



SUMMER 2023

*Friends
of the
Delaware
Canal*

Canal News

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Our Mission

The Friends of the Delaware Canal is an independent, non-profit organization working to restore, preserve, and improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings.

Our primary goals are to ensure that the Canal is fully watered from Easton to Bristol and the towpath trail is useable over its entire length.

We embrace this mission in order to sustain a unique link to our heritage, protect beautiful and diverse natural areas, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and enable the Canal to serve as a community and economic asset.

The Delaware Canal— The Inn Place to Be

Bucks County is rich in history, and we can trace much of that history and growth to the impact of the Delaware River and Canal. River towns became hubs of industry, and when the Canal opened for operation, it spurred additional investment. Mills, lime kilns, farms, and other businesses flourished. When the Delaware Canal opened in 1832, it changed the river valley and the towns along the way. With improved transportation, commerce grew, and many people prospered.

As business people, travelers, and canalers flocked to the area, hotels and inns began to flourish. Many of the inns along the Delaware Canal were built around the same time. Others pre-date the Canal but certainly benefited from its operation.

Trains and highways eventually replaced the Canal, however, many of the historic inns have remained, most for public use, while some are private homes. The number of Inns along the Delaware Canal makes this 58.9-mile waterway unique.

Starting in the north, we will take a walk back in time to revisit some of the inns and provisioners that have been around for centuries.

Riegelsville Inn

This Inn was built in 1838 by Benjamin Riegel, a wealthy miller who owned property on either side of the Delaware River. His New Jersey operations included a grist mill and an oil mill. John Riegel, the grandson of Benjamin, continued the industrial legacy of the family by adding a paper mill which became known as the Riegel Paper Company, one of the largest employers in the area until the 1990's.

Riegelsville Inn is situated between the riv-



er and the Canal, next to the historic Roebling Bridge. It is listed on the Bucks County Register of Historic Places.

The original building is stucco over stone with porches facing the river and patio space on the Canal. At one point, the property also boasted a large barn with enough room for 50 horses (or mules).

Over the decades, the Inn has changed hands; however, it has remained in continuous operation for most of the past 160+ years. Today, the Inn offers fine dining throughout the week, with a brunch menu also available on the weekends.

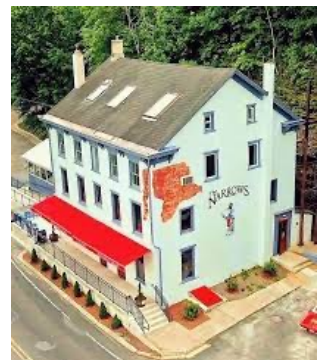
The Narrows Inn (formerly the Indian Rock Inn)

The Lenape Indian Tribe originally inhabited the site of the current Inn and restaurant. They used a deep natural pool in the rocks at the base of the Nockamixon Cliffs as a holding tank for fish they had caught in the Delaware River.

When the current building was erected in 1820, owner Jacob Krouse used the rock walls of the tank as his new tavern's foundation. The tavern license for the site dates back to 1812 when the pilots of lumber rafts were served a blicky (quart) of beer for a nickel.

In 1837, new owner John Derr enlarged the business to accommodate weary travelers, and the Rising Sun Hotel came to be. It was known by that name until 1854, except for a short period in 1851 when owner Frederick Trauger thought it might do better as the Farmers and Traveler's Inn. Apparently it didn't, since the name and Trauger lasted less than a year. In 1854, owner Mathias Lehman changed it to the Narrowsville Hotel.

The Inn changed hands several times and was most recently called the Indian Rock Inn.



Continued on following page

OUR BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

Learn more about these Friends. Click on their links at fodc.org.

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The Inn Place To Be, continued

This name derives from a nearby rock formation whose profile is said to resemble the face of an Indian. The mural of an Indian life scene, painted in 1988 by Irish artist Eric Patton, decorated the north side of the building until the most recent renovation.

To the north of the Inn were mule stables, with a barn and blacksmith shop to the south. Today, the Narrows Inn serves great food in a lovely historic setting.

The Homestead General Store

Another popular spot along the Canal is the Homestead General Store. This business has served the local community since the early 1800's and is the oldest continuously operating general



store in Bucks County providing provisions as well as a place to trade some canal gossip.

Originally built in 1831 by Hugh Major, the store arrived just in time to serve the newly opened canal and boatmen. Customers could stock up on provisions as well as local gossip. Today, the charm of the Homestead has been enhanced by the addition of a coffee roasting business. Their certified organic coffee is served and sold throughout Bucks and Hunterdon counties.

