasing murmurs, occasioned by the passage of the flood over the numberless rocks which oppose its progress. A few yards from the path, you see the health-giving fountain, whose waters incessantly bubble up from the waters beneath, and are surrounded by a circular block of sandstone. In three minutes more you alight at your lodgings. The whole journey is performed in a single day, and with very little fatigue.

As you descend towards the Ferry, you see on the Northern side of the hill, and near its base, a long two-story brick edifice, made snow white by lime, and back of it, farther up the hill, a dozen or more small dwellings, mostly of wood, and now in good repair. Back of these, and withdrawn a few rods from them, stand two one-story brick lodgments, separated each into four small convenient apartments. These are the best private rooms belonging to the concern, and are preferred by those who love

and seek retirement. The upper stories of the long edifice are divided into twenty-five lodging rooms. The dining room, in the first story, is 80 feet long and 30 wide. In this spacious apartment, the light-footed nymphs and joy-seeking swains often mingle in the giddy dance. The buildings are neatly finished. Comfort is consulted.<sup>33</sup>

A visitor to the hotel in 1848 provided further details of the landscape. Describing the panoramic view from the hill in back of the hotel, he noted, “To the right, the waving and sloping ground is devoted to agricultural purposes, and exhibits an appearance of great fertility and productiveness. To the left of the main building [are] gravelled walks, bordered by trees...”<sup>34</sup> (See Figure 5 for a contemporary view.)

Outlining the regimen at the Springs, Professor Hall asserted that “no mineral water of this country, possessing the same constituent parts, is a more active purgative, when freely taken, than the Shannondale; being, in general, equal in power to most of the neutral salts; or, on the contrary, more bland in its operation, when used with moderation; acting as gently as the mildest aperient, without giving rise to griping or flatulence, or



Figure 5. Illustration of Shannondale Springs from Henry Howe's *Historical Collections of Virginia*, 1845.

that feeling of debility so often occasioned by ordinary cathartics.” He observed that “morning is considered the most suitable — drinking it at the springs if practicable.... It may also be taken at night by those who are desirous to secure its full effect on the bowels.” As to other treatments,

... the warm bath will serve as a very important auxiliary to the water.... It is generally believed to be a much safer remedy than the cold bath, and more particularly applicable to persons of weak and irritable constitutions, who could not bear the shock produced by cold bathing, in consequence of their not possessing sufficient vigour of circulation to bring about the proper re-action.... The necessary change of scene that takes place in visiting watering places, the exercise of the body, the abstraction of the mind from the cares attendant on business, the interruption of a uniform train of thought and attention, all certainly co-operate with the beneficial effects of the waters.<sup>35</sup>

George Watterson, visiting the Springs a decade later, provides further detail on the process of taking the waters:

The principal Spring is surrounded by magnificent elms and other ornamental trees, under the shade of which are placed seats for the accommodation of those who wish to drink its water. An old colored woman seated near the Spring, from morning to night, employs herself in dipping up the water for visitors, and whose compensation is regulated by the charity of those who avail themselves of her voluntary aid. She may be the genius of the fountain, but she is far from being its nymph...<sup>36</sup>

But what if a guest demanded amusement rather than treatment?

Are you a pedestrian? You have an agreeable promenade of a mile on the banks of a stream about as wide, but not so deep, as the Thames at London, but far more beautiful. Are you an angler? The home of the perch, the sucker and the eel, is the Shenandoah; — a boat and fishing apparatus are prepared, and a colored man ever ready to attend you. Are you fond of hunting? Four or five fowling pieces are now standing in one of the rooms for your use. Do you like excursions on the water? A skiff is at hand — you can go down the river in it to Harpers-Ferry in the evening, and row back in the morning. Are you a mineralogist or geologist? Gratifying ambulations may be made for examining the structure of rocks, and the collecting of specimens. “I have not strength,” you may say, “to perform these excursions.” Then you can sit in your apartments, and amuse yourself in looking at the long rafts of lumber which are continually passing, and boats freighted with flour, some destined to the city of power, but more for the city of shot towers, and steamboats, and fine hotels. Backgammon, checker and puzzle boards, are at your call. Do you wish for the society of well educated gentlemen and ladies? No where in this country, or perhaps in the world, do you meet with better informed or more polished people, than very many of those who reside within the compass of six miles around Shannondale.<sup>37</sup>

Another visitor to the resort in the summer of 1838 observed that, for visitors wishing to bathe in the river, “A convenient floating house has been erected for gentlemen, from which the bather descends by a flight of steps into the water, where he finds, besides an agreeable temperature of the water, a firm sandy bottom, and of different depths to accommodate his wishes. — The proprietors are about to erect a similar establishment for ladies, which will be hailed by them with great satisfaction.”<sup>38</sup>

Under Gallaher’s direction, the *Virginia Free Press* became an important vehicle for advertising the virtues of Shannondale Springs. During the next 20 years, its pages contained numerous testimonials to the curative powers of its waters and descriptions of the events attended by local society and visiting dignitaries.

Gallaher’s articles and the property transactions of the period also reveal that the owners of Shannondale Springs were developing the local tourist industry by acquiring property near the intersection of highways and the newly built railroads and by forming business alliances with hotel owners in Charles Town and Harpers Ferry. Shortly after the Shannondale Springs Hotel opened under the management of I. N. Carter, a recent guest wrote to the *Free Press* noting,

I was a sojourner for a few days at Carter's hospitable hotel [Charles Town], when I was invited to take a jaunt for the Springs. In an hour from my setting off in a fine stage, driven by a careful driver, passing in that time through a beautiful and cultivated country — through fine wheat fields bending to the breeze, the hopes of the farmer — thro' noble primeval forests that overshadowed the road, we arrived at the River which sweeps around this most beautiful spot, and early as the season is, we found our same host, Carter, in proper person, to administer to our wants. He tendered to us all manner of tempting beverages, besides the valuable water of the fountain; but it is that and not of his wines that I would speak. Attractive as all the comforts and luxuries of a well kept house may be, it is the water — that is the charm of Shannondale.<sup>39</sup>

Thus Isaac Carter, owner of the Carter Hotel in Charles Town, was actively recruiting guests for the Shannondale Springs hotel he managed.

Other persons associated with the Springs were also busy forging alliances. In August 1839, Henry Berry sold the Shannondale Springs Corporation two parcels of land near the intersection of the Charlestown to Martinsburg road (now Route 9) and the Winchester and Potomac Railroad (present day Kerneysville, West Virginia). Berry, who had served in the Virginia House of Delegates with Thomas Griggs, Jr., and John S. Gallaher, had acquired the property in 1834, before the railroad had reached Harpers Ferry. By November 1841, T. A. Milton and Company, former investors in the Shannondale Springs property, had leased the U.S. Hotel at Harpers Ferry. One of the company had been the hotel keeper at Shannondale Springs for several years. The new proprietor of the U.S. Hotel was Capt. Joseph F. Abell, who was in charge of this establishment in 1845. A *Free Press* article for 1847 identifies Capt. John J. Abell as the proprietor of the Shannondale Springs Hotel and Capt. M. Thompson as bartender at both establishments. The writer for the *Free Press* notes that guests arriving at Harpers Ferry on the B & O Railroad will probably want to enjoy a delicious meal at the local hotel, then board a Winchester & Potomac train for Charles Town, where they can take a carriage to the Springs.<sup>40</sup> These alliances suggest that businessmen in Jefferson County were aggressively building local tourism as an industry.

## LIFE AT THE SPRINGS

Visitors to Shannondale Springs during the 1840's and 1850's included invalids taking the waters, artists seeking inspiration, and members of the social and political elite who renewed old friendships and forged new alliances. One New York columnist, characterizing the difference between Shannondale and its Northern competitors, noted,

... there is an entire absence of that codfish aristocracy, and those sets of would-be exclusives, of whom we have been so much in connection with Northern watering places; none of your Simkinses, or Timkinses, or such people whose pedigree runs full tilt into a grocery or soap factory; but we have unassuming people — F.F.V's, if you please — whose history runs back to the ancient cavaliers, who, with Lord Fairfax and the Washingtons, first crossed over the Ridge before the Revolution.<sup>41</sup>

Residents of the surrounding counties, many of them friends and associates of the owners, mingled with the guests for a fortnight, a day, or an evening, returning regularly for concerts, dress balls, July Fourth fireworks, and ring tournaments — good natured jousting matches in which local knights vied for the honor of crowning their lady.

One of these tournaments was captured by the pen of a guest in July 1848:

The sound of many feet and the murmur of voices rose through the vale. The crowd gathered from all points to witness the expected pageant. The rush of vehicles and horses was so great that they had to be left upon the opposite side of the river, and gentlemen and ladies were borne over in the large ferry boat as thick as they could stand, and walked thence to the Hotel. It was truly an exciting and strange sight, to see them stretching in hurried and confused step across the lawn.

At 10 o'clock the knights gave in their names to the Herald, and 18 brave and daring champions were registered. They were then ordered to prepare themselves and horses for the tournament. At 11 o'clock, the crowds gathered beneath the umbrageous and majestic elms that over hang the fountains, where they had a near and far view of the scene. The bugle then sounded and the knights, all mounted, rode in front of the assembled throng under the direction of the Herald, Dr. G[erard]. F. Mason. Dressed in peculiar and picturesque costumes, with their tall lances glittering in the sun-beams, they presented an imposing and brilliant spectacle. The President of the day, the Hon. Henry Bedinger, addressed them in such eloquent tones and elevated and inspired sentiments, that the dullest bosom was roused to the highest daring and the true spirit of ancient chivalry was revived.

The privilege of selecting the fairest from the lovely array, and crowning her the Queen of Beauty, was to be the deed of victory, and there was not one among them would not have scaled a fortress for so rich a boon. The speech of Mr. Bedinger was most appropriate and beautiful, and I regret that I cannot give it here. When he had concluded, the knights repaired to the place of starting. — Then began the most splendid contention that eye ever witnessed. It is impossible to give a detailed account of it but the horses, catching the spirit of the rider, flew like the wind, and their flashing eyes and foaming mouths betrayed the high excitement. One after another dashed away ... [illegible]

Mr. K. [the victor] ... was then requested to name the first maid of honor and selected one of the belles of Jefferson, Miss Rebecca .... Mr. Moore then named for second maid of honor, Miss Fitzhugh of Stafford, and ... Washington for third maid of honor the fair and graceful Miss .... Martin of Kentucky. After the selection [concluded], the company repaired to the Hotel, where a most sumptuous feast was spread. There with the flow of Champagne and the exchange of .... consumed the afternoon.... Every one then retired to their rooms to prepare for the Fancy Ball....

At about half past 8 o'clock, the spacious ball room was thronged with spectators awaiting the entrance of the Queen, her champion and cortege and attendants; and in truth it was a noble train worthy to be waited for. At the sound of music the folding doors at the upper end of the room were suddenly opened, and the Queen and her champion, richly dressed, in fancy costumes — the same wreath seeming to catch freshness from the [contact of] resting upon her lily brow — appeared, followed by the knights and maids of honor, and a long train of attendants, all fancifully attired. They proceeded to the far end of the room, and took their stand, where the crowd made their obeisance. Then the Queen and her champion and her three knights and maids of honor formed and danced a cotillion, and the ball was opened for the evening. I have been to many balls and have seen much in this way, but I never saw any one so bright and beautiful as this. Many whose experiences, perhaps, is greater than my own, concurred with me in opinion. The many characters that were taken, it is impossible to describe. They represented every nation, and flitted before you in such rapid succession that it was impossible to identify them. A few, however, were very conspicuous. Mr. L.[awrence] W. W[ashing]ton, as the English hunter of the 15th century, was superb; he filled the character to very life. Mr. J[ohn]. W. K[enne]dy, in the court dress of Lewis 14th looked remarkably striking and handsome....<sup>42</sup>

Scenes like this were repeated frequently during this period, with Southern ladies and gentlemen re-enacting Sir Walter Scott's tales of medieval chivalry while they were waited on by Negro servants in livery.

Although every evening at the Springs was not filled with such splendor, dances were held almost nightly. Mary J. Windle, who stayed at the Springs in July 1851, described the music from the ballroom as drawing guests from their cottages on the summer evening, "and the variety of costumes and colors in constant motion formed a gay piece of human Mosaic. The hum of soft voices filled the spacious room when we entered, and bright eyes flashed in the brilliant light..." Describing the dresses of the ladies in some detail, she focuses on "miss C. A belle from Philadelphia, [who] whirled off the festivities of the evening as a partner of a young Virginian, nephew of the Secretary of War...." and "a tall, fair, fine looking girl, attired in white... Miss W., grand niece of the immortal Washington."

She is amused by their preoccupation with the waltz, "No evening is complete without it; and to surpass all competition in dancing, the Polka is glory enough for our belles." The writer regarded this dance as "a most monotonous amusement," noting "An increasing circuit of the vacant space — a wreathing of arms and clasping of waists — and the only variation we were able to discover was an increase in speed, which renders the movements of the parties more conspicuous.... There must have been [illegible line] at once, passing round and round with a perseverance and solemnity perfectly astonishing, when it is remembered that many of the individuals thus engaged are delicate, fragile looking creatures, who certainly do not appear able to endure the fatigue."<sup>43</sup>

Promoted as a "Fashionable Watering Place," praised by Henry Howe as "easier of access from the Atlantic cities, than any others in Virginia," Shannondale Springs drew high recommendations from the travel critics of its day. Henry Moorman, writing of its pleasures just two years before the hotel burned, noted that "The accommodations at Shannondale are not extensive, perhaps adapted to 140 to 150 persons, but it is admittedly a very delightful place."<sup>44</sup> China used during this period at the Springs, and possibly at other local restaurants and hotels, featured C. Burton's 1831 illustration of the Shannondale Springs Hotel (Figure 6).

