



The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal





What is the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal?

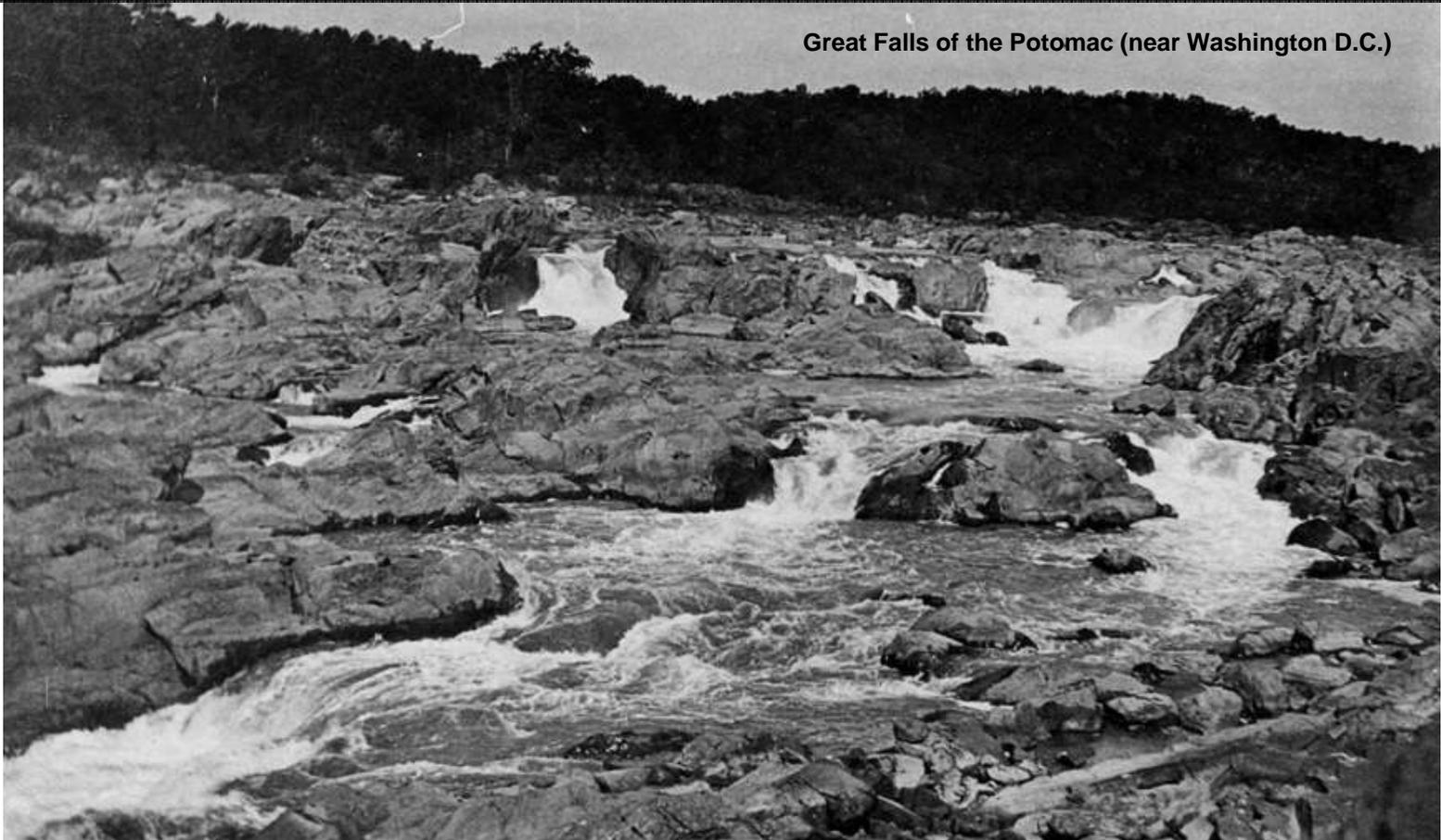
- A canal is a manmade waterway for shipping, irrigation, or recreational use.
- It is 184 ½ miles long and runs between Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, MD.





What is the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal?

- The canal was built along the Potomac River because the river was too rough to travel on.



Great Falls of the Potomac (near Washington D.C.)



A young boy working the mules on the canal

What types of animals do you care for at your home?



Canal families didn't have cars. Instead they used animals, boats, and wagons for transportation. Young boys would have the job of walking and caring for the mules on the canal.



A Mule?

