

# **The Mighty Chain: A Guide to Canal Records in the New York State Archives**

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## Introduction

The development of New York State's canal system laid the groundwork for rapid economic growth of communities along the canal route and throughout the State during the nineteenth century. It also involved pioneering efforts in canal engineering. Canal records in the New York State Archives are valuable resources for understanding the growth and changes in canal communities as well as the development of the State's canal system and canal engineering in general. Maps, correspondence, and petitions document the impact of the canals on individual property owners and the communities in which they lived. Drawings, charts, and engineers' diaries document the technical aspects of canal engineering, construction, and repair. Minutes, reports, and financial records document the administration of the canal system and the coordination of canal construction and maintenance.

This guide describes 360 series of records documenting New York's canals from the earliest Erie Canal surveys to the completion and operation of the Barge Canal. These records, spanning 1794-1958 (bulk 1817-1926) and totalling over 2,560 cubic feet, are part of the holdings of the New York State Archives and Records Administration. The Archives, part of the Office of Cultural Education in the State Education Department, is mandated to identify, acquire, preserve, and make available for research use State government records of enduring value. Since the opening of the Archives' storage and research facility in the Cultural Education Center in 1978, approximately 50,000 cubic feet of records have been transferred to the Archives and additional records are accessioned continually.

The guide is organized into sections reflecting current names of State agencies responsible for creating canal-related records. Most of these records were created by, and transferred to the Archives from, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Audit and Control, or their predecessor agencies. Records in each section are listed under the name of their original creating agency. A few creating agencies (e.g. Canal Board, Canal Commissioners) appear under both Department of Audit and Control and Department of Transportation because both the Comptroller (Audit and Control) and the State Engineer and Surveyor (Transportation) served on these bodies and both produced records for these important canal agencies. The lists of records are often subdivided by names of creating agency subdivisions or by subject categories. Within these listings, general administrative records generally precede more specifically-focused records.

Although this guide is organized by creating agency, researchers should be aware that interrelationships among many series cross agency lines. Functionally related series therefore might be found under several different creating agencies.

This guide includes a brief history of the development of the State's canal system during the period covered by the bulk of the records; brief histories of the major offices and agencies responsible for canal administration and development; descriptions of each record series; and a glossary of terms commonly found in series descriptions of canal records. The level of description provided varies from series to series. A complete series description or abstract is provided for series that have received either complete or partial arrangement and description. Title-level information is provided for series that have not yet been arranged and described;

several very important undescribed series listed in this guide will be described as soon as staff resources are available. This guide should therefore be considered a preliminary product until descriptive work can be completed. Where available, information on arrangement of the records, on finding aids or indexes, and on microfilm availability is provided. For some series, more extensive descriptions and container lists are available at the Archives.

Records in the State Archives may be used at the Archives' research room. Certain record series have been microfilmed by the State Archives, and the film may be borrowed on inter-library loan or purchased. For further information please contact Research Assistance.

This finding aid was prepared by Senior Archivist Elisabeth A. Golding. Most of the series descriptions were prepared by Associate Archivists James D. Folts and Daniel D. Lorello and Archivist Christine Karpiak. Christine Karpiak also compiled the Glossary of Canal Record Terminology.

# Development and Administration of New York State's Canal System

As early as 1768, New York's colonial governor Sir Henry Moore recommended that action be taken to improve navigation on the Mohawk River. However, the General Assembly failed to act on this recommendation, and it was another 50 years before New York State began its first major canal construction project. In the intervening years, only New York's natural streams provided inland navigation, supplemented by limited use of canals constructed by private Inland Lock Navigation Companies between 1790 and 1807.

Over the next ten years, heightened awareness of the need for improved inland transportation led the State legislature to appoint commissioners and surveyors to study the possibility of constructing a canal connecting the Hudson River with Lakes Erie and Champlain. In 1816, five commissioners were appointed to adopt measures to construct such a canal (Laws of 1816, Chapter 237). The following year, these commissioners were officially designated "Canal Commissioners" (Laws of 1817, Chapter 262) with continuing authority to direct canal construction and repairs. The same legislation established the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, comprised of the Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, Surveyor General, Secretary of State, and Treasurer to supervise the receipt and expenditure of canal funds. The receipts came from canal tolls, taxes on lands adjacent to canals, taxes on steamboat passengers, railroad freight tolls, and other sources.

Because canal construction caused damage to adjacent property, in 1821 (Chapter 240) the legislature authorized the Canal Commissioners to act as Canal Appraisers to determine the monetary amount of damages due to property owners. The function of the office (or board) of Canal Appraisers remained the same although the composition of its membership changed several times over the years (Laws of 1825, Chapter 275; Laws of 1836, Chapter 287; Laws of 1857, Chapter 538). The board was abolished in 1883 and replaced by the Board of Claims (Chapter 205). The Board of Claims in turn was replaced by the Court of Claims in 1897 (Chapter 36). The State also established a Canal Board (Laws of 1826, Chapter 314), comprised of the Canal Commissioners and the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, initially to regulate canal tolls and later to appoint canal officers, direct special repairs, hear appeals from decisions of the Canal Appraisers, and enforce canal regulations.

Ground was broken for the Erie Canal at Rome, New York on July 4, 1817. By the end of the year, about 15 miles of canal were completed; by 1825, both the Erie and Champlain canals were completed. Despite being scorned in some quarters as "The Big Ditch" or "Clinton's Folly" (after Governor De Witt Clinton, who championed the project), the canals were an immediate success, with the amount of traffic far exceeding expectations. It quickly became apparent that the canal channels would have to be enlarged and the canal system expanded to accommodate the increasing demand for access to the canals. The State built the Oswego, Cayuga and Seneca, Chemung, Crooked Lake, and Chenango canals, and private companies built the Oneida Lake and the Delaware and Hudson canals.

In 1835, construction began on the enlargement of the Erie Canal (Laws of 1835, Chapter 274). During the next several years, the State also began construction on the Black River and Genesee Valley canals and the Oneida River improvement and purchased the Oneida Lake canal. A fiscal crisis combined with inadequate financial planning and increasing construction costs put a temporary halt to these projects in 1841. In 1847, work resumed under the financial regulations imposed by the new State Constitution of 1846. The State appropriated the privately-owned Baldwinsville Canal and abolished railroad tolls, which had previously been applied to the canal fund.

In the 1850s, canal administration was reorganized and the State began the system of contracting out canal repairs. A law of 1854 (Chapter 329) designated the Canal Commissioners and the Auditor of the Canal Department (established by Laws of 1848, Chapter 162 as chief financial officer of the canals) as a Canal Contracting Board to exercise the powers and duties concerning contracting formerly held by the Canal Commissioners. Legislation of 1857 (Chapter 105) increased the Board's authority over canal contracts. The State also authorized the State Engineer and Surveyor (established by the Constitution of 1846 to replace the Surveyor General) to investigate the possibility of constructing gun boat locks on the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals in the event it became necessary to transport United States troops on the canals. The Erie Canal enlargement was completed in 1862 (Chapter 169), but some remaining work was completed in the next few years. The Oswego Canal and the Cayuga and Seneca Canal were enlarged and the Champlain Canal was deepened.

Growing public disaffection with the canals arose during the late 1860s and 1870s. Railroads drew an increasing amount of traffic away from the canals and toll revenues were decreasing. These circumstances, combined with charges of canal mismanagement and contract fraud, resulted in a number of reforms. The Contracting Board and the contract system of repairs were abolished in 1870 (Chapter 55) and the State abandoned the Crooked Lake (1877), Chemung (1878), Genesee Valley (1878), Oneida Lake (1878), and Chenango (1880) canals. An 1876 constitutional amendment established the office of Superintendent of Public Works and conferred upon it all the duties of the office of Canal Commissioner, which was abolished. Canal tolls were abolished by a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in 1882; thereafter, canal repairs were to be funded by legislative appropriations.

Renewed interest in improving the canals followed this period of reform and retrenchment and was spurred by increasing competition in commercial trade. Locks were lengthened on the Erie and Oswego canals and, beginning in 1896, work began on the second enlargement of the canals. Authorized by Laws of 1895, Chapter 79, this "Nine Million Dollar Improvement" project to deepen the channel to nine feet was cut short by lack of funds and by renewed charges of fraud and overspending. In 1898 (Chapters 15 and 327), the legislature established a commission to investigate the management and expenditures relating to canal improvements. The Canal Investigating Commission criticized the management of the project but recommended that canal improvements continue.

In 1899, Governor Theodore Roosevelt appointed a commission of seven, including the State Engineer and Surveyor and the Superintendent of Public works, to formulate a policy for future canal management and improvement. The following January, the committee recommended

improvement of the canal system to accommodate 1,000-ton barges. The same year, engineers began surveys for this "1,000-Ton Barge Canal." Voters approved a measure to construct the canal in 1903 (Laws of 1903, Chapter 147). Contracting began in December 1904, and construction on what became known as the Barge Canal began in 1905. The improved canal was opened to through traffic on May 15, 1918, and construction continued on additional improvements in the years following.

The constitutional reorganization of New York State government in 1925-1926 resulted in the abolition of the office of the State Engineer and Surveyor and the Canal Board. Responsibilities of these offices relating to canals were assigned to the new Department of Public Works, established in 1923 (Chapter 867). These responsibilities were later absorbed by the Department of Transportation which succeeded the Department of Public Works in 1967 (Chapter 717). The office of Commissioners of the Canal Fund was abolished, and responsibility for the fund was assumed by the new Department of Audit and Control, headed by the State Comptroller, in 1926 (Chapter 614).

The period of construction in the early 1900s resulted in the present New York State Canal System, incorporating the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga and Seneca canals. The current canal system generally uses or runs parallel to the original canals and sometimes utilizes lakes and rivers. Some abandoned canal sections have been paved over as roads; some original canal towpaths are now bicycle paths or hiking trails.

For further information about the history and development of New York's canal system, researchers can consult:

- Annual reports of the New York State Surveyor General, State Engineer and Surveyor, and Department of Public Works.
- Hasse, Adelaide R., *Index of Economic Material in Documents of the States of the United States: New York, 1789-1904* (Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1907). (See pages 86-157 of this work for indexing of New York State Senate and Assembly documents relating to canals.)
- Shaw, Ronald E., *Erie Water West: A History of the Erie Canal, 1792-1854* (Lexington, Ky: University Press of Kentucky, 1966).
- Whitford, Nobel E., *History of the Canal System of the State of New York* (Supplement to the Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1905) (Albany: Brandow Printing, 1906).
- Whitford, Nobel E., *History of the Barge Canal of New York State* (Supplement to the Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor for the Year Ended June 30, 1921) (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1922).
- Wyld, Lionel., *Boaters and Broomsticks: Tales and Historical Lore of the Erie Canal* (Utica, N.Y.: North Country Books, 1986).



## **Offices and Agencies Responsible for Canal Administration and Development**

- Surveyor General/State Engineer and Surveyor
- Special Deputy State Engineer
- Board of Consulting Engineers
- Superintendent of Public Works
- Comptroller
- Auditor of the Canal Department
- Canal Commissioners
- Commissioners of the Canal Fund
- Canal Board
- Canal Appraisers
- Superintendents of Repairs
- Canal Contracting Board

### **Surveyor General/State Engineer and Surveyor**

The Dutch colonial office of Surveyor General, established in 1642, was continued under the British colonial and State governments, with its principal function being the surveying and mapping of public lands. These duties extended to the State's canals. The Surveyor General was appointed a member of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund when that body was established in 1817 to manage the funds and debts of the canals. The Canal Fund Commissioners, including the Surveyor General, were in turn appointed to the Canal Board when that body was established in 1826.

The 1846 State Constitution, taking effect during the period of the first canal enlargement, replaced the Surveyor General with an elected State Engineer and Surveyor who would assume the Surveyor General's duties and be responsible for canal surveys and engineering. For the next eighty years, this office was responsible for planning, construction, maintenance, and monitoring of the State's canals and other transportation infrastructure. The State Engineer and Surveyor coordinated and supervised canal construction, repair, and maintenance work, developed and work plans and contract specifications for canal work, assisted in letting and administration of canal contracts, appointed division and resident engineers, and carried out other duties relating to overall supervision of the State's canal system.

The 1925-1926 constitutional reorganization of State government abolished the office of State Engineer and Surveyor and placed its functions within the new Department of Public Works.

### **Special Deputy State Engineer**

Under the 1903 Barge Canal Law (Chapter 147), a Special Deputy State Engineer was charged to directly supervise the entire Barge Canal project. The Special Deputy State Engineer was appointed by and responsible to the State Engineer and Surveyor and carried out these duties until 1922.

## **Board of Consulting Engineers**

The Advisory Board of Consulting Engineers was established by the Barge Canal Law of 1903 (Chapter 147) to advise the State Engineer and Surveyor on technical matters relating to the location and construction of the Barge Canal. This board wielded considerable influence because important questions regarding canal construction and engineering were referred to this Board, and its recommendations were almost always followed. The Board was abolished in 1911 (Chapter 736, Section 6) and replaced by the Board of Consulting Engineers (Chapter 736, Section 3).

## **Superintendent of Public Works**

The office of Superintendent of Public Works was established by Article V, Section 3 of the State Constitution of 1876 (effective February 8, 1878). The Superintendent of Public Works, appointed by the Governor, was authorized to execute all laws relating to repair, navigation, construction, and improvement of the State's canals. The Superintendent was appointed a member of the Canal Board and assumed all duties of the Canal Commissioners, who were abolished by the new Constitution. He appointed all those involved in the care and management of the Canals (except for the State Engineer and Surveyor). In addition, legislation of 1881, Chapter 569, conferred upon the Superintendent powers relating to contracting for work on the canals.

## **Comptroller**

The Dutch colonial office of schout-fiscal, established in 1625, was succeeded by a Board of Audit and, after 1664, the British colonial office of auditor general. The State Legislature appointed an auditor in 1782 (Chapter 21, Fifth Session) to settle the State's accounts. The office of Comptroller was established in 1797 (Chapter 21), combining the auditor's power to audit and the treasurer's power to pay into one chief fiscal officer. As such, the Comptroller was designated a member of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund when that body was established in 1817 to manage the funds and debts of the canals. The Canal Fund Commissioners, including the Comptroller, were in turn appointed to the Canal Board when that body was established in 1826. The Comptroller remained a member of both boards until they were abolished in the 1925- 1926 constitutional reorganization of State government.

Some of the fiscal duties of the Comptroller relating to canals were assumed by a succession of other officers established by legislation of 1833, 1840, and 1848. The last of these officers, the Auditor of the Canal Department, was abolished in 1883, and the Comptroller resumed all such duties.

## **Auditor of the Canal Department**

Laws of 1833, Chapter 56 established a Second Deputy Comptroller to perform the duties of the Comptroller relating to canals, except for the Comptroller's duties as a Commissioner of the Canal Fund. Legislation of 1840 (Chapter 288, Section 12) abolished the Second Deputy Comptroller and directed the Commissioners of the Canal Fund to appoint a chief clerk to

perform those duties and to act as clerk of the Canal Board. This office was in turn abolished by Laws of 1848, Chapter 162, which established the Auditor of the Canal Department as chief fiscal officer of the canals.

The Canal Auditor was to issue warrants for payment from the Canal Fund; report annually to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund on receipts and payments relating to canals and the canal debt; and act as clerk of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, clerk of the Canal Board; and a member of the Canal Contracting Board.

The office of Auditor of the Canal Department was abolished by Laws of 1883, Chapter 69, which transferred its responsibilities for auditing canal accounts back to the Comptroller.

### **Canal Commissioners**

By a joint resolution of the legislature on March 13 and 15, 1810, commissioners were appointed to investigate and recommend improvements for New York's inland navigation. The following year (Chapter 188), commissioners were appointed "for the consideration of all matters relating to . . . inland navigation." These commissioners were authorized to acquire lands, procure loans, and employ engineers and surveyors. However, the legislature provided the commissioners with no funding for this work from 1814 on. The commissioners made their final report to the legislature on March 8, 1816, recommending the construction of canals.

On April 17, 1816, the legislature passed an act (Chapter 237) authorizing the appointment of five commissioners to adopt measures to construct canals from the Hudson River to Lakes Erie and Champlain. The commissioners were to procure maps, plans, and cost estimates for constructing the canals; procure loans to fund construction; and secure land or funds from the federal government, other states, businesses, and individuals to facilitate construction. The following year, the commissioners were officially designated "Canal Commissioners" (Laws of 1817, Chapter 262) with the responsibility of directing the construction and repair of the State's canals.

Legislation of 1819 (Chapter 105) required the Canal Commissioners to settle accounts with the Comptroller. Legislation of 1821 (Chapter 26) required them to take duplicate receipts for all expenditures. The 1826 law establishing the Canal Board (Chapter 314) required the Canal Commissioners to keep accounts of expenditures to present to the Comptroller, who was designated a member of the new Canal Board.

The Canal Commissioners were abolished by the Constitution of 1876, Article V, Section 3 (effective February 8, 1878), which assigned their functions to the new Superintendent of Public Works.

### **Commissioners of the Canal Fund**

Chapter 262 of the Laws of 1817 appointed the Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, Surveyor General, Secretary of State, and Treasurer as Commissioners of the Canal Fund. The commissioners were authorized to borrow money on the credit of New York State and

to manage canal funds derived from: duties on manufactured salt; taxes on steamboat passengers; lotteries and auction sales duties; canal tolls; and taxes on lands within 25 miles of the canals. The commissioners were to manage these funds in such a way as to limit the annual interest on canal construction loans to the sum of the Canal Fund revenues. The Commissioners of the Canal Fund were abolished in the 1925-1926 constitutional reorganization of State government and their duties absorbed by the new Department of Audit and Control.

### **Canal Board**

Legislation of 1826 (Chapter 314) established the Canal Board, comprised of the Canal Commissioners and the Commissioners of the Canal Fund. Initially responsible for regulating canal tolls, the Canal Board also acquired responsibility for appointing various canal officers, directing special repairs, enforcing canal regulations, and hearing appeals from decisions of the Canal Appraisers (Laws of 1829, Chapter 368) regarding damage claims and related matters. The 1925-1926 constitutional reorganization of State government abolished the Canal Board and placed its functions in the new Department of Public Works (Laws of 1926, Chapter 348).

### **Canal Appraisers**

Appraisal of damages resulting from canal construction was first carried out by a Canal Commissioner and two Canal Appraisers pursuant to Laws of 1817, Chapter 262. Legislation of 1821 (Chapter 240) empowered the Canal Commissioners to act as Canal Appraisers; it also authorized the legislature to appoint Canal Appraisers, but no appointments were made under this law. In 1825 (Chapter 275), the Governor and Senate were directed to appoint two persons to act with any one of the Canal Commissioners as Appraisers. Revised Statutes of 1829, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 3 defined the powers and duties of Canal Appraisers.

Legislation of 1836 (Chapter 287) authorized the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to appoint three Appraisers to appraise damages to individuals resulting from canal construction. The permanent Board of Canal Appraisers was established by Laws of 1857, Chapter 538, and its procedure was clarified by Laws of 1870, Chapter 321. The Board of Canal Appraisers was abolished in 1883 (Chapter 205) and replaced by the Board of Claims, which was given responsibility to hear all pending claims. The Board of Claims was succeeded by the Court of Claims in 1897 (Chapter 36). Legislation of 1911 (Chapter 856) again named this body the Board of Claims. Legislation of 1915 (Chapter 1) restored the Court of Claims.

### **Superintendents of Repairs**

Legislation of 1826 (Chapter 314) established the office of Superintendent of Repairs. One Superintendent was appointed for each canal section with responsibility for maintenance and repair of that section. The Superintendents were empowered to contract for labor and materials and to expend money for repairs, and they submitted abstracts, check rolls, and vouchers documenting these transactions to the Canal Commissioners. Laws of 1827, Chapter 224, required Superintendents of Repairs to submit annual accounts to the Comptroller.

During the height of the power of the Canal Contracting Board, the office of Superintendent of Repairs was abolished (Laws of 1867, Chapter 577, Section 12). The Superintendent of Repairs system was restored when the Canal Contracting Board was abolished in 1870 (Chapter 55).

### **Canal Contracting Board**

Chapter 327 of the Laws of 1854 directed that canal repairs be let by contract. Further legislation (Chapter 329) established the Canal Contracting Board, comprised of the Canal Commissioners, the State Engineer and Surveyor, and the Auditor of the Canal Department, to assume the duties of the Canal Commissioners relating to contracting for work on the State's canals. To facilitate management of canal repairs, legislation of 1857 (Chapter 105) directed the Contracting Board to divide the canals into subdivisions and residencies; this and subsequent legislation (Laws of 1860, Chapter 86; Laws of 1867, Chapter 577) further expanded the powers of the board. Following charges of fraud and corruption in contracting practices, the Contracting Board was abolished (Laws of 1870, Chapter 55) and the Canal Board was assigned responsibility for determining how repairs were to be made in the future.

## Historical Canals

As the canal system was enlarged and improved, the State abandoned various canals or canal sections which it no longer found economical or important to maintain. The following list indicates the routes of the original canal system, including sections abandoned by the State, and their years of operation.

Champlain Canal, 1822-1917	Waterford to Whitehall
Erie Canal, 1825-1917	Albany to Buffalo
Cayuga and Seneca Canal, 1828-1918	Montezuma to Geneva
Oswego Canal, 1829-1917	Syracuse to Oswego
Chemung Canal, 1833-1878	Montour Falls to Elmira
Crooked Lake Canal, 1833-1877	Dresden to Penn Yan
Oneida Lake Canal, 1835-1863 1877-1878	Higginsville to Sylvan Beach Oneida Lake to Oneida Castle
Chenango Canal, 1837-1880	Utica to Binghamton
Genesee Valley Canal, 1840-1878	Rochester to Olean
Black River Canal, 1850-1924	Rome to Carthage
Oneida River Improvement, 1850-1918	Oneida Lake to Three Rivers Point

Source: "Recreational Map and Guide to New York State Canals," New York State Department of Transportation, 1987.

## Descriptions of Records held by the State Archives:

- Records of the Department of Public Works
- Records of the Superintendent of Public Works
- Records of the General Surveyor:
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- General Administrative Records
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- General Canal Administration
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Canal Contracts
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Canal Construction, Maintenance, and Operation
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Canal Structures and Lands
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Office of Special Deputy State Engineer
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Western Division Engineer's Office
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Canal Board
  - o State Engineer and Surveyor -- Canal Commissioners
- Records of the Jamaica Bay - Peconic Bay Canal Board
- Records of the Department of Audit and Control
- Records of the Comptroller's Office:
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Bureau of Canal Affairs
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Canal Board
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Office of the Canal Commissioners
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Commissioners of the Canal Fund
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Canal Investigating Commission
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Canal Contracting Board
  - o Comptroller's Office -- Other Canal Records
- Records of the Superintendent of Public Works
  - o Superintendent of Public Works -- Assistant Superintendent's Office
  - o Superintendent of Public Works -- General Inspector's Office
  - o Superintendent of Public Works -- Publicity Agent's Office
  - o Superintendent of Public Works -- Board of Consulting Engineers
- Office of the Commissioners of the Land Office
- Department of State
- Department of Taxation and Finance
- Department of Law
- Executive Department
- Series Available on Microfilm
- List of Series in Order of Series Number
- Glossary of Canal Record Terminology

## ***Department of Public Works***

### **B0171. Maps, blueprints, tracings, drawings, plans, and cross sections of canal structures and sites, ca. 1830-1947. 250 items**

Arrangement: None.

These records primarily concern the Barge Canal system and its feeders. There are also items depicting the old Erie Canal and lesser canals such as the Black River Canal. The majority of maps depict various canal structures such as bridges, diversion channels, dams, sewers, locks, culverts, stop gates, and aqueducts. The remaining records show land patents, locations of towns and villages, land claims, towpath locations, and streets in cities where canals were situated.

### **B0392. Charts and maps of the State canal system, ca. 1923. 1 cu. ft. (1 volume containing 64 colored maps and charts)**

Arrangement: Numerical by map number and roughly geographical from eastern to western New York.

This series consists of 64 charts and copies of maps of the Erie Canal from Waterford to Buffalo, and of the Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals. They were apparently prepared to aid ships or boats in navigating canal waterways. Original navigation charts are mixed with copies of survey maps that might have been intended to aid production of charts for additional uncharted canal areas.

All of the navigation charts follow a similar format. Printed base maps prepared from surveys made by the State Engineer and Surveyor date from 1917 to 1925. The base maps show city, village, town, and county boundaries, bodies of water and islands, roads and bridges, railroads, and streets and buildings, and are hand annotated to show location and type of buoys and buoy numbers. In addition, there are unannotated blueprint copies of survey maps. These pick up where the charts leave off, at a geographical point near Palmyra where the Erie Canal leaves the Seneca River, the point where the artificial cut of the canal begins.

### **B0214. Barge Canal land appropriation maps, 1905-1925. 14 cu. ft. (containing ca. 4,840 maps)**

Arrangement: Numerical by contract number.

This series documents the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Public Works relating to the appropriation of land for canal use. The series consists of duplicates of the original appropriation maps filed in county clerks' offices; descriptions of lands to be appropriated; county clerks' certificates of filing; notices to be served on property owners



(informing them that the State Engineer and Surveyor has filed the necessary appropriate documents with the Superintendent of Public Works); and affidavits of service.

