

## Program Report: ASI-MSA Day at Kay Reglein's Deep Creek Lake Cabin

In the words of our own Connie Binder, "I am still blown away by Kay's generosity, and I cannot imagine better company for a weekend away." This statement sums up the great experience six MSA members had August 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 courtesy of Kay Reglein.



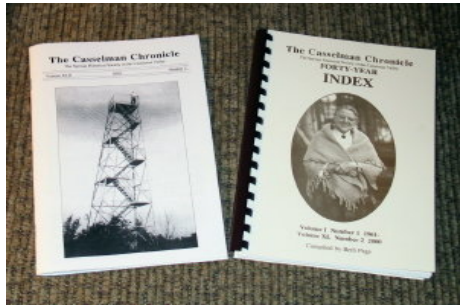
Beginning with Kay's careful driving directions from both the Maryland and Northern Virginia suburbs (complete with interesting rest stops and waypoints) to a thoughtfully planned program of activities, Kay's hospitality and attention to detail was evident throughout. The result was a weekend full of history, crafts, quilts, shopping, hiking, mountain scenery and camaraderie so enjoyable we began to refer to it as an "Indexers' Retreat."

First on the agenda was a visit to the Springs Museum and Farmer's Market located in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Somerset County is the home of an Old Order Amish Settlement originating in 1767. The present-day Amish and Mennonite communities were well represented at the farmer's market, offering fresh vegetables and homemade baked goods. The nearby Springs Museum has acted as the guardian of local history of since 1957. It's 2-story building and annex houses an impressive array of historical artifacts and displays. In keeping with its mission to revive pioneer arts and crafts, the Society also presents the Springs Folk Festival the first weekend of October each year, where 120 demonstrators bring history to life through craft demonstrations. After a quick stop at the landmark Springs Store for potato doughnuts and yogurt cheese, we made our way to Penn Alps restaurant for lunch.



Our program speaker was Harriet Berg, a representative of the Historical Society. She gave us a brief history of Penn Alps and its founder, Alta Schrock. Originally organized as a marketing tool to provide an outlet for the area craftspeople, it has grown into a cultural center which showcases and preserves the area's arts and crafts, music, and history. Situated at Little Crossings, in Grantsville, Maryland, Penn Alps

Restaurant and Craft Shop are housed in an original log hospitality house on the National Pike. Nearby is a gristmill built in 1797 and an historic stone arch bridge over the Casselman River (the longest single span of stone in America when built in 1813). Three of its six dining rooms were once part of the log stagecoach stop, Little Crossings Inn. The largest handicraft shop in the area is housed within the restaurant and is still run by the nonprofit organization.



Of special interest to indexers was Harriet's discussion of the *Casselman Chronicles*, an historical journal first printed in 1961. The *Chronicle* tells the stories of the people, places, and events of the Casselman Valley, which includes southern Somerset County, PA and northern Garrett County, MD. The Historical Society offers back issues of the *Chronicle* for purchase and in an effort to make the journal more accessible to historians and genealogists,

Harriet's daughter Beth developed an index. Using a spreadsheet application and without formal training in indexing, Beth was able to produce both a 40-year and a 7-year supplemental index that includes names, places and events during the years 1961 through 2007. In preparation for internet marketing and the *Chronicle's* 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Historical Society is interested in undertaking the development of a professional index. Some of the indexers present at the luncheon agreed to meet again in October to discuss the project.

After lunch, we were able to tour Spruce Forest Artisan Village, a collection of 12 historical log and frame structures, two of which date to the Revolutionary War Period. We saw artisans working in various media such as bird carving, hand-loom weaving, hand-thrown pottery, and hand-forged iron. Also produced in the village are stained glass art, hand-crafted teddy bears, and hand-crafted natural soaps.



Indexing was never far from our thoughts as we relaxed on Kay's deck and chatted over dinner Saturday evening. We wrapped up the weekend on Sunday with a hike to Swallow Falls on the Youghiogheny River and Muddy Creek Falls in Maryland.

Special thanks to Kay and the MSA program committee for a great weekend!

Connie Binder, Judy McConville,  
Jonatha Johnson, Kay Reglein and  
Nancy Guenther relax on Kay's deck.  
(Missing from the photo is Pilar  
Wyman.)

Judith McConville  
Allegheny Writing & Publishing Services, LLC