

ON THE LEVEL



THE CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

THE CARLING FAMILY GOES CANALING

This past December we received a letter from Michael Carling of Maryville, California. After a house fire he had rediscovered, among his family papers, a handwritten manuscript by his grandfather, Clarence W. Carling, dated 1960, only four years before he passed away at age 70. Contained in the document are stories told to him by his parents, William Z. and Mary (Kinney) Carling about their adventures on the Morris Canal in the 1880s. William Carling subsequently became a conductor with the Morris County Traction Company. The original document was transcribed by CSNJ member Judy Keith and is presented here for your enjoyment.

Work of almost any kind was quite scarce in Warren County, NJ, in the late 1880s. Father, who was born in Stewartsville, NJ, and Mother, who came from a farm family in New Village, NJ [now part of Franklin Township, NJ], decided to operate a canal boat on the Morris Canal which was then owned by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. and was located in northern New Jersey with terminals at Phillipsburg, NJ, on the Delaware River on its western end and Jersey City on

the Hudson River at its eastern end, a distance of 102 miles. Such work was known as “going boating” or “becoming Canalers.”

The family at that time consisted of Ella, the oldest, then Harry, and Floyd, who was youngest of the three. It was necessary for the entire family to go along on the boat during boating season, which extended from April, after the ice had melted from the canal, until November, when it usually froze up again. Floyd, as a very young boy, was ill and the local doctor, being unable to help him, told Mother that the boat trip to Newark might



Clarence W. Carling, 1894-1964, and his mother Mary (Kinney) Carling, 1853-1921. Clarence wrote down the stories his mother and father told him about boating on the Morris Canal.

benefit Floyd, but that if he remained in Phillipsburg, he would surely die. The doctor proved to be a good prophet and the three-week trip to Newark and back to Phillipsburg resulted in Floyd winning through in good health, a lusty active youngster.

Mother told us that Ella, who like Harry was somewhat precocious, really “upset the apple cart” for Mother and Dad on another trip.

At a place near Mountain View, NJ, where the branch canal known as the Pompton Feeder entered the main canal, a section of wider basin in the canal was formed at that junction. Now it should be explained that a canal boat is not just one boat but is actually two separate sections that are fastened together by hooks on each side when in normal use. The

(Continued on page 4)

MEETINGS

Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township

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

MILLS ALONG THE MUSCONETCONG

By IVINS SMITH

The Samuel T. Smith & Brothers mill at Waterloo was one of the many mills in communities along the Musconetong River. In this presentation, miller Ivins Smith will use historic 19th century maps to take us on a journey down the Musconetcong River from Lake Hopatcong and Lubbers Run through Waterloo, Hackettstown, and Asbury, to Phillipsburg on the Delaware River. He will identify and discuss numerous mills along the way.

In addition to this evening's presentation, CSNJ member Deb Wefferling will prepare and serve a light supper and dessert. Deb's culinary skills are well known among members, so please come early to enjoy food and friendly conversation before the meeting. Food service begins at 7:00p.m.

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MORRIS CANAL DOCUMENT COLLECTION

By Joe Macasek

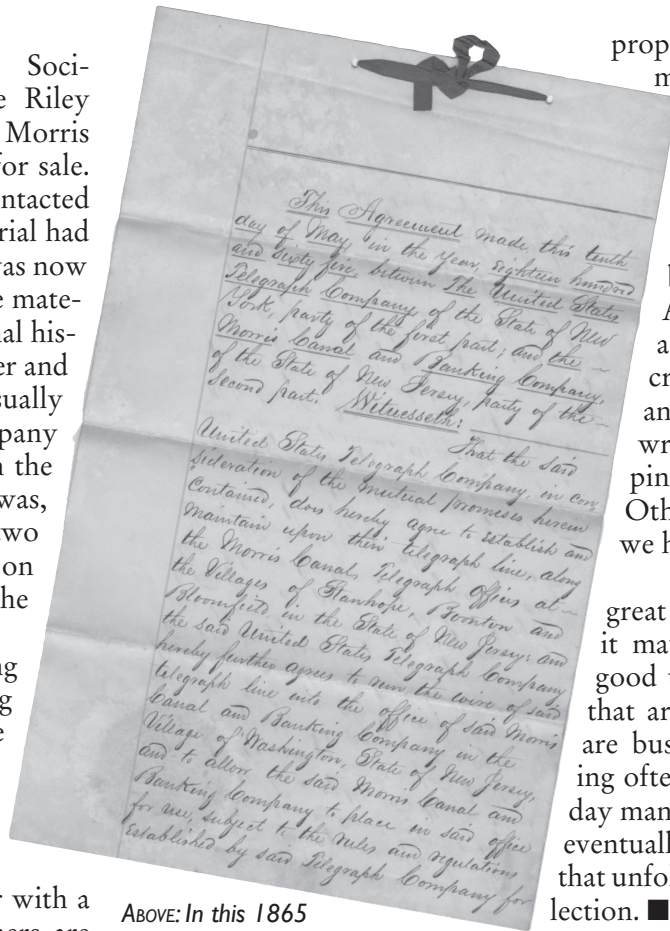
This past January, Canal Society Board Member Bierce Riley learned of a collection of Morris Canal documents being offered for sale. CSNJ president Joe Macasek contacted the seller, who said that the material had been in a private collection that was now for sale. To judge the value of the material, Joe Macasek and Morris Canal historian Bob Goller visited the seller and carefully looked through an unusually large assortment of canal company business documents, dating from the 1820s to the 1920s. What we saw was, indeed, a rare find. Over the next two weeks we negotiated a price, and on February 13th, CSNJ acquired the collection.

