

THE ERIE CANAL IN WESTERN NEW YORK



MUSEUM COMPLEX
ERIE CANAL DISCOVERY CENTER
COL. WM. BOND - JESSE HAWLEY HOUSE

4.6 WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: New York State played an important role in the growth of the United States. During the 1800s, people traveled west looking for opportunities. Economic activities in New York State are varied and have changed over time, with improvements in transportation and technology. (Standards: 1, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, ECO, TECH)

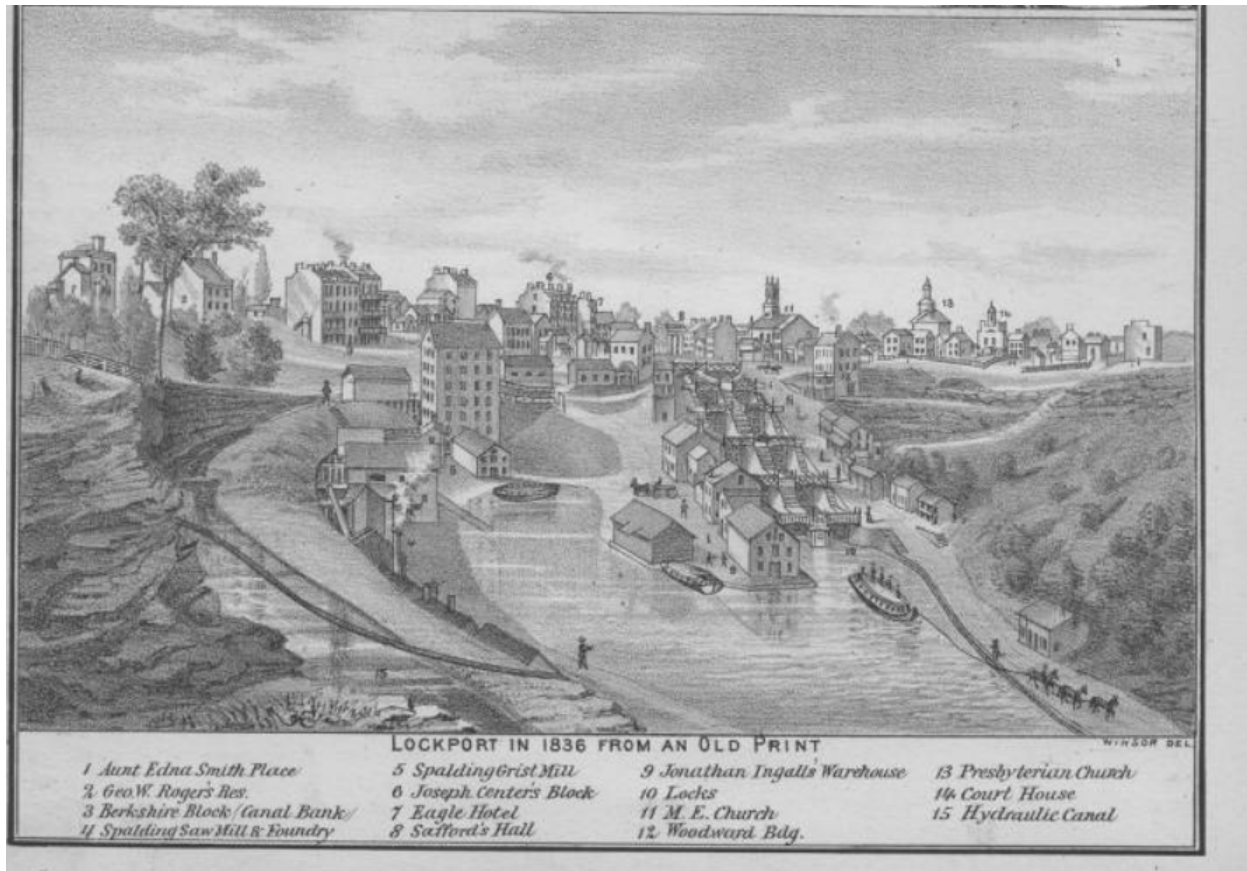
Lessons Developed by the Niagara County Historical Society

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In Partnership with the National Park Service

Primary Source Set 4.6a: Why Did New York State and the American Nation Need the Erie Canal?



Lockport from an old print, 1836, in History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in New York Heritage:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>

United States Census

Home - Overview - History - Through the Decades - Genealogy - Reference - Home Page Archive - FAQs

History

History Main Agency History - Innovations - Programs - Through the Decades - Genealogy - Reference - Home Page Archive - FAQs

Fast Facts

Also in this Section:

- 2010 Fast Facts
- 2000 Fast Facts
- 1990 Fast Facts
- 1980 Fast Facts
- 1970 Fast Facts
- 1960 Fast Facts
- 1950 Fast Facts
- 1940 Fast Facts
- 1930 Fast Facts
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- 1910 Fast Facts
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- 1890 Fast Facts
- 1880 Fast Facts
- 1870 Fast Facts
- 1860 Fast Facts
- 1850 Fast Facts
- 1840 Fast Facts
- 1830 Fast Facts
- 1820 Fast Facts
- 1810 Fast Facts
- 1800 Fast Facts

POP Culture: 1790

ICONS: George Washington, 1790 Census, USS Constitution

- President George Washington delivers the first "State of the Union Address" on January 8, 1790.
- Benjamin Franklin dies on April 17, 1790 in Philadelphia, Pa.
- Washington, DC, is established as the capital of the United States, in 1790.
- The U.S. Post Office Department is established on February 20, 1790.
- In October 1794, federal troops put an end to the "Whiskey Rebellion," after distillers in the Appalachian region of the United States resisted paying a tax on distilled spirits.
- El Whitney is granted a patent for the cotton gin, which cleans seed from cotton, on March 14, 1794.
- The USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") launches as part of the U.S. Navy in 1797 and sails to the Mediterranean Sea to protect American merchant vessels from Barbary pirates.
- Construction begins on Fort Mifflin in 1790. Sixteen years later, Francis Scott Key pens "The Star Spangled Banner" during its bombardment by British forces.
- George Washington, first President of the United States, dies at Mount Vernon, Va, on December 14, 1799.

The 1790 Census		18 Largest Urban Places	
U.S. Population	3,929,214	Rank	Place
Population per square mile of land area	3.5	1	New York City, NY
Percent increase of population	6.4	2	Boston, MA
Official Enumeration Year	1790	3	Philadelphia, PA
Number of States	13	4	Baltimore, MD
State	MA, MD	5	Richmond, VA
Cost per Census event	\$ 1	6	Washington, DC

[https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/fast facts/1790 fast facts.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/fast_facts/1790_fast_facts.html)

Town/Date Established	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850
Cambria (1808)	1459	1134	1712	2099	2366
Hartland (1812)		1448	1584	2350	3028
Porter (1812)		850	1490	2177	2455
Niagara (1816)		484	1401	1277	1951
Royalton (1817)		1849	3138	3549	4024
Lewiston (1818)		689	1528	2533	2924
Wilson (1818)		688	913	1753	2955
Somerset (1823)			871	1742	2154
Lockport (1824)			3823	9125	12323
Newfane (1824)			1448	2372	3271
Pendleton (1827)			577	1098	2166
Wheatfield (1836)				1057	2659
Total Population	1459	7142	18485	31132	44126

Data compiled from U.S. Census reports 1810 to 1850 in the collection of the Niagara County Genealogical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/4.6a.docx.pdf>



(1783 Treaty of Paris map)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3701sm.gct00483/?st=gallery>



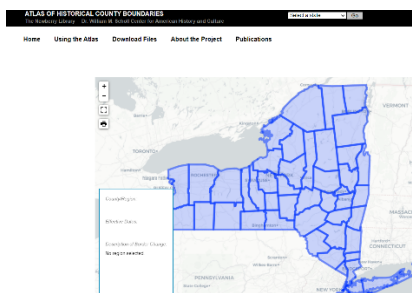
(1787 Northwest Ordinance map)

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3701sm.gct00482/?sp=20>



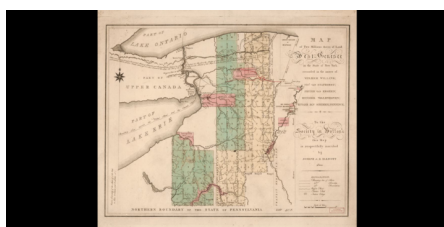
(1803 Louisiana Purchase map)

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3300.ct001126>



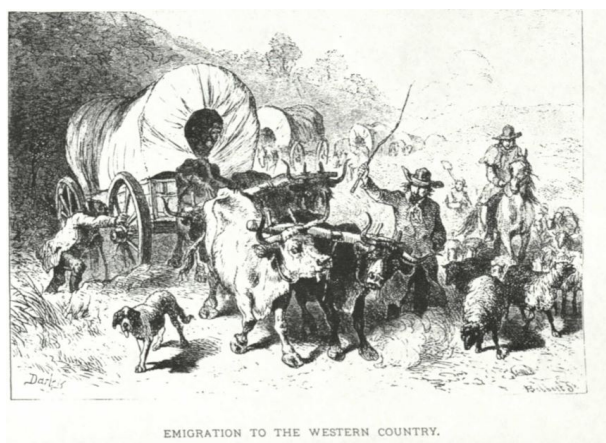
Newberry Atlas Map (NYS):