The maps provide a detailed view of the property to be appropriated. Each map includes the names of property owners (or reputed owners) and often the names of adjoining property owners; a detailed narrative description of the lands to be appropriated, written directly onto each map; and a standard title that includes the town and county of the land to be appropriated. In addition, the maps sometimes include land acreage; statements relating parcels to numbered line stations; an indication of iron pipes (from which parcel measurements were taken); the monumented base line (a line parallel to the center of the improved Erie Canal); and lines designating proposed pipe lines, the old Erie Canal, the improved Erie Canal and other features such as railroad lines.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0213. Barge Canal contract files, 1907-1944. 85 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By type of contract, then numerical by contract number.

These files concern the review, implementation, administration, and supervision of contracts entered into by the State for construction of the Barge Canal and canal terminals. Types of records routinely found within the files include contracts; correspondence; memoranda; contract specifications and alterations; general contract descriptions; estimates (both preliminary and final); calculations; bid proposals; inspectors' reports; engineers' monthly reports; employee time rolls; results of chemical and physical tests on construction materials; photographs of construction in progress; copies of engineering journals; construction equipment catalogs; invoices; and surveys.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0385. Barge Canal maintenance contracts, 1924-1931. 3 cu. ft.**

**A0133. Contracts for improvement of the Erie, Oswego, and Champlain Canals, ca. 1915-1925. .5 cu ft.**

**B0693. Monthly time books for work done on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1905-1936. 1 cu. ft. (9 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0694. Registers of distribution of expenses to engineers employed on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1927-1943. 0.3 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0381. Water gage readings, ca. 1887-1951. 20.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by gage number.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0204. Index to Barge Canal minute books, ca. 1900-1931. 3 cu. ft. (13 volumes)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject category, then numerical by page.

These volumes index a set of "Barge Canal Minutes" and "Barge Canal Books." It is unknown if the minutes and books referred to are extant. The indexes are arranged in alphabetical subject categories, and some have special categories for deeds, permits, agreements, appropriations, and contracts.

**B0208. Scrapbook regarding the Barge Canal, 1929-1932. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of clipping.

This scrapbook contains mainly newspapers clippings but also magazine articles, legislative bills, programs, reports, and correspondence dealing primarily with the transformation of Albany into a world port (Port of Albany) through the deepening of the Hudson and the construction of a terminal.

Indexes: Name and subject index in front of volume.

**B0746. File on All American Canal and St. Lawrence Ship Canal and Power Project, 1921-1932. 0.5 cu. ft.**

**10448. Maps, drawings and blueprints related to State waterways and canals, ca. 1851-1941. 24.8 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

This series is an assortment of maps, profiles, tracings, sketches, plans, drawings, blueprints, and a small quantity of related charts and correspondence relating to the State's canals, feeders, and/or various waterways. Proximity to canals and/or placement of the lands, structures, and watercourses adjacent to them is the only common element apparent in these varied representations.

The series includes profiles of canals and rivers; cross sections of actual and proposed canal and railroad lines; canal section maps showing centerline and survey offset lines and measurements; maps showing city, county, and town railroads and street railways in

relation to canals, including one distinctive group that highlights several railroads along the Erie Canal and also shows adjacent land for a considerable distance; construction and improvement plans for a myriad of projects such as dredging water bottoms, altering or extending railway or canal lines or routes, deepening or changing canal channels, or building related structures; operating diagrams and blueprints for proposed and existing reservoirs, dams, locks, spillways, piers, lighthouses, docks, pipelines, roads, etc.; general location maps of aqueducts, bridges, buoys, etc.; sketches of harbors, slips, basins, and terminals; maps or tracings of reservoirs, rivers, and other bodies of water; drawings of bridges crossing canals; detailed sketches of the location of canals, drainage patterns, and areas of cultivated land, sometimes showing names of property owners, specific crops, and/or condition of land; representations of characteristics (elevations, water levels, catchment areas) and related structures (bridges, dams) of various creeks, rivers, lakes, and watersheds.

Finding aids: Item list.

**B1023. Unidentified maps, plans, and drawings of New York State canals, n.d. . 5 cu. ft.**

**A1276. Official orders, 1927-1930, 1934-1939. 3 volumes**

Arrangement: Numerical by order number, corresponding to chronological order.

A law of 1923 (Chapter 867, Section 17) required the Superintendent of Public Works to keep a record of orders and decisions. These official orders cover such topics as awarding and rescinding of contracts; approval of revised plans; settlement of damages; and amendment of regulations.

**B1213. Plans, maps, and specifications relating to various Barge Canal contracts, ca. 1895-1936. 12 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by unidentified alpha-numeric file number.

These records relate to selected work on the Barge Canal contracted by the Department of Public Works. Copies of maps, plans, and specifications were publicly exhibited to every person desiring to make a proposal for such work. The plans are generally blueprint copies that include profiles, cross sections, location maps, elevations, layouts, typical sections or sectional drawings for the contracted work. The work usually relates to building or repairing dams, storage reservoirs, or canal terminals; channel excavation; rock and spoil bank protection; dredging of piers; or bridge improvement at many locations along the canal. In addition, a few manuscript maps and tracings of the Syracuse area show encroachment on the Erie Canal and some areas of State-owned land desired by private concerns.

Finding aids: Item list.

**Department of Public Works - Division of Canals and Waterways, Syracuse Regional Office.**

**B1069. Contract, computations, estimates, maps, sections, and charts concerning the U.S. - Barge Canal, 1933-1958. 2 cu. ft.**

These records document the execution of contracts to complete federally-funded Barge Canal improvement projects which began in 1935. Contracts let for these projects were referred to as "U.S.-[contract number]" (e.g. U.S.-37).

**Department of Public Works - Division of Engineering.**

**B1019. U.S. - Barge Canal contracts, estimates, and final accounts, 1941-1942. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by U.S. contract number.

Finding aids: Contract list.

**B0223. Negative photographs of State institutions, Barge Canal locations and structures, and highways, 1940-1944. 2 cu. ft. (ca. 1500 items)**

Arrangement: Numerical by Court of Claims number written on each jacket.

These negative photographs were taken by the Division of Engineering for use in settling Court of Claims litigation. The claims dealt with such matters as contracts entered into by the State for the construction of highways, buildings, and miscellaneous structures; appropriation of land and water; employee negligence; damages due to defects in the State's highway system; and claims authorized by special legislation. The negatives measure 10" x 7-7/8" and are filed in jackets with the Court of Claims number, negative number, name of facility, institution or location, direction of view, by whom taken, date, and pertinent remarks written on each jacket.

## ***Superintendent of Public Works***

**B0382. Correspondence and subject files, ca. 1907-1921. 89 cu. ft.**

**B0201. Minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1921. 0.6 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Created in 1816 (Chapter 237), the Canal Commission operated until it was abolished by an 1876 constitutional amendment transferring its powers to the newly created office of Superintendent of Public Works. The series contains minutes of meetings, maps, diagrams, drawings, tracings, decisions, petitions, correspondence, resolutions, contract lists, testimonies, depositions affidavits, and newspaper clippings. Minutes missing from this series date from early December 1883 through late May 1887 and from early January 1889 through late October 1896.

**B0202. Index to minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1921. 1 cu. ft. (15 volumes)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name or subject.

This index allows both name and subject access to series B0201, Minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, described above. All of the index volumes are extant.

**B0216. Canal system contract agreements and specifications, ca. 1888-1904. 4 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These records provide extremely detailed information on canal contracts entered into by the State for canal improvements prior to the construction of the Barge Canal. Included among the agreements and specifications are bonds, financial statements of bonding companies, general contracts, maps, tracings, drawings, correspondence, and bid proposals. The contracts deal with various construction projects, but most relate to one of the following: lengthening of locks on the Erie and Oswego canals; attempt to enlarge the Champlain Canal; introduction of electricity to towage; second enlargement of the canals; and early stages of Barge Canal construction or the third enlargement. Subjects dealt with in detail include type of work to be performed; prices to be paid for materials and labor; materials and procedures to be used by contractors; and the supervision of construction projects.

**B0220. Canal contract final accounts, 1896-1905. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological

This series contains final contract accounts as well as explanations of extra work, receipts, and resident assistant and division engineers' affidavits to final accounts. Data provided includes name of contracting firm; date of contract; description of construction project; authorizing legislation; description of items purchased or services performed; quantities and cost of materials utilized; partial payments made by the Superintendent of Public Works to contractors; reasons for alternations; and explanation regarding extra work.

**B0345. Advertising journal for the letting of canal construction contracts, 1903-1923. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of advertisement.

**A3261. Electrical inspector's Barge Canal construction correspondence, 1911-1914. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By official (electrical inspector, Superintendent of Public Works), then chronological.

An electrical inspector employed by the Superintendent of Public Works kept this file documenting Barge Canal construction, especially concerning work on electrically-operated locks. The bulk of the series consists of the electrical inspector's reports to the Superintendent. The series also includes correspondence to the electrical inspector from companies supplying machinery or parts, and informational copies of mostly routine letters from the Superintendent to other employees or companies. The correspondence concerns such subjects as results of inspections (e.g. discovery of faulty capstan motors in canal locks); water levels in canals; construction work; need for and installation of lights; readiness of locks for navigation; damage, wear, and repairs to machinery; appointment, salaries, and training of lock employees; and operating procedures for locks.

**A1277. Notices of service upon owners of lands appropriated for the Barge Canal, 1906-1916. 0.8 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Three volumes contain carbon copies of affidavits of annexed notices of appropriations of property by the State. The affidavit is signed by an employee of the Department of Public Works (on behalf of the Superintendent of Public Works) and states that the Department under a law of 1903 has annexed the lands described and is thereby informing the owner of the land in writing as the Department has been unable to reach the owner in person.

These affidavits contain detailed descriptions of the land to be appropriated by the State for Barge Canal purposes pursuant to laws of 1903, 1909, and 1911. An insert in the beginning of volume 1905-1911 dated March 13, 1905 entitled "Procedure in taking possession of lands under Chapter 147 of the Laws of 1903" describes in detail the procedures and policies involved.

**B0338. Depositions regarding notices of land appropriations for Barge Canal purposes, 1913-1916. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of deposition.

**B0293. Index to canal structure map and plan books, ca. 1834-1905. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Cards indexing volumes of land appropriation maps and descriptions are alphabetical by county, and therein alphabetical by name of person from whom land was appropriated; cards indexing volumes of canal locations and structures are divided into three sets of cards: two sets are arranged by division (eastern, middle, western), then alphabetical by structure (abutments, aqueducts, bridges, etc.); the third set is alphabetical by subject.

These 3" x 5" cards serve as an index to series B0292, Canal Structure Map and Plan Books (page 38). The index is divided into two parts. One part indexes volumes containing maps and descriptions of lands appropriated by the State for canal purposes pursuant to Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1895. These cards provide name of the person from whom land was appropriated; number of acres; location (town, city, or village and county); and book number and page.

The second part indexes volumes containing maps, plans, drawings, and other records regarding the location of canals and related structures built thereon. Within this part of the index are three sets of cards. One handwritten set and one typed set provide division, canal, structure, book and page number, brief description of the reference, and occasionally the date of the reference. The third set of cards constitutes the bulk of this part of the index and provides a brief narrative description, book number, and page number.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A4290. Card index to western division canal maps, plans, estimates, and related structures, ca. 1830-1925. 1.5 cu. ft. (ca. 7,000 cards)**

Arrangement: By subject category.

This series indexes at least three series of records documenting work on the western division of the State's canal system: B0380, Western Division Maps and Plans (page 42); B1211, Roll Maps Relating to the Western Division of the Erie and Barge Canals (page 46); and B0730, Engineers' Field Books Pertaining to the Construction of the State's Canal System (page 37). The index cards were created to provide subject access to the various maps, plans, drawings, estimates, and related documents produced for the proposed work and ongoing maintenance of the canal system and its structures in the western division. The index remained in active use well into the 1970s.

The pre-printed 3" x 5" cards have handwritten information on them. Usually the subject reference is in the upper left corner and the map or book number in the upper right. "Map" numbers refer to maps, plans, drawings, profiles, and other related representations. "Book" numbers refer to field books. Cards typically contain such information as: kind of work or specific type of structure (e.g. "Whipple Arch bridge"); geographic coverage or specific work area; law and chapter number of authorizing legislation; and specific and sometimes extensive remarks (e.g. map "very old;" waste weir "on land of Elizabeth Dayton;" dates of surveys and names of surveyors).

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0738. Superintendent of Repairs' printed abstracts of expenditures for work on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1912-1923. 0.5 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0386. Duplicate petitions submitted to the Court of Claims pertaining to canal related damages, 1897-1908. 2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by claim number, corresponding to chronological order.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0340. Assistant Superintendent's record of bills pertaining to the eastern division, ca. 1911-1914. 1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of bill.

**B0368. Journal of receipts and expenditures for construction of Barge Canal, 1915-1918. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

**B0346. Ledgers for canal related accounts, 1886-1899. 1 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of account.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0373. Journal pertaining to canals, 1893-1899. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.



**B0342. Abstract registers of vouchers for money expended on State canals, 1916-1918. 1 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0337. Canal ice permits, 1895-1906. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of permit.

**B0697. Newspaper clippings regarding events on the Barge Canal, 1902-1908. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0341. Abstracts of expenditures, 1916-1921. 0.8 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

Finding aids: Volume list.

## **Superintendent of Public Works - Assistant Superintendent's Office**

**B1021. Photographs of culverts on western division of Erie Canal, ca. 1900. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by culvert number.

## **Superintendent of Public Works - General Inspector's Office**

**B0332. Newspaper clippings regarding canal operations and conditions, 1885-1912. 2 cu. ft. (10 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of clipping.

Finding aids: Container list.

## **Superintendent of Public Works - Publicity Agent's Office**

**B0234. Correspondence files, 1921-1922. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name of correspondent or firm.

Compiled by Charles E. Ogden, these files document the State's effort to promote widespread use of the Barge Canal. The files contain incoming and outgoing correspondence as well as newspaper clippings, magazine articles, brochures, and press releases. The records contain information on the preparation of lantern slides to be shown at various public forums, techniques for advertising and promoting the Barge Canal, goods shipped on the canal, the proposed re-introduction of canal passenger packets, and the distribution of literature and photographs regarding the State's canal system.

Finding aids: Folder list.

## **Superintendent of Public Works - Board of Consulting Engineerings**

**B0225. Correspondence files, 1904-1906. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These files contain incoming and outgoing correspondence, photographs, reports, blueprints, and maps generated by or directed to the Advisory Board of Consulting Engineers (predecessor to the Board of Consulting Engineers). The files deal with detailed technical matters concerning the location and construction of the Barge Canal as

well as general administrative subjects. Correspondence for 1907 through 1911 is not extant.

**B0221. Reports and recommendations, 1913-1914. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These records consist of typed carbon copies of reports and recommendations compiled by the Board of Consulting Engineers and submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor. The reports deal mainly with work already performed on Barge Canal contracts and proposed work. They provide detailed information on construction methods as well as the administrative processes involved in supervising construction progress. Moreover, the reports and recommendations are important because the State Engineer and Surveyor often followed the board's suggestions.

**B0222. Weekly employment reports, 1914-1921. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These reports provide information on the daily assignments and duties of consulting board members to review work completed on various Barge Canal construction projects. These are printed forms that were submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor at the end of each week (Monday through Saturday).

## ***Records of the General Surveyor***

### **Surveyor General**

**B0376. Index to contractors whose proposals were accepted for canal projects, ca. 1830-1840. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name of contractor.

**11835. Field notes, monthly work, material, and cost estimates, and measurements for Erie Canal enlargement, 1835-1844. 2 cu. ft. (24 volumes).**

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0722. Stone measurements and quantities used in the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1837-1840. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

### **State Engineer and Surveyor - General Administrative Records**

**B0226. Correspondence files, 1848-1921. 107.6 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By type of correspondence (incoming or outgoing), then chronological.

The bulk of this series consists of correspondence to or from the State Engineer and Surveyor. Also included are job applications; maps, tracings, plans, blueprints, and sketches; photographs; reports; newspaper, journal, and magazine clippings; legal opinions; weekly reports; orders; original and duplicate contracts; and copies of resolutions. The records relate to the construction, maintenance, operation, and administration of the State's canal system, in particular the second enlargement of the Erie and lesser canals and feeders and the construction of the Barge Canal. Most of the records concern the latter project.

Among the numerous topics documented are employment applications, appointments, promotions, and transfers for canal surveying and construction projects; claims against the State by individuals or companies for damages to their property during or after canal construction projects; land appropriations by the State; monthly and final cost estimates submitted for canal construction; property surveys; abandonment of canal lands previously owned by the State; purchase of equipment for construction projects; construction methods to be employed or avoided; proposed projects to be built on State canal lands; issuance of permits to allow private construction on State lands; physical condition of canal structures; canal contract alterations; opening and closing of the canal system; repair and location of boundary monuments; inspection of Barge Canal labor camps by State authorities; and canal navigation obstructions.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0250. Resident, division and assistant engineers' correspondence, 1904-1915. 1.3 cu. ft. (17 volumes)**

Arrangement: By engineer, then chronological.

This series consists of mostly duplicate copies of outgoing correspondence of resident, division, and assistant engineers involved with the construction of the Barge Canal. Also included in the volumes in smaller quantities are incoming correspondence, progress reports on contracts, final estimates, yearly reports, monthly reports, monthly expenditures and estimates, State property inventories, and detailed construction estimates.

Correspondence primarily concerns supervision of work on Barge Canal contracts numbers 4, 18, 44, and 50 and the Canaseraga Creek improvement project. The correspondence often provides information on progress of construction; construction practices employed; location of the canal along with dams, dikes, and other structures; land appropriations; and contract alterations, specifications, and estimates. Also included are routine administrative matters such as the renting of office space, employee vacations and absences, purchase of office supplies, and submission of reports.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0247. Administrative subject files, 1922, 1925. 8 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By subject, and filed numerically according to a system devised by the office of the State Engineer and Surveyor.

These files contain many of the same types of documents (except photographs) found in series B0226, Correspondence Files, described above (page 23). The files clearly reflect the various duties and functions of the State Engineer and Surveyor and cover such topics as personnel matters; routine administration (inventory of supplies, equipment purchases, etc.); Barge Canal construction and maintenance projects; joint topographical survey of the State with the U.S. Geological Survey; boundary line surveys (State and local); land appropriations; releases and easements; "blue line" surveys; abandonment and sale of canal lands; operation and navigation of the Barge Canal; canal alternations; damage claims filed against the State; complaints; floods and other disasters; and various canal structures.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A1275. Special Deputy State Engineer's monthly reports, 1917-1920. 1 volume**

This series consists of canal construction reports and cover letters from the Special Deputy State Engineer to the State Engineer and Surveyor. The reports include contract

number; location of construction; contractors; summary of work done; and percentage of work done. Laws of 1903 (Chapter 147) and 1909 (Chapter 267) provided for construction and improvements on canals, specified contracting procedures, and outlined the duties of the State Engineer in regard to such construction.

**B0232. Monthly reports, 1921. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

These reports, submitted by the State Engineer and Surveyor to the Canal Board, pertain to work performed on various contracts for the construction of Barge Canal terminals. The reports provide the contract number, description of the contract, and a brief narrative detailing work completed or unusual problems encountered during the reporting period.

**B0248. Engravings of plans, profiles, and maps accompanying the annual report of the State Engineer and Surveyor, 1859. 0.5 cu. ft. (15 printed engravings)**

Arrangement: None.

These engravings were compiled by Resident Engineer S.H. Sweet under the direction of State Engineer and Surveyor Van R. Richmond. They illustrate the "standard models from which are built the important structures on the New York State Canals." They depict timber locks, road bridges, aqueducts, truss bridges, dams, bulk heads, double locks, composite locks, farm bridges, waste weirs, culverts, and discharge pipes. The engravings were originally bound into a volume accompanying the 1859 Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor.

Finding aids: Item list.

**B0245. Opinions and abstracts of Attorney General's decisions, 1881-1895. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of issuance.

These printed and manuscript opinions and decisions rendered by the Attorney General were filed with the State Engineer and Surveyor's office. A few deal with canal-related matters such as the sale of unappropriated lands; others concern grants of land under water, city and village elections, excise commissioners, corrupt practices act (Chapter 94 of the Laws of 1890), and the filing of marriage certificates. Each opinion or decision provides a brief discussion of the matter in doubt, citation and interpretations of acceptable laws, and the Attorney General's Final Statement.

**A1143. Lists of appointments of assistant engineers and other employees, 1851-1900. 4 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by year and therein by division of canal.

This series consists of lists of appointments of assistant engineers, clerks, levelers, rodmen, chairmen, flagmen, draftsmen, and other engineering employees. Each entry on a list provides the name of appointee, nature of work, and compensation. The lists are signed by the State Engineer and Surveyor, division engineer, and resident engineer. The appointments were made by the Canal Commissioners pursuant to laws of 1817 (Chapter 262) and 1829 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 2, Section 15). A law of 1847 (Chapter 278) directed the Canal Commissioners to give engineers a copy of their appointments. Laws of 1850 (Chapter 377) and 1862 (Chapter 169) specified the number and duties of the various engineers.

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - General Canal Administration**

### **B0702. Middle division letter books, 1850-1890. 1.5 cu. ft. (13 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

### **B0690. Western division letter books, 1854-1899. 4 cu. ft. (32 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

### **B0731. Western division resident engineer's letter book, 1911-1912. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

### **B0325. Letters of instruction to western division engineers, 1903-1919. 0.5 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

### **B0740. Western division office report and letter book, 1875. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

### **A4022. Copy of annual report on the canals, 1851. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

This volume contains a manuscript copy of part of the State Engineer and Surveyor's 1851 annual report on canals, the original having been sent to the Speaker of the Assembly. The report is actually a compilation of several reports written by the State Engineer and Surveyor and by division engineers. The first report is an overview by the

State Engineer concerning construction completed, costs, estimated costs of needed work, and use of the canals. Similar reports by division engineers concern the sections of the canal system of which each was in charge. These reports include detailed tabular statements of costs and cost estimates for work on the canals.

The complete report was published as Assembly Document No. 70, 1852, and includes a number of canal diagrams and several hundred tabular statements not included in the manuscript copy. The copy does include all of the narrative sections of the report, with a few minor transcription errors.

**B0696. Report and estimates concerning the construction of gun boat locks on the eastern division of the Erie Canal, 1864. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0708. Reports, cost estimates, and certificates pertaining to the middle division of the canal system, 1862-1865. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0670. Western division engineers' annual reports, estimates of expenses, and other reports regarding canals, 1856-1901. 0.6 cu. ft (9 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0671. Western division resident engineer's annual report to division engineer, 1859-1860. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0668. Reports, statements, and estimates of expenses of western division engineer's office, 1850-1851. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0679. Engineers' progress reports regarding repairs and construction in western division of the Erie Canal, 1889-1890. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0725. Engineers' diaries, 1905-1939. 20 cu. ft.**

**B0231. Weekly reports of engineers regarding the Barge Canal, 1921. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Geographical by canal division (eastern, middle, western), then chronological.

These reports were submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor by division and senior assistant engineers who supervised the Barge Canal and terminal contract construction projects. The reports document weekly progress on construction projects already in progress or just started in 1921. The reports vary in form and content but usually provide detailed information concerning work done in offices and bureaus; surveying, mapping, and planning; canal maintenance and repairs; unusual events such as accidents or



sinkings; excavation of dirt or stone; canal claims; and the disposition of applications for grants of land under water.

**B0681. Histories of various canal projects on western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1880-1919. 0.4 cu. ft. (8 volumes)**

Arrangement: None.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0712. Journal of proceedings in engineer's office at Whitehall, 1856. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

**B0688. Journals for western division accounts, 1870-1905. 2.5 cu. ft. (10 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0372. Journals pertaining to canals, 1891-1916. 1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0352. Ledger, cash books, journal, and trial balance books, 1916-1920. 0.6 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0378. Journal and voucher register for Barge Canal contracts, 1905-1924. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0719. Resident engineer's ledger of expenses for the enlargement of the eastern division of the Erie Canal, 1854-1855. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0354. Index to eastern division employees ledger, 1899- 1902. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0715. Employees ledger regarding Champlain Canal improvement expenses, 1890-1902. 2 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0689. Ledgers for western division accounts, 1876-1904. 2 cu. ft. (5 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0351. Ledger books pertaining to canals, 1891-1921. 1.3 cu. ft. (6 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of account.

Finding aids: Volume list

**B0686. Ledger for canal construction projects and repairs, 1887-1907. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0377. Final estimates and accounts, ca. 1835-1905. 100 cu. ft. (215 volumes)**

Arrangement: By division, then by subject.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0347. Certified final accounts for canal construction projects, 1841-1896. 3 cu. ft. (18 volumes)**

Arrangement: By division, then chronological by date of final account.

Indexes: Each volume contains an index to contracts within that volume.

**B0654. Final accounts and estimates for Genesee Valley Canal and Ischua Feeder, 1854. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0359. Barge Canal final accounts, ca. 1906-1913. 0.8 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of final account.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0364. Barge Canal terminal final accounts, 1912. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Numerical by terminal contract number.

