

Canal Ports, Harbors, and Havens

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This article is the third in a series about places in the United States and Canada named for terms related to canals. The list provided identifies those 187 communities that are located alongside canals or canalized rivers which have the term "port, harbor, or haven" included in their name.

A review of the complete list shows the following "port, harbor, or haven" names to be the most commonly found:

Lockport	9
Newport	7
Portage	7
Williamsport	6
Bridgeport	5
Portland	5
New Haven	4
Freeport	3
Logansport	3
Middleport	3
Rockport	3

(The list above includes variations of these names such as Portageville or Lower Newport).

Far and away the most commonly used of the three terms is "port," followed by "haven," and "harbor." There is even one community that utilizes two of the terms in its name; Havensport, which is located on the Ohio & Erie Canal in Fairfield County, Ohio

Port	166	88.8%
Haven	13	7.0%
Harbor	7	3.7%
Combined	1	0.5%
TOTAL	187	100.0%

While compiling the list, it became evident that older canals are more likely to have places situated aside them using one of these terms in its name. Canals built at later dates, often after an area has been settled, tend to have few, if any places with "port, harbor, or haven" included in community names because the local places have already been established. The Hennepin Canal in Illinois appears to be an example of this phenomenon. Modern canals, also have few places with one of these terms contained in their names. During the golden age of canal travel, the terms "port, etc." were an easy way for a community to distinguish itself from neighboring "land-locked" places, especially for drawing commerce from the surrounding farms and hinterlands.

It is also not surprising to see "port" more commonly used than "harbor" or "haven." For one, the term "port" can be simply added to nearly any word or name. Port Jervis sounds much better than either Harbor Jervis or Haven Jervis. Similarly, Logansport is much easier to pronounce than Logan's Harbor or Loganshaven. Secondly, "port" can be added at either the beginning or the end of the place name to signify it is a location for shipping goods via water.

ALLEGHENY RIVER NAVIGATION

Logansport, Armstrong County, PA
Freeport, Armstrong County, PA

BLACK RIVER CANAL & NAVIGATION

Forestport, Oneida County, NY (feeder)
Port Leyden, Lewis County, NY

BLACK WARRIOR RIVER NAVIGATION

Port Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL
Northport, Tuscaloosa County, AL

BRAZOS RIVER NAVIGATION

Port Sullivan, Robertson County, TX
Freeport, Brazoria County, TX

CALOOSAHATCHEE-ST. LUCIE CANAL

Port La Belle, Hendry County, FL
Moore Haven, Glades County, FL
Lakeport, Glades County, FL
Lake Harbor, Palm Beach County, FL
Port Mayaca, Martin County, FL

CHEMUNG CANAL

Millport, Chemung County, NY

CHENANGO CANAL

Pecksport, Madison County, NY
Middleport, Madison County, NY
Sackett's Harbor, Chenango County, NY
Port Crane, Broome County, NY
Port Dickinson, Broome County, NY

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL

Williamsport, Washington County, MD

COLUMBIA RIVER NAVIGATION

North Portland, Multnomah County, OR
Portland, Multnomah County, OR

CONESTOGA CANAL

Safe Harbor, Lancaster County, PA

CUMBERLAND & OXFORD CANAL

Portland, Cumberland County, ME

DELAWARE & HUDSON CANAL

Phillipsport, Sullivan County, NY
Haven, Sullivan County, NY
Port Orange, Orange County, NY
Port Jervis, Orange County, NY

DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL

Port Mercer, Mercer County, NJ
Coalport, Mercer County, NJ*

DUCK RIVER NAVIGATION

Williamsport, Maury County, TN

ERIE CANAL

Lockport, Niagara County, NY
Orangeport, Niagara County, NY
Gasport, Niagara County, NY
Middleport, Niagara County, NY
Eagle Harbor, Orleans County, NY
Brockport, Monroe County, NY
Spencerport, Monroe County, NY
Fairport, Monroe County, NY
Wayneport, Wayne County, NY
Port Gibson, Ontario County, NY

ERIE & MICHIGAN CANAL

Port Mitchell, Noble County, IN

FOX RIVER NAVIGATION

Harbor Springs, Winnebago County, WI

GENESEE VALLEY CANAL

Portage, Livingston County, NY
Portageville, Wyoming County, NY
Portville, Cattaraugus County, NY

Notes (g) through (k) at the end of the article pertain to the entire list.