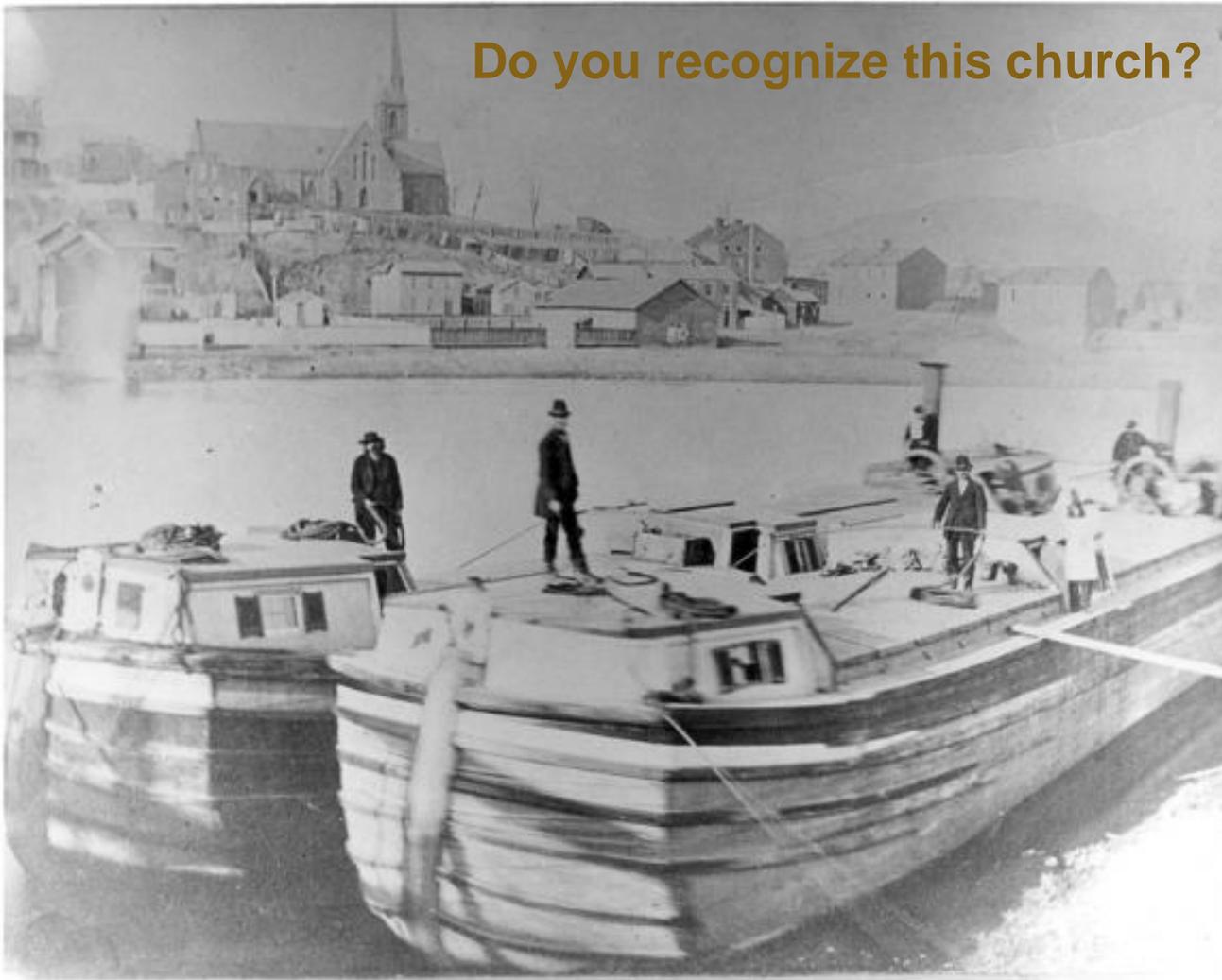


- A mule is the baby of a female horse and a male donkey. Mules were used on the canal because they were cheaper than horses and less likely to be injured.

- Mules could live longer than male horses. They were also more sure-footed than horses so they were less likely to fall. Their skin was thicker than horses so they were less likely to get harness sores.



Canal Boats in Cumberland



Do you recognize this church?

- Most canal boats were built at the Cumberland Boatyard.
- The boats were 90-95 feet long and 14 ½ feet wide.

