

MORRIS CANAL FACT SHEET

Important Dates

November 15, 1822	An act to investigate the feasibility of the canal
December 31, 1824	Morris Canal and Banking Company chartered by the State of New Jersey
July 12, 1825	Construction starts near the present town of Ledgewood
November 4, 1831	First trip from Newark to Phillipsburg
1832	First full boating season
1836	Jersey City extension completed -11.75 miles
1844	Company is reorganized – Banking is dropped
1841 & 1845	Canal enlargements
1847 – 1860	Inclined planes rebuilt – Scotch turbines installed
1871	Canal leased by Lehigh Valley Railroad for 99 years
November 29, 1922	State of New Jersey takes control of the canal
Spring, 1924	Canal drained
December 31, 1974	Charter ceases

People in the early years

George P. MacCulloch	Morristown businessman who conceived the idea of the canal
Issac Williamson	Governor of New Jersey
Ephraim Beach	Chief Engineer
Prof. James Renwick	Consultant from Columbia University
John M. Roof	Assistant to Ephraim Beach