

THE SPEER MINT

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Hello from Fairfax, Virginia.

We pray that you have had an enjoyable holiday season, Christmas and New Year's Day. The warm weather until late has been a welcome time. Or, maybe you have gone south with the other snow birds!

Some of the plans for a SPEER family gathering during the week end of June 30th, 2012 have been made and additional items will be included as the time approaches. Some background information about the selected date was provided in the October 2010 issue of The Speer Mint. A year ago we solicited via e-mail the preference for the SPEER gathering re: in Gettysburgh or elsewhere. The response was only from one family line for somewhere other than Gettysburgh since we had met there once previously. Therefore, the planning has proceeded on that basis.

Reservations have been arranged at the Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania for the nights of June 28th (Thursday) through the morning of July 1st (Sunday), 2012. The location is about 10 miles southwest of Gettysburgh. The facility may be viewed by looking at their web page at www.skiliberty.com . The lodging reservations

include: a block of 30 rooms for the nights of 29th (Friday) and 30th (Saturday), two double beds, non-mountain view; 3 rooms standard double for the same nights; 12 with a slopeside view of the same nights and bed arrangement (with 10 of these reserved for the night of 28th, Thursday). The room rates are \$116.10 midweek and \$143.10 weekend; rates are based on double occupancy, additional guests over the age of 12 will be charged \$10 per night. Added tax is 6% Penn. & 3% county. Rooms not reserved by May 28th, 2012 will be released for use by the general public. Reservation group code is SPEER. Check-in time is 3 PM and check-out time is 11 AM. Contact for room reservation is to be by phone (717) 642-8282. On-line reservations will not receive the group rate. Other rooms may be available, e.g. suites and Parlor King rooms. If your plans are made for more than two nights at the resort, it is recommended that early reservations be made since the largest number of reserved rooms is for just the two nights, 29th & 30th. Complimentary breakfast is included with the room.

Arrangements have been made for lunch and dinner for Saturday. A meeting room has also been arranged for Saturday, time allowed for the graveside headstone dedication on Saturday afternoon.

We invite everyone who wishes to show a prepared DVD of their SPEER family history during the Saturday morning time period. We have asked Lynn and Gary Linn to provide some information to the group on Saturday evening following the

dinner. So, you who have prepared, or will in the near future have a graphical display of some SPEER family history artifacts, bring them and share with us all. Also, those who have some printed creations, or physical articles of the family history, bring them for display. We are making arrangements for a local history buff to speak to our group about the settlement history during the time of the SPEER settlement.

We will be happy to receive suggestions for additions or changes in the planned schedule. Call by phone (703)978-9636), mail or e-mail at speeralston@verizon.net .

We are looking forward to seeing close relatives and some distant ones also, some for the first time. This issue of The SPEER MINT is not the usual with a lot of family genealogy; that will have to wait until another time.

Margaret Speer Ralston and David Ralston