



Armar J. Bordner
November 1, 1904 -
November 20, 1994.

Armar J. Bordner was a retired woodshop and drafting teacher in the Northern Lebanon School District. He and Margaret (Peg), his wife, were the parents of one daughter, Linda. Reportedly, in 1939 he and his students finished the **Bordner Cabin** by hand using materials found on the site. So Pennsylvania timber products were used to build this sustainable cabin with a large overhang to protect it from the elements. Original horse hair chinking, beveled oak logs, and perfectly cut stone remain.

Armar grew up in millionaire Deborah Norris Coleman Brock's mansion where his mother was Deborah's personal cook. While there, Armar learned from the best craftsmen and a master gardener.

He used his skills
and his love of
Falling Water to
build his Rustic
Cabin along

Rattling Run and

Aycrigg's Falls in what is now Swatara State Park. It was in the 1970's that he resisted, when the homes were taken by DER through eminent domain, and was awarded a lease to stay in the cabin for a nominal annual rent until he died in the cabin, gazing up at Aycrigg's Falls.



Upon his death, the Boy Scouts rented the cabin for \$1 per year. They eventually turned the lease back to the State Park, which is now run by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In 2006, **Swatara Watershed Association** successfully petitioned **DCNR** for a 10-year lease.

"ACRIGGS" inscribed on the large rock by the falls is in memory of Colonel Benjamin, chief engineer of the old Union Canal." Aycrigg once owned the land on which the cabin sits. Inside is a raftered ceiling.



The Bordner Cabin is a "**Destination**," a "**point of interest**" on the **Swatara Water Trail**, which is recognized by PA and the nation as a link to the Captain John Smith Water Trail. It is a place for **education**; artists to **paint** nature; a **rest stop**; a **picnic pavilion**; a **platform** for people to sit and gaze at the falls; and an **interpretive site**.

Using the criteria of workmanship, engineering, location, and age, in 2009, this site qualified for the National Register of Historic Places. Local history is important to us. All State and National historic registers start with local history. Therefore, SWA is pleased to have played a small part in preserving this cabin, and eventually hopes to attain historic status.

Visit <http://www.SwataraWatershed.com> for more information, to reserve the Cabin, or follow us on Facebook at **Swatara Water Trail**.