While the Homestead has seen several owners over the decades, Rick and Iris Lewis have been the proprietors since 1980. They have witnessed floods, bridge closures, and other calamities but have endured throughout it all. The

Homestead has earned a reputation for its food and family-friendly atmosphere. It is a great place to stop along your towpath stroll.

Uhlerstown Hotel and Hamlet (formerly Uhlerstown)

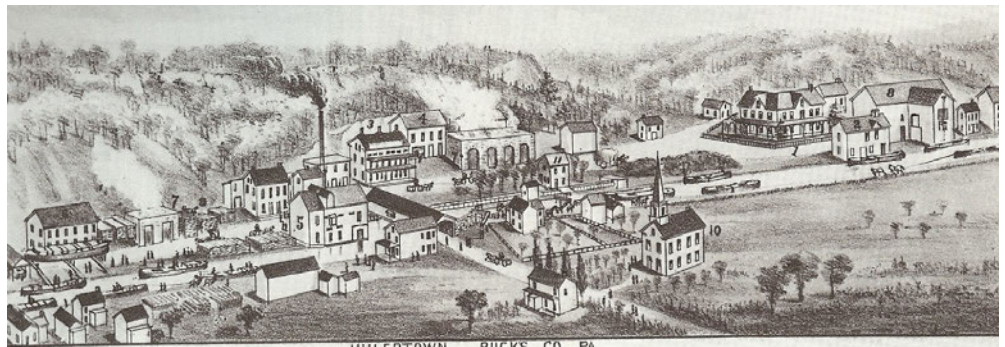
Now a private residence, the Uhlerstown Hotel was once a favorite resting spot for weary travelers. Built around 1840, the hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Today, the entire hamlet is listed as a historic district.

The natural charm of the hotel is enhanced by its location in this well-preserved little hamlet. Uhlerstown is one of the true historic gems along the towpath. This village was once a prosperous settlement, built mainly around the Canal and its operations.

Michael Uhler, a man of remarkable energy and business ability, recognized the opportunity that the Canal offered and moved downriver from the Groundhog Lock area between Riegelsville and Raubsville, where he and his brother Peter had been doing business.

Uhler developed the town that would be named after him. He is best known for operating a boat building yard and running a line of well-equipped canal boats called the Michael Uhler line. He owned extensive farmland from which grain and hay were supplied to the canal trade and metropolitan markets. He built and operated a gristmill and lime kilns, a country store and post office, a saddler shop, and coal yards. The hamlet is also home to the only covered bridge that spans the Canal.

Today, the historic district encompasses 63 contributing structures located along the Delaware Canal. Buildings of note include a brick building that once housed a school. The building to the right of the bridge entrance was the residence of Jonas Sigafos who operated a general store. To the left of the bridge entrance, the present home was originally a warehouse for the



Courtesy, Allen Saalburg
An itinerant artist's sketch of Uhlerstown.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Michael Uhler's home | 5. Uhlerstown mill | 9. Lumber and wood yard |
| 2. Store and post-office | 6. Boat yard | 10. School and Redmen's hall |
| 3. Uhlerstown hotel | 7. Limekiln | 11. Lock keeper's house |
| 4. Uhlerstown hall | 8. Hay press | 12. Lock |

The Inn Place To Be, continued

gristmill located on the opposite bank of the Canal. Other historic buildings include the Uhlerstown Hall, a community gathering place for dances and entertainment, the Locktender's House, and the remnants of lime kilns.

Golden Pheasant Inn

Originally called the Delaware House, the Golden Pheasant Inn was built in 1857 to cater to the canal trade. The Inn offered housing for men and mules along with provisions. When the Canal closed in 1931, the Inn suffered hard times until 1967, when it was purchased by Ralph Schneider, who named it the Golden Pheasant Inn.

The Inn is situated on the eastern boundary of Tinicum township in a section of Bucks County which was called Manor of Highlands. In 1699, the 7,500 acres were purchased from William Penn by the London Company.



In 1986, the Faure family purchased the property. Michel Faure was the chef, and his wife Barbara was the hostess and decorator. Barbara refurbished the rooms to the Inn's original 1850s period style. Within three months of opening, John Bull, a restaurant critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, gave the new Inn a resounding "thumbs-up."

The Faure's daughters, Brittany, Blake, and Briar assumed the business and operated the Inn and restaurant for many years before selling it to the Thompson Hospitality organization.

Point Pleasant Inn (F.P. Kolbe's)

At one time, Point Pleasant was a bustling commercial center largely catering to the canal and carriage trade and then to vacationers who discovered the charms of this river valley town.

