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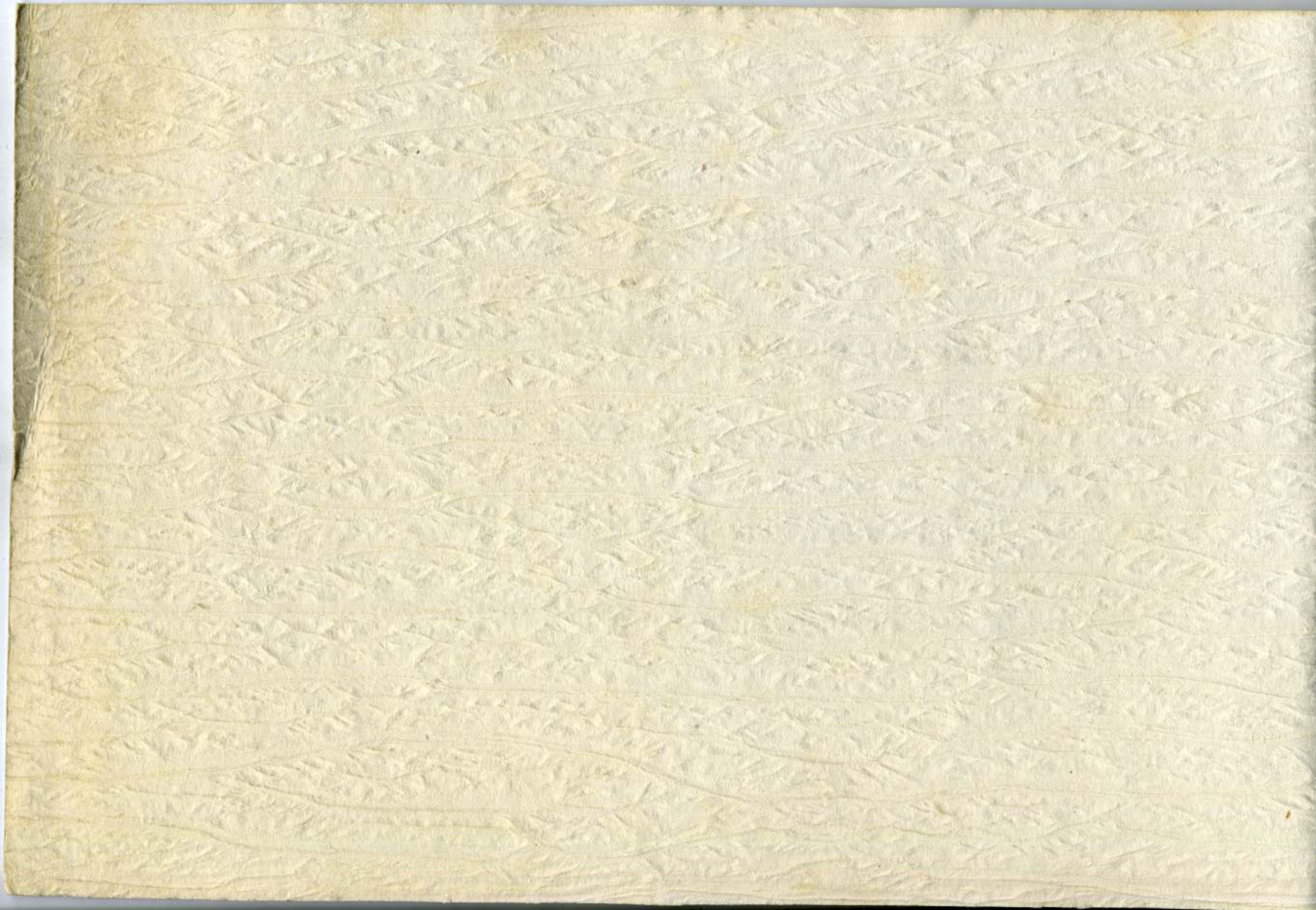
HISTORIC

