

ON THE LEVEL



THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

BOONTON'S CANAL GREENWAY

By Elliott Ruga

What began as an effort to re-open a fenced-off municipal park on Boonton's Main Street has expanded into an ambitious plan to fully develop the legacy of Boonton's vitality during the era of the Morris Canal.

The Town of Boonton, as we know it today, developed to accommodate the influx of people drawn to the commercial opportunities associated with the canal. Canal operations in Boonton included Locks 12E and 13E and Plane 7E. The Boonton Iron Works, massive in its day, utilized the canal for bringing fuel that kept its two furnaces running nonstop and for shipping out its finished iron products. Today, Boonton's Grace Lord Park contains remains of the canal, iron works and areas of great natural beauty.

For several decades the people who lived, worked, and visited Boonton



enjoyed an extraordinary amenity in the downtown commercial district; a boardwalk overlooking the steep descent to the Rockaway River valley, with benches and an information kiosk that also served to shelter pas-

The location of Morris Canal Inclined Plane 7 East, seen above, lies just below the planned Boonton Board Walk trail head.

sengers waiting for the New York-bound bus. The boardwalk offered a pleasing view of the forested river valley and the hills beyond it. The Town of Boonton did not own the property underlying the boardwalk, but leased it from the adjacent building owner. In 2007 the Town Engineer deemed the boardwalk unsafe due to deterioration of its underpinnings. The landowner did not wish to pay to restore the public use of the property and the town was not willing to pay for repairs to a property it didn't own. A chain link fence was installed to prevent access. It remains there today.

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MEETINGS **Morris County Cultural Center** 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

Friday – *September 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.* – Refreshments at 7:10

THE MORRIS CANAL AT LAKE HOPATCONG

MARTIN KANE

Lake Hopatcong was impounded by the Morris Canal & Banking Company in the 1820s to form the major water supply reservoir for the Morris Canal. Prior to the canal, the lake was two smaller bodies of water, one being a forge pond for the Brooklyn or Brookland Forge located in what is now Hopatcong State Park. Canal boats once crossed the lake carrying large quantities of iron ore delivered from the Ogden Mine Railroad and transshipped onto canal boats at Nolan's Point. A Feeder Canal connected the lake with the main Morris Canal near Port Morris, delivering water to the canal and serving as a conduit for many excursion boats traveling between the Landing railroad station and the various hotels and summer camps dotting the shores of the lake. This program will dis-

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Members!

NEW

To download a new full-color version of your *On the Level* newsletter with extra added features, visit the CSNJ web site at:

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

WATERLOO GETS A NEW ENTRANCE



A stairway, accented with new landscaping, now leads down from the ticket booths directly into the village.

Changes are underway at Waterloo. With the non-historic portion of the village leased to Jeffrey A. Miller Catering (JAM), it has been necessary to reorganize the entrance to the village. To accomplish this, the ticket booths were moved from the old entrance to a new location at the south end of the main parking area. From there, a path now leads to a new stairway that descends directly onto the main street in the historic area of the village. An ADA ramp has also been constructed to accommodate visitors who might have difficulties with the new stairs.

While construction was underway, CSNJ volunteers have been greeting visitors at a temporary entrance set up along the road into the village. This arrangement required extra time and work to set up and take down at every Canal Day event.

For those of us who have been coming to Waterloo for many years, this new arrangement may take some getting used to. However, we should remember that the old entrance led first to the Meeting House, gift shop and concert tent, all features important to the defunct Waterloo Foundation. The new entrance separates the revenue-generating portion of the village from the historic, and enhances the visitor experience by guiding the public directly to its best assets; the historic streetscape along the Morris Canal. ■



A new entrance sign marks the beginning of the path and stairway that will now take the public directly into the village.

MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

cuss all these aspects of the Morris Canal's association with Lake Hopatcong and will feature numerous historic views of the lake and canal. It also will present some new and different canal views that have recently been acquired by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum.