The Point Pleasant Inn (*above, right*), as it was initially known, was built in 1782. This grand hotel hosted Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, and other fishing enthusiasts. Prominent Astor, Whitney, and Vanderbilt family members were also guests. The elegant colonnaded façade faces out over what was once a lovely view of the Tohickon Creek.

Today, the building is home to F.P. Kolbe Gift Store & Café. It is a favorite shopping spot for seasonal decorative items, candles, garden fountains, and hand-crafted furniture.

Cuttalossa Inn (No longer in operation, but for sale)

Standing by the picturesque waterfall above the Cuttalossa Inn, it is hard to imagine that this was once the bustling center of the village of Lumberton. Approximately 200 people lived here, including Zebulon Pike (of *Pike's Peak* fame) operating the quarries and several mills.



The Cuttalossa Inn was a general store and post office; the stone building across from it was "Hard Times Tavern" as the proprietor made barely enough to pay the rent.

The quarries above and below Cuttalossa Road produced stone used in mansions in Philadelphia and New York City. Canal barges transported it to Philadelphia and by railroad (Jersey side) to New York City. A cable car from the towpath across the river delivered the stone to the railroad.

A sawmill was located above the falls, powered by a 20-foot diameter water wheel; the mill race can be discerned on the left as one moves up Cuttalossa Road. Immediately below the falls, at the parking area level, was a decking from one bank to the other, called a forebay — a place to stack the milled lumber in an otherwise tight valley. This picturesque spot has been a favorite subject of painters and poets alike.

More Inns to Come

There are other notable historic inns, including the Black Bass Inn located in Lumberville. The Black Bass was built in 1740-1745, was partially destroyed by fire. There was substantial rebuilding in 1834. The original owner of the establishment was a Tory who favored the British, so George Washington did not sleep here. However, today all are welcome to eat or stay here.

The Washington Crossing Inn was built in 1817 and it features an original large kitchen hearth in one of its dining rooms. The Yardley Inn, once called the White Swan Inn was built in 1832.

And in Bristol, you will find one of George and Martha's favorite spots, The King George II Inn (*right*). This Inn has a rich history, and is the oldest, if not one of the oldest, operating inns in the country. Established in 1681, the property is lovingly maintained by the current owners who are committed to providing great food and service in a truly unique setting.

One last Inn we feel we should mention, was located in the village of Raubsville, north of Riegelsville and close to the Forks of the Delaware River. The building still stands today, but remains empty.



Take A Walk Back Inn Time

No matter where you start your hiking or biking excursion along the towpath, you are sure to pass one of these historic inns and businesses. We encourage you to take advantage of the views, the food and the hospitality each has to offer.

Upcoming Events



THE YARDLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

The Yardley Harvest Festival is celebrating its 55th year on September 23, 2023. This community-wide, family-oriented event is held in the center of this charming town where everyone can enjoy the history and all the festival has to offer. The event features crafters and artisans from around the region, local businesses, entertainment, and food. Lots of food. The Friends will be there too, with ducks to decorate and stories to share.



PEACE FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
10:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

The 23rd Annual Peace Fair will be held at the Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse and School located at 5684 York Road (Routes 202 and 263) in Lahaska, PA. This celebration features local crafters and artists, family-friendly activities and great food. Local non-profits will also be on hand. The event promotes harmony in the environment and the world.

Come join the Friends of the Delaware Canal, ride the Peace Train, test your skills at the bean-bag toss and celebrate the community together.



CANAL WALK

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30
THRU OCTOBER 28
Bristol to Easton

Nothing compares to a nice brisk hike on the towpath to set the tone for the remainder of 2023. Our annual tradition will continue this year as enthusiastic canal walkers from throughout the area enjoy large sections of the towpath as we try to cover as much territory as possible over five consecutive weekends.

Our walks will be held, weather permitting, on Saturdays starting on Saturday, September 30. Other dates include October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28.

These walks are a great way to exercise, and you can learn a bit about the history and habitat along the way. Our walks include some notable Canal features, including aqueducts, camelback bridges, locks, and more.

We will post a list of the locations and distances in early September. You are welcome to join us for one or all walks and for the mileage that suits you best to explore the towpath and meet some new Friends.

CANAL-O-WEEN DINNER

OCTOBER
Continental Tavern, Yardley

This great local tradition occurs along the canal every Halloween as hundreds of carved pumpkins appear along the towpath. Join the Friends as we experience this magical time of year.

