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DELWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR



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TALES *of the* TOWPATH TELEGRAM



Summer 2012 - Volume 2- No. 1 | *Preserving our heritage to enrich our future.*

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Geology Bookshelf Adds Science to Tales of the Towpath Website

Understanding the formation of rocks is not easy, especially for elementary school students. That's why we're happy to report that geology has become much simpler to comprehend at the Tales of the Towpath website, where there is now a Geology Bookshelf with animated lessons on the formation of coal, iron, limestone and slate, four important building blocks of the American Industrial Revolution.



Just go to www.delawareandlehigh.org/talesofthetowpath and click on Geology Bookshelf. Click the book you want to open and

Not Like a Rolling Stone



"A rolling stone gathers no moss" is an ancient proverb credited to first-century BC Latin

explore natural history in a whole new light. ([Click here to continue story and read tutorial.](#))

Immersion Days Pulls 'Em In

It was one hour into Immersion Days field trip activities at Hugh Moore Park in Easton. Ninety fourth-graders from Pfaff Elementary School in Quakertown has just finished taking a canal boat ride on the Josiah White II, pulled by the park's mules, Hank and George.



Now it was their turn to provide the power. A crew of nine boys and girls stood quietly alongside the dock where the Josiah White II was tethered. A thick rope stretched out on the ground next to the Lehigh Canal. One end of the rope was attached to the boat. The other end?

"Okay, mules, get ready to pick up the rope and pull," instructor Steve Young shouted to the somewhat nervous young students. Smiles disappeared and faces grimaced. Muscles tensed. Could these 9- and 10-year-olds move the 48-ton canal boat? "If Hank and George can do it, you can do it, too," Young assured them.

The task became even more daunting when Young announced that 48 tons is equal to 96,000 pounds. "Ninety-six thousand pounds," some said. "How are we supposed to do that?" But the kids put on their leather gloves, wrapped their hands around the inch-thick rope, and dug their heels into the ground, waiting for Young to give the word. "Pull, mules, pull!" he exhorted. And sure enough, as the kids' grunts and groans got louder, the Josiah White II began to move. An inch, a foot, and pretty soon it was floating at the same speed the kids were pulling.

"Well done, guys," Young told the youngsters as chaperones' cameras caught the action. "Now you can drop the rope. We'll take it from here."

And thus was taught an important lesson in buoyancy and friction, as the principles related to canal life. There's nothing

writer, Publius Syrus, who authored a book of moral sayings called the *Sententiae*. Syrus's proverb dealt with the pitfalls of becoming a "rolling stone," a metaphor he used to describe a person who never settles in one place and thus avoids the "moss" of life of life that comes with settlement: responsibilities, knowledge, experience, culture. Syrus's proverb implied that rolling stones rarely, if ever, prosper.

A second interpretation - a much kinder one - evolved centuries later. Renaissance scholars suggested that "moss" was life's pitfalls - irresponsibility, ignorance - and that Syrus's rolling stones were people who constantly moved forward with fresh ideas and creativity and never allowed themselves to gather moss and the stagnation that comes with it.

Staff members of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor have followed the Renaissance interpretation since the Corridor was authorized by Congress in 1988.

like hands-on learning, especially when it takes place in a setting you've been reading about for two months. ([Click here to continue story.](#))

Have Questions? Just Ask Finn

"Dear Finn: Were you upset when your brother Colin bartered his shoes for hats and a bell for Conan and Rogan?"



"Dear, Finn: Did you ever see Nancy again after that day along the creek?"

"Dear Finn: Were you really related to John Gorman of Summit Hill?"

Those and many, many more questions bombarded Finn Gorman via the Tales of the Towpath website from January through the end of May. For a 167-year-old man with no formal typing skills, Finn did a good job responding. He answered every question that appeared in his e-mail box and kept track of the classes that were sending letters and how many they sent.

In early March, he calculated that Sarah Cummings's fourth-grade class at Ritter Elementary School in Allentown sent more letters than anyone. And at the end of April, the top question senders were Martha's Nolan's fourth graders at Quakertown Elementary School. Finn summoned his biographer, the D&L's Dennis Scholl, to deliver handsome sets of canal posters to each classroom as rewards for their efforts. After all, it's tough for a 167-year-old guy to get around. Scholl happily accepted his assignments.

Finn was so happy to answer questions that he has decided to do it again during the 2012-2013 school year. Seems he has one more year's worth of poster sets to award to curious kids.

"Good gracious," he chuckled when asked how difficult it was to learn how to use a computer. "It sure saved me a lot of paper and

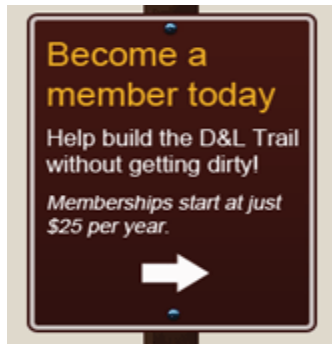
We've created dozens of programs over the past 20 years that have preserved and interpreted the Corridor's history, culture, and natural resources, and made the Corridor a better place to live. We've never taken kindly to gathering moss.

Tales of the Towpath has been on the move since its debut in 2007. Education is constantly evolving and so is Tales. We offer a sound, lively, and relevant curriculum that draws students into local history through an inviting set of educational tools, including a terrific interactive website. We've capitalized on available opportunities and intend to pursue more.

In the coming months, you'll be reading about Tales of the Towpath in the community. The rolling stones at the D&L feel that formal education should extend beyond classroom walls, and we're developing ways to do it. We think it's something Finn Gorman would have loved. We think you'll love it, too.

ink," he said. "but my dang glasses kept slippin' off my nose and fallin' on the keyboard. That was kind of annoyin'."

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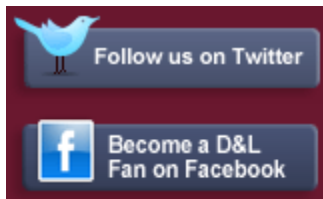
- [National Canal Museum](#)
- [Allentown Morning Call column on Immersion Days](#)



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Our Mission: To enrich the communities within the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor thru actions and partnerships that conserve the resources, tell the stories and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Corridor.