

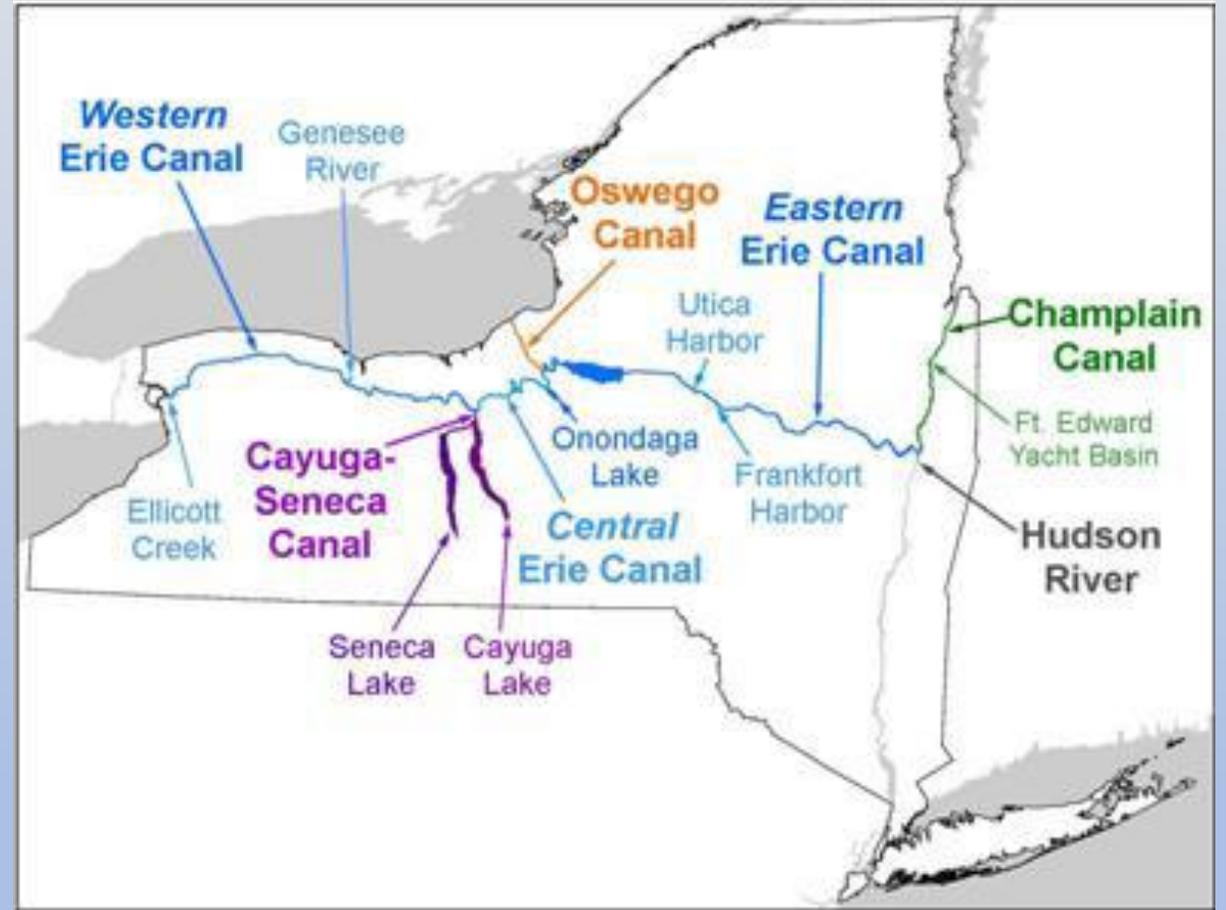
I recently had the opportunity to visit Seneca Falls in New York. It is the home of the Seneca Falls Convention for Women's Rights and a major city that developed because of the Erie Canal.

The subject of the following presentation is the Erie Canal. Many of the pictures used are my own. The text is edited from [nyheritage.org](http://nyheritage.org)

# The Erie Canal



The Erie Canal was designed, financed, built, operated, and maintained by the people of New York. The canal was one of the largest public works projects ever attempted anywhere in the world. The first shovel of earth was turned near Rome, New York, on July 4, 1817. Men with talent and vision (but little training in engineering) charted the 363-mile course of the canal between Albany and Buffalo.





**They designed stone aqueducts to carry boats across rivers and locks to lift them over New York's varied terrain. Thousands of laborers dug the ditch itself and built massive reservoirs to ensure the canal was constantly supplied with water.**

**When it was completed in 1825, the Erie Canal connected the port of New York City on the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes, dramatically transforming trade, industry, and communication in the region and across the country.**



**A model showing the barge being towed by a team of mules, led by the bargemaster's wife. Running the barge up and down the canal was a family operation**



*Eagle Button Co., and Locks, Seneca Fall, N. Y.*





SENECA KNITTING MILLS

# A replica barge on the canal





**The Erie Canal was so successful that it was enlarged three times to accommodate more traffic and increasingly larger vessels. Great cities and commerce grew along the Erie Canal. Diverse people traveled east and west across its length, some spreading powerful ideas for social change. In the mid-twentieth century, canal traffic began to decline, and the famous waterway momentarily faded from public use, only to reemerge today as a vehicle for heritage tourism, recreation, and education.**