<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/map/map.html#NY>



Western NY land claims:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3802n.ct005648>

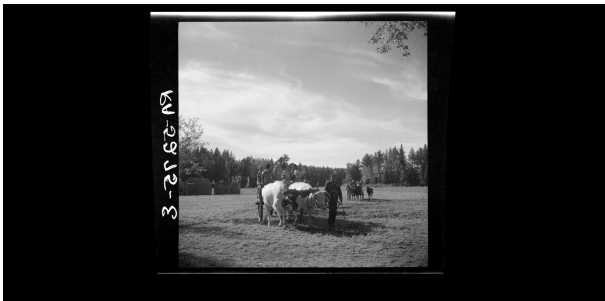


Emigration to the Western Country

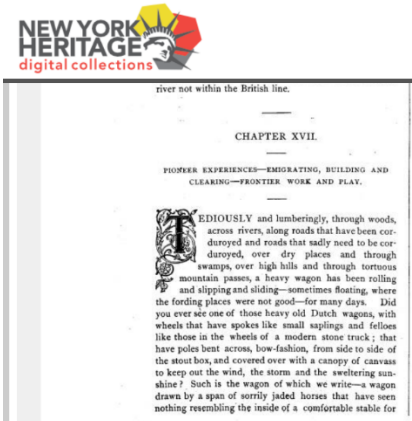
The Pictorial Field-book of the War of 1812; or, Illustrations, by Pen and Pencil, of the History, Biography, Scenery, Relics, and Traditions of the Last War for American Independence. Benson J. Lossing, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1869) - Vol.2, page 1180

New York State Library

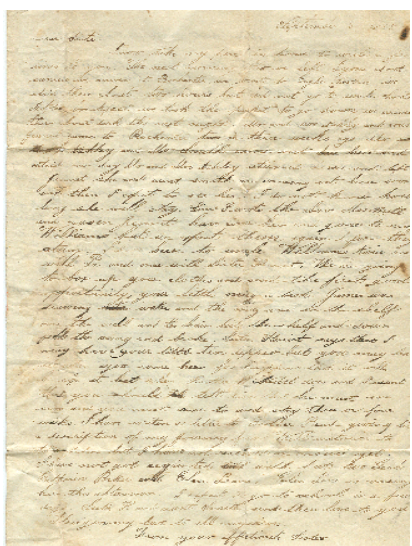
NYSL link: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/mssc/eriecanal/lossingimages/lossing_our-country-v2-opp%20p1180_emigration-western-country_oxen-pulling-wagons.pdf



Images of overland travel by horse and oxcart:
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8b28218/>



Descriptions of overland and water travel through New York State from History of Niagara County monograph (page 92):
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/768>



Letter from 11-year-old Jane Taft to her sister Frances Taft Root in 1838
Niagara County Historical Society, Atwater Collection
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/JaneTaft-letter14A.jpg>



“A Pioneer’s Clearing” oil painting by E.A. Philleo of the Town of Somerset, Niagara County, done from memory in 1885. The scene is nine miles from Lockport but in which direction is not specified.

Niagara County Historical Society, Art Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pioneer-Clearing2-1-scaled.jpg>



Pioneer cabin recreation

Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pioneer-cabin.jpg>

NEW YORK HERITAGE digital collections

Advanced Search

Home > Niagara University > History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories.

History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents

History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks a...

ORIGIN OF LOCKPORT—FIRST OWNERS OF ITS SITE.

CITY, TOWN AND VILLAGE HISTORIES.
THE CITY OF LOCKPORT.

It may be claimed that the city of Lockport originated from a fortuitous circumstance: Considering the natural features in the primitive condition of its site this may be true, but this fact would render it more apparent that its growth and prosperity are the result of industry and enterprise.

In all ages it has been the pride of a city or community to preserve a record of the events associated with its

The land upon which the city is built was purchased from the Holland Company by Ezek Brown, Zeno Comstock, Nathan Comstock, Webster Thorn, Daniel Smith, David Fisk, Almon H. Millard, Keuben Haines, Joseph Orr, John Comstock, Asabel Smith, Nathan B. Rogers, Daniel Washburn and James Conkey. In 1810 there were but two or three unfinished log houses upon the whole tract now embraced within the city limits, and not a hundred acres of the land under cultivation.

It was made in 1810 when the commissioners decided

Description of occupations of first settlers in Lockport, NY:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/841>

TEDIOUSLY and lumberingly, through woods, across rivers, along roads that have been corroded and roads that sadly need to be corroded, over dry places and through swamps, over high hills and through tortuous mountain passes, a heavy wagon has been rolling and slipping and sliding—sometimes floating, where the fording places were not good—for many days. Did you ever see one of those heavy old Dutch wagons, with wheels that have spokes like small saplings and fellos like those in the wheels of a modern stone truck; that have poles bent across, bow-fashion, from side to side of the stout box, and covered over with a canopy of canvass to keep out the wind, the storm and the sweltering sunshine? Such is the wagon of which we write—a wagon drawn by a span of sorrowly jaded horses that have seen nothing resembling the inside of a comfortable stable for

Description of roads, terrain and travel conditions encountered on a journey to the “Genesee Country” found in the History of Niagara County, NY, Sanford and Co., New York, NY 1878, p. 92:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/768>

“The Ridge road was just being cut through & often they [her parents] had to stop & wait or take hold & help before they could proceed...Thus they progressed slowly toward their destination in the wilderness where they built a shanty, moved their household goods & commenced living... At that time the Lake Road was not laid out east of Father’s [cabin] in its present place but they began to alter it as people began to settle & Father began to think of building on the Road & he could get sawing done as he had previously had to hew out his flooring & make his own shingles...In the fall of 1823 Mother went east to visit her parents & took my youngest sister & myself with her. I thought that the first great event of my life. I was 10 years old then & had never been out of the county. We went with a horse & wagon. I think we were four or five days on the road as Mother made visits on the road among relatives & acquaintances...”

Excerpt from the “Autobiography of Delilah Wisner Merritt (1813-1899), A Town of Newfane Pioneer,” Newfane Historical Society Publication, Star Printing Incorporated, Newfane, NY, 1975

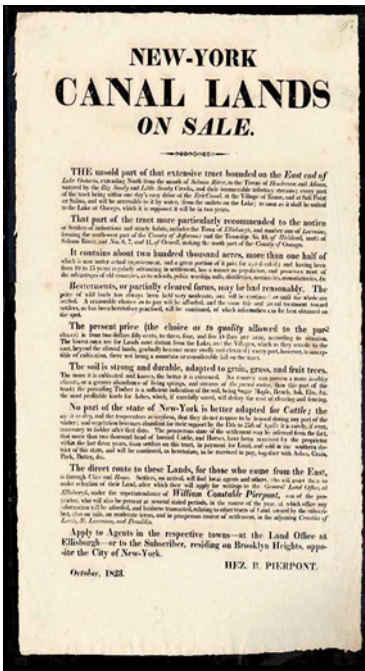
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Delilah-Wisner-Merritt4A.jpg>



An enlarged and complete map of the village of Lockport, drawn from the latest maps on file and other authentic surveys, 1845 by Jesse P. Haines

Niagara County Historical Society

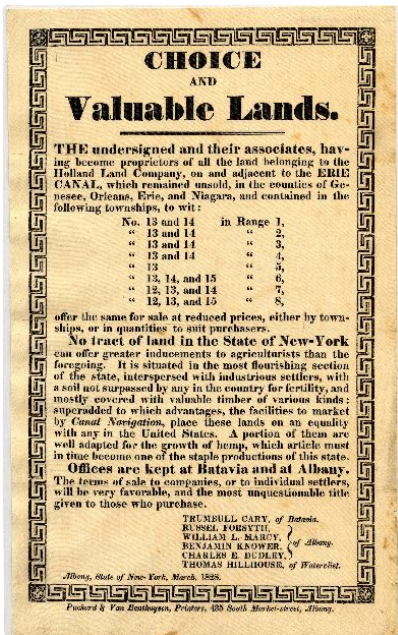
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3804l.wd000572>



Broadside Advertising New York Canal Lands on Sale, 1823

New York State Archives

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/education/broadside-advertising-new-york-canal-lands-sale-1823>



Choice and Valuable Lands (Albany, N.Y.: Packard & Van Benthuyzen, 1828) [broadside]

New York State Library

<https://nysl.ptfs.com/data/Library5/111091.PDF>



Stone boat on skids for removing rocks and stones from land to facilitate plowing and planting; example of early plow inside Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Stone-boat-w-plow4A.jpg>



c. 1810 Grain bin made from c. 200 year old Buttonwood (Sycamore) tree
Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Grain-bin4A.jpg>

