



I hope your spring is off to a good start and you have enjoyed the robust flowering of the cherry trees, dogwoods, azaleas, and rhododendrons as much as I have. This issue has 6 stories of Chester, but the most critical is the first on Sunnyside, because it could be demolished or it could be saved by Chester Borough's Land Use Board. Come to the Chester Borough Land Use Board meeting on June 8 to support saving Sunnyside.

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The Saga of Sunnyside – “Handsomest House” in Chester
By Edward Ng – Chester Historical Society

The Sunnyside Saga started 144 years ago, initiated by a tragic event which could end tragically in 2017. The current owners, Turkey Farm Acquisitions, have applied to demolish Sunnyside. The CHS



Board opposes the demolition and has made the case it should be adaptively reused. The next hearing before the Land Use Board is scheduled for June 8, 7PM, at 50 North Rd.

Sunnyside was built in 1873 by Chester's famed cabinetmaker, James Topping, who lived in the house next door (that would eventually become Larison's Turkey Farm

Inn). After his son died, James Topping built Sunnyside for his granddaughter, Leila, and widowed daughter-in-law Nellie Topping. Leila would become a well known concert pianist and lecturer¹. We believe Topping used his cabinetmaking skills and high quality standards to construct Sunnyside. It was one of the “handsomest houses in Chester²” for many years. I think there is another good explanation of why Sunnyside was so grand – iron ore!

James Topping grew up in Chester and at fifteen was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker in Westfield. He returned to Chester and founded a successful cabinetmaking business. In 1829 he purchased 53 acres and a house from Isaac Corwin for \$1400. He used the rear two rooms of the house for his workshop where he made bureaus, tall clock cases, and wagons³.

1867 was a momentous year for Chester. T. Perry Skellenger found iron ore in his backyard and subsequently iron ore was found in James Topping's front yard! This discovery established the Samson (or “Sampson”) mine which was the most important mine in what would later become “Chester Borough”. The Samson Mine operated until 1887. From 1880 to 1885 the Samson Mine produced almost 35,000 tons of ore⁴. Topping was blessed with not only one but two mines! In 1873 another mine was opened not far from the back door of Sunnyside, appropriately called the Topping mine. With iron ore selling for between \$2 and \$5 per ton, income from the Samson and Topping mines would have made the Toppings one of the wealthiest families in Chester with plenty to spend on Sunnyside and they did! (NB: The mines have ceased operation, but the shafts, tunnels, and voids may still exist.)



In 1945 Willis Larison bought the Topping properties from Leila's heirs and started Larison's Turkey Farm Inn. After 30 years of success, Willis sold the Turkey Farm Inn to restaurant magnate Arthur McGreevy in 1974. In 1986 Sunnyside and the Isaac Corwin House (Larison's Turkey Farm) were listed in the New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory – Morris County Cultural Resources Survey⁵ highlighting their historic value.

In 2000, McGreevy contracted to sell the Turkey Farm to Site Development Inc. of Cherry Hill who planned to move or raze the Inn and build a CVS pharmacy and bank. A public outcry ensued over the plans. In January 2001, the Chester Borough Council rezoned the site to Office Professional and extended the Historic District to cover the site. Later in 2001, Arthur McGreevy sold the property to Harold Wachtel (who later formed Turkey Farm Acquisitions LLC). In 2007 Wachtel sold the northern 44 acres which are mostly undevelopable wetlands to Chester Borough and Morris County as open space for \$3.74 million. It appears none of those funds were used to improve Sunnyside. Over the next ten years, many efforts and proposals by the developer and the Borough were discussed to develop the Turkey Farm site, but none bore fruit. In 2016, Turkey Farm Acquisitions proposed developing the whole corner with 244 units of rental housing, a mixed retail/commercial complex, and a sewage

¹ “Leila Topping – The Most Fascinating 20th Century Chester Woman.” Edward Ng. Spring 2015 CHS News & Views. http://www.historicchesternj.com/images/2015_Spring_CHS_Newsletter_compress_corr_add.pdf

² Chester Borough Historic Sites Survey 1985.

³ Chester, New Jersey - A Scrapbook of History by Frances Greenidge, Chester Historical Society pub.

⁴ Chester's Iron Heyday by Larry Lowenthal. Chester Historical Society pub.

