



FRIENDS OF THE DELAWARE CANAL CANAL NEWS

Delaware Canal Festival

In Bristol Borough, Yardley, Morrisville and New Hope this year!



Friday, June 20 , 7-9 p.m.

At the Bristol Borough Lagoon Park

- Decorated Boat Parade
- Decorated Duck Contest
- The River Drivers in Concert
- Food and Community Groups

Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In Yardley Borough along the Canal from Afton to College Avenues

- Decorated Boat Parade at 12:30 p.m.
- Decorated Duck Contest
- Caribbean Steel Rhythms Ensemble
- Canal Critter Race at 3 p.m.
- Food and Community Groups

Saturday, June 21, 6-9 p.m.

In Williamson Park in Morrisville

- Decorated Duck Contest
- Art Exhibit
- Live Music
- Food and Vendors



Sunday, June 22, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In New Hope in conjunction with the Liberty Festival

- 5K Run/Walk
- Town and Towpath Guided Tour
- Decorated Boat Float
- Decorated Duck Making
- String Band Concert to Benefit the NH-S Library

(continued on p.6)

The Pieces Are Falling Into Place

Even though Winter tried its best to foil them, both flood repair contractors have made some progress during the past several months. Friends' members have commented time and again about how impressed they were to see the Bi-State masons working on weekends and the Tri-State excavators working in the snow. And Winter wasn't the only culprit. In February, a dump truck filled with stone was unable to stop at the intersection of Windy Bush Road and River Road in New Hope. It rolled straight into the Canal spewing its load of stone into the prism and burying the entry way of the old toll collector's house on the other side. All at the Lock 9 location where Bi-State had just finished removing tons and tons of stone and installing a new drop gate. Fortunately, the truck missed the new gate, and the stone now has been removed.

Both flood repair contractors have received contract extensions because of the weather conditions. The original completion date for both was March 1. The State has granted Tri-State an extension to April 15; Bi-State was given an extension to April 27.

The weather also delayed the start of the two projects that the Friends are undertaking, but they will begin in April and be completed by May 15. R-Shell Exteriors will be replacing the X bracing on Hazzard's Camelback Bridge, and Bi-State Construction will be repairing the timber lock sills at Lock 13 in Point Pleasant, Locks 15/16 in Smithtown, and Lock 18 in Uhlerstown.



St. Patrick's Day morning at Lock 7 in Yardley. This bypass channel repair is the southern-most of the flood repair projects.

Meanwhile, the State executed a contract for relining a section of the Canal north of the railroad property in New Hope with Rutledge Excavating. The relining, which is meant to stop the site leakage, will begin in April and should take no longer than one month. When complete, the entire stretch of Canal from Centre Bridge to Lock 11 can be watered. New Hope for Our Canal, a local

(continued on p.2)



Friends of the Delaware Canal

145 South Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone & Fax: 215-862-2021
Email: friends@fodc.org
Internet: www.fodc.org

Board of Directors

Brett Webber, *President*
Jeff Connell, *Vice-President*
Judith Franlin, *Secretary*
Peter Sperry, *Treasurer*
Stephen Freeman
Joan Fullerton
Stephanie Garomon
Miriam Seiden
Greg Taylor
Lynn Vogel
Bill West
Judy Zipkin-Grasso

Advisory Board

Randy Apgar
Allen Black
Jack Donohue
William Farkas
William Getchell
James Greenwood
David Heckler
Pearl Mintzer
Betty Orlemann
Deborah Palmer
Will Rivinus
David Strawbridge

Executive Director

Susan Taylor

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.

Park Manager's Report

Things are looking up again for the Canal. The flood repairs should be completed shortly, and we will begin attempting to make water flow through the Canal. It has been a long process, and we can see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

The PADOT project to remove large stone from the Canal and build a wall just downstream from the Theodore Roosevelt Recreation Area (Raubsville) has been put off until fall, so that it does not cause a delay in watering the Canal.

The Friends have a project that will complete some much needed work to Locks in Uhlerstown, Smithtown, and Point Pleasant. This involves repairs to the base or sills of the locks. I want to thank your organization for this and all the work you accomplish.

DCNR is about to start a project to line 600 feet of Canal in New Hope to address some of the leaking in the Borough.