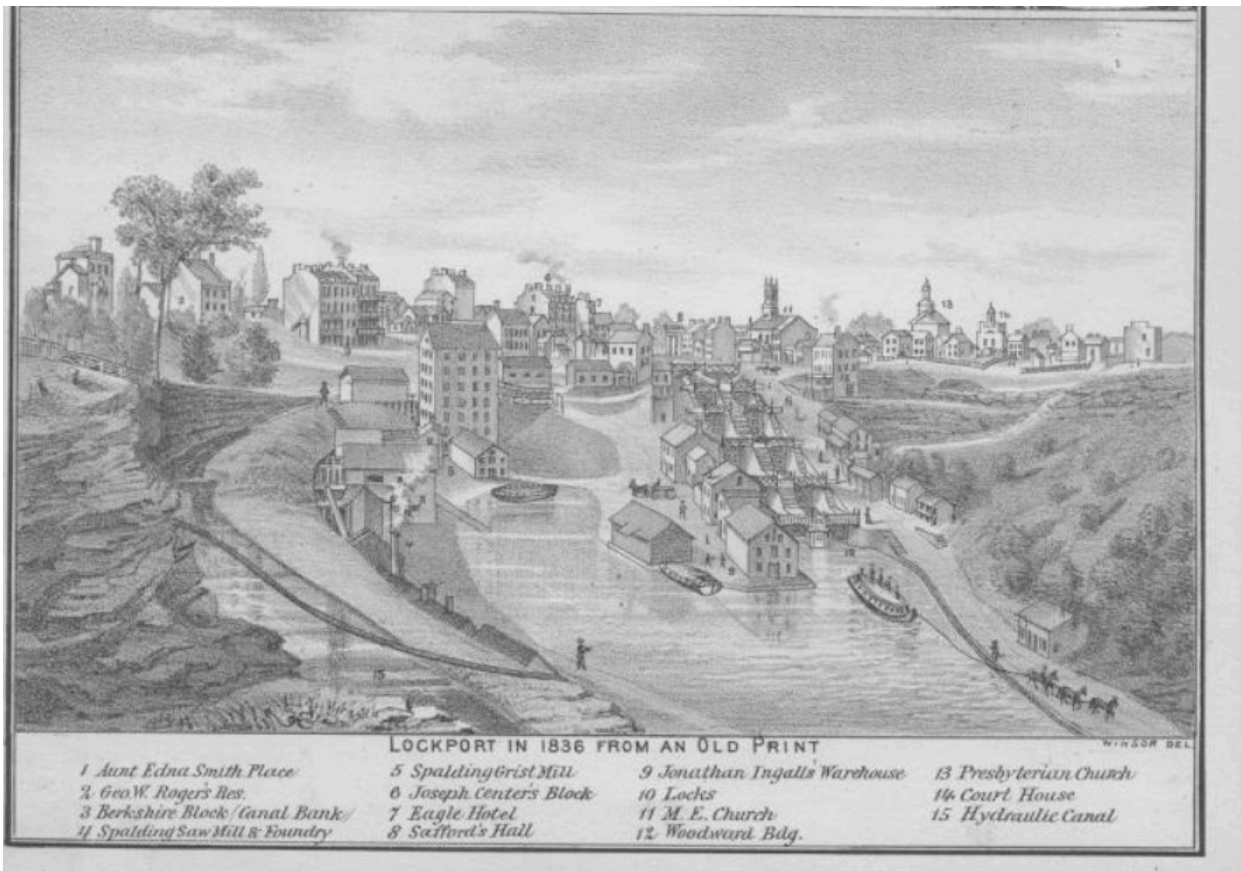


Recreated Blacksmith Shop

Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Blacksmith-shop4A-rotated.jpg>

Primary Source Set (4.6b and 4.1): Why Is the Erie Canal Where It Is In New York State?

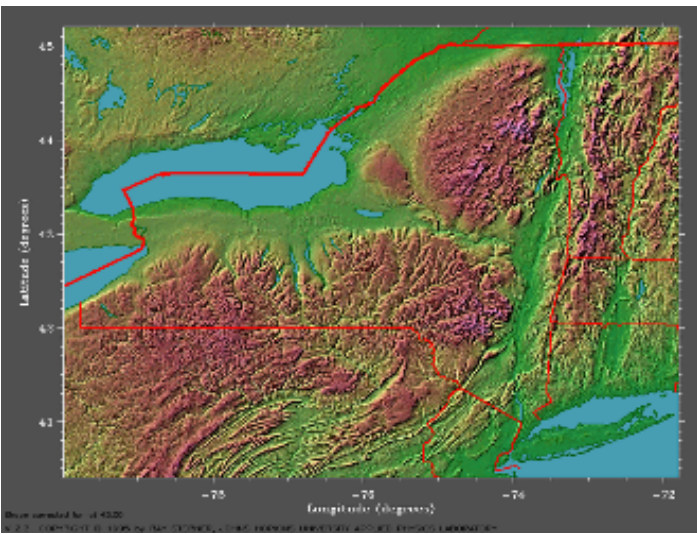


Lockport from an old print, 1836, in History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in New York Heritage:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>



A map of the United States of North America, Arrowsmith, Aaron, 1750-1823, cartographer., Jan. 1st 1796)
<https://lccn.loc.gov/2014589399>



Map of physical features of New York
http://www.nygeo.org/ny_geo.html



Founders Online from the National Archives
Washington-Fulton correspondence (1796-97)
<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-00250>

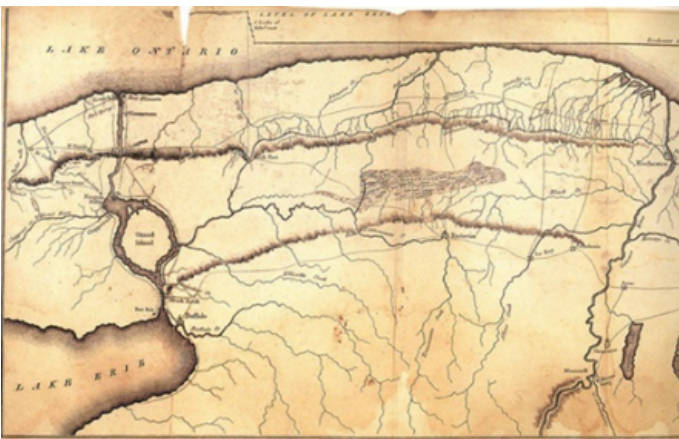
and,

Jefferson-Clinton correspondence (1817)
<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-11-02-0225>
(Jefferson to Clinton, April 14, 1817)



Rattlesnake Hill, Lockport NY along the Niagara Escarpment and site of an ancient waterfall similar to Niagara Falls.

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Niagara-Escarpment-at-Rattlesnake-Hill.jpg>



Section of Map of proposed Canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson River; 1817, showing two escarpments in WNY (In Holland Land Company Maps collection at SUNY Fredonia)

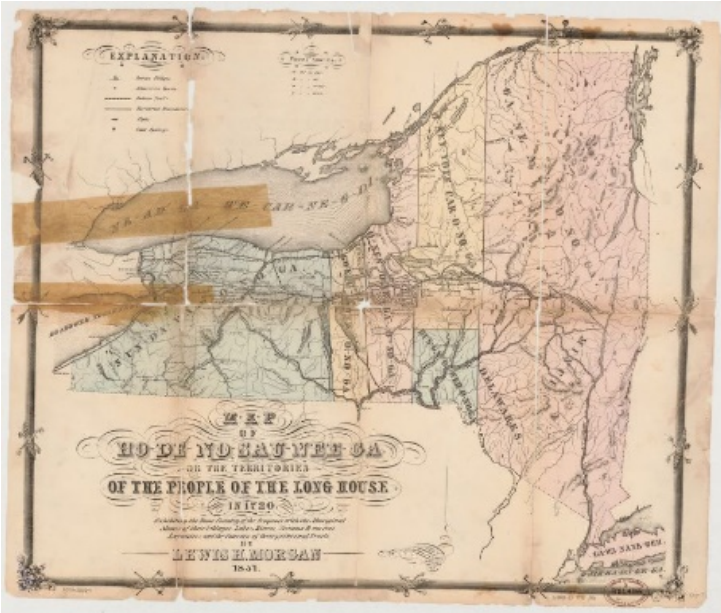
http://www.amherststatepark.org/ASP/geology_files/escarpments.jpg



Prospect Point, Niagara Falls, NY ca, 1880 showing Niagara River going over the Niagara Escarpment to create Niagara Falls

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prospect-Point-c.-1870s-detail.jpg>



Map of Ho-De-No-Sau-Ne-Ga : or the territories of the People of the Long House in 1720 [New York (State)]
Digital Id: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3801e.ct011222>



Ca. 1800 Holland Land map showing Indian reservations in WNY, SUNY Fredonia
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/XFM001/id/191/rec/2>



Image of two-row wampum
<https://www.onondaganation.org/culture/wampum/two-row-wampum-belt-guswenta/>



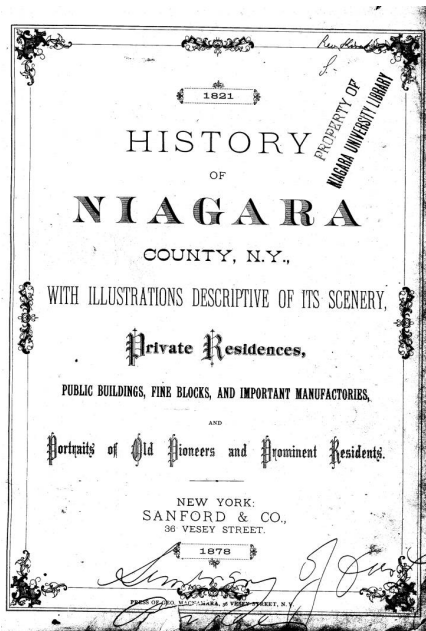
Red Jacket's speech on differences in beliefs, 1805 **Title:** Indian speech, delivered before a gentleman missionary, from Massachusetts, by a chief, commonly called by the white people Red Jacket. His Indian name is Sagu-ua-what-hath, which being interpreted, is Keeper-awake
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.04702500>



