



CANAL RECORDS

at the Pennsylvania State Archives

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Pennsylvania was a leader in the development of canal systems. With 1,356 miles of man-made waterways within its boundaries, Pennsylvania had more canals than in any other state. An explosion in canal construction began in the 1820s when states appropriated funds for internal improvement projects to expand inland transportation for the public to travel, to move goods and to access economically sustainable markets. Canals saw their peak traffic in the 1830s, 1840s and part of the 1850s. By the 1890s canals had been largely displaced by railroads and were all but forgotten.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has one of the largest holdings of canal records in the United States. Much of this is due to the early activities of the Pennsylvania Board of Canal Commissioners, appointed by the State Legislature in 1824, whose records are found in Land Office holdings (RG-17) on the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. This 395-mile system, also known as “The Main Line of Public Works” integrated canals, inclined planes and railroads that linked Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, built and operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania beginning in the 1830s

In 1959, Research Associate Hubertis M. Cummings of the Bureau of Land Records in the Department of Internal Affairs prepared a finding aid entitled *Pennsylvania Board of Canal Commissioners' Records with Allied Records of Canal Companies Chartered by the Commonwealth Descriptive Index*. Long out of print, this report is the most comprehensive guide to canal records in the State Archives' holdings, though outdated.

A second listing, titled *Inventory of Canal Commissioners' Maps in the Pennsylvania State Archives*, was compiled by Martha Simonetti in 1968. An electronic copy may be found here: http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r017_0452_CanalMapBooks/CanalMapDetailedGuide.pdf

In 2015, the Pennsylvania State Archives digitized and uploaded to the web its Map Books of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal {series #17.452} for users worldwide to use and enjoy.

1. Historical Society of Berks County Deposit of Records of the Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania Papers (MG-174)

1792-1885

19 cu. ft.

The dream of a canal linking the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers in Pennsylvania motivated a number of projectors during the 18th century, but it was not until 1791 that The Schuylkill and Susquehanna Canal Navigation Company was chartered. The following year, a second company,

The President and Managers of the Delaware and Schuylkill Canal Navigation, was chartered. Construction commenced on both projects in 1794 and proceeded fitfully until 1802 when, owing to financial difficulties, work ceased.

For several years the two projects lay dormant. In 1811 the projectors, having decided that the times were more propitious, decided to revive the enterprises. Accordingly, the two companies were merged into a new venture, The Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania, chartered by the Pennsylvania legislature 2 April 1811. The act empowered the company to build a canal from the one or more points on the Susquehanna or Delaware rivers, or both. The project was later modified so that a canal would be built extending from the mouth of the Swatara Creek near Middletown on the Susquehanna, to the mouth of the Tulpehocken Creek near Reading on the Schuylkill. In 1826 a supplemental act authorized the construction of a branch extending north up the Swatara Creek from Jonestown to the foot of Broad Mountain, near Pine Grove. The act also authorized the construction of a branch railroad from the Canal basin in Pine Grove, north to a junction with the Swatara Railroad (4 miles). Under the direction of Canvas White, the Chief Engineer, construction proceeded smoothly until late 1827, when the main line of the canal was opened for business. The branch northward from Jonestown was opened in 1830.

From the day it opened, the Union Canal seemed destined for failure. Its size limited passage to boats carrying no more than thirty tons, far less than could be carried by boats travelling on the state canals. The wooden walls of the canal sprung so many leaks that by the 1850s the eastern end of the canal was virtually useless for navigation (the eastern end connected with the Schuylkill Navigation). Financially, the company suffered from the Pennsylvania legislature's act of 1833 banning lotteries by private companies; although the state pledged itself to \$200,000 of the company's stock to compensate it for the loss, the company found itself continually pressed for working capital and monies to meet its obligations. Finally, a flood in 1862 severely damaged the canal and rendered the branch north of Jonestown totally useless. Because it had no need for its lateral railroad thereafter, the company leased the line to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in July 1862. In January 1866, it sold the railroad and the canal's right-of-way from Jonestown to Pine Grove to the Reading, which made the property part of the Pine Grove and Lebanon Railroad.

For a number of years the Union Canal Company limped on, operating its main line to steadily diminishing traffic. In 1884, unable to meet interest payments on outstanding bond coupons, the company defaulted and was sold at foreclosure to Schuylkill and Middletown Canal Company. The new owners, however, found the canal to be in such deteriorated condition that it never operated it for business. In October 1890 the entire property was sold to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

- 1792-1885. (97 microfilm rolls, #4090-4186)

BUSINESS RECORDS

- Delaware & Schuylkill Canal Company, 1792-1810. (6 folders) *{#174m.1}*
- Schuylkill & Susquehanna Canal & Lock Navigation Company, 1792-1810. (5 folders) *{#174m.2}*
- Reports, 1814-1828, 1832-1874, undated. (3 folders) *{#174m.3}*
- Minutes (Extracts), 1813, 1819, 1821-1830, 1842-1856, 1873-1875. (1 folder) *{#174m.4}*
- Resolutions, 1813-1874, undated. (4 folders) *{#174m.5}*

