

THE ERIE CANAL:

SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



"Along the Erie Canal, Buffalo, N.Y."
[Postcard No. M 71, Buffalo News Co., Buffalo, N.Y.] Circa 1908

GROSVENOR ROOM LOCATION KEY

*	= Oversized book
Buffalo	= In Buffalo Collection in Grosvenor Room
Buffalo Stacks	= Please ask for assistance
Folio	= Very oversized book
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
Ref.	= GRO Reference book, cannot be borrowed
WNYGS	= In collection of Western NY Genealogical Society
Non-Fiction	= Located in the General Collection (not in GRO)

Grosvenor Room
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203-1887
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INTRODUCTION

October 26, 1825 marked a momentous occasion for the City of Buffalo in New York State. After years of planning and hard labor, the 363-mile long **Erie Canal** was completed. The canal connected waterways in Albany, on the Hudson River, with Buffalo on Lake Erie, and had an immediate effect on transportation, immigration, and commerce in New York State. Travel between New York City and Buffalo became quick and inexpensive. Cities and towns flourished along the canal routes. Buffalo, being the western terminus and strategic Lake Erie port, flourished. By the end of the 19th century, the small village of **Buffalo had grown to the eighth largest city in the United States.**

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Nearly everything listed in this guide can be found in the downtown Central Library's Grosvenor Room (GRO). **Local history materials in the Grosvenor Room do not circulate and cannot be removed from the room.** In a few cases, there are duplicate copies of these books that can be borrowed from the Non-Fiction department of the Central Library or other library branches if available.

Materials are listed by call number with the exception of Rare Book materials, which are in chronological order. Shelf locations are always subject to change; please see a librarian or staff member for assistance.

BOOKS: GENERAL INFORMATION

Buffalo F127.E5 E76 2000

The Erie Canal in Western New York: Covering the Erie Canal from Montezuma to Lockport, including early history & canal port profiles.

Geneseo, NY: Clarion Publications, 2000.

Buffalo F127.E5 E78 1988

Straight from the Horse's Mouth: Firsthand accounts of the Erie Canal

[Syracuse, N.Y.]: Erie Canal Museum, 1988.

F127.E5 E79 2001

Daniels, Julie C.

Erie Canal : New York's gift to the nation, a document-based teacher resource

Peterborough, N.H. : Cobblestone Publishing Co., 2001.

Buffalo F127.E5 G2

Garrity, Richard G.

Recollections of the Erie Canal

Tonawanda, N.Y: Historical Society of the Tonawandas, 1966.

Buffalo F127.E5 K646 2009

Koeppel, Gerard

Bond of Union: Building the Erie Canal and the American Empire

Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2009.

Buffalo F127.E5 M76 2001

Murphy, Dan

The Erie Canal: The Ditch that Opened a Nation

Buffalo, NY: Western New York Wares, Inc., 2001.

Buffalo F127.E5 S54 1996

Sheriff, Carol

The Artificial River : The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817-1862

New York: Hill and Wang, 1996.

GRO Ref F129.B857 V6 1993

Michael N. Vogel, Ed Patton, and Paul Redding.

America's Crossroads, Buffalo's Canal Street/ Dante Place: The Making of a City.

Buffalo NY: Western New York Heritage Institute, 1993.

Buffalo HE396.E6 B47 2005

Bernstein, Peter L.

Wedding of the waters : The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation

New York: W.W. Norton, 2005.

Buffalo HE396.E6 E56 2001

Erie Canal (Images of America series)

Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing Company, 2001.

Buffalo HE396.E6 S5

Shaw, Ronald E.

Erie Water West

Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1966.

BOOKS: GENERAL INFORMATION

Buffalo JK3416.F76 H57 2006

Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York

Frontier Justice : Western New York blazes a trail on the Underground Railroad and down the Erie Canal.

White Plains, Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York, 2006.

Buffalo NA730.N4 R45 2000

Reisem, Richard O.

Erie Canal legacy: Architectural treasures of the Empire State.

Rochester, N.Y. : Landmark Society of Western New York, 2000

Buffalo PS548.N7 E75 2003

Hecht, Roger W.

The Erie Canal reader, 1790-1950.

Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2003.

Includes travel accounts, poems, short stories, and novel excerpts.

Buffalo TC625.E6 H2 2004

Haines, Charles G.

Considerations on the great western canal, from the Hudson to Lake Erie: with a view of its expence, advantages, and progress.

Facsimile reprint of 2nd ed. Originally published: Brooklyn : Spooner & Worthington, 1818.