⁵ New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory. Morris County Cultural Resources Survey. The Morris County Heritage Commission and Acroterion Historical Preservation Consultants. Funded by Office of New Jersey Heritage, The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the F.M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. 1986/1987. Sunnyside inventory number is 1406-125 and the Isaac Corwin House is 1406-126.

treatment facility⁶. In May of 2017, they applied to the Borough Land Use Board to demolish Sunnyside. At the May 11 Land Use Board meeting CHS members testified to save Sunnyside.

The Chester Historical Society has advocated that Sunnyside should not be demolished, but protected as mandated by Borough Ordinance -ARTICLE XI -Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Sections § 163-84. - § 163-87.1. We have advocated for adaptive reuse of Sunnyside. Here are 9 examples of reused houses along Main Street:

1860 General Nathan Cooper Mansion 

Now Offices



401 Route 24 CHS History Tour of Chester

1740 Seward House – Now Offices 



555 Route 24 East CHS History Tour of Chester

1860 House – Now offices 



276 Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1862 Collis House – Now insurance office 



205 Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1830 John Drake House - Now Weichert Realty 



142 Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1888 House converted to Tippet Bottling Plant -Now shops 



38 Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1780 Gardner House – Post Office, Clothing Store, 1st Mine on Main St. Now a shop 



35 Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1750 Hedges-Topping House now Lamplighter Restaurant 



128 West Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

1800 Isaac Corwin House -was Larison's Turkey Farm Inn et al 



2 West Main St. CHS History Tour of Chester

James Topping's quality of craftsmanship helped Sunnyside survive 144 years and decades of neglect. Sunnyside has been a prominent Chester home and graced the Larison corner landscape with its elegant form. We believe it has potential to be creatively and adaptively reused. The Chester Historical Society Board strongly opposes the demolition of Sunnyside. We welcome your support for "Saving Sunnyside" at the June 8, 2017 Land Use Board meeting, 7pm, 50 North Rd. We will be giving testimony to support saving Sunnyside. ■

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http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/morris_county/chester_borough/final_post/Appendix_A_Public_Comment_20160713.pdf. Turkey Farm Acquisitions testified about their plans at the 7/21/17 Highlands Council meeting.

Pegasus Sells Memories No More

By Meryl Carmel – Chester Historical Society

This winter saw the leave-taking of an iconic Main Street business, the well-loved “Pegasus” antiques store which has been a Chester mainstay for more than three decades. Few local residents or “tourists” could resist a wander through the early 19th century Federal style building whose previous incarnations included a tavern, a private school, a hotel and a



Ken with Miss Be Looking over his shoulder.

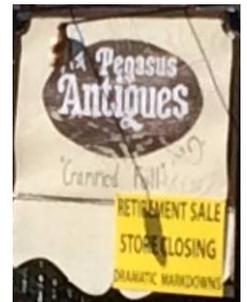
French restaurant, the Auberge Provencale. Store owner Ken Urban established Pegasus at the corner of Main and Grove Streets in 1985. He said that he bought the building at “the top of the market” at a time when business was so robust that it was rare to see an empty store on Main Street. According to Ken there were about 28 antique stores in Chester in the early 1990s. In the intervening years much changed, but Ken became a stalwart member of our community, often encountered on his morning walk through town with his loyal pooch Charlie by his side.

We visited with Ken at Pegasus for a final browse around Pegasus. Ken explained that he had always been in the business of “selling memories” and even in its final days, his store reflected this sentiment 100%. The place was packed from floor to ceiling with a little bit of everything—from antique furniture, china, and tools, to cartoon memorabilia, stacks of magazines, and

everyone’s favorite dolls and games from the 1940s and 50s. The shop was a perpetual trip down Memory Lane. According to Ken, people stopped by Pegasus to engage in “the thrill of the hunt” and one could see that it would have been hard to walk away empty handed.

A Millburn, New Jersey native, Ken found his way to Morris County after a stint in the military. He worked as a postman in Morristown. He became involved in the antiques business through his involvement in the early days of the Chester Flea Market on Route 206. He explained that in the 1970s, busloads of senior citizens visited the flea market looking to buy mundane items like old collector plates which Ken sold by the thousands. The flea market business grew and through it, people became familiar with Chester as an antiques destination. In about 1981 Ken entered a partnership with Gary Middleton and Barry Young in an antique store on Perry Street which specialized in home furnishings. Within two years, he was working in the business full-time. Ken recalled that things were very different in those days: no Ikea, no EBay—young people came to Chester to purchase reasonably priced antique oak furniture and New York City dealers who liked the “country” prices were also dependable customers.

