



ILL. & MICH. CANAL ANNUAL
COMMISSIONER'S
REPORTS
1825-1916

50¢

ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY

1109 Garfield Ave. Lockport, Ill. 60441

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL

This is the first of a projected series of research aids that the Illinois Canal Society hopes to publish. They are designed to pull together data on the location of printed and manuscript sources relating to the planning, construction and operation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. We would appreciate it if anyone having additional information on the whereabouts of these annual reports would call it to my attention. The Society is particularly concerned about those years in which no reports have been found. We are also interested in information relating to the whereabouts of any collections of Illinois and Michigan Canal material.

The Various Canal Commissions

- I. On Feb. 14, 1823 the General Assembly appointed a Board of Canal Commissioners which was responsible for the survey made by Col. Justice Post and Renee Paul in 1823 and 1824 on possible canal routes. There were five members on this commission. Their only report was issued in 1825. In that year the Commission was replaced by an Illinois and Michigan Canal chartered company which came to naught. In 1829 a new Canal Commission was formed with three members. They were responsible for the first platting of Chicago and Ottawa in 1830, hoping to raise money thereby selling lots enabling the financing of canal construction. Their hopes died aborning. In 1833 this Commission suggested that a railroad be constructed instead of a canal. As a result of their suggestion the General Assembly abolished the Commission in that year.
- II. Because of increased agitation for a canal in 1835 the legislature created a new Canal Commission of five members appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. This Commission got things going, and in July 1836 construction on the canal was begun. As a result of an attack upon this commission it was reorganized in 1837, with three members chosen by the General Assembly and under its control.
- III. As the Canal ran into increased financial troubles, and as the State was flat broke in 1845 the Governor was authorized to negotiate a loan to be secured by a deed of trust. The Canal and all its property were turned over to a Board of Trustees two of which were to be chosen by the subscribers to the loan (Eastern and Foreign Bank generally) and the third was to be appointed by the Governor. They were to build and manage the Canal for the benefit of the creditors, but certain interests of the State were to be protected. When the interest and the principal were paid the Canal was to revert to the State. Under this financing scheme the Canal was rapidly completed and opened for navigation in April of 1848. On April 30 1871 the Canal Trustees made their final report, and turned the Canal and its properties back to the State.
- IV. Under the Canal Commission system set up in 1870 three commissioners were to be appointed by the Governor with the concurrence of the Senate. They were regarded as part of the State administration, and were to last until 1917 when the Canal was made part of the newly established Illinois Division of Waterways.

John M. Lamb. President
Illinois Canal Society

Illinois Canal Society, 1109 Garfield Ave. Lockport, Ill. 60441

ANNUAL REPORTS ISSUED BY THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL AUTHORITIES
1825-1916

AND THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED
State Canal Agencies issuing these reports were:

1825-1833: Board of Canal Commissioners

1836-1844: Board of Commissioners of the Illinois
and Michigan Canal

1845-1871: Board of Trustees of the Illinois
and Michigan Canal

1870-1916: Canal Commissioners

Volumns issued

by Canal Authority	Year	Research Center Where Reports are Available
(1)	1825	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library
(2)	1830	Illinois State Archives
(3)	1831	Illinois State Archives
(4)	1833	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives
(1)	1836	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Archives
(2)	1837	Chicago Historical Society
(3)	1838	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives
(4)	1839	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(5)	1840	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(6)	1841	Evidently Never Published
(7)	1842	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(8)	1843	University of Illinois Urbana
(9)	1844	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, University of Illinois at Urbana*
(1)	1845	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Library, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana*
(2)	1846	Chicago Historical Society, University of Illinois at Urbana*
(3)	1847	Chicago Historical Society, , Illinois State Archives, Illinois Dept. of Conservation.
(4)	1848	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives
(5)	1849	Chicago Historical Society*
(6)	1850	Chicago Historical Society*
(7)	1851	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY
(8)	1852	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, University of Illinois Urbana
(9)	1853	
(10)	1854	Illinois State Archives
(11)	1855	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library
(12)	1856	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library
(13)	1857	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Library
(14)	1858	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Library

