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.61

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!62

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, 1877.63

By 1883, Shannondale Springs appears to have dwindled to only eight cottages (Figure 10). 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.64

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 1888.65

Figure 10. Portion of S. Howell Brown's 1883 map of Jefferson County.
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. 66 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. 67

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. 68

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.” 69

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. 70 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.” 71 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.

Figures 11 through 15 illustrate the Shannondale Springs property during the 1890’s. (Additional views are presented in Appendix A.)

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.”

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.

Figure 11. Nine women seated on grass on north side of Shannondal Springs Hotel (facing river), ca. 1895. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum.
Figure 12. Two double brick cottages (right) and a smaller structure (left) at on the crest of the hill at Shannondale Springs (ca. 1895). The buildings on the right were known as the "Presidential Cottages" and probably date from the 1830's, when several Presidents were said to have used the site as an escape from the insufferable summers in Washington. Original photo in Jefferson County Museum.
Figure 13. Large gathering of young people (ca. 1895) sitting in front of one of the springs at Shannondale Springs. One of the brick cottages is visible on the upper right. Original photo in Jefferson County Museu
Figure 14. View from ferryboat crossing Shenandoah River at Shannondale Springs (ca. 1894). A black man on right is holding the rudder (?). A carriage wheel is visible on the left. Original photo in Jefferson County Museum.
Figure 15. "Putting them up." Tents at Shannondale Springs, ca. 1895. Original photo in Jefferson County Museum.
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.

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. (See Figures 16 and 17. The prospectus contained a panoramic view of the Springs, which appears on the cover page of this article.) 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.5 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

Figure 16. Shannondale Springs Hotel, uphill side, ca. 1913? Note the addition on the left side and the shed roofed addition visible on the right rear. Courtesy of the Jefferson County Museum.

Figure 17. North front of Hotel facing River. From Getzendanner's "Shannondale Springs" prospectus, ca. 1905.
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. 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.

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 conducted under the auspices of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission. 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 (Figure 18) 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 (Figure 19). 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.”

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 riffs 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.” (See Figure 20.) 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.
Figure 18. The largest mineral spring and lawn to west of hotel. From Getzendanner's "Shannondale Springs" prospectus, ca. 1905.

Figure 19. The two mineral springs and lawn sloping from Hotel to River. The two mineral springs and lawn sloping from Hotel to River. From Getzendanner's "Shannondale Springs" prospectus, ca. 1905.
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.  

The Getzendanner family lived in Charles Town and frequently visited the Springs for business and pleasure (Figure 21).
Figure 21. Ferry at Shannondale Springs. William Morgan helping ferryman pole boat with buggy across river. In buggy: Margaret Getzendanner, Florence Morgan, and Marie Morgan, 1912.
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.” 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 was in her possession when she was interviewed by the author.

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.

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. 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 alleged that he had transferred the Shannondale Springs farm to his wife last fall to the detriment of his creditors.

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 (Figure 22). 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 Fryes 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.

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, neurosthenia, and constipation.

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.”

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

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. 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. 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 (Figures 23 and 24). 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. (Photos taken during the survey appear in Appendix A.)

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.

Figure 23. Shannondale Springs. Bath house, west side, before restoration, 1996. Photographer, Bill Hartgroves.

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.


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 mortage 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 Keeptryste 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 Keeptryste Furnace. If they weren’t needed at the Ferry they might be valued and sold.”


10. Description of Ferdinando Fairfax’s Shannondale Iron Estate, with A Plan of a Company for Improving the Same, pp. 7-8.


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

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 (CO3), 275.8; Sulfate (SO4), 2625.5; and Chloride (Cl), 55.9.


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.


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.)


25. *Virginia Free Press*, July 5, 1838. James Monroe may have heard of Shannondale from Nathaniel Craighill, who then lived on the Shenanodah 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 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...”

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).


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.


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. However, the first hotel was built of brick and the second was a wood frame structure. 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.


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.”


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.


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.


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, reader 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.


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.


69. *Virginia Free Press*, June 25, 1890; July 2, 1980; July 9, 1890.

70. *Virginia Free Press*, June 18, 1890.


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.


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.


82. William D. Theriault, Interview with Virginia Koonce Cosy, March 5, 1997.


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].


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. .....


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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