

ROEBLING CHAPTER

Society for Industrial Archeology

November 2012 – Vol. 21 No.2

The

GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2012
9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

This year's Great Falls Symposium is coming up soon with a great schedule of presentations. In the morning, chapter president Jim Mackin will show us how the internet is changing the ways we look at IA. New online tools such as YouTube are making it possible to view and preserve IA in motion.

In the afternoon there will be four more presentations ending with an opportunity to hear about the Rogers Building, the site for next year's Symposium.

Check the Roebling Chapter web site for additional information, registration and directions. ■

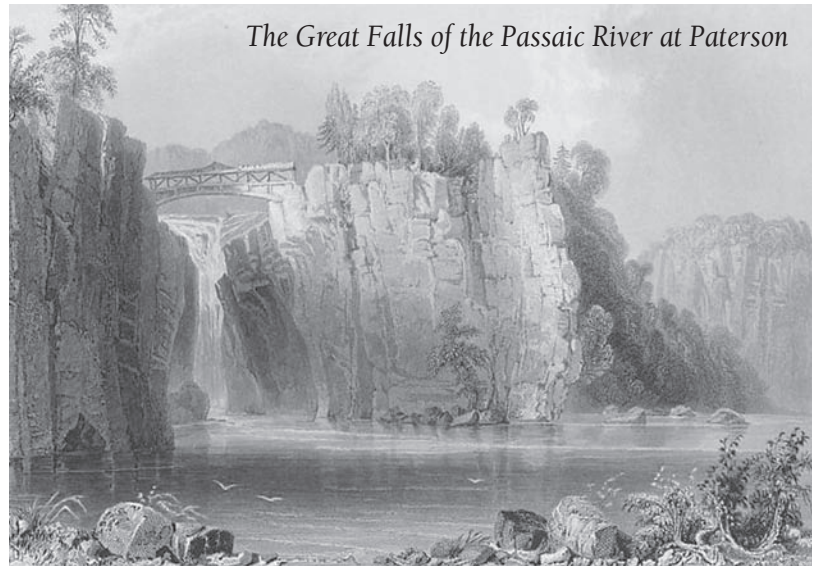
roeblingsia.org

LACKAWANNA TERMINAL & HOBOKEN TOUR

JUNE 24TH, 2012

Almost 20 members of the Roebling Chapter visited the recently refurbished Lackawanna Ferry Terminal on Sunday, June 24th. At the Great Falls Symposium last fall, consultant Lynn Drobbin recounted her experience with refurbishing the Ferry Terminal that had not been used since the 1950s. Now the incredibly large space over 400 feet long portends for much future use. We were able to get right out onto the edge of the lifts that would bridge passengers to the ferries. There were a few very pleasant surprises: one, much cutting-edge art, and two, extensive historical signage with excellent maps.

After taking in the Terminal, including the renowned Lackawanna Railroad Terminal as well, we trekked north through the Stevens Institute of



The Great Falls of the Passaic River at Paterson

Technology and on to the Hoboken Historical Museum. The trail along the Hoboken waterfront also has excellent historical signage with maps. Of course, much of the signage pays homage to Hoboken's industrial past: Cunard, the German-Lloyd Shipping Line, Bethlehem Steel's American Shipbuilding Division, Maxwell House Coffee, Lipton Tea, and much more.

Since the weather was perfect, the stop at Stevens Institute afforded great views of the Hudson River, and a chance to review its illustrious history and the amazing Stevens family. After picking up some out-of-towners who took a liking to our Roebling group, we diverted to a rather special street, Castle Point Terrace, where some of Hoboken's captains of industry lived. Better yet, Bob Bodenstein succumbed to some mild pressure to show the house on this very same street where he first lived!

The final chapter of a very full day was the visit to the Hoboken Historical Museum, which had a first-rate exhibit on the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels. This museum is not appreciated enough; although it was busy when we were there. We will make an effort to partner with them and re-visit Hoboken from time to time. ■

FOR THE LATEST ON UPCOMING EVENTS

WATCH THE ROEBLING CHAPTER WEB SITE FOR DETAILS

roeblingsia.org

NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION HISTORY GOES ONLINE

The Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County, supported by the Passaic County Freeholders and the Canal Society of New Jersey, has been moving forward achieving one success after another. Earlier this year the project received a New Jersey Future, Smart Growth Award, and was recently awarded \$532,000 in grant money from the Federal Highway Administration to create a Greenway route through the Cities of Paterson and Clifton.

