

STORIES of New Jersey

Army. In the museum at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, is an iron pig bearing the mark "Hibernia" on one side.

When the Morris Canal was opened in 1831 Hibernia's iron was taken on ox-carts to Dover, and loaded there on the canal boats. Here the canal descended from the hills by inclined planes and locks to Newark and Jersey City.

Dover soon became an important center of trade on the canal. It had two forges making chain cables for clipper ships; three rolling mills, one built in 1792, and a foundry where sugar and fish kettles, 10-plate stoves, salt pans and other useful things were made of cast iron. Dover is still working iron at its rolling mill, run by the Rockaway River's power.

The folk for miles around drove into Dover for shopping in the canal era, and the older boys and girls attended its academy, which was also the church on Sunday. Some of these boys and girls lived long enough to hear the song written about 30 years ago:

Put on your old gray bonnet
With the blue ribbons on it;
While I hitch old Dobbin to the shay.
And through the fields of clover
We'll drive up to Dover
On our golden wedding day.