Since then, we have been going through the documents and taking stock of our new acquisition. The collection contains letters, deeds, leases, contracts, maps, and a few photos. Many of the older documents are carefully hand written, with pages fastened together with a neatly tied colorful ribbon. Others are working copies with penciled-in corrections and changes; the subject matter is complex and often obscure. I have found myself searching the back corners of my knowledge of Canal Company history to find meanings for leases and deeds for properties in Jersey City, contracts for construction work, and receipts for mortgage payments on obscure pieces of

property. Fortunately, many documents fall into groups and tell a story, such as correspondence concerning the removal of the superintendent's office building at Port Delaware.

Some documents are signed by well-known people: W. Abraham Ryerson comes to an agreement concerning bridges crossing the Pompton Feeder, and P. R. George of Ringwood writes to dispute the cost of shipping iron ore to Durham Furnace. Other documents deal with people we have yet to learn about.

Although the collection is a great addition to the CSNJ archive, it may be a challenge to put it to good use. Unlike pictures and maps that are often self-explanatory, these are business documents, with meaning often deeply buried in the day-to-day management of the canal. We hope, eventually, to share with you the stories that unfold as we delve into our new collection. ■



ABOVE: In this 1865 agreement, the United States Telegraph Company proposes the establishment of telegraph offices in Stanhope, Boonton, and Bloomfield, in exchange for a right of way along the Morris Canal.

BELOW: A sample of some of the document in the new collection.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & RECRUITMENT LUNCHEON
Sunday, May 20th,
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
The Mule Barn, Waterloo Village,
Stanhope, New Jersey

Each year, a number of our members volunteer their time in order to make our Waterloo Canal Days a success and keep our Canal Museum open. All have expressed how much fun and rewarding the experience is. We are always looking for new volunteers at Waterloo. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer (or already are one), please come to our Volunteer Appreciation & Recruitment Luncheon at Waterloo. At this event, you will learn about our programming and volunteer opportunities, and meet those who already volunteer their time and talent.

If interested, please reply by May 15th to Tim Roth at timroth@comcast.net, or 973-222-0586.