One writer of the period further advanced the Springs' reputation when she stayed there in July and August of 1850. Mrs. Emma D.E.N. Southworth, one of the best known "female novelists" of her time, spent part of the summer there with her son Richmond and daughter Charlotte. Fleeing the oppressive heat of Washington, D.C., she joined other members of society leaving the sweltering cities and those who believed that the Springs' iron-laden waters would protect them against the cholera epidemic that was sweeping the area. A writer to the *Virginia Free Press* in 1875 nostalgically recalled that, at the resort's bowling saloon, he "had the pleasure of rolling with the distinguished authoress, Mrs. Southworth ... where, surrounded by so much of the romantic and beautiful, she no doubt received no little inspiration for her interesting novels."<sup>45</sup>

It was here that she penned her novel *Shannondale*, a romantic tale with a convoluted plot, set at the estate of the fictitious Lord Summerfield. The novel has virtually nothing to do with its namesake, although it was used as an historical reference by one misguided newspaperman in the mid-1920's. Southworth's novel appears to be the origin of the myth about "Lover's Leap," a cliff overhanging the Shenandoah River across from the Springs. According to the novelist's rendition, a beautiful Indian princess threw herself into the river after being wooed and spurned by

one of the white gentlemen staying at the Summerfield estate.<sup>46</sup> The story has been used frequently to promote the hotel since the novel's publication. (See Figures 7 and 8 and Appendix B.)

Whatever the failings that the novel Shannondale might have, there was something romantic and special about this place that drew people to it again and again. As a correspondent from the New York *Herald* wrote about his visit to the Springs, "We feel completely cut off, shut out, or rather shut in, from the busy, delving, money making world which we have left behind."<sup>47</sup>



Figure 6. Plate used at Shannondale Springs which incorporates Burton's 1831 illustration. Photograph by W. Theriault, courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum.



Figure 7. Mrs. E.D.E.N. Southworth stayed at Shannondale Springs with her children in the summer of 1850.

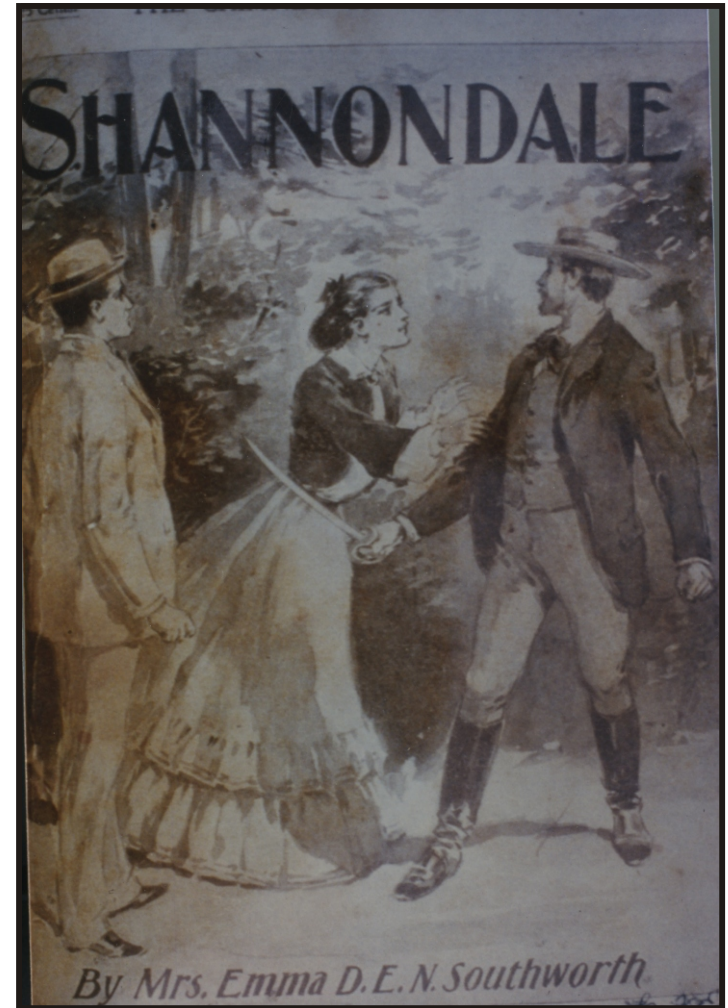


Figure 8. Cover from Southworth's novel, which she wrote during her stay at Shannondale Springs. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum.

## THE END OF AN ERA

Throughout the 1840's and 1850's, resort continued to be owned by the group of Whigs who had formed the Shannondale Springs Corporation in 1838. During the 1840's, at least, it appeared to prosper, and beginning about 1847 the hotel came under the management of John J. Abell. He is described by one correspondent to the Virginia Free Press as "a gentleman of the most urbane manners, and assisted by that old Virginia gentleman, Capt. Thompson, gives an additional attraction to the place." Abell seems to have been careful in the use of the hotel's resources, suspending all credit to guests in 1848 and hiring out slaves used as domestic servants when they were not needed at the hotel.<sup>48</sup> Despite the Shannondale Springs' popularity, it is unlikely that the hotel was expanded during this period. Henry Howe's depiction of an enlarged hotel in his Historical Collections of Virginia (1845) probably reflects the improvements made in 1838.<sup>49</sup>

The Abells' associations with the U.S. Hotel in Harpers Ferry and the Shannondale Springs Hotel appear to have ended in 1848, with James B. Wager leasing the former establishment and Capt. M. Thompson overseeing Capt. Abell's interests during his "absence."<sup>50</sup> The Springs' biggest promoter, John S. Gallaher, accepted an appointment from President Taylor in October 1849 to be third Auditor of the Treasury and presumably moved his residence to Washington, D.C. By May 1850, an advertisement in the Spirit of Jefferson noted that the Shannondale Springs Hotel has been leased by Hall, Osburn & Co. and was undergoing thorough repairs. The following season, the proprietors promised that all was in a state of readiness for the June 10th opening and added that "They have procured the best Band of music, and most capable servants that can be found without regard to price." According to one newspaper correspondent, the music was provided by

a band of colored musicians, and their favorite air is — "Carry me back to ole Virginny" which they play almost every day at dinner time; and sometimes in the evening, when the sun is sinking behind the western mountains, they give us a variety of Virginia melodies, with the variations, the favorite of which, among the ladies, appears to be — "Why don't you stop dat knocking at da door?"<sup>51</sup>

President Fillmore, Mr. Stewart, Secretary of War Charles Magill Conrad, and Postmaster General Nathan K. Hall visited Shannondale Springs in August 1851. The President first stopped at Harpers Ferry to inspect the Armory, then took a special train to Charles Town and a carriage to the Springs. He attended a ball given in his honor, stayed overnight at Shannondale, and then proceeded to Winchester.<sup>52</sup>

In 1852, when S. Howell Brown had completed his first detailed map of Jefferson County, he showed 11 buildings arranged around the hotel to the north and west, a bowling green to the northwest, and three mineral springs to the southwest of the hotel, between it and the river. The road to the ferry is shown on the north side of the river; a building is indicated at the ferry crossing; and the road from the ferry continues along the south bank of the river, passing in front of the hotel. Henry Howe's 1845 illustration of Shannondale Springs, depicting an expanded hotel, was included as an illustration on the map.<sup>53</sup>

As late as 1854, the Springs seems to have done doing well. An article of the period notes, "The Proprietor has made every arrangement possible, to accommodate all who may favor him with their custom, and we have never seen Shannondale presenting more attractions to the votary of pleasure, or the invalid seeking health. His estimable lady and her assistants, spare no pains or exertions to provide every delicacy that can be furnished, which insures a table that no Watering place of the country can excel.— The Bar is still under the management of Mr. John W. Gallaher, who can't be beat, and if you don't get your moneys' worth, he will make it up in a good song or a rich anecdote." The writer reports that festivities included fireworks and a ball well attended by visitors from neighboring counties.<sup>54</sup>

If success of Shannondale Springs was tied to the patronage of prominent Whigs, the election of Democrat Franklin Pierce may have been the harbinger of hard times. After Pierce's inauguration, John S. Gallaher and other Fillmore supporters lost their appointments. In April 1855, corporation president Samuel W. Lackland advertised that the Springs was for rent. A month later Lackland advertised that the furniture and 140 acres attached to the Springs were for sale. Lackland's attempts to find a buyer appear to have been unsuccessful.<sup>55</sup>

With John S. Gallaher's continued absence in Washington, the Virginia Free Press's promotion of the hotel and reportage of its events dwindled. In March of 1858, a fire from a burning chimney progressed so rapidly that efforts to save the hotel were fruitless. Although the Free Press reported that "The entire buildings ... all now lie a mass of smoldering ruin," the damage seems to have been limited to the hotel and a few adjacent structures. The reporter hoped "that the Springs and lands attached, in all about one hundred and ninety-six acres, may fall into the hands of capitalists, who will erect spacious accommodations, and the gaiety of former years be also inaugurated."<sup>56</sup>

Before the hotel was rebuilt, the nation would experience the devastation of the Civil War and Jefferson County would endure the miseries of Reconstruction and its incorporation into the state of West Virginia. An era had ended at Shannondale Springs and its rebirth would be left for another generation to accomplish.

## TRANSITION

The report of Shannondale Springs' death had been greatly exaggerated. In September 1859, a writer for the Free Press noted that the property was now on the market, observing that,

Although the main building was burned some two years ago, the walls are in a fair condition to admit of improvement at comparatively little expense, whilst there are 15 cabins on the Lawns attached. There are two brick cabins, with 8 rooms, all having chimneys, 13 frame, besides Bath Houses, Dairy, Stabling, Ice House, Corn House, etc., etc....

The Lawn occupies about 16 acres, which is in fine sod — a rich garden is also attached. As an evidence of the productiveness of the farm, upon which there is also a tenement, &c., we will state that the farm is now under a rent of \$462 per annum.... Hundreds of people even now resort there for pleasure and the benefit of the water, although there are no accommodations offered.

It can now be purchased for about \$10,000, not the fourth of its value, because it is owned in part by the heirs of some of its original proprietors....<sup>57</sup>

Perhaps the hotel would have been restored to its earlier genteel ambiance had a buyer been found at the time. But less than ten miles away, John Brown and his men were gathering at the Kennedy Farm in preparation for his raid on Harpers Ferry. Col. Lawrence Washington, who had attended the costume ball at the Springs dressed "as the English hunter of the 15th century," had already been identified by one of John Brown's party as a slaveholder and potential hostage. Andrew Kennedy, one of the members of the Shannondale Springs Corporation, would soon be the prosecuting attorney in the trial of the conspirators. Richard Parker, who had handled some of the financial affairs of the Corporation, would become the presiding judge in the case.

Little information about Shannondale Springs is available for the war years. The area was frequented by Confederate raider John Singleton Mosby and his men and by Federal cavalry responsible for destroying Mosby's disruptive operations.<sup>58</sup>

By 1867, Shannondale Springs was once again in use, the Shannondale Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal South holding its First Quarterly Meeting there. Religious services, church meetings, and church picnics were frequently held at the Springs during the summer months even though the hotel was no longer standing. Many attendees to these meetings stayed over night, presumably in the remaining cabins or in tents erected for the occasion. Other private groups on pleasure excursions came to picnic for the day. The Spirit of Jefferson noted that the place had become popular with the "votaries of the terpsichorean art." The Free Press, observing that some of the cabins were being renovated that summer, stated that Shannondale Springs "is now an attractive resort for Pic-Nic and Fishing parties."<sup>59</sup>

That summer the new proprietors (Samuel Hill, M.D. Wilson, Jr., S.H. Wilson, and J.W. Milton) attempted to revive the elegant festivities that had been held at the Springs in its ante-bellum days. They advertised a "Grand Pic Nic and Barbecue" to be held on August 22. Persons interested in dancing were assured the services of the best musicians in the state would be procured and "a good floor would be prepared" so that attendees could dance under the stars. Although the ring tournaments were gone for the present, various earlier participants calling themselves the "Knight of Shannondale" represented the Springs at tournaments both near and far.<sup>60</sup>

In May 1868, the property was advertised for sale. Commenting on recent attempts to revitalize the Springs, one writer observed, “the war itself prevented the company from rebuilding. There are now but two [John S. Gallaher and William Crow] of the original proprietors living, and they are too old to commence the work of renovation. The heirs of others are numerous and prefer selling.” The Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad was planned to come within a mile of the Springs, providing additional access. The property was still on the market in 1870. In October of that year, the flood that devastated Harpers Ferry and many of the industries along the Shenandoah River also took its toll on Shannondale Springs. The *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that “The old Ferry-House at Shannondale is no more, but acted as escort to its downstream neighbors, Walraven’s saw-mill and house, in their transit oceanward.” Some of the cottages were renovated in 1872 in an effort to accommodate a few of the visitors that frequented the site. The assessed value of the property continued to decline through the 1870’s, suggesting that deterioration was outpacing the minimal efforts made at maintenance.<sup>61</sup>

The full extent of the deterioration at the Springs was described by a visitor who had frequented the place in the 1850’s. Returning in 1875, he observed that, in earlier days,

sounds of music were to be heard there, and gay parties of dancers filled the halls, and other lively sports were the order of the day, at this then fashionable resort.— All was life and activity. Now the scene is changed. Herds of cattle, roaming at will, are the only living creatures to be seen, and the voice of the ploughman, and the old familiar voice the passing river, dashing over the rugged rocks, are the only sounds that greet the ear.... Amongst former improvements which have passed away, is the old bowling saloon, to which ladies as well as gentlemen were in the habit of resorting for agreeable exercise, in the edge of the forest on the top of the hill.... Nothing remains now to mark the place [of the hotel], where so many bright eyes glanced and pretty feet danced over the smooth boards, but the cold stones of the foundation — and some barbarous sinner, having no veneration for cherished relics, has run through the centre of this almost sacred spot, a worm fence!<sup>62</sup>