We have hired an additional full time Equipment Operator and would like to welcome Frank Leauber back to the Canal. Frank had worked with us as a seasonal Semi-

Skilled Laborer and then spent some time with PADOT. We are also anxiously awaiting the return of Chris Lee, who is serving in Afghanistan and is due to return this season. We have also hired two additional seasonal Semi-Skilled Laborers. Rick Koflanovich and Dominec Bartolini will be joining the crew. An engineer has also been hired for the Canal. Brian Nixon will work out of the Region 4 office at Nockamixon, and his primary assignment is the Canal.

It has been announced that Washington Crossing Historic Park will be transitioned from being run by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to becoming a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Park. It will be added to the Delaware Canal State Park Complex, which already operates the Canal and Ralph Stover State Parks. Washington Crossing will have its own Manager, who will report to me.

All in all, it will be a busy spring along the Canal. After this winter, it can't come too soon.

Rick Dalton

CAT on Ice

Even though winter is an excellent time to tackle tree and brush clearing along the Canal, the Canal Action Team (CAT) didn't get a chance to do any work this season. First the holidays, and then came the incessant snow and ice that made the Canal both inaccessible and unsafe. Now it's spring, the towpath is clear, and CAT is back at work dealing with the branches that were downed during the ice storm.

CAT could use your help! Painting and lock projects are waiting to be tackled when the temperatures rise. There are opportunities on either weekdays or Saturdays. If you are interested in being part of the Canal Action Team, please call 215-862-2021 or e-mail friends@fodc.org and give us your contact info and your preferred work locations (north, central, south). We'll add you to the list of potential crew members, who receive schedules/details via e-mail. Those who can volunteer need only reply to the e-mail.

Make a difference and enjoy working with your fellow Friends.

The pieces . . .

(continued from front page)

organization working with the Friends, has taken over the payment of the electric bills for the Centre Bridge pump, which currently waters this stretch of the Canal.

The outstanding questions are "When will the towpath trail be ready for use?" and "When will water start to flow into the Canal from the Lehigh River?" After the contractors apply the stabilized turf surface, the grass seed will need some time to establish itself. The grass knits the towpath surface together, stabilizing it against erosion. Heavy visitor use will hinder the growth, so it's advisable to tread lightly until the grass is strong.

As for water, we anticipate that Lehigh River water will be making its way south during May and June. Even though the Park staff, outside contractors, and the Friends have done a great deal of proactive work to facilitate the flow, experience tells us that the process of rewatering has its ups and downs. It would be unrealistic to think that it will proceed perfectly, but we have our fingers and toes crossed that few problems arise. Here's to hiking and biking along a fully watered Canal this summer.

Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day

The Friends have organized clean-up efforts since the organization's inception in 1982. The first one was in the Smithtown area, where our founder Betty Orlemann lives. Betty enlisted her friends and neighbors, and they tackled the towpath and the watered prism. From this neighborly start, the Friends' clean-ups grew into annual events encompassing the entire 58.9 miles of the Canal. Local coordinators organized volunteer crews, who handled individual sections of the Canal's full length.

The 58.9 mile Clean-Ups were the Friends' tradition until 2004 when the floods came – damaging long and short stretches of the Canal and limiting accessibility. Since then, the Friends have had clean-ups each year, but they've been limited. But, the Friends aren't ones to be bound by limitations. Two new programs to muster volunteer assistance for the Canal were initiated.

- Canal Tenders have adopted sections of the Canal, which they monitor and clean-up year-round.
- The Canal Action Team (CAT) takes on more heavy-duty projects, such as clearing trees, removing vegetation from locks, and painting bridges on a periodic basis. Unfortunately, this winter has really put a crimp in CAT's activities, but they're raring to go.

This year has presented the Friends with a new Clean-Up Day scenario that requires some different tactics.

- All 58.9 miles of the Canal should be accessible to Clean-Up Day volunteers because the extensive flood repair work is nearly complete. There probably will be some areas that will have to be skipped because emerging grass won't appreciate tromping feet.
- Many Canal Tenders have their sections under control, especially since this winter's snow and ice have kept visitors away.