Shepherdstown and Jefferson County

A DESCRIPTIVE ITINERARY

Wednesday, September 13th, 1922

Presented by the Woman's Club of Shepherdstown District

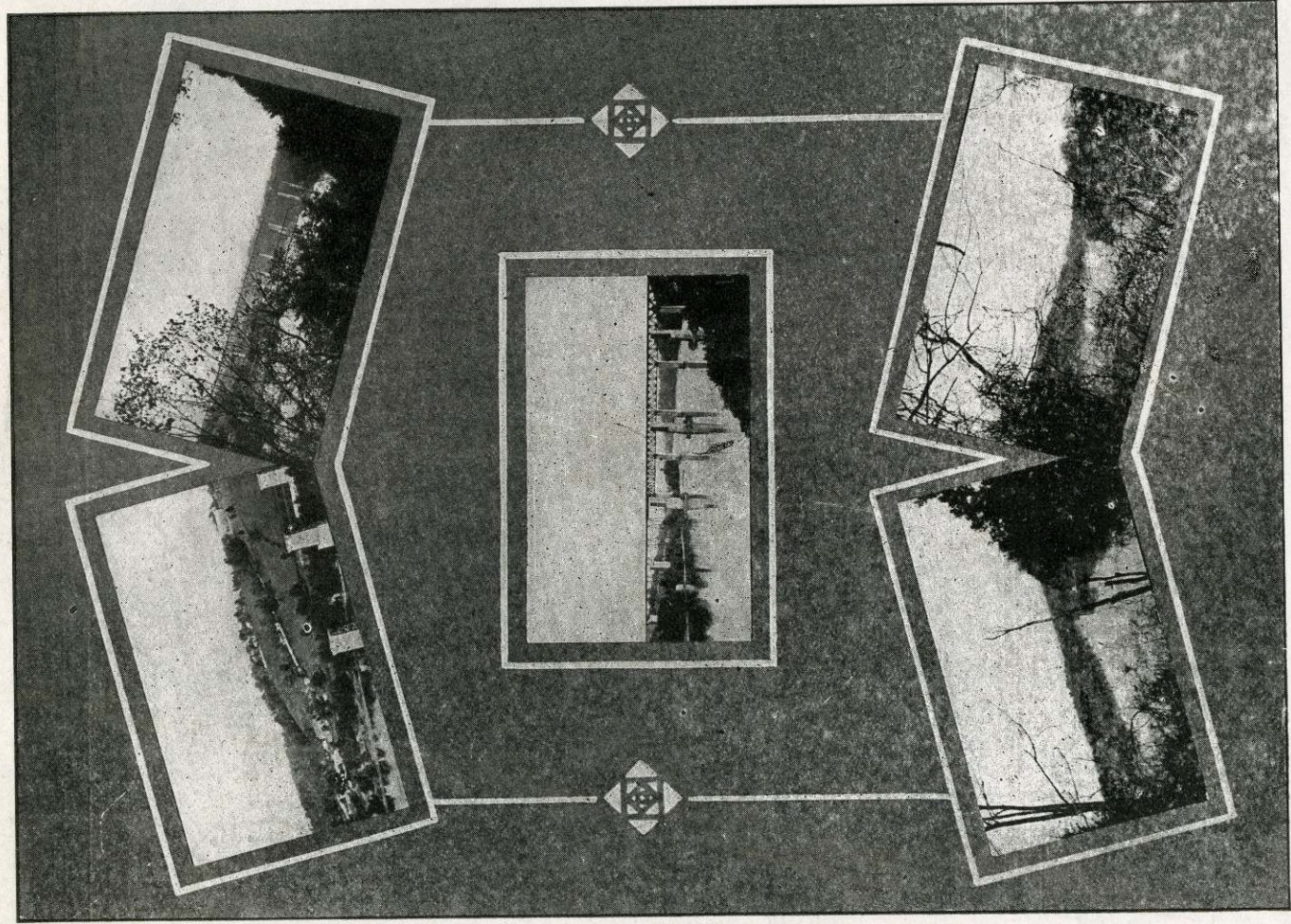


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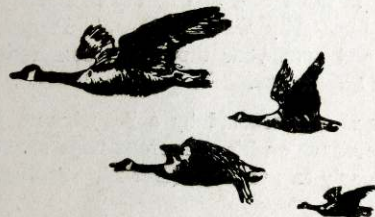
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|---------------|----|----------------|
| Shepherdstown | to | Kearneysville |
| Kearneysville | to | Leetown |
| Leetown | to | Middleway |
| Middleway | to | Charles Town |
| Charles Town | to | Harper's Ferry |



