



You will never believe these facts about

Berkeley Springs...

By Chloe Riggs

BERKELEY SPRINGS is a town built with history. Since the beginning, many intriguing people have visited the wonderful destination. Throughout the years, the landmarks of Berkeley Springs have only flourished and become more vibrant with age. Its welcoming community has spread its arms wide to any and all visitors.

In 1748, George Washington came across Berkeley Springs during his surveying. He bathed in the warm springs of the park that are at a constant 72°. The mineral water is famous for its relaxing powers and is available to the public. In fact, Berkeley Springs runs on this natural

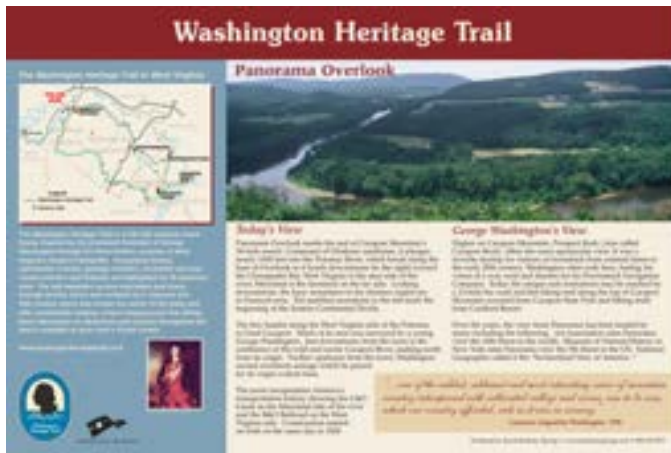


water. The springs are also open to being sunk into in [The Roman Bathhouse](#). Inside, there are bathing chambers of this natural water heated to 102°.

Previously, The Roman Bathhouse was built in 1784, but in 1815 it was rebuilt. On the second floor is the historic [museum](#) of the wonderful Berkeley Springs that shares these interesting stories with the public. The museum and The Roman Bathhouse are open to visitors and are quite the sites to see.

Following the path of George Washington, he later had his house built in the town by James Rumsey, a top-notch innovator. James Rumsey also aided the C&O Canal Company in building the [PawPaw Tunnel](#). The PawPaw Tunnel took a total of fourteen years, from 1836-1850, and is “the largest structure on the C&O Canal.”

Years later, Washington’s nephew, Laurence Washington also found Berkeley Springs as a place to soak in. As a young man, he traveled the area of the town, documenting his stay similarly to his uncle, and stumbled upon the [Panorama Overlook](#). This breathtaking place allows visitors to see three states and two rivers at one time. It is at the end of the Cacapon Mountains, another fantastic tourist destination.



At this place, Laurence Washington found great companions as well as his true love. The scene was full of multiple people differing in class and appearance, who befriended Washington. As he admired the heavenly scenery, Mary Wood came across his path. He was bewitched by her

beauty and later married her. This was only the start of the many connections that are made in the community of Berkeley Springs.

The Town of Bath, as Berkeley Springs is otherwise known, holds events and gatherings to commemorate the glowing history etched into the roots of the town. March is especially filled with the memories of Berkeley Springs.

During the weekend of March 18, the residents and visitors participate in the [George Washington’s Bathtub](#)



[Celebration](#). This annual event is situated in Berkeley Springs State Park. This allows anyone and everyone to visit The Roman Bathhouse as well as the spring in the park. Upstairs of the bathhouse is the museum (pictured above on the right) filled with fun facts about the town.

Later in the month of March is the [Berkeley Springs Film Festival](#). This event will be



held from March 31 to April 2 at the Star Theater. Films from around the world will be shown and a speech will be given by the talented Academy Award Winning Make-up artist John Caglione, Jr. On Saturday night, an award ceremony and

after-party will be held. At this event, the audience is able to meet independent filmmakers. There are filmmaker seminars open to the public and sponsorship opportunities available.

If you are not the type of person to attend events or festivals, although these celebrations are not ones to miss, Berkeley Springs still has more to offer. The town is fitted with wonderful [shops](#) and [restaurants](#) that are the greatest places to visit on a day out. The area is filled with gorgeous scenery and trails for the hiker or curious wonder of nature. The entire town, both inside the square and out in the woods and hills, is the place to inspire and be true to oneself. It is the place to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to find the fun and calm among the mountains.

All of this history and event information can be found at [Travel Berkeley Springs](#). If you are unsure of whether Berkeley Springs is the place for you, contact the [visitor center](#) in town to

learn more. This a forewarning, though, the second they answer the phone, you will be filled with the unavoidable desire to travel to the historical Berkeley Springs.