- Subscription Book, 1850, 1851. (1 volume) *{#174m.6}*
- Inventories, Personal and Real Property, 1823-1876, undated. *{#174m.7}*
- General Correspondence, 1812-1885. (8 cartons) *{#174m.8}*

LOTTERIES

- General Correspondence, 1821-1833. (3 folders) *{#174m.9}*
- Legal Papers, 1814-1833. (1/2 folder) *{#174m.10}*
- Reports, 1821, 1824. (1/2 folder) *{#174m.11}*

SURVEY AND LEVEL BOOKS

- Survey and Level Books (Figuring Books), 1818, 1821, 1850-1858, 1867, undated. (28 volumes) *{#174m.12}*
- Maps, Drawings, 1826-1862, undated. (2 folders) *{#174m.13}*
- Broad­sides, 1823, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.14}*

LEGAL PAPERS

- Acts, 1821-1870. (1 folder) *{#174m.15}*
- Articles of Agreements, 1820-1871, undated. (22 folders) *{#174m.16}*
- Bonds, 1823-1869, undated. (7 folders) *{#174m.17}*
- Damage Claims, 1812-1867, undated. (3 folders) *{#174m.18}*
- Deeds, 1824-1870. (1 folder) *{#174m.19}*
- Legal, 1816-1877, undated. (6 folders) *{#174m.20}*
- Opinions, 1821-1856, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.21}*
- Petitions, 1812, 1813, 1821, 1837, 1844, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.22}*
- Releases, 1825, 1826, 1830-1836, 1858, 1865, 1871, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.23}*
- Summons, 1823-1875. (1 folder) *{#174m.24}*
- Supreme Court Equity Books, 1829-1884. (1 folder) *{#174m.25}*

ACCOUNTS

- Bank Books, 1832-1877. (32 volumes) *{#174m.26}*
- Boat Permits, 1835-1862. (2 folders) *{#174m.27}*
- Certificates of Stock, 1845, 1852-1855. (1 folder) *{#174m.28}*
- Check Rolls (Pay Rolls), 1816, 1825-1884, undated. (29 folders) *{#174m.29}*
- Checks, 1822-1882. (39 folders) *{#174m.30}*
- Clearances, 1832-1877, undated. (18 folders) *{#174m.31}*
- Due Bills, 1858, 1859. (1 folder) *{#174m.32}*
- Estimates of Work Done, 1823-1869, undated. (9 folders) *{#174m.33}*
- General Accounts, 1812-1884, undated. (81 folders) *{#174m.34}*
- Manifests, 1826-1882, undated. (5 folders) *{#174m.35}*
- Promise to Pay, 1824-1875. (5 folders) *{#174m.36}*
- Steam Engines, 1827-1884, undated. (5 folders) *{#174m.37}*
- Tax, 1829-1882, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.38}*

- Timber, 1817-1853. (1 folder) *{#174m.39}*
- Time Sheets, 1823-1874, undated. (5 folders) *{#174m.40}*
- Tolls, 1824-1877, undated. (3 folders) *{#174m.41}*
- Wages, 1812-1884, undated. (8 folders) *{#174m.42}*

VARIOUS

- Bridges, Lists of, 1824, 1825. (1 folder) *{#174m.43}*
- Correspondence, 1821-1856, 1871, 1873. (1 folder) *{#174m.44}*
- Locks and Lock Keepers, Lists of, 1830-1860. (1 folder) *{#174m.45}*
- Rates, 1842-1845, 1858, 1871, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.46}*
- Specifications, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.47}*
- Steam Engines, Calculations, 1827-1854. (1 folder) *{#174m.48}*
- Tunnel Feeder, Remarks, undated. (1 folder) *{#174m.49}*
- Water Wheels, Remarks, 1831-1835, undated. *{#174m.50}*
- Unidentified. (1 folder) *{#174m.51}*

2. Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company Records (MG-311)

A. Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company

- Minutes of the Board of Managers, 1821-1912. (24 volumes) *{#311m.1}*
- Minutes of the Board of Managers & Executive Committees, 1913-55. (7 volumes) *{#311m.286}*
- Minutes of the Executive Committee, 1868-1912. (2 volumes) *{#311m.287}*
- Minutes of the Finance Committee, 1868-1905. (1 volume) *{#311m.288}*
- Minutes of the Committee on Coal Interest, 1869-70. (1 volume) *{#311m.289}*
- Minutes of the Stockholders, 1821-1931. (6 volumes) *{#311m.290}*
- General Ledgers, 1821-1946. (11 volumes) *{#311m.2}*
- General Journals-Day Books, 1818-1947. (27 volumes) *{#311m.3}*
- Accounts of Lots Sold, 1832-1937. (9 volumes) *{#311m.4}*
- Administrative File, 1801-1950. (52 cartons, 2 boxes) *{#311m.285}*
- Agreements, Mortgages, Leases, etc. File, 1831-1957. (5 cartons) *{#311m.5}*
- Annual Reports, 1828-1978. (5 volumes) *{#311m.6}*
- Atlases, 1870s-1896. (19 volumes) *{#311m.7}*
- Bonds & Mortgages, 1871. (1 volume) *{#311m.8}*
- Briefs of Title, 1880-1918. (9 volumes) *{#311m.293}*
- Canal Administration File, 1901-1955. (6 cartons, 1 box) *{#311m.9}*
- Cash Books, 1906-1946. (12 volumes) *{#311m.10}*
- Circulars & Notices, 1867-1908. (1 volume) *{#311m.11}*
- Confidential Payroll Information, 1930-1940. (2 boxes) *{#311m.12}*
- Contract Books, 1855-1880. (2 volumes) *{#311m.13}*
- Cost Analysis Statements, 1837-1921. (1 box) *{#311m.14}*
- Cost of Mining and Production Reports, 1950-1954. (6 volumes) *{#311m.294}*
- Court Case Docket, 1844-1938. (1 volume) *{#311m.15}*
- Financial Statements, 1941-1962. (1 carton) *{#311m.295}*

- Financial Statements & Balance Sheets, 1913-1944. (26 volumes) *{#311m.16}*
- General Agreements File, ca. 1859-1967. (3 cartons) *{#311m.17}*
- Inactive Employment Record Cards, 1913-1965. (2 drawers) *{#311m.18}*
- Index Cards - R.R. Construction, n.d. (2 drawers) *{#311m.19}*
- Inventory Records, 1912-54. (6 volumes) *{#311m.20}*
- Land Registers, 1827-1960. (2 volumes) *{#311m.21}*
- Lehigh Canal Maps from the Survey of 1904, circa 1904-1906. (1 box) *{#311m.292}*
- Maps, 1820-1959. (3 volumes) *{#311m.22}*
- Mine Property Retired and Abandoned Records, 1937-1958. (3 volumes) *{#311m.296}*
- Receipt Books, 1865-1869. (4 volumes) *{#311m.23}*
- Reference Literature: Annual Reports, Canal Commissioners' Reports and Miscellaneous Volumes, 1822-1972. (136 volumes, 4 boxes, 14 cartons) *{#311m.24}*
- Special Reports and Studies, 1937-1956. (31 volumes) *{#311m.297}*
- Stock Ledgers, 1821-1869. (3 volumes) *{#311m.25}*
- Stock Transfers, 1821-1873. (52 Volumes) *{#311m.26}*
- Unclaimed Wage Book, 1915-1930. (1 volume) *{#311m.27}*
- Unclaimed Workmen's Compensation & Benefit Book, 1910-1929. (1 volume) *{#311m.28}*
- Workmen's Compensation Insurance Fund Journal, 1916-1930. (1 volume) *{#311m.29}*
- Workmen's Compensation Insurance Fund Ledger, 1916-1930. (1 volume) *{#311m.30}*
- Valuation Report of R.R. Subsidiaries, 1923 (1 volume) *{#311m.31}*
- Miscellaneous Account Books, 1800-1900. (3 volumes) *{#311m.32}*

B. Subsidiary Companies

Delaware Division Canal Company, 1858-1946. (16 volumes, 1 box, 1 carton)

The second-most-important canal system in Pennsylvania, after the Main Line Canal, was the Delaware Division of the state-owned Pennsylvania Canals. The Pennsylvania Board of Canal Commissioners decided to build the locks half the width of the locks of its principle anthracite supplier, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. In 1827 the Delaware Division Canal was chartered to build a 59.3-mile canal from Bristol to Easton, where it would connect with the Lehigh Canal. It opened in 1831 as a carrier of anthracite coal, with 24 locks, dams and bridges. In 1855, over 500,000 tons of coal entered the canal, the peak year of its operation. In 1858, along with its other canals, the State sold the canal to private interests. Flooding took its toll, as well as frequent leaks. It finally ceased operations almost exactly a century later in 1931. The Delaware Division was one of the last operating towpath canals in the United States and now comprises Delaware Canal State Park.

- Agreements File, 1858-1931. (1 box) *{#311m.88}*
- Minutes of the Finance Committee, Organizers, Stockholders and Managers, 1858-1946. (2 volumes) *{#311m.89}*
- Cash Book, 1886-1942. (1 volume) *{#311m.90}*
- Day Book, Cash Book & Journal, 1858-1922. (1 volume) *{#311m.91}*
- Reference Literature, 1826-1833. (6 volumes) *{#311m.92}*
- Opinion of F.G. Farquhar on Titles, 1900. (1 volume) *{#311m.93}*

- Brief of Title, 1900. (1 volume) *{#311m.94}*
- Journals, 1922-1942. (2 volumes) *{#311m.95}*
- Ledgers, 1858-1946. (2 volumes) *{#311m.96}*