Map of the Village of Lockport NY 1851
Niagara County Historical Society Map Collection
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3804l.la002041/?r=-0.566,-0.069,2.132,1.318,0>
<https://lccn.loc.gov/2010593267>



An enlarged and complete map of the village of Lockport, drawn from the latest maps on file and other authentic surveys, 1845 by Jesse P. Haines
Niagara County Historical Society
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3804l.wd000572>



History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent resident, Sanford & Co., 1878

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/678>

Contains descriptions of early pioneer life, including:

- Early Roads
- Description of early roads: Chapter 15: Indian Trails in Niagara County: The Portage, Military, Ridge and Lake Roads (page 84):
- Pioneer Life Description
- Story of an early pioneer family: Chapter 17: Pioneer experiences: emigrating, clearing and building..(page 92-94).
- Alphabetical Listing of Early Families (begins page 212)



Recreated Blacksmith Shop

Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Blacksmith-shop4A-rotated.jpg>



Recreated Carpenter Shop
Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

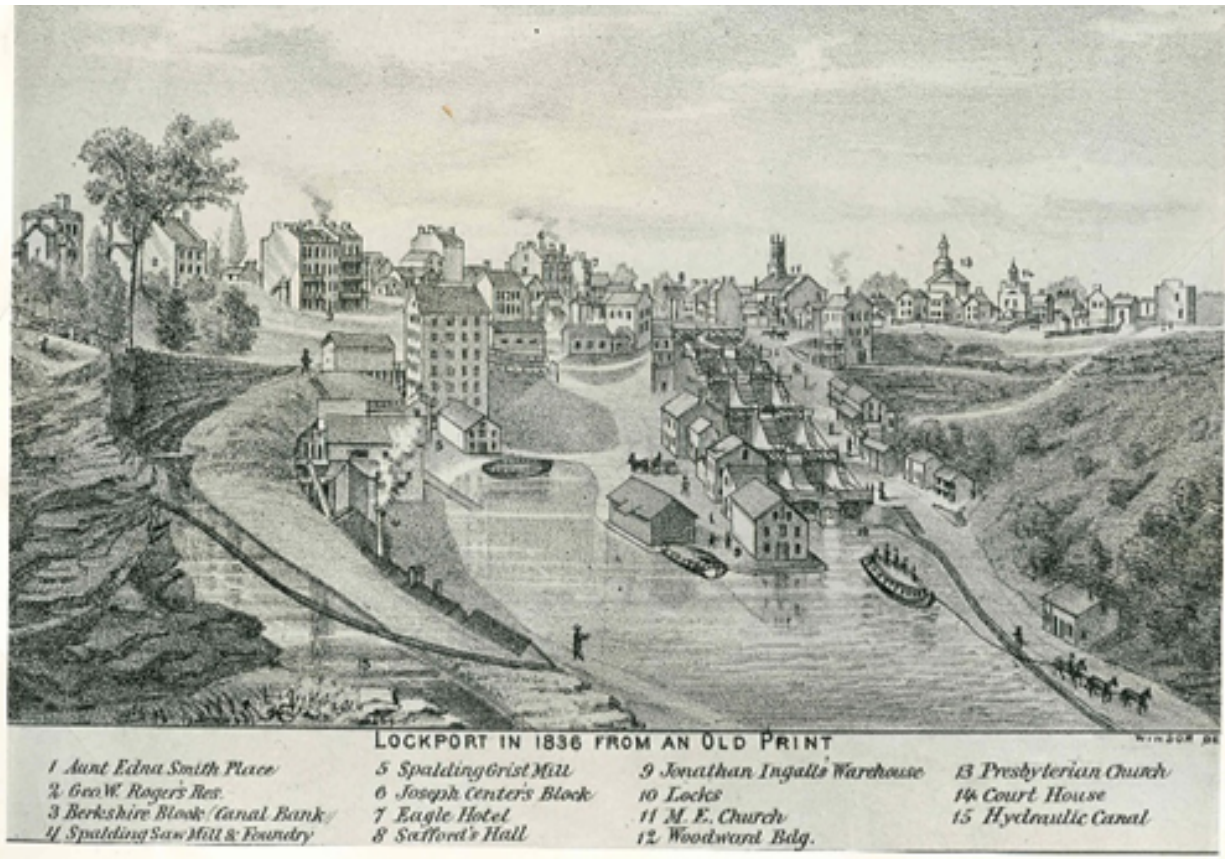


Recreated Cooper Shop
Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY



Recreated Blacksmith Shop
Yates Barn, Niagara County Historical Society, Lockport NY

Primary Source Set 4.6c: How did the Erie Canal transform a town into a thriving city?



Lockport from an old print, 1836, in *History of Niagara County, N.Y.*, with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in *New York Heritage*:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>

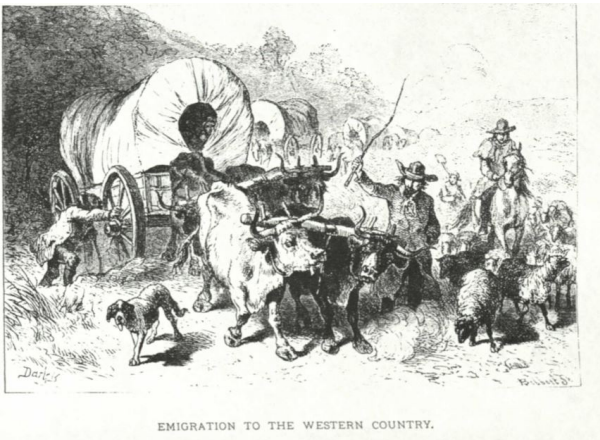


Title: "Walking Wager"

Source: *Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation*, by Anonymous, Philadelphia

Date Created: 1836 Wikipedia link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedestrianism#/media/File:Walking_wager_1800_primer_illustration.jpg



Title: Emigration to the Western Country

Source: *The Pictorial Field-book of the War of 1812; or, Illustrations, by Pen and Pencil, of the History, Biography, Scenery, Relics, and Traditions of the Last War for American Independence*. Benson J. Lossing, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1869) - Vol.2, page 1180

Date Created: c. 1869

Owned by: New York State Library


NYSL link: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/mssc/eriecanal/lossingimages/lossing_our-country-v2-opp%20p1180_emigration-western-country_oxen-pulling-wagons.pdf



Images of overland travel by horse and oxcart:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8b28218/>

MAIL STAGE



*From Canandaigua to Lewiston,
Three times a Week.*

LEAVES Canandaigua and Lewiston, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 4 o'clock A. M. and arrives at the end of the route the next days at 5 o'clock P. M. It passes thro' the villages of Pittsford, Rochester, Parma, Murray, Senly Creek, &c and in view of the celebrated bridge at Carthage.—The route is chiefly on the famous *Ridge Road* which is equal to any other in the United States.—Persons travelling to Niagara Falls will find this by far the most eligible rout.

No exertion on the part of the proprietors will be spared to render the accommodations to travellers agreeable—good carriages, horses and drivers are provided.

P. M. A regular line of Stages will be established from Lewiston to Buffalo, via Niagara Falls by the 15th day of June next; private conveyance can be had at all times.

May, 28, 1819. 463w*

Title: Mail Stage From Canandaigua to Lewiston

Source: *Rochester Telegraph*, Rochester, NY

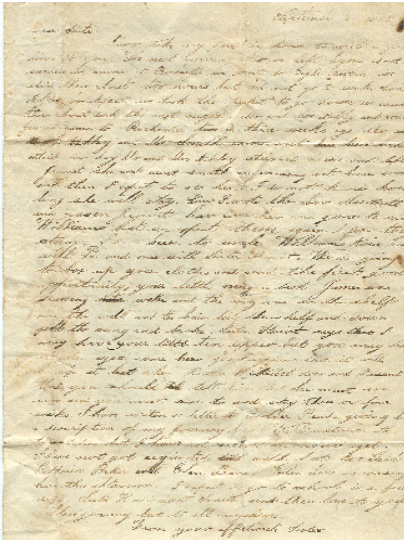
Date Created: May 28, 1819

<http://stagecoachdays.blogspot.com/2011/10/stagecoach-days-in-western-new-york.html>



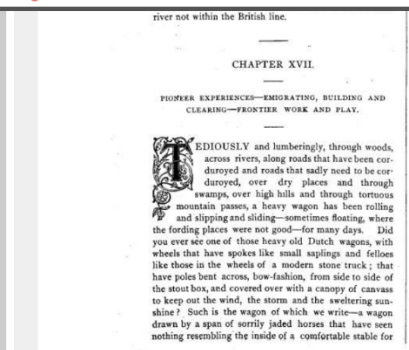
Horse drawn wagon on Lock Street, ca. 1910

