

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Friday the 16th, 2026

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. – Program at 7:00 p.m.

Our CSNJ members and supporters are invited to join us at our new CSNJ Office/Archives for an openhouse and program meeting.

IRON MINING, IRON MAKING AND THE MORRIS CANAL

PRESENTED BY: JOE MACASEK



In this picture the canal on the foreground leads to Inclined Plane 7 East in the center on the picture with the ironworks on the left and town Boonton covering the hill on the right.

The Highland of New Jersey contain easily accessible veins of high grade magnetite iron ore. In the 1700s this ore was mined and sent to local forges and furnaces. With the completion of the Morris Canal in 1831, the mining business began to expand. Towns like Dover and Rockaway grew from small villages to inland canal ports with transportation links to distant markets. Hundreds of tons of ore were brought by tramways from mines at places like Mt. Hope and Hibernia to the canal for shipment to iron furnaces in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. By the 1860s many more mines were opened and railroads were transporting thousands of tons of ore to all parts of the country. Mines in Morris County continued in operation well into the 1900s. It is estimated that more than 55 million tons of ore were mined and shipped to all parts of the country. In this talk we will see how the iron industry and the Morris Canal helped shape the world we live in and explore some of the archaeological remains from iron mining and iron making sometimes come back to haunt us today.

Joe Macasek has had a lifelong interest in local New Jersey history and industrial archeology. He has pursued these interests on both a personal level and as president of the Canal Society of New Jersey and former president of the Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology. He is a member of the Morris County Heritage Commission and is the author of the *Guide to the Morris Canal in Morris County*.

In-person/Online Meeting

Our program meetings are being held at our new Office/Archives location at 35 Waterview Blvd. in Parsippany. Refreshments will be served before the meeting. We hope you will be able to join us in person. All Canal Society members and friends will receive an email invitation with a Zoom registration link and map to our new location. Please click on the link to join us online or email to let us know if you plan to attend in person.



Canal Society of New Jersey