**B0698. Index to western division final accounts, ca. 1867, 1890. 0.3 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0717. Cash accounts regarding the eastern division of the Erie Canal and the Champlain Canal, 1884-1889. 0.1 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0652. Account books for the Genesee Valley Canal, ca. 1843, 1863. 2 cu. ft. (10 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by section number.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0398. Cost account volumes for the western division of the Erie Canal and Genesee Valley Canal, 1856-1878. 2 cu. ft. (33 volumes)**

Arrangement: By subject, then chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0736. Account books of payments made to companies and employees for work on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1905-1908. 0.5 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**B0741. Account books listing expenditures and monthly balance statements of the western division, 1911-1912. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0733. Accounts of costs and payrolls pertaining to Barge Canal contract 59, ca. 1918-1923. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0677. Division engineer's account book, 1872-1874. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0669. Western division resident engineer's day book, 1852- 1858. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0371. Cash book for the Barge Canal, 1913-1916. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

**B0723. Record of payments on various contracts pertaining to the eastern division, 1850-1862. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0705. Miscellaneous payments made for work done on the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1848-1868. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0706. Expenditures paid by engineers for work done on the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1848-1858. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0657. Division and assistant engineers' expense books regarding the western division, 1895-1899. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**B0703. Abstracts of accounts of labor and materials supplied for work done on the Erie and Genesee Valley canals, ca. 1840-1860. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0718. Summaries of expenditures made for repair and improvement of the Champlain Canal, 1889-1895. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0219. Abstracts of expenditures of Erie Canal contracts, 1900-1904. 2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

This series consists of printed forms submitted monthly by division engineers to the State Engineer and Surveyor. The abstracts deal mainly with administrative costs incurred during the project and provide name of division engineer; division (eastern, middle, western); period covered by abstract; voucher number; date; to whom paid; position (e.g. engineers, assistants, leveler, draftsman, etc.); salary; amounts paid (e.g. for printing, fuel and light, etc.); to whom paid; total amount paid to each work force member; column totals; division engineer's sworn attestation of the abstract's accuracy; signature of the State Engineer and Surveyor; date; category to which the abstract applies (ordinary repairs, extraordinary repairs, general funds, bridges, surveys for the Court of Claims, hydrography, repairs, and regular canal surveys); and authorizing legislation.

**B0363. Monthly summaries of payment for improvement of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals, 1903. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of summary.

**B0350. Abstracts of expenditures for construction of Barge Canal and terminals, 1903-1914. 2 cu. ft. (11 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract within subseries.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0362. Summary of engineering expenditures for constructing the Barge Canal, 1904-1911. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: By canal, then chronological by date of expenditure.

**B0349. Certified abstracts of expenditures, 1910-1914. 1 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0743. Western division engineers' abstracts of expenditures pertaining to employees, 1920-1926. 0.3 cu. ft.**

**B0370. Trial balance book for the Barge Canal, 1913-1916. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

**B0353. Index to final estimates of contracts for the eastern division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1880-1900. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0393. Barge Canal contract final estimate folios, ca. 1915-1920. 10 cu. ft. (17 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by contract number.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0397. Monthly estimates for improvement, repair, and enlargement of the State's canal system, 1835-1907. 29 cu. ft. (115 volumes)**

Arrangement: By division, then chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0655. Estimates for the Genesee Valley Canal, 1851-1855. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0374. Engineer's estimates of cost for canal contracts, ca. 1895-1915. 1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of estimate.

Finding aids: Volume list.

Indexes: Each volume contains an alphabetical index to projects.

**B0366. Monthly estimates for construction of Barge Canal, 1905. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by estimate number.

**B0365. Preliminary estimates for construction of Barge Canal, 1904-1916. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of estimate.

Indexes: Numerical index by contract number.

**B0732. Preliminary estimates of quantities and costs for Barge Canal contracts, 1907-1909. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0367. Preliminary estimates for construction of Barge Canal terminals, 1912-1918. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Numerical by terminal contract number.

**B0685. Summary of estimates for extraordinary canal repairs on the western division, 1895-1904. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0699. Bills of materials used in canal construction and repair projects, ca. 1854-1904. 1.2 cu. ft. (9 volumes)**

Arrangement: By division, then chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0720. Check register, 1920-1922. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0672. Work force account, contract, and estimates of expenses regarding Erie Basin and slips in Buffalo, 1858-1862. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0680. Weekly employee reports, 1885-1895. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0742. Salaries paid to personnel temporarily employed on the middle division of the Erie Canal, 1893-1906. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0684. Work force book for Section 13, 1898. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0683. Personal and employment histories of western division employees, 1899-1907. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0384. Eastern, middle, and western division canal records, ca. 1848-1900. 12.5 cu. ft.**

These records consist of fragments from many series relating to canals. The records include calculations, specifications, monthly estimates, instructions, damage claims, contracts, Canal Board resolutions, surveys, preliminary estimates, advertisements, lettings, proposals, maps, plans, and final accounts.

**B0326. Requisitions for supplies for construction of the Barge Canal, 1908. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of requisition.

**B0682. Copies of permits issued by the Superintendent of Public Works, 1853-1892. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Contracts**

**B0658. Contract and specification forms regarding the Genesee Valley Canal, 1838. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0355. Contract proposals for the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1847-1854, bulk 1847-1850. 1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of proposal.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0659. Notices, written explanations, blank contracts, and specifications exhibited at lettings at Rochester and Clyde, 1850. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**B0660. Contracts and specifications exhibited and proposals received at letting in Lockport for Oak Orchard Creek Aqueduct, 1850. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**B0661. Register of contracts, field and office books, and other matters relating to the Erie Canal enlargement, 1851. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0662. Index to proposals received at Albany, 1851, 18 Jan. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0735. Printed quantities exhibited at lettings for the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1851. 0.3 cu. ft.**

**B0734. Contract specimens pertaining to the 1854 enlargement of the State's canals, 1854-1859. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0710. Letting records regarding various canals and locations of the western division, ca. 1860-1868. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0663. Index to contractors' proposals for work on the western division, ca. 1850-1901. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**B0687. Contract specifications, engineers' estimates, and related documents pertaining to the Nine Million Dollar Canal Improvement, 1892-1905. 1 cu. ft. (6 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0395. Contract plans relating to improvement of the Erie and Oswego canals, ca. 1895-1898. 36 cu. ft.**



Arrangement: Numerical by contract number.

These plans, made up in part of maps, drawings, specifications, and related forms of material, show proposed work for which contracts were let during the "Nine Million Dollar Improvement" of the Erie and Oswego canals in accordance with legislation of 1895 (Chapter 79), 1896 (Chapter 794), and 1897 (Chapters 43 and 569). Multiple sheets exist for each contract, including some or all of the following: blueprint copies of letting plans, grouped into sets containing many different forms of material; original maps, drawings, or tracings on architect's linen; hand drawn plans or diagrams on graph paper; preliminary specifications, both handwritten and print annotated; and printed contract specifications.

The graphic representations in the blueprint plans typically cover particulars of a job site (e.g. elevations), type of structure (e.g. bridges), or areas where work is to be undertaken; markers or other orientation aids (e.g. location of bolts set in masonry); type of material or condition of soil involved (e.g. timber or stone aprons); and proposed improvements to existing canal feeders or to specific structures (e.g. sewer lines, steel bulkheads; cement tile culverts, bridge abutments, vertical stone walls).

Sheets containing original maps, drawings, and tracings filed among the plans include such information as high water marks; location of the old and new canal bottom; condition of base rock and foundation and the improvements made to them; and a comparison of old to new construction (e.g. new wall, old wall), usually set off in colored inks. The maps sometimes show the blue line of the canal (boundary of State- owned property), buildings specifically labeled as to type of business (e.g. store, barber, mill, etc.), and name of businesses or property owners.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0230. Contractors' monthly estimates, ca. 1898-1902. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By contract project, then chronological.

These "estimates of work done and material delivered" were compiled monthly by canal project contractors. The estimates, which were submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor for verification before payment was made to the contractors, concern various pre-Barge Canal construction projects. They provide the following data: period covered by the estimate; name of contractor; date of contract; description of canal project; authorizing legislation; quantities of materials; description of items; contract price and total amount; percentage retained; amount of payment; materials delivered (quantity, description of items, contract price, and total amount); extra work performed; materials furnished by the State, if applicable; and estimate figures.

**B0358. Canal contract registers, 1898-1926. 1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by year.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0394. Barge Canal contract cross section sheets, 1916, 1922. 1 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0391. Barge Canal contract location maps, ca. 1904-1905. 2 cu. ft. (18 volumes consisting of one colored map in numerous sections on 18 sheets)**

The series consists of cut up sections of a printed U.S. Geological Survey topographic map of New York State that has been annotated to locate the areas covered by Barge Canal contracts. The map sections are undated but the series apparently complies with specific requirements of section four of the Barge Canal Law (Laws of 1903, Chapter 147). This law directed that all authorized canal work be done by contract, and that before any contract could be made the State Engineer must divide the whole work into sections suitable for contracting, and make maps, plans, and specifications for the work to be done.

Each of the three canal divisions and the separate canals on each division were divided into residencies, with work in each residency done under the direction of a resident engineer or an assistant engineer in charge. In 1904 the canal line was divided into 15 sections or residencies for conducting work in the field; the presence of residency numbers dates the series from approximately that time.

Annotations are by hand and in color, and were apparently made on a single topographic map of the entire State that was subsequently cut up. Contract numbers and the area covered by each contract are marked in red, with the names of respective contractors marked below them in black. Maps also provide residency numbers and these areas are marked by bars of color that remain constant throughout all map sections.

**B0236. Walters Act administrative files, 1918-1919. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical.

In 1918, the legislature passed an act (Chapter 585) to alleviate the heavy financial losses faced by canal contractors due to the economic uncertainty created by America's entry into World War I. The State Engineer and Surveyor was charged with the proper administration of this law, known as the Walters Act. These files document the actions taken by the State Engineer and Surveyor in dealing with contractors applying for assistance under the provisions of this act. The series includes correspondence, memoranda, journals, financial statements submitted by contractors, cost estimates, and inventories of construction materials.

Indexes: Series B0241, Card Index to the Walters Act Administrative Files (page 37), provides name and subject access to this series.

**B0241. Card index to the Walters Act administrative files, 1918-1919. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name of correspondent or subject.

These 3" x 5" cards serve as a name and subject index to series B0236, Walters Act Administrative Files, described above (page 36).

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Construction, Maintenance, and Operation**

**B0730. Engineers' field books pertaining to the construction of the State's canal system, ca. 1830-1920. 238.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by book number within subseries.

This series consists mainly of field books. Canal engineers and employees apparently used the term "field books" to refer to various types of notes, measurements, etc. compiled in the field while surveying, constructing, or maintaining the State's canal system. The field books contain notes on numerous topics such as land ownership and property valuations; spoil bank elevations; property monuments; culvert stations; prism soundings; railroad embankments; transit points; situation surveys and topography; foundation piles; original abutments; centerlines; flowlines; preliminary surveys; river straightening lines; proposed layouts; bridge inspections; highway locations; contract prices; accidents; weather and water heights; work performance and daily progress; property deeds; bridge abutments; dry river surveys; blue and red line surveys; and town and State boundary line surveys.

Somewhat similar to these notes are measurements recording dimensions of buildings and canal structures; water gage readings; ditches; lock levels; sluices; cross banks; spoil sections; prism embankments; and vertical velocities of the Mohawk River.

In addition to the notes and measurements, many of the field books contain such information as inventories and sketches of electrical equipment used for specific canal contracts; engineers' observations; Barge Canal terminal foundation plans; structural specifications; ditch profiles; original, monthly, and final cross sections; original prism and surface cross sections; final accounts; and diagrams, sketches, profiles, and drawings of various areas and canal structures, some remarkably detailed.

Filed with these field books are records such as engineers' daily reports; monthly construction estimate notes; order and alteration books; sketch books; building measurements; property valuations; employment time books and work force accounts; bridge inspection notes; engineers' diaries; Barge Canal monthly contract estimates; canal collectors' toll and certificate books; and deed descriptions.

Finding aids: Volume list.

Indexes: Western division field books are indexed by series A4290, Card Index to Western Division Canal Maps, Plans, Estimates and Related Structures (page 19).

**B0692. Final calculations regarding construction of State canals, ca. 1831-1861. 9 cu. ft. (21 volumes)**

Arrangement: None.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0399. Preliminary estimates, calculations, and measurements for canal system construction and repair, ca. 1835-1912. 17 cu. ft. (49 volumes)**

Arrangement: By division, then roughly chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0724. Accounts, notes on damages, and survey computations for enlargement of the Erie Canal, ca. 1839-1845. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0676. Engineer's formula book also containing specifications and drawings, ca. 1869-1878. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0739. Record of cement received and used for Barge Canal contract No. 60, 1908-1909. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0233. Card index to locations of Barge Canal construction records, 1917-1921. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

These 5" x 7" and 5" x 8" index cards list locations of various Barge Canal construction records, including maps; terminal field books; final estimates for both terminal and Barge Canal contracts; Barge Canal field computation, construction, and cross section books; and unidentified "sheets." The office of State Engineer and Surveyor apparently compiled the index to account for the whereabouts of the working documents relating to construction of the Barge Canal. It is not known exactly which series are being indexed. Most of the field, computation, construction, and cross section books indexed are held by the State Archives.

Cards indexing the field, computation, construction, and cross section books provide book number, to whom given, date, purpose, and "where now filed." Cards indexing terminal and Barge Canal contract final estimates provide a brief description of what comprises the estimates, number of pages, total number of "sheets," location, and usually the date when the inventory occurred. Index cards to the maps provide a description of the map and an unidentified set of numbers.

**B0292. Canal structure map and plan books, ca. 1827-1905. 135 cu. ft. (135 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by volume number (might have originally been arranged according to canal).

These volumes contain drawings, maps, plans, diagrams, tracings, cross sections, and profiles of much of the State's canal system and its related structures, executed in ink, charcoal, or water colors. In addition, some volumes contain field notes, correspondence, estimates, bills of quantities, and contract specifications.

The volumes deal with the enlargement of the Erie and Champlain canals; the building of the Oswego, Cayuga and Seneca, Chenango, Black River, and Genesee Valley canals; and the appropriation of lands by the State for canal use. In particular, the volumes provide detailed information concerning the location, dimensions, specification, and construction of related canal structures including weigh locks, aqueducts, locks, waste weirs, culverts, bridges, trussings, dams, gates, bulkheads, lock irons, towpaths, slope walls, proposed gun boat locks, basins, docks, abutments, reservoirs, sluices, and lock houses.

Finding aids: Partial volume list.

Indexes: Series B0293, Index to Canal Structure Map and Plan Books (page 19), indexes this series by name of individual, location, structure, or subject.

**B0356. Index book to mechanical structures on canals, ca. 1850-1895. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by type of structure, then chronological by date of construction.

**A1272. Scrapbook of photographs and diagrams of canal, highway, and watershed construction, 1898-1907. 1 volume**

Arrangement: None.

This series contains printed maps, photographs, diagrams, and charts apparently cut from publications produced by the State Engineer and Surveyor's office. The records illustrate various construction and improvement projects done on State highways and waterways and depict proposed work and work in progress on canals, roads, and their related structures. The illustrations are typical of those found in the State Engineer and Surveyor's annual reports and Barge Canal Bulletin.

Scrapbook items include printed copies of black and white captioned photographs of natural features, damaged or repaired structures, work sites, examples of specific work conditions or situations, work equipment, and worker portraits; printed maps showing work progress, surveyed areas, lines of levels and catchment areas, locations of gaging stations, benchmarks and population areas, and possible locations for improved roads; hydrographs dating from 1891 to 1901 of the monthly discharge levels of various bodies of water; and plans, sketches, sectional drawings, and general designs for structures and details (e.g. dams, bridges, gates, weirs, gages), and sketches of soil depth and composition.

**B0727. Glass plate negatives depicting construction of the western division of the Barge Canal, ca. 1907-1921. 92 cu. ft. (ca. 6,000 negatives)**

Negatives show detailed views of the construction of the western section of the Barge Canal. The negatives are approximately 6" x 8" and are enclosed in envelopes providing plate number, subject, locality, contract number, and date taken.

Indexes: Series B0728, Index to Glass Plate Negatives Depicting Construction of the Western Division of the Barge Canal (page 40), indexes this series.

**B0728. Index to glass plate negatives depicting construction of the western division of the Barge Canal, ca. 1907-1921. 2 cu. ft.**

**11833. Barge Canal construction photographs, 1905-1921. 21.3 cu. ft.**

These photographs appear to have been submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor by the Board of Consulting Engineers, a board of five civil engineers appointed to follow the progress of work on the canal system and to report on it to the State Engineer and Surveyor. Photographs were taken at the end of each month just before monthly cost estimates of work to be done were made.

Photographs show canals; locks; dams; bridges; piers; nearby buildings; damages needing repair; and dredging, excavation, repairs, and construction work in progress. Included are photographs of Barge Canal terminal structures in Buffalo. Captions typed or written on most photographs provide date of photograph; negative number; contract number; and location. Series B0727 (page 39) contains related glass plate negatives of western division Barge Canal construction.

**B0361. Bridge survey registers, 1877. 0.6 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By division, the numerical by bridge number.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**A3259. Canal bridge reference lists, ca. 1917. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Legislation of 1903 (Chapter 147, Section 3) directed the State Engineer and Surveyor and the Superintendent of Public Works to improve the Erie, Oswego, and Champlain canals. Where required, new bridges were to be built either to replace old ones or to accommodate new canal locations.

The State Engineer and Surveyor kept these records of bridges over the Erie Canal and the Barge Canal in connection with his responsibilities for improvement of the State's canal system. The lists vary in format and content but may provide such information as contract number; name of bridge; location; measurements such as lowest point on

structure, normal pool elevation, and clearance; by whom maintained (State, county, or railroad); and costs.

**B0678. Time book pertaining to locking procedures in the western division of the Erie Canal, 1879. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0707. Gage descriptions from various locations on State canals, 1905-1910. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0389. Copies of hydrographs and flow data of the Canaseraga and Keshequa Creeks and the Genesee River, ca. 1910-1919 (bulk 1918-1919). 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume containing 93 hydrographs)**

This series consists of blueprint copies of hydrographs of the Canaseraga and Keshequa Creeks and of the Genesee River showing gage heights and discharge at various points and stations along those waterways in 1918 and 1919. The volume also includes several sheets of hydrographs dated July 1916 showing water surface elevation at gaging stations maintained in connection with the Canaseraga Creek improvement. A section of "Flood Hydrographs" dating from 1910 to 1918 includes some penciled annotations. It is possible that these hydrographs are part of the data used for the Report on Stream Gaging section of the Report on Hydraulic Data routinely found in the annual reports of the State Engineer and Surveyor.

State funds were frequently appropriated for hydrographic work connected with measurements of volumes of streams and flow of water in the State for the purpose of determining water supply available for canals, for potable and domestic purposes, and for the development of water power. The Barge Canal area was especially important (and difficult to monitor) for flood prevention and related navigation and damage control problems. Data was accumulated for many canal improvement projects related to problems of drainage and water run off and supply.

**B0388. Record books of watersheds and related improvements in the western division of the Barge Canal, 1919-1920. 0.5 cu. ft. (9 volumes containing 11 maps)**

Arrangement: By watershed.

The series consists of copies of data, reports, maps, and related records on work done as improvements to the State's infrastructure. They were gathered into volumes by the office of the State Engineer and Surveyor according to the watershed areas found in western New York. The data accumulated for many improvement projects related to how waterways were used or improved for navigation purposes, for flood prevention, or for health protection. The records logically relate to problems of drainage and protection associated with the canal system.

According to the filing scheme, streams were classified into eight watersheds; a reference index and filing systems were devised, and information on each watershed was



assembled separately. Volumes contain an index page listing specific file contents. These contents are divided into the following sections: an outline of the classification of streams in the watershed; data on rivers and tributaries arranged according to the classification scheme and then within certain subject areas (e.g. drainage area [figures], rain and stream gages); miscellaneous plans (those not listed with the particular statute with which they are identified); and a list of related records (such as reports, notes from reports, newspaper clippings, and correspondence).

Examples of records grouped in the volumes include investigation reports on flood damage, proposed improvements, or navigation conditions; data on discharges, river slopes, elevations, and water levels and flow; and narratives on legal rights, pertinent statutes, and engineering issues relating to dams, bridges, and waterway access.

Indexes: Specific reference indices are present for contents of various subdivisions.

Finding aids: Volume list.

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Structures and Lands**

**B0653. Profiles of Locks 98 and 99 on the Genesee Valley Canal, ca. 1843. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0729. Roll maps and plans of the middle division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1850-1905. 120 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by map or plan number.

Indexes: Card index arranged by canal, then subject.

**B0726. Maps pertaining to the 1854 enlargement of the western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1850. 18 cu. ft. (48 items)**

**B0379. Maps, plans, details, and drawings of structures and locations of the middle and western divisions of the Erie, Genesee Valley, and Oswego canals, 1830-1900, bulk 1860-1900. 9 cu. ft. (27 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by volume number.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0380. Western division canal maps and plans, ca. 1879-1925, bulk ca. 1896-1912. 174 cu. ft. (ca. 3,800 items of which ca. 1,200 are maps)**

Arrangement: Numerical by map number.

This series contains maps and plans, including drawings, cross sections, profiles, diagrams, and other related representations, documenting work done to enlarge, improve, and maintain the channel and structures in the western division of the canal system. The series is a mix of original manuscripts, tracings, and blueprint copies and apparently represents the main file for western division work.

Usually several distinct but related pieces are found together. For example, sheets of draft plans done in pencil are followed by inked versions, tracings, or blueprints of the same depiction. Similarly, a general plan might be accompanied by several sheets of separate details. Sheets are grouped according to a specific job or feature, and sometimes according to a distinct work contract.

Finding aids: Drawer contents list.

Indexes: Series A4290, Card Index to Western Division Canal Maps, Plans, Estimates, and Related Structures (page 19), is a partial index to this series.

**B0360. Index to maps and plans, ca. 1851-1895. 0.6 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of volume.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0675. Detailed estimates and location maps for proposed construction of gun boat locks on the western division of the Erie Canal, 1863. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes containing 17 maps)**

Arrangement: Numerical by lock number within volume.

This series contains location maps and illustrated estimates of raw materials and quantities of material to be excavated during proposed construction of gun boat locks on the western division of the Erie Canal. The volumes occasionally contain scattered plans of related structures such as abutments, culverts, approaches, and finishing banks, and also a few general plans of locks and bulkheads. The estimates are accompanied by individual detail drawings that profile the work being estimated.

A joint resolution of the Senate and Assembly, passed April 20th and 24th, 1863, authorized the State Engineer and Surveyor to survey and estimate the cost of constructing enlarged tiers of locks along the Erie Canal to facilitate passage of "vessels, gunboats, troops and munitions" of the United States army. The maps show the location of these proposed locks, the canal channel, and the lands immediately adjacent to it. Typical features include exact siting of proposed lock and related construction (e.g., vertical walls); new canal channels; center line of towpath; existing canal structures and properties (e.g. waste weirs, lock house lots); significant roads, railroad lines, bodies of water, or buildings near or crossing the canal; State-owned land; property boundaries and names of land owners; and notes on permanent land appropriation, including name of property owners and acreage.

Estimates accompanying the maps are for such work as excavation of old lock walls; calculation of new masonry; rebuilding of abutments; bridge conversions; towpath construction; and road culverts and plans for abutments to road bridges and approaches.

Indexes: An index to lock numbers appears at the end of each volume.

**B0651. Original and preliminary cross sections for 1876 survey of the western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1877. 1.5 cu. ft. (13 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by volume number and therein geographical according to lock number and station number.

This series consists of hand-drawn cross sectional diagrams produced from a survey made to determine conditions and needed improvements to the Erie Canal. The diagrams show conditions of the canal bed and riparian decay in portions of the western division of the canal, beginning at Lock 52 at the Wayne County line and ending at the Black Rock Guard Lock. The cross sections are done in colored ink on graphing paper and show

water level (blue line), condition of the canal bottom (black line), and the proposed improvement configuration (red line). Laws of 1876, Chapter 425 directed the State Engineer and Surveyor to survey the Erie Canal to ascertain its condition and where it required improvement, and to report the findings to the Canal Board with recommendations on the work and its probable cost.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0650. Original and preliminary cross sections for 1895 survey of Erie Canal improvement, ca. 1896. 6 cu. ft. (17 volumes)**

Arrangement: Geographical by canal division, then numerical by contract or section number, then by station number.

This series consists of hand-drawn cross sectional drawings from an 1895 survey done for proposed canal improvements. The diagrams indicate elevations of the existing canal bed and adjoining abutments and calculate the degree of change, or excavation, needed to deepen the canal. The drawings chart parts of the middle and western division of the Erie and Oswego canals, along with several prominent feeders. The records resulted from Laws of 1895, Chapter 79, authorizing the enlargement and improvement of the Erie, Oswego, and Champlain canals.

The drawings are done in black, red, and blue ink on graphing paper. The black line represents the existing canal bed; the red line shows proposed improvements; the blue line shows the water level of the canal. Measurements give changes in elevation for use in determining the amount of excavation or fill needed for the improvements.

