



# **South Mountain Sketches: Folk Tales and Legends Collected in the Mountains of Southern Pennsylvania (Classic Reprint)**

*Henry W. Shoemaker*

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Excerpt from South Mountain Sketches: Folk Tales and Legends Collected in the Mountains of Southern Pennsylvania

For some years the compiler of these pages desired to complete his researches into the traditional history and folk-lore of the Pennsylvania Mountains in a series of ten volumes; the eighth was published the year before this country entered the World War; the ninth was completed in manuscript form in 1917, but the great conflict held up its publication until the present year, and the tenth volume is only now completed from the notes. The compiler's aim in this series has been to comprise all the sections of the State where he has made folk-lore studies, and believes that he has accomplished the work as far as it lies in his power to do so. There are some portions of the State where he has done very little collecting - along the Blue Mountains of Berks, Schuylkill and Lehigh Counties, for instance - partly because his knowledge of the "Pennsylvania Dutch" vernacular was limited, but principally because the late Judge Henning has done this work so admirably. As it is, this ten-volume series represents pretty much all the regions where folk-lore abounds, though the chapters collected cannot be said to be all that could have been done with the materials available. Probably better stories might have been secured if more time had been devoted to the quest, and it is certain that had his pen been gifted with the fluency of an Irving or a Charles Egbert Craddock, a more immediate reputation would have been established for his labors.

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