

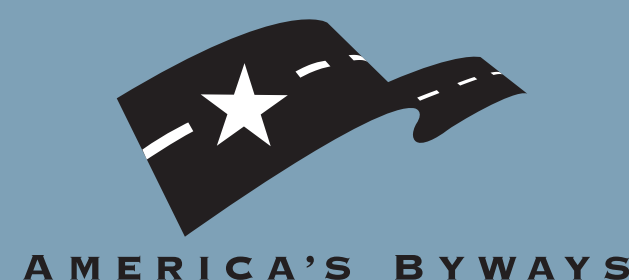
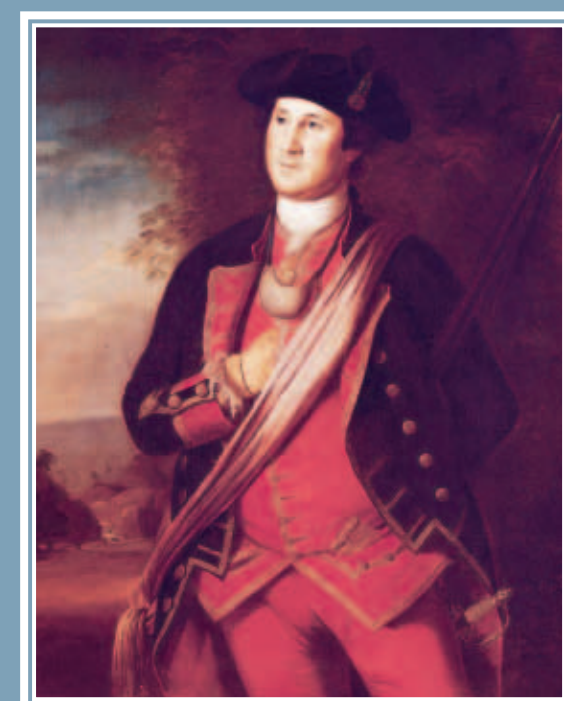
Washington Heritage Trail

The Washington Heritage Trail in West Virginia



The Washington Heritage Trail is a 136-mile national scenic byway inspired by the prominent footsteps of George Washington through the three historic counties of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Compelling history, spectacular scenery, geologic wonders, recreation and year 'round activities and festivals are highlighted by 45 historical sites. The trail meanders across mountains and rivers, through forests, farms and orchards as it connects five 18th century towns that remain the center of life today and offer comfortable lodging, unique shopping and fine dining. More information on attractions and services throughout the area is available at each town's Visitor Center.

www.washingtonheritagetrail.com



Center of Hospitality

For more than 200 years, the area bordering the park and springs on which the Country Inn stands, has been the historic spa town's center of hospitality.

In September 1784, George Washington stayed at Sign of the Liberty Pole and Flag located just south of today's inn. There, the nation's most famous man met inventor and sawmill owner, James Rumsey, who demonstrated his mechanical boat to Washington.

One of the ten lots occupied by the Country Inn was owned by James Smith, Signer of the Declaration of Independence from Pennsylvania; another by General Horatio Gates who witnessed Rumsey's successful public steamboat trial in Shepherdstown in 1787.

In the prosperous decades before the Civil War, the Strother family built the elaborate Berkeley Springs Hotel facing onto the park. Soon after, President James K. Polk stayed there. When Confederate General Stonewall Jackson spent two days in January 1862 shelling Hancock, Maryland, he quartered his men and horses in the grand hotel; the Strothers were well-known Union supporters.

Famous for its dress balls and band music, the Berkeley Springs Hotel continued as a mainstay of the resort town until March 1898 when it burned. After three decades of rumors and false starts by various investors, the local Harmison family built the current center section in 1933 as the Park View Inn. It became so popular, two wings were added in 1937 and more famous guests came to stay. New owners in 1972 named it The Country Inn, a name the current owners restored.

