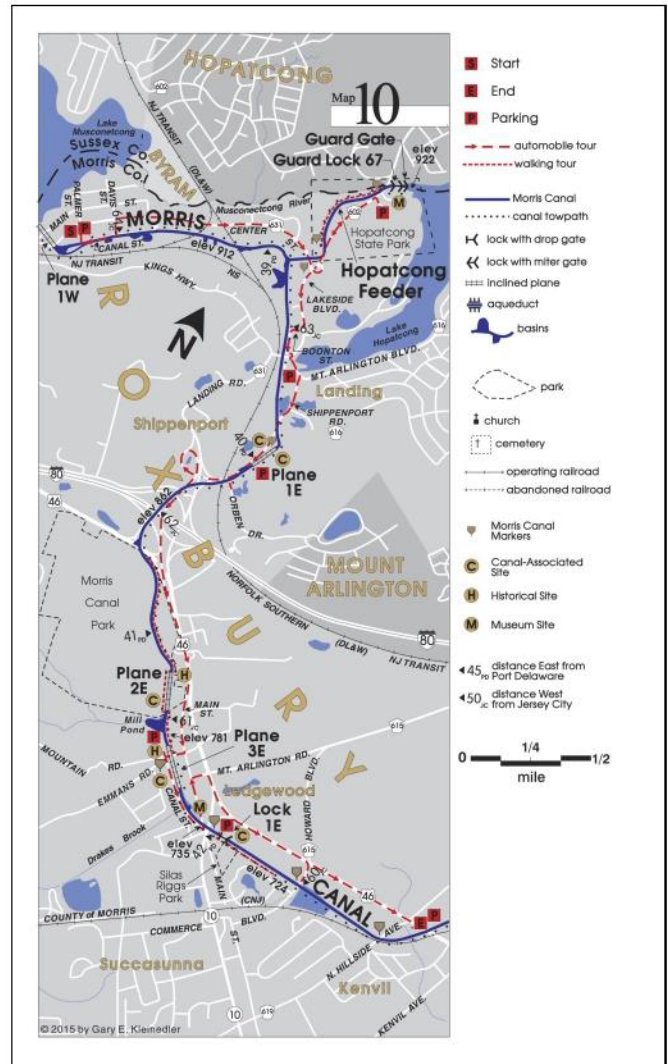


After years of waiting, the first ever *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey*

The *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey* (ISBN 978-0-9907634-0-6) is an easy-to-use, 8.5 by 11 inch full-color guide. Its 159 pages are wire-bound, so that it can be folded back on itself.

The guide includes a brief history of the canal, a table of significant features, a glossary, and a bibliography.

It covers the 102-mile canal in 23 sections of about 4.5 miles each. Each section has points of interest (with GPS data), a list of facilities, directions, historical commentary, a detailed map (4.2"x10.5"), and photos, both historic and current.



A mile-by-mile, turn-by-turn guide for following the Morris Canal from Phillipsburg to Jersey City. Follow the canal and see how the Morris Canal Greenway is developing. Visit the unique pocket parks along the way.

Order your copy today! Complete the form below and send it with your check, payable to Jakob Franke, to 424 Tappan Road, Northvale, NJ 07647-1418; tel. 201-768-3612; jf31@columbia.edu.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

_____ # of copies at \$25, plus \$5 shipping

Total enclosed \$ _____

SEE REVIEWS BELOW

Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey (A Greenway in the Making)

by Jakob Franke with assistance from Bob Barth, Linda Barth, John Drennan, and Ron Rice
Cartography by Gary Kleinedler

reviewed by David Barber
president of the American Canal Society

This is probably the largest format, highest quality field guide to any North American towpath canal yet produced. The author begins with a history of the Morris Canal and of the recent efforts to produce a guide to it. He then goes on to describe the 102-mile main canal and the feeders in detail in twenty-three sections, including very detailed color maps. Each section describes how to drive the route, where to park, what sections you can hike, and what you will see or not see. The guide also includes a table of significant features, a glossary of terms, and a bibliography.

The canal included 23 inclined planes and 34 locks to overcome the 760 feet of elevation between the Delaware River at Phillipsburg, NJ, the summit at Lake Hopatcong, and the 914 feet down to tidewater at the Hudson River opposite New York City. After 87 years of service, the canal was intentionally dismantled by the State of New Jersey and many parts built over. But, not all. While the opportunity to create a greenway across the state was surrendered in the 1920s, it is being slowly won back in the twenty-first century. Having hiked almost all of the Morris Canal myself, I find this an excellent guide and resource.

The guide is 8½ inches by 11 inches in size and contains 160 pages. The back cover is a key map to all of the individual maps included. It is wire-bound for easy reading.

Copies are available from the author, Jakob Franke, 424 Tappen Road, Northvale, NJ 07647-1418, 201-768-3612 jf31@columbia.edu for \$25.00 plus \$5.00 s/h. You can read more at www.morriscanalguide.com.

Review of *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey*

By Phil Jaeger, Past Director, Canal Society of New Jersey

In the early 1980s, Frank Mentone, a dear friend of mine and fellow railroad buff, and I thought it would be interesting to trace the remains of an earlier means of transportation in northern New Jersey, namely the Morris Canal. Over the next two years and 15 or so outings we walked about 90 percent of the canal's 102-mile length and also rode the Newark City Subway, which was constructed in the canal's bed after the canal was abandoned. We both consider those excursions to be one of the best adventures of our lives.

The many hours Frank and I spent on the canal gave us a deep respect for early American technology and particularly for the canal's inclined planes. This was especially true as we slowly walked up the same planes that early Morris Canal boats had been pulled up by water power 150 years before. We were also amazed that so much of the canal still existed after its dismantling in the 1920s.

All of those thoughts were rekindled while reading the recently published *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey*. What an incredible job the authors have done in meticulously providing directions and maps so that 21st-century explorers can easily follow the route of northern New Jersey's earliest transportation system. The Guide follows the canal from its western terminus in Phillipsburg to the Hudson River and consists of 23 sections of roughly 4.5 miles each so the traveler can customize his journey as needed. Directions and maps are extremely detailed so the reader can easily follow the canal as it twists its way across the state. Canal history and photographs provide background information to aid interpretation. In addition, nearby points of interest as well as available food and lodging are provided for each section to make the journey as informative and comfortable as possible.

If you enjoy discovering the past for yourself, whether it be anywhere from urban exploration to country walks, the *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey* opens the door to a marvelous adventure. I know; I've been there.