

Clues Continued...

A covered bridge protects you from objects falling from a train. Stroll almost to the end and look through the wall of chain. To get to the bottom of how a lock's made, on the right side, Peer down and see what the canal water is trying to hide.

It is all that's left of thick wooden timbers placed decades ago To protect the keels of passing canal boats from damage below. End to end, the floor of each lock was lined with planks For which passengers, captain, and crew gave thanks.

Can you spy dimpled holes pocking the wall's big blocks? They're grip spots for lifting sandstone out of quarries to locks. More "I Spy"—find original stone not covered by concrete. Next, just off the bridge, on the left, there's a bench. Have a seat.

Look up above you, then glance down below. Think of all the people who come and then go. Some rode canal boats, some were on foot, Then along came the trains with plenty of soot.



The tracks of the railroad, the waters that flow, Weave the story of transport as our nation did grow. Mule hooves, then bicycles, all in their time, Have followed this towpath over the summit to climb.

Backtrack over the bridge and keep your actions out of view. On a nearby sign post, a box within a box is hidden for you. To open, flip the front panel up by pulling the bottom, sly fox. Sign and date it to show you've explored these locks.

When you're done, pack the contents back into place And firmly close the wooden door before exiting this space. Retrace your steps to the parking lot just beyond North Street. We hope you enjoyed this adventure in rhyme, now complete.



The quest was created by Volunteers Denny Reiser and Louise Nahas, Keith Woodruff for the Ohio & Erie Canalway, and Arrye Rosser of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Volunteer Bill Kolosi made the map. Volunteer Hedy Jones drew the illustrations.

date JUL 2013

How to Quest

Quest clues and maps—created by teachers, volunteers, and/or park staff—will help you discover the natural and cultural gems of the Ohio & Erie Canalway. At the end of each quest is a hidden treasure box. Sign your name in the logbook, stamp this page and return the box to its hiding place.

STAMP HERE

The questing season runs from April 15 through November 15.

Notice a problem or have suggestions for improving this quest? Contact Rowan MacTaggart at 330-374-5625 or rowan@cascadelocks.org.

About This Program

I'm Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I'd like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 100 teachers, volunteers and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing our Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create many more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

For more information and to get copies of other quests, visit ohioandieriecanalway.com and search under Activities for Questing.



SUMMIT COUNTY SECTION
AKRON
CASCADE LOCKS PARK

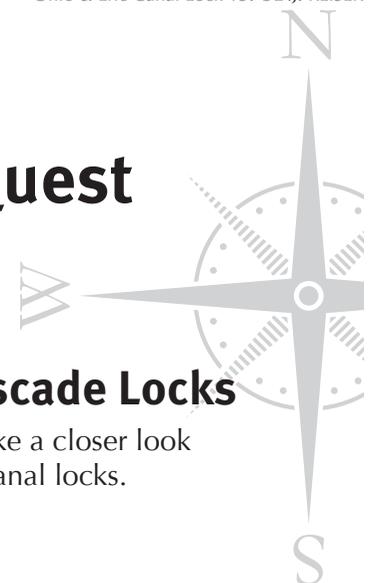


Ohio & Erie Canal Lock 13. ©D.J. REISER

Canalway Quest

Questing the Cascade Locks

On this short walk, we'll take a closer look at an unusual staircase of canal locks.



Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 40 minutes; allow more time if you enjoy reading exhibits. All walking surfaces are paved or brick. There are a few stairs which could be avoided using an alternate route. The grade might be too steep in places for some wheelchairs. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and ink pad or marker.

Check www.cascadelocks.org for current Mustill Store hours.

Getting There

Start at Cascade Locks Park, off W. North Street, just west of Howard Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. Park in the lot on the north side of W. North Street, near the historic Mustill Store. This quest is entirely outside.