Six volumes, entitled "Original Survey Cross Sections," are arranged by contract number, indicating that they document areas covered by existing canal contracts for which further work is proposed. These six volumes cover the middle division of the Erie and Oswego canals, the Black River Canal, and several feeders. Eleven volumes, entitled "Cross Sections Preliminary Survey," are arranged by section number, indicating that no existing contracts had been let for the proposed work. These eleven volumes cover sections 13 to 23 of the western division of the Erie Canal, including some slips and feeders.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0396. Sectional canal survey maps of the 1895 improvement of the Erie Canal, ca. 1896-1897. 12 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by section number.

These sectional maps are apparently the product of the surveys undertaken by the State Engineer and Surveyor in accordance with Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1895 authorizing enlargement and improvement of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals. The maps are highly detailed, and they might be the preliminary survey maps from which subsequent Barge Canal sectional maps were made (see series B0253, page 45).

The maps show property and buildings fronting the canal and considerable tracts of land extending on either side of the canal. Information on the maps includes property lines and names of land owners and estates; previous canal alignments, location of ditches and washes, and State-owned land; condition of the land (e.g. swamps, clearings, and woodlands); land cultivation and use; natural bodies of water; streets, roads, highways, and railroad platforms and tracks; dwellings and accompanying out-buildings; and businesses and storage sites.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0253. Barge Canal sectional maps ("Schillner Maps"), ca. 1896. ca. 132 cu. ft. (71 maps)**

Arrangement: By location.

This series consists of 71 manuscript maps depicting land along the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals acquired by the State for canal purposes up to 1896. The maps are apparently the product of surveys conducted by the office of the State Engineer and Surveyor in response to Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1895, which appropriated nine million dollars for the improvement of the canals. These maps contain only selected information from the even more detailed surveys (see series B0396, page 44).

Each sectional map provides detailed information on State-owned property, depicted as the area between two solid blue lines. The maps are especially important because they show, within dotted blue lines, the locations of the 1825 canal alignment and the related structures which had since been obliterated, such as locks, slips, dams, bridges, and roads. In addition they show city, town and county lines; streams, rivers, bodies of water and islands; property lines, along with names of owners and sometimes acreage of land; and streets, railroad lines, businesses and civic landmarks (ice companies, mills, cemeteries, etc.).

The maps are commonly referred to as the "Schillner Maps" after George L. Schillner, who apparently supervised their execution in 1896. No scale is given, but figures mark canal frontage and survey measurements by number of chains (1 chain = 66 feet).

Finding aids: Item listing.

**B1009. New York State Barge Canal plans, 1920. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume containing 156 plates)**

These plates of plans, drawings, profiles and location maps relate to the improvement and enlargement of the Barge Canal. The volume was issued as a supplement to the State Engineer and Surveyor's 1920 annual report with the express intent to preserve the work of the engineers involved, to "be of lasting benefit to the engineering profession" and to assist in the design of future public or private works.

The plates show typical work done as well as some features special or unique to the Barge Canal project. Two examples of unique engineering problems documented are Cohoes Falls, which resulted in the greatest series of high lift locks then known in the world; and the gorge near Medina at Oak Orchard Creek, which required an unusually high channel and walls bordering the gorge--after plans for the largest (at that time) single span concrete structure ever devised were given up. Since locks and dams were the most important structures in the project they, along with bridges, are most frequently represented in the volume.

Generally the plates depict the following structures: typical channel sections, prism walls and the types of wall and bank protection employed; locks; power plants; fixed and movable dams (including a dam with automatic crest that originated in the course of designing the canal); guard gates; siphon spillways (which also originated with barge canal design, providing automatic starting and stopping of the flow of water); culverts and aqueducts (notably the largest one in the barge system, which did not have the long aqueducts found in the old canal system); bridges (lift, bascule, and steel arch types); terminal piers and dockwalls; and navigation aids (lighthouse towers, tankhouses, etc.). The few maps found in the volume are strictly for location and are placed within the larger general plan.

Indexes: A list of plates in front of volume functions as an index.

**B1212. Roll survey maps relating to the 1854 survey in the western division, ca. 1830-1890. 6 cu. ft. (49 rolls containing about 55 colored maps)**

Arrangement: Numerical by roll number.

These maps were prepared in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Laws of 1854 authorizing the Canal Commissioners to "bottom out" the narrow and crooked parts of the Erie, Oswego, and Cayuga and Seneca canals in order to admit large boats. As a result, the State Engineer and Surveyor undertook new surveys, maps, plans, and estimates covering the work.

These maps were created to show the proposed changes. Maps typically depict property boundaries and names of property owners; character or cultivation of the land; bodies of water; roads and streets; railroads; and prominent buildings and private dwellings, often showing owners' names. Colored lines, numbers, and shadings indicate the inner angle of the towpath, boundaries of State-owned lands, and appropriated lands.

**B1211. Roll maps relating to the western division of the Erie and Barge canals, ca. 1850-1910. 27 cu. ft.**

Indexes: Series A4290, Card Index to Western Division Canal Maps, Plans, Estimates, and Related Structures (page 19), is a partial index to this series.

**B1210. Middle and western division survey maps for the proposed 1895 Erie Canal enlargement, ca. 1895-1900. 32 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal, and therein geographically.

Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1895 authorized the "Nine Million Dollar" improvement and enlargement of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals. The maps are the results of the surveys undertaken for the proposed canal improvements. These maps were particularly important for their representation of State-owned land in light of land appropriation needs and the damages that would occur during canal improvement and repair. Measurements of canal length are given, especially at point of land curvature. Lines show the historic alignment of the old canal and the proposed new canal alignment. Maps also show town, city, and county lines; names of some land owners, or parcel numbers, of property adjacent to the canal; outlines of some buildings along the canal route, sometimes with name of company or owner; natural bodies of water or canal feeders crossing the canal; and locks, parapets, aqueducts, and other related structures.

Finding aids: Container list.

**14068. Erie and Champlain canals topographic survey maps ("egg shell maps"), ca. 1904-1915. 40 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal, then numerical by assigned number.

Commonly referred to as "egg shell maps" because of the paper on which they were executed, these maps depict in minute detail lands adjacent to the Erie and Champlain canals during the time of their enlargement and improvement as the Barge Canal. The maps apparently date from the time of the initial Barge Canal Law of 1903 (Chapter 147).

The purpose of these maps appears to have been to provide an accurate depiction of the land taken up by and surrounding the canal in order to determine both private and State ownership of land, and to provide the most accurate survey measurements possible for the canal enlargement and improvement. The maps show blue lines representing State-owned land; red lines representing the inner line of the towpath; green lines representing a new channel line (when dotted) or a potential flood line (when solid); contour lines, land elevations, and depths of bodies of water; and lines showing boundaries of specific work contracts.

Some maps occasionally depict property lines, parcel numbers, and names of property owners; outlines of buildings, sometimes with names; location of existing canal structures and railroad and telegraph lines; and swamps, fens, and other natural phenomena. One hundred two maps depict the Erie Canal from Albany to Morris Landing. Fifty-four maps depict the Champlain Canal from First Street in Troy to Northumberland. Most maps appear to have a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet, although some have a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet.

**B0224. Reports and supporting records regarding survey for proposed canal between the Barge Canal and Cayuga Lake, 1906. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date.

These are typed reports, tables, charts, and estimates for a proposed canal authorized by Chapter 700 of the Laws of 1905. Most of the reports are directed to State Engineer and Surveyor Henry A. Van Alstyne. The records mainly concern the feasibility of the proposed canal project, its estimated cost, which route would be the most efficient, and the type and amount of work required for such a project. There are also detailed reports on such subjects as the regulation of the water surface in Cayuga Lake.

**B0695. Water supply computations for Black River survey, 1911. 0.3 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

**A0812. Map of improvements to state ditch off the Chemung Canal, ca. 1870. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 map)**

This single map shows proposed improvements to a State ditch located off the Chemung Canal. The map shows lines for a proposed correction and extension of the ditch to contain water at low areas between the Chemung Canal and the Chemung Canal Feeder. The base map, entitled "Map of Lands Wet by Leakage from Chemung Feeder Horseheads," might have been prepared for the Canal Appraisers, who assessed the value of damages from canal breaks. The annotations were apparently made as an estimate of possible damages and cost of the proposed maintenance on the State ditch.

The map shows property lines, names of owners, and topographical symbols marking swamplands; lines for proposed changes to the State ditch; part of the Chemung Canal near lock 45; part of the Chemung Canal Feeder near locks 51 and 52 and the adjacent waste weir; two cross sections, one "on Sayre's north line" and the other below lock 52, which would encompass property affected by the proposed new ditch; and profile of surface water in the ditch from lock 45 to locks 51 and 52 at the feeder. Blue lines represent State-owned land, and red lines (survey measurements) follow and enlarge the old ditch.

**B0390. Survey records and estimates for proposed Chemung Canal reconstruction, 1913-1914. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

This series consists of maps, profiles, plans, survey documents, diagrams, estimates, and the final report on a proposed improvement of the Chemung Canal. Also included are two volumes of a daily journal of Resident Engineer Louis A. Burns, who was in charge of the project and prepared the final report. The proposed improvement amounted to a continuation of the Barge Canal extending south from Seneca Lake to the terminus at Montour Falls. The records also concern a proposed feeder that would ensure the canal an adequate water supply.



The series includes maps of Montour Falls and surrounding communities; plans and profiles of the proposed feeder showing features such as the old canal line, the proposed new channel, and depth and type of ground material (rock, gravel, clay, etc.); book of elevations, base line stations, and benchmarks; diagrams of water levels and channel depths; illustrations of hydrology and water supply issues (used as plates in the final report); two books entitled "Reference Copy of Estimate Chemung Canal Survey" provide cost estimates for prism excavation, structures, and damages as well as measures and amount of estimated expenditures and figures on the water supply required and the estimated cost of reservoirs and cost per million cubic feet of water stored; and a copy of Burns' final report containing many of the diagrams found in the series and providing background information on the history of the Chemung Canal, work methodology, and results.

Finding aids: Item list.

Indexes: Volume 1 of the "Reference Copy of Estimate Chemung Canal Survey" contains an index.

**B0215. Abandoned canal lands and blue line survey files, 1914-1923. 8 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name of city, town, or village where lands are located.

These files consist of maps (both original and tracings), correspondence, memoranda, reports, resolutions, descriptions of lands, appraisers' reports of encroachments, revised land appraisals, and permits. The bulk of these records concern the description, appraisal, and sale of abandoned canal lands by the State to the public. The remainder of the records pertain to progress reports regarding the completion of "blue line" surveys, upon which the State relied heavily in disposing of abandoned canal lands. Of particular note in these files are the land descriptions, tracings, and appraisal reports containing detailed descriptions and measurements of lands proposed for sale as well as the names of adjoining property owners. Also included is financial information about land value and notes and descriptions regarding structures illegally built on State- owned lands.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0691. Copies of Monroe County Clerk's Office records of awards, deeds, and claims for canal lands, 1822-1884, bulk 1822-1862, 1884. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0664. Description of lands appropriated for Genesee Valley Canal, 1839-1882. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0656. Record of land appropriations and damage awards relating to the Genesee Valley Canal, 1843-1847. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0665. Copies of maps of lands appropriated for the enlargement of the Erie Canal at Lyons and Palmyra, 1849. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Geographical by village and therein by property owner.

These maps, apparently copies made for canal appraisers by western division engineers, contain the property owners' names and acreage of land appropriated. Other information sometimes present includes general dimensions and acreage of specific land parcels; condition of land (e.g. meadow); streets, roads, junction lines, and locks; acreage of permanent appropriations for roads, bridge embankments, spoil banks, gravel, and lands destroyed for material; acreage formerly appropriated to the old Erie Canal or for unspecified purposes; and acreage temporarily occupied by stone and timber. Volume 1 covers Lyons; volume 2 covers Palmyra.

Indexes: Volume 2 (Palmyra) contains an index by name of property owner.

**B0713. Maps of lands in the Rochester area claimed as damaged in the Erie Canal enlargement, ca. 1870. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: None.

These maps of lands along the canal in the City of Rochester and the Town of Greece typically show plot of land and name of owner; acreage; metes and bounds of the property; dimensions of spoil banks; and parts of roads or streets adjacent to the property. The maps were apparently prepared to settle damage claims filed by property owners whose land had been appropriated for canal enlargement. Blue lines on the maps indicate boundaries of State-owned land. Yellow shading represents land from which the appropriation was made.

Indexes: Contents listing of maps in volume.

**B0667. Maps and descriptions of lands temporarily appropriated for State canals, 1897-1907. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0674. Maps and descriptions of western lands permanently appropriated for use of the State canals, 1899-1907. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: By district and therein roughly chronological by year of survey certification.

This series consists of blueprints which are tracings of maps of land appropriations along the Erie Canal in Wayne County (District No. 3) and Monroe and Orleans counties (District No. 4). Each map provides name of person from whom land was appropriated; town and county in which the land is located; a legend symbol indicating gas pipe monuments; and a written survey description of the appropriated land.

Indexes: Alphabetical name index to property owners in back of volume.

**B0666. Checklist of maps and list of Court of Claims awards regarding land appropriations, 1900-1901. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0357. Index to Barge Canal releases, 1906-1926. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name.

**B0387. Stenographer's minutes of Jenkins and Perkins against the State of New York in the Court of Claims, 1917. 0.3 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

**B0249. Accounts of property first cleared and left at Boonville on the Black River Canal, 1857-1894. 3 cu. ft. (57 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These oversized volumes contain detailed statistical data on agricultural and manufactured goods that passed through the toll collector's office at Boonville on the Black River Canal. Although tolls were abolished in 1882, the data continued to be collected in order to record tonnage shipped on the canals. These accounts record types of materials and their weights and/or measurements. Entries are recorded daily and totaled at weekly, monthly, and yearly intervals.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0673. Copy of Canal Commissioners' report to State Assembly and dock building permits regarding Erie Basin at Buffalo, 1863-1869. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Office of Special Deputy State Engineer**

### **B0227. Correspondence files, 1904-1907. 7 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This series documents the Special Deputy State Engineer's active and vital role in the early construction of the Barge Canal. The files consist mostly of incoming and outgoing correspondence but also contain magazine and journal articles; diagrams, sketches, drawings, and blueprints; duplicate estimates of costs for proposed construction projects; duplicate notices to vacate lands appropriated by the State; and "shop bills" regarding construction materials supplied to the State by private firms. Specific topics include construction methods and materials used for building the Barge Canal; results of various structural tests; progress of construction work; damage claims filed against the State; disposition of surplus water and excavation waste; extra work orders on contracts issued by the State Engineer and Surveyor; construction of bridges; contract bidding and letting; water elevations; costs of electrical power; proposed locations of the Barge Canal; contract violations; construction and dimensions of barges; location of railroad tracks along various parts of the Barge Canal; and the revision of contract plans and specifications.

Finding aids: Container list.

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Western Division Engineer's Office**

### **B0383. Correspondence and subject files, 1849-1908, bulk 1878-1897. 8.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of correspondence.

Finding aids: Container list.

### **B0331. Assistant Engineer's letter book, 1908-1909. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of correspondence.

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Board**

### **B0212. Printed proceedings of the Canal Board and the Canal Contracting Board, 1857-1871. 0.6 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This volume contains newspaper clippings mainly of Canal Board proceedings, with Canal Contracting Board proceedings interspersed. Most of the proceedings deal with the awarding of contracts and progress of work. Other subjects include appointments of various canal officials and employees, improvements and alterations made to the canal system, and resolutions adopted.

**B0209. Record of canal contracts, 1898-1907. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Numerical by contract number.

This volume contains summary information on canal contracts awarded between 1899 and 1907 for improvements on the State's canal system as authorized by the Canal Board. Data provided on canal contracts includes name and serial number of contract; authorizing legislation; description of work to be performed; location; date of Canal Board's approval; date advertised; date bids were opened; number of formal bids; date contract was awarded and executed; name and residence of contractor; construction period allowed by contract; delays; date of completion; date when final estimate was paid; name and address of inspection; appropriation; engineer's estimate; contractor's bid; actual cost of construction (final estimate, engineering, advertising, and inspection costs); and remarks.

Indexes: Alphabetical subject index in the volume.

**B0348. Registers of contract proposals regarding the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1851. 0.6 cu. ft. (7 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of proposal.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**A0853. State Engineer and Surveyor's maps and plans for the Hudson and Champlain Improvement survey, 1866. 1 volume**

Colored plans and maps depict proposed improvements along the Hudson and Champlain Canal. The maps and plans were made in 1866 and have been bound together in one volume. The plans depict bridges; arch culverts; waste weirs; locks; and dams. The volume also contains a plan giving river profiles of the Hudson River from Troy to Fort Edward and of the Champlain Canal from Troy to Whitehall. The five map sheets depict lot sites, dams, locks, property owners, and streets of towns and cities bordering the canal. A law of 1866 (Chapter 33) appropriated \$7,000 for the State Engineer and Surveyor to do the surveys and to report to the Canal Board by 1867 (January 1st).

**B0206. Record of petitions for Barge Canal terminals, 1911-1913. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of petition.

This series tracks petitions for construction of Barge Canal terminals throughout the State. Information recorded includes location of terminal; file number; by whom the petition was presented; date received; date returned for correction, if necessary; date approved; date investigation commenced, if necessary; result of investigation; date petition was filed with the Canal Board; tenor of report; date petitioners were notified of proposed modification or rejection; date modification accepted; date of hearing before Canal Board; date of Canal Board's final action; date when State Engineer and Surveyor was authorized to prepare plans and specifications; date of approval of plans; date work was advertised; date bids were opened; to whom contract was awarded; amount of engineer's estimate; contract price; and date of completion.

Indexes: A geographical name index allows access by site by proposed terminal.

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Commissioners**

**B0716. Expenditures made for improvement and repair of the middle division, 1840-1846. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0704. Proposals and lists of proposals received for work done on the middle division, 1873-1894. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

## **State Engineer and Surveyor - Canal Contracting Board**

**B0207. Rough minutes, 1854-1861. 0.5 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

The Canal Contracting Board let contracts on behalf of the State for work on canals. The minutes concern contracts awarded or refused, structures to be built, and resolutions adopted by the board. There are no minutes from 1862 through 1870, when the board was abolished.

**A4028. Bid proposals for construction work on Black River Canal reservoirs, 1859. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

This is a volume of forms onto which were transcribed nine proposals submitted to the Contracting Board by contractors seeking to complete construction of the South Branch Reservoir, the Woodhull Reservoir, or both. The reservoirs were designed to restore to the Black River the quantity of water diverted to the Black River Canal and the enlarged Erie Canal. Proposals provide name of contractor; contractor's town and county of residence in New York State; schedule of projected costs for various tasks and materials needed to complete the work; amount of bond given by contractor for payment of laborers' wages; names of persons who signed bond; city and date of signing of proposal; and notarization.

## ***Jamaica Bay - Peconic Bay Canal Board***

### **B0238. Administrative files, 1917-1921. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by number stamped on upper right of each document.

An act of 1917 (Chapter 317) created the Jamaica Bay - Peconic Bay Canal Board, chaired by the State Engineer and Surveyor, to determine the costs for bridges and rights of way for a proposed canal to be constructed by the federal government on the south side of Long Island from Jamaica Bay to Peconic Bay. These files include correspondence; reports issued by the board; memoranda; accounts; survey progress reports; town resolutions; minutes of meetings and public hearings; summaries of highway and railroad crossings; blueprints, maps, and sketches; and photographs.

Indexes: Series B0239, Card Index to the Board's administrative files (see below), indexes this series by name and subject.

### **B0239. Card index to the Board's administrative files, 1917-1921. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name or subject.

These 3" x 5" cards serve as a name and subject index to series B0238, Administrative Files, described above.

## ***Department of Audit and Control***

### **B0602. Canal damage awards by Canal Appraisers, Board of Claims, and Court of Claims, 1835-1953. 46 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by claim number, corresponding to chronological arrangement.

This series consists of certified copies of awards by the Canal Appraisers (through 1883) and the Board of Claims (1883-1897), and of judgments of the Court of Claims (1897-1953). These awards were made for damages to lands adjacent to State canals. Many of these damages were sustained by private persons when their lands were appropriated temporarily or permanently for repairs or enlargement of the Erie Canal, for the so-called Nine Million Dollar Improvement at the turn of the century, and for construction of the Barge Canal system, including terminals. There are also awards for flood damages to private property and some for back wages owed to canal employees, the latter dating from the late nineteenth century.

Files before 1849 generally consist of only the claimant's receipt to the Canal Commissioners acknowledging payment for damages. The receipt states the town where the damaged property was situated but does not describe the property in detail. When the claimant was deceased, there are copies of his will, the proof of will, and other documents identifying his heirs. A few files include abstracts of title and maps. After 1849, the filed documents include a certified copy of the award of the Canal Appraisers.

After the Board of Claims took over the judicial functions of the Canal Appraisers in 1883, the typical file contains a certified copy of the award (including a finding of facts), the claimant's receipt for money paid to him by the Superintendent of Public Works, the Attorney General's certificate that no court appeal will be taken, and the county treasurer's certificate that the damaged parcel has no tax lien against it. Some of the awards were made for back wages owed to canal employees.

The files after 1897 contain certified copies of the judgment of the new Court of Claims, releases of further claims against the State, and assignments of judgments to banks for collection, as well as the same documents as those filed with the predecessor Board of Claims.

Finding aids: Container list.

### **A1055. Accounts relating to construction and operation of Barge Canal, 1920-1938. 1 cu. ft.**

### **A1403. General and Canal Fund bond register, ca. 1931-1935. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by city or town in which bank holding the bond was located.



This series consists of a register of State bonds. Each entry lists name and location of bank; date of maturity, name, and amount of security; penalty if not secured; date of bond and rate of interest; dates of approval of bond and delivery to Department of Taxation and Finance. This volume contains entries for letters M-Z only. Bonds were issued for many purposes, including highways, bridges, parks, railroad crossing elimination, unemployment relief, etc. Bonds issued by the Port Authority of New York and other authorities are included. Custody of State securities was vested in the Comptroller's Office, which was responsible for examining and reporting on same.

**B0605. Requisitions for Barge Canal materials and equipment, 1934-1938. 4.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by requisition number and by a department-assigned sequential number.

These requisitions were submitted by the Department of Public Works, Division of Canals and Waterways, to the Department of Audit and Control. Requisitions were made for steel, lumber, gravel, pipe, machinery, and other heavy equipment and material.

Each file contains proposals submitted by bidders, including detailed specifications of the equipment or materials and proposed price; certification by chief auditor of the Department of Public Works identifying the low bidder; a sheet giving information and instructions to bidders; and a copy of a letter from the chief auditor of D.P.W. to the Superintendent of Standards and Purchase listing the price quotations received. Some files contain manufacturers' catalogs, photographs or blueprint drawings of machinery, and correspondence.

Indexes: Card index to successful bidders.

**B0921. Abstracts and vouchers for Barge Canal and canal terminal expenses, 1936. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological and by abstract number.

This series contains bills, vouchers, and abstracts of expenditures submitted by resident engineers to the Department of Audit and Control. Each abstract lists amounts owed by the State for salaries, wages, expenses, material, equipment, and supplies, and provides the geographic district number or the terminal location. The abstract is accompanied by the original bills and vouchers documenting claims against the State. The abstract provides the geographical district number or the terminal location.

## **Comptroller's Office**

### **A1441. Documents relating to canal claims, [ca. 1830-1880] 2.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Documents relate to claims against the State, mostly for money owed on contracts and for damages to property adjacent to the canal. The series includes minutes of testimony in cases heard by the Canal Appraisers, the Canal Commissioners, or the Canal Board; notices of awards by the Canal Appraisers, and list of awards for the years 1843-1849; scattered affidavits, notices of appeals, opinions, and briefs relating to canal claims (including a few documents from the Supreme Court and the Court of Chancery); a few chattel mortgages on canal boats; and other documents. The documents are apparently fragments of a larger series now lost. It is unclear whether they were originally filed by the Canal Appraisers, by the Chief Clerk of the Canal Department, or by the Comptroller. Laws of 1817 (Chapter 302) and 1829 (Chapter 368) provided for appraisal of damages.

## **Comptroller's Office - Bureau of Canal Affairs**

### **A3240. Ledger accounts for leases of surplus canal water, salaries of canal officials, and canal loans, 1826-1931. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: By type or subject of account (surplus canal water, salaries, loans), then chronological by date of payment.

One of the functions of the Comptroller was to supervise the financial affairs of the State's canals. The Bureau of Canal Affairs, established within the Comptroller's Office in 1883 (Chapter 69), accomplished this by maintaining accounts of financial transactions relating to canals.

This series is a record of payments and receipts on account of the canals and canal debt. The Comptroller's Office included summary data on these accounts in annual reports to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund. The volume includes accounts for lease of surplus canal waters, 1826-1931; weigh masters' salaries, 1848-1881; enlargement loan and deficiency loans, 1872-1877; canal appraisers' and clerks' salaries and expenses, 1857-1882; Attorney General, December 1856-January 1857 (no indication of what payments were for); appropriations for clerk hire in office of State Engineer and Surveyor, 1851-1860; services rendered weigh masters, 1855; and salaries and expenses of Canal Commissioners, State Engineer and Surveyor, and Superintendent of Public Works, 1848-1881. Each account provides account name; amount paid or received; date of transaction; and service or item for which payment was made or received.