Our list of Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day Work Areas, shown on page 5 includes the entire Canal. On the list are sections that will be handled by Canal Tenders, and sections that will be tackled by community coordinators and organizations. Those Tenders and coordinators who have requested additional volunteer help are highlighted in green.

To volunteer, please review the list and choose one of the highlighted locations, then call or e-mail the Canal Tender or Coordinator to offer your assistance. Your Tender or Coordinator will let you know where to meet, what to bring, and answer any questions that you may have.

If your favorite section isn't among the highlighted areas, please don't hesitate to go out and give the area Tender or Coordinator a hand. Nearly all will be out on the towpath on Clean-Up Day.

So pull out your work gloves and come out on April 12 to give the Canal its annual spring cleaning. Bring your family, friends, and acquaintances, too.

As always, individual clean-up efforts are always welcome – anytime, anywhere.



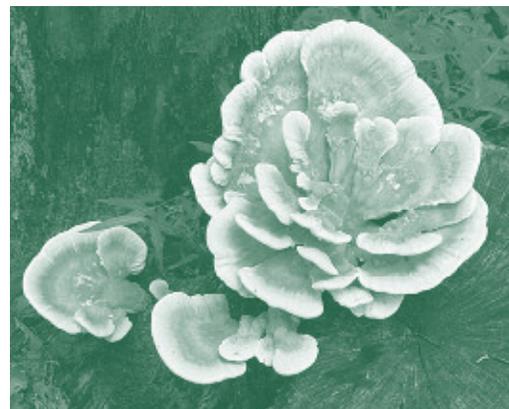
One of the first Friends of the Delaware Canal Clean-Up Days in Smithtown. That's one big log that they're pulling out of the water.

Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m. Discover Fungi Walk

Meet at the Washington Crossing Historic Park entrance on Route 532, just east of the bridge over the Canal. (This is the entrance near the lagoon.)

We had such a good time and learned so much on our Fungi Walk last fall in Erwinna that we thought that we'd try again and see what we can find farther south along the Canal. Our 1-1/2 mile walk will take us along on the towpath with a left-turn into a 28-acre wooded parcel of land. Few people know that this woods is part of the Delaware Canal State Park. Local preservationists fought to prevent development because of the parcel's location adjacent to both the Canal and the Washington Crossing Historic Park. After they succeeded in purchasing the land, the property was turned over to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and designated as part of the Delaware Canal State Park Complex.

Mycologist and Friends' member Marion (Martie) Kyle will lead us in search of sometimes elusive fungi. "They come out when they want to." She will explain what fungi are, what they do, and where they can be found. We could not ask for a more qualified and entertaining guide. If someone finds a brown blob on a branch, Martie will know what is and have a good story to tell about it, too. She is a Ph.D in Mycology and has been a leader in local and regional conservation efforts for more than 20 years.



Join us on this search for fungi, have fun learning, and explore a part of the Delaware Canal State Park that may be new to you.

Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. Pennsylvania Rye Whiskey in the Making

Stone Hall in the Feinstone Conference Center,
The David Library of the American Revolution
1201 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA

We've all heard stories about how much canallers liked their whiskey. How the men who built the canals were given rations of whiskey each day. How canal boatmen got into fist fights at locks because they were two sheets to the wind. Almost certainly these stories have gotten exaggerated over the years, but, undoubtedly, whiskey was a part of life on the canals.

The popularity of rye whiskey has cycled since canal days with its lowest point being after Prohibition, but today rye whiskey is back in fashion. Specifically, small batch rye whiskey made with natural ingredients and traditional methods.

Small batch "Rye the Right Way" is now being made at a new distillery in the historic Grundy Mill in Bristol Borough – right along the Delaware Canal. Herman Mihalich and John Cooper founded Mountain Laurel Spirits, LLC in 2010 and have been producing Dad's Hat Pennsylvania Rye Whiskey with great success ever since.



Herman Mihalich, CEO of Dad's Hat, will share the story of how he made his way from chemical engineering to distilling at our May program. His presentation will illustrate the roles that whiskey played in America's history from a lucrative by-product of colonial mills to the reason for a rebellion and Prohibition. His small batch process will be explained – how grain grown in Lancaster, PA is processed and fermented, and then the alcohol distilled and aged. He'll also reveal why his rye came to be called "Dad's Hat."