Of the group that had formed the Shannondale Springs Corporation in 1838, only John S. Gallaher remained. Now 75 years old and living in Washington, D.C., he now lacked the energy, influence, and capital needed to resurrect the once famous resort. He died on February 4, 1877.<sup>63</sup>

By 1883, Shannondale Springs appears to have dwindled to only eight cottages. Nevertheless, it was still frequented by parties from the surrounding counties who picnicked, played croquet, played music, and danced on the green. The Springs and the natural beauty of the spot remained.<sup>64</sup>

In May 1885, Mary Crow, widow of William Crow (one of the last shareholders in the Shannondale Springs Corporation), conveyed her interest in the property to Eugene Baker and J. Garland Hurst. Baker and Hurst purchased Shannondale Springs at a public sale in 1888.<sup>65</sup>

## REBIRTH

Since the Shannondale Springs hotel had been reduced to ashes in 1858, its owners and potential investors had lacked the resources to restore the resort to its former splendor. The devastation caused by the war and the challenges of Reconstruction had forced the owners to focus on rebuilding their lives. The economic climate had changed by the time Baker and Hurst purchased Shannondale Springs in 1888. Across the river, millionaire Charles Broadway Rouss was building Shannon Park, a residence for his son, C.H. B. Rouse.<sup>66</sup> The renovations included extensive landscaping. The Rouss’s generosity extended to visitors at Shannondale Springs. In August 1889, the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that,

On Thursday evening last, the crowd of young people camping at Shannondale Springs were sumptuously entertained by Mr. Charles B. Rouss, Jr., at his summer villa, Shannon Park. Coming for the festive campers in his new steam launch that now glides up and down the river with swan-like grace and makes the surrounding mountains echo with its merry whistle as it steams along, the party soon found themselves amidst his spacious halls, which were brilliantly lighted for the occasion. An extensive and delightful meat supper, supplemented by champagne and other choice wines, followed by dancing on the glistening floor of the ball-room, and refreshments later on in the evening, afforded those present an exquisite time Mr. Rouss is a polished host.<sup>67</sup>

Rouss’s hospitality was a reminder of what Shannondale Springs had once been and, perhaps, what it could be again.

Baker and Hurst began construction of a new Shannondale Springs Hotel in the Spring of 1890. The frame structure was built on the spot where the earlier hotel had been. The building was 100 feet long by 45 feet in width, included a basement and two stories, and contained 25 guest rooms, a ball room, and several bath rooms. When allowances are made for porches and piazzas, the new building appears to have closely resembled the original structure in size and external appearance.<sup>68</sup>

The Hotel opened early in July 1890 with a dance marking the occasion. The only criticism of the well-attended festivity was that the women outnumbered the men three to one. An advertisement marking the season's opening of the Springs noted "Excellent Boating, Bathing, Fishing and Hunting — Scenery Unsurpassed. Three Fine Mineral Springs. Cool, Quiet. Reasonable Charges. Everything new."<sup>69</sup>

The rebirth of the hotel at this time was directly related to the establishment of the Charlestown Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company. Formed to inject new economic vitality into Jefferson County, the corporation planned to improve transportation, establish major industries, create a large residential and commercial subdivision adjacent to Charles Town, and utilize local resources such as limestone, timber, clay, and iron ore. The company purchased options on both the iron deposits at Shannondale and the Shannondale Springs resort.<sup>70</sup> If the economic boom occurred, the owners of Shannondale Springs would share in the prosperity.

By 1896, the tradition of ring tournaments had returned to the Springs, although on a smaller scale. The Virginia Free Press reported, "A tournament was had that was most enjoyable, being witnessed by the guests at the hotel and neighborhood around. There were four knights who ran and used their spears most gracefully. A most appropriate speech was made to the young people by Mr. Spencer Prentiss, of Washington, D.C. After the crowning was over the young people indulged in dancing and feasting."<sup>71</sup> The participants were ages six and seven. In the years that followed, the contestants were to be more mature. The type of visitors to the Springs had changed. There would be few members of the nation's political and social elite and more families, young people, and sportsmen.

The financial boom envisioned by the Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing, and Improvement Company did not materialize, and the hopes of Shannondale Springs' owners collapsed with those of the grand project. Baker and Hurst used the Shannondale Springs property and the adjacent farm to secure a note for \$8,000. When they defaulted on the loan, H.C. Getzendanner purchased the property in October 1902 at public auction for \$9,055. The purchase included the 66 1/2-acre Springs property, the adjacent 125-acre farm, and "the ferry and ferry franchise and cable and large ferry boat."<sup>72</sup>

When the Springs was about to open in the Summer of 1902, William P. Craighill reminisced about the past glories of the place and the eminent visitors it had served. The author claimed at least five presidents as guests of the Springs — George Washington as a surveyor, James Monroe as a friend of the Craighills (who owned property nearby), Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and Millard Fillmore. Although documentation has not yet been located to verify the visits of the first three Presidents named, Craighill claimed to have himself seen Van Buren and Fillmore at the Springs. The claims for Presidential visits have continued to grow from this period, and most of them remain unsubstantiated.<sup>73</sup>

## RENOVATION

The new hotel was scheduled to open under Getzendanner's ownership on June 1, 1903. Advertisements and newspaper articles appearing during that Spring promised significant improvements. As one writer observed:

The hotel at this old historical resort, famed in song and story, is thoroughly renovated and newly and comfortably furnished, including bath rooms, electric fans, etc.... Telephone connection with Charles Town and surrounding towns. Three fine mineral springs — Chalybeate, Red and Blue Sulphur. Amusements — Golf Links, Tennis Courts, Bathing, Boating, Bass Fishing and other sports can be indulged in by guests at all suitable times, as they will have free use of over 100 lovely acres of blue grass, wood and meadow land.

Terms — \$2 per day; \$10 per week; \$30 per month. Special rates to parties and families; when two occupy the same room the rate is \$8 per week each or \$25 per month each. Horses boarded. Livery attached to hotel. Bait always on hand.<sup>74</sup>

By the end of July 1903 all of the cottages had been filled and the hotel rooms taken.

Shortly after he reopened the hotel, Getzendanner issued a prospectus describing the Springs and its offerings in detail. The hotel was described as a plain wooden structure consisting of a basement, two stories, and an attic. The overall dimensions of the building were “about 100 feet long by 30 feet wide,” with the addition of porches accounting for the imprecise measurements. The basement contained a dining room of 50 feet by 30 feet, a kitchen about 25 feet by 30 feet, plus a cellar and pantry. The first floor included a ball room about 32 by 30 feet, an office and waiting room and eight bed rooms, with front and rear porches. The second floor had sixteen bedrooms and a rear porch. Two brick cottages, with shingle roofs, were located near the hotel. Referred to by later writers as the “Presidential Cottages,” each was about 50 by 15 feet, with a porch and four bed rooms. Getzedanner also built a new stable and servants’ quarters. A large wooden water tank, provided the hotel with water for the bathrooms and for domestic purposes; the water being pumped to this tank from a driven well by means of a gasoline engine.<sup>75</sup>

Harry Koonce, the new proprietor, lived on the first floor of the hotel with his wife and three daughters. According to his daughter Virginia Koonce Cosy, who lived there as a child, there were two entrances on the basement level. The one on the west end of the building led directly into the diningroom. Another one led into the adjacent kitchen. On the inside, a door communicated between the two rooms. The “cellar” and pantry appear to have occupied the east end of the basement. The basement was built into the slope of the hill, with the grade covering the south wall.<sup>76</sup> A saucer-like cement fountain was located in front of the hotel and has survived to this day.

The north and west sides of the hotel had eight evenly spaced openings on the basement floor, the second opening from the right (west) being a door. A porch, apparently three stories high, spanned basement openings four and five. There probably was a second door on this level, although it is not visible in the photograph. A small window is seen on the west side of the basement wall in the northernmost corner.

The second and third floors as shown in the panoramic drawing from the prospectus, have twelve evenly spaced windows. The photograph appears to confirm this, although the openings on the second floor are not of uniform size.<sup>77</sup>

The depiction of Shannondale Springs shown in the panorama appears to be quite accurate. The drawing and the photograph of the north side of the hotel correspond both in the number of openings on the facade and in the shape of the trees surrounding the building. Remnants of the fence running from the river to the east of the outbuildings still exist, and the positions of the four structures nearest to the fence have been located during the 1997 survey. Only the bath/spring house remains standing. The house and barn south east of the hotel may correspond to the “new stable” and servants’ quarters mentioned in the prospectus. The rear (south) of the house included a two-story porch that ran the length of the building; bathrooms were located on the west end of the hotel on both the first and second floors.

The “largest mineral spring” shown in the prospectus was the middle spring and is located approximately 400 feet northwest of the hotel. The illustration of the “two mineral springs and lawn sloping from hotel to river” includes the south spring on the extreme left and the middle spring on the extreme right. The hotel and outbuildings are visible through the trees, on the knoll between the two springs. Cottages were available on the west and south sides of the hotel.

At the time the prospectus was published, there was “a beautiful lawn around the entire hotel, sloping to the river and extending above and below the hotel, and containing over one hundred acres.” The hotel during this period was more of a family resort than a watering place for the elite. The author noted that “One will find here entire freedom from all formalities, and the Springs are especially adapted to those seeking the freedom and outdoor amusements the place affords, rather than the style and attractions of a fashionable summer resort.” For those who might be concerned about the moral climate of the Springs, the author noted, “No bar for the sale of spirituous liquors is maintained on the property.”<sup>78</sup>

Other amusements included a piano in the ball-room, a large, open fireplace, a tennis court and a croquet ground, and a six-hole golf course. The bass fishing directly in front of the hotel was reported to be excellent; boats were available for the guests, and there was “good bathing ground and moderate depth of water just above the riffles in front of the hotel.” For those willing to row across the river and climb the cliffs, there was also a magnificent view of the horse-shoe bend, the mountains, the hotel, and the lawn from “Lover’s Leap.” Persons coming to the resort late in the season would also find good hunting. The mineral springs, as always, were praised for the medicinal powers, but the focus of the resort clearly was recreation rather than medication.<sup>79</sup>

The Springs was one of several businesses operated by Captain Getzendanner at the time, including an operation for cutting and processing timber into railroad ties from the Captain’s larger Shannondale tract. Previous owners of the Springs had relied on their political influence, a local network of hotel, transportation, and tourist enterprises, and diverse investments to promote the resort and help it weather the hard times. According to A.M.S. Morgan III, the Captain’s nephew, Captain Getzendanner was

A big, gruff, burly man with a black walrus mustache, he was a law graduate from Washington and Lee, and rapidly accumulated a fortune in Jefferson County business and real estate. He owned the telephone company that served the county, with brother Louis, the National Citizens Bank ... a cattle selling business out by the Norfolk and Western Station, four large downtown office buildings, several houses, and four farms - one of which was Shannondale. All of which he later lost just as rapidly as he had accumulated them.<sup>80</sup>

## DESTRUCTION

The hotel was destroyed by fire early in November 1909. According to a contemporary source, “the conflagration begun about 5 p.m., and in a short while the entire building and contents with one of the cottages, were destroyed. No one knows how the fire started. Mr. H.F. Koonce, the lessee, was at the barn when his wife called him, saying the hotel was on fire. It was first discovered by Mrs. Koonce who found a blaze in the office.”<sup>81</sup> Getzendanner had \$5,000 worth of insurance on the hotel and an additional \$1,000 on the furniture. Virginia Koonce Cosy was of the opinion that the fire had started in the rafters on the basement floor. She also believed that both the hotel fire and the blaze which levelled the farm house at Shannondale a few weeks later were of suspicious origin. The hotel fire was so intense that even possessions placed nearby on the lawn were consumed. A spoon with “Shannondale Springs” stamped on the handle was rescued from the ashes and remains in her possession.<sup>82</sup>

Despite the fire, the ferry continued to operate and visitors continued to frequent the Springs for picnics and religious retreats. A.M.S. Morgan III clearly remembered the ferryboat that would transport you across the river for a nickle or bring your buggy over for a quarter. For several summers the grounds were occupied by a group of young men from Washington, D.C., studying to be Catholic priests. They erected tents on the site and had their own mess hall. Recalling one of those trips on the ferry with the Captain, Morgan said:

We ride toward the famous Spring and the outlines of the race track and golf course still show, but the large hotel which burnt down is only a pile of ashes. The big Spring is still intact. It is enclosed in a circular concrete wall about four feet in diameter, and there is a roof overhead. The water tastes fine and is slightly laxative. Much in demand in Charles Town, it is delivered in 5 gallon glass jars encased in a wooden crate. Nearby is the smaller Sulphur Spring which tastes awful and smells like rotten eggs. Back of the burned out hotel is a long row of stone buildings where the help used to live, and untouched by the fire, one end of the building is occupied by the tenant and we used to come down weekends and “camp” in the other end.<sup>83</sup>

On October 1, 1919, Henry C. Getzendanner and his wife Anna sold the resort property and the adjacent farm to E.B. Frye for \$500. Frye grazed cattle on the land, attempted to raise sugar beets, and continued to make what was left of the resort available to friends.<sup>84</sup> Within a few years, the new owner encountered serious financial problems. In 1923, he mortgaged the property to pay the outstanding debts. Of the twelve new cases reported on the local chancery docket for April 1924, four involved E.B. Fry as defendant. The charges alledged that he had transferred the Shannondale Springs farm to his wife last fall to the detriment of his creditors.<sup>85</sup>

The same year, C. L. Crane attempted to create enough interest in Shannondale Springs to form a country club. In a prospectus entitled “Outline of Plan for the Organization and Development of Shenandoah Country Estate and Colonial Country Club at Shannondale Springs,” he proposed erecting an elegant stone clubhouse and selling club memberships that included 50" by 100" lots. Memberships were set at \$200 and could be paid on the installment plan. Designed for “those of limited means and who, through force of circumstances, are unable to pay the high cost of membership in the existing Country Clubs,” the facility was to include extensive recreational facilities for all members. There is no evidence that the plan went much further than the prospectus. Despite their financial hardships, the Fries managed to hold on to the property for more than a decade, and in August 1931 they gave C. L. Crane a lease on the Springs’ resources. The lease to Crane included:

the three medicinal Springs known as Shannondale Springs, located in Jefferson County West Virginia for the term of thirty years (30) ensuing, upon the following terms. All water sold from these springs by the party of the second part to be paid for at the end of each Calendar Month at the rate of one cent per gallon. All water given away by the party of the second part to advertise Shannondale Springs and the Shannondale Properties not to be paid for by the party of the second part.

