

THE ERIE CANAL IN WESTERN NEW YORK



MUSEUM COMPLEX
ERIE CANAL DISCOVERY CENTER
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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)

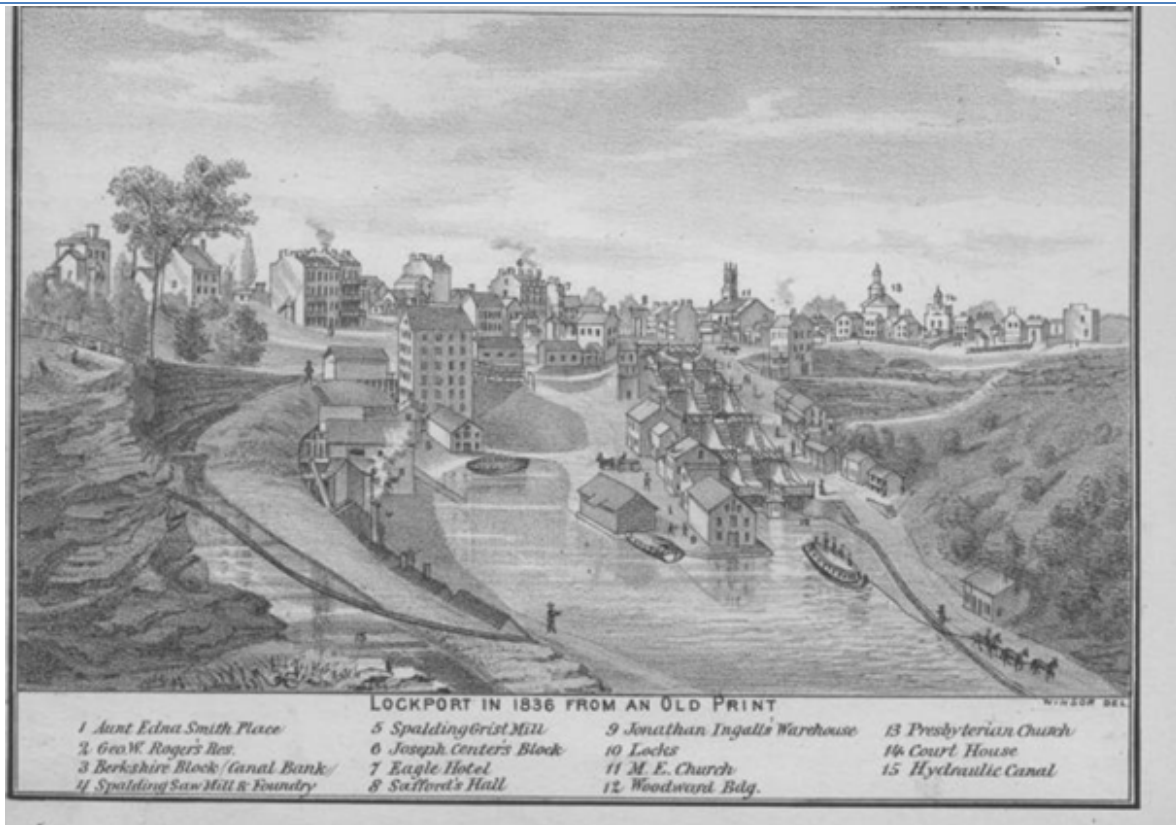
Lessons Developed by the Niagara County Historical Society

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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>

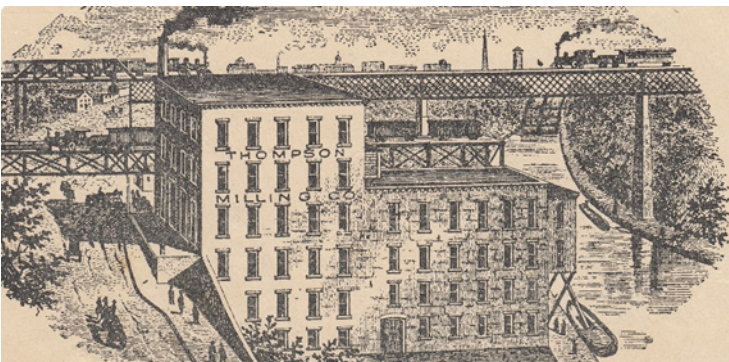
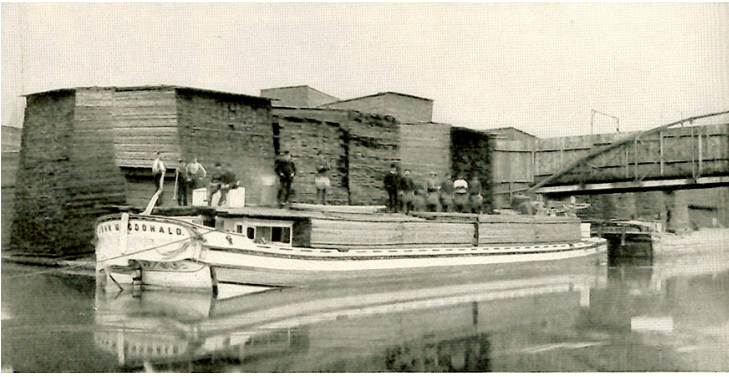