WARREN COUNTY GREENWAY TRAIL

BREAD LOCK PARK TO STEWARTSVILLE

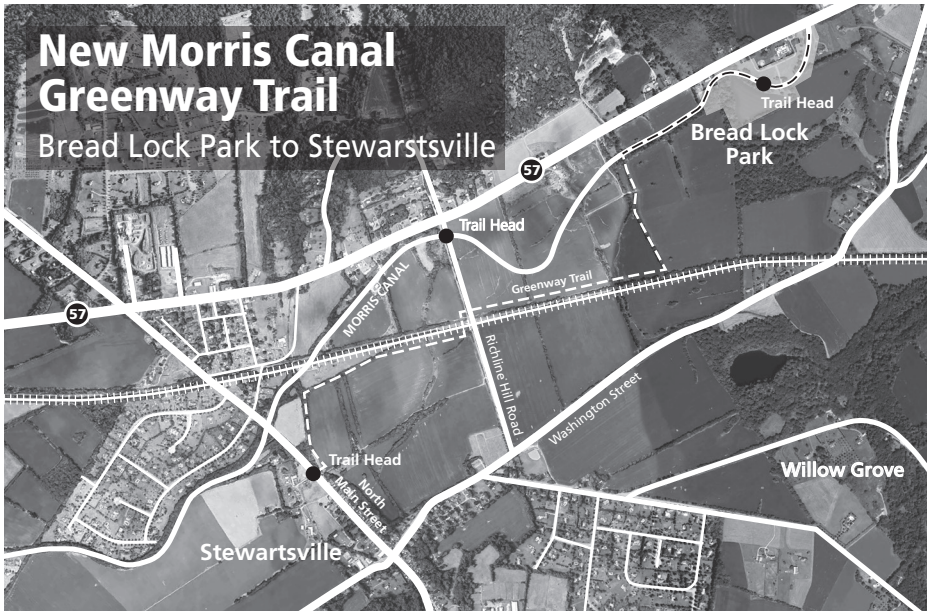
By *Tim Roth*

Warren County has been instrumental in the development of the Morris Canal Greenway through the western part of the state. It has recently completed a beautiful two-mile trail between two important Morris Canal locations; the trail should be open for the summer hiking season.

The eastern end of the trail begins at Bread Lock Park, located on Route 57 in New Village. The park derives its name from Lock 7 West, which earned the nickname “Bread Lock” from a store at the end of the lock that sold homemade bread and pies to the canal boatmen. The remains of the lock and the tender’s house can still be seen at Bread Lock Park. Also on the premises are a full-size replica canal boat and an outstanding canal museum run by Warren County. The museum is open the first Sunday of each month from April to October, from 1-4 p.m.

Heading west from behind the red barn at Bread Lock Park, you will pick up the Greenway trail, running directly along the Morris Canal prism. After about a quarter mile, you will come to a creek, at which point you will have to head south along the western edge of a cornfield. Markers have been staked to lead the way. At the end of the cornfield, a right-hand turn will take you along the southern boundary of a recently established solar farm. Eventually you will come to the trail head at Richline Hill Road. A parking area is located here.

After crossing the railroad tracks at Richline Hill Road, you will descend a set of stairs that take you to the western part of the trail. This section is nicely paved with pea gravel, allowing for either hiking or biking. The trail



In the near future a new section of Morris Canal Greenway trail will extend from Bread Lock Park through woods and open farmland to Main Street Stewartsville.

meanders west then turns south, where you can enjoy the babbling sounds of Merrill Creek, which the trail parallels for its last leg. The trail’s western terminus is at Main Street. Stewartsville, where limited parking is available. For further historical exploration, a walk north along Main Street will take you to the former prism of the Morris Canal, which is now occupied by the Greenwich Town-

ship Emergency Squad building. The house to the left is the former Henry Stone Canal Store, which was covered in the January 2018 edition of *On the Level*.

Warren County hopes to have a trail opening for this section of the Morris Canal Greenway at Park-Fest, to be held at Bread Lock Park on Saturday, June 9. Come to Park-Fest to check out this new trail and enjoy all the festivities! ■

CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Program Meeting and Election of Officers and Board Members

The following slate of officers and board members will be offered for election at the May 18, 2018, program meeting of the Canal Society of New Jersey, 7:30 p.m., at the Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township:

Officers

(two-year terms)

- **Tim Roth**
Vice President
- **Bierce Riley**
Recording Secretary

Board Members

(three-year terms)

- **Janice Escobar**
- **Rick Giles**
- **Rod Howarth**
- **Steve Lauf**
- **Jim Lee**
- **Carl Loutzenheiser**

Members may submit nominations in writing, to the Nominating Committee chairman, prior to the election. Contact Bill Pegg at williampeggj@gmail.com. Nominations must have a second and the consent of the nominee. Nominations may be made at the election meeting and proxy votes, in writing, shall be permitted.

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

THE CARLING FAMILY GOES CANALING

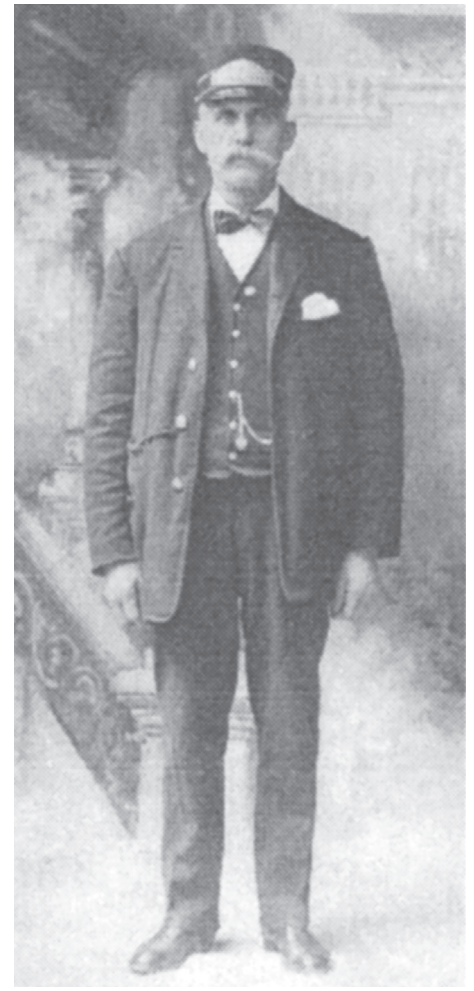
(Continued from page 1)