The party of the second part to have ingress and egress to and from the Springs over the lands of the parties of the first part to haul water, and to have the use of the one brick cottage that is located near the Shannondale Springs, also the use of enough land around the Springs to prepare the waters for market.

The parties of the first part give to the party of the second part the right to put in a ferry boat at the old Shannondale Ferry boat landing and to use the same and also have the sole use of the Ferry boat and landing and also have use of any Ferry boat equipment that may be there such as cable and other things.<sup>86</sup>

A flyer published in 1931 (probably by Crane) advertised the Shannondale Springs water for \$1 per five-gallon bottle. The author claimed it was beneficial for high blood pressure, rheumatism, “auto intoxication,” kidney conditions, tuberculosis, eszema, acne, neuresthenia, and constipation.<sup>87</sup> Representatives from the West Virginia Geological Survey, visiting the property in 1936, noted that “At present, only the remains of Presidents’ Row give hint of the former size of the resort.... Mrs. Chas. L. Crane, of Charles Town, W. Va., the present lessee of the property, states that these buildings were all destroyed by fire, but could give no definite date.” Commenting on the condition of the mineral springs, they noted that the “Blue (or Black) Spring was not adequately protected,” and at the Red Spring “Rain water had backed up and polluted [it]... each time it was visited... Not protected, and very dirty.” For the largest (White Sulphur Spring), “A wooden canopy and curbing, both in poor condition, shelter and protect this spring.”<sup>88</sup>

Starting in 1937, Thornton T. Perry, Sr., began acquiring portions on the original Shannondale Springs tract, including the resort property.<sup>89</sup>

## A NEW BEGINNING

For almost half a century, the Shannondale Springs property and much of the larger Shannondale estate remained in the Perry family. In August 1980, Eleanor C.P. Read and T. T. Perry III received title to the Shannondale property through the will of T.T. Perry II. Shortly thereafter, they transferred ownership to 580 acres of the land to The Nature Conservancy. Ownership of the property was transferred to the state of West Virginia in 1986. The entire property is now administered as a hunting and fishing preserve by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.<sup>90</sup>

In March 1996, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission obtained a lease from the state of West Virginia on the portion of the Shannondale Springs property where the resort had been located.<sup>91</sup> At that time, only two structures on the resort property were still intact — a stone spring house/bathhouse dating from the early period of the resort’s history and a concrete fountain probably dating from Getzendanner’s renovations in 1903.<sup>92</sup> The deteriorating spring house/bath house was restored in the Summer of 1997 under a Fairs and Festivals grant from the state of West Virginia. Using a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Landmarks Commission resurveyed the historic boundaries of the Shannondale Springs resort, collected and analyzed available documentation, identified the locations of many former structures, and

prepared a nomination to place Shannondale Springs on The National Register of Historic Places. That nomination was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office in the summer of 1997.<sup>93</sup>

Thus far, study of the Shannondale Springs resort has provided important information about the development of the recreation and tourism industries in West Virginia and about the culture of the area during the century of the Springs' existence. Its role in Virginia Whig politics and in local plans for internal improvements has yet to be fully explored. Much knowledge is yet to be gained from the Springs through archeological investigation and through the rediscovery of long-forgotten documentation. The people who owned or visited Shannondale Springs had the resources and the leisure to describe the resort. Perhaps the current interest in the Springs will help bring these resources to light so that we can understand more about this fascinating part of our past.

## NOTES

1. Jefferson County, WV, Deed Book 1, p. 290. Colville owned “Cleesh,” a large plantation near present day Alexandria, Virginia. See Stewart E. Brown, Jr., *Virginia Baron: The Story of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax* (Berryville, Va.: Chesapeake Book Co., 1965), pp. 102-103. According to Brown, Shannondale was administered by Fairfax as a manor with the land being leased for the duration of three lives.
2. Jefferson County, WV, Deed Book 1, p. 290. *The Papers of George Washington*, W.W. Abbott, Ed. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia), Letter, Battaile Muse to George Washington, Alexandria November 6, 1788. Vol. 1, pp. 97-98.
3. *Papers of George Washington*, Letter from George Washington to Bryan Fairfax. April 6, 1789. Vol. 2, pp. 27-29.
4. In May 1793, Fairfax published a broadside offering a reward for information about the person who had set fire to the property. Fairfax’s mortgage of the property in 1800 notes his residence as “Shannon Hall county of Berkeley.” Jefferson County Deed Book 1, pp. 290-291. A second "Shannon Hall" was built by George Washington Hammond about 1837; I have not determined its location. (See 1975 Windshield Survey of Jefferson County, WV, notes from property CT-85 (Happy Retreat.)
5. Charles Varle, *Map of Frederick, Berkeley, & Jefferson Counties in the State of Virginia*, Engraved by Benjamin Jones, Philadelphia [Winchester, Virginia,] 1809. John Wood, *Jefferson County Surveyed and Drawn under the Direction of John Wood*, 1820. Both maps clearly depict mills, ferries, and other industries in the area. Charles Varle, *Topographical Description of the Counties of Frederick, Berkeley & Jefferson Situated in the State of Virginia in which the Author has Described Curiosities of Those Counties, Their Mineralogy. Also, the Quality of the Soil, the Manufactories, Mills, &c. The Number of Inhabitants, Towns, Villages, &c. To Which is Added a Beautiful Map of These Counties of the Counties of Frederick, Berkeley & Jefferson, Situated in the State of Virginia*. Winchester, Va.: W. Heiskell, 1810.
6. At the age of twenty-one, Ferdinando Fairfax had published an article in the *American Museum or Universal Magazine* (December 1790) opposing slavery. By 1800 he owned 62 taxable slaves. “The Wonders of Charles Town: The Crane House,” (n.p., n.d) records that on May 1, 1804, Magnus Tate, Sr., rented to Ferdinando Fairfax “a lot of ground (1 acre) in Charles Town on the main street whereon is erected a dwelling house and small kitchen...”
7. *Farmers Repository*, December 2, 1808, p. 4 col. 2.
8. According to Fairfax, several of the samples received enthusiastic recommendations. See *Description of Ferdinando Fairfax’s Shannondale Iron Estate, with A Plan of a Company for Improving the Same*, Washington: J. Crossfield, Printers, 1815. *Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Notes on Keeptyrst Furnace*, R18, V2, p. 105: November 23, 1809; “Sale of bellows to F. Fairfax. Mr. Fairfax requested if he might purchase pair of bellows at Keeptyrste Furnace. If they weren’t needed at the Ferry they might be valued and sold.”
9. Jefferson County, WV, Deed Book 8, page 67 (July 17, 1811). *Farmers-Repository*, March 27, 1812, p. 3 col. 4; August 20, 1817, p. 3 col. 4. National Park Service, National Register Nomination Form for Lee-Longworth House. Jefferson County, W. Va., Deed Book 8, p. 514.
10. *Description of Ferdinando Fairfax’s Shannondale Iron Estate, with A Plan of a Company for Improving the Same*, pp. 7-8.
11. Jefferson County Deed Book 9, pp. 414-415; *Farmers-Repository*, May 4, 1815, p. 3 col. 4.
12. *Farmers Repository*, April 30, 1817, p. 3 col. 4. About the same time, George Reynolds rebuilt the grist mill at River Bend on the Potomac and expanded the limestone quarry nearby. Reynolds' activities in the Jefferson County area have not been extensively explored thus far. He is briefly mentioned in Theriault, *History of Eastern Jefferson County*.
13. *Farmers Repository*, August 30, 1817, p. 3 col. 4. While Fairfax struggled to stay solvent, Colonel Benjamin Beeler in 1816 sold Thomas Griggs, Jr., “one undivided third part of a certain tract ... extending on both sides of the Shenandoah river, ... containing as is supposed 125 acres and 3/4 of an acre.” This land was adjacent to the Springs and

would eventually become part of the resort property. Jefferson County Deed Book 10, p. 135 (January 25, 1816). Capt. Benjamin Beeler served in the War of 1812 from Jefferson County, as did Thomas Griggs, Jr., and John S. Gallaher. His daughter, Sarah C. Beeler, married William Arthur Carter in 1824. Mary E. Carter, the daughter of William and Sarah, married James T. Milton, whose father had received title to part of Shannondale Springs in 1825. See Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley*, p. 624.) Griggs served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates with Henry Berry in 1835 (Bushong, *Historic Jefferson County*, p. 572).

14. Jefferson County Deed Book 11, p. 201; Deed Book 11, p. 327 (July 1, 1820); *Farmers Repository*, September 27, 1820, p. 3 col. 3.

15. [Gallager, John S.], *Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters and Their Effects upon Various Diseases* (Charlestown: 1838. Printed at the Free Press Office), p. 5. DeButt's analysis revealed the following constituents (translated into parts per million by the West Virginia Geological Survey) in the water: Iron (Fe), 18.5; Calcium (Ca), 942.8; Magnesium (Mg), 207.2; Sodium (Na), 16.29; Carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub>), 275.8; Sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>), 2625.5; and Chloride (Cl), 55.9.

16. Rosalie Stier Calvert, *Mistress of Riversdale: The Plantation Letters of Rosalie Stiet Calert 1795-1821*. Ed. and trans. Margaret Law Callcott (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press), 1991, p. 362.

17. Samuel Kercheval (*History of the Valley of Virginia*) writing in 1835, supports the belief that the resort opened some time between 1817 and 1821. He notes that "It is not much more than twelve or fourteen years since this spring was first resorted to as a watering place, though it was known for some years before to possess some peculiar medicinal qualities.... A company of gentlemen in its neighborhood joined and purchased the site, and forthwith erected a large brick boarding house, and ten or twelve small buildings for the accommodation of visitors. For several years it held a high rank among our watering places."

18. This illustration is provided courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum, Charles Town, WV.

19. Jefferson County Deed Book 11, p. 392 (July 20, 1821), Benjamin Beeler and Sally Beeler to Samuel W. Lackland and James Stephenson.

20. Jefferson County Deed Book 11, p. 414 (August 27, 1821). Samuel W. Lackland and James Stephenson to James L. Ranson, four-ninths interest in Shannondale Springs Tract (60 acres) plus mineral rights and ferry landing.

21. Jefferson County Deed Book 11, p. 498 (September 1, 1821).

22. Jefferson County Deed Book 11, p. 507 (September 1, 1821). Ferdinando Fairfax had been in debt to the estate of William Byrd Page at the time of his death. Fairfax's one-third interest in Shannondale Springs was sold at public auction to John W. Page on April 19, 1823. (See Jefferson County Deed Book 12, p. 269, April 19, 1823.)

23. Kercheval, *History of the Valley of Virginia*, p. 322.

24. Jefferson County Deed Book 14, p. 490 (June 7, 1825), James Milton to Robert Milton, 125 acres.

25. *Virginia Free Press*, July 5, 1838. James Monroe may have heard of Shannondale from Nathaniel Craighill, who then lived on the Shenandoah River near the Springs. Craighill and Monroe had been born on adjacent places on Monroe Creek, in Westmoreland county. They grew up there together as boys and young men. (See *Virginia Free Press*, July 5, 1838.) Kercheval, p. 322. [Gallaher], *Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters*, p. 5. *Virginia Free Press*, July 5, 1838; August 9, 1838. The same source that noted that the original builders of the resort allowed their half-completed project to deteriorate also stated that "During the administration of Mr. Monroe, the President and the highest officers of the Government made it their summer retreat." See *Virginia Free Press*, July 5, 1838, p. 2.

26. The view of "Shannondale Springs, Virginia," which was engraved and printed by Fenner, Sears, & Co., in London, September 1, 1831, was drawn by "C. Burton, New York." A May 28, 1823, advertisement in the *Farmers Repository*, notes that Charles Burton of Harpers Ferry is to take likenesses in Charlestown in a few days. "C. Burton" and the the artist Charles Burton mentioned in the *Farmers Repository* are probably the same person. It is also likely that the artist who provided us with this view of Shannondale Springs was the father of James Henry Burton, master armorer at Harpers Ferry, whom Norris (p. 612) notes was "born of English parents August 17, 1823, at Shannondale Springs..."

