

# ON THE LEVEL



## THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

THE SUNDAY CALL.

### The Canal Collector

How Things Are Operated from His Office

*The following articles appeared in Newark's "The Sunday Call" on August 19th 1883.*

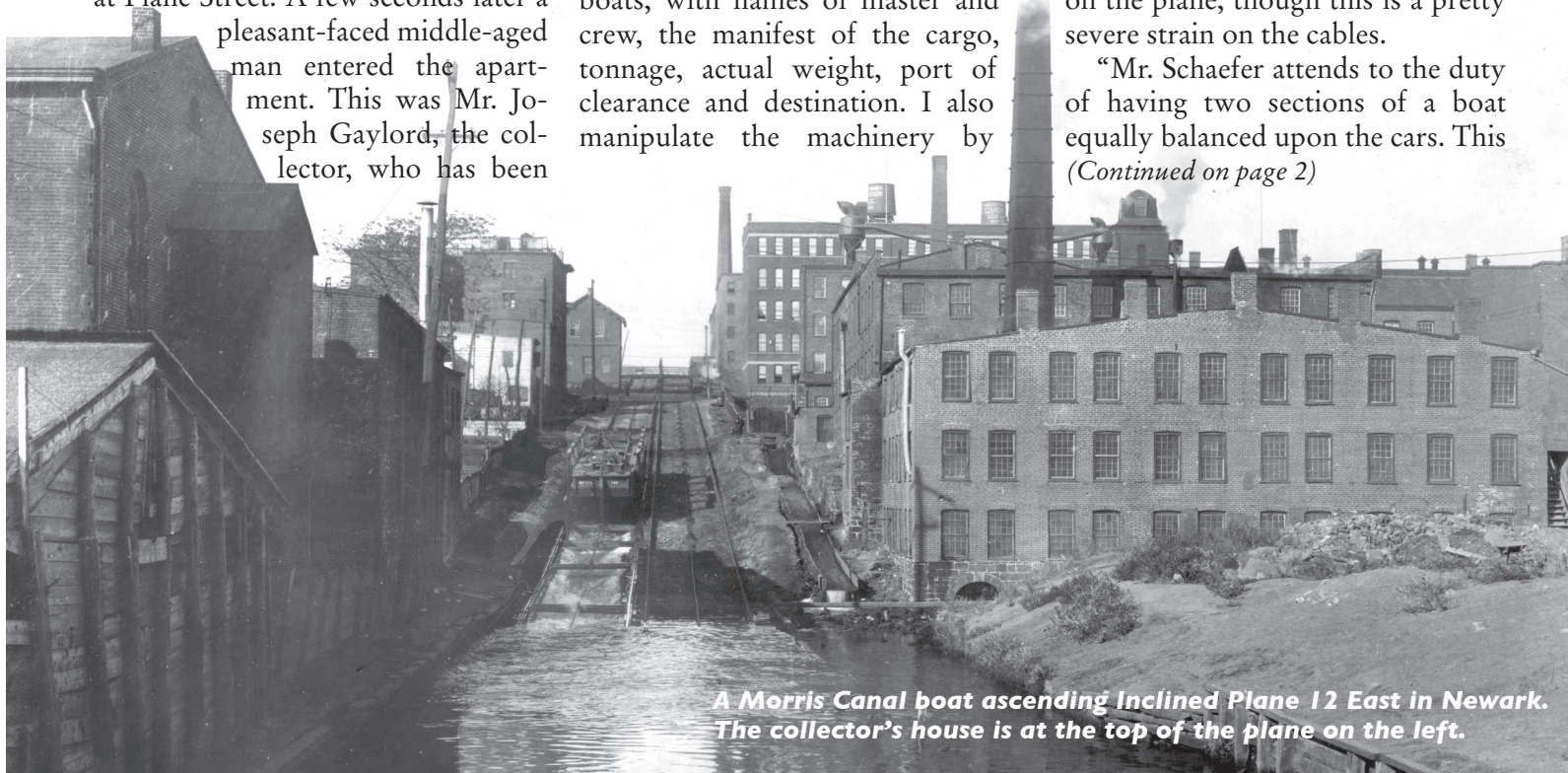
A large ordinary board sign upon the side of an old frame building nearest to the Morris Canal informs the promenaders on High Street that in this building may be found the "Collector's Office." A reporter for the Call climbed up the narrow steps leading to the top story of this building, and looking through a window saw that a boat was nearing the top of the inclined plane ready to take a railroad ride to the water below at Plane Street. A few seconds later a pleasant-faced middle-aged man entered the apartment. This was Mr. Joseph Gaylord, the collector, who has been

employed on the plane for 20 years. Mr. Gaylord says Mr. Peter Melick is superintendent of this division of the canal and has charge of all repairs from the Bloomfield level to the Passaic River. The division contains six locks manned by one man each. The force consists of Mr. George Schaefer, the brakeman, and Mr. George Brown, flagman.

