

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, which connected the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County to the Ohio River in Scioto County, Ohio. From the 1820s the canal was used for freight traffic but by the 1860s the use of the canal for 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. Today, most remaining portions are preserved by the National Park Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other local and regional organizations that serve to maintain the heritage of Ohio's canals.

Main Library has a variety of materials available about the Ohio and Erie Canal. Below is a list of selected items from the library's collection. Feel free to ask a librarian in Special Collections about locating these items or any other related resources.

Bibliography:

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.

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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

Hannibal, Joseph T. *Geology along the towpath: Stones of the Ohio and Erie and Miami and Erie Canals*. 1998.

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.

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- Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition. *Towpath companion: A traveler's guide to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail*. 2009.
- Reid, Ronald. *Two hundred years of water transportation in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania*. 1983.
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- 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.
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- 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.

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 **Local History Database**: www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecColldbO/Default.aspx

Online Resources:

- **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
 - 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