BOOKS: CANAL & HARBOR RESTORATION

Buffalo F129.B86 B51 2014

Traynor, Kerry L.

Black Rock Canal - Belt Line - Niagara Street industrial heritage historic district, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York.

Buffalo, N.Y. : KTA Preservation Specialists, 2014

Buffalo HE554.B8 C36 2001

A canal conversation: A community forum on Buffalo's inner harbor development and the Erie Canal.

Buffalo, N.Y.: The Urban Design Project, School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, 2001.

Buffalo Stacks HE554.B8 E74 2004

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ... [et al.]

Erie Canal Harbor project: Buffalo, New York: Master plan

Washington, DC: Federal Transit Administration, 2004

Buffalo HE554.B8 E75 2003

Empire State Development Corporation

Erie Canal Harbor Project : Hamburg Drain pre-preliminary design report

Buffalo, N.Y. : R&D Engineering Inc., 2003.

Buffalo HE554.B8 M66 2003

Monitoring of street investigations (Commercial, Lloyd, Hanover, West Perry and Prime Streets) and commercial slip wall exposure: Erie Canal Harbor Project...

Buffalo, N.Y.: Panamerican Consultants, Inc., 2003.

Buffalo Stacks HE554.B8 P53 2004

Phase II/III cultural resources investigation and data recovery: The Erie Canal Harbor Project, city of Buffalo.

Buffalo, N.Y.: Panamerican Consultants, Inc., 2004

BOOKS: CANAL & HARBOR RESTORATION

Buffalo NA9053.H55 E75 2000

The Preservation Coalition of Erie County.

The Erie Canal District: Buffalo's buried treasure.

Buffalo, N.Y.: The Coalition, 2000.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS – SOURCES

NOTE: The Library does not own any original photographs of the Canal. The sources listed below include books in the Buffalo Collection that contain images of photographs, drawings, and postcards. Please see the Grosvenor Room's vertical file for similar resources.

Buffalo F127.E5 A49 1993

Always Know Your Pal: Children on the Erie Canal

Syracuse, N.Y. : Erie Canal Museum, 1993

Buffalo F127.E5 E74

Erie Canal: History of the Canal that made New York the Empire State from 1817 to the Present

New York: New York State Council on the Arts, © 1971

50 plates; Includes images of construction, commerce, and life on the canal.

Buffalo F127.E5 E77 1989

Erie Canal Museum: Photos from the Collection

Syracuse, NY : The Museum, © 1989

Buffalo HE395.N74 R5 1984

Rinker, Harry L.

"The Old Raging Erie...There have been several changes" : A Postcard History of the Erie Canal and Other New York State Canals (1895 to 1915)

Berkeley Heights, NJ : Canal Captain's Press, © 1984

Buffalo HE396.E6 E56 2001

Erie Canal (Images of America series)

Charleston, S.C. : Arcadia Publishing Company, 2001

Buffalo HE396.E6 E7 1987

Erie Canal, Buffalo to Lockport : Canal Society of New York State field trip, October 3, 1987

Syracuse, N.Y. : Canal Society of New York State, 1987

Buffalo HE 396.E6 P3

Papp, John

Erie Canal Days: A Pictorial Essay/Albany to Buffalo

Schenectady, N.Y., 1967

Buffalo HE 396.E6 P3

Utter, Brad L.

Enterprising waters: the history and art of New York's Erie Canal

Albany, N.Y.: Excelsior Editions, 2020

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Passenger Lists & Freight Records

Except for the years 1827-1829 and 1839-1839, the names of passengers on the Erie Canal were not recorded. Those brief records are in the **New York State Archives** in Albany, NY. Contact the NYS Archives to view the following:

Record Group A1057. Lists of passengers on boats on the Erie Canal, 1827-1829. 2.5 cu. ft. 92 Arrangement: Chronological by year.

Record Group A1079. Passenger list and freight account book of steamboat "Red Jacket," 1838-1839. 2 volumes. Arrangement: Chronological

See the NYS Archives Erie Canal research guide for more information and other records:

https://www.archives.nysed.gov/sites/archives/files/res_topics_trans_canal.pdf

Other freight records can be located in various libraries and museums by searching Archive Grid:

<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

DATABASES

Name	Description	Access
Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970.	Fire insurance maps that chart buildings by outline, size, and shape. See how the City of Buffalo developed and grew along the Erie Canal.	www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/maps No library card number required.
AncestryLibrary	Census records.	www.ancestrylibrary.com In-library use. No library card number required.
Gale OneFile	Articles from periodicals, journals, and more. Facilitates all-ages research.	Library card number required.