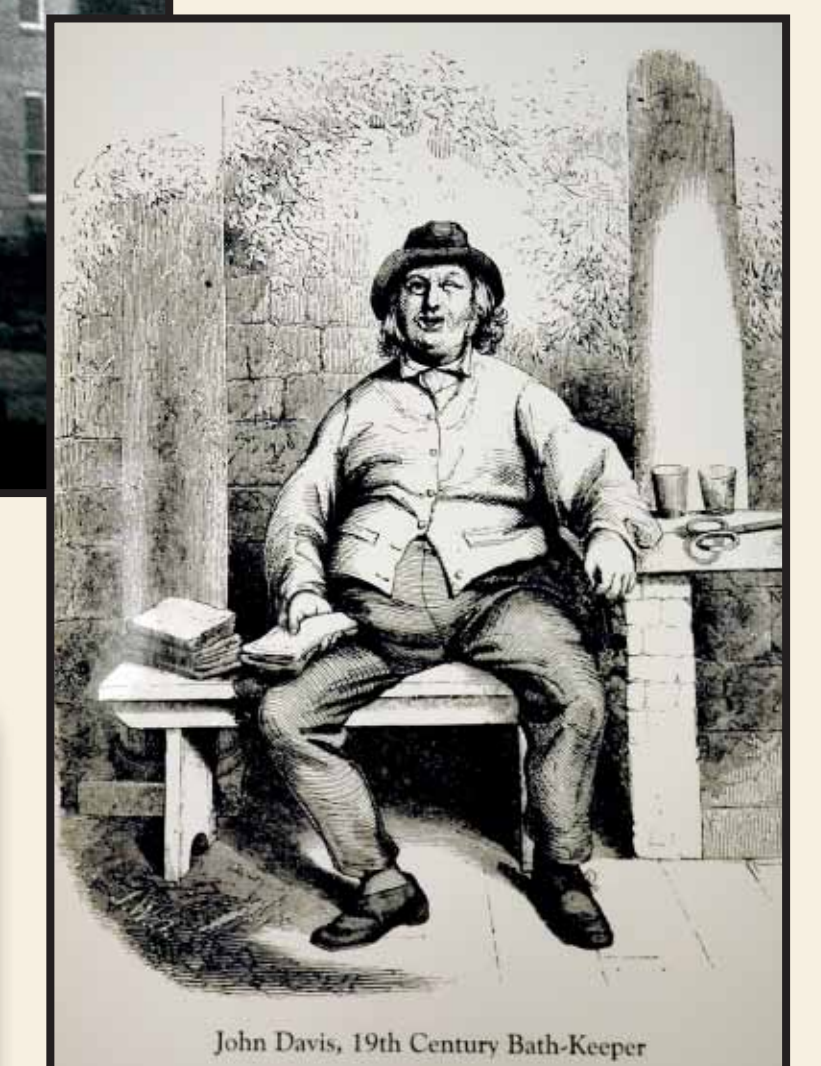
The tiny lodging place known as Bath Cottage, south of the Inn, was built in the 1990s on the foundation of the cabin where 19th century bathkeeper, John Davis, was born and lived. Behind the Inn are two lots that once held prominent 19th century cottages.



19th century Berkeley Springs Hotel – destroyed by fire 1898



Park View Inn – 1933



John Davis, 19th century bath keeper sketched by Porte Crayon.

To the PUBLIC.
 WARM SPRINGS at BATH, in Berkeley county, Virginia, June 13, 1784.
James Rumsey & Robert Throgmorton,
PROPOSE opening a very commodious BOARDING HOUSE, for the residence of ladies and gentlemen, who may honour the BATH, at the sign of the LIBERTY-POLE and FLAG. Every possible attention will be paid, to render the situation of those who honor them with their commands, perfectly agreeable.
 From the *Virginia Gazette*, 1784. Reprinted at Fort New Salem.

Ad for Throgmorton Inn