

Petition from the Citizens of the Town of German Flatts

To the Honorable the Canal Board of
the State of New York -
The undersigned inhabitants
of the town of German Flatts in the County of Dutch
County respectfully shew -
That there is a feeder of the
Erie Canal in the town of German Flatts a feeder
taken from a stream in said town called State Brook
which by reason of the great quantity of water
which it carries in fall, and the fact that
it runs the same to the town the road running north
parallel with the Erie Canal, becomes so
flooded that the very horses of said feeder carries great
damages to the inhabitants residing near the same
and consequently to the Canal, and by reason of the
fact that the water is so shallow and the
road is so narrow, it is difficult and dangerous
for the boats of the Canal, and the difficulties and
inconveniences above stated result in a great measure
from the present imperfect location of said feeder
- It would be more convenient for the
purpose of the Canal and the interests of the
State as to the location and direction of said
feeder as to the same advantages to the
Canal and to avoid the above mentioned
inconveniences the following is the most eligible
location - viz. to take the water by a side cut
from State Brook about one hundred rods
above it is at present taken out, which would be
near the falls of Cayuga to Berlin, from thence to
the canal parallel with the road leading from
said falls to the said river road and the
stream of Hishollet Stream near the Canal
in said town -
And your petitioners as we duly
will very gratefully -
James Smith Daniel Rogers
Oliphant Livingston John Morgan
Samuel Cook Samuel Rogers
George Cook Samuel Rogers

This letter of appeal was written by the citizens of the town of German Flatts (sometimes written Germanflatts) in Herkimer County to the Canal Board. The petition describes how a feeder stream for the Erie Canal floods in fall and freezes over in winter, spilling onto the road into town. The water and ice cause damage to properties and create a hazard. The petitioners suggest an alternative source of water for the canal which will not flood the river road.

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Erie Canal Time Machine

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