ALONG THE POTOMAC NEAR SHEPHERDSTOWN

SHEPHERDSTOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS

SHEPHERDSTOWN. The antiquated borough of Shepherdstown is situated in the lower end of the world-famed Shenandoah Valley. A view of the place from an airplane would present a blurry picture of reds, grays and browns punctured by numerous church spires and lightened by many a classic column. The Old World aspect of Shepherdstown's Main street is at once noted by the observant visitor. Most of these houses were built by German settlers and their descendants, home seekers who were driven from Europe when the Palatinate was sacked in 1620. Old leaded glass doorways and fanlights, quaint dormers whose glazing catches and holds the rays of the setting sun, doors adorned with huge old-fashioned locks and keys and hinges are found here, and one gets an occasional glimpse of beautiful panel work or graceful mantel through the small old-fashioned windows.



ON THE WAY

Shepherdstown was founded in 1727, and is the oldest settlement in the Valley and the oldest in West Virginia. All the traditions and glamour that song and story hold in store for the visitor to the Shenandoah Valley centre here in the "orchards, the gardens, and flowery places," where farming is a science and horticulture a fine art. From the time a select company including General Washington gathered on the cliffs to watch James Rumsey's boat stem the tide to the present day when the State Federation of Women's Clubs is meeting here, Shepherdstown has preserved and treasured her reputation for hospitality and encouragement of all that is altruistic and uplifting.

RUMSEY. Starting out the Winchester pike, at the corner of New and Duke streets, is the house once occupied by James Rumsey, inventor of the steamboat. Rumsey died in poverty before his engine was perfected. His ideas were seized upon by others and carried out to an extent then undreamed of. The old copper boiler he used could be seen in an out-building of an adjacent farm until recently, when it was taken to the State museum. The State and the Rumseyan Society have recently erected the graceful monument on the river cliff to the memory of the inventor.

ROSE BRAKE. Passing on from Rumsey's house about one half mile, Rose Brake, the home of the late Danske Dandridge, poet and nature writer, is seen on the left of the road. This is just on the edge of town and leaving the environs.

MORGAN'S SPRING, still to the left appears. The ancient house stands near the spring, and was built in Colonial times. From here started companies of soldiers to three wars, Revolutionary, Mexican, and Civil. The large mansion, Crawford Hall, was built in 1839.



