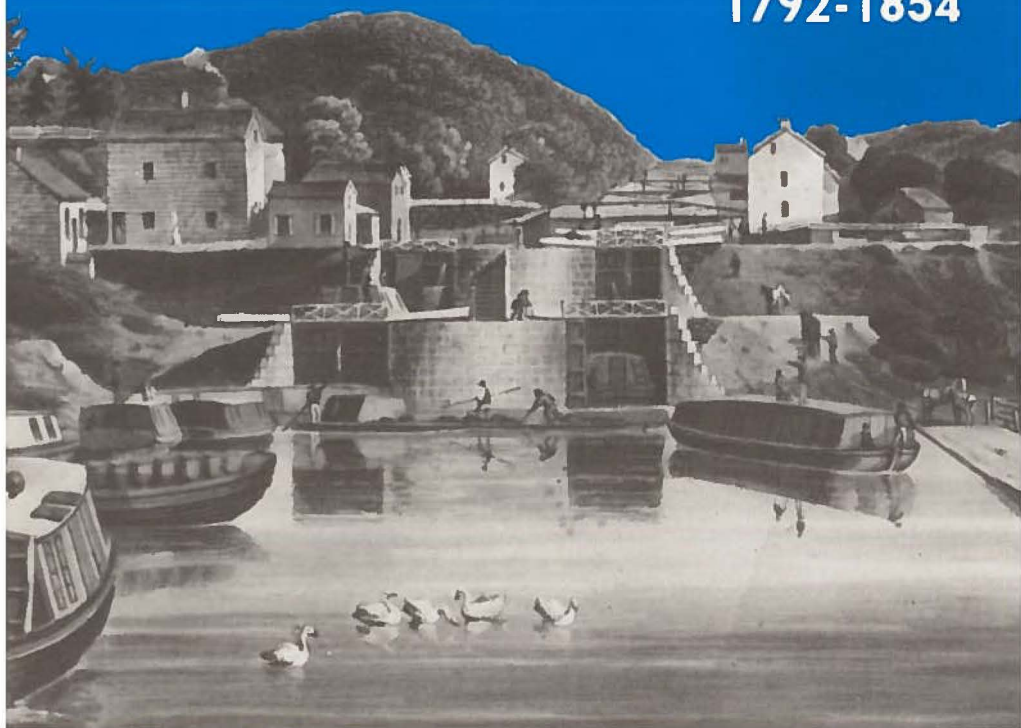


Ronald E. Shaw

ERIE WATER WEST

A HISTORY OF
THE ERIE CANAL
1792-1854



ERIE WATER WEST

*A History
of the Erie Canal
1792-1854*

RONALD E. SHAW

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF KENTUCKY

Contents

Preface *page vii*

I. The Prophecy

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Up the Mohawk to the West | 3 |
| 2. Jesse Hawley's "Genesee Canal" | 22 |
| 3. Survey and Report | 38 |
| 4. From Prophecy into Law | 56 |

II. The Grand Canal

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 5. Forty Feet Wide and Four Feet Deep | 84 |
| 6. The Politics of Construction | 101 |
| 7. The Canal Comes West | 123 |
| 8. Black Rock or Buffalo | 140 |
| 9. The Politics of Removal | 164 |
| 10. The Wedding of the Waters | 181 |

III. On Erie Water

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 11. Packets, Freighters, and Canallers | 197 |
| 12. Pure and Wholesome Water | 219 |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 13. The State Runs a Canal | 236 |
| 14. The Trade of the "Teeming West" | 260 |
| 15. "Commerce Is King" | 279 |

IV. Politics and Nationalism

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 16. The "Forty Million Debt," 1835-1841 | 303 |
| 17. The Democratic Stop Policy, 1842-1846 | 330 |
| 18. The Canal Goes On, 1847-1854 | 361 |
| 19. A Canal for the Nation | 397 |
| Essay on Bibliography | 419 |
| Index | 433 |

Illustrations follow page 292

Winner of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award

Erie Water West
A History of the Erie Canal

RONALD E. SHAW

"Interesting and readable. . . . Rich in detail on a variety of social aspects of life on and along the canal."—*American Historical Review*

"A valuable and much needed scholarly work."—*Journal of American History*

The construction of the Erie Canal may truly be described as a major event in the growth of the young United States. At a time when the internal links among the states were scanty, the canal's planners boldly projected a system of transportation that would strike out from the eastern seaboard, penetrate the frontier, and forge a bond between the East and the growing settlements of the West. In this comprehensive history, Ronald E. Shaw portrays the development of the canal as viewed by its contemporaries, who rightly saw it as an engineering marvel and an achievement of great economic and social significance not only for New York but also for the nation.

Ronald E. Shaw is professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Cover illustration: Junction of the Erie and the Champlain canals, about 1830. *Courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York.*

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
OF KENTUCKY
Lexington, Kentucky

ISBN 0-8131-0801-



9 780813 108018