

Two Hundred Years on the Erie Canal

1817-2017

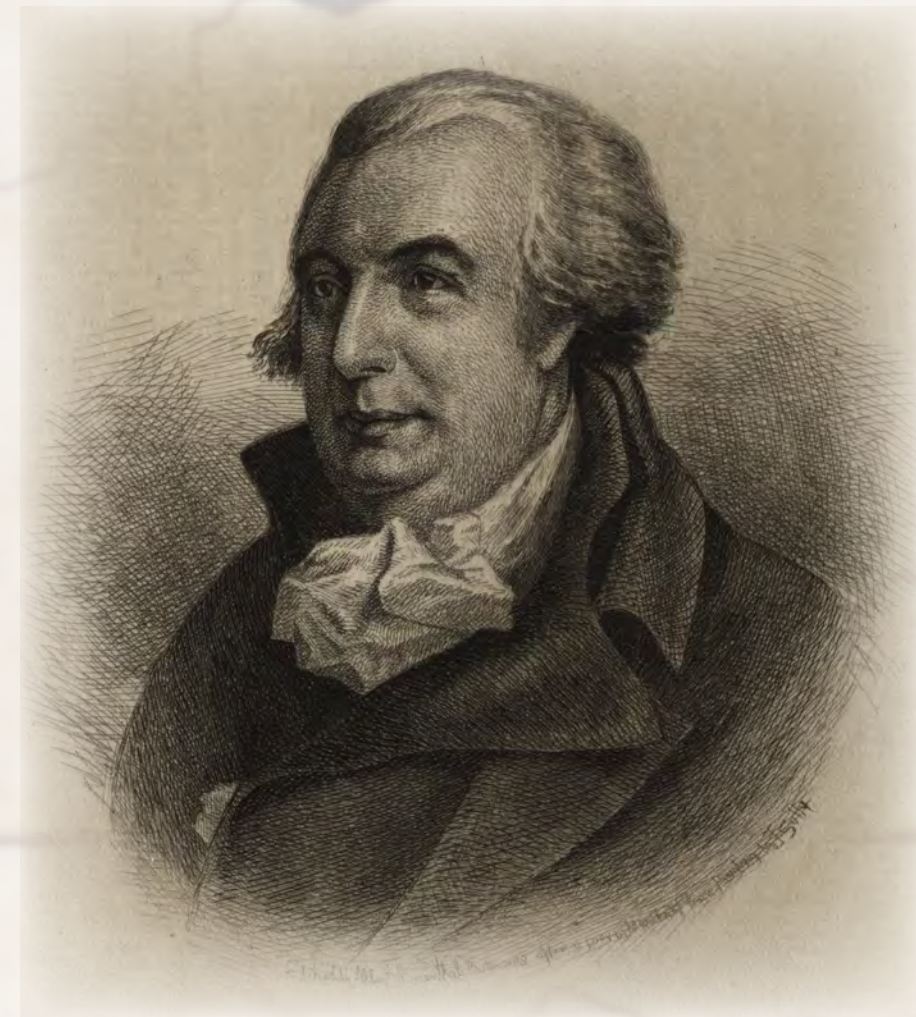
See the online exhibit at
NYHeritage.org

Dreamers & Builders

The Erie Canal is one of the most famous bodies of water in the world. It was designed, financed, built, operated, maintained and rebuilt several times by the people of New York. Men with talent and vision, but little training in engineering, charted the 363-mile course of the canal from Albany to Buffalo.



DeWitt Clinton, once mayor of New York City and then governor of New York State, is considered the "Father of the Erie Canal."
Image from the New York Public Library



Gouverneur Morris was chairman of the Erie Canal Commission.
Image from the New York Public Library



Cadwallader Colden was a proponent of a national canal system.
Image from the New York Public Library