Marty Kane is well known to the Canal Society and has long been a driving force behind the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum. He has recently worked with the Lake Hopatcong Foundation to successfully acquire the historic Landing Train Station for use as a local community and visitor center. Marty is the author of several books on the history of Lake Hopatcong and is a well-known lecturer on numerous aspects of the history of the lake, from its use as a Morris Canal reservoir to its heyday as a major summer resort.

Friday – November 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. – Refreshments at 7:10

THE D&R CANAL COMMISSION 30-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

JIM AMON

Jim Amon was the first executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, beginning in 1974 when the canal became a state park. Mr. Amon is credited with transforming the neglected canal to the treasured linear park that it is today. After retiring from the commission, he became director of stewardship of the D&R Greenway, an organization he helped to found in 1989. He recently retired from that post. Mr. Amon will discuss how the canal and park changed during his nearly three decades at the commission and his experiences as director.

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CSNJ volunteers Deb Wefferling and Carl Loutzenheiser seen greeting visitors at our temporary Waterloo entrance tent.



BOONTON GREENWAY

(Continued from page 1)

Concerned that the fence was in danger of becoming a permanent fixture, members of Boonton's Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commission formed an ad hoc committee to explore the options for grant funding.

The committee saw that it would be possible to tell the story of the canal and iron works using features within the viewshed of the boardwalk. In addition, this project could include a Greenway trail that would link the historic remains of the canal, iron works, and the natural beauty of the Rockaway River Gorge. Some of these features would include the site of Inclined Plane 7 East and archaeological remains of two huge anthracite coal-fired blast furnaces. They also knew that by positioning the plan as a larger project, Boonton's underutilized, under-inventoried, and unprotected historic resources could be better developed. They invited CSNJ to partner in the plan.

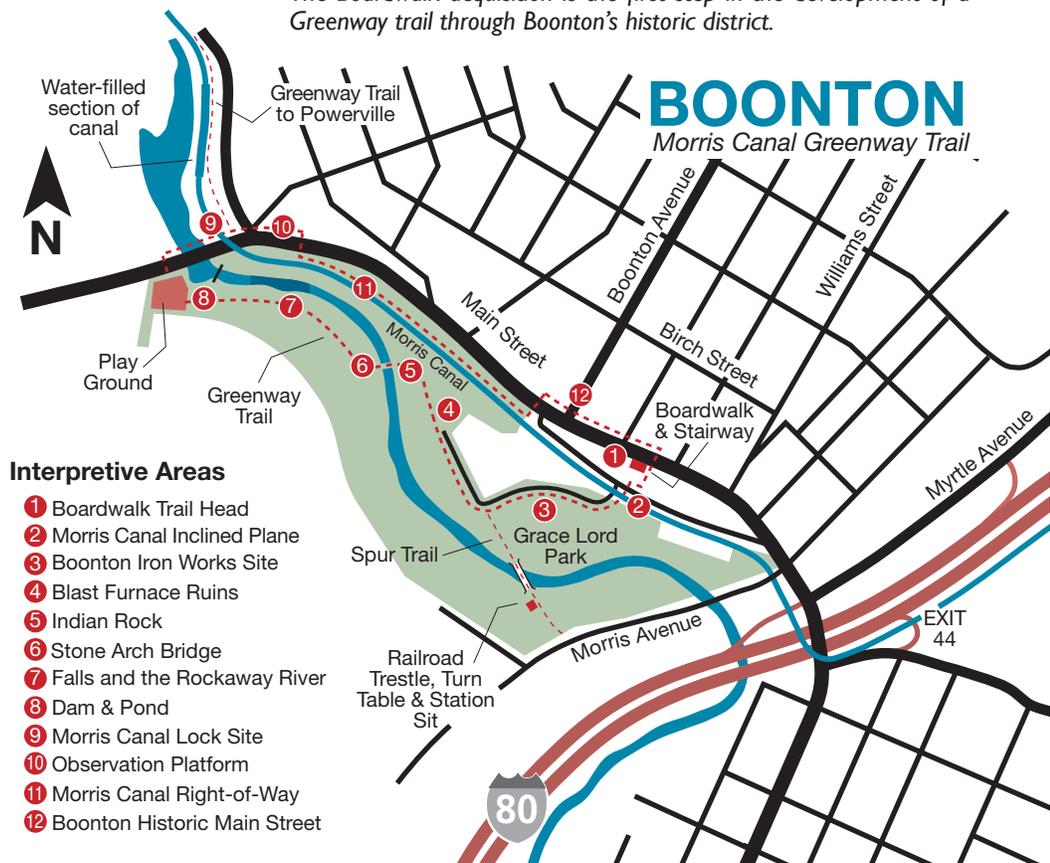
In April, the Board of Aldermen passed a resolution of support for the project. In June, the Canal Society, on behalf of the partner-