"I collect the tolls and issue the clearances to boats passing up and down the canal and keep a daily record of all boats sailing these waters. I record the number of the boats, with names of master and crew, the manifest of the cargo, tonnage, actual weight, port of clearance and destination. I also manipulate the machinery by

which our clipper ship glides up and down the steep hill. You see this lever? That's for reversing the power. See this handle? Well, when I manipulate it the water will flow through the enormous pipe, fall with the force of a miniature Niagara Falls upon a motor turbine wheel way down in the recess of the building, and the machinery is set going. One car of two sections goes up and the other goes down and I regulate their speed by that wheel you see which is nothing but a simple brake. It can stop a boat carrying 75 tons at any point on the plane, though this is a pretty severe strain on the cables.

"Mr. Schaefer attends to the duty of having two sections of a boat equally balanced upon the cars. This  
*(Continued on page 2)*



*A Morris Canal boat ascending Inclined Plane 12 East in Newark. The collector's house is at the top of the plane on the left.*

# The Canal Collector

(Continued from page 1)

requires long experience. If the stevedore of the craft hasn't done his loading well, some shovels are required to shift cargo.

"My turbine motor has 300 hp. The company owns nearly all the boats. I know of only three or four private boats in the canal. About 25 boats each way pass this point daily during the season having an average tonnage of about 75 tons. The captains some time before the opening of navigation enter into an agreement with the company to run one of the boats. Ten percent of the freight earnings of the boat are held back by the company as a drawback which is paid at the end of the season. This is done to prevent the men from deserting during the busy time. A man with a pair of mules and a boy can make a respectable living during the season and lay by something. They will average \$600.

"The tolls are paid to us collectors by the shippers and they vary according to the articles of freight carried. They are from 1 cent to 3 cents a ton mile. There is a maximum fixed ... \$2 being the highest and that is for powder. Most of the freight is going east, of course, and coal, zinc and iron ore, powder, with lumber, bricks, cement, etc." ■



Two cradle cars stand idle on Inclined Plane 12 East in Newark. This was one of the canal's three double-tracked planes with counterbalanced plane cars, one going up while the other came down.

## A Runaway Sensation

*An Exciting Scene on the Inclined Plane*

*Newark Daily Journal – August 22, 1871*

About two o'clock this afternoon a horse attached to a pie wagon became frightened while crossing the inclined plane on High Street, and, turning suddenly, ran down the plane at a fearful rate, fortunately steering clear of a canal boat that was passing up. With a series of slips and desperate leaps the horse finally reached the water, into which it plunged and floundered. A crowd of men and boys soon collected, and the man in charge of the plane house having stopped the iron cables, an effort was made to extricate the animal, which after considerable trouble was successful. Fortunately the driver escaped uninjured and the wagon was not much harmed. What became of the pies is not stated. The establishment belonged to Lewis W. Young, No.184 Howard Street. ■

## MEETINGS

Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

Friday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments at 7:00

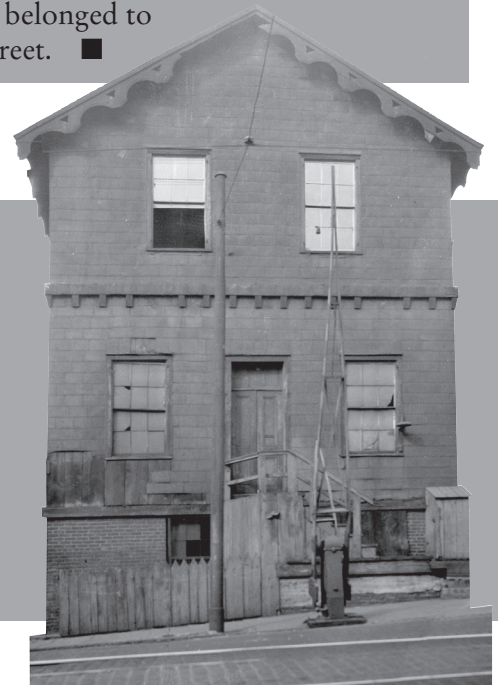
### TREASURES FROM THE CANAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

PICTURES, MAPS AND DOCUMENTS

By JOE MACASEK

Since its founding in 1969 the Canal Society of New Jersey has amassed a large collection of New Jersey canal-related material. Although some of these pictures and drawings have been used in slide shows and exhibits, others have seldom, if ever, been seen by the general public. In this presentation we will delve into the archives to find interesting items, learn about their significance, and hear stories about how they were acquired.