Clues

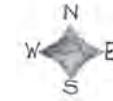
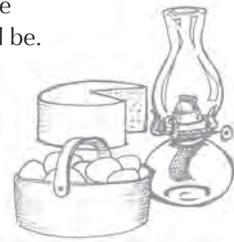
The kiosk is where our canal adventure will start. Take time to read its large map before you depart. Understanding where water flows is key to our story. The first to find Route 224 gets all of the glory. It lies just north of a blue cluster, the Portage Lakes. Crossing here by boat was a challenge, make no mistake.

In the county of Summit, Akron sits atop a continental divide. This road marks the ridge. Imagine water draining down each side— Either south towards the Ohio River or north towards Lake Erie— The boundary of Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds, deary!

Read “Before planes, trains, or automobiles ...” and you’ll see Where Ohio & Erie Canal engineers decided the route would be. In 1825 they picked Summit Lake to be the water source To float boats up and over—powered by mules or by horse.

Facing the black fence, head left on the path to Mustill Store. The “Jewel of the Canal” exhibit is the next spot to explore.

A “prime commercial location” describes where this store sits. At locks, passengers could get off to spend dollars and “bits.” They had time to kill as their boat went through, so why not shop? Turn around. Signs for what they bought sit up on the rooftop.



We like to play “I Spy” games. Before you move on, Find where this lock is on the “staircase” to Akron. Next, the series of diagrams requires close examination. Find the wall pockets that you observed at the last location.

Stay on the paved path. Moving forward, you will spy Another educational sign to examine. Do not pass it by! The Canal Basin exhibit puts all walks of life on display. It is a colorful snapshot of this place during its heyday.



Find North Street and the carriage with a lady inside. She’s crossing the bridge. Where is she going on this ride? Perhaps to Mustill Store for provisions or smoked meats. Perhaps to meet some friends nearby for hot tea and treats.

Lock 14’s spillway and turn-around basin shaped the land. Can you find the spot in the drawing where you now stand? Glance up. Scan the landscape as it is today and you’ll see The remains of where the spillway and basin used to be.

Onward up the path, passing the mill exhibit’s red wheel. Up 5 stairs, turn right, and stop on the bridge, more to reveal. You are above the pockets of Lock 13’s downstream gates. Look south. A long way beyond Akron, the Ohio River waits. The waterfall ahead did not exist when the lock was in use. The pocket’s base would have been hidden by water profuse.

Time to move under the covered path into shade. Forward ho! Huff and puff past the STEEP GRADE. Make tracks to the exhibit. You’ve reached Lock 12. Into the story of Dynamic Change, you now will delve.

Read how trains replaced boats in the Age of Steam. For boats, compared to trains, weren’t as efficient it seems. Notice how train bridges and tracks dominate the photo’s view. But there is a lone canal boat at work. We found it. Can you?

Continue to the trailside sign that says DOWNTOWN. Turn to your left, walk to the rail, and gaze down. There’s 1907, the year of major canal restoration. That big square hole on the opposite wall is your eye’s destination. It’s called a wall wicket or sluice gate—both names apply. Water flooded the lock from below, helping boats pass by.

Look under the porch. The lock’s spillway runs there. When canal water was high, it might be cause for despair. A spillway diverts flood water that could damage a lock. Now turn back the way you came. You’re still on the clock!

Safely cross North Street. Follow the sidewalk to the left. Be careful of nearby cars—with your movements be deft. Stop on the bridge. Look into Lock 14’s chamber to view A bit of lock design that helped canal boats get through.

Imagine massive wooden lock gates opened wide. For the boats to pass, the gates needed a place to hide. On both sides of the lock, find recessed pockets so tall. These allowed open gates to tuck in flush with the wall.

Continue. Take the path on the right that leads to a sign. Here you can learn about canal engineering and lock design. A lock functions like an elevator. Up and down goes the boat. Without them, rapid water would make it hard to stay afloat. Cascade Valley posed a challenge due to its elevation change. A staircase of locks had to be built here within a one-mile range.