Fast-forward to 2017 and Ken has just retired, emptied his emporium, and bid his adopted town of Chester farewell. He has moved to California to be with Miss Be (a lovely story in itself – future article?). We wish him all the best and cannot help but say, “Thanks for the memories. You and Charlie will be greatly missed.” ■



Chester Furnace Historical Site's New Interpretive Trail

By Bruce Clark – Patriots' Path Trail Steward

Editor's Note: Bruce wrote about Lake Takene in the Spring 2016 CHS News & Views. He was also a key facilitator in the installation of two informational kiosks at the Historical Site (Fall 2015-Winter 2016 CHS News & Views). He has now prepared and installed a series of informational placards along Patriots' Path throughout the Site. Bruce will lead an interpretive hike along the trail on June 3, 2017. Meet at the hunter's parking lot at the corner of Furnace Rd. and Tanners Brook Rd. at 9AM.

Legend

1 a/b/c	Patch House Foundations	9	Foundation to Latrine
2	Railway Track Bed to Chester Station	10	Engine Mounts
3 a/b	Long Slag Pile	11	Loading Area
4	Ore Roaster	12	Limestone Pile
5	Cistern	13	CRRNJ Bridge Over Black River
6	Foundation to Casting House	14 a/b	Railway Track Bed to Hacklebarney Mine
7	Furnace Stack	15	Lake Takene Railroad Station Foundation
8	Foundation to Ore Shed	16	CRRNJ Stone Bridge over Furnace Road

enjoy the experience
morris county park commission

You are entering the Chester Furnace Historical Site

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site ahead or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

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Kiosk Map Locations #1a, 1b, 1c Patch Houses

The more fortunate Furnace workers and their families were able to live in wood-framed houses near the Furnace or in town. Houses of this type were built in clusters or "patches".

Patch houses were usually two-story, 12' wide and 30' long with a partition through the middle with one family on each side. Each house had a cellar, a parlor, a kitchen, and 2 or 3 bedrooms upstairs.

Today, only the stone foundations remain – one immediately in front of you (1a), another (1b) about 75 feet along the road to your left, and several (1c) set deeper in the woods, closer to the Furnace.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

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Kiosk Map Location #2 Railway Track Bed

You are passing over the raised berm on which the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company (DL&W) once lay. To your right, the tracks headed toward the Chester "Muskrat" Railroad Station at the intersection of Hillside Road and Oakdale Road, which remained in operation until the early 1930s. To your left, the tracks led directly to the Chester Furnace operation.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

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Kiosk Map Locations #3a, 3b Slag Piles

Slag is a waste by-product of pig iron production and consists of melted limestone and impurities that separate out when iron ore is melted in a blast furnace. Rather than incur the expense of transporting the slag away from the site, the operators of the Chester Furnace simply dumped their slag in long rows leading away from the Furnace. On your left, Patriots' Path runs along side of a long slag pile. Further up the trail, Patriot's Path will cross over another slag pile.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

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Kiosk Map Location #4 Ore Roaster

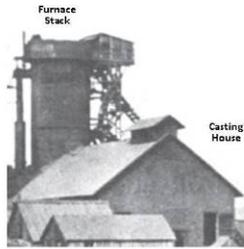
The raised area before you with the array of fire bricks is the site of the Furnace Ore Roaster. An ore roaster (also referred to as an ore oven or kiln) was used to remove impurities – particularly sulfur – from the iron ore prior to its introduction to the blast furnace. The roasting process first involved breaking up the ore into small pieces which were then loaded into the roaster. Each load of ore was then heated with 2.5 tons of anthracite fuel (a type of coal with a high carbon content) to around 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit to oxidize the ore and drive the sulfur out in the form of a gas. The Chester Furnace Ore Roaster had a 14' outside diameter, was 36' high, and operated with 3-4 men roasting 50 tons of ore per day.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

Kiosk Map Location #7 Furnace Stack



The remaining stone base for furnace stack is up the hill about 40 feet to your right. The Chester Furnace began operation in 1878 and was producing 300 tons of pig iron per week by 1880. With its prominent 60' tall sheet metal furnace stack, the operation utilized state of the art technology. Once started, the blast furnace remained in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 775 degrees F. and produced liquefied iron that was poured into sand-shaped forms that produced bars referred to as 'pigs'.