After the program, Mr. Mihalich will provide sipping samples of two different Dad's Hat rye whiskeys in the Rose Gallery.

You won't want to miss this program about the resurgence of the canallers' favorite drink.



New and Improved Loop Trail Info

The Friends recently received a \$1000 Small Project Grant from the D&L Trail Alliance. With the funds, new and improved maps and other information about the five loops trails that connect the Delaware and D&R Canal towpaths will be designed and developed. The products will first appear in a new brochure and on an improved webpage at www.fodc.org. Our goal is to make trip planning easy and to entice visitors to explore and return again for more adventures.

We thank the D&L Trail Alliance for this assistance. The Alliance coordinates stewardship and promotion of the 165-mile D&L Trail, of which the Delaware Canal towpath is a part. For more info about the D&L, visit www.delawareandlehigh.org.

Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. Doing the Canal Loop — A National Trails Day Bike Hike

Meet at the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area, 3292 River Road (PA Route 32), New Hope. (1.3 miles north of Centre Bridge)

June 7 is the official day to get out and enjoy America's vast network of recreational trails. We'll be doing our part by biking on not one trail, but two. Join the Friends and the Delaware Canal State Park staff for a 10-mile bike hike on the towpath trails of both the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in New Jersey. The ride will be followed by a free picnic lunch.

Bring your bike and join State Park Educator Ian Kindle for a guided tour. The route will follow the Delaware Canal towpath south to New Hope, then cross over the River bridge to connect with the D&R towpath trail in Lambertville, NJ. From Lambertville, bikers will head north to Stockton, NJ, then cross that bridge back over to Pennsylvania for the trip back to the Virginia Forrest Recreation Area. A picnic lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert will be waiting there in the scenic canal and riverside picnic grove created by the Friends.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend by contacting the Friends at 215-862-2021 or friends@fodc.org or registering online at <http://tinyurl.com/delcanalcal>.

With the completion of the flood repairs, the five loop trails that connect the PA and NJ canals will be back in business. Six pedestrian-friendly Delaware River bridges connect the two towpath trail systems making easy loop excursions possible. The loops are of different lengths and offer scenic adventures with plenty of amenities. And there is no need to bring two cars or backtrack on the trail. Visit fodc.org/trails-hikers-bikers for maps and more information.

Don't Let Them Get Started

As the flood repair contractors complete their work, they will be leaving behind acres of newly graded and seeded Canal banks. On these banks will sprout grass, but it is also highly likely that invasive plants will creep in. More Japanese Hops, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Knotweed, and Mile-a-Minute are NOT what the Delaware Canal needs.

If you see invasive plants starting to get a root hold, please pluck them out or alert the Friends. (Beware Mile-a-Minute, which isn't called Devil's Tear-Thumb for nothing.) We may not win the war, but we might win a battle. To learn more about invasives and how to identify them, do an on-line search for [Pennsylvania Field Guide – Common Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas](#). It's an excellent, easy-to-use guide.



Mile-a-minute vine

Delaware Canal Clean-Up Day Work Areas

Saturday, April 12

The list of this year's work areas follows. The names of the Clean-Up Day Coordinators or Canal Tenders are included for each area, and contact information is given if additional workers are requested. **Help is especially needed in the highlighted areas.**

Please contact your local coordinator to volunteer.

Easton to Wy-Hit-Tuk Park
Tom Grube, Canal Tender – 610-252-4064 tgrube7896@aol.com

Williams Twp.: Wy-Hit-Tuk Park to Mueller's Store
Carole Mebus, Canal Tender – 610-253-4214 cemebus@gmail.com

Riegelsville/Upper Black Eddy: Mueller's Store to Indian Rock Inn
Daniel Duffin, Canal Tender

Upper Black Eddy: Indian Rock to Homestead Store
Pete Rosswaag & UBEHPS, Canal Tenders

Upper Black Eddy: Homestead Store to Lodi
Appalachian Mountain Club, Del Val Chapter

Tinicum Twp.: Lodi to Uhlerstown
Happy & Sam Shipley & Helen Chaitman, Canal Tenders

Tinicum Twp.: Uhlerstown to Lock 17
Joe Cloran, Canal Tender – 215-794-0386 joe.cloran@comcast.net

