



CUMBERLAND VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



Cloverdale Spring Company

Lithia Spring Water: In 1865 an underground mineral spring was discovered while drilling for oil on a farm two miles northwest of Newville. Initially named "Cloverdale," the water source later became known as "Lithia Spring" based on a mistaken belief that the water contained lithium salts. The Cloverdale Spring Company soon began bottling *Lithia Spring Water* at the farm's drill site.

Lithia Water was sold in stoneware jugs imprinted with:
Cloverdale
Harrisburg, PA.

Image credit: Prices4Antiques.com



Cloverdale Soft Drinks: Water from the Lithia Spring was later used in Cloverdale soft drinks such as Ginger Ale, Sarsaparilla, and *Lively Limes*. An underground pipeline was built in 1919 from the farm to this site next to the Cumberland Valley Railroad, enabling the company to increase production and distribution.

Cloverdale Spring Company operated on this site (below) until 1961 when the Allegheny Pepsi Cola Bottling Company purchased the facility. Pepsi converted the operation from bottling to distributing soft drinks.

Image credit: Newville Historical Society



Many of the ads for Cloverdale products included greatly exaggerated claims, typical of the times. The ad at right declared that Cloverdale Lithia Water was: *especially indicated in all affections due to the uric acid diathesis, rheumatism and gout in all their forms, gravel, stone, incipient diabetes, Bright's Disease, inflammation of the kidneys and bladder, dropsy, calculi, malarial fevers, constipation, and liver complaints. Lithia Water is a mild but excellent aperient [laxative] and a preventive of appendicitis. . . .*



Image credit: Sydnox L. Doug Allen <http://www.legendaryactions.com>

The Cloverdale Spring Company produced thermometers chalkboards, and iconic signs to advertise its product lines. Some of these signs were designed to be mounted on barns, an advertising method popular in the first half of the 20th century. The one pictured below is from a barn in Cisna Run, Perry County, about 20 miles due north of Newville.

Image credit: David Shelleman



Mineral Springs -- located throughout Pennsylvania -- are naturally occurring water sources that contain minerals or other dissolved substances (salts, sulfur compounds, and gases) which alter the water's taste.