Pigs

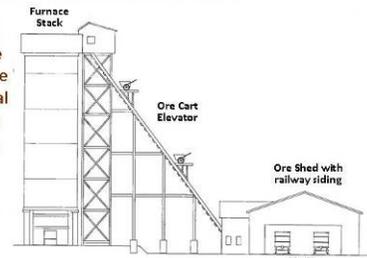
See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site ahead or the Furnace Road Trailhead for more information



Kiosk Map Locations #8, 9 Ore Shed and Latrine Foundations



To your left is the foundation of the Furnace Ore Shed. In order to ensure a constant feed of ore for the furnace, the output of the roaster was stored into the Ore Shed and then moved by mechanical elevator to the top of the furnace stack. To your right is the stonework base of a latrine pit, which was provided to address the calls of nature for the site workforce (which numbered 100 men at the peak of operation).



See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information



Kiosk Map Location #12 Limestone Pile



Directly in front of you is a large pile of raw limestone that was abandoned after the operation of the Furnace ended in 1891. For most of its 10-year operation, the Chester Furnace produced pig iron, which requires iron ore and limestone as essential ingredients. Production of a ton of pig iron required 2 tons of ore and nearly a ton (0.91) of limestone, with limestone playing a critical role in helping to separate out impurities such as sulfur from the molten iron ore.



See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information



Kiosk Map Location #13 CRRNJ Bridge, Lake Takene Dam



You standing on the former *Central Railroad of NJ (CRRNJ)* fieldstone bridge over the Black River, which was built in 1872. In 1919, a predecessor to JCP&L, the *Central Jersey Power Company*, purchased much of the vista in front of you to construct the *Lake Chester Park* resort for its employees.

They quickly sold a number of half-acre lots, and set about creating a lake (dubbed Lake Takene) using the sluice gate dam that you can see in the foreground. Unfortunately, their surveying proved faulty, and the project was abandoned when the rising waters cut off the major north-south roadway in Chester (prior to Route 206).



Remains of the Lake Takene Dam



Typical sluice gate



See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

Kiosk Map Locations #14a/b and 15 Train Station, Mine Railway



You are standing in front of the foundation of the *Lake Chester Park Train Station* which was constructed around 1919 to handle vacationers to the ill-fated Lake Takene resort community.

To your immediate left you can see the remains of a raised railroad grade angling off the main *Central Railroad of New Jersey* rail line into the woods. This spur was put in service in 1873 to bring iron ore to the Furnace from the *Hacklebarney Mine*, and was decommissioned (and rails removed) in 1903.



Likely appearance of Lake Chester Park Train Station



Hacklebarney Mine



See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

Kiosk Map Location #16 CRNJ Stone Bridge



You are standing by the remaining abutment of the *CRRNJ* railroad bridge for the *Chester Hill Branch*, which was constructed in 1873 and decommissioned in 1962 (with the abutment on the northern side of Furnace Road believed to have been removed at the same time to increase the usable road width).

The path of this line ran up the hill, past the flooded remains of *Hedges Mine* (which measured 300' long and 50' deep during its operation), and through a railway yard with station (where the current *RiteAid Pharmacy* is now located). In 1881 an extension of the line was built, just north and parallel to *Main Street*, to service the *Cooper, Kean, and Squires* mines, near *Williamson and Linabury Lanes* off of *North Road*.



See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information



Seward's Hill – Chester's Mystery Mount

By Edward Ng – Chester Historical Society



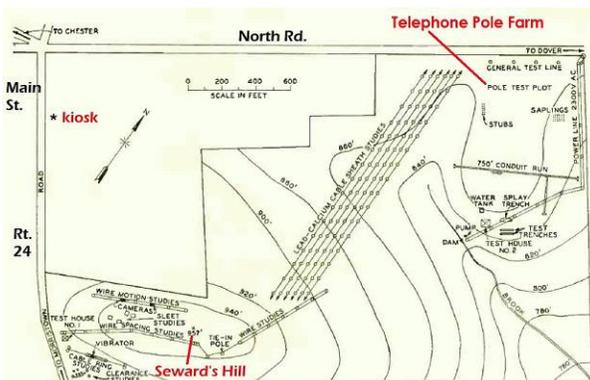
As you drive out of Chester on Main St. easterly towards Mendham, Seward's Hill rises abruptly out of the meadows to an elevation of almost 1000 ft. Closer inspection of the north facing slope shows a set of rugged doors in a cutaway section of the hill – a bunker? This article was written to provide hikers with information along Patriots' Path which runs over the Hill. It is posted, along with the geology article, and maps in the kiosk (designed, built, and installed by Eagle Scout Michael Servais).