Tinicum Twp.: Lock 17 to Bridge 3
Brian Dougherty – 215-294-9359 brian@dougherty@gmail.com
with Marge and Tom Copenhagen, Canal Tenders

Tinicum Twp.: Bridge 3 to Bridge 2
Peter Shaw, Canal Tender

Point Pleasant: Bridge 2 to Mountainside Inn
Hank Goldberg, Canal Tender – 215-817-4915 hankjoelgoldberg@gmail.com

Point Pleasant: Mountainside Inn to Lock 12
Sally Getchell & Nan Kirstein, Canal Tenders

Solebury Township: Lock 12 to Virginia Forrest
Bill Rorer, Canal Tender

Solebury Township: Virginia Forrest to Centre Bridge
Daniel Schwager, Canal Tender

Solebury Township: Centre Bridge to Phillips' Mill
Robert McEwan, Canal Tender

Solebury Twp.: Phillips' Mill to Rabbit Run
David & Vicky Child, Canal Tenders & Girl Scout Troop 26

New Hope: Rabbit Run to Lock 9
Charles Tarr, Coordinator

New Hope: Lock 9 to Bowman's Hill
Ray and Sara Altieri, Canal Tenders – 215-862-9943 sararayaltieri@aol.com

Solebury/Upper Makefield: Bowman's Hill to Stoney Run Aqueduct
Nora Schenk & Central Bucks Bicycle Club, Canal Tenders

Upper Makefield: Stoney Run Aqueduct to Mt. Eyre Road
Gordon Heisler & Traditions Volunteers, Canal Tenders

Lower Makefield/Yardley: Mt. Eyre Road to Afton Avenue
Jeff Connell, Canal Tender

Yardley: Afton Ave. to Black Rock Road
Ann & Keith Webb, Canal Tenders

Lower Makefield/Morrisville: Black Rock Road to Trenton Ave.
Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club, Canal Tenders
Contact Hal Long – 215-493-6725 hlong2306@gmail.com

Morrisville: Trenton Avenue to Bridge Street
Ron Scheese, Coordinator – 215-295-2364 debscheese@aol.com

Morrisville: Palmer Street to Bridge Street
Louise Wile and Mike Schwartz, Canal Tenders

Morrisville: Bridge Street to the Railroad Obstruction
Lynn Vogel and Josh Gradwohl, Canal Tenders

Falls Twp.: Railroad Obstruction to Tyburn Road
John Sikora – 215-321-0803 sikora@localnet.com

Falls Twp.: Tyburn Road to Falls Twp. Park
Susan Taylor – 215-493-6625 susanhtaylor@verizon.net

Falls Twp./Tullytown: Falls Twp. Park to Home Depot
Ruth Dorn, Canal Tender – ruthdorn128@gmail.com

Bristol Township: Home Depot to Green Lane
Dale Frazier & GOAL (Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown)
Contact: Jerry Taylor – 215-493-6625 jerry.taylor35@verizon.net

Bristol Borough: Green Lane to Lagoon Park
Brett Webber, Coordinator – 215-840-2034 webber@spg3.com

Bristol Borough: Lagoon Park to Riverfront Park
Mary Kehoe, Coordinator – 215-788-5918 jodi.marydave@verizon.net

Find us on Facebook 

Delaware Canal Festival *(continued)*

The Delaware Canal Festival is sponsored by the Friends of the Delaware Canal, Landmark Towns of Bucks County, and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Grant funding has been received from the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau.

Here's what you can do now —

Decorate a Boat!

The Decorated Boat Parades in Bristol and Yardley are back! Everyone from up, down, and all around the Canal is invited to participate in this year's parades – either in Bristol or Yardley or, better yet, both.

If you have a canoe, kayak or other vessel, transform it into a floating wonder and show it off in the parades. Individual, families, neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to enter. Don't worry about time, effort, or quality. Some of the best boats are put together in the blink of an eye, and ALL are loved by the spectators. (And for those people who didn't get to show off their boats in Bristol in 2012 because of the thunderstorm, we hope that you saved them for this year.)

At each parade, generous cash prizes will be awarded for the most humorous, beautiful, colorful, and "typical of the canal" entries, as well as Judge's Choice and Best of Parade. All entries will receive commemorative rosette ribbons. For entry forms, go to www.delawarecanalfestival.org, visit the Delaware Canal Festival Facebook page, call 215-862-2021, or e-mail friends@fodc.org.