Indexes: Alphabetical index by first letter of account name in front of volume.

**A1439. Lists of awards made by Board of Claims, 1892-1894. .2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of award.

Lists of awards by the Board of Claims (predecessor to the Court of Claims) were filed with the Bureau of Canal Affairs in the Comptroller's Office. Each list provides name of claimant; date of filing; claim; amount claimed; nature of claim; date; and amount of award. Each list covers a period of from a few days to several months. The Board of Claims was established by a law of 1883 (Chapter 205), succeeding the Office of Canal Appraisers.

**A1270. Engineers' accounts, 1899-1920. 1 volume**

Arrangement: By engineer, then by canal.

This account book documents expenses of canal engineers. Columns on each page include amount received, salary, travel, stationery, postage, office rent, miscellaneous, and dollar amount

**Comptroller's Office - Canal Board**

**A0868. Minutes, 1833-1855. 1 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Four volumes of minutes document the Canal Board's administration of the canals in accordance with legislation of 1826 (Chapter 314). The records consist mostly of resolutions and financial statements concerning the canals and provide date; names of persons present; names of persons making motions; resolutions; and votes.

Indexes: Volume 1 ("B") contains a rough alphabetical name and location index in front. Series A0859, Index to Rough Minutes of the Canal Board and to Petitions and Appeals to the Canal Board (page 58), can also serve as an index to this series from 1845 to 1855.

**A0856. Rough minutes, 1832-1926. 82 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Volumes contain written and typed rough minutes documenting the Canal Board's administration of the canals in accordance with legislation of 1826 (Chapter 314, Section 4) and 1870 (Chapter 55). The series is comprised mainly of resolutions (both written and, later, printed) and financial statements concerning issuing of stock; transfer of bank accounts; purchase of real estate; settlement of wages; estimates of canal repairs; and approval for the payment of monies to contractors for work performed.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**A1140. Petitions and appeals to the Canal Board ("Canal Board papers"), 1828-1926. 70 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by year, then by assigned document number.

This series consists mostly of filed petitions and appeals to the Board along with minutes of hearings, testimony, and other related documents and a few miscellaneous items. These records document the Board's responsibilities for hearing damage claims and appeals, directing special repairs, and other canal-related administrative matters.

Petitions of individuals, firms, or local governments request leases of water rights and other canal property; extra allowances on contracts; abandonment (cancellation) of contracts; reimbursement for damages to land and other property; improvements such as new culverts, docks, bridges, and other structures; abandonment and sale of unused canal lands; refund of tolls; and other actions by the Board.

The series also contains appeals from decisions of the Board of Appraisers (1829-1857), Canal Appraisers (1857-1883), and Board of Claims (1883-1897), with accompanying exhibits, testimony, and correspondence; resignations of canal employees; complaints about the conduct of employees, including depositions charging corruption and fraud; construction proposals, maps, plans, and cost estimates from canal engineers, often with signed approvals of the Canal Commissioners; construction contracts; and check rolls and vouchers submitted by Superintendents of Repairs during the 1860s. After 1900 most of the records concern construction of the Barge Canal and its terminals.

Finding aids: Container list.

Indexes: Series A1434, Index to Petitions and Appeals to the Canal Board (see below), indexes this series from 1828-1832. Series A0859, Index to Minutes of the Canal Board and to Petitions and Appeals to the Canal Board (see below), indexes this series from 1845-1925.

Available on microfilm.

**A0859. Index to rough minutes of the Canal Board and to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1845-1925. 2.7 cu. ft. (16 volumes)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name or subject, then chronological by date of Canal Board action.

This series provides access to two central Canal Board record series: Rough Minutes (Series A0856) and Petitions and Appeals to the Canal Board (Series A1140); it also serves as an index to part of the surviving Canal Board Minutes (Series A0868).

Each entry provides a brief statement of the subject or name; date; document number assigned in Petitions and Appeals (A1140) (sometimes); and a phrase summarizing the document and/or Board action. Most entries are under names of persons (e.g. canal officers; petitioners), places, or canals or canal sections. Examples of subjects listed are: appeals from decisions of Canal Appraisers; abandonment of canals or land; aqueducts; bridges; banks handling canal deposits; contracts for repairs; dams; dredging; excavation; grade crossings; highways adjacent to canals; inspectors appointed; maps and plans of construction; navigation; piers; reservoirs; salt duties; steam vessels; terminals (e.g. construction); tolls; and weigh masters appointed.

Finding aids: Volume list.

Available on microfilm.

**A1434. Index to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1828-1832. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Rough alphabetical by first letter of name, location, or subject, then chronological.

This index provides access to numbered documents in the first five years of Series A1140, Petitions and Appeals to the Canal Board ("Canal Board Papers"). The index contains entries by name, place, or subject; date of document; filing number of document; and a brief statement of the purpose or subject of the document.

Available on microfilm.

**A1086. Account of expenditures for constructing Champlain Canal, 1818-1824. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This account book lists expenditures for construction of the Champlain Canal from the Hudson River to Whitehall. Each entry provides contractor's name; brief description of work performed; rate of pay; and amount of pay. Included are accounts relating to excavation, masonry and carpentry work, repairs, and damages to adjoining property. A running total is kept at the bottom of each page and a grand total at the end. Also at the end is a certification by William Jerome, principal-engineer, stating that entries in the book were made from certificates given by himself and James Geddes to persons who performed the work at agreed prices. The book presumably came into the possession of the Comptroller in his capacity as a member of the Canal Board.

**A1438. Canal operating and administrative files, 1827-1833. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

The documents in this series are apparently part of a larger series of filed documents of the Canal Board, now lost. The records were labelled "Miscellaneous Canal Board Papers,

1827-1833." They include draft circulars to canal employees; tables of distances on canals; abstracts of blanks furnished to toll collectors; statements of tolls collected (including totals for packet boats, which are named); and draft reports on canal affairs.

Available on microfilm.

**A1160. Financial and legal records filed with the Canal Department, 1841-1885. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Rough chronological.

Records relating to canals include powers of attorney filed with the Canal Auditor or the Comptroller for many different purposes. Most furnish evidence of assignment of contracts for work on canals by the original contractor to another party; assignments of State canal stock; transfers of claims against the State; and chattel mortgages on canal boats.

**A1088. Sample form book compiled by Canal Department, 1850-1883. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Rough chronological order.

This series consists of sample printed forms mounted in a blank book. The forms contained are 1) circular letters from the Canal Department to Superintendents of Canal Repairs and Collectors of Canal Tolls, and 2) resolutions of the Canal Board regarding routine management of the canal, canal toll rates, and other canal business. A few late forms were issued by the Superintendent of Public Works, an office established in 1878 to succeed the Canal Commissioners.

A1468. Testimony and brief in case of Black River claims heard by Canal Appraisers, 1869-1871. 0.2 cu. ft. (2 volumes)

Printed testimony heard by the Canal Appraisers at Utica in 1869 concerns claims against the State for damages incurred by the rupture of the dam at the North Lake Reservoir on the Black River in the winter of 1869. The Canal Appraisers conducted their inquiry pursuant to legislation of 1869. The testimony includes extensive hydrologic and engineering data concerning the dam and reservoir and the flood which followed the bursting of the dam. The testimony also provides considerable information about mills, bridges, and other property damaged by the flood. Accompanying the testimony is a brief on behalf of the State, printed in 1871.

**A1278. Register of dates of occupation on lands appropriated for the Barge Canal, 1906-1916. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological; also numerical by contract number.

This register lists parcels of land appropriated for use on each contract. Legislation of 1903 (Chapter 147) identifies procedures for appropriation of lands for the Barge Canal. The volume provides land parcel number, reputed owner, and date occupied by the State,

and also includes accompanying correspondence from the Special Deputy State Engineer to the Secretary of the Canal Board.

**A1274. Barge Canal construction monthly reports, 1910-1916. 0.3 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These are volumes of monthly reports and cover letters from the State Engineer and Surveyor to the Secretary of the Canal Board (1910-1914) and to the Comptroller (1915-1916). The reports contain contract number; location of construction; names of contractors; summary of work done; and percentage of work done. The reports are signed by a deputy State engineer. Legislation of 1903-1909 provided for construction and improvements on canals, specified contracting procedures, and outlined the duties of the State Engineer and Surveyor in regard to such construction.

**Comptroller's Office - Office of the Canal Commissioners**

**A1440. Incoming correspondence relating to canals, ca. 1830-1880. 3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Rough chronological.

Letters and petitions are generally addressed to the Canal Board or to the Canal Commissioners, but a few originally went to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, the Chief Clerk of the Canal Department, or the State Engineer and Surveyor. The letters mostly concern canal contracts, tolls, bonds, and other financial matters. There are also letters complaining about the condition of the canals or the performance of canal employees. Most of the petitions request that individuals be appointed to jobs in the canal system; they testify to the personal and political qualifications of the candidates and often contain numerous signatures. A few petitions ask for repairs or improvements to the canal system. It appears that these documents are fragments of one or more larger series which are now lost.

**A1899. Contract documents for canal enlargement and repairs, ca. 1836-1900. 60 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal, therein numerical by contract number or transferred account number.

These records document execution and fulfillment of contracts for canal construction and repairs. The records include the original agreements between the Canal Commissioners and contractors for excavation of the canal, for construction of locks, bridges, and other structures, and for general repairs; detailed specifications (generally printed) for the work; bonds given by contractors for performance of work and for payment of workmen's wages; "final estimates" or "final accounts" listing labor employed and materials used; affidavits of inspection of materials by the Superintendent of Repairs (usually) or Canal Commissioner (rarely); "estimates on contracts" listing amounts due monthly on Canal

Enlargement contracts; and a few contracts and accompanying estimates of money due for earlier enlargement work. The contract documents are generally labelled with name of contractor, date, sequential number, and location of work. Series A1267, Accounts of Monies Paid to Contractors and Others for Construction, Repair, and Enlargement of Erie and Champlain Canals (page 72), contains records relating to contracts filed with the Auditor of the Canal Department.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A1125. Contracts and accounts for construction and repair, ca. 1817-1828. 10 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

These financial accounts and original contracts were submitted by the Canal Commissioners to the Comptroller's Office for audit. They deal mainly with the construction and repair of the Erie and Champlain canals. Included among the files are contractors' receipts for payment; check rolls for labor submitted by superintendents of construction; abstracts and vouchers of the principal engineers and their assistants; and a small amount of correspondence. Series A1267, Accounts of Monies Paid to Contractors and Others for Construction, Repair, and Enlargement of Erie and Champlain Canals (page 72), contains records relating to contracts filed with the Auditor of the Canal Department.

**A0810. Canvass of proposals for Erie Canal Enlargement, 1851. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name of bidder, then numerical by section number.

This series consists of proposals for construction. Each entry provides number of proposal; names of bidder and guarantors; section number; and amount of bid. Legislation of 1827 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 2, Sections 34-39) empowered the Canal Commissioners to accept proposals for work on canals. Enlargement of the Erie Canal was authorized by legislation of 1834 (Chapter 312).

**A1268. Index to contracts for Erie Canal Improvements, ca. 1840-1860. 0.3 cu. ft.**

This series consists of an index containing two sections: (1) Cross reference between number of canal section and letter and number of contract, arranged by division of canal and name of Canal Commissioner. (2) List of miscellaneous contracts, with name of Canal Commissioner, letter and number of contract, and location (section, lock). It is not known which volume it indexes. Many of the names in the index appear in Canal Contract Book, 1835-1855, unit 39, but the page numbers do not match.

**A0819. Financial and administrative records of canals, 1838-1880. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By record type, then chronological.



Records documenting operation of the canals include rough tallies of cargo loaded on canal boat "Sovereign" at various ports, 1838; statements of publication of notices by Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1841, 1844, 1846; statements of tolls submitted to the Canal Commissioners for reimbursement, 1842-1844, with receipts for tolls paid; vouchers issued by Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1843-1846; receipts for payment of certificates issued by Canal Board for Erie, Champlain, and Chenango canals, 1844-1846; auditor's warrants for payments from Canal Fund through the Manhattan Company, 1850-1852, with receipts; section contracts for enlargement of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal, 1859; inventory of furniture in possession of Collector of Canal Tolls at Lockport, 1866; a few routine letters to the Canal Board, 1874-1875; and estimates of cost of repairs to the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, Cayuga and Seneca, and Chenango canals, 1880, submitted by section superintendents to the Superintendent of Public Works, with warrants to the Auditor of the Canal Department to pay.

**A1316. Comptroller's register of checks drawn for Canal Commissioners, 1817-1824. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Chronological.

The register includes two entries for each check, debiting the account of the Canal Commissioners and crediting the bank on which the check was drawn. Entries provide check number; date; account; bank drawn on; and payee. There are also about 8 letters from the Manhattan Company to the State Auditor concerning State stock issues, 1857-1859, and miscellaneous printed forms of the Canal Department, 1871-1873.

**A1006. Western Inland Lock Navigation Company damage assessments and reimbursement, 1820. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Records documenting this company's claims for damages include a report of the appraisers on damages; resolution of the company's board of directors authorizing Barent Bleeker to receive award from the State, with his receipt for \$91,616; Thomas Eddy's account of expense of appraisal; and a copy of legislative committee report on the company's petition. A law of 1817 (Chapter 262) authorized the Canal Commissioners to appropriate the company's property and to apply to the Supreme Court to appoint appraisers to assess damages to the property. The law authorized reimbursement for the damages to be paid from the Canal Fund.

**A0828. Entry documentation for canal-related expenses, 1827-1901. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By record type.

Records of financial matters relate to the Erie Canal and feeder canals. Many of the records resulted from laws authorizing improvements on the canal system, including the 1835 law (Chapter 274) authorizing the Canal Commissioners to enlarge the Erie Canal,

alter feeder canals, and construct new feeders, as necessary. These records include annual financial and real estate holdings; statements; receipts; bills of sale and mortgage sales of canal boats; property mortgages; claims for compensation for land appropriated by the Canal Department; commutation releases of rights or property; and other canal records. The records usually provide names of parties involved, amounts of money and/or descriptions of property, and dates.

**A1126. Abstracts and vouchers of expenditures, ca. 1831-1869. 17 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

Abstracts of expenditures by Canal Commissioners were submitted monthly for audit by the Comptroller's office. Each abstract lists vouchers by number and provides name of payee, nature of expenditure, and amount. The abstracts include every sort of expenditure for canals, such as ordinary repairs carried out by Superintendent of Repairs, new construction, repair of breaks in the canal, damages to adjacent lands, equipment for offices of toll collectors and weigh masters, building of State boats, advertising for proposals, etc. Each abstract includes an affidavit of the Canal Commissioner that the accounts are correct; accompanying it are the original receipted vouchers. Sometimes invoices and letters are attached. Most of the abstracts and vouchers were originally bundled by month, the wrapper bearing the name of the Commissioner, inclusive dates, and total amount of vouchers.

**A1132. Superintendents of Repairs' reports of expenditures for repairs, 1835-1878. 12 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal.

These are reports on expenditures made by Superintendents of Repairs and submitted to the canal commissioner responsible for a specific division of the canal system. The report format varies, but entries always provide the name and location of structure or work, amount of labor and materials used, and unit cost and total expenditure. The reports also include statistics of the amount of money expended for locks, bridges, walls, buildings, and tools.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A1131. Superintendents of Repairs' estimates of expenditures for repairs, 1835-1905. 11 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal.

Estimates of proposed expenditures for canal repairs were submitted by Superintendents of Repairs to the canal commissioner responsible for a specific division of the canal system. The format of the estimates varies, but each estimate provides the location of work project, names of structures or work involved, and an estimated cost of labor and materials. Also included are certificates from the canal commissioner or the

Superintendent of Public Works attesting to the fact that the estimated expenditures are necessary and correct.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A3131. Vouchers for expenditures on enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1837-1848, bulk 1848. 3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by voucher number.

These vouchers were submitted to a canal commissioner and are accompanied by a receipt for money paid by him. Vouchers specify the nature of the debt incurred by the State in connection with the enlargement: appraising property; moving buildings; advertising for proposal; excavating earth; and constructing or altering locks, waste weirs, dams, and other canal structures. The earlier vouchers include a separate receipt, while the later ones are printed forms bearing the receipt on the same sheet.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A1129. Resident and division engineers' monthly estimates, 1850-1868, 1875. 4 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Estimates of work done and materials delivered under contracts in force on a particular canal division were submitted monthly by the resident and division engineers to the Canal Commissioners. The formats vary somewhat, but each estimate provides number of canal section; name of contractors; quantity and type of materials and labor to be supplied; value of the same; and sometimes the unit price. Many types of construction and repair work are included in the estimates-- locks, aqueducts, other structures, and general excavation. The series also contains abstracts of the monthly estimates. The name of canal, date, and engineer's name are usually given on the cover. Monthly estimates from division and resident engineers were first required by legislation of 1850 (Chapter 377).

**A1098. Estimates of work done and material delivered on Erie, Champlain, and Black River canals, 1867-1868. 0.1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Rough geographical order.

Five booklets containing estimates were submitted to the Canal Commissioners by the resident engineer for various improvements on Erie (eastern division), Champlain, and Black River canal sections, locks, dams, docks and piers. Entries provide location of improvement; quantity and value of material used; name of contractor; and labor performed. Booklets are dated September, November, December, 1867, and January, October 1868, and are addressed to R.C. Dorn, Canal Commissioner; each booklet

contains at the end a statement of the resident attesting to the accuracy of the statements contained therein.

**A0954. Vouchers for repair of Ox Bow break, Erie Canal, 1871. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Vouchers dated at Perinton, Monroe County, request payment for labor, supplies, boarding costs, and other repair expenses. Accompanying the vouchers is a letter of W.W. Selye to Canal Commissioner John D. Fay. Laws of 1871 authorized the Canal Commissioners to expend money for repairs to breaks which interrupted navigation on the canals.

**A0392. Engineers' drafts and vouchers for general fund, 1895-1896. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By project, then chronological by date.

**A0851. Original maps of surveys for the Erie Canal ("Geddes Maps"), 1817. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Geographical (west to east).

This map and profile in ink and water color of the proposed route for the Erie Canal was made by James Geddes in 1817. Geddes was appointed engineer in charge of the survey by the commissioners appointed under legislation of 1816 (Chapter 237). He was instructed to survey and map a route for the canal which, west of the Genesee River, was somewhat to the north of the route he had surveyed in 1808.

On a scale of 10 chains = 1 inch, the map shows proposed line of the canal (in green); roads; houses; mills; settlements; streams, ponds, and lakes; steep terrain; swamps and marshes; town and lot lines; and other features adjacent to the canal route.

The area mapped extends from the "Tonewanta Creek" east to the outlet of Mud Creek in the "Great Cayuga Marsh" (Montezuma). At that point a note indicates that the survey was continued by Benjamin Wright (survey not in this series). The map and profile occupy 19 double-page sheets. A map of the entire route is located at the end of the surveys.

**A0800. Survey maps and plans for projected canal alterations, ca. 1830-1851. 64 maps**

Arrangement: Geographical.

These maps, in a few cases with attached correspondence, depict various improvements along canal routes. Most of the maps deal with the Erie Canal and are concerned with a specific section of the canal. The maps show locks; bridges; railroad bridges across canals; locations of canal alterations; aqueducts; and reservoirs and feeders.

The series includes maps of the Erie, Chemung, Chenango, Sodus, Oneida Lake, Champlain, and Cayuga and Seneca canals. The maps appear to have been made by the

Office of Surveyor General in compliance with legislation of 1827 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 1) requiring a complete map and field notes of all State canals. They were probably forwarded to the Comptroller, who was a Commissioner of the Canal Fund and a member of the Canal Board.

Finding aids: Item list.

**A0852. Survey map of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers, 1830. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Geographical (southwest).

This volume contains survey maps of a proposed railroad from Fort Plain on the Erie Canal to Otsego Lake and of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers, "for a Slack Water Navigation." Maps show streams; lakes; towns; roads; bridges; mills; and town and county lines. Maps begin at Fort Plain and end at Elmira; no scale is given. The survey was made and the maps drawn under direction of the Canal Commissioners in accordance with legislation of 1830 (Chapter 66).

A0848. Canal system survey maps ("Holmes Hutchinson maps"), 1832-1843. 19 cu. ft. (26 volumes)

Arrangement: By canal.

Bound folio volumes contain ink, wash and charcoal maps of the canal system in New York State. The maps show survey stations for measuring length of the canal; courses and distances (linked by red lines); canal right-of-way (blue line); locks; aqueducts; basins; other hydraulic structures; bridges; mill races; buildings; streams, ponds, and lakes; steep grades; and adjacent county, town, and property lines. The scale is not given.

Volumes include maps for Erie Canal, 1834; Chemung Canal and Feeder, 1843; Crooked Lake Canal and Cayuga and Seneca Canal, 1834; Cayuga and Seneca Canal, n.d.; Chenango Canal, 1838; Seneca River Improvement, 1840; Champlain Canal, 1830; and Genesee Valley Canal, 1841, 1850, n.d. Two volumes of Black River Canal survey maps are missing. These surveys were made pursuant to legislation of 1827 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 1) requiring a complete manuscript map and field notes of every canal to be completed.

Available on microfilm.

**A1058. Designs for Watervliet Arsenal Bridge, 1851. 1 sheet**

A sheet of water color and ink drawings depicts the completed Watervliet Arsenal Bridge and the proposed bridge; it is dated December 1, 1851. Legislation of 1827 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 2, Sections 17- 18) provided for the Canal Commissioners to authorize needed repairs and construction on the canal system and directed that all surveys, plans, and estimates be submitted in advance to the Canal Commissioners for their approval.

**A0854. Map of extension of Genesee Valley Canal from Olean to Mill Grove Pond, 1857. 1 map**

This manuscript map shows survey lines for a 6.7 mile extension of the Genesee Valley Canal from Olean to Mill Grove Pond, as authorized by Chapter 247, Laws of 1857. Construction work was contracted in November 1857, and about 6 miles was completed and brought into use in August 1859.

The map shows four survey lines labeled "A" through "D" and includes the Canal Board's resolution approving line "C." In addition to survey lines, the map shows names of villages and property owners along the proposed extension route; significant buildings; locks; tollgates; survey stations; topographic shadings; woodland areas; and bodies of water. The map was drawn in red and black ink by William Rumble at a scale of six chains = one inch.

**A1195. Calendar of petitions, 1849-1854. 1 volume**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of petition.

A list of petitions to the Canal Commissioners provides the number and date of petition; name of petitioner; and "nature of the petition and action had". Petitions are numbered from 1 through 120 and concern location of the Erie Canal enlargement; construction of bridges, culverts, docks, and other structures; water power privileges; and all other matters under the authority of the Canal Commissioners. The original petitions to the Canal Commissioners appear to be lost but a few may be found in Series A1440, Incoming Correspondence Relating to Canals (page 60).

**A0815. Impeachment trial subpoenas and subpoena tickets for Canal Commissioner, 1853. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Subpoenas and subpoena tickets were issued by the clerk of the Court for the Trial of Impeachments, August 14-16, 1853. John C. Mather was impeached and convicted for unauthorized and excessive expenditures as canal commissioner. The Constitution of 1846 empowered the Assembly to impeach State officers and directed the Senate, the President of the Senate, and the Judges of the Court of Appeals to form a Court for the Trial of Impeachments to try them.

**Comptroller's Office - Commissioners of the Canal Fund**

**A1077. Engrossed minutes and index, 1817-1855. 0.6 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by meeting date.

Created in 1817 (Chapter 262), the Commissioners of the Canal Fund were responsible for the management of the funds and debts of the State's canals. These engrossed minutes are transcriptions of the Rough Minutes in series A1076 (see below). Included are early minutes missing from the Rough Minutes covering the years 1817-1826. The minutes record deposits in and withdrawals from banks of canal funds; decisions and actions taken by the commissioners concerning canal funds; stock sales, purchases and redemptions; and resolutions adopted by the commissioners.

Indexes: Series B0316, Index to Minutes (page 75), indexes this series from 1817-1854.

**A1076. Rough minutes, 1827-1926. 3 cu. ft. (11 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by meeting date.

These volumes mostly contain resolutions printed on sheets of paper and pasted onto the pages of the books. The records provide date, officers present, resolution, and vote.

Indexes: Series B0316, Index to Minutes (see below), indexes this series through 1854. B0316. Index to minutes, 1817-1854. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)

Arrangement: Alphabetical by first letter of name, subject, or agency, then chronological by date of action by commissioners.

This volume serves as an index to both the Engrossed Minutes, series A1077, and the Rough Minutes, series A1076 (page 74). Entries for names, subjects, or agencies usually include a brief remark concerning the nature of the action. Index volumes for minutes after 1854 are not extant.

**A0905. Resolutions and reports of the commissioners, 1818, 1825, 1874. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

These records document the activities of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund. A law of 1817 (Chapter 262) established the canal fund and commissioners and required the commissioners to present to the legislature an annual report on the state of the fund. This series contains the first of these reports (1818), listing receipts and payments and explaining certain aspects of the report. The records also contain resolutions passed by the commissioners (1825) regarding tolls, contracts, and other matters and providing the date and names of the commissioners present at the meeting. There is also an acknowledgment from the Library of Congress (1874) for receipt from the commissioners of a copy of the "Annual Report of the Canal Commissioners of the State of New York."