ship between Boardwalk Committee and the Canal Society, submitted an application to the Morris County Open Space Trust to purchase the boardwalk property. The application has been very positively

received due to of the multiple aspects of the project: development of an urban park, development of the town's historical resources, and connections with municipal trails and with the state-spanning Morris Canal Greenway. ■

Although the Boonton Main Street boardwalk is now fenced off for safety reasons, plans are underway to develop the site as a Greenway trail head.

The Boardwalk acquisition is the first step in the development of a Greenway trail through Boonton's historic district.



WATERLOO IN THE EARLY 1900s

A detailed look at a place we might think we know well, newly seen through a careful examination of four of historic photographs

By Ron Rice & Joe Macasek

In the last *On the Level* we saw how a careful examination of wills and deeds could bring to light new information about Waterloo, a place whose long and complicated story never ceases to fascinate us.

In this article, the first in a series, we will see how historic photos can tell a story and can also be a story in themselves. The four photos on these pages were assembled by CSNJ member Ron Rice as part of his ongoing obsession with maps, pictures, and the Morris Canal.

Ron's interest in these pictures began years ago when he and former CSNJ member George Sellmer discovered the rare color image of Waterloo's Lock 3 West, seen below, in a book titled *The Birth of a Century-Early: Color Photographs of America*, by Jim Hughes. His interest was recently rekindled when, while searching

for pictures for Jakob Franke's recently published *Field Guide to the Morris Canal of New Jersey*, he discovered the four pictures on these two pages as part of a collection located on the Library of Congress (LOC) web site. The images were all copyrighted by the Detroit Publishing Company and attributed to the same photographer, William Henry Jackson.

Jackson's large-format camera work combined with his use of the collodion wet-plate process captured images of surprising clarity. These plates have now been carefully scanned at a very high resolution capturing every detail. The resulting images are of such amazing quality they seem to open a window to the past.