27. Jefferson County Deed Book 16, p. 9 (June 11, 1829), James Milton to John W. Page, 1/3rd of 60-acre Shannondale Springs tract. Jefferson County Deed Book 16, p. 286 (October 14, 1830), Thomas and Charlotte Griggs to Samuel W. Lackland, 1/3rd of the 60-acre Shannondale Springs tract. Jefferson County Deed Book 18, pp. 368 and 371 (May 22 and May 25, 1833), Thomas Griggs, Jr. to Samuel W. Lackland, 1/3rd part of 60-acre Shannondale Springs tract. Joseph T. Daugherty to Thomas Griggs, Jr., 1/9th share of Shannondale Springs property. Samuel W. Lackland purchased the adjacent 121-acre tract from Joseph Daugherty (December 30, 1829) and James Milton (June 16, 1829). Cholera first reached the area in the summer of 1833 and reappeared sporadically during the next half century.
28. Virginia Free Press, June 4, 1835.
29. Jefferson County Deed Book 24, p. 287.
30. James L. Ranson sold his 1/9th share to the corporation in October, 1838 (see Jefferson County Deed Book 23, p. 460). He was one of the incorporators of the Smithfield, Charlestown, and Harpers Ferry Turnpike Company (see Acts of the General Assembly, February 18, 1830) as well as a director of the proposed Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad, which had planned to have a stop at Shannondale Springs (Spirit of Jefferson, April 18, 1853, p. 4 col. 7; Virginia Free Press, September 22, 1853, p. 2 col. 3). Andrew Kennedy was a prominent lawyer who would later become prosecuting attorney in the trial of John Brown, and one of the directors of the Smithfield, Charlestown, Harpers Ferry Turnpike Company; he was the brother of John Pendleton Kennedy, the author and Secretary of the Navy under Millard Fillmore. Robert T. Brown was Clerk of the Circuit Court for almost 50 years. George W. Hammond was a local Justice of the Peace, the owner of Happy Retreat and builder of “Shannon Hall” on the Shenandoah River. William Yates sold his interest in the corporation to Samuel W. Lackland in May 1839 (see Jefferson County Deed Book 23, p. 534). Richard Parker, then a Circuit Court Judge for Jefferson County, would later become the judge who presided over John Brown’s trial. John S. Gallaher was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1830-34, and 1842-43, editor of the Virginia Free Press, and owner or editor of several other Virginia newspapers. See Jefferson County Deed Book 23, p. 366 and Norris, p. 658. The advertisement for the Springs placed by the new corporation was printed in the Virginia Free Press, May 17, 1838, p. 2; according to an article in the same issue, the company had a \$100,000 line of credit.
31. Thomas Griggs, Jr., was commonwealth’s attorney, a soldier of the war of 1812, a member of the Virginia legislature, a member of the Virginia convention of 1829-30, 1850-51, and for thirty-six years the president of the Valley Bank of Virginia at Charlestown. See Norris, p. 658.
32. Virginia Free Press, May 17 and May 31, 1838.
33. [Gallaher], Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters, pp. 13-14.
34. The layout of this hotel (which burned in 1858) matches the layout of the second hotel built on the same spot in 1890. George Watterson, in 1848, noted that all three springs were located in groves of trees (Virginia Free Press, August 24, 1848, p. 1) and described the landscape in some detail. Howe’s 1845 illustration of Shannondale Springs in his Historical Collections also shows a grove of trees surrounded by a fence; this is probably a depiction of the major (middle) spring.
35. [Gallaher], Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters, pp. 6-11.
36. [George Watterson], “A Trip to the Springs,” Virginia Free Press, August 24, 1848, p. 1. The article was reprinted from the Alexandria Gazette.
37. [Gallaher], Shannondale: the Quality and Character of the Waters, p. 15.
38. Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1838.
39. Virginia Free Press, June 21, 1838. A Virginia Free Press (May 17, 1838) advertisement for Carter’s Hotel, immediately following the one for Shannondale Springs, notes “The proprietor’s engagements at the Shannondale Springs will not interfere with the arrangements of this House — every department of which will continue to be conducted in a manner to insure entire satisfaction.”
40. Jefferson County Deed Book 23, p. 538 (August 4, 1839). Virginia Free Press, November 25, 1841, p. 3 col. 1. The Virginia Free Press (April 17, 1845, p. 2 col. 2) noted that “The U.S. Hotel at Harpers Ferry is now under management of Capt. Abell formerly of Shannondale Springs.” Virginia Free Press, June 17, 1847.

41. "The scene and the company at Shannondale — the Entertainments — Preparations for the Reception of the President, &c.," Virginia Free Press, August 14, 1851.
42. For a description of the Fourth of July celebration for 1851, see Virginia Free Press, July 10, 1851, p. 2. "The Tournament," Baltimore Herald [?], August 2, 1848. Virginia Free Press, July 18, 1839 and June 17, 1841. Tournaments were a frequent event at Shannondale and at other health spas in the area. See the Virginia Free Press, August 21, 1851 for additional description of tournaments. Other tournaments and balls at Shannondale Springs are described in some detail in the Virginia Free Press for August 28, 1851 (pp. 1, 2) and September 11, 1851. The 1851 season was supposed to be closed with three days of horse racing at the Springs. (See Virginia Free Press, October 9, 1851.)
43. Mary J. Windle, "Summer Sketches.— No. 3. Shannondale Springs, Va., July 21," Virginia Free Press, August 7, 1851, p. 1. President Fillmore, along with the Secretary of War Charles Magill Conrad and the Secretary of the Interior Alexander H.H. Stuart, had arrived at Harpers Ferry the same week, where they had toured the Armory. Windle reports that the son of the Secretary of War was present at the dance she attended. See Virginia Free Press, August 7, 1851, p. 2 col. 1.
44. Spirit of Jefferson, May 28, 1847, p. 1 col. 2; Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Virginia (Charleston, S.C.: Published by Babcock & Co., 1845), pp. 342-343; John J. Moorman, The Virginia Springs: Comprising an Account of All the Principal Mineral Springs of Virginia (Richmond, Va.: J. W. Randolph, 1857), pp. 257-258.
45. The bowling alley is also mentioned in George Watterson's "A Trip to the Springs" (Virginia Free Press, August 24, 1848), which is described as being in back of the hotel, on top of the hill. Mrs. Southworth was also at the Springs in 1851. The fancy dress ball that followed the tournament that year included orange trees decorated with stuffed birds of paradise. The high point of the evening "was the entree of Mrs. Southworth, Washington, as the Queen of the Amazons, accompanied by a whole troop of fairies, her two little children among them, one personating Oberon and the other Titania, and the whole troop representing the Midsummer Night's Dream, with the addition of a little black fellow of five years old in white turban, white muslin blouse, gold lace all over it, short breeches and golden shoes. The fairies were in light gossamer, spangled and embroidered with gold; red jackets; bound with a broad margin of gold lace, and fine lace skirt, and pink slippers. The entree of Mrs. Southworth and her troop was hailed by the applause of the whole company, and her scheme was not only a beautiful design, but it was fulfilled to the general admiration." (See Virginia Free Press, September 11, 1851.)
46. U.S. Census for Jefferson County, Virginia, 1850; Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1850, p. 3 col. 3. The Virginia Free Press article for August 9, 1850, supported the belief that water from the Springs would prevent cholera; the author recalled a C. and O. Canal contractor during the 1833 epidemic who said none of his workers contracted the disease even though hundreds living above and below his section were attacked by cholera. Both the writer and the contractor suggested that immunity came from drinking iron laden water from Shannondale Springs. Emma D.E.N., Southworth, Shannondale (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1851). Thus far, I have found no references to "Lovers' Leap" before the publication of Southworth's novel. See Virginia Free Press, September 25, 1875 (p. 3 col. 3) for a reference to her visit. An historically inaccurate article containing references to attempts to revive the property in the mid-1920's was published in an unidentified newspaper by J. P. Cranke, J.P. [Washington, D.C.] as "Shannondale: the Historic. To Be Modernized and Once More Opened to the Public Through the Colonial Country Club. Memberships in the Club Can Now Be Secured."
47. "The scene and the company at Shannondale — the Entertainments — Preparations for the Reception of the President, &c.," Virginia Free Press, August 14, 1851.
48. Virginia Free Press, August 26, 1847 (p. 3 col. 4); September 9, 1847 (p. 2 col. 4); December 22, 1847 (p. 3, col. 3); August 3, 1848.
49. The illustration of Shannondale Springs included in Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Virginia (1845) has prompted speculation that the hotel had been substantially enlarged by this time. This view is supported by one writer in 1838, who states: "Owing ... to some misunderstanding perhaps, or want of harmony amongst the proprietors, the improvements [in the early 1820's] remained half finished, the accommodations became bad and finally none were provided." The new company, with a capital of \$100,000, was making substantial improvements. (See Virginia Free Press, July 5, 1838.) The hotel depicted in the Howe illustration has 20 evenly spaced windows on the first and second floors, with a basement level obscured by an overhanging porch and the upper story capped by a peaked roof containing 10 evenly spaced dormers. If the dimensions reported more than a decade earlier are applied (a two-story structure approximately 30 by 90 feet with eight evenly spaced windows), the hotel shown by Howe must have been at least 160 feet in length. Rectangular, one-story structures are arranged around the hotel in a semi-circle; two two-story barnlike structures are shown to the north, another two-story structure northeast of the hotel, and a long, one-story building further to the northwest, on the edge of the woods. A small building stands on the edge of the river close to the ferry landing. S. Howell Brown's 1852 map of Jefferson County, Virginia, included Howe's illustration. It is not known whether Howe accurately depicted the extent of the renovation. Archeological investigation of the hotel site is needed to clarify this issue.
50. Virginia Free Press, April 8, 1848, p. 3 col. 1; April 15, 1848, p. 3. col. 2.

51. Virginia Free Press, February 10, 1877, p. 2; Spirit of Jefferson, May 28, 1850, p 3 col. 6. The advertisement first appeared in May 14, 1850. Virginia Free Press, June 5, 1851. "The scene and the company at Shannondale — the Entertainments — Preparations for the Reception of the President, &c., " Virginia Free Press, August 14, 1851. An invitation from proprietor Hall to Postmaster General Nathan K. Hall to accompany Fillmore on his visit to Shannondale Springs (see note 52) suggests that the Halls may have been related.
52. Virginia Free Press, August 7 and August 14. Letter from [Nathan K.] Hall to Hall, Osburn & Co., July 26, 1851; Independent Democrat, August 21, 1860, p. 2 col. 3. Mary J. Windle (see note 43) reported seeing the son of Fillmore's Secretary of War (Charles Magill Conrad) at Shannondale Springs.
53. S. Howell Brown, Map of Jefferson County, Virginia by S. Howell Brown from actual surveys of farm limits. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. L. Smith Map Publisher and Manufacturer), 1852.
54. Virginia Free Press, August 10, 1854, p. 3 col. 1. The omission of Shannondale and other local springs from a tour book caused a great deal of consternation in this area, although it appears not to have adversely affected business at the time. One local writer noted, "Burke, in his book on the Mineral Springs of Virginia, has treated those of the Valley rather cavalierly. He extols to the skies, the Warm, Hot, Greebrier, White Sulphur, and others; but does not give Shannondale, Jordan's, Capon or the Berkeley Springs, even a passing notice. He heaps praises upon the proprietors of those well known watering places, but acknowledges no acquaintance with the polite and accomplished hosts of the valuable medicinal Springs of this region. Had he extended his travel to this portion of the Valley, previous to writing his book, he would have found material for a more interesting work, readier sale for it, and a more extensive circulation. If he will allow us, we would advise him." See Virginia Free Press, August 14, 1851.
55. Virginia Free Press, April 19, 1855, p. 3 col. 2; May 23, 1855, p. 2, col. 7.
56. Virginia Free Press, March 25, 1858.
57. Virginia Free Press, September 1, 1859.
58. R. P. Chew, Military Operations in Jefferson County Va. (WV), 1910; reprinted, Jefferson County Oral and Visual History Association, Inc., 1992.
59. Virginia Free Press, June 13, 1867; June 22, 1872; September 5, 1874; September 8, 1877; September 22, 1877; August 12, 1886. Spirit of Jefferson, June 21, 1870; June 18, 1872; September 1, 1874.
60. Virginia Free Press, August 5, 1867. Moses Ewing rode as the "Knight of Shannondale" at a tournament in Rippon in June 1870, and an unnamed contestant rode under the same title at a tournament held at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, the same year. See Spirit of Jefferson, June 14, 1870; Virginia Free Press, June 11, 1870.
61. Virginia Free Press, May 7, 1868; May 28, 1868; June 11, 1870; June 22, 1872. Spirit of Jefferson, October 4, 1870. The property was also offered for sale in 1871 (see Virginia Free Press, September 2, 1871). See Jefferson County Land Assessment Books, 1st and 2nd Dist.
62. Virginia Free Press, September 25, 1875.
63. Virginia Free Press, February 10, 1877, p. 2.
64. S. Howell Brown, Map of Jefferson County, West Virginia, by S. Howell Brown From Actual Survey with Farm Limits, 1883. (Philadelphia: J. L. Smith, Map Publisher and Manufacturer). Spirit of Jefferson, July 27, 1880, p. 2 col. 3.
65. Virginia Free Press, May 21, 1885. Jefferson County Deed Book V, p. 64, June 17, 1890.
66. Spirit of Jefferson, August 7, 1889; Virginia Free Press, May 23, 1889.
67. Virginia Free Press, August 15, 1889.
68. Spirit of Jefferson, November 9, 1909.