**A1038. Canal Fund loan proposals, 1817-1857. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological, then alphabetical by name.

This series contains offers to lend money to the Canal Fund in return for stock. The 1817 law establishing the Canal Fund (Chapter 262) authorized the commissioners of the fund to borrow money from the people of the State at up to 6% interest. For the borrowed money, the comptroller would issue stock certificates payable at a time specified by the commissioners. The loan proposals usually provide date; name of lender; purpose of loan; amount of the loan; and per cent interest on stock.

**A0883. Lists of stockholders of Million Dollar Loan and canal loans, 1815-1823. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Some lists are alphabetical by name.

This series contains quarterly returns of stockholders of the State's "Million Dollar Loan" and of canal loans between 1817 and 1823. A law of 1815 (Chapter 141) required the Comptroller, as soon as was practicable, to borrow \$1,300,000 and to issue stock certificates to shareholders in the loan, the stock to bear 6% interest per year, payable quarterly. The 1817 law establishing the Canal Fund (Chapter 262) authorized the Commissioners of the fund to borrow money at up to 6% interest and also required the Comptroller to issue stock certificates. The lists of stockholders include dates; names of stockholders; amount of stock held; and interest due.

**A1012. Schedule of Erie and Champlain Canal stock redeemed by the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1838. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 item)**

This schedule provides date of payment by Commissioners of the Canal Fund; date of surrender of stock; name of holder; description of stock (interest rate, issuing year); and amount of certificate. Stock was issued pursuant to a law of 1821 (Chapter 36).

**A1395. Statements of proceeds from sales of Canal Fund Lands, 1826-1833. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

The Commissioners of the Canal Fund invested in lands in various parts of the State. Proceeds of the Onondaga Salt Springs Reservation lands were appropriated for improvements to the Oswego River navigation by Chapter 279, Laws of 1824. Unsold and mortgaged lands granted to the State for canals were included in the Canal Fund, and the Commissioners of the Canal Fund had general powers to manage property of the fund.

Each statement of proceeds in this series provides year, proceeds from lands sold (location not given), and distribution of monies to the Erie and Champlain Canal Fund and the Oswego Canal Fund. There are also miscellaneous memoranda; a table of payments for individual lots in the Onondaga Salt Spring Reservation, 1822-1826; a statement of payments for lots in Canal Fund lands on Grand Island, to 1826; and a receipt signed by James Geddes, 1828.



**A1388. Legal documentation relating to lands conveyed to Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1861-1881. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

This series consists of deeds, mortgages, bonds, assignments and traced maps of lots in Buffalo. The land was conveyed to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund as collateral for two judgments against Thadeus W. Patchin, who filed for bankruptcy in 1874. In 1881 the Commissioners of the Canal Fund empowered the State Treasurer to settle or cancel back taxes on the Buffalo lots; this series also contains tax searches, copies of resolutions of the Commissioners of the Canal fund, and other documents relating to this issue.

**A1163. Documents relating to deposit of Canal Funds in banks, ca. 1831-1901. 8 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Most of the documents are statements of deposit of Canal Fund monies in banks across the State. The statements vary in format because they were submitted on bank stationery, but they generally include date of statement, name of bank, and amounts deposited on various dates. Interfiled with the statements are receipts, canceled checks, certificates of deposit, lists of canal toll deposits, and resolutions of bank board of directors for deposit of funds by the Commissioners of the Canal Fund. Deposit of surplus monies of the Canal Fund in banks was authorized by a law of 1831 (Chapter 286).

**A1094. List of contracts with banks for interest on canal money, 1831-1834. 0.1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This series contains three pages listing contracts with banks allowing an interest on deposits of Canal moneys at sixty days for 4.5 or 5% interest. This list was probably generated by the Comptroller's Office since he was a member of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund. Each entry provides date of the contract; contract number; name of bank; and rate of interest.

**A1097. Monthly balances of canal monies in banks, 1834-1844. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Entries provide name of bank; amounts of money on loan and on deposit; amount remaining in each bank; and grand totals. Money was presumably receipts from tolls deposited by Commissioners of the Canal Fund as authorized by a law of 1817 (Chapter 262).

**A1170. Bonds of banks holding deposits of Canal Fund monies, 1855-1867. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Series consists of two principal types of documents. The first takes the form of articles of agreement made between the State of New York and a bank, specifying terms and conditions of deposit of monies of the Canal Fund, signed by officers of the bank and sworn to by them with seal of the bank impressed. The same form contains the bond of the officer of the bank to pay over all money deposited according to terms of agreement, and affidavits of the sureties (usually the bank officers) stating that they are worth a sum of money.

The second type of document is a printed form (supplied by the Canal Department) containing the text of the resolution of the bank directors accepting the terms and conditions of the agreement. Also found occasionally are letters, memoranda, and canceled checks, often bearing letterheads of the bank. Bank bonds in this series were posted for at least three different types of deposits: the Canal Fund Sinking Fund authorized by legislation of 1846 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 2, Section 1); "Premium Loan" for canal enlargement, authorized by legislation of 1854 (Chapter 329, Section 6); and the "Canal Repair Trust Fund," authorized by legislation of 1861 (Chapter 177).

**A0813. Bank book, 1839-1844. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This series consists of entries of deposits and withdrawals (in ledger form) in the account of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund in the Canal Bank. The Commissioners of the Canal Fund were empowered to deposit moneys of the Canal Fund in banks by legislation of 1836 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 2, Sections 11-12).

## **Comptroller's Office - Canal Investigation Commission**

**A0834. Printed material, correspondence and photographs from the Canal Investigating Commission, 1888-1912. 6 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

This series consists of instructions, specifications, profiles, cost estimates and accounts, correspondence, and other documents relating to proposed improvements to the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals, 1895-1898, designated as numbered exhibits for the Canal Investigating Commission. Also included are photographs of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego Canals, principally views of locks, towpaths, berm banks, culverts, bridges, and canal breaks and repairs. Places represented include Buffalo, Tonawanda, Lockport, Albion, Syracuse, Forestport, Amsterdam, Cohoes, Watervliet, Watkins Glen, Glens Falls, and others. Some of the canal photographs are wholly or partially unidentified. There are also photographs of the Canadian Rockies by W.M. Notman and Son of Montreal, of the Shinnecock Canal, Long Island, 1888, and of the Oswego Power Canal.

## **Comptroller's Office - Canal Contracting Board**

### **A1127. Proposals and bonds for canal enlargement and repairs, 1848-1869. 12 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical, closely corresponding to chronological order.

Submitted by contractors to the Canal Contracting Board, these proposals and bonds mainly concern the first enlargement and repair of the State's canal system. The proposals specify the cost of cleaning, excavation, masonry, carpentry, lumber, stone, iron, cement, and other materials necessary for work on locks, culverts, waste weirs, bridge abutments, reservoirs, iron superstructures, aqueducts, or general excavation projects. Each proposal provides the contractor's costs for each category of work. Also included are the canal, lock number, and section number where the work is to be performed.

Finding aids: Container list.

### **A1364. Outgoing correspondence from the Clerk of the Contracting Board, 1857-1861. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This is a bound volume of press copies of letters from the Clerk of the Contracting Board. Topics include contract awards; drafts and vouchers for contracts; and appointments to such offices as Superintendent of Canal Repairs.

Indexes: Alphabetical index in volume.

## **Comptroller's Office - Other Canal Records**

### **A0867. Whiteprint copies of maps of lands permanently appropriated by the State for canal purposes ("blue line maps"), 1917-1948. 28 cu. ft. (69 portfolios containing ca. 850 maps)**

Arrangement: Geographical by portfolio and therein numerical by map number.

This series consists of whiteprint copies of original survey maps, commonly referred to as "blue line maps," of land appropriated by the State for canal purposes. The maps depict in minute detail lands acquired for canal purposes up to and including the time of construction of the Barge Canal. The Department of Public Works (earlier the State Engineer and Surveyor) produced and retained the original maps and submitted whiteprint copies to the Comptroller and Secretary of State. This set of maps was filed with the Comptroller.

Laws of 1910 (Chapter 199) and 1917 (Chapter 51) authorized the production of "blue line maps" (the blue lines indicated boundaries of State-owned lands along the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, Black River, and Cayuga and Seneca canals) to minimize property disputes resulting from the construction of the Barge Canal. The maps depict inner angles of the towpaths on the old canal; property owned by the State prior to Barge Canal construction; property appropriated by the State for the Barge Canal project; locations of the old canal lines; location of the proposed Barge Canal; and various structures, roads, streets, and other landmarks and the names of owners of private property adjacent to the canal.

Finding aids: A portfolio list provides inclusive map numbers and brief description of canal and geographic area.

**A0872. Engrossed minutes of the Canal Commissioners, 1849-1857. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This volume consists mainly of resolutions of the Canal Commissioners giving the date, names of persons present, resolution, and vote.

**A1081. Canal fund accounts (receipt and disbursement book), 1824-1832. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological within each account.

This series consists of ledger accounts of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund (through 1826) and of the Canal Fund of New York State (starting 1827). A pencilled notation in the front of the volume indicates that this was merely a change in bookkeeping procedure. The volume contains accounts with the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, the Superintendents of Repairs, and banks in New York City and Albany in which Canal Fund monies were deposited. There are also accounts for expenses on canals and for interest on canal stock. At the beginning of the volume are balance sheets for the Canal Fund for 1824 and 1825.

**A1145. Vouchers for expenditures on account of canal fund, 1833-1900, bulk 1853-1900. 34 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Vouchers for canal expenditures were submitted for audit to the Comptroller (prior to 1848 and after 1883) or to the Chief Clerk or Auditor of the Canal Department (1848-1883) by the Canal Commissioners, Superintendents of Repairs, engineers, toll collectors, Canal Appraisers, and other canal officials. The vouchers vary greatly in form; some are handwritten, most printed, but all provide name of payee, nature of expenditure, and amount of payment. Attached to the vouchers are bills, invoices, orders to pay, and letters. The vouchers include many "Refunding Vouchers" for refund of overpaid tolls. The

vouchers were boxed with an attached label bearing dates of vouchers within (often the date is wrong by several years). The boxes prior to 1883 were labelled "Canal Auditor vouchers." Those after 1883 were labelled "Comptroller's vouchers on account of Canal Fund." There are very few vouchers from before 1853.

**A1096. Monthly bank balances of Canal Fund, 1833-1835. 0.2 cu. ft.**

**A1085. Canal Fund account book, 1835-1840. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological within each account.

This volume is a ledger of accounts of the Commissioners of the Canal Fund for Erie and Champlain Canal Fund and stock, and for stock of the Cayuga and Seneca, Crooked Lake, Chenango, Oswego, and Black River canals. There are also accounts with the Canal Commissioners, Superintendents of Repairs, and banks in New York City, Albany, and elsewhere in which tolls and canal loan premiums were deposited.

**A0826. Entry documentation submitted by the Commissioners of Navigation to the comptroller, 1794-1828. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This series contains records of the commissioners appointed by a law of 1796 (Chapter 40) regarding the improvement of the navigation of the Hudson River. This and subsequent related acts appropriated money and authorized the collection of voluntary contributions to fund the deepening of the river. The commissioners were to raise funds and furnish supplies for the project; to certify their expenses to the Treasurer, who would pay the amounts spent by the commissioners; and to present accounts of their expenditures to the State auditor. The records include accounts, voluntary contributions and bonds, income and expense reports, receipts, and other related records which generally provide the date and names of commissioners, donors, or those who held accounts with the commissioners.

**A1089. Canal stock transfer receipt book, 1820-1824. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This is a book (labeled "C") of receipts for transfers of New York State six per cent canal stock through the Transfer Office in New York City. Each entry provides transfer number; date; parties to conveyance and their residences; amount; and signatures of conveyor and a witness.

**A1087. Accounts of Canal Commissioners for expenditures on branch canals, 1825-1837. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological within each account.

This book includes accounts for the Oswego Canal, 1825-1832; Genesee Valley Canal, 1836-1840; Black River Canal, 1837-1840; Oneida River Improvement, 1840; Chenango Canal, 1833-1839; Cayuga and Seneca Canal, 1825-1830; Chemung Canal, 1830-1840; and Crooked Lake Canal, 1831-1835. Each entry provides name of payee; date of voucher; location or type of work performed; and amount due. Each numbered and dated group of vouchers is then totalled and a running total kept.

Indexes: Table of contents in front cover.

**A1158. Engineers' abstracts and vouchers for survey of canal routes, 1825-1835. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Vouchers document expenses incurred during surveys of proposed branch canals, some of which were never built. There are also abstracts of vouchers, listing them by date, name of payee, and amount, and related correspondence. The abstracts and vouchers are labelled with the name of the engineer, location of route surveyed, and total amount of vouchers. The branch canal surveys were authorized by a law of 1825 (Chapter 236), and by several joint resolutions passed by the Legislature in 1829.

**A0013. Abstracts, check rolls, and vouchers for canal expenditures, 1827-1880. 247 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By canal (starting with Erie), then chronological by year, then alphabetical by name of Superintendent of Repairs.

These abstracts, check rolls, and vouchers were submitted monthly or bi-monthly to the Canal Commissioners by Superintendents of Repairs, pursuant to a law of 1826 (Chapter 314). The records provide detailed information on labor performed (including laborers' names and wages) and expenditures for various construction or repair projects on the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, Cayuga and Seneca, Chemung, Crooked Lake, Chenango, Genesee Valley, and Black River canals.

The principal voucher, or "check roll," made out by the foreman of a particular project, provides the following for each laborer: name; pay voucher number; number of days worked in past month; rate of pay per day; and amount of pay due. The check roll also contains a brief description of the work done (repairing towpath, breaking stone, etc.) and the foreman's affidavit that the information is correct. Accompanying this principal voucher are vouchers for materials (e.g. lumber, stone, gravel, etc.) and additional labor (e.g. teams for hauling).

All of the vouchers are numbered sequentially and entered in numerical order in the abstracts of expenditures prepared by the Superintendents of Repairs. For each voucher entered, the abstracts provide name of payee; nature of expenditure; and amount of payment in various categories (check rolls, lock tending, labor, materials, merchants' and mechanics' bills, and miscellaneous). At the end of the abstracts are totals and balances of

the figures; the Superintendent's affidavit as to the accuracy of the report, and the Canal Commissioner's certificate that the expenditures were "proper and reasonable."

Finding aids: Container list; list of Superintendents of Repairs by canal section number, 1841-1855.

Indexes: Card file name index to superintendents.

**A1142. Bonds of canal employees, contractors, and boards, 1827-1876. 3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by year.

Series consists of bonds given by Superintendents of Repairs, toll collectors, contractors for labor and materials, and banks holding deposits of tolls. The series also contains copies of oaths sworn by the weigh masters, boat inspectors, and clerks of toll collectors, who were not required to post bond. Bonds take different forms, but all promise to stand surety to the State of New York for all monies received in conduct of business. For later years the records include bonds given by contractors and banks, as well as by employees; it is unknown whether these were filed together originally. Legislation of 1826 required Superintendents of Repairs and toll collectors to give bond "for the faithful execution of his trust." Legislation of 1827 and many subsequent acts required the same of contractors.

**A1265. Accounts for enlargement and improvement of the Erie Canal, 1835-1849. 0.5 cu. ft.**

This volume contains accounts for work and materials furnished on contract under laws of 1835 (Chapter 274) and 1838 (Chapter 269) and for repairs made under a law of 1843 (Chapter 30). Accounts include statement of location of contract (lock or section), name of contractor, and type of work or material furnished with quantity and value. Some statements are followed by a resident engineer's certification that the statement is correct, and by a note of payment by the Canal Commissioners. At the end of the volume are regulations adopted by the Canal Commissioners regarding survey of proposed canal enlargement; other resolutions of the Canal Commissioners; and copies of reports and accounts related to enlargement of the canal submitted to the Canal Commissioners by the chief engineer for the first division.

Indexes: Alphabetical index to contractors at front of volume.

**A1092. Account book for cash paid out for Black River, Genesee Valley, and other branch canals, 1840-1859. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological within each account.

This account book documents cash payments for construction or repairs of the Black River, Genesee Valley, Crooked Lake, Chemung, and other branch canals, and for the Oneida River Improvement. Accounts are for individuals or firms supplying materials or services. Each entry provides date, voucher number, amount paid, and occasionally a

brief note on type of work done. A list of "miscellaneous payments" lists payments to individuals for labor, damages or repairs to their property, etc.

**A1179. Superintendent of Repairs' unpaid accounts, 1846- 1875. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

This series contains abstracts of unpaid accounts, each concerning one section of a canal during a sixty-day period. Each abstract provides date of purchase or of labor performed; to whom payment due; purpose of payment; reason not paid; and amount owed. The signature of a Superintendent of Repairs certifies the accuracy of each abstract. These accounts were submitted to the Comptroller pursuant to Canal Board Resolution No. 15 and Chapter 224, Laws of 1827.

**A0857. Canal superintendents' accounts, 1852-1858. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: By canal, then chronological.

This volume contains accounts of superintendents of various sections of New York State's canals and provides date monies paid out or received; nature of the transaction; amount; and figures on services and disbursements. Correspondence was included with some accounts for clarification of a particular entry. Also occasionally included are attestations to the fact that work has been completed or monies received.

Indexes: Index to each superintendent's statement in front of volume.

**A1399. Canvasses of proposals for enlargement of Erie Canal and completion of Genesee Valley Canal, 1854-1857. 2 cu. ft. (7 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by canal section number.

These volumes contain canvass sheets for the enlargement of the Erie Canal and completion of the Genesee Valley Canal. Resident engineers and their assistants compiled the canvass sheets and submitted them to the Canal Contracting Board. Each sheet contains section number, proposition number, name of bidder, amount of work to be done (grubbing, cleaning, bailing, draining, excavation, masonry, etc., in cubic yards), and quantity of materials needed (timber and iron), with dollar amounts proposed by each bidder. The front of each volume contains a certificate from the division engineer stating that he has canvassed the propositions received by the Canal Contracting Board, with place and date of letting.

**A1082. Canal auditor's decisions, 1854-1882. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.



These are abstracts of decisions made the by Auditor of the Canal Department regarding canal tolls and other regulations. The volume also records appointments and removals of canal toll collectors and other officials.

**A1442. Miscellaneous maps and plans of canal structures, ca. 1830-1900. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

These maps and plans of canal structures and works were originally attached to contracts, petitions, awards by Canal Appraisers, and other documents. Some of the maps give no indication of their origin. At some point they were removed from those series and filed together.

**A1091. Measurements, calculations, and estimates for construction of Chenango Canal, 1833-1837. 1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Arrangement: Numerical by section number.

This series consists of three volumes of measurements, calculations and estimates for construction of the Chenango Canal. For each survey station (approximately three chains apart) there are calculations of cubic footage of excavation, embankment (towpath, berm, etc.), and lining, with comments and totals. For each section of the canal there is an abstract of the account for that section, listing work done, extra material used, pay rate, total amount due, date, and contractor's name. There are also special calculations for canal feeders, locks, culverts, aqueducts, dams, fences, waste water weirs, etc., including detailed figures for amount and value of stone and wood work and drawings of locks, culverts, and other works.

**A1078. Canal engineer's field notes for Erie Canal, 1834. 0.5 cu. ft. (5 volumes)**

Field notes were made for the Canal Commissioners pursuant to Revised Statutes of 1827 (Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 1) requiring that maps and field notes be prepared for all canals constructed by the State. The field notes are in the form of a diagram of the canal in which the right of way is shown as a straight line despite deviations in course. The diagram shows courses and distances (in red); right of way (boundaries of State-owned land, shown in blue); locks; basins; culverts; bridges; aqueducts; mill races and ponds; buildings adjoining the canal; and landowners' names. Each volume includes an explanation signed by engineer Holmes Hutchinson. Pasted in are statements of transmittal from Canal Commissioners to the Canal Board, and of filing with the Comptroller's Office.

**A1133. Superintendents of Repairs' annual reports of structures or work completed or repaired, 1841-1875. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Each annual report lists the number of locks, aqueducts, waste weirs, weigh locks, bridges, scows, buildings, dams, repairs of breaches, and other works or structures completed or repaired during the past year, with the cost of new and repair work and total cost in each category. At the head of the report are given the name of the superintendent, location of section, and date.

A1190. Field notes of canal engineers, 1841-1851. 0.1 cu. ft. (3 volumes)

These three small leather bound books contain field notes and calculations of engineers employed on the canal system. One book is dated 1847-1849 and was kept by C.E. Gray for work near Canajoharie; another is a level book kept on the middle division of the Oswego Canal in 1851; and a third is a level book kept near Marcellus in 1841. A law of 1851 (Chapter 377) required engineers to file their field notes with the Comptroller, but it is unknown how these earlier books came into his possession.

**A1177. Superintendent of Repairs' reports of inspection of materials and tools, 1849-1852. 0.1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Each report provides name of contractor, date and expiration of contract, the quantity, kind, description, and value of materials delivered or rejected, and the amount and value of materials delivered or still due. At the end of the report is an affidavit of inspection by a canal commissioner or Superintendent of Repairs.

**A1176. Superintendent of Repairs' reports of locktenders employed by contractors for repairs, 1863-1864. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Each monthly report provides name and section of canal, number or name of lock, and names of locktenders. Reports contain affidavits of section superintendents.

A1266. Canal Commissioners' estimates of work done and materials delivered on Erie, Champlain, and Black River canals, 1867-1868. 0.3 cu. ft. (5 booklets)

Arrangement: Entries are roughly geographical.

These estimates were submitted to the Canal Commissioners by the resident engineer for work done and material delivered for various improvements on the Erie (eastern division), Champlain, and Black River canals, including canal sections, locks, dams, dock and pier at Whitehall, and other work. Entries provide location of improvement, quantity and value of material used, name of contractor, and labor performed. Booklets are addressed to R.C. Dorn, Canal Commissioner and contain the resident engineer's certification as to the accuracy of the information provided.

**A1273. Monthly reports on Barge Canal terminal construction, 1913-1920. 2 volumes**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These are volumes of monthly reports with cover letters from a deputy State engineer to the State Comptroller. The reports provide information on the construction including contract number; location of terminal; contractors; summary of work done; estimate of percentage of work done; and schedules giving total value of work under contract, done to date, done during month of report, and percentage done to date. The reports are signed by a deputy State engineer or terminal engineer.

**A1264. Accounts of taxes paid on passengers of steamboats, 1817-1819. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By steamboat.

This series consists of tax lists of steamboats Richmond, Paragon, and Chancellor Livingston generated pursuant to the 1817 law (Chapter 262) establishing the Canal Fund. Among the law's provisions was one to levy a tax of one dollar upon each steamboat passenger for each trip of over 100 miles, and fifty cents for any distance less than 100 miles and over 30 miles, the proceeds of which were to be deposited in the Canal Fund.

The tax lists do not list names of individual passengers, but provide the total number of passengers carried during a particular month; the tax was then computed on this figure. In some instances, the passenger totals are broken down into daily figures. Each account also has a sworn statement by a crew member certifying the accuracy of the list.

**A0814. Register of canal boat name changes, 1817-1852. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This series consists of entries giving name of boat as registered; hailing place; new name; new hailing place (often different from original); and date. Owners of canal boats were required to register changed names of boats with the Comptroller in accordance with legislation of 1827 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 7, Section 112).

**A1198. Cash account of Toll Collector at Rochester, 1826. 2 volumes**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Two cash books of J. Bowman, Toll Collector at Rochester, list names and amounts which are totaled daily. The cover of one book is printed and entitled "A Cyphering Book...Sold by Marshall, Spalding & Hunt, Rochester." On the cover is an engraving of a canal packet and a warehouse. The books were presumably submitted to the Comptroller along with the accounts of the collector, as required by legislation of 1826 (Chapter 360).

**A1064. Reports of canal tolls received, 1826. 0.1 cu. ft.**

**A1057. Lists of passengers on boats on the Erie Canal, 1827-1829. 2.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological by year.

These are lists of passengers submitted monthly by masters of boats travelling the Erie Canal. Legislation of 1829 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 7, Section 134) required masters of such boats to submit passenger lists for taxation purposes. Lists provide name of boat; period covered; date of travel; names of passengers; distance traveled; master's signature; and witnessed affidavits as to the accuracy of the list.

Indexes: Card index indicates names of boats in chronological and alphabetical order.

**A1175. Annual statistical reports of cargoes cleared at various canal ports, 1830, 1832. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Tables submitted by the canal toll collectors provide quantity (feet, pounds, barrels, etc.) of freight passing up or down during navigation session. Among commodities tabulated are lumber, timber, shingles, lime, beer, oats, wool, iron, brick, cheese, butter, flour, ashes, wheat, salt, and "sundries." This is a fragmentary series: reports are present for 1830 for Albany, West Troy, Whitehall, Utica, and Rochester, and for 1832 for West Troy, Utica, Rochester, and Buffalo. Toll collectors made statistical reports to the Comptroller pursuant to legislation of 1826 (Chapter 360).