3. Penn Central Railroad Collection (MG-286)

Erie Canal Company

- Capital Stock Ledger, 1843-1866. (.3 cu. ft.) *{#286m.857}*
- Minute Book, 1851-1877. (.1 cu. ft.) *{#286m.858}*
- Stock Transfer Book, 1844-1870. (.2 cu. ft.) *{#286m.859}*

Pennsylvania Canal Company

- Annual Reports, 1896-1898, 1900-1902, 1904-1912. (.05 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1167}*
- Annual Reports to the Dept. of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, 1898-1906, 1908-1912. (.23 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1168}*
- Cash Book, 1867-1876. (.3 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1169}*
- Cash Book, 1911-1916. (.1 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1170}*
- Docket, 1859-1926. (.1 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1171}*
- Journal, 1867-1916. (.2 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1172}*
- Journal Entries, 1914-1916. (.05 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1173}*
- Ledger, 1867-1913. (.3 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1174}*
- Minute Book, 1867-1925. (.5 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1175}*
- Record of Vouchers, 1891-1897. (.3 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1176}*
- Stock Ledger, 1863-1915. (.2 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1177}*
- Stock Transfer Book, 1867-1878. (.1 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1178}*

United New Jersey Railroad and Canal Company

- Annual Statements of the Railroad and Canal Companies of the State of New Jersey Together with the Report of the State Director of the UNJ Railroad and C Company, 1905-1907. (17 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1435}*
- Board Files, [ca. 1921-1946]. (7 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1436}*

West Branch and Susquehanna Canal Company

- Journal, 1867-1874. (.3 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1447}*
- Ledger, 1867-1874. (.4 cu. ft.) *{#286m.1448}*

Williamsport Division Superintendent

- Canal Records, 1875-1929. (6.50 cu. ft.) *{#286m.200}*

4. Raymond W. Albright Collection (MG-210)

1736-1888

2 cu. ft.

- Canal Papers, 1792-1795 (11 items in 1 folder)

Chiefly notes and certificates issued by the Delaware and Schuylkill Canal Navigation Company and the Susquehanna Navigation Company.

5. Records of the Land Office (RG-17)

A. Records of the Board of Canal Commissioners

The Board of Canal Commissioners was created under the Canal Acts of 24 March 1824, 11 April 1825 and 25 February 1826. The first of these authorized Governor John Andrew Shulze to appoint three commissioners to lay out a route from the Great Valley of Chester and Lancaster counties along the most suitable set of natural waterways westward to Pittsburgh. The second authorized the Governor to appoint five Canal Commissioners to explore at least seven possible routes for a waterway from the eastern and western waters of the state to Lake Erie. The last of the acts authorized the Board of Canal Commissioners to award contracts and begin building the Pennsylvania Canal at three different places. The first section was along the Susquehanna River from Swatara Creek to the Juniata River, the second along the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh to the Kiskiminetas River, and the third was down French Creek to connect by feeder with Conneaut Lake. Under the Act of 10 April 1826 the number of Commissioners was increased to nine. An Act of 18 April 1843 reduced the number of Canal Commissioners to three and made the positions elective by direct vote of the people rather than gubernatorial appointments. In 1857 and 1858 the waterways and adjunct railroads of the Pennsylvania Canal were sold by the Commonwealth.

When the Board of Canal Commissioners was abolished in 1859 its records were transferred first to the Department of Auditor General, and then in 1885 to the Department of Internal Affairs. In 1959, Research Associate Hubertis M. Cummings of the Bureau of Land Records in the Department of Internal Affairs prepared a finding aid entitled *Pennsylvania Board of Canal Commissioners' Records with Allied Records of Canal Companies Chartered by the Commonwealth Descriptive Index*. This remains the definitive work on these records and their relationship with records of other early corporate canal ventures. These related materials include the records of the Delaware and Schuylkill Canal, the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Canal, the Conewago Canal, the Union Canal, the Conestoga Navigation Company, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, the Allegheny Portage Railroad and the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal.

Also of interest are the papers of James Dunlop Harris (1797-1842) of Bellefonte, a canal engineer who served on the Western and West Branch Divisions and on the North Branch Extension. Included in the container listings are references to the numbering/identification system created by Cummings which he used in the finding aid. The references look like this

example: "(W2-b. 41, 24)," with the number appearing after the comma signifying the page number where this reference appears in the finding aid. Most of the Canal Commissioner records have been microfilmed but not as part of the Land Office filming project. They bear the same type of four digit roll numbers as all other state government microfilm records in the Archives collection.