FOUNTAIN ROCK

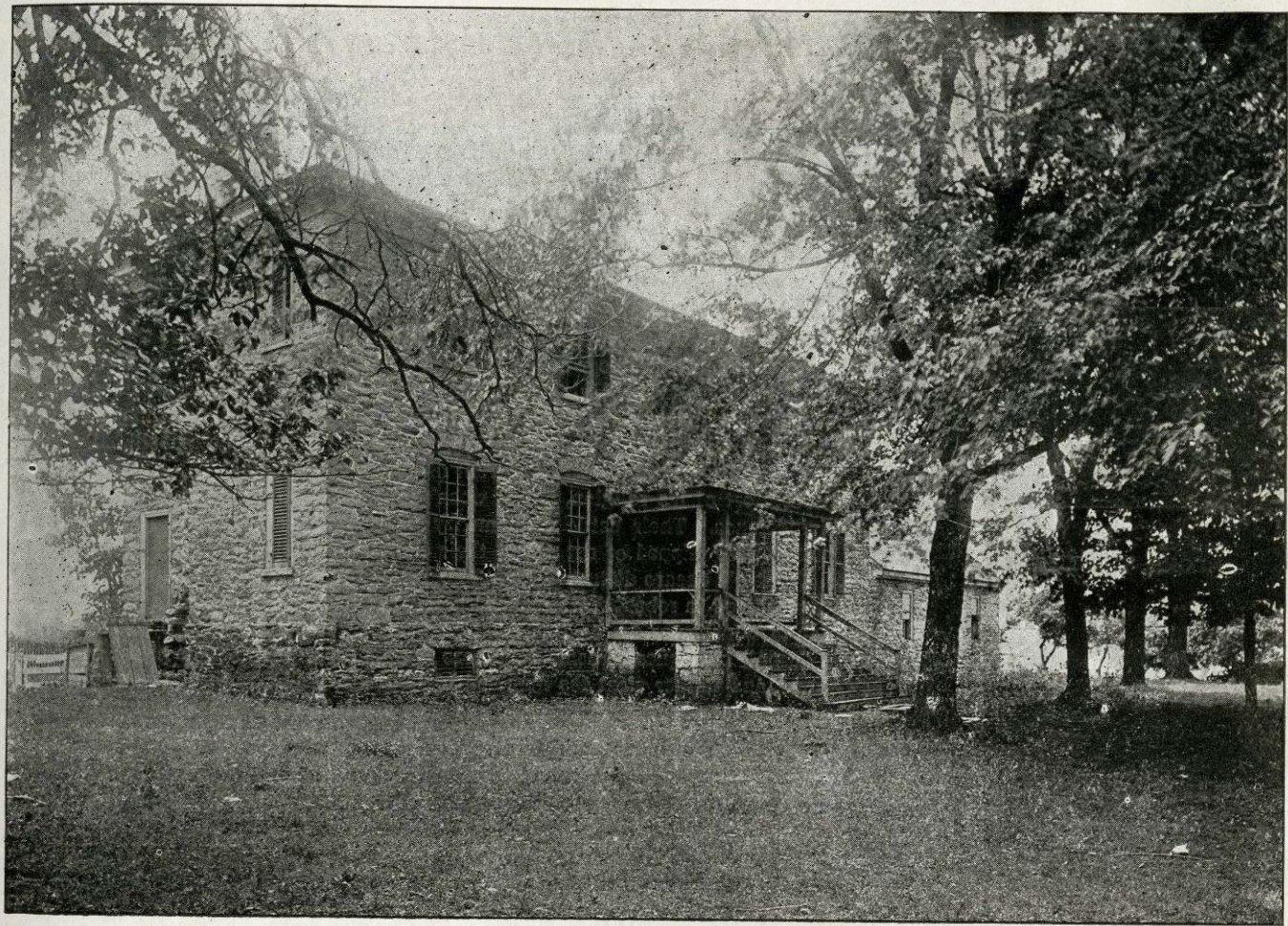
FOUNTAIN ROCK. Burned by order of General David Hunter, on July 19th, 1864. This was the Boteler family home. Colonel Boteler was a member of the Confederate Congress and was then in Richmond, leaving only Miss Helen Boteler and her sister, Mrs. Shepherd, at home at the time. Everything was put to the torch, and as the flames were roaring, Miss Helen sat down to her piano and sang, "Thy will be done." Fountain Rock is now the property of the Fair Association, and each year the whole community gathers here for a few pleasant days the first week in September.

ROCKLAND. This place dates back to 1812, and was erected by a Frenchman, M. Verdier, who became a friend of a Shepherdstown merchant on his numerous trips abroad in search of fine raiment for the ladies who made a yearly trip to Bath (Berkeley Springs) through Shepherdstown.

KEARNEYSVILLE is the first village reached. On the main line of the Baltimore & Ohio, it lies in the heart of immense orchards and farm lands. Great stone quarries are in operation here also.

TRAVELER'S REST, built and occupied by Major-General Horatio Gates, of the American Revolution, is a long, low building to the right, a mile beyond Kearneysville. It probably looks today much as it did of old, and is a quaint and curious old place full of secret passages and mysterious cupboards.

LEETOWN. This quaint little hamlet, encircled by a brook that seems to run uphill to the old mill, was the home of General Charles Lee of notorious reputation. Second in command to Washington during the first part of the American Revolution, he was a grim, eager, brimstone fellow. He was first suspended, and finally after writing a disrespect-