Decorate a Duck!

This year there will be duck decorating opportunities at each of the four Festival locations. You may buy your official yellow rubber ducks at various locations beforehand and take them home to transform them or you can come to the duck booth at the festival and decorate your quackling right on the spot. To find out where to buy your ducks in advance, go to the sources shown in the Decorate a Boat section. They will be available at businesses, offices, and street-side sales tables. Cash



Ducks are everywhere at the Delaware Canal Festival!

prizes will be awarded for Overall - Best of Show, Day of Festival – Best of Show, and Day of Festival – Most Creative. Prizes for both Adult and Kids Up to 10 entries will be given in these categories: most humorous, beautiful, imaginative, and "most ugly duckling."

Welcome, New Friends

Carl Elston, Jr.
Cliff & Karen Montgomery
Gary Nolan



The Decorated Boat Parades in Bristol and Yardley are back.

Race a Duck! Or a Vintage Frog or Turtle.

The Canal Critter Race returns to Yardley this year. Hundreds of rubber duckies (as well as some frogs and turtles) will be dumped into the Canal from high on the Letchworth Avenue Bridge. Before the cheering crowd, they'll float their way down the Canal to the finish line at Lock 5. Your first step to winning the Canal Critter Race is to purchase your critters. They will be available at Customers Bank, 1 South Main Street in Yardley during bank hours. They'll also be at weekend sales tables set up at various locations in downtown Yardley and at Friends' events. Ducks can be obtained for a contribution of \$5 for 1 duck or \$10 for 3 ducks. Because of their "skills," our vintage, well-trained frogs and turtles are \$8 each or \$10 for 2. Frogs and turtles will be available only at Customers Bank. Very special prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Race winners. Proceeds for the Critter Race benefit the Friends of the Delaware Canal maintenance and improvement efforts.

There is so much to do this year – in four places! The Delaware Canal Festival has something for everyone. It's free, and it's lots of fun. ***Come on out!***



In the Merry Month of May

You will be receiving your Friends of the Delaware Canal membership renewal request for the year 2014. Please support all that we do to help fulfill the Canal's potential.

We welcome checks because we save on credit card fees, but also are happy to receive your contribution via the online form that can be found by clicking on the *Renew Your Membership* link on the homepage of www.fodc.org.

Our Business and Institutional Members

Learn more about these Friends by clicking on their links at www.fodc.org.

Founder

Golden Pheasant Inn, Erwinna — Increased Membership
Tinicum Civic Association

Benefactor

Rockwood Wealth Management
Walter's Nursery, Inc., Point Pleasant

Patron

Acadia Mortgage, LLC, New Britain
The Boat House, Lambertville
Brett Webber Architects, P.C., Philadelphia and Erwinna
Capital Planning Advisory Group, Yardley
Donnelly Marketing Services Associates, LLC
Ellenoff, Underwood & Norman, Doylestown
First Savings Bank of Perkasie
Newman & Company, Inc., Philadelphia
Newtown Bicycle and Fitness
Odell Painting, LLC, Ottsville
The River House at Odette's, New Hope
The Thompson Organization, Doylestown
William B. Parry & Son, Ltd., Langhorne

Member

Ahlum Gallery, Riegelsville
Appalachian Mountain Club, Delaware Valley Chapter
Borough of Morrisville
Bucks County Riverboat & Trolley Companies, Upper Black Eddy
Cramer Bakery, Yardley
Dilly's Corner, Centre Bridge
Edgar H. Denson, Post #79 American Legion, New Hope
First National Bank & Trust Company of Newtown
First Savings Insurance, New Britain
T. Foster & Co., Inc., Yardley
Fox Chase Bank, Lahaska
Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio, New Hope
The Grundy Commons, Bristol
Hobensack & Keller, Inc., New Hope
La Chele Medical Aesthetics, New Hope
Leisure Craft, Warrington

