

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 Germanflatts in the County of Herkimer, respectfully show:

That there is a feeder of the Erie Canal in the town of Germanflatts aforesaid taken from a stream in said town called Steels Creek which by anchor ice, frost, freezing and the fall rains cause the same to overflow the road running nearly parallel with the Erie Canal, commonly called the river road; that the overflowing of said feeder causes great damage to the inhabitants residing near the same and inconvenience to travelers and frequently makes the road nearly impassable by the depth of water in the road. Your petitioners are informed and believe and from inspection of the same that the difficulties and obstruction above stated result in a great measure from the present unfavorable location of said feeder.

To remedy said inconvenience your petitioners propose to alter the location and direction of said feeder so as to secure the same advantages to the Canal and to avoid its future overflowing and recommend the following as the most favorable location-viz to take the water by a side cut from Steels Creek about one hundred rods above where it is at present taken out which would be near the Mills of George W. Dexter, from thence to run nearly parallel with the road leading from said mills to the said river road near the house of Elizabeth Remington near the Canal in said town. And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray be.

January 5 1829"

Questions

1. Who are the citizens of Germanflatts writing to?
2. What is a feeder?
3. What happens to the feeder when there's "ice, frost, freezing and the fall rains"?
4. What do the citizens of Germanflatts think needs to be done to fix their problem?
5. Based on the information in this letter, are the citizens of Germanflatts happy about the Erie Canal going through their community? Why?