

For Further Research

Database

Lamb, John. "The Collected Works of Historian John M. Lamb: The History of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and Related Subjects." Lewis University. Web. <http://www.lewisu.edu/imcanal/johnlamb/john_m_lamb_collection.pdf>.

This free online database published by Roosevelt University has a complete categorized catalogue of Professor John Lamb's extensive research into I&M Canal related topics. In his collection of articles Lamb touches on everything from the formulation of the idea to build the canal to its operation, and how it affected the surrounding communities. This is a good starting point for a wide variety research topics pertaining to the canal.

Instructional Summaries

<http://canalcor.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Part-2-Story-of-the-IM-Canal.pdf>

This PDF file, produced by Tom Willcockson and the Canal Corridor Association, provides brief summaries about most topics pertaining to the I&M Canal and its history. It also provides a very useful timeline that helps students understand the context when studying any topic relating to the canal.

<https://www.csu.edu/cerc/researchreports/documents/IMCanalShapesHistory2004.pdf>

This PDF file, which was assembled by the Canal Corridor Association in 2004, can be found on the website of Chicago State University. It addresses a number of topics related to the canal very briefly and is a great source for anyone looking for easily comprehensible information about the canal in its entirety.

On the Canal Workers

Tobin, Catherine. *The Lowly Muscular Digger: Irish Canal Workers in Nineteenth Century America*. 1987

This dissertation by Tobin is the most detailed and informational single body of work about the Irish who built the I&M Canal. In this comprehensive analysis of canal laborers Tobin addresses recruitment of workers, life as a canal laborer, and what happened to the laborers after the canal.

On the Canal's Impact on the Region

Coard, Helen. *The Illinois and Michigan Canal as an Influence on Westward Migration*. U of Illinois, 1941. Print.

In her thesis, Helen Clara Coard argues that the construction of the I&M brought about rapid migration to the Northern region of Illinois. She notes that not only did the I&M canal make this the most densely populated region in the state, but that it also “furnished a highway that emigrants passed through on their way to the lands of the West.”

Dunnell, John Peter. *The Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Old Northwest*. N.p.: Illinois State U, 1955. Print.

Dunnell argues that the I&M canal was vital to the development of the Old Northwest during the 19th century. The driving force of this was the canal’s economic influence. To illustrate this point, he makes use of a series of tables which highlight the success the I&M achieved as a trade passage.

Primary Sources

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/teaching_packages/I_and_M_canal/documents.html

This database which was put together by the Illinois State Archives offers teachers 50 primary documents pertaining to the I&M Canal. Many of the pieces are surviving letters and documentation from the files of canal commissioners and contractors relating to allocation of money and funds for the project.

Chicago History Museum *Illinois and Michigan Canal records, ca. 1839-1871*.

For those interested in doing extensive primary source research on the I&M Canal the Chicago History Museum has a number of primary source documents in their archives. The most extensive collection contains 11 boxes. Most documents in the collection have been taken from the files of William Swift who was the president of the canal planning commission.

On The History of the Canal

Curious City, *Chuh Kaw Go, What Do You Really Sound Like?* 2012

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/chuh-kaw-go-what-do-you-really-sound-like/9054d7a4-f876-4c53-8ce1-08adae048d28>

This Curious City podcast from 2012 attempts to uncover the origins of the Chicago accent. A guest linguistics expert notes that the Chicago accent is strikingly similar to the accents found in the American Northeast. From this basis she makes the claim that the accent originated from 19th century canal diggers who traveled across the United States bringing with them more than just their ability to work.

Conzen, Michael P., and Kay J. Carr. *The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor: A Guide to Its History and Sources*. DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois UP, 1988. Print.

This book serves as a great beginning point for jumping into extensive research into the history of the canal. Not only do authors Michael Conzen and Kay Carr offer their own insights into the story of building the canal, but they offer an extensive list of resources and area locations to further your research. This includes a list of local libraries that carry material related to the canal.

Hanlon, Thomas. *A Capsulated History of the Illinois and Michigan Canal*. Print.

This booklet about the canal was put together by former Air Force chaplain Fr. Thomas Hanlon during his retirement. The Chicago born priest spent his time putting together a timeline of the canal dating back to the French exploration. He includes many contemporary images of relevant sites across the canal which contribute to the overall local story nature that Hanlon set out to produce.

Friederici, Peter. "The Ditch That Made Chicago Happen." *Chicago Reader*, 19 Oct. 1987. Web. July 2016.

This *Chicago Reader* article by Peter Friederici briefly touches on a general history of the canal. Additionally, he juxtaposes the jubilation that was felt when the canal broke ground in 1836 to the indifference he sees along the canal in 1987. This is an interesting article for those interested in the evolution of the purpose of the canal over time and modern efforts to revitalize interest in the first *National Heritage Corridor*.

Lamb, John M. *A Corridor in Time*. Romeoville, IL: Lewis U, 2008. Print.

This booklet written by John Lamb provides a great overview about the transformation of the canal space. Lamb begins with the Geology of the region and the French exploration and follows the development of the region to his conclusion about the canal as a recreational site.