69. Virginia Free Press, June 25, 1890; July 2, 1890; July 9, 1890.
70. Virginia Free Press, June 18, 1890.
71. Virginia Free Press, July 8, 1896.
72. Jefferson County Deed Book 91, pp. 313-314; Deed Book 92, p. 159.
73. Spirit of Jefferson, June 17, 1902. See also Spirit of Jefferson, January 15, 1901. Alvin Dohme (Shenandoah, The Valley Story), apparently without any documentation claimed (p. 85) that Presidents Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur had visited Shannondale Springs. T.T. Perry, in his lecture on Shannondale, mentions the visits of several presidents without providing references.
74. Spirit of Jefferson, May 12, 1903. See also Spirit of Jefferson, April 28, 1903; Spirit of Jefferson, July 28, 1903.
75. H. C. Getzendanner, Shannondale Springs (Washington, DC: W.F. Roberts Co.), ca. 1903, p. 3.
76. William Theriault, Interview with Virginia Koonce Cosy, March 5, 1997.
77. Since the bathrooms were located on the southeast corner of the second and third floors, I have inferred that the 32' by 30' ballroom occupied the west portion of the second floor, the eight bedrooms the east portion of the second floor (four in front and four in back), and the office and waiting room occupying the central portion of the second floor. According to Virginia Koonce Cosy, she, her parents, and her two sisters occupied bedrooms on the second floor. Although there is no evidence to substantiate the view, there was probably a central stairway connecting all three floors.
78. Getzendanner, p. 5.
79. Getzendanner, pp. 6-8, 13.
80. Jefferson County Deed Book 104, p. 365 (May 3, 1910); Julia R. Rogers to H.C. Getzendanner, 1,629 acres, including the Furnace Tract. (June 4, 1910). Jefferson County Deed Book 104, p. 369 (June 4, 1910), H.C. Getzendanner to Shannondale Timber Co., 2,950 acres. A. M. S. Morgan, III, Charles Town: 1912-1924. A Boy's Eye-View of Charles Town and its People. November 15, 1987, p. 6.
81. Spirit of Jefferson, November 9, 1909.
82. William D. Theriault, Interview with Virginia Koonce Cosy, March 5, 1997.
83. Morgan, Charles Town, p. 8.
84. Jefferson County Deed Book 118, page 47. Jefferson County Deed Book 114, p. 424 (December 8, 1919); Farmers Advocate, May 8, 1920, p. 1 col. 1, 2; May 15, 1920, p. 1 col. 2; June 26, 1920, p. 1 col. 4; July 24, 1920, p. 1 col. 1; July 22, 1922.
85. Farmers Advocate, April 5, 1924. Jefferson County Deed Book 124, pp. 5-6.
86. Jefferson County Deed Book 136, page 383. [Crane, Charles L.] Outline of Plan for the Organization and Development of Shenandoah Country Estate and Colonial Country Club at Shannondale Springs." [n.p.], [ca. 1924], p. 1. According to J. P. Cranke, "It is proposed to develop a country club on a huge scale, its grounds to embrace three thousand acres of mountain, forest and stream. Before the plan [can] become operative the Chamber of Commerce resolution provided that a certain number of members, who shall be residents of Jefferson County, West Virginia, must be secured, and then memberships would become available for citizens of Washington and Baltimore who may desire to join the club. The Chamber of Commerce as a body pledged itself to get out and work for the success of the enterprise." See J. P. Cranke, "Shannondale: The Historic. To Be Modernized." [1924].
87. "Shannondale Springs Water Has Health Building Properties," Charles Town, WV, [1931].

88. Paul H. Price, John B. McCue, and Homer A. Hoskins. West Virginia Geological Survey: Springs of West Virginia, 1936, pp. 13, 71-74.
89. Jefferson County Deed Book 146, p. 54; Deed Book 145, p. 293; Deed Book 146, p. 53; Deed Book 147, p. 521; Deed Book 149, p. 29; Deed book 149, p. 205; Deed Book 164, p. 332.
90. Jefferson County, Will Book S, p. 270; Deed Book 502, pp. 484-486. ....[transfer to DNR]
91. License Agreement, March 18, 1996. West Virginia Bureau of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources, Public Land Corporation, to Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission.
92. Preliminary archeological studies of the stone bath/spring house reveal that the original floor lies approximately one foot below the current dirt floor. No water flows through the structure at present. It did not house one of the three medicinal springs, which have all been located several hundred feet distant. A well lies directly behind the structure and includes plumbing once used to pump water up hill to the hotel. The depth of the building's original floor suggests that it may have been first used as a bath house and then have been modified for use as a spring house or ice house. Visitors to the Springs took normal warm or cold baths in addition to drinking the mineral waters, and the building may have been used for this purpose. Although the structure may predate the building of the hotel and outbuildings (ca. 1821), more accurate dating will require further archeological investigation.
93. The author wishes to thank The West Virginia Division of Culture and History, The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, The Jefferson County Museum, the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and the other individuals and organizations that assisted in information gathering, provided access to artifacts, and helped in survey efforts. In particular, he wishes to thank William D. Hartgroves whose decade-long crusade raised the community's consciousness about Shannondale Springs and whose efforts helped to raise the local resources needed to complete this project.

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## **Appendix B. Selected Original Source Materials**



Fairfax, Ferdinando. *Description of Ferdinando Fairfax's Shannondale Iron Estate, with A Plan of a Company for Improving the Same*. Washington: J. Crossfield, Printers, 1815.

[page 3]

I OFFER to the attention of monied men of discernment, a very valuable IRON ESTATE, on the rivers Shenandoah and Potomac, in the counties of Jefferson and Loudon: for the working of which I wish to form a small, but able company, on permanent principles: deeming the present moment to be peculiarly favorable to its operations.

The seats for such works have been viewed by practical men and pronounced good; the ore banks are conveniently situated, and the ore abundant, easily raised, and rich; yielding iron of very superior quality, as appears from the testimony of those who have made and wrought it; there are several favorable scites [sic]; the command of water is powerful: and the wood on twenty thousand acres of land (all of one tract) is abundant and convenient. There are few, if any, such Iron Estates in America; and this is peculiarly favorable in situation to the seat of government, where a supply of iron of the best quality is always in demand, and where it must be highly important to have it free from the chances of war: being also happily situated for the supply of a wealthy and populous farming country, needing such supply.

[page 4]

I know of no men, of common prudence, that have failed to amass fortunes by this business, where the ore has been plentiful and good, and the wood abundant; who have adopted the improved mode, which was first practiced in Pennsylvania, by Mr. Robert Coleman: who, coming a stranger into the country, and commencing with nothing but his superior sagacity and activity, made by that business a princely fortune in a few years, and is now the largest owner of Iron Works in America!

The annexed Constitution for a Company, hath been digested under the inspection of the most experienced iron-masters, which a special view to certainty in the funds, permanence of operation, and safety to each individual stockholder. In it, I have endeavored to make such provision, as wealthy and punctual men ought to require; providing sufficient power, and at the same time sufficient responsibility, for the officers engaged in the concern. It is drawn on such cautious and certain principles, that it depends not on the life of an individual; but may proceed with the steadiness and uniformity of a banking company, with a stock of greater intrinsic value, and with profits infinitely greater. By it I offer strong inducements to persons inclined to engage in such a concern; putting the property, with all its advantages, at less to the company (of which I wish to be a member) than what it would actually sell for in farms and wood lots.

FERDINANDO FAIRFAX.

[page 5]

## QUERIES

Answered relative to the IRON PROPERTY of F. Fairfax.

Query 1. What are the indications of abundance of Ore, and of its quality?

Answer. It shews itself principally in three places, on the tops and sides of extensive hills, and also in their bowels, where broken by the river and by vallies, from 7 to 14 miles up the river from its mouth; but is seen also in several other places on my Land. By smiths who have actually wrought Iron made from this Ore, it is stated to be of a very superior quality: and, from the direction which the vein takes, it is a probably a part of the same which makes the Ore Bank of Keeptryste, so celebrated both for castings and bar iron: out of which cannon are made for the United States, by Mr. Henry Foxall, at Georgetown; being much better for bar iron than that.

Q. 2. What sort of a stream is the Valley Run, upon which you propose erecting a furnace, and is it not likely to be affected by dry seasons?

A. The Valley run has been thought adequate to carry a saw-mill with a single flutter-wheel, which I have accordingly erected upon it, preparatory to other works, and which is said to require much greater force of water than a furnace wheel; and from 30 to 40 feet fall can readily be had: but should more accurate information, or an apprehension of dry seasons, determine this stream to be insufficient for a furnace, one may be erected at Little's Falls, where we have a full command of the water from the river, for any and various kinds of water works, with a clear fall of 18 feet.

[page 6]

Q. #. What is the convenience of carriage for Ore and Fuel?

A. The ore banks are generally within a few hundred yards of the river, and in no case exceed the distance of half a mile; and they are also near and convenient to the proper furnace seats. In the present state of the works of the Potomac Company, the river Shenandoah is navigable for flour-boats, and other boats, from Harper's Ferry (at its mouth) through the whole extent of this property, and many miles above, a great part of the year; and will doubtless be rendered permanently so.

Q. 4. Do the lands, intended for the proposed establishments, possess timber, stone, sand, and other principal materials for building?

A. They possess timber, stone, and sand for every improvement desired; and lime, in abundance and at low price, can at all times be had from other tracts in the neighborhood: the whole country westward of the river abounding in limestone, which is on fact its substratum.

Q. 5. Is there any considerable demand in the circumjacent country for tan-bark, so that this article might readily be converted into money, in cutting down trees for other purposes?

A. The bark of Chestnut-oak. With which these lands abound, in the most mountainous parts, is most esteemed of any by tanners, and cannot be procured in the neighborhood, except from those lands; and when delivered in Charlestown, from five to seven miles off, commands a ready sale for cash, at a good price.

Q. 6. How far will the proposed works be from Harper's Ferry, and how progresses the United States' establishment there?

A. The proposed scites [sic] are from five to twelve miles above Harper's Ferry. The armoury is upon [page 7] a very respectable footing there, and produces arms, inferior to none, at the rate of one thousand stands per month: and the establishment is about to be greatly enlarged. Here may readily be sold (for fuel, building timber, gun stocks, &c.) Any wood which the company may choose to part with; there being no other resource from whence this place can be supplied to any great extent.

Q. 7. Can pig-iron be conveyed with ease and certainty from the works to Georgetown and Washington?

A. The navigation of Potomac having for years been open, the opening of that of the Shenandoah, which is now effected, of course removes every obstacle to bearing by water to our sea-ports, and quantity of pig-iron. I will further observe, that this facility of conveyance hath induced me to suppose, that it would be better to place one of the forges at Vestal's ford, (where we have command of more than ten feet clear fall, and any quantity of water required) than nearer to the furnace: because our wood-land being of about 16 miles extent along the river, and coal-wood being the most bulky article we shall have to handle, it seems to separate the great objects of its application; and because the scite [sic] at Vestal's, being upon our most public road, is highly favorable to all the inferior manufactures of iron, such as rolling, slitting, tilting, &c.

Q. 8. What proportion of the lands of the company are rented out, and for what term or terms? And what is the description of the residue of the tract, which may become also the property of the company, according to the last article of the constitution?

A. The small tenements upon the whole tract offered to the company, are so interspersed, as to [page 8] serve rather to protect from fire, &c. That to destroy in future the wood-land. Some are rented for lives, some for terms of years, all under very strict covenants; but the leases of the most important are already in my hands, for the good of the company. That part of the tract reserved for the future refusal of the company, is generally of the same description as that embraced in the preceding articles; except as to the peculiar water advantages, and the ore banks.

Q. 9. May considerable profits be expected by the company?

A. I can only say, that, from frequent offers made to me for the principal scites [sic]: from many inquiries made by me of experienced iron-masters, and from the judgment of practical men, I have no doubt that this property is capable, at a moderate expense for outfits, of as great profits as any iron estate in America, if not as great as any in the world.

F. FAIRFAX.

ALEXANDRIA, January 2, 1815.

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CERTIFICATES.

February 16, 1809.

SIR,

I HAVE, with great attention, examined your several banks of iron ore, and feel myself fully justifiable in saying, that I do believe the quality to be very good for both bar and castings, (equal to that of Keeptryste) and the appearance, as to quantity, very great indeed; that you have several good seats for furnaces and forges, with almost an inexhaustible supply of timber, for coal-wood; all on and near the Shenandoah river. From my long experience in the iron business, I trust I have some knowledge of the same, and feel no hesitation in putting my name to these lines. Yours truly,

GEO. NORTH.

Ferdinando Fairfax. Esq.

Ferdinando Fairfax, Esq. Sent to my furnace by Isaac Strider's boats, iron ore, which he tells me he dug from five different ore banks, which is verified by the appearance of the ore; four sorts I had blown at my furnace, and then a part of each made into bar iron, of which I have returned to Mr. Fairfax 56 bars, 1, 0, 1, 4, the greater part of it drawn fit for a tilt-hammer to draw into gun-scalps. The different kinds designated by notches as per memorandum. The above iron I return him for the ore he sent me.

ROGER JOHNSON.

January 4, 1809.

No. 1, notched on the end, Big-rock ore.

No. 2, Dillows, mixed 1-3 with R.I. red 2-3.

No. 3, Dillows, unmixed.

No. 4, Big-rock, mixed 1-3 with R.I. red 2-3.

No. 5, Conner's, pure.

R.J.

[page 10]

I certify that I this day turned and welded, and beat down a bit or iron made of the ore of Mr. Ferdinando Fairfax, (which he calls No. 4) and which I have marked with four notches; and that I hardened the same in my smith's shop, so as to strike fire, like steel with flint.

ROBERT MOORE.

Bloomsbury Forge, Jan. 4, 1809.

The above operation was performed in the said shop, in my presence.

CHARLES GLISAN.

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This may certify, that of several kinds of iron put into my hands, (said to be made of the ore of Mr. F. Fairfax) by Mr. James Stubblefield, superintendent of the United States' factory of arms at this place, I found No. 5 to work remarkably well, in closing and welding a gun-barrel, both as to heating, hammering, and welding. No. 1 was rather too hard for this purpose, though it was firm, strong iron. No. 3 did not work quite as well as No. 5, being rather harder. No. 2 welded well, but did not bear as high a heat as either of the other numbers above notes, being inclined to red-short.\*

JOHN BREWER.

Witness -- James Stubblefield.

Harper's Ferry, Feb. 22, 1809.