William Henry Jackson

Jackson, born in Keeseville, New York, in 1843, traveled west as a young

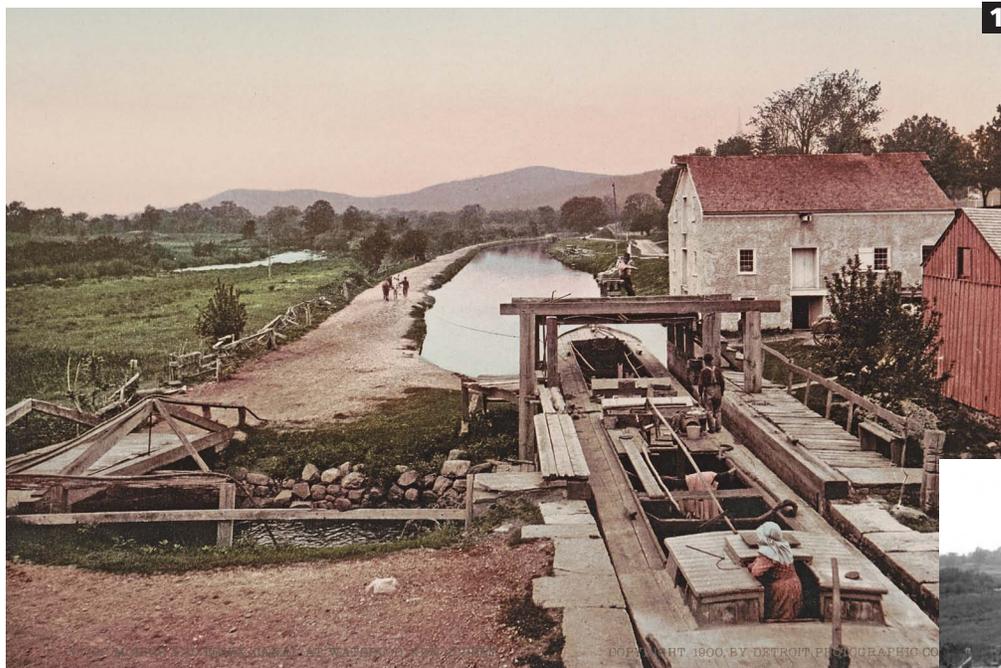
man and took up photography. Jackson's skills gained him assignments with the Union Pacific Rail Road and the U.S. Geological Survey. His pictures gave many a first glimpse of the grandeur of the western landscape. He later traveled the world and amassed a huge collection of photo images.

In 1897 he sold his entire stock of negatives and his own services to the Detroit Publishing Co., after the company had acquired the exclusive rights to the Photochrom process in North America. Jackson joined the company in 1898 as president, bringing with him an estimated 10,000 negatives which provided the core of the company's photographic archives, from which they produced pictures ranging from postcards to mammoth-plate panoramas.

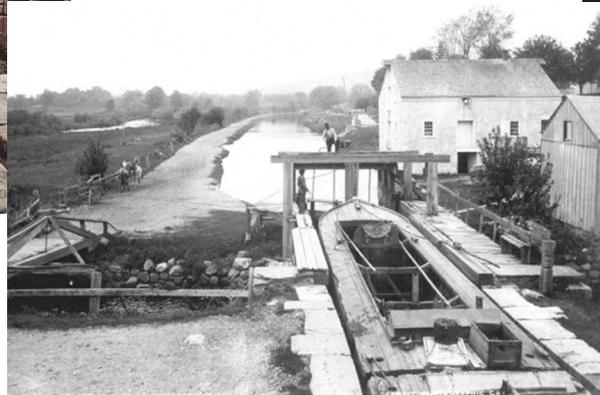
Photochrom is a process for producing colored images from black-and-white photographic negatives via the direct photographic transfer of a negative onto lithographic printing plates. The process was invented in the 1880s by Hans Jakob Schmid, an employee of the Swiss company Orell Gessner Füssli. The Photochrom process was most popular in the 1890s.

In the 1910s, the publishing firm expanded its inventory to include photographic copies of works of art, which were popular educational tools as well as inexpensive home decor.

During its height, the Detroit Publishing Company drew upon 40,000 negatives for its publishing effort, and had sales of seven million prints annually. Traveling salesmen, mail order cata-



These two historic views of Waterloo's Lock 3 West were taken just a few minutes apart by well known photographer William Henry Jackson. The images above was later colorized using the Photochrom process that required the use of six or more printing plates to create a full color image.