HAREWOOD

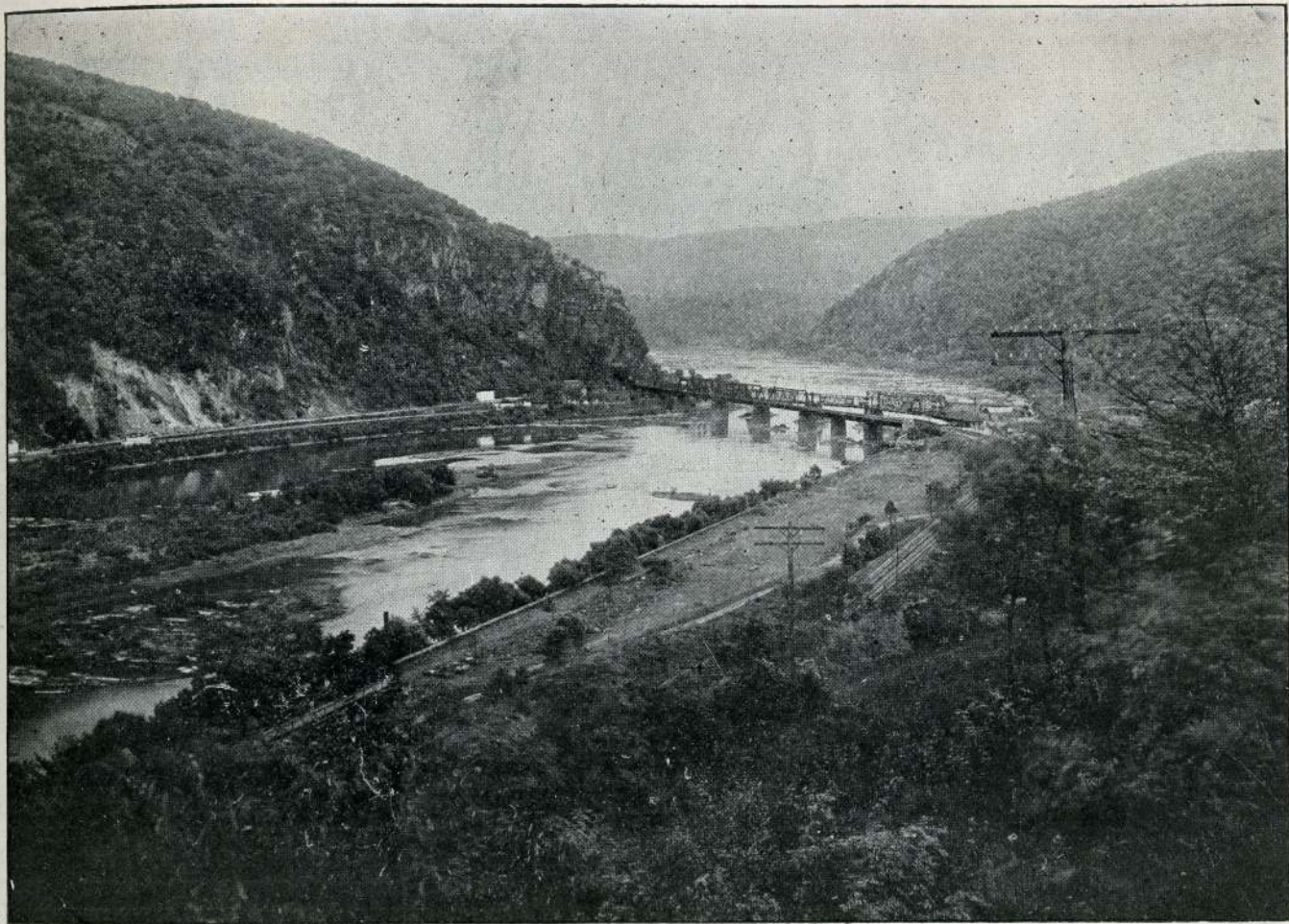
ful letter to Congress was dismissed from the army for his insubordination and disregard of orders. He then retired to his plantation in Virginia, where he lived in the ancient house of one large room with his dogs and slaves. This house stands on the right of the way just beyond the town.

His will is a document unique in its biting sarcasm. He says: "I desire that my body not be interred within a mile of any Presbyterian or Anabaptist meeting house or any church or church yard, as I have since coming to this country kept such bad company among the living that I desire to be free from it when dead." The will is preserved in the Berkeley county court-house at Martinsburg. His original estate consisted of three thousand acres, through which the road winds with the most enchanting views of the Opequon Valley toward the west.

WIZARD'S CLIP, OR MIDDLEWAY. The description of the route through Jefferson county would be incomplete with no mention of this well-known spook, from which the town gets its name. The Livingstone family emigrated from Pennsylvania along in the late seventeen hundreds and settled in the vicinity. One night a stranger desired admittance. He was taken in rather grudgingly and in the night became ill. Desiring the presence of a priest, he met with a torrent of abuse and threats. The stranger died without the comfort of his religion, and it wasn't long before bad luck came and stayed with the Livingstones. Their cattle died, money disappeared, crops failed, and finally great half moons were clipped or cut out of their clothing, carpet and almost everything. The sound of ghostly shears disturbed their dreams, and one night Mr. Livingstone seemed to see a figure, clad in robes, that promised help. He tried to interpret the dream, and went next day to Winchester for an Episcopal clergyman. But the clippings continued, and at last in despair he requested some neighbors to send for a priest. The priest was in Shepherdstown, and thither went the humbled Livingstone, ready to do almost anything. The priest came and exorcised the demon, and they say it is only occasionally that he breaks over and clips a few tiny half moons just for remembrance. The relieved family gave to the Roman Catholics a field known to this day as "Priest's Field," and within the present year there has been litigation over the ownership, as the trusteeship had lapsed, and the court confirmed the church's claim. Clip is almost untouched by time, and "far from the madding crowd," it looks like the last place any reasonable demon would pick on. The quaint old tavern by the right as the road turns toward Charles Town, no doubt, in the heyday of its youth saw many a gay revel.