---

I John Donaldson, do also certify, that I have tried Nos. 5, 3, and 1, of the abovementioned iron, in various ways and at different times; that I found all three to forge remarkably well, and weld well; that it was tough and strong, and bore a high heat, (No. 1, rather less so than the others) and No. 5, soft enough for any purpose; but No. 1, though tough form and strong, was rather too hard for gun-making.

JOHN A. DONALDSON.

Witness --

Jas. Stubblefield,

Robt. Whittet.

Harper's Ferry, Feb. 22, 1809.

\* By reference to Mr. Johnson's memorandum above, it will seem that No. 2, contains only 1-3 of F.F.'s metal.

[page 11]

We certify, that in several trials made of Mr. Fairfax's iron, Nos. 3 and 5, at the public factory at Harper's Ferry, we found it work remarkably well, in cocks and frisks (or pan hammers) for muskets; being firm, tough, capable of a high heat, free from cracks, and soft enough for the above purposes.

PETER CRANE.

JOHN LINDSEY.

Witness -- Jas. Stubblefield,

Robt. Whittet.

Harper's Ferry, Feb. 22, 1809.

---

I certify, that out of thirteen gun-barrels welded by me, which I was requested to distinguish, only one failed in the proof; but, as there were among them several that were not of Fairfax's iron, and the marks which I put on were not preserved to the last, I am not certain of whose iron that one was which failed.

Given under my hand, this 26th day of April, 1809.

JOHN BREWER.

N.B. As well as I can now recollect, the said thirteen barrels consisted of four of Johnson's iron, two of Winter's, and the rest of Mr. Fairfax's, either pure or mixed with Johnson's, as they were given in to me.

JOHN BREWER.

JOHN BECKHAM.

---

Armory, Harper's Ferry, March 20, 1809.

SIR,

I have proved a few barrels made out of your iron, which stood very well; the balance will not be ready to prove until the last of next week. Have not received any scalps from Johnson's forge yet.

I am sir,

Respectfully,

Your obt. Servt.

JAMES STUBBLEFIELD.

F. Fairfax, Esquire.

[page 13]

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE SHENANDOAH IRON COMPANY.

Article 1. The stock of the company under the above denomination shall consist, in the first instance, besides the active capital, of 10,000 acres, chiefly woodland (part of a larger tract called Shannondale) lying in one connected body, principally in the county of Jefferson, Virginia, between the line of Loudon county and the margin of the river Shenandoah, except where intercepted from the river by Wormley's patent, and commencing at the bounds of the land lately sold to the U. States (for the use of their factory at Harper's Ferry) and running southward for quantity; but so as to include the ORE BANKS near the Yellow-rock, and the saw-mill of the valley-run; comprehending, also, the range of mill-seats at Connor's, having a full command of the water at Little's falls; also, the seats for mills or forges upon the great road, at Vestal's ford: and also, several valuable little farms upon the river, besides smaller tenements, sufficiently interspersed to protect from fires the most valuable of the WOOD, consisting of locust; oak of various kinds,

fit for plank, scantling, shingles, &c. Pine, of superior quality; chestnut, for shingles and nails; various other [page 14] timber, and chestnut-oak, for tan-bark, besides wood for fuel: all convenient to a thickly settled neighbourhood, on both sides of the mountain, where all those articles are beginning to be scarce, and are not in considerable demand. Which property shall be divided into \_\_\_\_\_ shares, at \_\_\_\_\_ dollars each, and shall be conveyed by Ferdinando Fairfax, the present proprietor by inheritance, by a good deed under general warranty, and subject only to leases upon a few of said tenements, several of which, and the most valuable, the said Fairfax has bought, unto the President and Directors herein provided for, and their successors, as trustees; to be by them held for the use and benefit of the company, without power to convey the same, except by their authority according to this constitution, a copy whereof shall be annexed to the said deed of the said Fairfax; which shall be made when all shares have been taken, as mentioned below.

ARTICLE II. When all the shares are subscribed, the said Ferdinando Fairfax shall, by letter addressed to each subscriber, and by advertisement in some newspaper of the City of Washington, at least sixty days previously, call a meeting of the subscribers at \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of choosing \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECTORS to act in the concerns of the company for one year, and until the next stated election, and to receive the conveyances of the said Fairfax, as aforesaid. Whereupon he shall be entitled to demand of the shareholders respectively, upon each share by him disposed of, and shall himself advance upon each of his own shares, a prompt payment of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, in a receipt of the cashier of the Bank of Columbia, (drawn to the president and directors of this [page 15] company) and also, their respective bonds, drawn payable to him, his heirs and assigns, and secured in a satisfactory manner, for \_\_\_\_\_ equal annual instalments from the said first election of directors, each for \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, free of interest for the time it has to run: which prompt payment shall constitute the active capital of the company, for the commencement of their operations upon the stock aforesaid.

ARTICLE III. There shall annually be a meeting of stockholders at the house of the manager, upon the fifteenth day of August, or at such other time of the year as they, for greater convenience, may ordain: at which meeting they shall choose \_\_\_\_\_ directors, (being stockholders) and transact such other business as by this constitution pertains to them.

ARTICLE IV. Every share shall entitle the holder, either in person or by proxy, to a vote in such concerns of the company as necessarily appertain to the stockholders, and such as are excepted out of the powers given to the directors; except that no stockholder shall enjoy above \_\_\_\_\_ votes upon \_\_\_\_\_ shares held by him. The presence of three stockholders, besides a majority of the acting directors, shall be necessary to form a board to do business, and a majority of votes shall decide all questions, except for the purchase and sale of land, the increase of stock, the further call for money, the erection of new works beyond the first determined upon, or the alteration of this Constitution; any of which cases shall require, from the member meaning to propose the same, notice by public advertisement, in a neighboring newspaper, of such his intention, at least ninety days previous to the meeting of stockholders; and the voice of a majority of all the stockholders shall be necessary for a decision [page 16] thereupon. When the whole of the shares

of the company shall be held by \_\_\_\_\_ persons, or less, no election of directors shall be necessary; but each member, if lawfully competent, shall have the power both of a stockholder and director; and be subject to these regulations, as far as they apply to the existing case.

ARTICLE V. The directors chosen shall conduct the whole concerns of the company, until the next election, respecting the making of iron, and other business determined upon by the proper authority, and all matters naturally arising thereout, or necessarily connected therewith; but they shall not without the authority of the stockholders as above provided for, sell or buy land, except such as may have been given in security for debts due the company, and sold in consequence thereof; make an increase of stock, or a further call for money from the stockholders; erect new works, other than a furnace, a force, and their necessary appendages; or alter the constitution of the company.

ARTICLE VI. The directors shall meet at the house of the manager, as often as, in their opinion, the interest of the company shall require. They shall appoint, from among themselves, a PRESIDENT, who shall receive and transmit all communications, and give the casting vote at their board; and they shall supply, from amongst the stockholders, until the next election, any vacancy that may happen in their number. They shall employ a MANAGER, well skilled in the concerns of the company, who shall reside at the works, and shall give bond and good security, in such sum as they may deem reasonable and sufficient, for the performance as well of his duties as those of any deputy or assistant, of his own nomination, whom the directors may think proper to place under him, and for the faithful application, according to their [page 17] directions, of all monies and other effects of the company, that may come into his hands, during the time the directors shall chuse to continue him; but shall not vote for directors. They shall employ an ABLE CLERK, to keep the company's accounts; to keep a book of record, in which shall be entered this constitution, with any rules and regulations pursuant thereto, made by the directors; all transfers of shares, made as herein after prescribed; all bills of sale of negroes, or horses, purchased for this company's use, and descriptive inventories of their personal property, annually to be taken; and a minute-book of the proceedings as well as of the directors as of the stockholders: which accounts and books shall, at all times, be subject to the inspection of any stockholder; and shall, by the directors, be laid before the stockholders, at their annual or other meetings.

ARTICLE VII. A committee of Investigation may be appointed, consisting of two members, at any meeting of the stockholders, to inquire into misconduct or abuses, committed under the directory; and to make report at the next meeting, or to call an extra meeting of the stockholders, if deemed necessary; and they shall have a reasonable compensation for expenses thereby incurred, to be paid out of the company's funds.

ARTICLE VIII. The directors shall, from time to time, fix and pay the salaries of their clerk, manager and his assistants; and make suitable regulations relative to the other necessary expenditures: but they themselves, being interested, shall have only one hundred dollars per annum, to defray expenses; subject, however, to be increased by a majority of the votes of the company.

ARTICLE IX. There shall be made by the directors a dividend of profits, with such reservation for current expenses and contingencies as they shall judge prudent, at least once a year, at a meeting [page 18] of the stockholders; to the paid to them, their attorneys, or written orders.

ARTICLE X. All transfers of shares shall be made upon the books of the company, by the holder in person, or by power of attorney; according to the forms used in transferring stock of the late bank of the United States.

ARTICLE XI. It is hereby explicitly declared, for the information of members and of others, and ought to be so expressed in all specialties given to the company, that no stockholder shall be liable to the company, or to any member thereof, or to any other person, for any transactions of the company, to an amount beyond the nominal stock held therein, by such stockholder.

ARTICLE XII. On the part of the before named Ferdinando Fairfax, it is further stipulated, that he will relinquish to the company, as a further increase of their active capital, the last instalment bond given to him by the subscribers, for the purchase of shares, as mentioned in the second article; if, when the same shall become due, the annual profits of the company, shall not have yielded, upon an average of years, after commencement of business, at least fifteen per centum, upon the money which shall, to that time, have been paid and expended upon each share: and, moreover, that he will offer the company the refusal, within five years from its organization, of the remaining part of the Shannondale Tract, within the county of Jefferson, at eight dollars per acre; being two dollars less per acre than he has already sold a part of said tract for, not possessing and peculiar advantages: and likewise all his MINES or banks or iron ore, on any lands he now holds in the county of Jefferson; they making reasonable compensation for damage, if any, occasioned to his property, by working and removing the same, as to any tract or lot of land, not within the bounds of the Shannondale tract.

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WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do engage to become members of the SHENANDOAH IRON COMPANY, according to the preceding Constitution; and to take therein the number of shares affixed to our names, respectively: and we do moreover agree that upon any failure to pay, or satisfactorily secure, the several sums required by the said constitution to be paid (whether to Ferdinando Fairfax or to the company) upon the shares respectively, the said Ferdinando Fairfax shall have the option, either to sue for the same, or to retain the delinquent shares, upon paying up said dues; and in the case of any future calls for money, which in the whole shall never exceed \_\_\_\_\_ dollars upon each share, without the unanimous consent of the company a failure to pay the same shall subject the delinquent shares to sale, by the directors, at public auction, to raise the amount of such call, after reasonable notice of the time and place of sale.

Date of Subscription    Name. Residence, and No. of Shares.

[Gallaher, John S.] *SHANNONDALE: THE QUALITY AND CHARACTER OF THE WATERS AND THEIR EFFECTS UPON VARIOUS DISEASES.* CHARLESTOWN: 1838. PRINTED AT THE FREE PRESS OFFICE.

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[page 3]

PREFACE.

The Proprietors of the SHANNONDALE SPRINGS very respectfully embrace the present occasion to present to the public the following notice of these Waters, in order that those who visit them, either for the purpose of health, or gratification, may be acquainted with their qualities.

This statement is prepared by a gentleman, whose experience and observation for many years have enabled him to come to the most correct conclusions, and who has no interest in the success of the concern, beyond that which a regard for truth and the good of suffering humanity can excite in a philanthropic breast.

They presume it will not be considered impertinent, on this occasion, to remark, that it seems to their view very important, that above all descriptions of visitors [sic] who resort to mineral waters, Invalids should be familiar with their locations, and, also, with their composition, effects, and specific differences; so that, with the aid of their medical advisers [sic], they may be enabled to ascertain which is best adopted [sic] to a relief of the various affections for which they may seem indicated.

The indiscriminate use of various waters, of the mineral kind, in this country, by [page 4] persons frequenting them, without any previous knowledge of what they contain, has done, it is well known, serious injury on many occasions. -- Those who drink them, in general, do not appear to be apprised, that they do possess positive qualities, calculated to do good, or harm, according to circumstances, and with as certain effect as many medicines in common use, if judiciously administered; or, on the contrary, taken without proper precaution. The long-continued use, of even the weakest mineral waters, has done injury to those who have continued taking them without due care -- serving to confirm the opinion entertained by those familiar with their employment is disease, that their efficacy is not in the simple ratio of their chemical impregnation.

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SHANNONDALE.

The Shannondale Springs first attracted public attention in the Fall of 1819. Since that time the most ample experience has served to confirm the opinion then entertained of their vale, by numerous visitors [sic] who resorted to them with the hope of benefit, or to gratify curiosity.

After passing through various vicissitudes, and encountering many prejudices, as well as no small share of obloquy, the most impartial, as also competent judges, have at length stamped upon these waters that character to which they were early entitled, and which gives them a just claim to rank with the most celebrated mineral waters of this country.

The late Dr. De Butts analyzed the Shannondale water in 1821. An examination was made from a quantity of the solid contents of both springs, obtained by evaporation. One hundred grains, from the principal fountain, afforded the following results:

Sulphate of Lime, - - - - - 63

Carbonate of Lime - - - - - 10.5

Sulphate of Magnesia, (epsom salt) 23.5

Muriate of Magnesia, - - - - - 1

Sulphate of Iron, - - - - - 0.3

carbonate of Iron, - - - - - 0.7

100

#### GASEOUS CONTENTS:

Sulphuretted Hydrogen -- quantity not ascertained.

Carbonic Acid - quantity not ascertained.

Solid Contents: -- 30 grains to the pint.

Temperature: -- 55 of Farenheit.

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Conformably to the preceding analysis, the Shannondale water may be properly classed with the Saline Chalybeates, a combination of the most valuable description in the whole range of mineral waters.