C. + O. Coral Boatyard - Cumberland.





Transportation



**Look at this picture.
What types of
transportation do
you see?**



Canal Locks

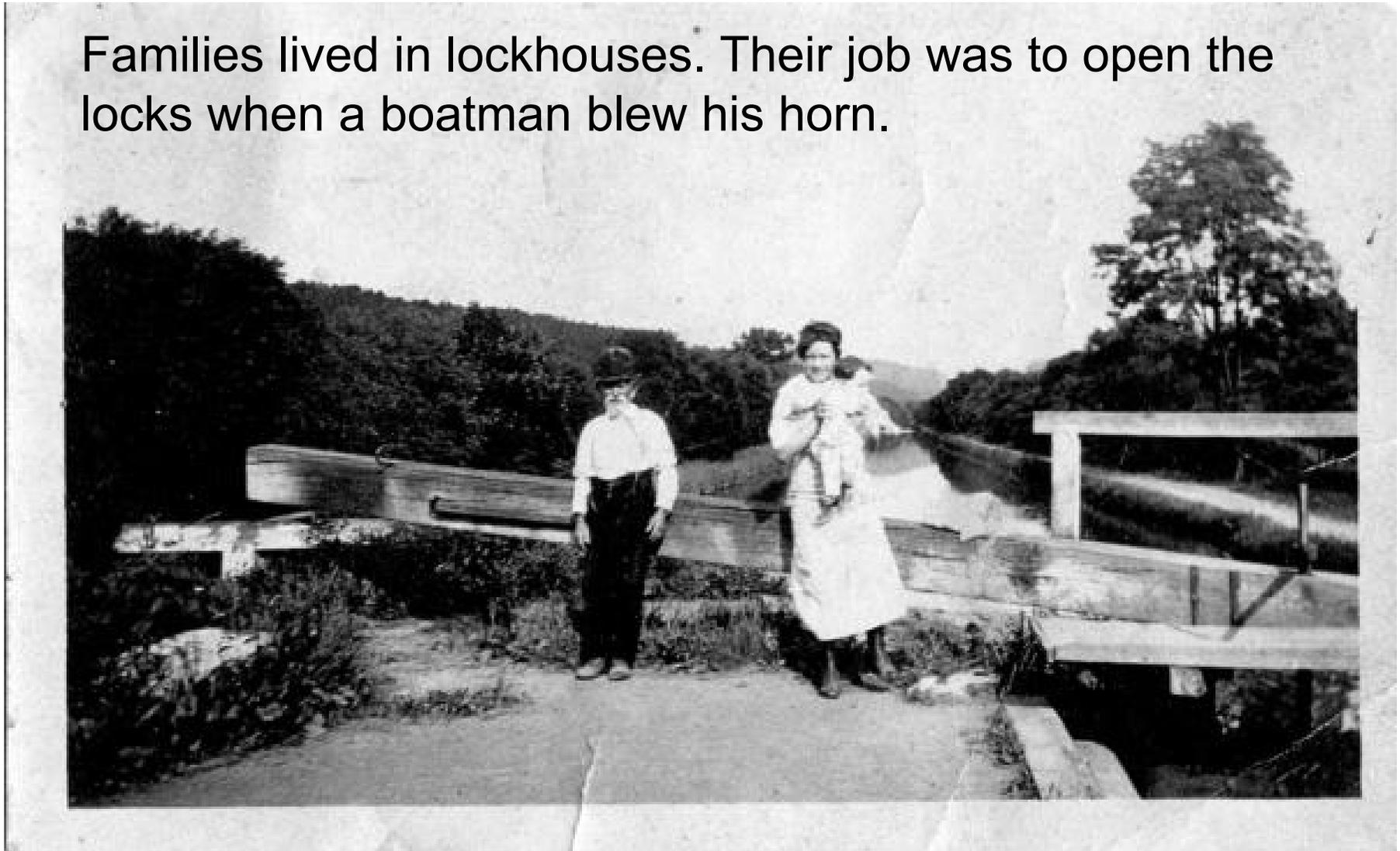
- A lock is like a big step in the canal. Since the land that the canal was built on isn't flat, boats needed to be raised and lowered to travel.
- A boat moved into a lock then the lockkeeper would close the locks to either raise or lower the water level.





Lockhouses

Families lived in lockhouses. Their job was to open the locks when a boatman blew his horn.



How are their clothes different from what we wear today?



A family living and working at a canal lock house



Children

- Children could easily fall off of the canal boat and drown. So, they were tied to the boat to keep them safe.



What do you think life was like growing up on a canal boat? How do you think it is different from your life?

What questions do you have about your upcoming visit to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal?