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15004coll9/id/235/rec/73>



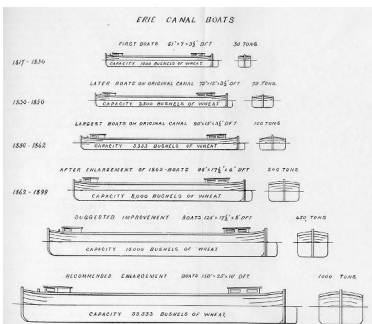
Letter from 11 year old Jane Taft to her sister Frances Taft Root in 1838
Niagara County Historical Society, Atwater Collection

<https://niarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/JaneTaft-letter14A.jpg>



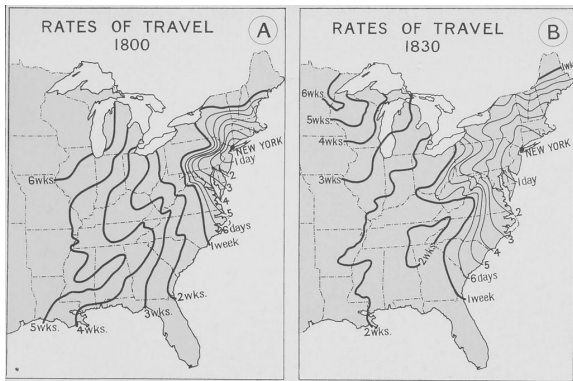
Descriptions of overland and water travel through New York State from History of Niagara County monograph (page 92):

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/768>



Evolution of boats used on Erie Canal, 1825-1899

<https://www.eriecanal.org/images/misc/1899boat.jpg>



<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/americanenvironmentalhistory/chapter/chapter-6-transportation-revolution/>

Comparison of modes of transportation - pdf

<https://www.econedlink.org/resources/transportation-they-say-we-had-a-revolution-part-1/>

DISTANCE FROM		DISTANCE FROM	
PLACES	BY	PLACES	BY
ALBANY	WATER	ALBANY	WATER
Albany	0	Albany	0
Buffalo	192	Buffalo	192
Cleveland	288	Cleveland	288
Detroit	384	Detroit	384
St. Louis	480	St. Louis	480
New Orleans	576	New Orleans	576
Albany	0	Albany	0
Buffalo	192	Buffalo	192
Cleveland	288	Cleveland	288
Detroit	384	Detroit	384
St. Louis	480	St. Louis	480
New Orleans	576	New Orleans	576

Title: A list of the principal places on the Erie canal, and their distance from each other
 Source: T. Buchanan (Utica, N. Y., R. W. Roberts, printer, c1846) in An American Time Capsule, Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Printed Ephemera Collection
 Date Created: c. 1846

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.1200020c>

A TABLE

Showing the Toll per Barrel on Flour, the Toll per 100 lbs. on all property passing a mile, per 1000 lbs. per mile, and the Toll per 100 lbs. on Merchandise, and all property passing 10, and 1 mile per 1000 lbs. per mile, per 1000 lbs. on the Erie Canal.

BY T. BUCHANAN, JR., ACCOUNTANT.

A table showing the toll per barrel of flour; the toll per 100 lbs per mile; and the toll per 100 lbs. on merchandise, ...

T. Buchanan (Utica, N. Y., R. W. Roberts, printer, c1846)

An American Time Capsule, Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Printed Ephemera Collection

<https://www.eriecanal.org/images/misc/tolls.jpg>

63

To and from Albany and Buffalo, by the Erie Canal.

Passengers by the Canal will reach Buffalo from Albany, or Albany from Buffalo, if traveling by the boat, in about six days. The usual rate of fare is 1 cent per mile without, or 14 cents with board. Traveling by packets, passengers from and to Buffalo and Schenectady arrive in about 3 1/2 days. No packets ply between Albany and Schenectady.

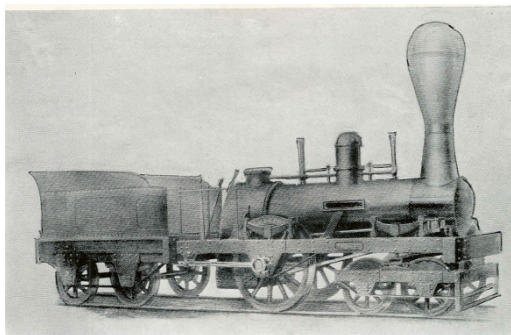
Albany	Canastota	2 146	Port Gibson	3 235
West Troy	New Boston	4 150	Palmyra	5 240
Junction	Chittenango	3 153	Painport	12 252
Schenectady	Kidwiler	5 158	Fulton's Basin	1 253
Amsterdam	Manlius	4 162	Wittsford	6 259
Schoharie Creek	Orville	3 165	Rochester	10 269
Fultonville	Syracuse	6 171	Spencer's Basin	12 281
Spraker's Basin	Greiderberg	2 173	Adams	3 284
Canajoharie	Nine-mile Creek	5 174	Brookport	5 289
Fort Plain	Camillus	1 179	Holley	5 294
Little Falls	Canton	5 184	Hartston	4 298
Herkimer	Jordan	6 190	Albion	5 304
German Flats	Weed's Port	6 196	Eagle Harbour	3 307
Frankfort	Centre Port	1 197	Knowlesville	4 311
Utica	Port Byron	2 199	Medina	4 315
Whiteboro	Montezuma	6 200	Wadleyport	6 321
Oriskany	Lockpit	6 211	Lockport	12 333
Rome	Clyde	5 216	Pendleton	7 340
New London	Lysone	9 225	Fonewanta	12 352
Loomis	Lockville	6 231	Black Rock	9 361
Ononda Creek	Newark	1 233	Buffalo	3 364
Lenox Basin		3 144		

Cleveland to Portsmouth, by Ohio Canal.

Boston,	21	Dover	10 93	Lancaster	11 200
Wiles	9 20	New Philadelphia	4 97	Canan	11 200
Old Portage	2 32	New-cumers		Columbus side	
Akron	6 38	Town	21 118	cut	18 218
New Portage	6 44	Columbus	17 132	Bloomfield	10 228
Clifton	6 52	Lebanville	14 132	Brookville	8 236
Massion	12 62	Newark	44 176	Chillicothe	22 248
Bethlehem	6 71	Hebron	9 185	Piketon	25 253
Bolivar	9 80	Lacking Summit	4 189	Lucasville	14 297
Zoar	3 83			Portsmouth	12 309

"To and from Albany and Buffalo, by the Erie Canal", 1846.

<https://www.eriecanal.org/images/misc/fares1846.jpg>



Strap Railroad Locomotive

The Old Lockport and Niagara Falls Strap Railroad, Raymond F. Yates, Published by the Niagara County Historical Society, 1950

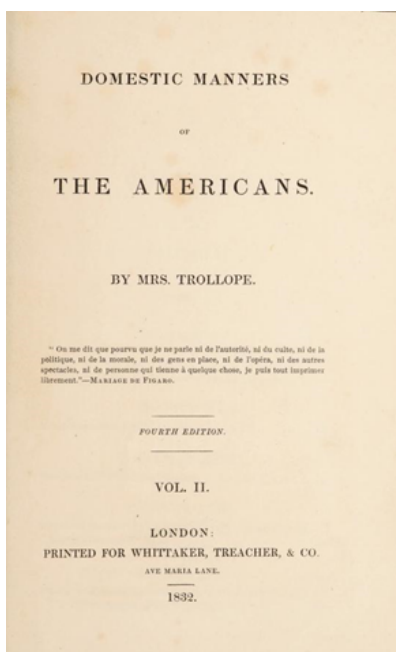
Niagara County Historical Society

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Strap-Railroad-Locomotive.jpg>



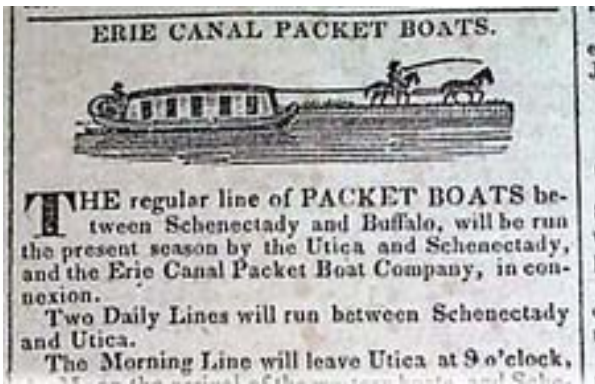
Train Station with telegraph

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/juv.48867>



Trollope, Frances, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, Whittaker, Treacher & Co., London, 1832, p. 252-253.

https://archive.org/details/b29350384_0002/page/n7/mode/2up?q=Lockport



Erie Canal Packet Boats

Advertisement from "American Traveller," Boston, May 30, 1828.