Its sensible properties sometimes manifest themselves by producing drowsiness, giddiness, and occasionally headache, when first taken. -- These symptoms, however, usually go off spontaneously, or speedily yield to the action of the water on the bowels.

It may be asserted, without exaggeration, that no mineral water of this country, possessing the same constituent parts, is a more active purgative, when freely taken, than the Shannondale; being, in general, equal in power to most of the neutral salts; or, on the contrary, more bland in its operation, when used with moderation; acting as gently as the mildest aperient, without giving rise to griping or flatulence, or that feeling of debility so often occasioned by ordinary cathartics.

Its action on the skin is very direct, frequently bringing on the most abundant perspiration, and generally keeping it moist and perspirable.

On the kidneys, its influence is but little inferior to that of the most active diuretics, producing from them, generally, the most plentiful secretion.

As was at first inferred, from the nature of its composition, the Shannondale water seems well adapted to a treatment of the following affections -- a conclusion which its extensive employment, for a series of years, has fully justified: --

To the different diseases of the alimentary [page 7] canal, from the stomach to the bowels, and in the derangement of the biliary secretion, which so often occasions these complaints, its influence is very efficacious; in jaundice, which comes under this association, and which is often dependent on the presence of biliary calculi, in the ducts, giving rise to the interruption of the flow of bile through the proper channel, its effects have been, on several occasions, most decidedly beneficial.

For the removal of worms, it possesses properties equal to many of the most popular remedies suited to that purpose.

For the convalescence from fever of the bilious character, where the liver exhibits want of power to perform its secretory functions, and therefore requires the use of such means as are adapted to restore it, and the state of the stomach rejects with disgust the remedies

usually resorted to for that purpose, the use of this water is peculiarly fitted to promote the proper action of the liver, and to impart tone to the stomach.

Its action on the liver is very important, in various respects, whether the secretion of bile is too abundant, producing some disturbance of the stomach and intestines, and from which, by the brisk action of the water on the bowels, relief is soon obtained; or, where there is reason to believe in the existence of defective secretion in that organ, marked by a sense of pain, or rather of uneasiness, in the right side, extending to the shoulder, some difficulty of lying on the left side, flatulence, acidity, and constipation, together with general diminution of strength, sallowness of complexion, and the absence of bilious [page 8] appearances from the bowels. In the above mentioned condition of the liver, by premising the use of calomel or the blue pill, and then resorting to the use of the Shannondale water, much advantage is generally gained, and the effect of the water rendered thereby more decidedly beneficial.

In the treatment of dyspepsia, the Shannondale water is generally acknowledged to be a remedy of superior value -- speedily mitigating the most urgent symptoms of that distressing affection, and finally changing the whole train of feelings common to dyspeptics. It is supposed that its usefulness, in this disease, is nearly in proportion to its cathartic effect.

In dropsical swellings, consequent to protracted intermittents, and where some degree of visceral obstruction is presumed to exist, and unaccompanied by inflammatory symptoms, the free use of this water is generally productive of great benefit, as has been most satisfactorily manifested on several occasions. Its virtues in the above affection are so highly appreciated by many physicians of this section of the country, as to be frequently used by them in conjunction with the common remedies.

For the relief of those who suffer from calculous affections, this water has been frequently used with evident advantages; a result which might be expected from its component parts -- its active diuretic properties, as well as the effect of dilution in such cases. It seems not only to lessen present summering, but has also, it would appear, a considerable influence in preventing the formation of gravelly concretions.

In the alleviation of the distress occasioned by Hemorrhoids, (Piles,) this water has in various [page 9] instances produced the best effects -- its mild action on the bowels in this affection, giving it peculiar value; its sulphureous impregnation, too, may have no small share in doing good, should there be reason to believe in the existence of congestion in the hepatic system, which some writers conceive to be a frequent cause of hemorrhoids.

Possessing in common with all waters containing a sufficient quantity of Sulphuretted Hydrogen, (the most important as a medicine of all the gaseous substances,) the property of acting on the skin, different persons have had recourse to the use of the Shannondale water

in various obstinate affections of the cutaneous kind, with considerable benefit -- deriving from it nearly the same good effects attending the employment of those waters whose mineral impregnation has been sulphur alone in some form.

As an alternative, its claim to merit (independent of its purgative effect) is presumed to depend mainly on the union of the Sulphuretted Hydrogen. In Scrofula, as well as other affections indicating the use of alternatives, much benefit may be expected from the Shannondale water -- if the opinion is well founded that most of them are owing to a diseased condition of the digestive organs, and in the removal of which, mineral waters, of almost all kinds, are fitted to be useful by their immediate action of the lymphatic system.

However long kept up, the use of this water is not attended with that debility that follows even the mildest medicinal preparations; hence its efficacy in removing the languor, want of appetite, nervous irritability (depending on the want of power in the system) incident to females [page 10] under certain circumstances, and which has been often manifested. In those cases, whilst it actively promoted all the secretions, it imparted, at the same time, tone to the stomach, inspired the subjects with their former cheerfulness, and ultimately dissipated the pallid aspect, &c., so characteristic of such affections.

In the condition of the system above alluded to, the warm bath will serve as a very important auxiliary to the water, being well adapted to allay local irritation, as well as give strength to the system. It is generally believed to be a much safer remedy than the cold bath, and more particularly applicable to persons of weak and irritable constitutions, who could not bear the shock produced by cold bathing, in consequence of their not possessing sufficient vigour of circulation to bring about the proper re-action.

If may be safely said, that the whole train of morbid symptoms which generally constitute chronic affections, and having different names, are more or less benefitted by the use of this water. These symptoms are often the effect of irregularity, as well as peculiarity of habit, and are generally connected with constipation of the bowels. The symptoms, usually termed nervous, and which impel so many persons to seek relief from mineral waters, are, according to one of the most distinguished medical writers, so irregular and anomalous, that it is exceedingly difficult to embody them in a connected view, or even to enumerate them; in fact, they imitate with the greatest exactness, the symptoms of almost every other disease; and there are few chronic derangements, whether of function, or structure, with which they are not more or less blended or [page 11] associated. Their principal focus, however, appears to be in the line of the digestive organs, from which they seem to radiate in every direction to the various other organs and tissues throughout the body. Thus (the same writer states) that among the primary and most constant phenomena may be reckoned flatulence in the stomach and bowels; nausea; deficiency, or great irregularity of the appetite; indigestion or nervous craving for food, with rapid digestion, followed by a sense of faintness and emptiness about the stomach -- sometimes pains or cramps of that organ, with a feeling of oppression there; low spirits, anxiety, timidity, strong pulsations occasionally in the abdomen, &c. For the alleviation of these feelings, so inimical to comfort or enjoyment, mineral waters are more likely to prove salutary than most articles of the Materia

Medica, even when directed by skillful physicians. The necessary change of scene that takes place in visiting watering places, the exercise of the body, the abstraction of the mind from the cares attendant on business, the interruption of a uniform train of thought and attention, all certainly co-operate with the beneficial effects of the waters.

With regard to the best time to drink the Shannondale water, morning is considered the most suitable -- drinking it at the springs if practicable. It seems proper here to observe, that the contents of both springs are similar in general; the upper one, however, containing a larger proportion of Sulphuretted Hydrogen than that which is commonly used. Invalids, suffering from calculous complaints, or those affected with dropsical swellings, should drink it at intervals during [page 12] the day, with as much freedom as is consistent with safety. It may also be taken at night by those who are desirous to secure its full effect on the bowels.

The quantity to be taken must depend on the condition of the system -- the state of the stomach -- and the effect of the water on the bowels. -- It is safest to begin with a moderate quantity, and to increase the dose if necessary. It should never be taken in such quantities, however, as to occasion a sense of oppression or weight at the stomach. The continuance of its use should be regulated by the nature of the disease and the effect it has on the system. In obstinate cases, which require a complete alteration of the habit to bring about salutary effects, it should be continued for some time. When the action of the water is slow, which will occasionally happen, much benefit will be derived from the Blue Pill, or (if there are prejudices entertained against mercurials in any shape) the compound Rhubarb Pill. A sense of coldness at the stomach is sometimes felt from drinking the Shannondale waters, -- some mild aromatic or cordial will soon relieve that feeling.

#### SCENERY, &C.

The annexed graphic description of the situation of these Springs, is from the pen of Professor Hall of Maryland, a gentleman of talents and distinction. The sketch, glowing as it is, does not in any respect overrate the attractions of the scenery or the beneficial effects of the water.

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#### SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

Where are they? In Jefferson County, Va. 5 miles from Charlestown -- 13 miles, by the best road, from Harpers-Ferry, situated on a tract of land, of 200 acres, worked into the figure of an ox-bow, or a horse-shoe, by that beautiful stream, the Shenandoah river. A rim of land, of alluvial formation, in some places twenty rods in width, and in others, less than a single rod -- productive as the banks of the Nile -- encompassed the whole bow, except the open part. Back of this border, over which the river, beyond question, anciently

flowed, the grounds rise gradually on the North, to an elevation of four or five hundred feet -- affording the looker-abroad a splendid observatory -- and then descend precipitously to the opposite water. The substratum of the hill, or mountain, is a species of blue transition limestone, on the South side, jutting out, here and there, in ragged, irregular crags of enormous magnitude. The stone is, with comparatively little expense, convertible into lime of the best quality.

How can invalids of the Monument City, get to these Springs? Nothing in the world is easier. Step into an elegant car on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, early in the morning, and you will be transported to Harpers-Ferry before 2 o'clock, 82 miles. Here you will have leisure to breathe and to take a bird's-eye view of those beauties and sublimities of nature, so graphically described by the pen of the philosophic Jefferson. By this time, you will be summoned into the dining-room, where you will find as sumptuous a repast, and as good attendance, as you will meet with at Barnum's or at Page's. After dinner, you get into the cars of the Winchester [page 14] and Potomac Railroad Company, and in three quarters of an hour will reach Charlestown, ten miles. Here, a good Stage will be found in waiting, with a most obliging and careful driver. In this vehicle you proceed to the Ferry, by which you cross the Shenandoah, and are bro't on to the broadest part of the horse-shoe. Moving along the margin of the winding river, your ears are now greeted, for the first time, by its never ceasing murmurs, occasioned by the passage of the flood over the numberless rocks which oppose its progress. A few yards from the path, you see the health-giving fountain, whose waters incessantly bubble up from the waters beneath, and are surrounded by a circular block of sandstone. In three minutes more you alight at your lodgings. The whole journey is performed in a single day, and with very little fatigue.

As you descend towards the Ferry, you see on the Northern side of the hill, and near its base, a long two-story brick edifice, made snow white by lime, and back of it, farther up the hill, a dozen or more small dwellings, mostly of wood, and now in good repair. Back of these, and withdrawn a few rods from them, stand two one-story brick lodgments, separated each into four small convenient apartments. These are the best private rooms belonging to the concern, and are preferred by those who love and seek retirement. The upper stories of the long edifice are divided into twenty-five lodging rooms. The dining room, in the first story, is 80 feet long and 30 wide. In this spacious apartment, the light-footed nymphs and joy-seeking swains often mingle in the giddy dance. The buildings are neatly finished. Comfort is consulted.

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Can visitors find any amusements? Yes, many -- such as may accord with their taste. Are you a pedestrian? You have an agreeable promenade of a mile on the banks of a stream about as wide, but not so deep, as the Thames at London, but far more beautiful. Are you an angler? The home of the perch, the sucker and the eel, is the Shenandoah; -- a boat and fishing apparatus are prepared, and a

colored man ever ready to attend you. Are you fond of hunting? Four or five fowling pieces are now standing in one of the rooms for your use? Do you like excursions on the water? A skiff is at hand -- you can go down the river in it to Harpers-Ferry in the evening, and row back in the morning. Are you a mineralogist or geologist? Gratifying ambulations may be made for examining the structure of rocks, and the collecting of specimens. "I have not strength," you may say, "to perform these excursions." Then you can sit in your apartments, and amuse yourself in looking at the long rafts of lumber which are continually passing, and boats freighted with flour, some destined to the city of power, but more for the city of shot towers, and steamboats, and fine hotels. Backgammon, checker and puzzle boards, are at your call. Do you wish for the society of well educated gentlemen and ladies? No where in this country, or perhaps in the world, do you meet with better informed or more polished people, than very many of those who reside within the compass of six miles around Shannondale.

What is the appearance of the country around the Springs? I have seldom seen such scenery; so beautiful, so varied, so romantic. I have visited the medicinal fountains of Bath and [page 16] Bristol, in England, and often those of Saratoga and Ballston, in New York, and can safely affirm, that the prospect around none of these celebrated places, is, by any means, so delightful, so charming, as that around Shannondale Springs. Your view on the East, is limited by the long range of the mountains, called the Blue Ridge; on the North a huge rock of lime-stone, with wonderfully contorted strata, stares you in the face; on the North West and West, you have before you a broad range of hill and dale, of country seats and farm houses, of pastures and fields and forests; on the South, you trace the rich valley of the Shenandoah, as far as vision can reach. -- Nearer, you behold the river, lined on both sides by lofty umbrageous sycamores, of natural growth, winding its current around the oxbow, and passing off in its serpentine course to unite with the waters of the mightier Potomac.

When I went to the Springs, I was afflicted with a rheumatic affection in my right arm, a total loss of appetite, a costive habit, and a fever, which visited me every night, producing great exhaustion and debility. Eight or nine tumblers of water, taken in different parts of the day, shortly occasioned regular and frequent evacuations, recalled an excellent appetite, and subdued the fever and rheumatism. Indeed, at the close of the short period of six days, all my complaints had taken wing and departed.

If there are, in this great city, and unfortunate individuals, similarly afflicted -- and doubtless there are hundreds -- I hope they will make the same experiment that I have done, and experience the same happy result.

A BALTIMOREAN.