- Accounts and Receipts of the Harrisburg and Pittsburgh Railroad Company, 1840-1842, 1845. (1 box) {#17.440}
- Canal Survey Accounts, 1816-1818, 1823-1830. (1 box) {#17.441}
- Collectors' and Supervisor' Reports, 1830-1850. (5 boxes) {#17.442}
- Collector's Register of Allegheny Portage Railroad Cargo and Passengers, 1836. (1 volume) {#17.443}
- Collector's Register of Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad Cargo and Passengers, 1838. (1 volume) {#17.444}
- Composite Map of the Old Allegheny Portage Railroad, New Allegheny Portage Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad, 1854, 1902. (1 folder) {#17.445}
- Damage Claim Records, 1826-1861. (4 boxes) {#17.446}
- Engineering Records, 1825-1852. (2 boxes) {#17.447}
- Erie Extension Canal Map, undated. (1 folder) {#17.448}
- General Correspondence, Reports, and Surveys, and Related Records, 1816-1860. (4 boxes) {#17.449}
- General File, 1823-1854. (2 boxes) {#17.450}
- Indenture for the Sale of the Schuylkill Bridge and Inclined Plane to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, 1850. (1 folder) {#17.451}
- Map Books, 1810-1881, undated. (52 folders) {#17.452} – *See the digitized versions scanned on the Pennsylvania State Archives website. Link: http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r017_0452_CanalMapBooks/CanalMapsInterface.htm*
- Minute Books of the Board of Canal Commissioners, 1825-1859. (7 boxes) {#17.453}
- Minute Books and Minutes (Rough Copies), 1844-1858. (2 boxes) {#17.454}
- Miscellaneous Accounts, 1826-1858. (7 Boxes) {#17.455}
- Ohio River Survey Book, 1882. (1 volume) {#17.456}
- Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Valuation Book, 1827-1859. (1 volume) {#17.457}
- Pennsylvania Railroad Maps for the Western, Juniata, Eastern, Susquehanna and West Branch Divisions, undated. (3 folders) {#17.458}
- Record of Costs for the West Branch Division, Tangascootack Extension, 1836-1838. (1 volume) {#17.459}
- Record of the Amount of Repairs and Damages on the Pennsylvania Railroad, 1836-1838. (1 volume) {#17.460}
- Record of the Amount of Repairs and Damages on the Pennsylvania Canal, 1836-1838. (1 volume) {#17.461}
- Reports and Field Notes of the Pennsylvania Canal Company, 1867-1912. (2 boxes) {#17.462}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Records of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Canal Department, 1857, 1863, 1865-1867. (1 folder) {#17.463}

- Reports and Resolutions, 1819-1858. (2 boxes) {#17.464}
- Research and Statistical Reports, 1826-1827, 1835. (2 boxes) {#17.465}
- Warrants, 1826-1839. (1 box) {#17.466}

Allegheny Portage Railroad

- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1830-1860. (35 boxes) {#17.467}
- Contracts, 1851-1855. (6 volumes) {#17.468}
- Damage Claims, 1831-1868. (10 volumes) {#17.469}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1829-1857. (7 volumes) {#17.470}

Beaver Division

- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1831-1846. (4 boxes) {#17.471}
- Contracts, 1831-1834. (2 volumes) {#17.472}
- Damage Claims, 1829-1843. (2 volumes) {#17.473}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1829-1843. (2 volumes) {#17.474}
- Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1827-1860. (84 boxes) {#17.475}
- Contracts, 1829-1851. (7 volumes) {#17.476}
- Damage Claims, 1832-1857. (18 volumes) {#17.477}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1827-1858. (11 volumes) {#17.478}
- Delaware Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1826-1860. (24 boxes) {#17.479}
- Contracts, 1828-1855. (2 volumes) {#17.480}
- Damage Claims, 1827-1856. (4 volumes) {#17.481}
- Minute Books, 1826-1858. (2 volumes) {#17.482}
- Proceedings Regarding Connection to Lehigh Canal, 1829-1856. (2 volumes) {#17.483}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1827-1856. (7 volumes) {#17.484}
- Eastern Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1827-1859. (22 boxes) {#17.485}
- Contracts, 1826-1858. (5 volumes) {#17.486}
- Damage Claims, 1826-1858. (4 volumes) {#17.487}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1826-1858. (5 volumes) {#17.488}
- Erie Extension Canal
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1836-1844. (5 boxes) {#17.489}
- Contracts, 1836-1847. (7 volumes) {#17.490}
- Damage Claims, 1836-1847. (2 volumes) {#17.491}

- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1836-1847. (2 volumes) {#17.492}
- French Creek Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1826-1846. (9 boxes) {#17.493}
- Contracts, 1833-1848. (3 volumes) {#17.494}
- Damage Claims, 1833-1848. (5 volumes) {#17.495}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1826-1848. (3 volumes) {#17.496}
- Juniata Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1827-1857. (48 boxes) {#17.500}
- Contracts, 1828-1860. (8 volumes) {#17.501}
- Damage Claims, 1828-1860. (10 volumes) {#17.502}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1824-1858. (7 volumes) {#17.503}
- North Branch Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1828-1854. (18 boxes) {#17.504}
- Contracts, 1828-1858. (12 volumes) {#17.505}
- Damage Claims, 1828-1858. (6 volumes) {#17.506}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1828-1858. (9 volumes) {#17.507}
- Susquehanna Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1827-1858. (21 boxes) {#17.508}
- Contracts, 1827-1858. (4 volumes) {#17.509}
- Damage Claims, 1829-1855. (2 volumes) {#17.510}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1828-1858. (4 volumes) {#17.511} West Branch Division
- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1829-1858. (21 boxes) {#17.512}
- Contracts, 1828-1857. (7 volumes) {#17.513}
- Damage Claims, 1829-1857. (7 volumes) {#17.514}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1829-1857. (4 volumes) {#17.515}