Image of the Thompson Flour Mill showing the Erie Canal with the locks in the background, the old NY Central Railroad Bridge and horse-drawn conveyances on the road, Lockport NY

<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>

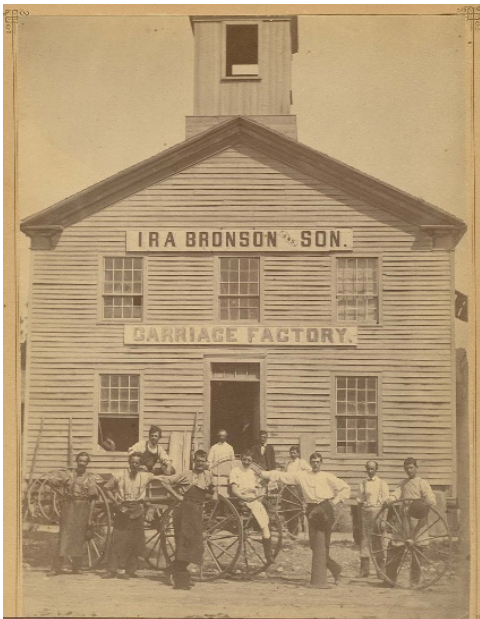


Niagara Textile Mill located on the Erie Canal, Lockport NY, founded 1899, photo c. 1950s

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

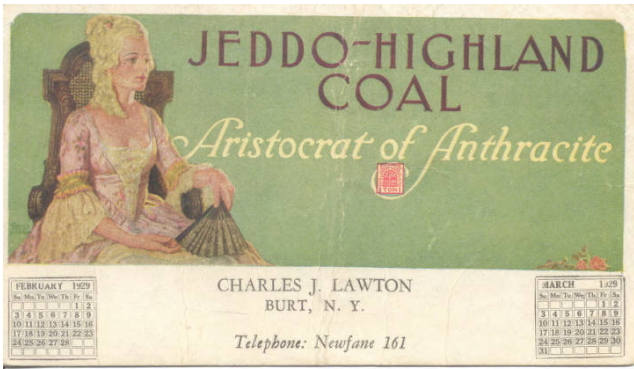


Lockport Cotton Batting, Lockport NY, founded in 1870 on Market St. on canal, later moved to Elmwood Avenue in Lockport, photo c. 1950s



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>



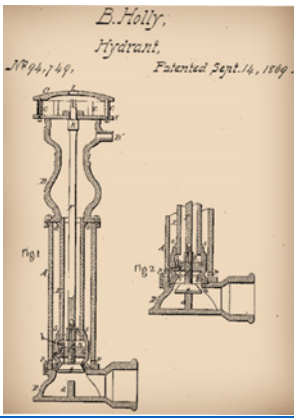
Jeddo-Highland Coal Blotter, Jeddo-Highland Coal Aristocrat of Anthracite. Charles J. Lawton Burt, N.Y.
<https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll2/id/808/rec/267>



<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>

CREDITS AND RESOURCES

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

ANN MARIE LINNABERRY
HEIDI ZIEMER
RICH PYSZCZEK

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LESSON RESOURCES:

NIAGARA COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER

<https://niagarahistory.org>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/about-this-program/>

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>

NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/education>

NEW YORK HERITAGE

<https://nyheritage.org>

ERIE CANAL WEBSITE

<http://eriecanal.org>

BUFFALO ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

<https://buffaloah.com>



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