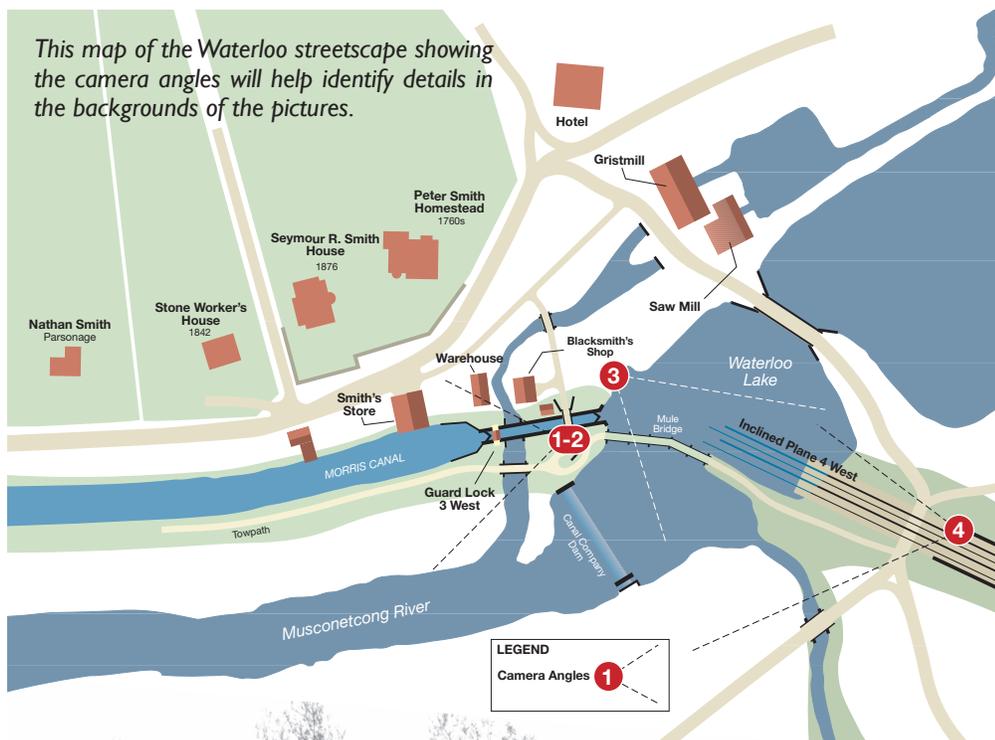


logues, and a few retail stores aggressively sold the company's products. The company maintained outlets in Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, London, and Zurich; it also sold its images at popular tourist spots and through the mail. At the height of its success, the company employed forty artisans and a dozen or more traveling salesmen. In a typical year they would publish an estimated seven million prints.

Today, most of Jackson's Detroit photographs are housed at the U.S. Library of Congress. This collection includes more than 25,000 glass negatives and transparencies along with some 300 color photolithograph prints, mostly of the eastern United States, including several photos of the Morris Canal.

Together these images provide a look at everyday life on the canal at Waterloo and a detailed glimpse of the village around the turn of the 20th century. Although they are copyrighted 1900, com-
(Continued on page 6)

In these photos of Inclined Plane 4 West, Jackson's camera captures panoramic views showing both the canal and the village. Although the slow camera shutter speed caused the moving boat and mule team to blur slightly, the backgrounds of these pictures are so crisp and clear that the viewer can pick out the smallest details. Viewing these images at high-resolution is almost like reading a story.



MEETINGS

(Continued from page 2)

Jim Amon – For 29 years Jim Amon was the executive director of the D&R Canal Commission, planning for the canal park's future, guiding development of the park, and administering a regulatory program to protect the canal from the harmful impacts of new development. Upon his retirement in 2005 he became the director of stewardship for the D&R Greenway Land Trust, taking responsibility for managing over 100 nature preserves comprised of approximately 4,000 acres.

Jim lives in Lambertville with his wife Kathleen and their dog, really her dog, Sally. He is seriously involved in photography with exhibits in galleries throughout central New Jersey, writes on environmental issues, and gardens in his 30' x 30' backyard.



Delaware & Raritan Canal coal docks in Trenton.

Directions to the Morris County Cultural Center

From the Morristown Green, turn right onto Washington St (County Route 510, formerly NJ Route 24). Travel 3.5 miles west toward Chester. Pass the roads to the Delbarton School and Lewis Morris County Park on the left. After the curve to the left, look for a lighted directional sign for the MUA on the right, pointing toward the driveway, which is marked by a street light. Make a sharp left turn and drive uphill to a Spanish-style stucco building at the top. Parking is in the well lighted lot to the left at the top of the hill. Once inside the main entrance hall of the Cultural Center, the auditorium is to the left. Restrooms are upstairs, with elevator access.