(Continued on page 4)



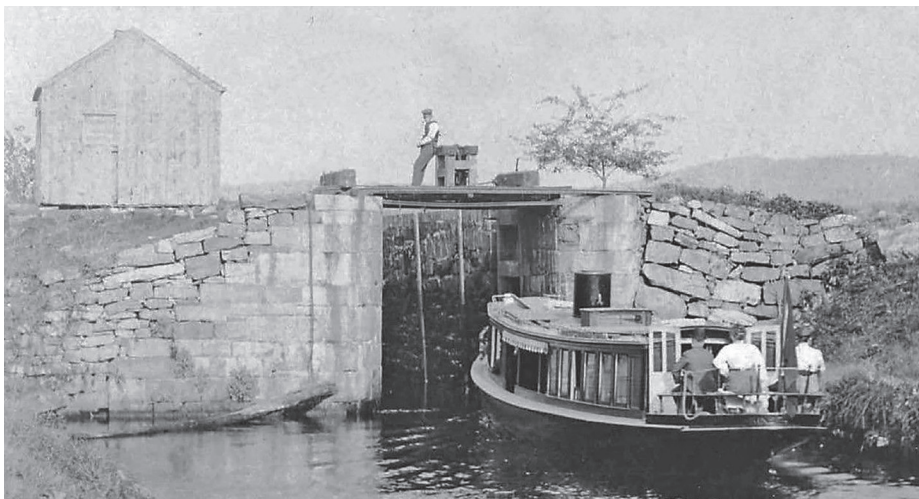
The collector's office at Inclined Plane 12 East in Newark.

# LAKE HOPATCONG & BROOKLYN LOCK

By *Tim Roth*

Lake Hopatcong and the Morris Canal had such an important symbiotic relationship that one wouldn't have existed without the other. It was Lake Hopatcong that stood at the summit of the Morris Canal and provided its main water source, and based on the designations of the locks and inclined planes (numerically descending east and west), the lake was the starting point of the canal. Also, as legend has it, the idea for the Morris Canal was conceived in the 1820s when Morristown businessman George Macculloch was enjoying a day on the lake. In the same respect, Lake Hopatcong exists in its current form because of the Morris Canal. By raising the lake the final five feet needed to supply the canal, two separate ponds were connected, creating one large body of water. This also created many of the inlets that give the lake its popular nickname, "Lake of Many Coves."

Although most traces of the canal on Lake Hopatcong are long gone, the recent drawdown on the lake, which occurs every five years, revealed some vestiges from the old canal days. On Nolan's Point in Jefferson Township, the remains of the former ore dock, where iron ore was brought by train to be transported across the lake and then through the Morris Canal, could be seen. The usefulness of the dock ended in 1882 when the Central Railroad was extended to Nolan's Point.



In the picture above, a Black Line steam-powered excursion boat is about to enter the feeder lock at Lake Hopatcong. The lock tender leans against the gear stand used to close the lock gate once the boat is inside. Both the Black and White excursion lines picked up passengers at the Landing train station for transport to the lake via the canal.

On the other side of the lake, a relic more closely related to the Morris Canal was revealed at Hopatcong State Park. As water receded during the drawdown, two posts emerged that were part of a stop gate used to control the flow of water to the canal. These gates were adjacent to Brooklyn Lock, which allowed boats to pass between the lake and the canal. Photographs taken during the early years of the 20th century show Black Line steamers carrying happy passengers through the lock and stop gates to various resorts around the lake, or

returning them to Hopatcong Station via the feeder canal, where they would catch trains to take them home at their holiday's end.

What was the experience like for these vacationers who passed through Brooklyn Lock and onto the lake? For this, we turn to the book *Tales and Towns of Northern New Jersey* (Henry Beck), which includes an 1890 account by writer Gustav Kobbé.

"The passage through the lock is an interesting experience. The lower gates are opened and the miniature  
(Continued on page 4)



ABOVE: A steamer passes through the stop gate before entering the small basin that separated the lake from the Brooklyn Lock.

RIGHT: Today, the sturdy posts that supported the stop gate can be seen when the level of the lake is dropped.



**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**Canal Society**  
**of**  
**New Jersey**

1969 - 2019

Join us this year in celebrating the Canal Society of New Jersey's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be special activities throughout the year. Watch for e-mails with information about anniversary programs and events.

# 2018 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2018 the Canal Society partnered with communities in Morris County and with the New Jersey State Park Service to rack up an impressive list of accomplishments.

