

Ohio and Erie Canal Resources

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Created by the Special Collections Division

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The Ohio and Erie Canal was constructed in the early 1800s. It connected to the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County and traveled all the way down to the Ohio River in Scioto County, Ohio. From the 1820s the canal was used for freight traffic but by the 1860s canal transport rapidly declined due to the construction of railroads. From the 1860s until 1913, the canal also served as a water source to industries and towns. After what was known as, "The Great Flood of 1913," much of the Ohio Canal system was destroyed and eventually abandoned.

Since Congress created the Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor in 1996, the Ohio and Erie Canal Association (OECA) has acted as the management entity for the heritage area. Referred to as the Ohio and Erie Canalway, most of the remaining portions are maintained by the National Park Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Preservation efforts of the historic properties along the Canalway have been successful through a combination of programs offered by government and not-for profit organizations and strong private sector support for the properties. Numerous historical societies in the area and preservation leaders, in addition to technical assistance from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park staff have leveraged public interest in developing this recreational area.

A list of selected items about the Ohio and Erie Canal available at the Library:

Bobel, Peg and Rob. *The nature of the Towpath: A natural history guide to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail*. 1998.

Brown, Foster. *Ohio & Erie Canal: Inspired songs that tell the story / music and lyrics by Foster Brown*. 2000.

Canal Society of Ohio. *Ohio & Erie Canal Akron Cascade (lock 10) to Peninsula*. 1996.

Canal Society of Ohio. *Ohio and Erie Canal Akron: Old Portage to New Portage*. 1990.

Gieck, Jack. *A photo album of Ohio's canal era, 1825-1913*. 1992.

Gieck, Jack. *Early Akron's industrial valley: A history of the Cascade Locks*. 2008

Metzger, Lynn. *Canal fever: The Ohio and Erie Canal, from waterway to canalway*. 2009.

Meyer, David. *Boats of the Ohio Canal, 1839 to 1855*. 2006.

Scioto County Canal Society. *The Ohio & Erie Canal, 1832-1913: 175th anniversary edition, 1832-2007 books I and II*. 2007.

Seguin, Marilyn Weymouth. *Silver Ribbon Skinny: The Towpath adventures of Skinny Nye, a muleskinner on the Ohio and Erie Canal, 1884*. 1996.

Simpson, Al and Musarra, Russ. *Along the Towpath: A journalist rediscovers the Ohio and Erie Canal*. 2003.

Towpaths' editorial staff. *150 years of Ohio's canals, 1825-1975*. 1975.

Triplett, Boone. *Ohio and Erie Canal*. 2014.

Woods, Terry K. *The Ohio & Erie Canal: A glossary of terms*. 1995.

Woods, Terry K. *Ohio's grand canal: A brief history of the Ohio and Erie Canal*. 2008.

Woods, Terry K. and Nye, Pearl. *Pearl Nye's Akron: Taken from Pearl Nye's writings in the Archival Department at the University of Akron, Summit County Historical Society*.

Early Newspapers:

Akron Beacon Journal - 1841-present; indexed 1841-1939

Free Democratic Standard (Akron) - Nov 1849-Oct 1850

Cascade Roarer (Akron) - June 1845-July 1846

Ohio Observer (Hudson) - Sept 1833-June 1855

Observer & Telegraph (Hudson) - March 1830-Sept 1833

Ohio Star (Ravenna) - Jan 1832-Dec 1833

Western Courier (Ravenna) - May 1837-Apr 1838

Western Intelligencer (Cleveland & Hudson) - Jul 1827-Feb 1830

Audio Visual Resources:

Ohio's Canal Era, parts 1, 2, 3. DVD, 2005.

Our Canal Heritage. VHS, 1999.

Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley & Other NPS Units. DVD 2012.

Photographs:

The **Special Collections Division** has photographs of the Ohio and Erie Canal, mostly from the time period of the late 1880s to 1913. We also have the Summit County Historical Society's collection of historic photographs that includes many photographs of the canal. You can see many of these photographs on our **Summit Memory** website: www.summitmemory.org

You can also search for photographs and other materials located in our archives through our online **Archives Catalog**: <https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/akronlibrary/public> (or follow the links: www.akronlibrary.org - "Research" - "Genealogy and Local History")

Online Resources:

- **Cascade Locks Park Association:** <http://cascadelocks.org/>
- **National Canal Museum:** www.canals.org
- **National Park Service Website:** Provides links to many of the branch organizations associated with the Ohio and Erie Canal, such as:
 - Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor:
www.nps.gov/nr/travel/ohioeriecanal
 - Canal Exploration Center:
<https://www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/historyculture/canal-exploration-center.htm>
 - National Parks Service teacher resources:
www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm
 - *The Ohio & Erie Canal: Catalyst of Economic Development for Ohio--Supplementary Resources:*
www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/41ohio/41ohio.htm
- **Northeast Ohio Journal of History:** <http://blogs.uakron.edu/nojh>. See links under Exhibits and Research for articles about the history of the Ohio Canal.
- **Ohio and Erie Canalway Visitor Site:** www.ohioanderiecanalway.com/Main/Home.aspx
- **Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition:** www.ohioeriecanal.org/index.html
- **Ohio History Connection:** www.ohiohistory.org
- **Ohio Memory:** www.ohiomemory.org