From Route 287 South, take Exit 35, Madison Ave. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto Madison Ave (Route 124). Bear right at the next light onto South Street, continue straight through a series of traffic lights and around the Morristown Green. Turn right onto Washington St. (County Route 510, formerly Route 24). Continue as described above.

From Route 287 North, take Exit 35, South Street/Madison Ave. At the top of the ramp, turn left onto South St, continue straight through several lights and travel around the Morristown Green. Turn right onto Washington St, (County Route 510, formerly Route 24). Continue as described above.

WATERLOO EARLY 1900s

(Continued from page 5)

parson with pictures taken by Olin F. Vough in 1905 suggest they date from the mid-1890s. All provide sweeping views featuring both the canal and its setting, and provide an excellent contrast with the landscape we see today.

The Lock Pictures

The two views of Guard Lock 3 West, photos 1 & 2, were taken from the bridge that crossed over the lock giving access from the towpath to the village. This guard lock raised or lowered boats between the fluctuating level of the Musconetcong River and next level of the canal. The pictures, taken just a few minutes apart, show a canal boat locking through, deadheading (traveling empty) on its way west towards Phillipsburg. The two images show a progression of movement as the lock tender and boat crew go through their well-practiced routine for getting a boat through the lock.

In picture two, the canal boat waits, its mooring lines slacked, ready to leave the lock. The captain, having brought the towline forward along the wooden catwalk, talks with the lock tender who is perched on the platform that supports the machinery that opens the lower lock gates. Together, they have passed the towline over the gate and attached it to the towing post on the boat. The mule tender, having brought his team across the tail race bridge, stands waiting on the towpath. The boat is ready to go.

In the next issue of *On the Level* we will continue our examination of the lock photos followed by a look at the pictures of the inclined plane. Then, in future issues, we will look to see how the village has changed since the pictures were taken more than a hundred years ago. ■

Waterloo Pictures

To truly appreciate the interesting detail to be found in the pictures described in this article download and view files from the CSNJ web site at:

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

D&R CANAL 2015 WALKS & EVENTS

*These walks and events are sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. The walks are free, but donations are welcome and appreciated. For additional information contact **Bob Barth at 201-401-3121 or bbarth@att.net.***

WALKS

These walks are part of a series of interpretive hikes that will give walkers an opportunity to explore the D&R Canal from the northern end of the feeder canal at Bull's Island to Landing Lane in New Brunswick.

Saturday, October 3 – 10:00 a.m. (Walk 10)

Hike 5.6 miles from Griggstown to East Millstone (the meeting place) or choose the 3.5-mile walk to Blackwells Mills. Leader: Bob Barth.

Saturday, November 7 – 10:00 a.m. (Walk 11)

Hike 5.8 miles on the D&R Canal towpath from East Millstone to Lock 11 in South Bound Brook (the meeting place) or choose the 2.7-mile walk to Zarephath. Leader: Bob Barth.

Saturday, November 28 – 10:00 a.m. (Walk 12)

Hike 5.3 miles on the D&R Canal towpath from Landing Lane bridge to Lock 11 in South Bound Brook (the meeting place), across from the post office on Canal Road. Leader: Bob Barth.