In the spring we hosted our third New Jersey Canals & Local History Symposium. This has become an annual event with new presentations every year. At Waterloo, we battled with the weather this season, encountering heat, humidity, and rain almost every weekend. But thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our attendance was up once again over the previous year's.

We also worked on a number of Morris Canal Greenway and D&R Canal projects:

## Riggs Canal Park

*Partnership with Roxbury Township*

Landscaping, kiosks, and interpretive panels

## Boonton Canal Side Park

*Partnership with Boonton Main Street Inc.*

Observation platform restoration

## D&R Canal

*Partnership with Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition, Griggstown Historical Society, and the D&R Canal Watch*

Griggstown bridgetender's station repair work



*Canal Society President Joe Macasek, Boonton Mayor Matt DiLauri, and members of Boonton Main Street Inc. held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this past summer to officially open the newly renovated observation platform in Boonton's Canal Side Park.*

## Boonton Greenway Trail

*Partnership with the Town of Boonton's Trail Committee*

Greenway trail head kiosk in Grace Lord Park and Boonton Ironworks National Register Certificate of Eligibility grant application

## Lincoln Park

*Partnership with the Borough of Lincoln Park*

Greenway trail head kiosk in Aqueduct Park

These are all first steps in what we hope will be a long-term effort to protect New Jersey's canal sites and

to make them accessible to the public. Next year's projects include plans to develop the Greenway trail at Powerville in Boonton Township's Griffith Park and in the Towaco section of Montville.

Thanks to our members and our volunteers, it's been a successful year. With your continued help and support the good work will go on. ■

## LAKE HOPATCONG

*(Continued from page 3)*

steamer glides into the lock, the gates closing behind it. It is now imprisoned in a narrow passage. On either side are high dripping walls, and in front and astern are the closed gates. There is a sudden roar of rushing, surging water. The launch lunges half forward, half upward, the screw adding to the turmoil. The lunging continues, the swashing, surging waters now lifting the launch by the stern, now by the prow. The actions of those who have not been through the lock before are a study. The babies cry; the women grab the nearest man by the arm; the girls are prettily flustered; the men endeavor to appear calm; the passengers that have made the passage before look amused; the only persons absolutely indifferent are the captain and the engineer...."

When the Morris Canal was abandoned in the 1920s, Brooklyn Lock was replaced with the dam that now provides water to the Musconetcong

## MEETINGS

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Joe Macasek** is president of the Canal Society of New Jersey, past president of the Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology, and director of communications for the Friends of Historic Speedwell. He currently serves on the Morris County Heritage Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in design from the Pratt Institute and is self-employed as a graphic designer. He is the author of *The Guide to the Morris Canal in Morris County*.

In addition to this evening's presentation, snacks and drinks will be served. Please come early to enjoy food and friendly conversation before the meeting. Food service: 7:00p.m.

**Friday – March 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.** – Refreshments at 7:00

## EXPLORING CANALS & RAILROADS IN THE DOVER AREA

**MIKE DEL VECCHIO**

Details to be announced

# D&R CANAL

## 2019 WALKS AND EVENTS

*These walks and events are sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch. All Saturday Canal Walks begin at 10 AM, unless noted. Meeting Places are designated with "(MP)" in the walk description. Contact information for Program Leaders is below. If emailing, use "D&R Canal" in subject header.*

D&R Canal Watch, [www.canalwatch.org](http://www.canalwatch.org) D&R Canal State Park, [www.dandrcanal.com](http://www.dandrcanal.com)

Bob Barth, 201-401-3121; [bbarth321@aol.com](mailto:bbarth321@aol.com)

Pamela V'Combe, 609-635-2783; [pjvcombe@gmail.com](mailto:pjvcombe@gmail.com)

Jessica Hunsdon, 732-993-4505

### Saturday, January 12 - 10:00 a.m.

6.5-mile Walk - Trenton Battle Monument to Port Mercer (MP), off Quakerbridge Rd. Includes loop off the canal to the Historic Brearley House grounds and Great Meadow. Discover the link between Grant's Tomb and the Trenton Battle Monument! Short walk is 3.5 miles to Carnegie Road. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

### Saturday, January 19 - 10:00 a.m.

Towpath clean-up. MP at Lock 11 in South Bound Brook, across from the post office on Canal Road. Join members of the Canal Watch in their effort to keep the state park a beauty spot in central New Jersey. Leader: Bob Barth

### Sunday, January 27 - 2:00 p.m.

Two-Canal Walk. Lambertville Station restaurant, near the caboose (MP). We will begin on the D&R Feeder on the New Jersey side and then cross the Delaware River to walk along the Delaware Canal in New Hope. Cookies and hot chocolate await at the locktender's home. Free, but donations are welcome and appreciated. Leader: Bob Barth (D&R Canal Watch) and Susan Taylor (Friends of the Delaware Canal).