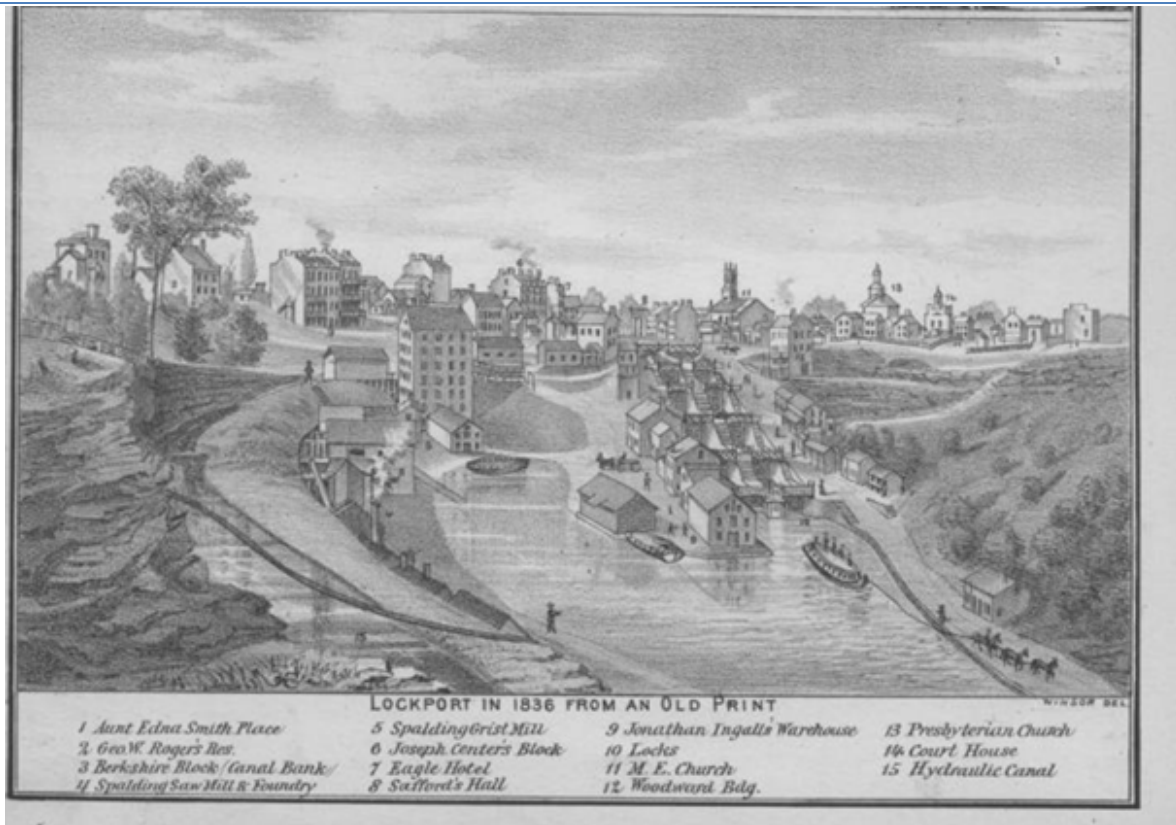
<https://www.eriecanal.org/boats/AmericanTraveller-1828.jpg>

"The Ridge road was just being cut through & often they [her parents] had to stop & wait or take hold & help before they could proceed...Thus they progressed slowly toward their destination in the wilderness where they built a shanty, moved their household goods & commenced living... At that time the Lake Road was not laid out east of Father's [cabin] in its present place but they began to alter it as people began to settle & Father began to think of building on the Road & he could get sawing done as he had previously had to hew out his flooring & make his own shingles...In the fall of 1823 Mother went east to visit her parents & took my youngest sister & myself with her. I thought that the first great event of my life. I was 10 years old then & had never been out of the county. We went with a horse & wagon. I think we were four or five days on the road as Mother made visits on the road among relatives & acquaintances..."

Excerpt from the "Autobiography of Delilah Wisner Merritt (1813-1899), A Town of Newfane Pioneer," Newfane Historical Society Publication, Star Printing Incorporated, Newfane, NY, 1975

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Delilah-Wisner-Merritt4A.jpg>

Primary Source Set (4.6d) How Did the Erie Canal Impact Natural Resources and Economic Activities in Lockport, New York?



Lockport from an old print, 1836, in History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in New York Heritage:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>



W. W. Whitmore Quarry, Lockport NY c. 1900

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Whitmore-Quarry-w-Men.jpg>



Getting apples ready for shipment on the Erie Canal, Lockport NY, early 20th century

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Apple-sorting.jpg>

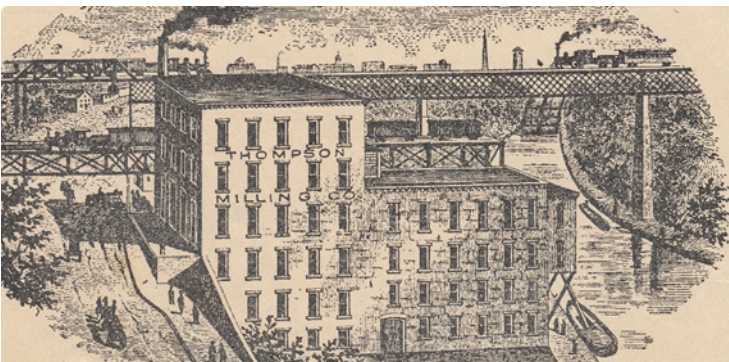
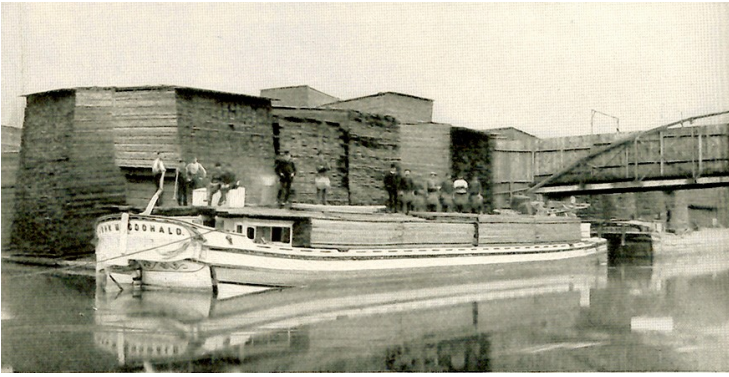


Image of the Thompson Flour Mill showing the Erie Canal with the locks in the background, the old NY Central Railroad Bridge and horse-drawn conveyances on the road, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Thompson-Milling-Co-1895.jpg>



Lumber Boats on the Erie Canal

“Forest Preservation in the State of New York,” Cuyler Reynolds, *New England Magazine*, Warren F. Kellogg, Boston, MA, vol. XIX, No. 2, October 1898

[https://www.eriecanal.org/boats/lumber boat-1898.jpg](https://www.eriecanal.org/boats/lumber%20boat-1898.jpg)



A cart of staves ready to be turned into barrels at cooper shop, Lockport NY

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Cooperage.jpg>

History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents

History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks a...

THE STAVE MANUFACTURING INTEREST.	
<p>Eighteen-mile creek, was erected by Henry Thornton in 1877. It contains three run of staves. It does custom-work chiefly, and is still owned and operated by Mr. Thornton.</p> <p>THE STAVE MANUFACTURE.</p> <p>The manufacture of staves at Lockport constitutes an important feature in the industrial resources of the place. It formed an item of much importance at a very early period in the settlement of the country, for even at that time they were manufactured for exportation as well as for home use. At first they were made entirely from oak</p>	<p>upon cut staves; and for a long time after they began to be used floor of the same brand put up in barrels made of river oak staves sold at a higher figure in the market than that put up in barrels manufactured from the cut staves. Time and their cheapness, together with the improvements for their adaptation, silenced objection.</p> <p>Since the cutting process was first brought into use improvements have been made upon it until it has arrived at its present state of perfection. The staves are manufactured from bolts or blocks of timber sawed the desired length. These bolts are put into steam vats and kept there six or seven hours, then taken out and conveyed to</p>

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/858/rec/1>

History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents
Page 181 - Stave Manufacturing



N. Lerch and Son Cold Storage, ca 1910

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15004coll9/id/386/rec/1>



Transit Street Bridge area, west of the Bridge. Ca 1947 (shows lumber company buildings)

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15004coll9/id/239/rec/2>



Niagara Textile Mill located on the Erie Canal, Lockport NY, founded 1899, photo c. 1950s

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Niagara-Textile.jpg>

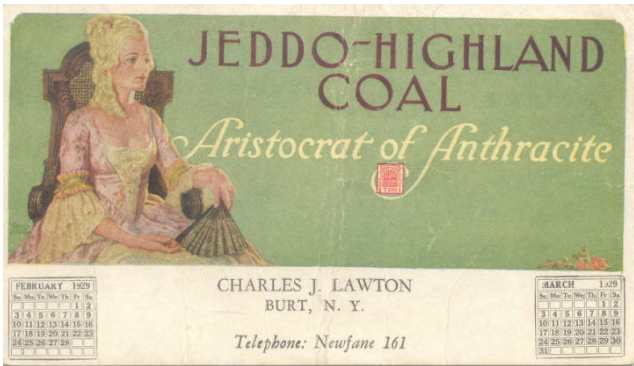


Lockport Cotton Batting, Lockport NY, founded in 1870 on Market St. on canal, later moved to Elmwood Avenue in Lockport, photo c. 1950s



Ira Bronson Carriage Factory, founded in Lockport, c. 1860. Original factory at Park and Hawley Streets in former Presbyterian Church. Photo, c. 1860

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Bronson-Carriage-Co-c.-1860.jpg>



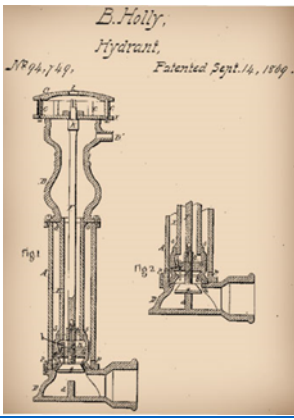
Jeddo-Highland Coal Blotter, Jeddo-Highland Coal Aristocrat of Anthracite. Charles J. Lawton Burt, N.Y.
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/808/rec/267>



<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/910/rec/15>
 Spraying Pumps, Well Pumps, Force Pumps, Nozzles, and Spraying Machines. Field Force Pump Company. Lockport, N.Y., USA. Illustrated catalogue of the latest improved outfits for spraying tree and vines by hand, horse, and steam power.



