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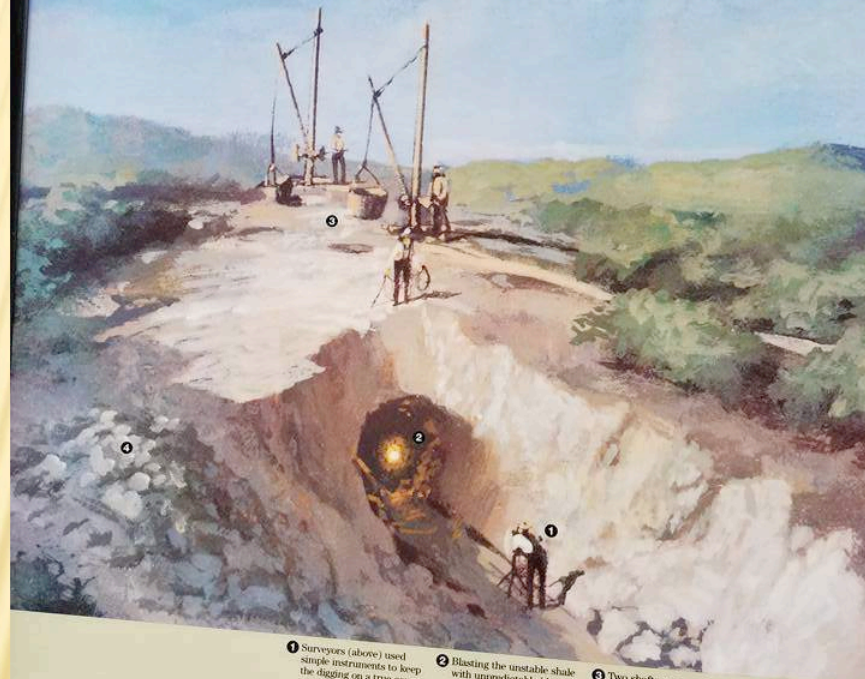
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Paw Paw Tunnel stands as a monument to the ability and daring of 19th-century canal builders. By building the mile-long cut through the mountain, including the 3,118-foot tunnel, the canal avoided six miles of river bends and steep, rocky cliffs.

Methodist minister and contractor Lee Montgomery began construction in 1836, with estimates of completion in two years. Labor shortages, financial difficulties, underestimating the cost of the work, and a maze of lawsuits eventually forced

Montgomery into bankruptcy. Work on the tunnel stopped. In 1850 the tunnel was finally completed, opening the canal from Georgetown to Cumberland.



1 Surveyors (above) used simple instruments to keep the digging on a true course.

2 Blasting the unstable shale with unpredictable black-powder was dangerous business; injuries and deaths were commonplace.

3 Two shafts were sunk in an effort to speed the work. This enabled workers to dig from four directions.

4 Excavated material was dumped in the hills surrounding the tunnel.



Hard Labor

What would we consider the most dangerous jobs today?





