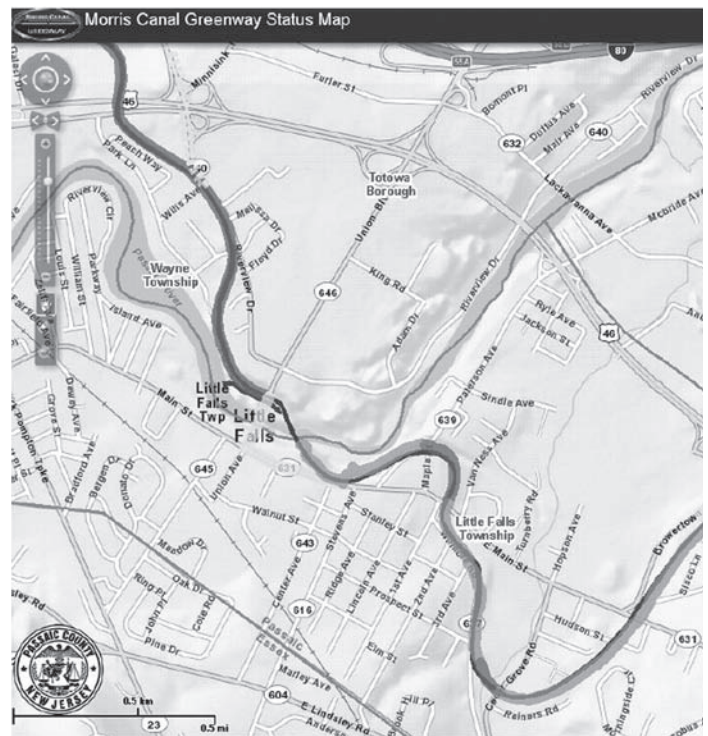
To learn about the planned route of the Greenway and to follow its progress as new sections are added, visit the Passaic County web site (link below) and view the new Morris Canal Greenway Status Webmap. It's a great map that you will enjoy using.

This map displays the historic route of the Morris Canal from Phillipsburg to Jersey City, and the proposed route of the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County.

To view the map, please visit www.passaiccountynj.org/Morris-Canal-Greenway-Study and click on "Morris Canal Greenway Map." First you will see a **Welcome** tab, like the one shown to the right. Click on the **Instructions** tab, circled in pink, to learn how to use the map, then click on the **Agree** button, circled in blue, to enter the map. *Continued on page 3*



Morris Canal Greenway Map Welcome tab. Click on Agree to use the map.

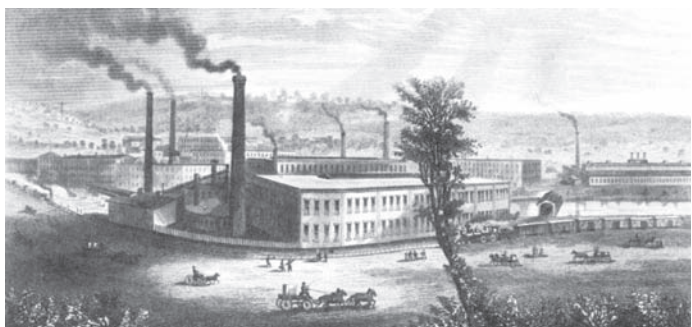


As additional segments of the Greenway are completed, this webmap will be updated. While you are encouraged to use the Greenway segments highlighted in green, you are not permitted to utilize the Greenway segments highlighted in **red**. The historic route of the Morris Canal is **blue**. Municipal boundaries are **purple**.

KING'S STORE WAGON SCALE RESTORED

On Sunday October 14th the Roxbury Historic Trust dedicated a newly restored and fully operational wagon scale at King's Store in Ledgewood, New Jersey. Although the building had been lovingly restored, the original 5-ton Howe pitless platform scale had been removed after the store closed in the 1930's. A reproduction scale box, added in the 1990s, marked the spot until members of the Trust undertook a two-year project to locate, restore and install an historically appropriate scale.