Western Division

- Check Rolls, Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1826-1857. (24 boxes) {#17.516}
- Contracts, 1826-1859. (7 volumes) {#17.517}
- Damage Claims, 1826-1859. (7 volumes) {#17.518}
- Reports and Miscellaneous Documents, 1825-1859. (7 volumes) {#17.519}

Wiconisco Canal

- Engineers Accounts, Check Rolls, Daybook, Correspondence and Damage Claims, 1837-1841. (3 folders & 1 volume) {#17.520}

- Work Estimates, Receipts and Miscellaneous Accounts, 1838-1846. (3 folders) {#17.521}

6. Schuylkill Navigation Company Records (Manuscript Group 110)

1815-1951

90 cu. ft.

The Schuylkill Navigation Company was formed in 1815. Construction began a year later but it wasn't until 1824 when the Schuylkill Navigation Company completed a waterway that extended 108 miles linking Port Carbon (above Pottsville) to Philadelphia. The system consisted of a network of interconnected canals, locks and slack water pools to transport anthracite coal. The canal also boasted the first tunnel in America, a 400 foot-long bore through Mount Carbon, constructed in 1821. In the 1860s with the outbreak of the Civil War, the Schuylkill Canal saw a downturn in usage and profitability. In 1869, the canal was hit by a coal strike, a drought and a great flood. The following year, the Schuylkill Navigation leased the canal to the Philadelphia and Reading Railway. Although operations mostly concluded in 1916-17, the last barge navigated the canal in 1928. By the 1950s virtually the entire canal basin was filled as a result of efforts of the Schuylkill River Desilting Project.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- Agreements, 1872-1943. (4 boxes) {#110m.1}
- Daily Reports of Water Measurements, 1880-1945. (5 boxes) {#110m.2}
- Diaries and Journals, 1859-1944. (88 volumes) {#110m.3}
- General Correspondence, 1816-1951. (51 boxes) {#110m.4}
- Letter Books, 1816-1867. (14 volumes) {#110m.5}
- Letter Press Books, 1849-1908. (110 volumes) {#110m.6}
- Minute Books, 1815-1949. (17 volumes) {#110m.7}
- Reports, 1847-1944. (3 boxes) {#110m.8}
- Stock Subscription Books, 1815-1848. (9 volumes) {#110m.9}
- Survey and Level Books (Figuring Books), 1835-1945. (185 volumes) {#110m.10}
- Time and Check Roll Books, 1850-1947. (102 volumes) {#110m.11}

ACCOUNTS

- Boat Records, 1864-1943. (3 boxes & 8 volumes) {#110m.12}
- Canal Expenses, 1899-1923. (2 volumes) {#110m.13}
- Disbursements, 1928-1934. (2 volumes) {#110m.14}
- Ledgers, 1853-1887. (4 volumes) {#110m.15}
- Lippencott Dock Costs, 1852, 1853. (1 folder) {#110m.16}
- Loan Interest Receipt Books, 1825-1886. (20 volumes) {#110m.17}
- Philadelphia and Reading Relief Association Receipts, 1898-1920. (3 volumes) {#110m.18}
- Repairs and Maintenance, 1848-1934. (19 volumes and 1 folder) {#110m.19}
- Stock Dividend Receipt Books, 1829-1884. (6 volumes) {#110m.20}

- Toll on Boats, 1904-1908. (1 folder) *{#110m.21}*
- Water Power Bills, 1870-1945. (3 boxes, 8 volumes & 1 folder) *{#110m.22}*

VARIOUS

- Boat Arrival Time at Manayunk, 1909. (1 folder) *{#110m.23}*
- Check Stub Book, January 21, 1861 - April 14, 1864. (1 volume) *{#110m.24}*
- Description of Locks and Bridges, 1866-1891. (1 volume) *{#110m.25}*
- Flat Rock Paper Mills, Float Measurements, 48" Turbine, August 7, 1874. (1 folder) *{#110m.26}*
- Heebenor Case, 1848, 1849. (1 folder) *{#110m.27}*
- Indenture Book, March 20, 1829 - August 21, 1833. (1 volume) *{#110m.28}*
- Index to Office Papers of Edwin F. Smith, Chief Engineer of Canals, Revised February 1885. (1 volume) *{#110m.29}*
- Index to Properties, 1877-1880. (1 volume) *{#110m.30}*
- List of Locktenders on Schuylkill Navigation, 1866. (1 volume) *{#110m.31}*
- List of Works on Schuylkill Canal, undated. (1 volume) *{#110m.32}*
- Morris Canal, Inventory and Appraisalment of Personal Property, March 26, 1894. (1 folder) *{#110m.33}*
- Reservoir Surveys with Calculations of Water, Leuffer Engineer, 1846-1857. (1 folder) *{#110m.34}*
- Right-of-Way Damages, 1889-1896. (5 folders) *{#110m.35}*
- Statement of Culm Taken from Port Clinton, Kernsville, Felix's Dam, etc., 1906-1927. (1 folder) *{#110m.36}*
- Statement of Freight received by Canal Boat Captains during Boating Season, 1903-1926. (1 folder) *{#110m.37}*
- Tonnage and Distribution of Coal Shipped from Port Clinton Landing, including Washery Coal, 1908-1927. (1 folder) *{#110m.38}*
- Water Power, Measure Aperture to Fix Marks to Indicate Height of Water for Mills, 1854-1869. (1 volume) *{#110m.39}*
- Water Power at Manayunk, General Information, 1910-1940. (1 volume) *{#110m.40}*
- Water Power Measurements, 1822-1891. (1 volume) *{#110m.41}*