reason for this is that when going up a hill by canal, one must use what was called an [inclined] plane, which is really a hill from one canal level to another, on which are laid iron railroad rails. A wheeled cradle runs on these rails and carries the canal boat, one section at a time, up and down each of these hills. [Note: Both sections were moved together] There were 23 such planes on the Morris Canal.

To get back to Ella's escapade, while waiting at Mountain View, Ella played about the boat. Just to try something different, she looped a small clothesline under the hooks connecting the two boat sections and disengaged both hooks – but did not tell anyone. The result was that when Dad started up his mules, they and the front section of the boat started on their way up the

Pompton Feeder and the other end just floated away down the main canal. By the time Dad had used a pole to vault from the towpath onto the boat's rear section and had gotten his mules and the front half of the boat back against the rear section, he was, as they say, "fit to be tied." He proceeded to look for Ella, who was hiding down in the cabin. She was wearing a dress decorated with rows of buttons down both front and back. Mother said the licking Dad gave Ella produced not only some lively yelling but also a shower of buttons that flew about everywhere and even into the canal. Needless to say Ella was a "cabin passenger" for quite a while thereafter.

Harry had his turn too! The "cabin" of a canal boat is located in the rear section and is the family's living quarters. It is quite small and entrance



William Z. Carling, 1855-1911, seen here in his Morris County Traction Company conductor uniform, a job that he held after his experiences on the Morris Canal.

is gained by climbing down a ladder from the boat deck. For sleeping, there are bunks along the sides of the cabin. Since the canal at the surface was 40 feet wide, the boats themselves, in order to pass one another, were relatively narrow. This meant that cabins were small indeed and there was no room for tables of the kind you and I know about. A makeshift table was made by using a wide board hinged at one side to the side of the boat and held up by one table leg. Care had to be taken that food on such a table did not by accident fall to the floor if the leg was knocked from under it. For some unknown reason Harry had had a child's unhappy day on the moving boat and he was much underfoot while Mother was preparing soup for Dad, who was on deck steering the boat. Harry suddenly said, "Mom! I'm going to kick the leg out!" Thinking to humor a little

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Ella (Hopler) Carling
1875-1927



Harry Carling
1876-1952



Floyd Carling
1879-?

MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

Ivins Smith was born and raised on a dairy farm near New Hope, PA. Working on the farm gave him an interest in history and technology, and his grandfather's workshop inspired his lifelong fascination with history and machinery. He is a graduate of Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in Doylestown, PA, with a BS in Dairy Husbandry. Returning to New Hope, he was hired by the Pennsylvania State Historical Commission to help complete the restoration of the Thompson Neely Gristmill in Washington Crossing State Park.

In 1979, he joined the Morris County Park Commission as the miller at the Cooper Gristmill in Chester. For years he maintained and operated the mill and gave tours to countless visitors and school groups. During his time at the mill he oversaw all restoration and maintenance projects, and made the Cooper Mill one of the finest operating mills in New Jersey. After more than 38 years of service, Ivins retired from the Park Commission in December of 2017.

He is a member of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM), The Miller's Forum, and The International Molinological Society (TIMS) an organization dedicated to the study of mills and machinery. ■

D&R CANAL 2018 WALKS AND 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 the tour leaders.

Bob Barth 201-401-3121 or bbarth321@aol.com
Pamela V'Combe 609-635-2783 or pjvcombe@gmail.com
Frank Allen 570-234-9945 or fallen1947@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 19 – 10:00 a.m.

History Bike Tour on the D&R Canal towpath from Kingston to Griggstown and back, 10 miles round trip. Explore the structures along the D&R Canal with Canal Watch trustee Bob Barth. Meet at the locktender's home in Kingston. Bring water; helmet required. Allow three hours. Leader: Bob Barth.

Sunday, May 20 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Road will be closed between Butler Road and Blackwells Mills Road for Franklin Township's "Walk and Roll." Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

Sunday, June 3 – 2:00 p.m.