The store, built in 1817, prospered after the completion of the Morris Canal. At that time, many bulk agricultural products were weighed on beam scales that were only accurate to within 50 pounds. In 1829, Vermont hemp grower Thaddeus Fairbanks solved the problem when he developed the much more accurate and used-friendly platform scale. Thaddeus and his brother founded the E. & T. Fairbanks Scale Works.



E. & T. Fairbanks Scale Works, St Johnsbury, Vermont

TRANSPORTATION HISTORY ONLINE *Continued from page 2*

Please note: If any of the Webmap layers or features do not load automatically, or an error message appears, simply refresh the window in your internet browser.

The status of the proposed Greenway is divided into three colors: **green** signifies the Greenway is complete, **yellow** signifies the Greenway is publicly accessible but needs improvements and is not yet complete, **red** signifies the Greenway is not publicly accessible or complete. Dashed lines signify alternate routes. The map can be viewed in aerial view, or street view. See screen shots. bottom of page 2. ■

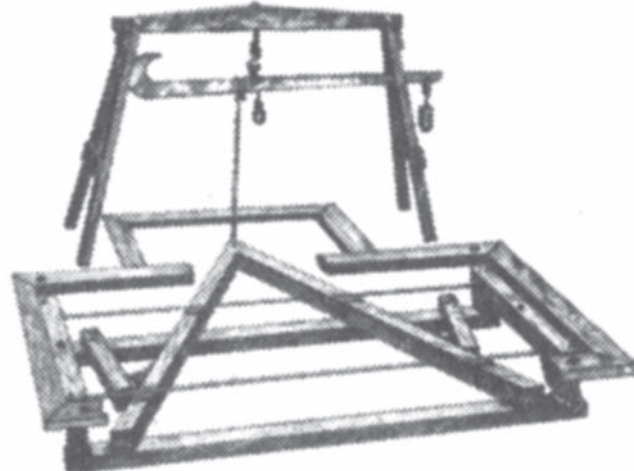


Photo: Bob Morris

Roebling Chapter members Lynda de Victoria, Don Erickson, and Bierce Riley pose by Don's 1929 Model A pickup, the first vehicle weighed on the restored scale.

The Ledgewood project began when an similar 7-ton Moline platform scale was located for sale in Indiana. With funding from a private donor, the Trust acquired the scale and had it restored by Farnham Scale Systems in Williamstown, Vermont. Members of the Trust excavated the scale site, prepared a new foundation and acquired new planks for the scale bed. This fall, scale experts from Farnham installed the system with the original Moline scale box.

At the October dedication, a crowd watched as Don Erickson eased his yellow 1929 Model A pickup onto the new scale to be weighed by Trust & RCSIA member and scale project manager Bob Morris. ■



This diagram shows the platform scale's lever system that reduces the force on a multiple-ton load to a weight that can be measured by a simple balance beam.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

Beginning in 2013, the newsletters will be distributed only by e-mail. **Don't be left out!** Be sure we have your e-mail address. With this new system we will be able send you newsletters in a more timely and cost-effective matter. In addition you will receive tour announcements and news of IA events from all over the metropolitan area. We will continue to mail the newsletter to all our members through 2012. To make this work we need you help. Please send your e-mail address to [**rcsiaprez@aol.com**](mailto:rcsiaprez@aol.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS – 2012

November The Great Falls Symposium

Roebling Chapter SIA Officers

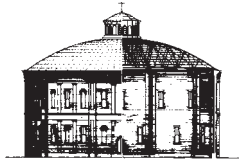
President	Jim Mackin
Vice President	Joe Macasek
Treasurer	Kevin Pegram
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You can contact the Roebling Chapter by E-mail at:
RCSIAprez@aol.com

Membership is \$20.00 per year, payable to RCSIA, c/o Aron Eisenpress, 235 West End Avenue, Apt. 14-C, New York, NY 10023. A downloadable chapter membership form and general information about the SIA are available at www.siahq.org.

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