LOCAL HISTORY FILE

This is a card index of newspaper and periodical articles about people, places, and things in the Buffalo area. Use these headings to find articles about individuals and events associated with the Erie Canal.

Erie Canal

Barge Canal

Canals

Goose Island

Buffalo Business Files- Barge Canal

MAPS

<http://gapfel.com/eriecanal/>

NOTES

MAPS	NOTES
<p>The tourist's map of the State of New York: compiled from the latest authorities, Williams, William, 1787-1850 Utica: William Williams, 1828. 24-M-15</p> <p>Erie Canal: map showing its reservoirs, feeders and mechanical structures (by W.N. Radenhurst). 26M-89 Albany, N.Y., Lyons, 1881-1882. SNC</p> <p>State of New York Department of Public Works, Erie Canal, Waterford to Lock 7. New York, Department of Public Works, 1915. 26M-60 SNC</p> <p>A new map of New York with its canals, roads, and distances Philadelphia, Pa.: S.A. Mitchell, 1849. 23M-23</p>	

MEDIA-DVDS
DVDs are located in the Media section at the Central Library.
<p>F127.E5 E73 2007V (DVD) The Erie Canal. Worldwide Travel Films : 2007 An engineering marvel in 1825, an economic juggernaut throughout the 19th century, and an increasingly popular recreational delight today, aboard a powerboat, take a tour of Albany, Troy, Waterford Five, and more.</p>
<p>HE396.E6 C78 2002V (DVD) Cruising America's waterways the Erie Canal: Albany to Buffalo Media Artists, 2002 Learn about the canal's mechanical structures; travel on a hire boat; visit charming canalside communities including Lockport, Baldwinsville, Fairport, Waterford and Little Falls; and tour attractions in Syracuse, Rochester, and, of course, Albany and Buffalo. Whether traveling by boat, car, bicycle, or simply walking on canalside trails; the legendary Erie Canal is one of America's great waterways.</p>
<p>E445.N56 T34 2001V (DVD) Tales of the Underground Railroad on the Erie Canal. Gribbins Films, 2004. Local experts discuss the history of fugitive slaves and the Underground Railroad along the Erie Canal.</p>

NEWSPAPERS		
The earliest newspapers were.... All are on microfilm.		
Call Number/Location	Title	Available Publication Dates
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>Buffalo Enquirer</i>	1891-1925
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>Buffalo Evening News</i>	1881-present
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>Commercial Advertiser</i>	1842-1924
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>Daily Courier</i>	1842-1926

NEWSPAPERS		
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>Morning Express</i>	1846-1926
GRO Microfilm Collection	<i>The New York Times</i>	1851-present Also available as a full-text database in the Central Library.
Fulton. http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html		

RARE BOOK ROOM	NOTES
Selected materials from the Rare Book Room listed chronologically. Available for view by appointment (716-858-8900).	
RBR U.S. 1812.P28 Paine, Edward, 1746-1841. Remarks on the importance of the contemplated grand canal, between Lake Erie and the Hudson River [New York]: [Publisher not identified], [1812]	
RBR WNYO 1814.M7 Morris, Gouverneur, 1752-1816. The advantages of the proposed canal from Lake Erie, to Hudson's River [New York]: [Publisher not identified], [1814]	
RBR U.S. 1816.N39 New York (State). Commissioners on Internal Navigation Memorial of the Commissioners of the state of New-York, in behalf of said state; praying the aid of the general government in opening a communication between the navigable waters of the Hudson River and the Lakes Washington: Printed by William A. Davis, 1816	
RBR WNYO 1816.C6 Clinton, Dewitt Remarks on the proposed canal, from Lake Erie to the Hudson River New York: Printed by Samuel Wood & Sons, 1816	
RBR WNYO 1822.B54 Black Rock Harbor Company Documents, relating to the western termination of the Erie canal : with explanations and remarks Black Rock: Printed by L.G. Hoffman, 1822	