ALONG THE CANAL



HARPER'S FERRY

HAREWOOD. Home of Samuel Washington, brother of George, and was built between 1763 and 1773, some years probably elapsing before its completion. The house is of native stone and unspoiled by restoration or additions. The panel work of the great staircase and drawing room was imported from England. The porphyry mantel was a gift of La Fayette, who often visited here. This drawing room was the scene of Dolly Payne Todd's marriage to James Madison. Steptoe Washington married a sister, Lucy Payne, whose portrait is seen between the windows. Also a portrait of one of the five wives of Samuel Washington hangs in this stately room. Harewood is still in the possession of the Washington family.



ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL a mile beyond Harewood is a noble ruin of massive stone walls. Undoubtedly the first church west of the mountains, its date of building and history are lost in the mists of time. Quite natural it is that such a ruin with its associations of olden days, should have shuddering tales related of the old grave yard encircling the building. In the days when great coaches with outriders carried the family to church, there lived in the neighborhood a beautiful young maid, so lovely that she resembled some enchanted princess of romance. Among her suitors were two who were in strong contrast. One, young Ferdinand, while not exactly handsome, yet possessed that indescribable something that charms and wins through where mere looks fail. The other, Charles, was dark, proud, and haughty. Both had large estates, horses, dogs in plenty, and both loved the beautiful maiden to distraction. No one knew which would win her. If on a Sunday she rode away from church with one, that week it was noticed she favored the other at the dance. At last both asked the honor of carrying her to church the same day, Ferdinand on his milk-white steed and Charles in his gig with the blooded bays. By a clever trick Ferdinand sent his invitation to the maiden concealed in a nosegay, the messenger none other than poor unwitting Charles. The maid, delighted with this novel means of gaining her favor, decided to herself on the milk-white steed. Neither lover knew which would be the lucky one, and both prepared.

Ferdinand called his body servant, and bade him to get the two horseboys Dogberry and Tantem to wash down with many tubs of warm water the milk-white steeds. Then Ferdinand took a "a bran clean hankercher" and rubbed hard on each horse. Satisfied that no "sile" was there, he ordered six bottles of cologne water brought from the house and poured this libation over the horses. Finally a great silver mounted ladies'



JEFFERSON'S ROCK



COURT HOUSE AT CHARLES TOWN

saddle was brought and with himself on one of the white horses and the black servant leading the other, the two outriders accompanying, they set forth. Ferdinand's costume as described by the old darkey was "a cock and pink hat, sky-blue coat of broadcloth, white satin waistcoat spangled with gold, black velvet shorts with large diamond set knee buckles, and pink silk stockings."

He wore for the occasion riding boots and silver spurs. No wonder, was it, that the lady was overwhelmed with all this and bade Charles adieu, as she laughingly rode off with Ferdinand from her portal where both had arrived at the same moment. After escorting the fair one to her seat in church Ferdinand joined a group of young men in the church yard. Among them was Charles. The two withdrew and were seen to talk together earnestly. Next day the rivals met on the same spot. Ferdinand had brought to the rencontre a pair of rapiers. And there they settled their differences in the fashion of the day. Ferdinand fell, run through the body, and died in the old church the next day. He was buried on the very same spot. The old flat tomb has become so covered with moss and lichen that it is indecipherable, but a well-trodden path runs from here to the spot where once was a gate in the wall, and one end of the tomb is smooth as if some one knelt there. A tall vision in black has been seen by a favored few, and one must believe that it is the beauteous maiden keeping a long, long vigil at her lover's grave.

CLAYMONT COURT, was built by Bushrod Washington about 1820. The original house was burned, and the present mansion erected a little later. Claymont is considered one of the finest places of its kind, and has many unusual and interesting features. It was owned and occupied by Frank R. Stockton some years ago.