Liberty Bell Wanderers, Philadelphia – NEW Member

Logan Inn, New Hope
McCaffrey's Markets, Yardley
NAM Planning & Design, LLC, Lumberville
John Paton, Inc., Doylestown
Peddler's Village, Lahaska
Pete's Bike & Fitness Shoppe, Flemington, NJ
Porches Bed & Breakfast, New Hope
River Road Business Alliance, Erwinna
Sand Castle Winery, Erwinna
Shearer Penn Corp., Trenton, NJ
The Stephan House Inn, New Hope
Tinsman Bros., Inc., Lumberville
Univest National Bank & Trust Co
The UPS Store, New Hope
Yardley Borough

A Treasure

Recently, the Friends were given an extraordinary document by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The 3-1/2 inch thick book, held together with butcher's string, contains 599 pages of what appears to be at least a 1200- page document. The book is titled Abstracts from Canal Commissioners Journal relating to Delaware Division Canal – Bristol to Easton and contains typed transcriptions of hand-written documents dating from 1826 to 1855.

In the 1820's the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, spurred on by the success of the Erie Canal, embarked on building a cross-state system of canals that would connect Philadelphia with New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Lake Erie. To guide the great enterprise, a Board of Canal Commissioners was created under the Canal Acts of 1824, 1825, and 1826. The Commissioners were appointed by the Governor. Each member of the Board served as an acting superintendent on one of the divisions of the state works, and the Board held its meetings at different locations across the state. Our Delaware Canal was originally known as the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, part of what would become a transportation system over 1200 miles long.



Brothers Lester and Willard Brown on a workboat at Lock 19 in Upper Black Eddy, perhaps in 1932. Photo contributed by Beth Silva.

The Abstracts tell a fascinating story about how decisions were made for the Delaware Division. They deal with issues ranging from routes to compensation for property and employment issues.

Here are a few excerpts:

Philadelphia September 10, 1827

“Whereas, after suitable examination by competent Engineers it appears to the Board that a navigable canal can be constructed between a point at Bristol and a point at or near the borough of Easton at an average expense not exceeding \$12,000 a mile. And, whereas, it appears that a portion of said navigable communication beginning at Bristol, and extending a distance of 18 miles, may be executed for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars. Therefore, Resolved, That the Board with the approbation of Henry G. Sargent, their Engineer, if his Excellency the Governor shall consent thereto, do now locate a portion of the said Canal beginning at or near the mouth of Mill Creek in the said borough of Bristol, and extending thence according to the report and draft of the said Engineer, up the valley of the Delaware a distance of 18 miles.”

(continued on back page)

Friends of the Delaware Canal, Inc.

145 South Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938



Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Doylestown, PA
Permit No. 640

A Treasure *(continued)*

Philadelphia March 26, 1828

“That Mr. Sargent be directed to complete the Delaware location as far as Easton. That he be furnished with a competent assistant.....”

Bristol September 2, 1830

“The President laid before the Board the claim of John Savage of \$50.00 per acre for land occupied by the Delaware Division and \$50.00 together with the privilege of conveying water of his spring across the bottom of the canal. Which was read and considered and on motion; Resolved that the claim for damages of John Savage ought not to be allowed he being a very extensive owner of real estate and in the opinion of the Board the advantages derived by him from the Canal are a sufficient compensation for any injury he may have sustained. Resolved unanimously that John Savage be authorized under the direction of the principal engineer of the Division to place a log in the bottom of the Canal for the purpose of conveying the water from his spring to his fields.”

Harrisburg January 1, 1833

“The President laid before the Board the claim of Chalkley Albertson of \$160.00 compensation for injury to crops occasioned by the leakage of the Delaware Division. Which was read and considered and on motion; Resolved unanimously that the claim of Chalkley Albertson ought not to be allowed. A decision upon it was made by the Board on the 4th May 1831.”

Harrisburg January 14, 1834

“Resolved unanimously, That the payment at fifteen dollars made by Simpson Torbert, Superintendent upon the Delaware Division, on the 23rd of December 1833 to William Paff for injury done his land in taking gravel for the Canal, be and the same is hereby approved and allowed.”

And on and on.

In 1857 and 1858 the waterways and adjunct railroads of the Pennsylvania Canal were sold by the Commonwealth. The Board of Canal Commissioners was abolished in 1859.

The Friends are very grateful to our anonymous donor. What a treasure trove of information we’ve been given.



Visit the Friends'
website for more news
www.fodc.org