# Low bridges were often a problem



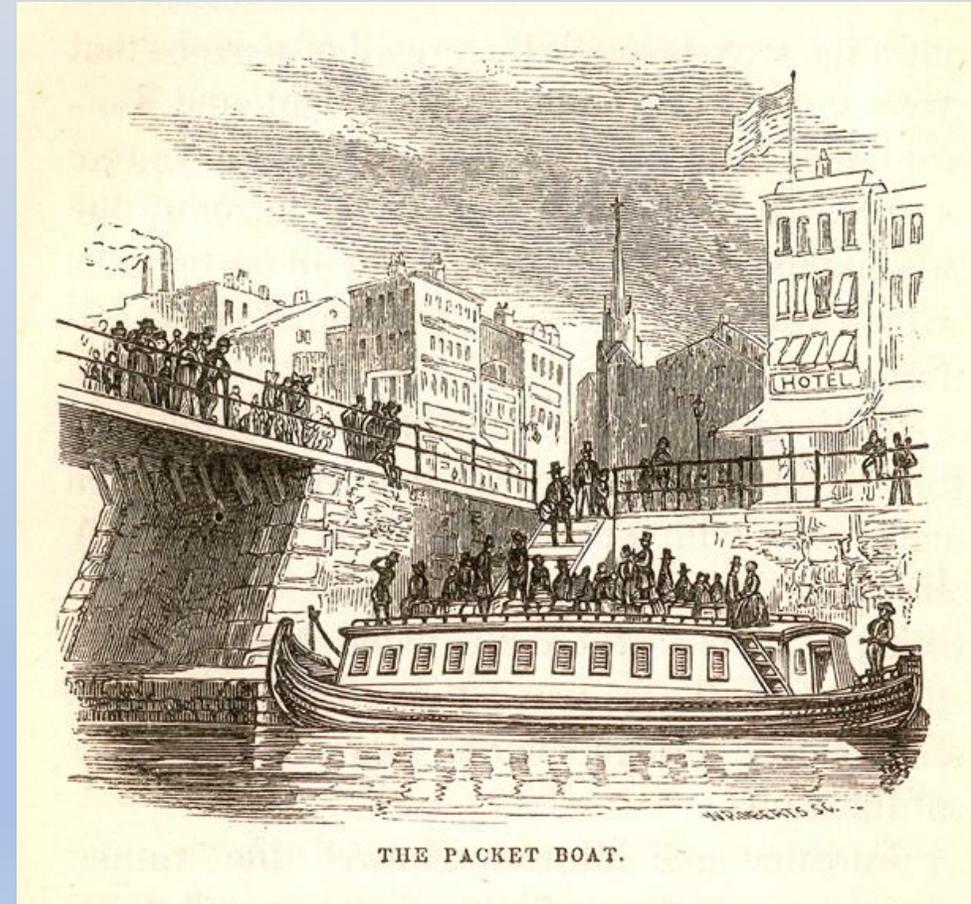
# Immigrants transported on the barges

ERIE CANAL PACKET BOATS.



**T**HE regular line of PACKET BOATS between Schenectady and Buffalo, will be run the present season by the Utica and Schenectady, and the Erie Canal Packet Boat Company, in connexion.

Two Daily Lines will run between Schenectady and Utica.





# A working lock on the canal today



**The canal ended its commercial use due it freezing over in winter making it impossible for the barges to navigate. The invention of the modern railway would also end the commercial transportation era of the Erie Canal.**



# The Erie Canal Song

I've got a mule and her name is Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
She's a good old worker and a good old pal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal

We haul'd some barges in our day  
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay  
We know every inch of the way  
From Albany to Buffalo

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge, yeah we're coming to a town  
And you'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If ya ever navigated on the Erie Canal

We'd better look around for a job, old gal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
You can bet your life I'll never part with Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal

Get up mule, here comes a lock  
We'll make Rome 'bout six o'clock  
One more trip and back we'll go  
Right back home to Buffalo

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge, we're coming to a town  
You'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If ya ever navigated on the Erie Canal

Where would I be if I lost my pal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal  
I'd like to see a mule good as my Sal  
Fifteen miles on the Erie Canal

A friend of mine once got her sore  
Now he's got a broken jaw  
'Cause she let fly with an iron toe  
And kicked him back to Buffalo

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge 'cause we're coming to a town  
You'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If ya ever navigated on the Erie Canal

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge, we're coming to a town  
You'll always know your neighbor  
And you'll always know your pal  
If ya ever made a livin' on the Erie Canal

Low bridge, everybody down\*  
Low bridge, we're coming to a town\*  
You'll always know your neighbor\*  
And you'll always know your pal\*  
If ya ever navigated on the Erie Canal\*

Low bridge, everybody down  
Low bridge, we're coming to a town  
Hooo...

- Source: [Musixmatch](#)