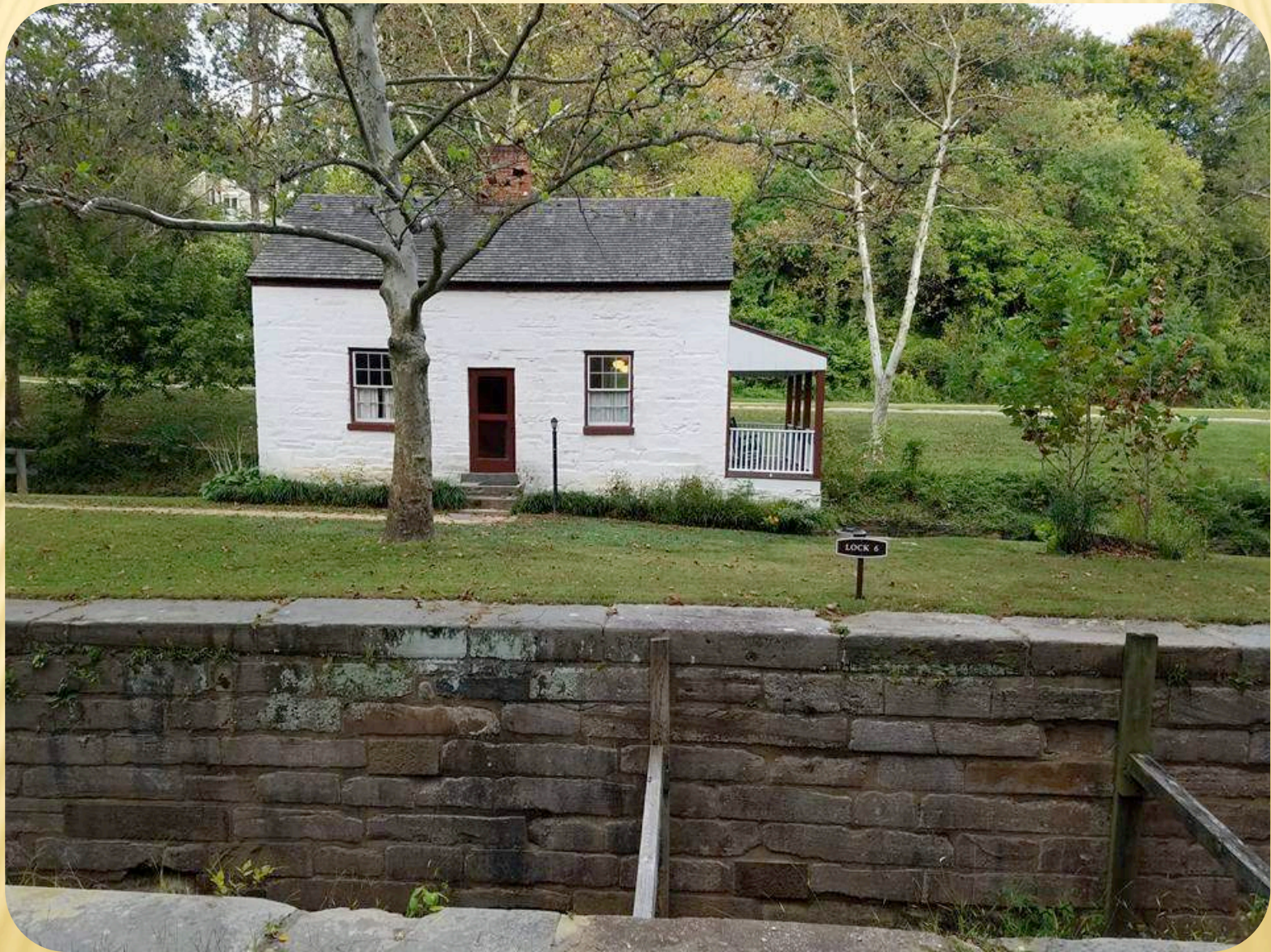












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Lockhouse 6

From its inception the vision of the C&O Canal has evolved, constantly finding ways to be relevant. Built in 1829, Lockhouse 6 stands a mile upstream from Little Falls, site of the canal's July 4th groundbreaking the previous year. Lockhouse 6 witnessed much of the canal's history, from the early phase of construction to the heyday of 500 boats loaded with coal passing by from Cumberland to Georgetown.

After the devastating floods of 1924 that closed canal operations, the lockhouse watched over the Civilian Conservation Corps' restoration of the first 22 miles of the canal and witnessed Justice Douglas' 1954 walk, which stirred popular support for the creation of a National Park. Today Lockhouse 6 recalls the Canal's history for the millions of visitors who visit the park each year.



A view of the back of Lockhouse 6 during the 1936 flood.



Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay greets Supreme Court Justice Douglas as he approaches Lock 6 during the historic 1954 hike to save the canal.



Experience history...
spend the night
in a lockhouse!

Ever wonder what it was like to live in a lockhouse? Spend the night in one of several lockhouses along the canal. Step back in time and immerse yourself in history. If you listen closely, you may hear voices from the past whispering their stories. For more information visit www.canalquarters.org.