BROADSIDES & OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS

- Broadsides, Numbers 1-45, 1825-1862, undated. (1 box) *{#110m.42}*
- Miscellaneous Printed Materials, 1856-1949, undated. (10 items) *{#110m.43}*

MAPS

- Map Books, 1858-1875. (4 items) *{#110m.46}*
 - *[transferred from RG-66, accession #4714]*
- Maps, 1827-1948. (72 items) *{#110m.44}*
- Blueprints and Tracings, 1846-1948, undated. (11 oversized folders) *{#110m.45}*

MICROFILMED RECORDS

- Legislative acts & supplements, 1815-1869; reports and agreements, 1819-1971; minute books of the Board of Managers, 1815-1949; stockholders minutes and reports, 1851-1947. (5 microfilm rolls, #2297-2301)
- Various records, 1815-1940. (3 microfilm rolls, #3325-3327)

7. Susquehanna Canal Company Records (MG-122)

1835-1897

3 cu. ft.

Authorization for the construction of a canal along the Susquehanna River from Columbia, Pennsylvania, to the Maryland-Pennsylvania line was provided by act of Pennsylvania legislature, April 15, 1835. Maryland had already chartered a canal, under the incorporated name of the Tidewater Canal Company, to run from the Pennsylvania line to Havre de Grace, Maryland. The two canals were united under the name of the Susquehanna Canal Company or, more commonly, the Susquehanna-Tidewater Canal Company.

- Abstract of Title to Conestoga Islands, undated. (1 volume) *{#122m.1}*
- Account Books, 1835-1895. (12 volumes) *{#122m.2}*
- Inventory of Company Property, 1871. (1 volume) *{#122m.3}*
- Letter Book of Company Presidents, 1835-1847. (1 volume) *{#122m.4}*
- List of Stockholders, 1878-1895. (1 volume) *{#122m.5}*
- Minutes of Company Managers, 1835-1894. (2 volumes) *{#122m.6}*
- Minutes of Stockholders, 1835-1897. (1 volume) *{#122m.7}*

8. Lehigh Valley Railroad Company Records (MG-274)

- Morris Canal and Bridge Company records, Index to Ledger K, 1844. (1 microfilm roll, #3322)

9. Harris Family Papers (MG-67)

- Harris Family Papers, 1768-1849

10. Records of the Auditor General (RG-2)

- Canal and Navigation Company Accounts, 1818-1852, 1872 *{#2.5}*
- Annual Reports, 1854-1875, 1933-1955 *{#2.3}* (miscellaneous canal information)
- Canal and Navigation Company Accounts, 1818-1852, 1872 *{#2.6}*
- Day Books, 1809-1879 *{#2.9}* (canal expenses)

11. Records of the Comptroller General (RG-4)

- Internal Improvements File, Consisting of Accounts and Papers Relating to Canal and Navigation Companies, Roads and Turnpikes, River Improvements, Public Buildings, and Bridge Companies, 1777-1809 {#4.24}

12. Records of the Department of Forests and Waters (RG-6)

- Report on Proposed Improvement to Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, 1950 {#6.7}
- Park Commission Correspondence, 1924-1935 {#6.17} (Canal Board activity)
- Survey Books of the Delaware Division Canal, 1868 {#6.18}
- Final Report of Schuylkill River Project Engineers to the Water and Power Resources Board of the Department of Forests and Waters {#6.22} (Pollution mitigation of the Schuylkill Canal)
- Reports, 1930, 1936, 1942 {#6.25}
- Schuylkill River Desilting Project Photographs and Negatives {#6.60} (Schuylkill Canal clean-up)
- Flood Control Project Photographs, 1969-1980 {#6.61} (Schuylkill Canal clean-up)

13. Records of the Department of Internal Affairs (RG-14)

- Annual Reports of Canal and Navigation Companies to the Auditor General and the Department of Internal Affairs, 1859, 1862-1871, 1873-1875, 1877-1935 {#14.9}
- Registers of Steam Railroads, Street Railways, Canals, Telegraph and Telephone Companies, 1890-1926, 1932-1936 {#14.26}
- Accounts of the Board of Commissioners of the Second Geological Survey, 1875-1877 {#14.28}
- Grand Atlases of the Second Geological Survey, 1884-1885 {#14.34} (Maps of canals)

