



North Jersey Branch

History & Heritage Committee Dinner Presentation

“THE PASSAIC RIVER: 81 MILES OF HISTORY”

Speaker: Phillip Jaeger, Local Historian & Trustee of the Passaic County Historical Society

Date: February 5, 2008

Time: Reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30. Presentation to follow.

Location: New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Club, Eberhardt Hall

Cost: \$30 for members; \$35 for nonmembers; \$15 for students

Register: RSVP to Gareth Middleton at gmiddleton@tishman.com or 973-643-4007



Several years ago Phil and Jean Jaeger went on the first of 21 planned trips in New Jersey in search of fine county dining. The idea was to use lesser-traveled roads to discover both a little bit of history and some interesting restaurants. In their excursions they frequently crossed the twisting Passaic River and thought it would be interesting to find its origin. Their trip to the river's headwaters in Mendham was the start of tonight's program. The program follows the river through seven counties from its source in Mendham to its end at Newark Bay with an emphasis on activities and

structures along the river in past centuries. Topics include early mills, Glacial Lake Passaic, canal/trolley/railroad crossings, the first successful test of a submarine, extant Lenape art and constructions, the country's first planned industrial city and the heroic exploits of the "great descender" Sam Patch.

Phil Jaeger, a resident of Cedar Grove, is a retired math and computer science teacher. He and Jean have been members of the Canal Society for twenty-five years. Over those years Phil's involvement has included leading tours along the Morris Canal, three terms as a director, the Morris Canal guidebook committee and the speaker's bureau. He is the author of *Montclair: A Postcard Guide to Its Past* and *Cedar Grove*, both in the Arcadia "Images of America" series. Phil is a trustee of the Passaic County Historical Society and Jean serves on the Cedar Grove Board of Education.



Parking will be provided in the NJIT Parking Deck. <http://www.njit.edu/about/visit/>

Directions and maps to the facilities can be found at