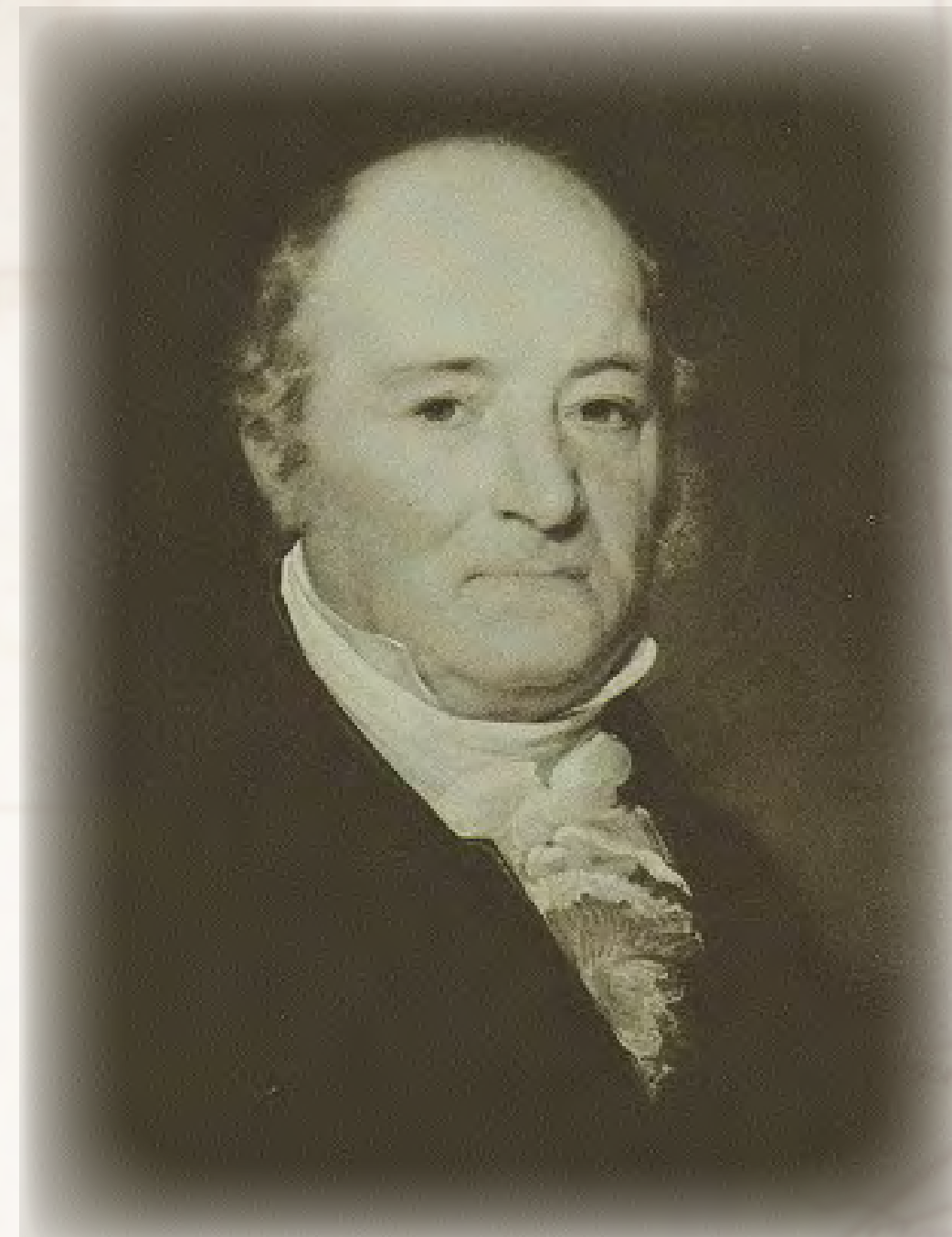
Elkanah Watson proposed a possible route for a canal in New York State.
Image from the New York Public Library

"In estimating the benefits of those immense public works, that will change the internal relations of a great country, and create a new era in the history of her trade, agriculture and manufactures, much must be left for time and experience to reveal..."

Public Documents Relating to the New York Canals, Which are to Connect the Western and Northern Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, with an Introduction, by the New York Corresponding Association for the Promotion of Internal Improvements, 1821



Robert Livingston was a member of the Erie Canal Commission.
Image from the New York Public Library



Simeon DeWitt was the New York State Surveyor General, who oversaw land surveys that helped prepare for the canal.
Image from the New York Public Library



Jesse Hawley was a flour merchant who wrote the earliest well developed plan for what would become the Erie Canal.
Image from the New York State Archives



Canvass White travelled to England to research the canals there.
Image from Harvard University



Benjamin Wright and **James Geddes** were wilderness surveyors, and each directed some of the early work on the canal.
Image from Harvard University



Watermark:
Map of proposed Canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson River; 1817
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