14. Records of the Treasury Department (RG-28)

- Canal Day Books, 1834-1859 {#28.12}
- Certificates of State Ownership of Stock in Turnpike, Bridge, and Navigation Companies, 1809-1833 {#28.16}
- Miscellaneous Canal and Railroad Ledgers, 1841-1858 {#28.56}
- Pennsylvania Canal Account Book, 1826-1845 {#28.64}
- Record of Tax on Tonnage of Coal, Canal, and Railway Companies, 1864-1876 {#28.76}

15. Records of the Department of Environmental Protection (RG-66)

- Schuylkill Navigation Company/Schuylkill River Project, Engineer's Records, circa 1850-1940 {#66.44}

16. Miscellaneous Canal Records

A. Records of the County Governments (RG-47)

- Dauphin County - Railroad and Canal Damage Claim Book, 1826-1833 {#47.90}

B. Records of the Municipal Governments (RG-48)

- Allentown - Canal Boat Journal, 1852-1857 {#48.303} (Lehigh Navigation Canal)

C. Business Records Collection (MG-2)

Transportation Accounts, Pennsylvania Canals

- Allegheny Portage Railroad. (1 microfilm roll, #3323)
 - Journals, 1831-1835, 1849-1852 {#2m.228}
 - Ledger, March-August 1850 {#2m.229}
- Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad (Pennsylvania Canal)
 - Journals, 1852-1857 {#2m.235}
- Lehigh and Susquehanna Slackwater Company
 - Bond, 1848 {#2m.239}
- Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal and Weight Lock, York Furnace, 1858-1870
 - Boat Register Books, 1858-1870 {#2m.254}

D. Reah Frazer Papers (MG-53)

Legal suits against Schuylkill Navigation and other canal companies

- Legal Papers, 1739-1871 {#53m.2}

E. Hubertis M. Cummings Collection (MG-163)

- Partially filmed. (2 microfilm rolls, #3252-3253)

F. William Henry Collection (MG-241)

Correspondence with the Susquehanna and Delaware Canal

- Correspondence, 1770-1874, undated {#241m.1}

G. Kathleen Thompson Ullery Collection (MG-305)

General correspondence, source material and photographs on canals

- Family Records, 1783-1972 {#305m.1}

H. Pine Street Presbyterian Church Photograph Collection (MG-325)

Some images of the Eastern Division of the Main Line Canal

- Slides, 1895-1925 {#325m.1}

I. McQuade Family Papers (MG-405)

Canal construction when Thomas McQuade was a member of the State Board of Canal Commissioners

- Correspondence and Related Records, 1813-1864, undated {#405m.1}

Canal companies that once operated in Pennsylvania included the following: Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation; Codorus Navigation; Conestoga Navigation; Conowago Canal; Delaware Divison; Delaware and Hudson Canal; Erie Extension; Lehigh Navigation; Leiper Canal; Monongahela Navigation; Ohio and Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (including Eastern Division; North Branch Division, West Branch Division, Juniata Division, Western Division, Beaver Division, Shenango Division and Conneaut Division); Sandy and Beaver Canal; Schuylkill Navigation; Susquehanna and Tidewater; Union Canal; and Wisconsin Canal.

The State Archives once held the unprocessed records of New Jersey's Morris Canal which were collected as part of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Records (MG-274). In 1983 these records were transferred to the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton. The State Archives also once had on deposit 19 cubic feet of records of the Union Canal (1792-1885), which are partially microfilmed (MG-174). These records were returned to the Historical Society of Berks County in 1989.

For additional canal-related materials in the Pennsylvania State Archives see also **Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Company Deposit, 1832-1968 (Manuscript Group 300)**, and **Delaware and Hudson Railway Company Collection, 1887-1959 (Manuscript Group 401)**.

For Additional Reading:

Baer, Christopher T. *Canals and Railroads in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1800-1860* (Wilmington, Del.: Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation), 1981.

Kapsch, Robert J. *Over the Alleghenies: Early Canals and Railroads of Pennsylvania*. (Morgantown: West Virginia Press), 2013.

McCullough, Robert and Walter Leuba. *The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal* (York: American Canal and Transportation Center), 1973.

Pennsylvania Canal Society Website. Link: <http://www.pacanalsociety.org/>

Shank, William H., P.E. *Pennsylvania Transportation History: A Supplement* (York: American Canal and Transportation Center), 1990.

_____. *The Amazing Pennsylvania Canals* (York: Canal Press), 1986.

Shaw, Ronald E. *Canals for a Nation: The Canal Era in the United States, 1790-1860* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky), 1990.

Zimmerman, Albright. *Pennsylvania's Delaware Division Canal: Sixty Miles of Euphoria and Frustration* (Easton: Canal History and Technology Press), 2002.