EVENTS

East Millstone Canalfest, Saturday, October 17

Market Street, East Millstone

2015 INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALKS

September & October

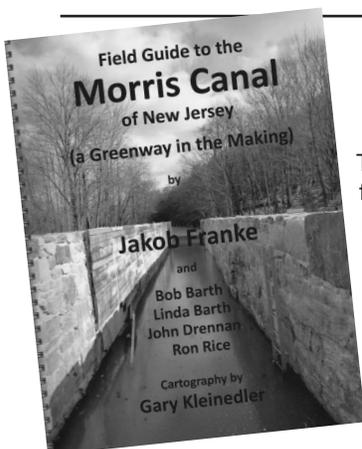
Sun., Sep 13 – **Lake Hopatcong** – Morris Canal Feeder

Sat., Oct 10 – **Waterloo Valley Trail** – Saxton Falls to Bilby Road

Sat., Oct 31 – **Edison Mines** – Full-Day Archaeology Walk

Industrial Heritage Walks are sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission

For information & reservations, please e-mail:
macgraphics1@verizon.net or call 973-292-2755



FIELD GUIDE TO THE MORRIS CANAL

This new, 160-page book is a mile-by-mile, turn-by-turn guide for following the Morris Canal from Phillipsburg to Jersey City. Each section has a detailed map with GPS data, points of interest, a list of facilities, directions, historical commentary, and photos. To order, send a check for \$25 per copy (plus \$5.00 shipping), payable to:

Jakob Franke – 424 Tappan Road, Northvale, NJ 07647
201-768-3612 jf31@columbia.edu

WATERLOO 2015 SCHEDULE

There are still plenty of days left to visit Waterloo! This year the CSNJ is partnering with other groups to provide a wide range of activities.

Waterloo Canal Days

Saturdays – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

– **September 12**

GOCASH Event

– **September 19 & 20**

Highlands Festival

– **September 26**

Byram Day

– **October 10**

Waterloo Heritage Day

– **October 25 (Sunday)**

Halloween Event

MORRIS CANAL WALKS

Throughout 2015, the Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development will offer a series of walks to promote the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County.

Sunday, Sep 27 – 12:00 Noon

Wayne – Meet at Farmingdale & Deerfield Roads in Wayne and explore the feeder lock site and river towpath.

Sunday, Oct. 18 – 12:00 Noon

Pompton Lakes – Meet on Mathes Ave. in Pompton Lakes and explore the northern end of the Greenway.

For more information:

[www.passaiccountynj.org/
MorrisCanalGreenway](http://www.passaiccountynj.org/MorrisCanalGreenway)

Joe Macasek

macgraphics1@verizon.net

Thanks for being Members!

All the things we do: Waterloo programming, Morris Canal Greenway, advocating for historic preservation, tours and events, are all made possible by your help and support. If you didn't care, we couldn't do the things we do.

Joe Macasek, President CSNJ

macgraphics1@verizon.net

WATERLOO IN THE ROARING '20s

For an afternoon this August, Waterloo revisited the Roaring 20s. Sharon Kuechelmann, at other times known as Waterloo's award winning seamstress, reminded visitors that, in the 1920s, while the county was going wild with jazz and booze, the Smiths,

no longer in residence at the village, were trying to turn their ancestral lands into a profit-making lakeside community. Sharon set the mood by dressing the part and playing ragtime music on her hand-cranked Victrola. With a Waterloo Estates prospectus



Sharon Kuechelmann entertaining visitors on the porch of the Seymour Smith house.

in hand, she explained to visitors how the family planned to sell vacation homes to city folks. Money was borrowed to fund the venture, but few lots were sold. When the depression came, the bank foreclosed on the loan and the Smiths lost the property.

At the village this August all went well. Sharon charmed the visitors and played the flapper girl so well that we all want to see her back on the porch again. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday	September 18	Membership Meeting – Marty Kane 7:30 p.m. <i>Morris County Cultural Center</i>
Friday	November 20	Membership Meeting – Jim Amon 7:30 p.m. <i>Morris County Cultural Center</i>
Saturdays	Sept 12 & 26	Waterloo Canal Heritage Days
	Oct 10 & 25 (Sunday)	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday	October 24	35th Annual Great Falls Symposium <i>Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology</i>

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

nj-cnai@googlegroups.com

New Waterloo Tee-shirts
will be available at
Upcoming Meetings

CanalSocietyNJ.org

CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



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