**A1178. Agreements for commutation of passenger tolls on freight boats carrying passengers, 1834. 0.1 cu. ft.**

Proprietors of freight boats carrying passengers entered into an agreement with the Commissioners of the Canal Fund to pay 1.3 cents per mile for each boat operated upon the canals. Each document provides name of proprietor; name of boat line; registered name and hailing place of each boat in the line; proprietor's signature; and date. Legislation of 1827 (Chapter 226) provided for commutation of tolls upon passengers.

**A1436. Forms and instructions in relation to accounts of collectors of tolls, 1837. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

This printed booklet contains sample forms and instructions for use by collectors of tolls on the canal system and cites relevant statutes. The Comptroller was authorized to prepare forms for use in the canal system by legislation of 1829 (Revised Statutes, Part I, Chapter 9, Title 9, Article 9).

**A0841. Account book for lumber business, 1837-1840. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

This volume contains miscellaneous accounts of an unidentified private firm dealing in lumber and firewood, probably at Albany. It includes accounts of sales of firewood to the steamboats "Red Jacket" and "Victory". These vessels were owned by the East Boston Timber Company, which shipped lumber along the canal. The documents in this series are among the company's records acquired by the Comptroller when the City Bank of

Buffalo, in which the company had a controlling interest, went into receivership. Additional records of the East Boston Timber Company are in series A1079, Passenger List and Freight Account Book of Steamboat "Red Jacket" (see below).

**A1079. Passenger list and freight account book of steamboat "Red Jacket," 1838-1839. 2 volumes**

Arrangement: Chronological.

A passenger list for daily steamboat trips between Buffalo and Niagara Falls provides names; destinations; number in party; and fares paid. Accounts were kept between June 5 and September 11, 1838, and totaled at end of entries. The series also includes daily accounts of Roswell Haskell with steamboat "Red Jacket" for receipts (mostly from way bills) and disbursements, for April to November 1839; at the end are other miscellaneous accounts. Passengers were taxed in accordance with a law of 1817 (Chapter 262).

**A1046. Auburn and Syracuse Rail Road waybills, 1839. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Each bill provides date; time of run; name of superintendent; direction of movement (all eastbound); destination; type of freight; and railroad charges. Bills were submitted to the Comptroller in accordance with a law of 1834 (Chapter 228) incorporating the Auburn and Syracuse Rail Road Company and requiring it to pay canal tolls on freight it carried and to submit statements thereof to the Comptroller.

**A1199. Form for engineers' field notes to be filed with Comptroller, 1842. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 item)**

A "Form for entering field notes, quantities, etc. for a book of records to be deposited in the Comptroller's office," is dated June 25, 1842. The document provides sample field notes for natural ground and for excavations of various types, along with diagrams and formulas for computing the cubic footage of excavation. At the end are explanations of various terms and procedures referred to in the document.

**A1448. Leases of toll collectors' offices, 1849-1882. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Roughly chronological by year.

Leases before 1858 have no standard format. Starting in 1858 a standard printed form is used. The form describes the premises leased, indicates the terms of payment, and includes the signatures of the lessor and a witness. On the back of the form are the location of the office, name of collector, date of lease, and annual rent.

**A1157. Toll collectors' annual accounts, 1853, 1878-1879. 0.3 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: None.

Annual accounts include two documents. The first is a monthly summary of debits for refunded tolls, salary of collector, pay of clerks, and deposits of tolls in designated banks; and of credits for tolls collected, clearances issued, and penalties levied. The second document provides summary totals under each debit and credit column for the Erie and branch canals. Each document includes collector's affidavit of accuracy, the year, and the location of the collector's office.

**A1472. Examination of accounts of Battle Island Paper Company, 1915. 0.1 cu. ft.**

This document is a report on the profitability of the Battle Island Paper Company, Fulton, prepared by an examiner from the office of the State Comptroller. The company argued before the Board of Claims that it had received inadequate compensation from the State for the appropriation of its water power rights during construction of the Barge Canal, pursuant to legislation of 1903 (Chapter 147). The examiner's report includes balance sheet dated March 12, 1914; tables showing yearly balances 1903-1914; monthly summaries of accounts for manufacture and sale of sulphate, 1902-1914; and a very detailed examination of the company's assets and liabilities and its profit/loss accounts used to determine the company's profitability. The report concludes that the concern had never been profitable and that loss of its water power made no difference in this regard. The document consists of typewritten pages numbered 25-174 plus six blueprint tables. Pages 1-24 are missing.

## ***Superintendent of Public Works***

**B0382. Correspondence and subject files, ca. 1907-1921. 89 cu. ft.**

**B0201. Minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1921. 0.6 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Created in 1816 (Chapter 237), the Canal Commission operated until it was abolished by an 1876 constitutional amendment transferring its powers to the newly created office of Superintendent of Public Works. The series contains minutes of meetings, maps, diagrams, drawings, tracings, decisions, petitions, correspondence, resolutions, contract lists, testimonies, depositions affidavits, and newspaper clippings. Minutes missing from this series date from early December 1883 through late May 1887 and from early January 1889 through late October 1896.

**B0202. Index to minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1921. 1 cu. ft. (15 volumes)**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name or subject.

This index allows both name and subject access to series B0201, Minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, described above. All of the index volumes are extant.

**B0216. Canal system contract agreements and specifications, ca. 1888-1904. 4 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These records provide extremely detailed information on canal contracts entered into by the State for canal improvements prior to the construction of the Barge Canal. Included among the agreements and specifications are bonds, financial statements of bonding companies, general contracts, maps, tracings, drawings, correspondence, and bid proposals. The contracts deal with various construction projects, but most relate to one of the following: lengthening of locks on the Erie and Oswego canals; attempt to enlarge the Champlain Canal; introduction of electricity to towage; second enlargement of the canals; and early stages of Barge Canal construction or the third enlargement. Subjects dealt with in detail include type of work to be performed; prices to be paid for materials and labor; materials and procedures to be used by contractors; and the supervision of construction projects.

**B0220. Canal contract final accounts, 1896-1905. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological

This series contains final contract accounts as well as explanations of extra work, receipts, and resident assistant and division engineers' affidavits to final accounts. Data provided includes name of contracting firm; date of contract; description of construction project; authorizing legislation; description of items purchased or services performed; quantities and cost of materials utilized; partial payments made by the Superintendent of Public Works to contractors; reasons for alternations; and explanation regarding extra work.

**B0345. Advertising journal for the letting of canal construction contracts, 1903-1923. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of advertisement.

**A3261. Electrical inspector's Barge Canal construction correspondence, 1911-1914. 0.2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: By official (electrical inspector, Superintendent of Public Works), then chronological.

An electrical inspector employed by the Superintendent of Public Works kept this file documenting Barge Canal construction, especially concerning work on electrically-operated locks. The bulk of the series consists of the electrical inspector's reports to the Superintendent. The series also includes correspondence to the electrical inspector from companies supplying machinery or parts, and informational copies of mostly routine letters from the Superintendent to other employees or companies. The correspondence concerns such subjects as results of inspections (e.g. discovery of faulty capstan motors in canal locks); water levels in canals; construction work; need for and installation of lights; readiness of locks for navigation; damage, wear, and repairs to machinery; appointment, salaries, and training of lock employees; and operating procedures for locks.

**A1277. Notices of service upon owners of lands appropriated for the Barge Canal, 1906-1916. 0.8 cu. ft. (3 volumes)**

Three volumes contain carbon copies of affidavits of annexed notices of appropriations of property by the State. The affidavit is signed by an employee of the Department of Public Works (on behalf of the Superintendent of Public Works) and states that the Department under a law of 1903 has annexed the lands described and is thereby informing the owner of the land in writing as the Department has been unable to reach the owner in person.

These affidavits contain detailed descriptions of the land to be appropriated by the State for Barge Canal purposes pursuant to laws of 1903, 1909, and 1911. An insert in the beginning of volume 1905-1911 dated March 13, 1905 entitled "Procedure in taking possession of lands under Chapter 147 of the Laws of 1903" describes in detail the procedures and policies involved.

**B0338. Depositions regarding notices of land appropriations for Barge Canal purposes, 1913-1916. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**



Arrangement: Chronological by date of deposition.

**B0293. Index to canal structure map and plan books, ca. 1834-1905. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Cards indexing volumes of land appropriation maps and descriptions are alphabetical by county, and therein alphabetical by name of person from whom land was appropriated; cards indexing volumes of canal locations and structures are divided into three sets of cards: two sets are arranged by division (eastern, middle, western), then alphabetical by structure (abutments, aqueducts, bridges, etc.); the third set is alphabetical by subject.

These 3" x 5" cards serve as an index to series B0292, Canal Structure Map and Plan Books (page 38). The index is divided into two parts. One part indexes volumes containing maps and descriptions of lands appropriated by the State for canal purposes pursuant to Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1895. These cards provide name of the person from whom land was appropriated; number of acres; location (town, city, or village and county); and book number and page.

The second part indexes volumes containing maps, plans, drawings, and other records regarding the location of canals and related structures built thereon. Within this part of the index are three sets of cards. One handwritten set and one typed set provide division, canal, structure, book and page number, brief description of the reference, and occasionally the date of the reference. The third set of cards constitutes the bulk of this part of the index and provides a brief narrative description, book number, and page number.

Finding aids: Container list.

**A4290. Card index to western division canal maps, plans, estimates, and related structures, ca. 1830-1925. 1.5 cu. ft. (ca. 7,000 cards)**

Arrangement: By subject category.

This series indexes at least three series of records documenting work on the western division of the State's canal system: B0380, Western Division Maps and Plans (page 42); B1211, Roll Maps Relating to the Western Division of the Erie and Barge Canals (page 46); and B0730, Engineers' Field Books Pertaining to the Construction of the State's Canal System (page 37). The index cards were created to provide subject access to the various maps, plans, drawings, estimates, and related documents produced for the proposed work and ongoing maintenance of the canal system and its structures in the western division. The index remained in active use well into the 1970s.

The pre-printed 3" x 5" cards have handwritten information on them. Usually the subject reference is in the upper left corner and the map or book number in the upper right. "Map" numbers refer to maps, plans, drawings, profiles, and other related representations.

"Book" numbers refer to field books. Cards typically contain such information as: kind of work or specific type of structure (e.g. "Whipple Arch bridge"); geographic coverage or specific work area; law and chapter number of authorizing legislation; and specific and sometimes extensive remarks (e.g. map "very old;" waste weir "on land of Elizabeth Dayton;" dates of surveys and names of surveyors).

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0738. Superintendent of Repairs' printed abstracts of expenditures for work on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1912-1923. 0.5 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0386. Duplicate petitions submitted to the Court of Claims pertaining to canal related damages, 1897-1908. 2 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by claim number, corresponding to chronological order.

Finding aids: Container list.

**B0340. Assistant Superintendent's record of bills pertaining to the eastern division, ca. 1911-1914. 1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of bill.

**B0368. Journal of receipts and expenditures for construction of Barge Canal, 1915-1918. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

**B0346. Ledgers for canal related accounts, 1886-1899. 1 cu. ft. (4 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of account.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0373. Journal pertaining to canals, 1893-1899. 0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by month.

**B0342. Abstract registers of vouchers for money expended on State canals, 1916-1918. 1 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**B0337. Canal ice permits, 1895-1906. 0.4 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of permit.

**B0697. Newspaper clippings regarding events on the Barge Canal, 1902-1908. 0.5 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0341. Abstracts of expenditures, 1916-1921. 0.8 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of abstract.

Finding aids: Volume list.

**Superintendent of Public Works - Assistant Superintendent's Office**

**B1021. Photographs of culverts on western division of Erie Canal, ca. 1900. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Numerical by culvert number.

**Superintendent of Public Works - General Inspector's Office**

**B0332. Newspaper clippings regarding canal operations and conditions, 1885-1912. 2 cu. ft. (10 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of clipping.

Finding aids: Container list.

**Superintendent of Public Works - Publicity Agent's Office**

**B0234. Correspondence files, 1921-1922. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Alphabetical by last name of correspondent or firm.

Compiled by Charles E. Ogden, these files document the State's effort to promote widespread use of the Barge Canal. The files contain incoming and outgoing correspondence as well as newspaper clippings, magazine articles, brochures, and press releases. The records contain information on the preparation of lantern slides to be shown at various public forums, techniques for advertising and promoting the Barge Canal,

goods shipped on the canal, the proposed re-introduction of canal passenger packets, and the distribution of literature and photographs regarding the State's canal system.

Finding aids: Folder list.

## **Superintendent of Public Works - Board of Consulting Engineerings**

### **B0225. Correspondence files, 1904-1906. 1 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These files contain incoming and outgoing correspondence, photographs, reports, blueprints, and maps generated by or directed to the Advisory Board of Consulting Engineers (predecessor to the Board of Consulting Engineers). The files deal with detailed technical matters concerning the location and construction of the Barge Canal as well as general administrative subjects. Correspondence for 1907 through 1911 is not extant.

### **B0221. Reports and recommendations, 1913-1914. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These records consist of typed carbon copies of reports and recommendations compiled by the Board of Consulting Engineers and submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor. The reports deal mainly with work already performed on Barge Canal contracts and proposed work. They provide detailed information on construction methods as well as the administrative processes involved in supervising construction progress. Moreover, the reports and recommendations are important because the State Engineer and Surveyor often followed the board's suggestions.

### **B0222. Weekly employment reports, 1914-1921. 0.5 cu. ft.**

Arrangement: Chronological.

These reports provide information on the daily assignments and duties of consulting board members to review work completed on various Barge Canal construction projects. These are printed forms that were submitted to the State Engineer and Surveyor at the end of each week (Monday through Saturday).

## ***Office of the Commissioners of the Land Office***

### **A0903. Register of Canal Fund lands sold by the Surveyor General, 1843-1847. 0.5 cu. ft.**

These are records of land sales made by the Surveyor General in compliance with resolutions of the Commissioners of the Land Office. The lands belonged to the Canal Fund and the Surveyor General's reports of these sales were sent to the Canal Fund Commissioners. A law of 1841 (Chapter 92) authorized the Surveyor General, under the direction of the Land Office Commissioners, to sell lands which had become the property of the State through any acts authorizing a loan to benefit the people of the State, or through any public fund. The entries provide date of sale; description of the land; price; name of purchaser; and certification by the Surveyor General of the sale of the land.

## ***Department of State***

### **B0252. Whiteprint copies of maps of lands permanently appropriated by the State for canal purposes ("blue line maps"), 1917-1948. 62 cu. ft. (69 portfolios containing 805 maps)**

Arrangement: Geographical by portfolio and therein numerical by map number.

This series consists of whiteprint copies of original survey maps, commonly referred to as "blue line maps," of land appropriated by the State for canal purposes. The maps depict in minute detail lands acquired for canal purposes up to and including the time of construction of the Barge Canal. The Department of Public Works (earlier the State Engineer and Surveyor) retained the original maps and submitted whiteprint copies to the Comptroller and Secretary of State. This set of maps was filed with the Secretary of State.

A law of 1910 (Chapter 199) authorized the production of "blue line maps" (the blue lines indicated boundaries of State-owned lands along the canals) to minimize property disputes resulting from the construction of the Barge Canal. The maps generally depict inner angles of the towpaths on the old canal; property owned by the State prior to Barge Canal construction; property appropriated by the State for the Barge Canal project; locations of the old canal lines; location of the proposed Barge Canal; and various structures, roads, streets, and other landmarks and the names of owners of private property adjacent to the canal.

Finding aids: A portfolio list provides inclusive map numbers and brief description of canal and geographic area.

## ***Department of Taxation and Finance***

### **B0980. Canal fund ledgers, 1915-1930. 1 cu. ft. (2 volumes)**

Arrangement: Chronological by date of transaction.

These two ledgers contain accounts of New York State with banks in which Canal Fund moneys were deposited.

### ***Treasurer's Office***

**A1090. Treasurer's account of canal tolls and salt duties deposited in banks, 1826-1832. 0.6 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

Arrangement: Chronological.

This volume contains the State Treasurer's account of canal tolls and salt duties deposited in various banks in upstate New York. Canal toll receipts and salt duties are entered on the left folio (debit) and corresponding deposits in the Ontario, Geneva, Rochester, Utica, Ontario Branch, Mohawk, Waterford Branch, Troy, and Mechanic's and Farmer's Banks are entered on the right folio (credit). There are monthly and annual totals. Canal tolls and salt duties (not distinguished in this volume) were deposited in the Canal Fund in the various banks as a security for repayment of State canal stock.

### ***Department of Law - Attorney General's Office***

**B0904. Canal fund daybook, 1854-1855. 0.2 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

**B0906. Transcripts of hearings and stenographer's notes for the case of the People of New York vs. Henry D. Denison, et al. relating to work done on the Erie Canal, ca. 1880. 3 cu. ft.**

### ***Executive Department New Capitol Commission***

**A3177. Record of stone transported by canal boats, 1870. 0.1 cu. ft. (1 volume)**

## Series Available on Microfilm

A0848. Canal system survey maps, 1832-1843.

A0859. Index to rough minutes of the Canal Board and to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1845-1925.

A1140. Petitions and appeals to the Canal Board ("Canal Board Papers"), 1828-1926.

A1434. Index to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1828-1832.

A1438. Canal operating and administrative files, 1827-1833.

A0848. Canal system survey maps, 1832-1843.

A0859. Index to rough minutes of the Canal Board and to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1845-1925.

A1140. Petitions and appeals to the Canal Board ("Canal Board Papers"), 1828-1926.

A1434. Index to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1828-1832.

A1438. Canal operating and administrative files, 1827-1833.

### List of Series in Order of Series Number

10448. Maps, drawings and blueprints related to State waterways and canals, ca. 1851-1941.

11833. Barge Canal construction photographs, 1905-1921.

11835. Field notes, monthly work, material, and cost estimates, and measurements for Erie Canal enlargement, 1835- 1844.

14068. Erie and Champlain canals topographic survey maps ("egg shell maps"), ca. 1904-1915.

A0013. Abstracts, check rolls, and vouchers for canal expenditures, 1827-1880.

A0133. Contracts for improvement of the Erie, Oswego, and Champlain Canals, ca. 1915-1925.

A0392. Engineers' drafts and vouchers for general fund, 1895-1896.

A0800. Survey maps and plans for projected canal alterations, ca. 1830-1851.

A0810. Canvass of proposals for Erie Canal Enlargement, 1851.

A0812. Map of improvements to state ditch off the Chemung Canal, ca. 1870.

A0813. Bank book, 1839-1844.

A0814. Register of canal boat name changes, 1817-1852.

A0815. Impeachment trial subpoenas and subpoena tickets for Canal Commissioner, 1853.

A0817. Contract for protection of Albany Basin, 1869.

A0818. Register of tolls paid by railroads on canals, 1849-1851.

A0819. Financial and administrative records of canals, 1838-1880.

A0826. Entry documentation submitted by the Commissioners of Navigation to the comptroller, 1794-1828.

A0828. Entry documentation for canal-related expenses, 1827-1901.

A0834. Printed material, correspondence and photographs from the Canal Investigating Commission, 1888-1912.

A0841. Account book for lumber business, 1837-1840.

A0848. Canal system survey maps, 1832-1843.

A0851. Original maps of surveys for the Erie Canal ("Geddes Maps"), 1817.

A0852. Survey map of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers, 1830.

A0853. State Engineer and Surveyor's maps and plans for the Hudson and Champlain Improvement survey, 1866.

A0854. Map of extension of Genesee Valley Canal from Olean to Mill Grove Pond, 1857.

A0856. Rough minutes, 1832-1926.

A0857. Canal superintendents' accounts, 1852-1858.

A0859. Index to rough minutes of the Canal Board and to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1845-1925.

A0867. Whiteprint copies of maps of lands permanently appropriated by the State for canal purposes ("blue line maps"), 1917-1948.

A0868. Minutes, 1833-1855.



- A0872. Engrossed minutes of the Canal Commissioners, 1849-1857.
- A0881. Expense accounts related to Commissioners for Inland Navigation Between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River, 1810-1814.
- A0883. Lists of stockholders of Million Dollar Loan and canal loans, 1815-1823.
- A0903. Register of Canal Fund land sold by the Surveyor General, 1843-1847.
- A0905. Resolutions and reports of the commissioners, 1818, 1825, 1874.
- A0923. Register of canal boats, 1859.
- A0954. Vouchers for repair of Ox Bow break, Erie Canal, 1871.
- A0988. Abstracts of bids received for work on canals, 1854-1857.
- A1006. Western Inland Lock Navigation Company damage assessments and reimbursement, 1820.
- A1012. Schedule of Erie and Champlain Canal stock redeemed by the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1838.
- A1034. Lists of freight on Baxter Steam Canal Boats, ca. 1840-1870.
- A1038. Canal Fund loan proposals, 1817-1857.
- A1046. Auburn and Syracuse Rail Road waybills, 1839.
- A1055. Accounts relating to construction and operation of Barge Canal, 1920-1938.
- A1057. Lists of passengers on boats on the Erie Canal, 1827-1829.
- A1058. Designs for Watervliet Arsenal Bridge, 1851.
- A1064. Reports of canal tolls received, 1826.
- A1076. Rough minutes, 1827-1926.
- A1077. Engrossed minutes and index, 1817-1855.
- A1078. Canal engineer's field notes for Erie Canal, 1834.
- A1079. Passenger list and freight account book of steamboat "Red Jacket," 1838-1839.

- A1080. Canal Toll Collector's book, 1847.
- A1081. Canal fund accounts (receipt and disbursement book), 1824-1832.
- A1082. Canal auditor's decisions, 1854-1882.
- A1085. Canal Fund account book, 1835-1840.
- A1086. Account of expenditures for constructing Champlain Canal, 1818-1824.
- A1087. Accounts of Canal Commissioners for expenditures on branch canals, 1825-1837.
- A1088. Sample form book compiled by Canal Department, 1850-1883.
- A1089. Canal stock transfer receipt book, 1820-1824.
- A1090. Treasurer's account of canal tolls and salt duties deposited in banks, 1826-1832.
- A1091. Measurements, calculations, and estimates for construction of Chenango Canal, 1833-1837.
- A1092. Account book for cash paid out for Black River, Genesee Valley, and other branch canals, 1840-1859.
- A1093. Accounts and returns of canal tolls by railroads, 1844-1851.
- A1094. List of contracts with banks for interest on canal money, 1831-1834.
- A1095. Statement of work done under contract on Erie Canal Enlargement, 1847-1849.
- A1096. Monthly bank balances of Canal Fund, 1833-1835.
- A1097. Monthly balances of canal monies in banks, 1834-1844.
- A1098. Estimates of work done and material delivered on Erie, Champlain, and Black River canals, 1867-1868.
- A1099. Register of appointments, 1848-1861.
- A1125. Contracts and accounts for construction and repair, ca. 1817-1828.
- A1126. Abstracts and vouchers of expenditures, ca. 1831-1869.
- A1127. Proposals and bonds for canal enlargement and repairs, 1848-1869.
- A1129. Resident and division engineers' monthly estimates, 1850-1868, 1875.

A1130. Resident and division engineers' abstracts and vouchers of expenditures, 1833-1874.

A1131. Superintendents of Repairs' estimate of expenditures for repairs, 1835-1905.

A1132. Superintendents of Repairs' reports of expenditures for repairs, 1835-1878.

A1133. Superintendents of Repairs' annual reports of structures or work completed or repaired, 1841-1875.

A1134. Inventories of canal property, 1835-1876.

A1135. Lock tenders' monthly reports of lockages, 1858-1881.

A1136. Weigh Masters' annual statements and inventory and weekly abstracts, 1860-1882.

A1137. Certificates of registry of canal boats, 1837-1880.

A1138. Boat inspectors' weekly reports, 1862-1881.

A1139. Bills of lading and clearances for cargoes, 1830-1855, 1869, 1881.

A1140. Petitions and appeals to the Canal Board ("Canal Board papers"), 1828-1926.

A1141. Documents relating to refund of overpaid tolls, 1851-1882.

A1142. Bonds of canal employees, contractors, and boards, 1827-1876.

A1143. Lists of appointments of assistant engineers and other employees, 1851-1900.

A1144. Incoming correspondence, ca. 1846-1883.

A1145. Vouchers for expenditures on account of canal fund, 1833-1900, bulk 1853-1900.

A1157. Toll collectors' annual accounts, 1853, 1878-1879.

A1158. Engineers' abstracts and vouchers for survey of canal routes, 1825-1835.

A1160. Financial and legal records filed with the Canal Department, 1841-1885.

A1163. Documents relating to deposit of Canal Funds in banks, ca. 1831-1901.

A1167. Miscellaneous documents relating to canals, ca. 1825-1875.

A1170. Bonds of banks holding deposits of Canal Fund monies, 1855-1867.