D&R Canal Watch Annual Meeting at the Griggstown Muletenders Barracks. Joe Donnelly of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission will present "The Delaware River Bridges." For additional information contact contact Linda Barth at 908-240-0488 or barthlinda123@aol.com.

Sunday, June 10 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Walk and Roll: Canal Road will be closed from Route 518 to the Griggstown Causeway. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars! This ride is free, but pre-registration is required.

Saturday, June 16 – 10:00 a.m.

Hike 5.3 miles from Fireman's Eddy to Prallsville Mill (the meeting place) or choose the 2.6-mile walk to the Holcombe-Jimison Farm. The tour will include the historic remnants of the feeder canal outlet lock to the river, other historic canal structures and expansive views across river. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

Sunday, July 8 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Walk and Roll: Canal Road will be closed from 10:00 to 4:00 from Route 518 to the Griggstown Causeway. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars! This ride is free, but pre-registration is required.

Saturday, July 21 – 10:00 a.m.

Hike 5.3 miles from Fireman's Eddy to Washington Crossing (the meeting place) or choose the 4.1-mile walk to Church Road in Titusville. Leader: Pamela V'Combe.

Sunday, August 12 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Walk and Roll: Canal Road will be closed from Route 518 to the Griggstown Causeway. Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars! This ride is free, but pre-registration is required.

Sunday, September 16 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canal Walk and Roll: Canal Road will be closed between Butler Road and Blackwells Mills Road for Franklin Township's "Walk and Roll." Enjoy a day with friends and family along the scenic D&R Canal with no cars!

For more information about the "WALK & ROLL" program or to register for the July 8 or August 12 events please contact Linda Barth at: Barthlinda123@aol.com.

Warren County PARKFEST

Saturday, June 9th

Warren County Parks Foundation

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ParkFest has something for everyone: Live music, food vendors, classic cars, and book signings by local authors. The museum will be open for visitors and there will be tours of the park's full size canal boat replica. More information call 908-475-6539 or email morriscanal@co.warren.nj.us

Bread Lock Park

2627 Rt. 57

Stewartville, NJ 08886

WATERLOO

SAVE THE DATE

Waterloo Canal Day Festival

Saturday, June 23, 2018

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rain date: Sunday, June 24th

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALKS

June through September

June 16th

Denville to Rockaway

Morris Canal Greenway Walk

July 7th

Decker-Kincaid

Homestead, Mines and Forge Site

August 4th

Morris Canal Inclined Plane

Plane 2 East, Ledgewood

September 15th

Easton & Phillipsburg

Canals, Coal & Iron

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

For information and reservations, please email macgraphics2@gmail.com or call 973-292-2755.

THE CARLING FAMILY GOES CANALING

(Continued from page 4)

boy, Mother said, "All right, Harry, but that means we will have no dinner for you and your Dad." Without a further word up came Harry's foot, down went the table leg, and all over the cabin floor went Dad's hoped-for soup. Mother said that for some time thereafter Harry slept face down because the other side of him was too tender to lie on after dinnerless Dad

got through with him.

One other thing about Harry – he never wanted to come down into the cabin when time came to sleep after the boat was tied up along the towpath at the end of the daylight. Only one thing would bring him in – he was deathly afraid of the roaring sound of big bullfrogs! So at the first bullfrog bellow, Mother knew that Harry

would run down the ladder at once for the evening.

Mother told us many such stories of life on the canal. She had one mule who always tried to shoulder her into the water when she was driving the mule team along the canal bank, walking beside them to switch flies from their bodies and to hurry them along to the next stopping place or canal store at places like Port Murray or Port Morris or Port Oram (now Wharton).

Many times in her stay on the canal as a "boatman," Mother walked long distances on the towpath or steered the boat while Dad walked. Today when I view the remnants of the Old Morris Canal – long since abandoned – I feel pretty humble and I wish that both Mother and Dad could have lived longer and more easily than they did. I do know, though, that in their day, in those 1880s, they lived carefree and were healthy and happy as "Canalers."

C. W. Carling 3/15/60

Carling family stories be will continue in the next issue of *On the Level*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 18

Membership Meeting

Ivins Smith, Mills Along the Musconetcong
Morris County Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 20

Waterloo Volunteer Event

Waterloo Village Mule Barn, 12:00 Noon

Saturday, June 9

Warren County ParkFest

Bread Lock Park, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, June 23

Waterloo Canal Day

Waterloo Village, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday, August 18

Wharton Canal Day

Hugh Force Park, Wharton
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

www.CanalSocietyNJ.org

nj-cnal@googlegroups.com



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0737

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CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

FIRST CLASS MAIL