RARE BOOK ROOM	NOTES
RBR U.S. 1822.R27 Randel, John, Jr. Description of a direct route for the Erie Canal, at its eastern termination, with estimates of its expense, and comparative advantages Albany: Printed by G.J. Loomis & Co., 1822	
RBR WNYO 1824.S6 Spafford, Horatio Gates, 1778-1832 A pocket guide for the tourist and traveller : along the line of the canals, and the interior commerce of the State of New York New-York: Printed by T. & J. Swords, 1824	
RBR MUSIC 1825.S7 Stevenson, John, Sir, 1761-1833. The meeting of the waters of Hudson & Erie New York (29 Chatham Street): E. Riley, [1825]	For Voice and Piano, "respectfully dedicated to his excellency, Dewitt Clinton"
RBR WNYO 1825.B2 Ball, Sheldon Buffalo, in 1825: Containing Historical and Statistical Sketches. Illustrated with a map of the village and view of the harbor Buffalo, NY: H.A. Salisbury printer, 1825.	
RBR WNYO 1825.C7 Colden, Cadwallader D. Memoir, prepared at the request of a committee of the Common council of the city of New York : and presented to the mayor of the city, at the celebration of the completion of the New York canals New York: Printed by order of the Corporation of New York, 1825	Narrative of the festivities observed in honor of the completion of the grand Erie canal. Presentation copy to J.K. Paulding from the city of New York, with his bookplate.
RBR WNYO 1825.V5 Low, John A view of the grand canal, from Lake Erie to the Hudson river; containing, a particular description of its construction, and historical summary of the different towns, villages, &c. on the route of the canal. Also, a description of the Champlain Canal New York: Printed for J. Low, 1825	
RBR WNYO 1830.R3 Rail road line from New York to Buffalo [New York]: [Publisher not identified], [1830-1839]	Blank one-way passenger ticket from the 1830's, good for transportation by steamer, railroad, or canal boat.
RBR U.S. 1831.S73 Stage, Canal, and Steamboat Register, etc. etc. for 1831. Utica, NY: Printed and published by William Williams, 1831.	Tourist map of the State of New York with an inset that shows profiles of the Erie and Champlain canals.

RARE BOOK ROOM	NOTES
RBR U.S. 1845.E22 Eaton, M. Five years on the Erie Canal: an account of some of the most striking scenes and incidents, during five years' labor on the Erie Canal, and other inland waters Utica, NY: Bennett, Backus, & Hawley, 1845	Five years on the Erie Canal: an account of some of the most striking scenes and incidents, during five years' labor on the Erie Canal, and other inland waters.

SCRAPBOOKS	NOTES
Erie Canal 1900-1904	
Barge Canal	

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor: https://eriecanalway.org/	
The Erie Canal Museum: https://eriecanalmuseum.org/	
New York State Archives Digital Collection: https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov	Use keywords <i>Erie Canal</i> to access digitized photos, maps and more.
New York State Canal Corporation: https://www.canals.ny.gov/history/history.html	
New York Heritage: https://nyheritage.org/exhibits/two-hundred-years-erie-canal	

VERTICAL FILES
The Grosvenor Room collects articles, pamphlets, and clippings about local history. Ask for any of these folders. NOTE: <i>Use of these files requires your library card or photo ID.</i>
Erie Canal Erie Canal – Preservation Erie Canal Harbor Port of Buffalo Bridges Neighborhoods – Canal District

FURTHER RESOURCES: ONLINE CATALOG OF THE B&ECPL

Search our online catalog to find books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Resources include those from the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and each branch in the Library System. To access this list of materials, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Erie-Canal> or scan the QR code below



To find additional Erie Canal items in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these Subject searches:

Aqueducts -- New York (State) -- Buffalo -- Environmental aspects.

Harbors -- New York (State) -- Buffalo -- Environmental aspects.

Urban renewal -- New York (State) -- Buffalo.

Erie Canal (N.Y.) -- Environmental aspects.

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH THE CANAL?

Buffalo History Museum

Research Library

25 Nottingham Court

Buffalo, NY 14216

(716) 873-9644, ext. 306

<http://www.bechs.org/research.htm>

Buffalo Harbor Museum

66 Erie St,

Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 849-0914

<https://www.llmhs.org>

Buffalo Maritime Center

90 Arthur St,

Buffalo, NY 14207

(716) 881-0111

<https://buffalomaritimecenter.org>

Erie Canal Discovery Center

24 Church Street

Lockport, NY 14094

(716) 439-0431

<https://niagarahistory.org/ECDC.html>

Erie Canal Museum

318 Erie Boulevard East

Syracuse, NY 13202

315-471-0593

<http://eriecanalmuseum.org>

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH THE CANAL?

For further Erie Canal resources, search **WorldCat** or **Archive Grid** to discover items and collections in libraries and institutions nation-wide:

www.worldcat.org

<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>