Enjoy the creativity and the hospitality of the people that call Yardley home as we walk the



towpath to inspect the handwork of so many budding artists. We will learn about the canal's history in Yardley and top off the evening with dinner at the Continental Tavern.

The Tavern has an impressive history. Originally an outbuilding of the Thomas Yardley estate, it was purchased by the Slack family, who, for several generations, ran a tavern, a boarding house, and a library all within this location. It also served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

SAVE THE DATE

FACES AND PLACES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Friends will host our Annual Faces and Places, focusing on the starting point of the Delaware Canal in Easton, PA.

This river town is experiencing a renaissance as more people uncover the area's rich history and natural beauty. It is a perfect spot to celebrate our Faces and Places tradition. We will tour historic properties and the National Canal Museum.

You will learn about the Forks of the Delaware and Friends' plans to improve the visitor experience to the Canal.

The Canal played an essential role in the growth of the city. Our bus tour will highlight some important facts and features as we make our way to destinations around town.

We will top off the day with a lovely dinner at the exclusive Pomfret Club. The Pomfret Club is a private social club serving distinguished Easton residents and business owners since 1885.

We hope you can join us.

Never Forgotten – 911 Memorial Benches, A Lasting Tribute

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, when so many people lost their lives, including some of our Bucks County neighbors, the Friends committed to remembering these victims with a fitting tribute, not just a plaque or a marker, but something that could enhance the towpath while honoring the victims.

The vision — place seventeen plantation teak benches along the length of the Canal towpath.

Each bench has a bronze plaque showing the name of one of the victims who called Bucks County home. The benches would commemorate their lives and provide spots for Park visitors to rest, reflect, and enjoy the wonders of nature. They would be reminders of the importance of memories and hope.

The Delaware Canal State Park is a place full of memories and hope — memories of America's past and hope for the future of a scenic waterway that thousands of people enjoy. Its beauty, historical significance, and enduring nature make the Delaware Canal a fitting site for a special memorial.

We promised never to forget these lives.

So, in 2004, the Friends implemented their vision and purchased and installed 17 teak benches, each with a memorial plaque honoring a fallen neighbor. We chose high-

profile locations along the towpath that are easily accessed by the public.

But installing these benches was only the first step in our commitment. Wood, even teak, needs to be maintained and preserved. And some benches must also be replaced when lost to flood, decay, or vandalism.

The Friends recently updated the 911 bench policy to help guarantee these tributes in perpetuity. At least once a year, all of the benches will be inspected by volunteers or board members to assess the condition and placement of each bench.

This assessment will be used to determine if the existing benches are in need of repair or replacement. The Friends will pay for these costs which may require occasional fund-raising support.

Several Board members and Canal Action Team volunteers have already been busy with upkeep and maintenance this year. Lichen seems particularly fond of these teak benches; it takes some elbow grease to clean and restore them.

Several benches were beyond repair. Unfortunately, there are few sources for the bench style we use, so replacing them has been slow. Top it off with COVID-related material delays, which created a backlog of orders. Thankfully, the manufacturer caught up on production, and three new

benches will be installed this fall.

The Friends and our members understand the importance of community and honoring the legacy and lives of our those lost. We want to thank the dedicated people who created a lasting tribute to the 911 victims with their donations and hard work.



William Steiner Bench pre-restoration



William Steiner Bench restored

LEGISLATORS GATHER IN UNITY FOR THE CANAL



Left to right: Brian Heath, DCSP Manager; Doug Dolan, DC21; Brett Webber, FODC Board President; Steve Santarsiero, PA State Senator; PA State Representatives Shelby Labs and Perry Warren.

The Delaware Canal State Park Legislative Caucus was re-launched this spring to present a united voice in the General Assembly about the importance of preserving and improving the Canal and towpath. This caucus will advocate for the Canal, focusing on needed repairs and improvements. The group will also work to identify the necessary federal, state, and local resources.

The ultimate goal is to restore the Canal so that it is structurally sound and fully watered.

The caucus members include co-chairs State Senator Steve Santarsiero and State Representative Robert Freeman. The caucus also includes Senators Lisa Boscola and Jarret Coleman and State Representatives Tim Brennan, Perry Warren, Craig Staats, Shelby Labs, Tina Davis, and John Galloway.

The initial meeting also included The Friends of the Delaware Canal Board President Brett Webber and Executive Director Michael Ginder. They stressed the need for a solid commitment to preserve the Canal and discussed the improvements the Friends 2032 Plan recommends.

