

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL SOCIETY

Fall 2024 Caravan Tour

Saturday, October 19th

Touring sites along the Wyoming Division Canal, site of the Huber Colliery and Breaker, the Ashley Planes, and Dam 20, Lock 29 and Lock 28 of the Lehigh Navigation in White Haven.

The Wyoming Division Canal was built between 1831 and 1834 by the State of Pennsylvania and closed down in 1882. As part of the North Branch Canal, it ran 17 miles in Lycoming County from West Nanticoke to Pittston.

The Huber Colliery, now gone, was the last remaining original coal breaker in the Northern Anthracite Coal Region. When constructed in 1939, the eleven story breaker was state of the art and processed 7,000 tons of coal per day. The colliery ceased operation in 1972 and demolition of the breaker began on January 24, 2014.

The Ashley Plains were part of the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad which provided a means of transporting coal from the Wyoming Valley mines and the Wyoming Division Canal to White Haven where it was loaded into canal boats for transport southward on the Lehigh Navigation. The Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad was completed in 1843 in lieu of an unfeasible canal connection and fulfilled part of the LC&N's charter to provide a transportation link between the Susquehanna and Lehigh Rivers.

The Upper Grand Division of the Lehigh Navigation was constructed between 1835 and 1836 by the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company and extended 26 miles from White Haven, through the Lehigh Gorge, and southward to Mauch Chunk. The Upper Grand was closed after the 1862 flood and the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad was then extended downstream to a new coal transfer facility at Coalport, just north of Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe today).

We plan to visit the following sites on this full day tour:

- Easily accessible sites on the Ashley Plains
- Site of the Huber Colliery and Breaker
- Mill Creek Aqueduct remains on the Wyoming Extension Canal.
- North Branch Canal Basin (currently the site of the Luzerne County Courthouse)
- Dam 20, Lock 29 at the upper end of the Lehigh Navigation
- Lock 28 on the Lehigh Navigation

Walking Effort: This will be a relatively easy walking event, however be aware that several sites may be overgrown with no guard rails or improvements. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and rugged walking shoes.

Registration: The cost for the day tour is \$30.00 and **includes lunch** at a tavern in White Haven. Please mail your registration form before October 12th and send an email afterward that you did to Doug Logan at pacanals.info@gmail.com or text to (610) 955-6436. This way if the mail is lost or delayed, we can contact you.

Meeting time & place:

8:45 AM at White Haven, 501 Main Street, just off Berwick Street (SR 940) next to the caboose in the shopping center across from the PNC Bank. The tour will begin promptly at 9:00 AM as we carpool to our first stop of the day.

Carpooling: To keep the cost down, this will be a caravan tour. If you have a vehicle that can handle 5 or 6 passengers and you don't mind driving, it would be appreciated.

Hotels: Hotels in the area are on PA 940 near the junction of exits off I-476 (Pocono exit 95) and I-80 (exit 277). Our headquarters hotel is the Comfort Inn. Head west on PA 940 to get to the White Haven meeting place noted above, 4.3 miles from the I-476/I-80 exits. Prices change so use them as a guide.

- **Headquarters: Comfort Inn - Pocono Mountains**, ~ \$115+/night on hotels.com, cheaper and a compromise, Route 940 At I-80 And I-476, White Haven, PA, 18661, (570) 443-8461
- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites White Haven - Poconos**, ~ \$203+/night on hotels.com, better but pricey, 547 PA-940, White Haven, PA, 18661, (570) 443-2100

~ 2.5 miles further east on PA 940

- **Econo Lodge Inn & Suites Lake Harmony**, ~ \$89+ on hotels.com, one of the cheapest, 981 State Route 940, White Haven, PA, 18661, (570) 443-0391
- **Country Place Inn And Suites**, ~ \$71+/night on hotels.com, one of the cheapest, 942 State Route 940, White Haven, PA, 18661, (570) 443-0300

Why the tour location change? Originally announced in *Canal Currents* to be a tag-along with the Canal Society of Ohio's fall tour in the Cincinnati area, the CSO event was cancelled due to buses not being available.

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White Haven – Wyoming Valley

Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Save some writing and use a return address label here if you have one

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: _____ - _____ - _____ Home Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____

I/We are staying in a hotel and would like to join others for Friday dinner # _____
Saturday, October 19th Caravan Tour (includes lunch at a tavern): # _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____
I/We are interested in a Sunday morning visit to Jim Thorpe # _____

Total of Check Enclosed: (make out to *Pennsylvania Canal Society*)

\$

Please mail your registration form before October 12th and send an email afterward that you did to Doug Logan at pacanals.info@gmail.com or text to (610) 955-6436. This way if the mail is lost or delayed, we can contact you.

Release: The undersigned hereby releases Pennsylvania Canal Society (PCS), their officers and agents, including their parties who furnish transportation or access to their land for sight-seeing, from any and all claims, whether personal injury or property damage, arising out of or connected in any way with the meetings and tours on weekend of October 19, 2024. This release is freely executed on behalf of the undersigned and the following minors over whom he or she has guardianship.

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Use the envelope provided. If you didn't receive a return envelope, please mail the registration form and check to:

PCS Fall Tour
c/o Adrienne Logan
78 John Glenn Dr
Phoenixville PA 19460-1908

Remember to make your hotel reservations separately.