Birdsill Holly Fire Hydrant
 Double Valve Fire Hydrant invented and manufactured by Holly Manufacturing Company in Lockport, N.Y.
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/110/rec/77>



Birdsill Holly patent for a fire hydrant (1869)

<https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?Docid=94749&idkey=NONE&homeurl=http%3A%252F%252Fpatft.uspto.gov%252Fnetatml%252FPTO%252Fpatimg.htm>



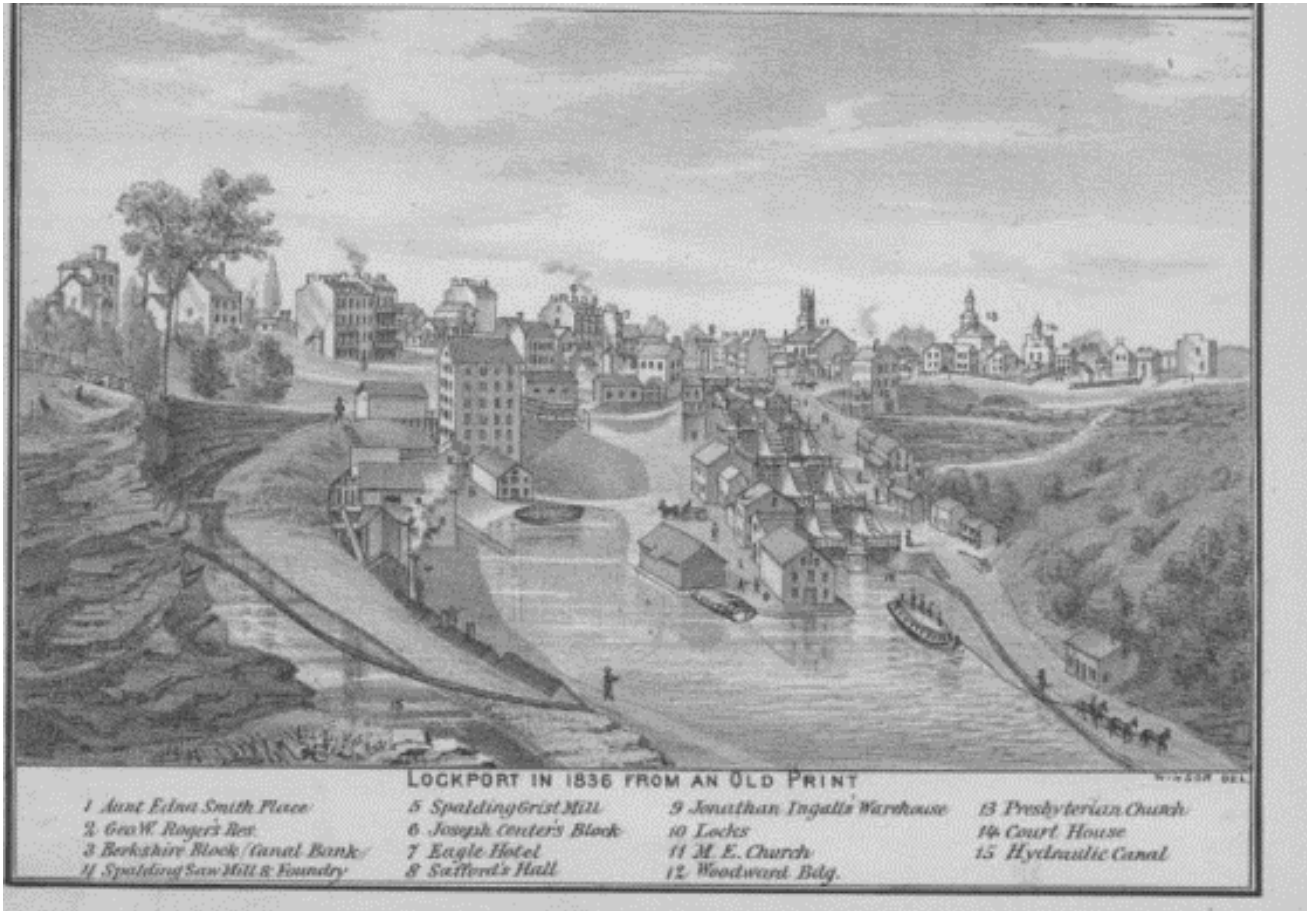
Main & Market Street, ca. 1888. Lockport as a busy, vibrant city in the late 19th century as a result of the economic advantages brought by the Erie Canal.

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15004coll9/id/222/rec/23>



<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Main-St-1887.jpg>

Primary Source Set (4.6e): In What Ways Did the Erie Canal Create Opportunities for People in New York to Make Important National Contributions?



Lockport from an old print, 1836, in History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in New York Heritage:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>



An early stump puller on the grounds of the Camillus Erie Canal Park in Camillus, New York, which encompasses the first enlargement of the Erie Canal at its midpoint

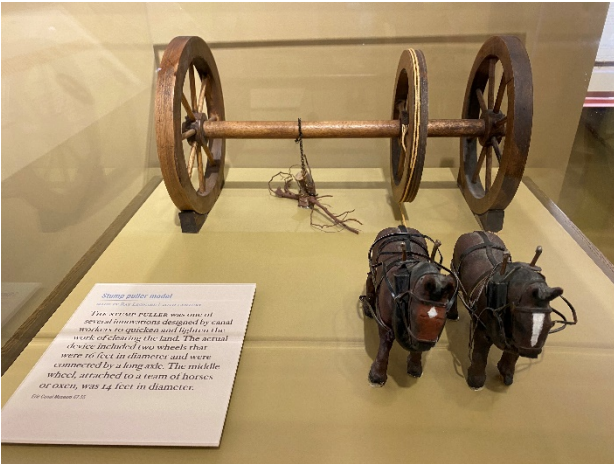
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2018700237/>



Image and description of stump puller

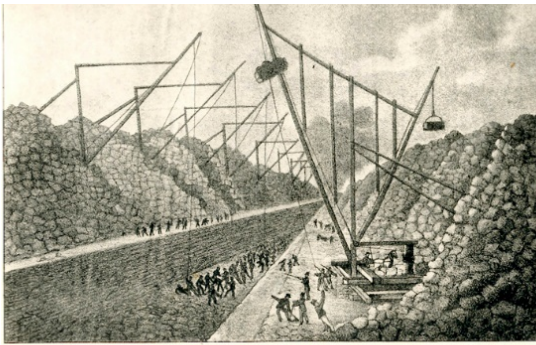
Erie Canal Museum. Courtesy Chuck LaChiusa, Buffalo History Museum

<https://buffaloah.com/h/erieC/museum/const.html>



Model of a stump puller, Courtesy, Erie Canal Museum:

<https://eriecanalmuseum.org/>



METHOD OF EXCAVATING THE ORIGINAL CANAL, WEST OF LOCKPORT
 This "mountain ridge" was considered the most difficult work of the original canal. Here was struck the last blow just prior to the celebration at the formal opening on October 26, 1825. From a print in Colden's *Memoir*.

Process of Evacuation, Lockport

Memoir at the Celebration of the Completion of the New York Canals, Cadwallader D. Colden, Published by W. A. Davis, New York, 1825

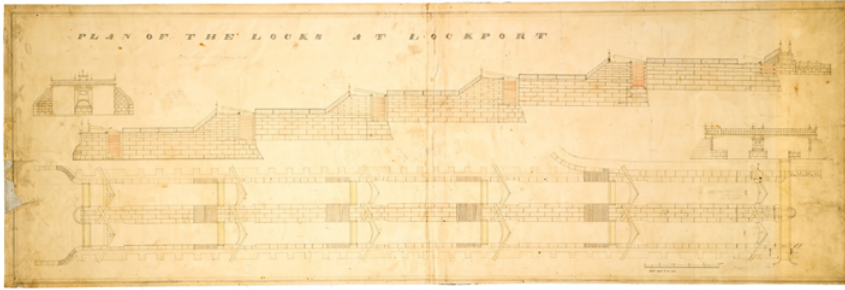
<https://www.eriecanal.org/images/Lockport-1/Lockport-excavation.jpg>