Vol.	Year	Research Center
(15)	1859	Illinois State Library
(16)	1860	Illinois State Library
(17)	1861	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library
(18)	1862	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library
(19)	1863	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library
(20)	1864	Chicago Historical Society*, Illinois State Library, University of Illinois in Urbana
(21)	1865	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Illinois State Historical Library
(22)	1866	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Library, Illinois Department of Conservation, University of Illinois, Urbana
(23)	1867	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Library, University of Illinois, Urbana*
(24)	1868	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Library, University of Illinois, Urbana*
(25)	1869	Chicago Historical Society
(1)	1870	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Library
(2)	1871	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library
(3)	1872	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library,
(4)	Special Report 1872	Chicago Historical Society
	1873	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library
(5)	1874	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library
(6)	1875	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Illinois State Historic Library, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Library, Ill. Dept. of Conservation.
(7)	Special Report 1875	Chicago Historical Society
	1876	Illinois State Historical Library, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Library
(8)	1877	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library
(9)	1878	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(10)	1879	Chicago Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(11)	1880	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society
(12)	1881	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library,

Vol.	Year	Research Center
(12) Con't.	1881	Illinois Department of Conservation
(13)	1882	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Department of Conservation, Will County Historical Society.
(14)	1883	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives
(15)	1884	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Will County Historical Society
(16)	1885	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois State Library, Will County Historical Society
(17)	1886	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society
(18)	1887	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society
(19)	1888	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society
(20)	1889	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society.
(21)	1890	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation Will County Historical Society
(22)	1891	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(23)	1892	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation
(24)	1893	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation.
(25)	1894	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation.
(26)	1895	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society
(27)	1896	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society.
(28)	1897	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society

Vol.	Year	Research Center
(29)	1898	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Soc y
(30)	1899	Wisconsin State Historical Society Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(31)	1900	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Society, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Lockport Public Library, Will County Historical Society
(32)	1901	Wisconsin State Historical Society Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(33)	1902	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(34)	1903	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(35)	1904	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(36)	1905	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(37)	1906	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(38)	1907	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(39)	1908	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society
(40)	1909	Chicago Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Vol.	Year	Research Center
(41)	1910	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation Will County Historical Society, Chicago Historical Society, Wisconsin Historical Society.
(42)	1911	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(43)	1912	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(44)	1913	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Will County Historical Society Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(45)	1914	ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(46)	1915	Illinois State Library, Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(47)	1916	Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois State Library, Illinois Dept. of Conservation Will County Historical Society, Wisconsin State Historical Society.

*Canal reports in Reports of the General Assembly

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These reports were issued usually on Dec. 1 of the year indicated. They were frequently not printed until the next year or even two years later.

It should be noted that in 1917 the Illinois and Michigan Canal became part of the Illinois Division of Waterways. In 1944 the Legislature established an Illinois and Michigan Canal Commission of 15 members. It was to study and report to the Legislature how best "to change the physical properties of the I. and M. Canal, so that they will serve a more useful purpose." This Commission lasted until 1949. (page 133 Documentary History of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, Compiled by Walter A. Howe, issued by the Division of Waterways, 1956)

Location of the Above Research Centers

1. Chicago Historical Society, Clark and North Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60614
2. ILLINOIS CANAL SOCIETY, 1109 Garfield Ave. Lockport, Ill. 60441
3. Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Gebhardt Woods State Park, Morris, Ill. 60450
4. Illinois State Archives, Archives Building, Springfield, Ill. 62756
5. Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Ill. 62756
6. Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill. 62756
7. Lockport Public Library, 8th and Hamilton, Lockport, Ill. 60441
8. University of Illinois Library, Urbana, Ill. 61801
9. Will County Historical Society, 803 S. State St. Lockport, Ill. 60441
10. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St. Madison Wisconsin 53706