PAINT AND SWEAT EQUITY PAY-OFF



The Friends of the Delaware Canal headquarters is the Locktender's House at Lock 11 in New Hope. As part of our lease agreement, the Friends not only paid to renovate the building before we took occupancy, but we also pay to maintain the exterior.

The original building, which dates back to the early 1830s, is a stucco on stone structure. The Friends use "true to the period" paint colors to maintain the stucco and the wood trim. In May, the Friends hired Martin Lalor Painting to put a fresh coat on the building exterior, including the front porch floor and ceiling.

Various board members and other Friends provided sweat equity to repair and repaint other structures on the property, including the garden fence (*above*), which received a brand-new gate and posts courtesy of our talented Friend, Jay Freeo.

Once the repairs were made, our board members Pete Ross-waag and Gordon Heisler jumped in to prep and paint the fence. And, there is a lot of fence to prep. The scraping, sanding, and washing took many hours over a few weeks to complete the task. The unrelenting heat did not help.

Jay Freeo also repaired the "dog house" structures. The "dog houses" protect the miter gate opening mechanisms on either side of the lock. The miter gates are at the southern end of the lock and were built to swing in or out as needed to fill and empty the lock as a canal boat passed through.

We want to thank all of the Friends members who helped not only at the Locktender's House this year but who also assisted with painting and repairing bridges, fences, signs, and benches along the way.

Are you interested in helping to create a maintain an 1840's era kitchen garden using plants appropriate to the time? We would love to hear from you. Just give us a call or email us today.

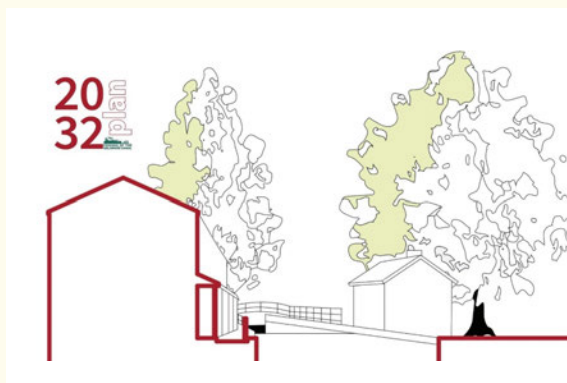
2032 Plan Update

With over 1,500 responses to our 2032 survey, we have entered the next phase of planning.

Using the input from the survey and community meetings, we are working with Studio Bryan Hayes to put together preliminary plans and drawings for priority projects.

In tandem with this work, we are also investigating funding sources for these projects. Our goal is to introduce the final 2032 plan to our members by the end of the year.

Thanks to all who participated and provided valuable feedback.



Bridge Street construction in Morrisville to improve towpath access



Renderings of the Bridge Street ramp

When we hear about a project to enhance the experience of towpath users, we are all in. The Friends have long advocated for, and sometimes financed, essential modifications and improvements that provide better pedestrian access to the towpath.

This new construction project in Morrisville will create an improved crosswalk and ramp to ease access from one side of Bridge Street to the other.

For years, towpath users could only get around the bridge by traveling down Bridge Street before crossing the road to re-enter the towpath. This new access will allow a fairly seamless entry point as users can use a towpath ramp to access the other side of Bridge Street.

Construction is expected to be completed by late November. Motorists are advised to allow extra travel time through the work area as backup and delays are anticipated.

As a reminder, you can check on road conditions in the area by accessing the 511 PennDOT website at www.511PA.com.

We are excited for the Borough of Morrisville. This new ramp and crosswalk will improve safety and travel on the towpath.



WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

Thomas and Matina Burke
Sandra and Richard Cohen
Edna Donaghy
Gard Holby and Ann Funkhouse
Tom and Molly Kirchoff
Jeffrey Porter and Christina Kennedy
Vincent Luisi
Marc McCann
John McVeigh
Lesa Mellman
Bob Mohr
Ruth, Gerard and Michele Mooney
Arthur Pasquarella
Ken and Stacey Porter
Carolyn Quinn
Paul and Kimberly Riccobene
Richard Shindell
John Smith
Sonja Sprecher
Jill and Dave Worth
Robert and Marcia Yeager



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

‘Tis the season to renew your annual Friends of the Delaware Canal membership.

Most of our members should have received our letter in June.

If you have already responded, we thank you!

If you still need to renew, there is still time. You can renew your membership on our website, fodc.org, or by calling the Friends at 215-860-2120.

We accept credit and debit cards, although we prefer checks.

That way, we avoid those nasty fees charged by the processing companies.

**As always, we appreciate the support of our members
who share a vision of preserving the towpath and canal
for generations to come.**