“Lake”, “Alaska”, “telephone pole farm”, and the “dry land ship” aren't often associated with a Patriots' Path hike. However, since Seward's Hill is the high point (literally and figuratively) of this part of Patriots' Path, an explanation of these terms will shed light on the surrounding geology and history.

“Lake” is Lake Succasunna and is explained in Prof. John Puffer's summary of the makeup and geology of Seward's Hill (see below). Man made hill? NO!

“Alaska” - Fast forward about 21,000 years from the last glacier to 1738. Obadiah Seward, who was born on Long Island, purchased several hundred acres of land encompassing Seward's Hill. His house, enlarged and remodeled in a vernacular Greek revival style, is still visible along Patriots' Path (555 E. Main St.). Obadiah was the great grandfather of William H. Seward, Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He purchased Alaska from Russia while serving under Johnson. He was roundly criticized and the Alaskan territory was called **“Seward's Folly”**. Of course, history has more than vindicated William Seward. He never lived in Chester, but was a frequent visitor.

SEWARD'S FOLLY - US Buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000 in 1867
William Seward Alaska as a giant iceberg President Johnson Czar \$7M



The Chester field laboratory, showing location of buildings and of the principal studies - 1931

The **“Telephone Pole Farm”** is an iconic fixture of Chester since 1930.

The pole farm was a research site to improve the longevity of telephone poles in the ground. Different preservation techniques were tried and then



1931. C. Q. Lumsden taking a core sample from a pole. Seward's Hill is in the background.

samples of wood regularly tested for degradation⁷.

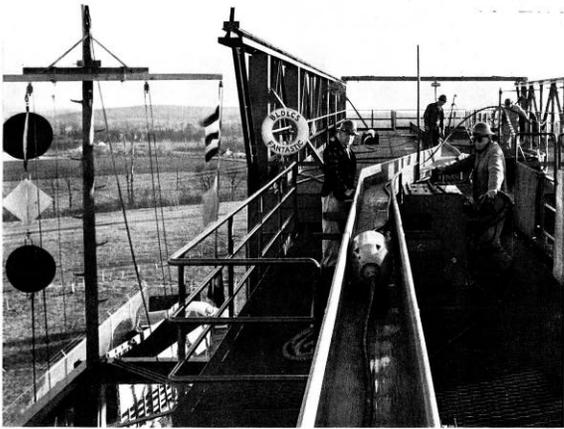
The story begins in 1928 when Seward descendants rented 15 acres to the telephone company, AT&T. In 1925 Bell Labs was created to do R&D for AT&T. Bell Labs needed an outdoor field laboratory and it chose Chester primarily because of Seward's Hill (957'

⁷ “The ‘Telephone Pole Farm’ – A Chester Icon” by Edward Ng in CHS News & Views Spring 2015. See footnote 1.
Web: historicchesternj.com chester.historical.society@gmail.com phone: (908)866-6717

elevation). By 1930, 100 acres were bought or rented. The property was large enough to encompass mile-long runs of cables on poles and host a number of test sites exposing equipment to extreme sunshine, wind, rain, sleet, ice, flooding, vibrations, and dust. Eventually over 200 acres would be purchased mostly from the Seward descendents.

“Dry Land Ship” is one of the more fantastical stories associated with Chester Bell Labs and Seward's Hill. In the 1950's AT&T decided to do the biggest upgrade to its underwater trans-Atlantic telephone cables in nearly a century. One of the challenges was how to lay the new cable with 3 foot long repeaters (amplifiers) that

were solid rather than flexible.



Engineers study section of cable containing dummy amplifier being payed out. Inscription on life preserver stands for "Bell Laboratories Dry Land Cable Ship Fantastic."

shown in the image above, a repeater is observed moving down the chute. The project was successful and spawned a generation of successful AT&T “Long Lines” cable ships.