Two other estates of the Washington family are adjoining, Blakely, built by John Augustine Washington, and Mordington. The first Mordington, then called "Happy Retreat," was built by General Washington's youngest brother, Charles, for whom Charles Town, the county seat of Jefferson county, was named.

CHARLES TOWN is interesting historically from the old Washington families who founded the place about the beginning of the nineteenth century or earlier. It contains also many mementoes of the Civil War. Charles Washington lived here about 1780. He gave the four lots that form the four corners of the public square. On one of these corners is the old court-house, scene of John Brown's trial. Here Brown was tried and found guilty. The records and a copy of his will are here preserved. CHARLES TOWN



A COUNTRY ROAD

INN, a lovely old place kept by Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe, is the hospitable spot chosen by the Charles Town Club to receive the delegates.

The route from Charles Town towards Harper's Ferry passes out Washington street and Hunter's Hill, the horse show grounds being on the left. Near Halltown is Rion Hall, home of the late Daniel Bedinger Lucas, poet, lawyer and jurist.

The first ridge that brings us in sight of the gap at Harper's Ferry is called Allstadt's Mountain. The view of Loudoun Heights on the right, Maryland Heights to the left and the juncture of the two rivers is perfect. On Bolivar Heights are the lovely summer homes of prominent Washington people, and farther on the way lies past the new high school building, the home of the Harper's Ferry Woman's Club.

HARPER'S FERRY. In 1763 the town of Harper's Ferry was incorporated by the General Assembly of Virginia. Named for Robert Harper, an English architect, who settled here in 1747, its wonderful scenic beauty is matched by its historical importance. First in interest is the John Brown Fort. This small brick building now stands on the campus at Storer College, a school for colored youth on Camp Hill. The original site is denoted by markers near the railroad station.

JEFFERSON'S ROCK. Thomas Jefferson said of the view from this rock that it was worth a trip half round the world. The rock is on the south slope of Cemetery Hill.

At the beautifully located Newcomer home the delegates will be entertained at supper by the Woman's Club of Harper's Ferry district.

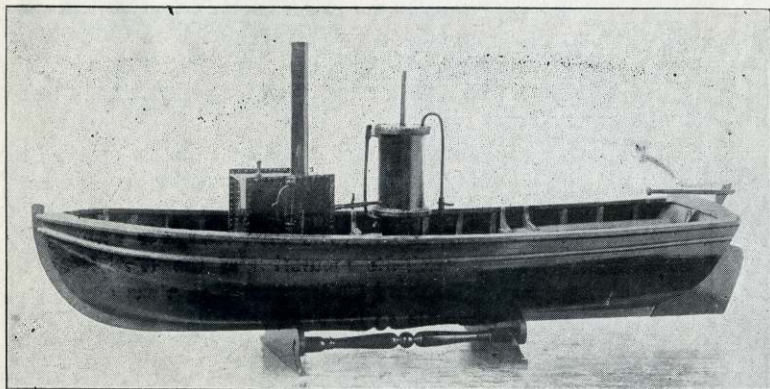
Many of Jefferson county's interesting landmarks and noted spots are in parts of the county not on the route. The old burying ground near Duffields, containing the graves of the earliest settlers, one dated 1682; numbers of Colonial and historic places, and others of later date—The Bower, the Lower Farm, Woodberry, Shannon Hall, the recently demolished Cement Mill at Pack Horse Ford, with its memories of the Civil War, the Harper house, are only a few out of many. Shepherd College, meeting place of the convention, has a history as venerable and respectable as its work is now useful and inspiring to the whole Eastern Panhandle.

The part played by the people of this section during the Civil War is too well known to repeat. Only a stone's throw from Antietam, where was fought the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, first one and then the other side gained possession of a valley that finally was clean swept of all supplies for home or army. Scenes of engagements or skirmishes

are marked throughout the county by monuments erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

One of the largest fruit growing sections of the United States, the orchards are not only a dream of beauty but extremely profitable. Dairying and farming also form the largest sources of income. The route from beginning to end leads through these fine limestone lands and orchards, and it is with pride that the Woman's Club of Shepherdstown District welcomes the visitors from other sections of the State and introduces them to the attractions of Jefferson county.

A. W. S.



RUMSEY'S BOAT

