



photo courtesy of Earl Gorman

Song of the Canal Boatman

From "Saga of the Susquehanna",
by Chester Wittell

Soap the skids and let 'er slide—
 Splash! Splash!
Eighty long and fourteen wide—
 Splash! Splash!
Sleek and proud as any queen,
Painted white and trimmed in green—
Purtiest sight you ever seen,
 Riverman!

Bring the mules, driverman.
 G'dap! G'dap!
Hitch 'em tandem, if you can.
 G'dap! G'dap!
Treverton to Liverpool,
Hot or cold, or warm or cool;
Crack your whip and drive your mule,
 Riverman!

Captain, captain, blow the conch.
 Honk! Honk!
There's the lock; its time for lunch.
 Honk! Honk!
Check the mules and let 'er float,
Watch your step and shed your coat,
Throw the rope and snub the boat,
 Riverman!

Milton, Muncy, Jersey Shore.
 Hi! Hi!
Towns I never seen before.
 Hi! Hi!
'Nother week and I'll be shavin'
For a girl that I saw wavin'
From a shanty at Lock Haven,
 Riverman!

Athens, Milan and Towanda.
 Ha! Ha!
Clara, Susie, and Amanda.
 Ha! Ha!
But I think I never met a
Girl as purty as Rosetta
Who lives down at Marietta,
 Riverman!



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