

# Chenango Canal Association: Preserving History



*Since 2001*, the Chenango Canal Association has been involved in maintaining a five-mile length of the historic canal's summit, or the highest portion. Constructed between 1833 and 1837, the canal served the Chenango Valley, taking goods such as coal, barley, hops, milk and travelers between the communities of Binghamton and Utica. Moreover, the canal linked the Susquehanna River and the formidable Erie Canal, allowing water-based trade to cross the Chenango Valley.

*While pivotal in developing the area*, the canal fell on hard times in the late 1870s, as the arrival of the railroad signaled a change in the times. By 1878, the canal fell out of use, and in the decades that followed, was disassembled and forgotten for the most part.

*In addition to preservation*, the CCA hosts field schools for children in the area, teaching them the history of their home. From settlers who came on the canal, to the early industries that existed in the Chenango Valley, the CCA takes pride in continuing the historical education which is integral to keeping the past alive.

*This summer*, I have recorded, edited and directed a documentary for the Chenango Canal Association, with the hopes of gaining donors. While they receive some grant money, maintaining this historic testament to American industrialism takes resources. It is my hope that this documentary aids them in continuing to preserve this historic stretch of the Chenango Canal.