Bell Labs decided to build a skeletal mock up of a full size cable ship at Chester to allow the testing and filming of the many possible configurations and procedures for laying cable and repeaters. The model was called the Bell Labs Dry Land Cable Ship (BLDLC), nicknamed “Fantastic” and was 50' high and 200' long. It was anchored to the side of Seward's Hill. A test is

In 1983 the AT&T monopoly was broken up. In 1984 the Chester Lab was split between the regional Bells and the original Bell Labs. Research in Chester stopped by the early 2000's. The northern half was acquired by Chester Township and became Highlands Ridge Park with an address of 100 North Rd. The other half of was acquired by Chester



Borough which created the 50 North Rd. Municipal Complex. Had it not been for the Chester Outdoor Lab, this property would have been developed long ago.



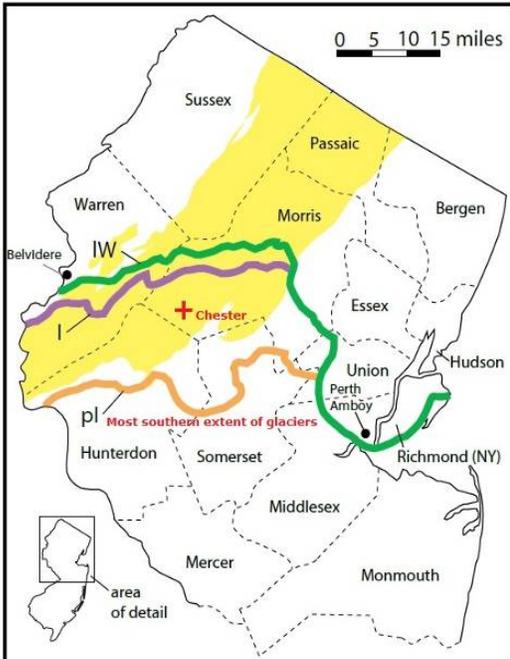
Hopefully, future developments will be more trails, history, and points of interest. Enjoy your hike on Patriots' Path and revel in the view from the top of Seward's Hill. ▣

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The Geological History of Seward's Hill

By Prof. John Puffer and Edward Ng - Poster in the Patriots' Path – Seward Hill Kiosk

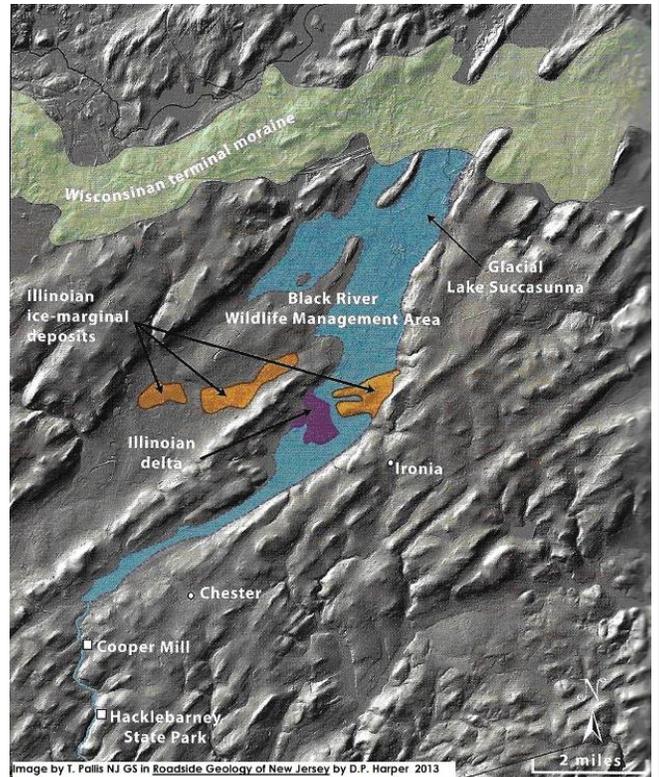
Limits of Glaciation in NJ



Limits of glaciations in New Jersey. The trace of the late Wisconsinian limit (IW) generally marks the position of the Terminal Moraine. Key: IW - late Wisconsinian, I - Illinoian, and pI - pre-Illinoian.

