

# Canal Society of New Jersey MAY PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026

## Prallsville Mills

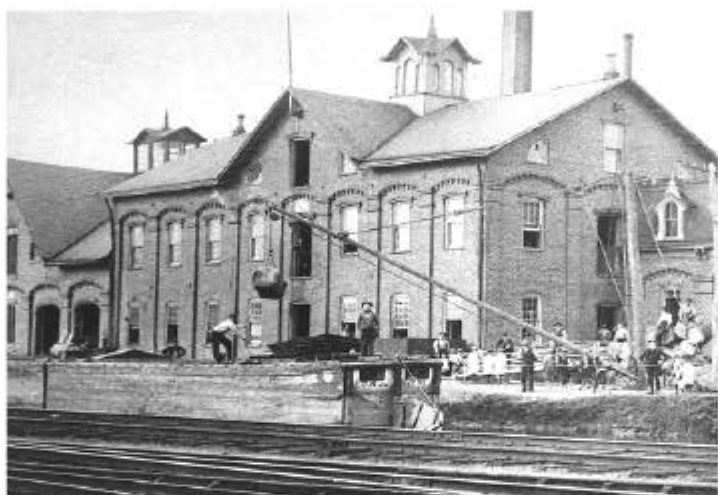
33 Risler Street, Stockton, NJ 08559

**Please join us on the D&R In-Person or Online.**

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.

## DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL 150 YEARS CELEBRATION IN 1984

PRESENTED BY: BILL MCKELVEY



*The Perseverance Paper Mill in Lambertville.*

**I**n 1984, under the leadership of Jim Amon, the first Executive Director of the D&R Canal Commission, a remarkable, statewide celebration brought the Delaware & Raritan Canal back into the spotlight. This talk looks back at how that milestone anniversary was marked—with a mix of exhibitions, media coverage, and community events that stretched along the canal corridor. From a canoe and boat procession between Bulls Island and Prallsville Mill, to guided tours, a major symposium, and gatherings that brought together former canal workers and enthusiasts, the celebration was both wide-ranging and deeply meaningful.

More than just a series of events, the 150th anniversary helped shift public awareness and appreciation of the canal, marking a turning point in how it was recognized as both a historic and recreational resource.



**“Captain” Bill McKelvey** is a New Jersey transportation historian, preservationist, author, and lecturer with decades of experience interpreting canal and rail history. He is the author of *Delaware & Raritan Canal: A Photographic History* (1975), *Champlain to Chesapeake* (1978), *Lehigh Valley Transit Company's Liberty Bell Route* (1989), and *The Transportation History of Boonton, NJ* (2018), and has also published works on the Erie and Schuylkill navigations. A longtime leader in preservation efforts, he has served in key roles with the Canal Society of New Jersey and other regional

and national organizations. His contributions have earned numerous awards, including recognition from the New Jersey Historical Commission, and he has led canal study tours throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

### Event Schedule

5:45 - Prallsville Mills Walkabout - Bob Barth

6:15 - Dinner

7:00 - Program Introduction - Joe Macasek

7:15 - Remarks on the D&R Canal

and Prallsville Mills - Bob Barth

7:30 - "A Review of the 1984 Delaware & Raritan Canal at 150 Years Celebration" - Bill McKelvey

8:30 - Dessert, Coffee, Q&A

9:00 - Conclusion