

Colonial Springs Revisited

Mike Bertram

Subsequent to the publication of the article on Colonial Springs in the *Quarterly* Vol. 47, No. 3 (October 2010), I received a message from Michael Morrison. He had found an article/advertisement for the Colonial Spring Company in an old book. The book is *Valley Forge – A Chronicle of American Heroism*, by Frank H. Taylor, published by James W. Nagle, Philadelphia, 1905. The book has been digitized by Google and is available at books.google.com. The article is reprinted below, and also provides the content of this issue's *Then ... and Now* feature.



The Colonial Spring at Valley Forge

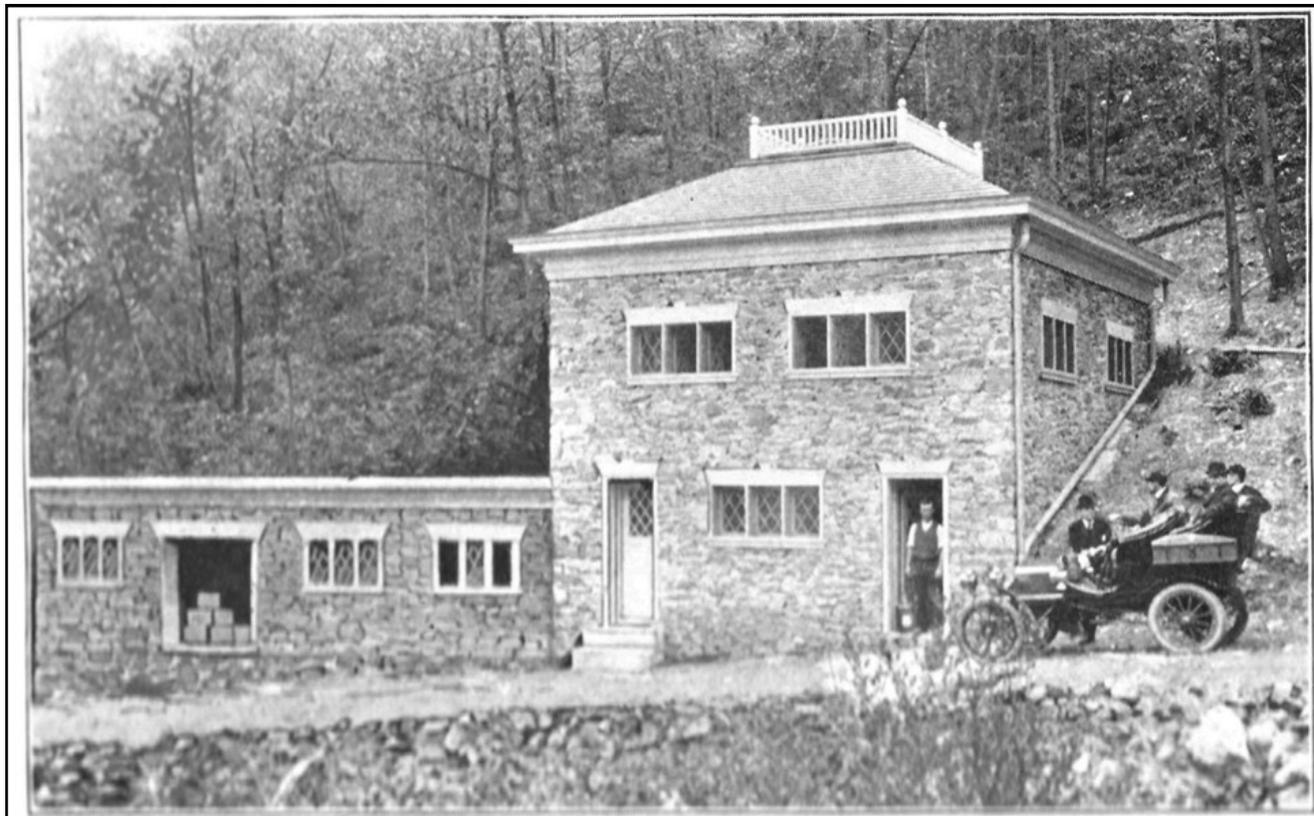
In the storied days following the Revolution, the correct thing in select and fashionable society was a journey and a sojourn at the famous springs of the Schuylkill Valley, and many a stately coach rumbled over the rough roads leading through the Chester County woods, bearing worthies to these havens of health from the pleasures of the town.

As early as 1809 the pollution of the Schuylkill River was a matter of complaint, and those who lived within reach of the lusty springs, which their clear waters unfettered into the river, were deemed fortunate.

Far up on the western hill slope above the Valley Forge stream, one of the finest of these pure fountains has long gushed forth from the rocks, and close by, in those far away days, the historic Slab Tavern gave rude entertainment to those who came here for the undoubted benefit of the water.

This beautiful Spring may be reached conveniently from Valley Forge Station. It has been enclosed within a fine stone building, whence it is conveyed by glass pipes to a bottling house, from which it is sent under conditions of absolute purity in large quantities to the city of Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Being within a brief walk of the village of Valley Forge, it is well worth visiting, especially as its site commands a splendid view of the surrounding country. The water may be had free of charge by all visitors.



The Spring House and Bottling Plant of Colonial Spring.

The large tract of land surrounding and above the Colonial Spring and rising to an elevation of more than six hundred feet, is controlled by the Colonial Spring Co., and is entirely primeval in its condition. The Spring flows directly from a stratum of the limeless Potsdam Sandstone.



The Primeval Hills above Colonial Spring.

Repeated analyses by well-known chemists prove this water to be absolutely pure. It is rapidly gaining favor in Philadelphia homes, where it is being served in sterilized and sealed bottles and demi-johns at a moderate price. It is the water one can always be sure of.

THE COLONIAL SPRING CO.
258 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa