

CAMDEN & AMBOY RAILROAD SYMPOSIUM

November 10, 2007
Bordentown, New Jersey



John Bull

*In Commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the
First Run of the John Bull Locomotive in
Bordentown, New Jersey
November 12, 1831*

Presentations

- 8:00 - 9:00 am** **Registration**
- 9:00 - 9:15 am** **Welcoming Remarks**
Mark Liss and John Kilbride
- 9:15 - 9:45 am** **Colonel John Stevens – Vision, Machine & the Family Legacy**
James Alexander, Jr.
- Jim’s presentation will explore John Stevens, the man and his legacy. Included will be discussion of Stevens’ development of steam engines and his efforts to promote railroads in NJ and elsewhere. Jim will also look at the development and operation of Stevens’ demonstration locomotive and the construction of the replica “John Stevens” locomotive.
- Jim Alexander is retired from New Jersey state government, and now designs web sites. He built the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania’s computer network and maintains its large web site. It was there that he became interested in John Stevens’ work over a decade ago. He has authored works on railroad track pans, early radio use by railroads, and turntables, including several articles in Trains magazine.
- 9:45 - 10:30 am** **Cramptons, Monsters & Bulls: Technology Transfer & Innovations on Robert L. Stevens’s Camden & Amboy Railroad, 1815-1856**
Kurt R. Bell
- Kurt will provide a comparative technological analysis and overview of motive power development on the Camden & Amboy Railroad during its earliest years. He will also explore how the entrepreneurship of Robert Stevens had a lasting influence on the evolution of such exotic engines as The John Bull, The Monster, and the Cramptons, which represented the ancestors of what later evolved into the standardization of Pennsylvania Railroad steam locomotive design. The program will conclude with a look at historic C&A equipment and other collections preserved at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg.
- Kurt is Archivist with the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg. The author of numerous articles and book reviews, he holds a BA from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and an MA in American History with a Museum Studies Certification from the University of Delaware. He has curated over a half dozen museum exhibitions on railroad history and is currently completing four books. A former staff writer at *Locomotive & Railway Preservation Magazine*, he has been active in the railway heritage preservation field for over 20 years and serves as Chair of the David P. Morgan Article Award panel, Railroad History Awards, of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, the oldest organization in America devoted to the history of technology. He has also worked for four railroads in three states as a Fireman, Conductor and Brakeman, including the Strasburg Rail Road in Lancaster County, Pa.
- 10:30 - 10:45 am** **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:15 am** **Rails Along the Canal from Bordentown to Trenton**
William McKelvey
- Bill will explore the physical relationship of the railroad and the canal beginning with the Camden & Amboy and extending into the Pennsylvania Railroad and Conrail eras. Included in the program will be the industries and related structures that were once served by the railroad and canal. Special emphasis will be placed on the Bordentown area.
- Bill is well known to members of New Jersey’s transportation history community as a researcher, historian, author, photographer, preservationist, publisher, and tour leader. He currently serves as president emeritus, director and curator of the NJ Transportation Heritage Center. Bill has also served for the past 16 years as editor of the center’s newsletter, *NJ Transport Heritage* and coordinator of their Annual Symposium held at Drew University in Madison, NJ.
- 11:45 - 12:30 pm** **A Trip Along the Camden & Amboy**
Paul W. Schopp
- Paul will begin his presentation with an overview of Camden & Amboy history, explaining its early technology, the company’s moribund safety record and the PRR lease. He will end the program by taking the audience on a nostalgic trip via slides of postcards and photographs between Trenton

and Camden following the route of the new SNJLRT light-rail line.

Paul has been a student of history for more than 35 years and has worked as a professional historian in the Cultural Resource field for the past 20 years, specializing in Mid-Atlantic history, transportation history, and the history of technology. Paul currently holds the position of Principal Senior Historian with A.D. Marble & Company, an environmental planning firm. He is well known in New Jersey historical circles and served four years as the executive director of the Camden County Historical Society. In 1994, Paul completed the 488-page book, "The Trail of the Blue Comet: A History of the Central Railroad of New Jersey's Southern Division", as co-author. Various specialty and professional journals have published his articles and monographs. Paul lives in Riverton, New Jersey and has a special affinity for the Camden & Amboy Railroad.

12:30 - 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 - 2:15 pm

Along the Camden & Amboy - The South Amboy and New Brunswick Routes

John Kilbride

John will provide an overview of the northern portion of the railroad extending from Bordentown to South Amboy, including the Trenton to New Brunswick route and Princeton branch.

John currently serves as president of the Camden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group. A present-day railroader, John is a frequent speaker on New Jersey railroad histories, and often includes "then" and "now" photographic views in his speaking engagements.

2:15 - 3:00 pm

Protection Rackets: the Camden & Amboy Monopoly and Its Enemies

Christopher T. Baer

Chris will describe the forces and personalities that created the Camden & Amboy's monopoly of rail and canal transportation between New York and Philadelphia, and the almost continuous attempts by other interests to circumvent it, abolish it, or build a competing railroad between the two cities. The program will conclude with the construction of the so-called "New Line" in 1876.

Chris is a New Jersey native and has a degree in architecture from the University of Virginia (B. Arch, 1970) and an M.A. in history from the University of Delaware (1980). Since 1978, Chris has been associated with or employed by the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Del., primarily as Assistant Curator of Manuscripts & Archives. In 1984-86 he led the appraisal team that rescued about 10,000 linear feet of records of the Pennsylvania Railroad and its predecessors, including those of the Camden & Amboy, and distributed them among a consortium of seven libraries and archives. He is the author of "Canals and Railroads of the Mid-Atlantic States," "The Trail of the Blue Comet" (winner of the George & Constance Hilton book prize in railroad history), and the web-based "Chronology of the Pennsylvania Railroad, its Predecessors and Successors, and its Historical Context." Chris has also contributed transportation themed articles to the "Encyclopedia of New York State" and the "Encyclopedia of North American Railroads."

3:00 - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Steaming The John Bull: What Did the Old Boy Teach Us?

William L. (Bill) Withuhn

Bill will relate his experiences as a member of the Smithsonian Institution team that inspected, steamed, and ran the original John Bull locomotive in 1981. In 1983, he directed the renovation of the Pennsylvania Railroad-built working replica of the John Bull, on exhibit and occasionally steamed today at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

Bill is Curator of Transportation History at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History. He recently opened "America On The Move," a new, permanent exhibition on transportation in the U.S., 1876-2000, occupying the largest gallery at the National Museum of American History. Bill is the editor and co-author of *Rails Across America: A History of Railroads in North America* (1993), which sold some 40,000 copies, and he is the author of the book *The Spirit of Steam* (1995), with essays and historic photographs, that sold more than 200,000 copies in several editions. Prior to coming to the Smithsonian, Bill was a senior partner in a company operating regional freight railroads in five states. Before that, he served as staff assistant on transportation issues for a U.S. Congressman from New York State. Bill is a veteran of Air Force Special Opera-

tions and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and a Masters in History (Science & Technology), both from Cornell University. He has been a fully qualified locomotive engineer – steam and diesel – since 1966 and is a dues-paying member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, America's oldest labor organization.

4:15 - 4:30 pm

Hicksville Builds a John Bull and Gains an Icon

James Pavone

Jim will discuss the inspiration and motivation behind the construction of a non-operable replica of the John Bull locomotive which is presently nearing completion in Hicksville, NY (Long Island). His program will relate the problems and considerations that went into the process of bringing this challenging undertaking to fruition.

Although born in Glen Cove and currently residing in Westbury, Long Island, Jim has familial connections to New Jersey and has served as a past trustee and member of the Washington Township Land Trust, Long Valley, NJ. He has also served as vice president of the New England Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and has published research connected to old mills. Jim also has prior experience constructing replicas having built a copy of Henry Ford's 1896 Quadricycle. Jim is president and owner of PIA Inc. and Strategic Aerospace and is currently serving as president of the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce.

4:30 pm

Adjournment



Bronze plaque which adorns the Camden & Amboy Monument, erected by the Pennsylvania Railroad and dedicated November 12, 1891 to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the first run of the John Bull locomotive.

The Camden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group would like to thank the following individuals for their support and assistance in making this symposium possible:

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Diane Flanigan, President, Bordentown Historical Society

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