- A1171. Weekly statements of canal shipments through Buffalo to or from other states, 1877, 1879.
- A1172. Weekly statements of canal shipments to or from tide waters, 1863.
- A1175. Annual statistical reports of cargoes cleared at various canal ports, 1830, 1832.
- A1176. Superintendent of Repairs' reports of locktenders employed by contractors for repairs, 1863-1864.
- A1177. Superintendent of Repairs' reports of inspection of materials and tools, 1849-1852.
- A1178. Agreements for commutation of passenger tolls on freight boats carrying passengers, 1834.
- A1179. Superintendent of Repairs' unpaid accounts, 1846- 1875.
- A1190. Field notes of canal engineers, 1841-1851.
- A1195. Calendar of petitions, 1849-1854.
- A1198. Cash account of Toll Collector at Rochester, 1826.
- A1199. Form for engineers' field notes to be filed with Comptroller, 1842.
- A1264. Accounts of taxes paid on passengers of steamboats, 1817-1819.
- A1265. Accounts for enlargement and improvement of the Erie Canal, 1835-1849.
- A1266. Canal Commissioners' estimates of work done and materials delivered on Erie, Champlain, and Black River canals, 1867-1868.
- A1267. Accounts of monies paid to contractors and others for construction, repair, and enlargement of Erie and Champlain canals, 1817-1871.
- A1268. Index to contracts for Erie Canal Improvements, ca. 1840-1860.
- A1270. Engineers' accounts, 1899-1920.
- A1272. Scrapbook of photographs and diagrams of canal, highway, and watershed construction, 1898-1907.
- A1273. Monthly reports on Barge Canal terminal construction, 1913-1920.
- A1274. Barge Canal construction monthly reports, 1910-1916.

- A1275. Special Deputy State Engineer's monthly reports, 1917-1920.
- A1276. Official orders, 1927-1930, 1934-1939.
- A1277. Notices of service upon owners of lands appropriated for the Barge Canal, 1906-1916.
- A1278. Register of dates of occupation on lands appropriated for the Barge Canal, 1906-1916.
- A1316. Comptroller's register of checks drawn for Canal Commissioners, 1817-1824.
- A1364. Outgoing correspondence from the Clerk of the Contracting Board, 1857-1861.
- A1380. Releases upon commutation for farm bridges over canals, with related correspondence and documents, 1835-1876.
- A1388. Legal documentation relating to lands conveyed to Commissioners of the Canal Fund, 1861-1881.
- A1389. Report of A.J. Davis on irregularities in performance of repair of Chemung Canal Feeder, submitted to Commission to Investigate Canal Frauds, 1871.
- A1395. Statements of proceeds from sales of Canal Fund lands, 1826-1833.
- A1399. Canvasses of proposals for enlargement of Erie Canal and completion of Genesee Valley Canal, 1854-1857.
- A1403. General and Canal Fund bond register, ca. 1931-1935.
- A1434. Index to petitions and appeals to the Canal Board, 1828-1832.
- A1435. List of expenditures for work done on the Erie Canal, ca. 1829-1857.
- A1436. Forms and instructions in relation to accounts of collectors of tolls, 1837.
- A1437. Sample forms for canal tolls paid by railroads, ca. 1851.
- A1438. Canal operating and administrative files, 1827-1833.
- A1439. Lists of awards made by Board of Claims, 1892-1894.
- A1440. Incoming correspondence relating to canals, ca. 1830-1880.
- A1441. Documents relating to canal claims, ca. 1830-1880.
- A1442. Miscellaneous maps and plans of canal structures, ca. 1830-1900.

A1448. Leases of toll collectors' offices, 1849-1882.

A1468. Testimony and brief in case of Black River claims heard by Canal Appraisers, 1869-1871.

A1469. Historical abstracts concerning lands of western division, Erie Canal, ca. 1860-1880.

A1472. Examination of accounts of Battle Island Paper Company, 1915.

A1899. Contract documents for canal enlargement and repairs, ca. 1836-1900.

A3131. Vouchers for expenditures on enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1837-1848, bulk 1848.

A3177. Record of stone transported by canal boats, 1870.

A3240. Ledger accounts for leases of surplus canal water, salaries of canal officials, and canal loans, 1826-1931.

A3259. Canal bridge reference lists, ca. 1917.

A3261. Electrical inspector's Barge Canal construction correspondence, 1911-1914.

A4022. Copy of annual report on the canals, 1851.

A4028. Bid proposals for construction work on Black River Canal reservoirs, 1859.

A4290. Card index to western division canal maps, plans, estimates, and related structures, ca. 1830-1925.

B0171. Maps, blueprints, tracings, drawings, plans, and cross sections of canal structures and sites, ca. 1830-1947.

B0201. Minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1889.

B0202. Index to minutes of the Canal Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Works, 1817-1921.

B0204. Index to Barge Canal minute books, ca. 1900-1931.

B0206. Record of petitions for Barge Canal terminals, 1911-1913.

B0207. Rough minutes, 1854-1861.

B0208. Scrapbook regarding the Barge Canal, 1929-1932. B0209. Record of canal contracts, 1898-1907.

B0212. Printed proceedings of the Canal Board and the Canal Contracting Board, 1857-1871.

B0213. Barge Canal contract files, 1907-1944.

B0214. Barge Canal land appropriation maps, 1905-1925.

B0215. Abandoned canal lands and blue line survey files, 1914-1923.

B0216. Canal system contract agreements and specifications, ca. 1888-1904.

B0219. Abstracts of expenditures of Erie Canal contracts, 1900-1904.

B0220. Canal contract final accounts, 1896-1905.

B0221. Reports and recommendations, 1913-1914.

B0222. Weekly employment reports, 1914-1921.

B0223. Negative photographs of State institutions, Barge Canal locations and structures, and highways, 1940-1944.

B0224. Reports and supporting records regarding survey for proposed canal between the Barge Canal and Cayuga Lake, 1906.

B0225. Correspondence files, 1904-1906.

B0226. Correspondence files, 1848-1895.

B0227. Correspondence files, 1904-1907.

B0230. Contractors' monthly estimates, ca. 1898-1902.

B0231. Weekly reports of engineers regarding the Barge Canal, 1921.

B0232. Monthly reports, 1921.

B0233. Card index to locations of Barge Canal construction records, 1917-1921.

B0234. Correspondence files, 1921-1922.

B0236. Walters Act administrative files, 1918-1919.

B0238. Administrative files, 1917-1921.

B0239. Card index to the Board's administrative files, 1917-1921.

- B0241. Card index to the Walters Act administrative files, 1918-1919.
- B0245. Opinions and abstracts of Attorney General's decisions, 1881-1895.
- B0247. Administrative subject files, 1922, 1925.
- B0248. Engravings of plans, profiles, and maps accompanying the annual report of the State Engineer and Surveyor, 1859.
- B0249. Accounts of property first cleared and left at Boonville on the Black River Canal, 1857-1894.
- B0250. Resident, division and assistant engineers' correspondence, 1904-1915.
- B0252. Whiteprint copies of maps of lands permanently appropriated by the State for canal purposes ("blue line maps"), 1917-1948.
- B0253. Barge Canal sectional maps ("Schillner Maps"), ca. 1896.
- B0292. Canal structure map and plan books, ca. 1827-1905.
- B0293. Index to canal structure map and plan books, ca. 1834-1905.
- B0316. Index to minutes, 1817-1854.
- B0325. Letters of instruction to western division engineers, 1903-1919.
- B0326. Requisitions for supplies for construction of the Barge Canal, 1908.
- B0331. Assistant Engineer's letter book, 1908-1909.
- B0332. Newspaper clippings regarding canal operations and conditions, 1885-1912.
- B0337. Canal ice permits, 1895-1906.
- B0338. Depositions regarding notices of land appropriations for Barge Canal purposes, 1913-1916.
- B0340. Assistant Superintendent's record of bills pertaining to the eastern division, ca. 1911-1914.
- B0341. Abstracts of expenditures, 1916-1921.
- B0342. Abstract registers of vouchers for money expended on State canals, 1916-1918.
- B0345. Advertising journal for the letting of canal construction contracts, 1903-1923.



- B0346. Ledgers for canal related accounts, 1886-1899.
- B0347. Certified final accounts for canal construction projects, 1841-1896.
- B0348. Registers of contract proposals regarding the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1851.
- B0349. Certified abstracts of expenditures, 1910-1914.
- B0350. Abstracts of expenditures for construction of Barge Canal and terminals, 1903-1914.
- B0351. Ledger books pertaining to canals, 1891-1921.
- B0352. Ledger, cash books, journal, and trial balance books, 1916-1920.
- B0353. Index to final estimates of contracts for the eastern division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1880-1900.
- B0354. Index to eastern division employees ledger, 1899- 1902.
- B0355. Contract proposals for the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1847-1854, bulk 1847-1850.
- B0356. Index book to mechanical structures on canals, ca. 1850-1895.
- B0357. Index to Barge Canal releases, 1906-1926.
- B0358. Canal contract registers, 1898-1926.
- B0359. Barge Canal final accounts, ca. 1906-1913.
- B0360. Index to maps and plans, ca. 1851-1895.
- B0361. Bridge survey registers, 1877.
- B0362. Summary of engineering expenditures for constructing Barge Canal, 1904-1911.
- B0363. Monthly summaries of payment for improvement of the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego canals, 1903.
- B0364. Barge Canal terminal final accounts, 1912.
- B0365. Preliminary estimates for construction of Barge Canal, 1904-1916.
- B0366. Monthly estimates for construction of Barge Canal, 1905.
- B0367. Preliminary estimates for construction of Barge Canal terminals, 1912-1918.

- B0368. Journal of receipts and expenditures for construction of Barge Canal, 1915-1918.
- B0370. Trial balance book for the Barge Canal, 1913-1916.
- B0371. Cash book for the Barge Canal, 1913-1916.
- B0372. Journals pertaining to canals, 1891-1916.
- B0373. Journal pertaining to canals, 1893-1899. B0374. Engineer's estimates of cost for canal contracts, ca. 1895-1915.
- B0376. Index to contractors whose proposals were accepted for canal projects, ca. 1830-1840.
- B0377. Final estimates and accounts, ca. 1835-1905.
- B0378. Journal and voucher register for Barge Canal contracts, 1905-1924.
- B0379. Maps, plans, details, and drawings of structures and locations of the middle and western divisions of the Erie, Genesee Valley, and Oswego canals, 1830-1900, bulk 1860-1900.
- B0380. Western division canal maps and plans, ca. 1879-1925, bulk ca. 1896-1912.
- B0381. Water gage readings, ca. 1887-1951.
- B0382. Correspondence and subject files, ca. 1907-1921.
- B0383. Correspondence and subject files, 1849-1908, bulk 1878-1897.
- B0384. Eastern, middle, and western division canal records, ca. 1848-1900.
- B0385. Barge Canal maintenance contracts, 1924-1931.
- B0386. Duplicate petitions submitted to the Court of Claims pertaining to canal related damages, 1897-1908.
- B0387. Stenographer's minutes of Jenkins and Perkins against the State of New York in the Court of Claims, 1917.
- B0388. Record books of watersheds and related improvements in the western division of the Barge Canal, 1919-1920.
- B0389. Copies of hydrographs and flow data of the Canaseraga and Keshequa Creeks and the Genesee River, ca. 1910-1919 (bulk 1918-1919).
- B0390. Survey records and estimates for proposed Chemung Canal reconstruction, 1913-1914.

- B0391. Barge Canal contract location maps, ca. 1904-1905.
- B0392. Charts and maps of the State canal system, ca. 1923.
- B0393. Barge Canal contract final estimate folios, ca. 1915-1920.
- B0394. Barge Canal contract cross section sheets, 1916, 1922.
- B0395. Contract plans relating to improvement of the Erie and Oswego canals, ca. 1895-1898.
- B0396. Sectional canal survey maps of the 1895 improvement of the Erie Canal, ca. 1896-1897.
- B0397. Monthly estimates for improvement, repair, and enlargement of the State's canal system, 1835-1907.
- B0398. Cost account volumes for the western division of the Erie Canal and Genesee Valley Canal, 1856-1878.
- B0399. Preliminary estimates, calculations, and measurements for canal system construction and repair, ca. 1835-1912.
- B0602. Canal damage awards by Canal Appraisers, Board of Claims, and Court of Claims, 1835-1953.
- B0605. Requisitions for Barge Canal materials and equipment, 1934-1938.
- B0650. Original and preliminary cross sections for 1895 survey of Erie Canal improvement, ca. 1896.
- B0651. Original and preliminary cross sections for 1876 survey of the western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1877.
- B0652. Account books for the Genesee Valley Canal, ca. 1843, 1863.
- B0653. Profiles of Locks 98 and 99 on the Genesee Valley Canal, ca. 1843.
- B0654. Final accounts and estimates for Genesee Valley Canal and Ischua Feeder, 1854.
- B0655. Estimates for the Genesee Valley Canal, 1851-1855.
- B0656. Record of land appropriations and damage awards relating to the Genesee Valley Canal, 1843-1847.
- B0657. Division and assistant engineers' expense books regarding the western division, 1895-1899.

- B0658. Contract and specification forms regarding the Genesee Valley Canal, 1838.
- B0659. Notices, written explanations, blank contracts, and specifications exhibited at lettings at Rochester and Clyde, 1850.
- B0660. Contracts and specifications exhibited and proposals received at letting in Lockport for Oak Orchard Creek Aqueduct, 1850.
- B0661. Register of contracts, field and office books, and other matters relating to the Erie Canal enlargement, 1851.
- B0662. Index to proposals received at Albany, 1851, 18 Jan.
- B0663. Index to contractors' proposals for work on western division, ca. 1850-1901.
- B0664. Description of lands appropriated for Genesee Valley Canal, 1839-1882.
- B0665. Copies of maps of lands appropriated for the enlargement of the Erie Canal at Lyons and Palmyra, 1849.
- B0666. Checklist of maps and list of Court of Claims awards regarding land appropriations, 1900-1901.
- B0667. Maps and descriptions of lands temporarily appropriated for State canals, 1897-1907.
- B0668. Reports, statements, and estimates of expenses of western division engineer's office, 1850-1851.
- B0669. Western division resident engineer's day book, 1852- 1858.
- B0670. Western division engineers' annual reports, estimates of expenses, and other reports regarding canals, 1856-1901.
- B0671. Western division resident engineer's annual report to division engineer, 1859-1860.
- B0672. Work force account, contract, and estimates of expenses regarding Erie Basin and slips in Buffalo, 1858-1862.
- B0673. Copy of Canal Commissioners' report to State Assembly and dock building permits regarding Erie Basin at Buffalo, 1863-1869.
- B0674. Maps and descriptions of western lands permanently appropriated for use of the State canals, 1899-1907.

B0675. Detailed estimates and location maps for proposed construction of gun boat locks on the western division of the Erie Canal, 1863.

B0676. Engineer's formula book also containing specifications and drawings, ca. 1869-1878.

B0677. Division engineer's account book, 1872-1874.

B0678. Time book pertaining to locking procedures in the western division of the Erie Canal, 1879.

B0679. Engineers' progress reports regarding repairs and construction in western division of the Erie Canal, 1889-1890.

B0680. Weekly employee reports, 1885-1895.

B0681. Histories of various canal projects on western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1880-1919.

B0682. Copies of permits issued by the Superintendent of Public Works, 1853-1892.

B0683. Personal and employment histories of western division employees, 1899-1907.

B0684. Work force book for Section 13, 1898.

B0685. Summary of estimates for extraordinary canal repairs on the western division, 1895-1904.

B0686. Ledger for canal construction projects and repairs, 1887-1907.

B0687. Contract specifications, engineers' estimates, and related documents pertaining to the nine million dollar canal improvement, 1892-1905.

B0688. Journals for western division accounts, 1870-1905.

B0689. Ledgers for western division accounts, 1876-1904.

B0690. Western division letter books, 1854-1899.

B0691. Copies of Monroe County Clerk's Office records of awards, deeds, and claims for canal lands, 1822-1884, bulk 1822-1862, 1884.

B0692. Final calculations regarding construction of State canals, ca. 1831-1861.

B0693. Monthly time books for work done on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1905-1936.

B0694. Registers of distribution of expenses to engineers employed on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1927-1943.

- B0695. Water supply computations for Black River survey, 1911.
- B0696. Report and estimates concerning the construction of gun boat locks on the eastern division of the Erie Canal, 1864.
- B0697. Newspaper clippings regarding events on the Barge Canal, 1902-1908.
- B0698. Index to western division final accounts, ca. 1867, 1890.
- B0699. Bills of materials used in canal construction and repair projects, ca. 1854-1904.
- B0702. Middle division letter books, 1850-1890.
- B0703. Abstracts of accounts of labor and materials supplied for work done on the Erie and Genesee Valley canals, ca. 1840-1860.
- B0704. Proposals and lists of proposals received for work done on the middle division, 1873-1894.
- B0705. Miscellaneous payments made for work done on the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1848-1868.
- B0706. Expenditures paid by engineers for work done on the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1848-1858.
- B0707. Gage descriptions from various locations on State canals, 1905-1910.
- B0708. Reports, cost estimates, and certificates pertaining to the middle division of the canal system, 1862-1865.
- B0710. Letting records regarding various canals and locations of the western division, ca. 1860-1868.
- B0712. Journal of proceedings in engineer's office at Whitehall, 1856.
- B0713. Maps of lands in the Rochester area claimed as damaged in the Erie Canal enlargement, ca. 1870.
- B0715. Employees ledger regarding Champlain Canal improvement expenses, 1890-1902.
- B0716. Expenditures made for improvement and repair of the middle division, 1840-1846.
- B0717. Cash accounts regarding the eastern division of the Erie Canal and the Champlain Canal, 1884-1889.

- B0718. Summaries of expenditures made for repair and improvement of the Champlain Canal, 1889-1895.
- B0719. Resident engineer's ledger of expenses for the enlargement of the eastern division of the Erie Canal, 1854-1855.
- B0720. Check register, 1920-1922.
- B0722. Stone measurements and quantities used in the enlargement of the Erie Canal, 1837-1840.
- B0723. Record of payments on various contracts pertaining to the eastern division, 1850-1862.
- B0724. Accounts, notes on damages, and survey computations for enlargement of the Erie Canal, ca. 1839-1845.
- B0725. Engineers' diaries, 1905-1939.
- B0726. Maps pertaining to the 1854 enlargement of the western division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1850.
- B0727. Glass plate negatives depicting construction of the western division of the Barge Canal, ca. 1907-1921.
- B0728. Index to glass plate negatives depicting construction of the western division of the Barge Canal, ca. 1907-1921.
- B0729. Roll maps and plans of the middle division of the Erie Canal, ca. 1850-1905.
- B0730. Engineers' field books pertaining to the construction of the State's canal system, ca. 1830-1920.
- B0731. Western division resident engineer's letter book, 1911-1912.
- B0732. Preliminary estimates of quantities and costs for Barge Canal contracts, 1907-1909.
- B0733. Accounts of costs and payrolls pertaining to Barge Canal contract 59, ca. 1918-1923.
- B0734. Contract specimens pertaining to the 1854 enlargement of the State's canals, 1854-1859.
- B0735. Printed quantities exhibited at lettings for the western division of the Erie Canal and the Genesee Valley Canal, 1851.
- B0736. Account books of payments made to companies and employees for work on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1905-1908.

- B0738. Superintendent of Repairs' printed abstracts of expenditures for work on the western division of the Barge Canal, 1912-1923.
- B0739. Record of cement received and used for Barge Canal contract No. 60, 1908-1909.
- B0740. Western division office report and letter book, 1875.
- B0741. Account books listing expenditures and monthly balance statements of the western division, 1911-1912.
- B0742. Salaries paid to personnel temporarily employed on the middle division of the Erie Canal, 1893-1906.
- B0743. Western division engineers' abstracts of expenditures pertaining to employees, 1920-1926.
- B0746. File on All American Canal and St. Lawrence Ship Canal and Power Project, 1921-1932.
- B0904. Canal fund daybook, 1854-1855.
- B0906. Transcripts of hearings and stenographer's notes for the case of the People of New York vs. Henry D. Denison, et al. relating to work done on the Erie Canal, ca. 1880.
- B0921. Abstracts and vouchers for Barge Canal and canal terminal expenses, 1936.
- B0980. Canal fund ledgers, 1915-1930.
- B1009. New York State Barge Canal plans, 1920.
- B1019. U.S. - Barge Canal contracts, estimates, and final accounts, 1941-1942.
- B1021. Photographs of culverts on western division of Erie Canal, ca. 1900.
- B1023. Unidentified maps, plans, and drawings of New York State canals, n.d.
- B1069. Contract, computations, estimates, maps, sections, and charts concerning the U.S./Barge Canal, 1933-1958.
- B1210. Middle and western division survey maps for the proposed 1895 Erie Canal enlargement, ca. 1895-1900.
- B1211. Roll maps relating to the western division of the Erie and Barge canals, ca. 1850-1910.
- B1212. Roll survey maps relating to the 1854 survey in the western division, ca. 1830-1890.
- B1213. Plans, maps, and specifications relating to various Barge Canal contracts, ca. 1895-1936.



## Glossary of Canal Record Terminology

The following terms are commonly found in series descriptions of records documenting the survey, construction, design, and improvement of New York State canals.

**Aqueduct:** a conduit or artificial channel for conveying water.

**Aqueduct bridge:** a structure that carries a canal over a river, stream, or valley.

**Berm:** a side bank of a canal, also known as the heelpath.

**Berm side:** the bank of a canal opposite the tow line.

**Blueline:** a non-reproducible blue image or outline usually printed photographically on paper or plastic sheeting, and used as a guide for drafting, stripping or layout. Sometimes called blind image.

**Blue line:** a line representing state owned land.

**Bolts:** a kind of bounds.

**Boundary points & pointers:** the corners of zone boundaries and the points where two or more zone boundaries join, are established and their locations are recorded.

**Bounds:** boundary lines; metes and bounds is method of describing land by measure of length (metes) of the boundary lines (bounds).

**Culvert:** a traverse drain or other conduit channeling water; feed culverts are hollow spaces, or tunnels, within lock walls through which water for filling or "feeding" a lock and for emptying it is conducted.

**Dam:** a structure built across a watercourse to maintain water levels and confine and keep back flowing water (a fixed dam is a permanent structure without movable parts; a movable dam is one which can be set up or thrown down as desired).

**Feeder:** diverted stream water used to supply water to maintaining the canal level.

**Flowage (flow) line:** a contour or line around a reservoir, pond, lake or along a stream corresponding to some definite water level (maximum, mean, low, spillway, crest, etc.); generally used in connection with the acquisition of rights to flood lands for storage purposes.

**Guard lock:** a lock at the mouth of a basin or a lock for preventing flooding, usually where the canal joins a natural water course.

**Hydrograph:** a chart recording the changing level of water, as in a reservoir, stream, or river.

**Hydrography:** surveying, sounding, and charting of bodies of water; the measurement of flow and investigation of behavior of streams, especially to control or utilize their waters; the measurement of tides or currents to aid navigation.

**Hydrology:** the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, particularly in respect to physical factors such as evaporation, precipitation, stream flow, snow melt, and ground water storage.

**Intermediates:** when an intermediate is used in conjunction with the wet process of blueprinting it serves as a negative; blueprints made from intermediates have blue lines on a white background.

**Land line:** that part of a canal which is an artificial channel-- not in a river, lake or natural water bed.

**Lateral canals:** branch canals leading to the main channels.

**Lift:** the distance or extent to which water in a canal lock rises.

**Lock:** an enclosure with gates at each end used in raising or lowering boats passing from one level to another.

**Lockage:** the passage of a boat or boats through a lock; the raising or lowering of a boat from one water level to another.

**Miter gates:** two gates which swing together into the form of a wide letter "V".

**Muck: the bottom soil in a watercourse:** dark, usually black, earth that is capable of absorbing much water, often consisting of decomposing plant matter; also refers to material removed in the process of excavating.

**Neat lines:** the lines that bound the body of a map, usually parallels and meridians; also called sheet lines.

**Offset line:** a supplementary line close to and roughly parallel to a main line, to which it is referred by measured offsets; where a line for which data are desired is positioned so that it is difficult to measure over it, data are obtained by running an offset line in a convenient location and measuring offsets from it to salient points on the other line; offsets are often represented by red lines drawn across a canal in a direction that bisects the angles formed by two continuous portions of the red line (or base line) of the towing path.

**Prism:** the volume of water in a stream or waterway in motion considered as a shape of chosen length in conjunction with the cross section of the channel.

**Red line:** often a line representing the inner line of a canal towpath, upon which all the measurements in the direction of the length of the canal were made.

**Siphon lock:** a lock in which the water for filling and emptying is controlled by an application of the siphon principle, as distinguished from a lock filled and emptied by water controlled by valves.

**Spillway:** a passageway for surplus water from a canal or reservoir.

**Summit level:** the highest level or elevation reached.

**Tow path:** path along one bank of a canal where teams of men and animals worked to pull boats.

**Tide water level:** the level affected by the flow of the tide (in the Hudson River the tide reaches as far as Troy).

**Tie:** a survey connection from a point of a known position to a point whose position is desired; a tie is made to determine the position of a supplementary point whose position is desired for mapping/reference purposes or to close a survey on a previously determined point (to "tie in" is to make such a connection and the point to which the connection is made is called a tie point).

**Tons capacity:** the carrying content of a boat, stated in tons.

**Vertical cross sections:** generally found on geological maps, drawn across the map to illustrate the geological structure of the rocks through the upper levels of the earth's crust.

**Waste weir:** an overflow, or weir, for the escape of surplus water from a canal or reservoir; a dam-like structure along the canal berm with openings to control the water level.