- >800,000 years ago Pre Illinoian —
- 150,000 years ago Illinoian —
- 21,000 years ago Wisconsinian —

Over 800,000 years ago, the spot where you are standing, could have been overlain by 4,000 feet of ice. At that time glaciers of the Pre-Illinoian period extended well south of Chester (see map left). Two subsequent glacial periods, the Illinoian and the Wisconsinian, did not progress as far south, but after they retreated, glacial Lake Succasunna formed, making what are now the swamps and marshlands around the Black River, just a few miles from Seward's Hill



(see map right). One can only speculate on the origin of Seward's Hill, but the Losee Gneiss of Seward's Hill is harder and more resistant to erosion than most rock and is commonly found along ridge-tops throughout the New Jersey Highlands. There may have been faults that broke up and softened the rock adjacent to Seward's Hill that made them relatively easy to erode away. ■

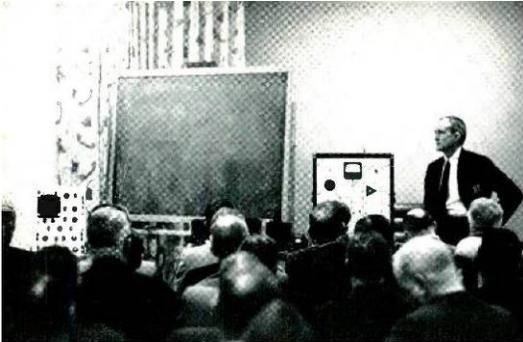
References

- Glacial Sediment and the Ice Age In New Jersey. New Jersey Geological Survey. 1998. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/enviroed/infocirc/glacial.pdf>
- Roadside Geology of New Jersey by David P. Harper 2013.

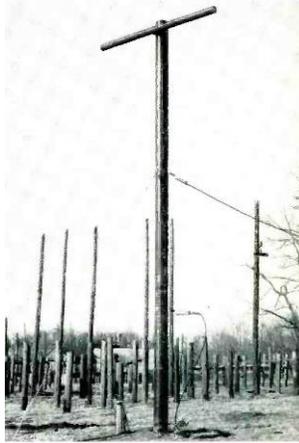
Bell Labs Chester Outdoor Laboratory – 1950's

By Edward Ng – Chester Historical Society

We continue exposition of the posters on the Chester Outdoor Lab displayed at Chester Township's Highland's Ridge Barn. The importance of the outdoor lab was confirmed by its hosting demonstrations and exhibits for 115 chief engineers from 22 Bell System Companies on March 21, 1956. The following images show some of the "new technologies" that they saw, including outdoor television cameras and fiberglass poles. One humorous side note, the heaviest snowfall of the season occurred the day before the scheduled event. After a day of snow clearing, the attendees donned 99 pairs of overshoes to attend the demonstrations. I assume 16 of the engineers had come prepared with their own overshoes.



Bell System Chief Engineers Visit Chester Field Laboratory
115 conferees from 22 Bell System Companies watched demonstrations of equipment and materials under development at the Chester Laboratory. March 1956



Fiberglas telephone poles are being tested for possible use. 1956



Cable terminals and cable terminal housings (left) and trencher for burying distribution cables were observed.



Caterpillar tractor, cable plow unit, and hydraulic cable reel trailer used in laying underground cable.



Engineers watch front mounted hydraulic pole digger in operation



An early television truck was used as a platform for describing safety devices for crews in and around manhole covers.

Upcoming Events and Next Newsletter

- June 3, 2017 9am Chester Furnace Hike. Park at Furnace & Tanners Brook Rds.
- June 8, 2017 7pm Chester Borough Sunnyside Demolition Hearing. 50 North Rd
- Sep. 17, 2017 noon CHS Annual Meeting & Picnic – Location to be determined
- Next newsletter: History of the Black River Playhouse, photos from the Spring Celebration at the Playhouse (Thank you Chester Theatre Group!), and more recipes!

Acknowledgments and Contact Information

CHS Trustees and Officers: President – Edward Ng Vice President – John Pfaff
Treasurer – Anita Rhodes Corresponding Secretary – Lois Taylor Recording
Secretary- Elaine Hanington Archives – Edward Ng Programs – Alison Dahl
Membership – Marla Jackson Historian – Ed Hanington Meryl Carmel and Jim Whelpley
CHS Newsletter Editor: - Edward Ng

We thank Ken Urban for sharing his story. We thank Bruce Clark for all his hard work and documentation on the Chester Furnace Historical Site. Historical photos and maps are usually from the CHS archives. Modern photos are by Ed Ng except as noted.

If you would like to join CHS or if you have stories or pictures to share, please talk to a Board member or contact us at (908) 844-6717 or chester.historical.society@gmail.com, or CHS Box 376 Chester NJ 07930. Membership information and a downloadable membership form are available at <http://historicchesternj.com/home/membership.html> .