Deep Cutting, Lockport

Memoir at the Celebration of the Completion of the New York Canals, Cadwallader D. Colden, Published by W. A. Davis, New York, 1825

https://www.eriecanal.org/images/Lockport-1/Lockport-deep_cut.jpg



Plan of locks at Lockport, c. 1835-1842

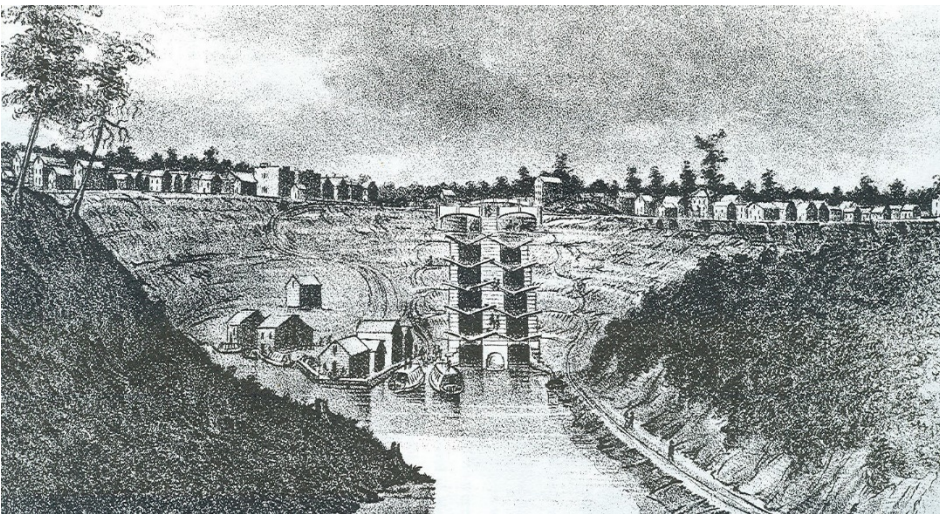
Niagara County Historical Society

<http://www.eriecanal.org/images/Lockport-1/LockportLocks-Plan-1860.jpg>

Plan of locks at Lockport, ca. 1835-1862

New York State Archives

<http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/41231>



Original Locks at Lockport 1825

Memoir at the Celebration of the Completion of the New York Canals, Cadwallader D. Colden, Published by W. A. Davis, New York, 1825

<https://www.eriecanal.org/images/Lockport-1/Lockport-1825.jpg>



Barrel making at cooper shop, Lockport NY c. 1900

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Cooperage-2.jpg>



Canal Mug, Speckled brown glazed stoneware with blue glaze lip and image. Lockport, NY with an image of a canal boat.

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/704/rec/521>



Getting apples ready for shipment on the Erie Canal, early 20th century
Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

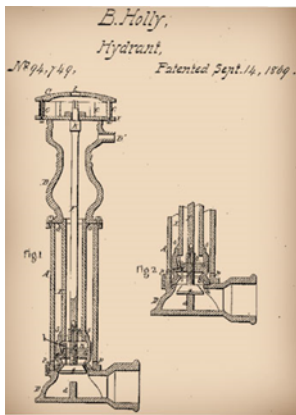
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Apple-sorting.jpg>



Birdsill Holly Fire Hydrant

Double Valve Fire Hydrant invented and manufactured by Holly Manufacturing Company in Lockport, N.Y.

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/110/rec/77>



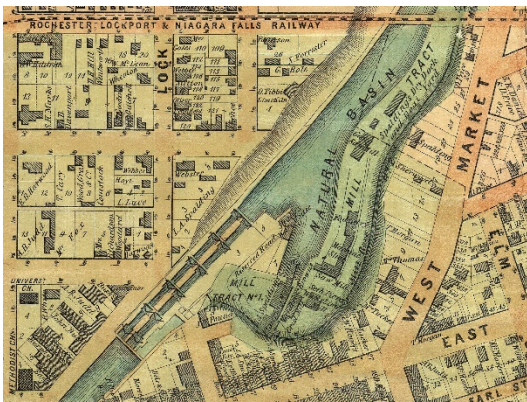
Birdsill Holly patent for a fire hydrant (1869)

<https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?Docid=94749&idkey=NONE&homeurl=http%3A%252F%252Fpatft.uspto.gov%252Fnetatml%252FPTO%252Fpatimg.htm>



Transit Street Bridge area, west of the Bridge. Ca 1947 (shows lumber company buildings)

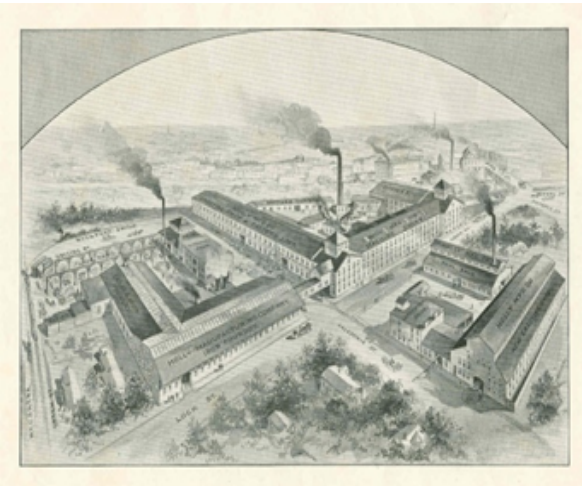
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15004coll9/id/239/rec/2>



1851 map of the mills in the Locks District. It shows how the surplus water from the canal was diverted for use in powering mills.

Niagara County Historical Society Map Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Locks-Mill-District-1851.jpg>



Holly Manufacturing Company, Lockport NY c. 1875

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Drawing-of-Holly-Factory.jpg>



Panoramic view of the Locks at Lockport c. 1900

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

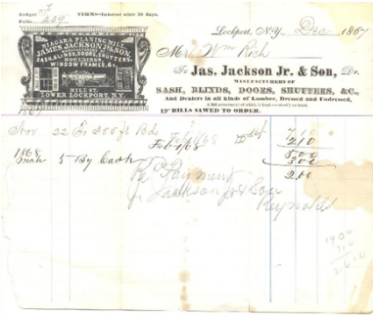
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Home-of-Wheatlet2.jpg>

Primary Source Set (4.6f) How Did Rapid Industrialization in the US Impact Communities Along the Erie Canal, Like Lockport, NY?

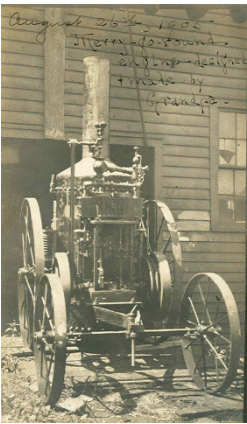


Lockport from an old print, 1836, in *History of Niagara County, N.Y.*, with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents, 1878 in *New York Heritage*:

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VVN001/id/840>



Receipt from James Jackson, Jr. & Son's Niagara Planing Mill, Lockport NY, 1867
Niagara County Historical Society Archive Collection
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Jackson-Lumber.jpg>



Merry-Go-Round steam engine made by Norman & Evans Company, Lockport NY, 1905
Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Norman-Evans-Steam-Engine-2.jpg>



Western Block Company, Lockport NY manufacturers of block and tackles for use on ships and canal boats and other industries, c. 1900
Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Western-Block-2.jpg>



Covert Car Company, Lockport NY c. 1903

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

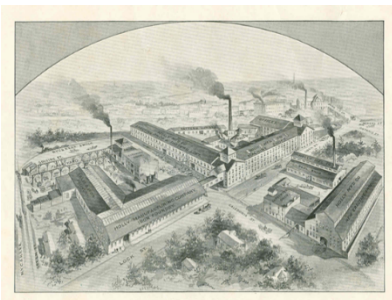
<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covert-Motor-Vehicles-c1905.jpg>



Ad for Lockport Glass Works from the 1860 Lockport Directory

Niagara County Historical Society Archive Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Lockport-Glass-Works-3.jpg>



Holly Manufacturing Company, Lockport NY c. 1875

Niagara County Historical Society Photo Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Drawing-of-Holly-Factory.jpg>



Ad for Alumina Soapalite laundry detergent made by the Electric Smelting & Aluminum Company, Lockport NY. It used oxide from aluminum and other minerals to combine chemically with alkali to create a new product. Niagara County Historical Society Archive Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Electric-Smelting-Aluminum-Co.jpg>



Salesman marketing sheet for TUCO Puzzles made by The Upson Co., Lockport NY. The company made wallboard beginning in 1910 but during the Great Depression switched over to making puzzles to keep their workers employed. Niagara County Historical Society Archive Collection

<https://niagarahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TUCO-Puzzle-Marketing-Sheet-Detail-2.jpg>



<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/5475/rec/1>

Clear 7 fl. Oz. glass beverage bottle with red and white pyroglazed label. "Meyers Beverages" from the F.D. Meyers Bottling Wks, Inc. Lockport, N.Y. On the back it says "A Beverage of Unsurpassed Quality Guaranteed Absolutely Pure."



Thompson Milling Company, ""Graham Flour"" Paper Display, Market Street (Lockport N.Y.); Thompson Milling Company

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/595/rec/396>



Black & White photo of the Lockport Felt Mill, Newfane, NY. Bird's Eye View. 10-07-1928.

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/719/rec/266>



Water cooler made by Indurated Fibre Company of Lockport. In the 1880s a process was developed to make watertight containers using wood pulp. The wood pulp would be beaten in vats and then poured into molds. After applying 100 pounds of pressure per square inch, the molds were heated at 200 degrees. The forms were then sandpapered inside and out, polished to a glossy finish and baked again. The result was a watertight container that could hold practically any substance.



Reproduction of Raphael Beck mural "The Opening of the Erie Canal, October 26, 1825" at the Erie Canal Discovery Center in Lockport, NY

<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/NYNCH/id/50/>

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ERIE CANAL WEBSITE

<http://eriecanal.org>

BUFFALO ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

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