

BARGE CANAL PHOTO COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library – Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	unknown
Title:	Barge Canal Photo Collection
Dates:	ca. 1915
Abstract:	A series of photographs documenting the work and equipment used in the construction of New York State Barge Canal circa 1915.
Quantity:	8 photographs
Identification:	Photographs

HISTORICAL NOTE

The building of the New York State Barge Canal was a monumental infrastructure project designed to modernize and enlarge the New York State canal system. It aimed to replace the existing Erie and Champlain Canals with an altogether larger (wider, deeper, faster) system of water transport. Approved by the voters of the state in 1903, this endeavor required not only the building of larger locks, but in some places digging new canal beds and in others increasing the use and navigability of the two major rivers with which the canals intertwined, the Hudson and the Mohawk. The project was eventually expanded to include the Cayuga and Seneca canals. Plans and surveying started in 1905 and 1906. Contracts were let starting about 1909. The first boats entered the new Erie in 1916 and the whole work was completed by about 1920. Presumably the intention was to make the new canals competitive with the railroads which had been steadily taking over the freight business once the sole monopoly of canals. This did not happen, and in due course canal traffic succumbed to the railroads, just as the railroads subsequently succumbed to over-the-road trucking. [Whitford, Noble. History of the Barge Canal of New York State, 1921].

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

Photographs (8 black and white 5" x 7") of work and equipment in the construction of the New York State Barge Canal circa 1915.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: New York State Barge Canal

Places: Mohawk River
Canajoharie, NY

Important People: American Pipe & Construction Co.
Holler Ladu Co.
Beech Nut Company

Form/Genre: Black and white photographs

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Barge Canal Photographs
Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Gift of the Friends of Crandall Library, 2011.

Processing Information: Erica Wolfe Burke, June 2013

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

1. Photo: "10/29 Launching of Barge 112"
2. Photo of rock piles, equipment, shed and workmen.
3. Photo of equipment, men, horse teams, also cars.
4. Photo of rock piles, equipment, tracks along the canal
5. Photo of loading stone on canal boat, probably on Mohawk River
6. Photo of steamer "W.H. Nealer" towing a flat boat loaded with rocks and a light canal boat.

Note: The W.H. Nealer is described in the *Merchant Vessel List, U.S. 1914*: "Steam screw W.H. NEALER. * U.S. No. 106188. Of 11 tons gross; 8 tons net. Built at Buffalo, N.Y. in 1883. Home port, Albany, N.Y. 51.0 x 11.8 x 3.7 Tow service. Crew of 3. Of 15 indicated horsepower. *Formerly steam screw [a] Acacia, [b] Lady Mosso." [Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Works on the Canal of the State (1916) lists \$7.50 for inspection of the W.H. Nealer.]

7. Photo of Holler Ladu company boat No. 14 with two empty barges on the Mohawk River at Canajoharie (in front of Beech Nut plant).

Note: The Holler Ladu Corporation of Albany and Fort Edward is the successor to Holler & Shepherd Company of Fort Edward. This engineering company obtained a number of contracts during the construction of the Barge Canal between 1909 and 1920. They worked on piers, dockwall, harbors and canal terminals in Cohoes, Rouse's Point, Rotterdam, and Crocker's Reef to Fort Edward.

8. Photo of American Pipe & Construction Co # 2 on (Mohawk?) River

Note: American Pipe & Construction of Philadelphia, PA also worked on construction contracts for the Barge Canal, including projects in Fonda, Schenectady, Scotia and Rotterdam (1909-1918).

Photograph # 9, the interior of a camp in Schodic, Maine, has been donated to the Maine Historical Society.

These photographs are housed in the Crandall Library Photo Collection, in Box # _____, Numbered CLP # _____ - _____.