### Saturday, February 9 - 10:00 a.m.

6.4-mile Walk - Port Mercer to Kingston (MP). Visit the Turning Basin, Millstone Aqueduct and Kingston Lock along this historical corridor. Short walk is 2.6 miles to Alexander Road. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

### Saturday, March 9 - 10:00 a.m.

5-mile Walk - Kingston to Griggstown Causeway (MP). Discover the area's mining resources, canal villages, and a lock; we'll pass by the woods behind General Washington's final headquarters. Short walk is 1.9 miles to Rocky Hill. Leader: Pamela V'Combe

### Saturday, May 11 - 10:00 a.m.

6-mile Walk - Griggstown to Colonial Park (MP) @ 156 Mettlers Road, Somerset, NJ 08873. Many blooms along the trail in May, including a bridgetender's garden, abundant flora trail and the nationally acclaimed Rudolf W. van der Goot Rose Garden. Short walk is 3.5 miles to Blackwell's Mills. Leader: Pamela V'Combes

River and controls the level of Lake Hopatcong. One of the primary champions of the canal's abandonment was a Lake Hopatcong landowner, Hudson Maxim, a great promoter and supporter of the development of the lake. During the 100 years between Mr. Macculloch's conception and Mr. Maxim's opposition to maintaining the canal, one can almost say that the Morris Canal was born, nourished, and died on Lake Hopatcong. ■



Passengers at the Landing trail station board boats for a trip to lake side destinations.

## SAVE THE DATE

# SYMPOSIUM

## New Jersey Canals and Local History Symposium

Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
Haggerty Center

Watch for e-mail confirmation of this time and date.

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALKS

March through June

March 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Hibernia**

Iron Mining and Iron Making in the  
New Jersey Highlands

April 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Split Rock Furnace**

Morris County's only standing iron furnace

April 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Boonton**

Morris Canal & Boonton Iron works

May 11<sup>th</sup>  
**Waterloo Valley Trail**

Morris Canal Towpath Walk

*Industrial Heritage Walks are sponsored by the Morris County Park Commission.*

For information and reservations, please email [macgraphics2@gmail.com](mailto:macgraphics2@gmail.com) or call 973-292-2755.

## Roebling Chapter SIA Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting starts at 12:30p.m.

Rogers Meeting Center  
32 Spruce Street, Paterson, NJ

Roebling Chapter's web site: [roeblingsia.org](http://roeblingsia.org).

## ON THE LEVEL

THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

PO Box 737, Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0737

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973-292-2755 - [www.CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://www.CanalSocietyNJ.org)

# IN MEMORIAM ANDREW DRYSDALE 1961-2018

By Bierce Riley

Sadly, former CSNJ director, Andy Drysdale, passed away in early December 2018. Andy was one of our early volunteers at Waterloo, as the blacksmith and interpreting the saw-mill. He may be remembered best by CSNJ members for his hour-and-a-half program on working for the Waterloo Foundation for the Arts. No visuals; just Andy speaking on recent local history.

Raised on a farm in Chester, NJ,

Andy was a 1985 graduate of Drew University, where he majored in history. His career in living history began with the Morris County Park Commission, first as a farmer at Fosterfields and later at the Cooper Grist Mill. After studying blacksmithing at Peters Valley, he became the blacksmith at Waterloo Village. He last worked for the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission as Curator of Shippen Manor Museum in Oxford.



Photo: www.27thnewjerseycompanyf.org

While Andy practiced the best of living history, always in period attire, he conversed in the current era about the past. Any encounter with him was always interesting and educational. Quick on his feet, he was a master at injecting humor to engage his audience.

Andy participated in many Civil War encampments and parades as Captain/Chaplain in the 27th Regiment of New Jersey Company F. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday, January 18**

**Program Meeting**

Joe Macasek, Treasures from the CSNJ Archives  
Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 26**

**Roebling Chapter Annual Meeting**

Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology

**Friday, March 15**

**Program Meeting**

Program to be Announced  
Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 27**

**Canal & Local History Symposium**

Roebling Chapter Society for Industrial Archeology

[www.CanalSocietyNJ.org](http://www.CanalSocietyNJ.org)

[nj-cnal@googlegroups.com](mailto:nj-cnal@googlegroups.com)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0737

PO Box 737

CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

FIRST CLASS MAIL