GREEN RIVER NAVIGATION

Logansport, Butler County, KY
Davenport Landing, Muhlenberg County, KY
Rockport, Ohio County, KY
Steamport Landing, Webster County, KY

ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL

Lockport, Will County, IL

JAMES RIVER & KANAWHA CANAL

Bridgeport, Buckingham County, VA

KANAWHA RIVER NAVIGATION

Port Amherst, Kanawha County, WV

KENTUCKY RIVER NAVIGATION

Lockport, Henry County, KY

LEHIGH CANAL

Port Jenkins, Luzerne County, PA
White Haven, Luzerne County, PA
Bridgeport, Carbon County, PA
Penn Haven Junction, Carbon County, PA
North Weissport, Carbon County, PA
Weissport, Caron County, PA
Walnutport, Northampton County, PA

MERRIMACK RIVER NAVIGATION

Merrimacport, Essex County, MA
Newburyport, Essex County, MA

MIAMI & ERIE CANAL

Canalport, Paulding County, OH*
Newport, Shelby County, OH
Port Jefferson, Shelby County, OH (feeder canal)
Port Union, Butler County, OH

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NAVIGATION

Newport, Washington County, MN
Glen Haven, Grant County, WI
Port Byron, Whiteside County, IL
Davenport, Scott County, IA

Fairport, Muscatine County, IA
Gulfport, Henderson County, IL
Portage Des Sioux, St. Charles County, MO
Ashport Landing, Lauderdale County, TN
Ashport, Lauderdale County, TN
Port Hudson, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Port Allen, West Baton Rouge Parish, LA
Port Sulphur, Plaquemines Parish, LA

MONONGAHELA RIVER NAVIGATION

Glassport, Allegheny County, PA
McKeesport, Allegheny County, PA

MORRIS CANAL

Port Colden, Warren County, NJ
Port Murray, Warren County, NJ
Rockport, Warren County, NJ
Port Warren, Warren County, NJ
Port Morris, Morris County, NJ
Shippenport, Morris County, NJ
Starport, Morris County, NJ*

MUSKINGUM RIVER NAVIGATION

Gaysport, Muskingum County, OH
Eagleport, Morgan County, OH
Stockport, Morgan County, OH

NEW HAVEN & NORTHAMPTON CANAL

New Haven, New Haven County, CT
New Haven County, CT

OHIO & ERIE CANAL

Portage County, OH (a)
Portage Township, Summit County, OH*
Port Washington, Tuscarawas County, OH
Webbsport, Muskingum County, OH*
Nashport, Muskingum County, OH
Thornport, Perry County, OH*
East Millersport, Fairfield County, OH
Millersport, Fairfield County, OH
Havensport, Fairfield County, OH
Rarey's Port, Franklin County, OH (b)
Groveport, Franklin County, OH
Millport, Pickaway County, OH
Portsmouth, Scioto County, OH

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OHIO RIVER NAVIGATION

Shippingport, Beaver County, PA
Port Homer, Jefferson County, OH
Bridgeport, Belmont County, OH
Newport, Washington County, OH
Lower Newport, Washington County, OH
Hockingport, Athens County, OH
Portland, Meigs County, OH
New Haven, Mason County, WV
Middleport, Meigs County, OH
South Portsmouth, Greenup County, KY
Portsmouth, Scioto County, OH
South Higginsport, Bracken County, KY
Higginsport, Brown County, OH
Newport, Campbell County, KY
Taylorsport, Boone County, KY
Westport, Oldham County, KY
Portland, Jefferson County, KY (c)
Shippingport, Jefferson County, KY*
Maukport, Harrison County, IN
Stephensport, Breckenridge County, KY
Cloverport, Breckenridge County, KY
Tobinsport, Perry County, IN
Lewisport, Hancock County, KY
Rockport, Spencer County, IN
Brookport, Massac County, IL

OLD ERIE CANAL

Port Byron, Cayuga County, NY
Centerport, Cayuga County, NY
Weedsport, Cayuga County, NY
North Weedsport, Cayuga County, NY
Newport, Onandaga County, NY

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL

Juniata Division

Gaysport, Blair County, PA
Allenport, Huntingdon County, PA
Lockport, Mifflin County, PA
Port Royal, Juniata County, PA
Old Port, Juniata County, PA
Newport, Perry County, PA

Shenango Division

Harbor Bridge, Lawrence County, PA

Susquehanna Division

Port Trevorton, Snyder County, PA

West Branch Division

Port Matilda, Centre County, PA (d)
Lock Haven, Clinton County, PA
Lockport, Clinton County, PA
Williamsport, Lycoming County, PA
South Williamsport, Lycoming County, PA

Western Division

Portage, Cambria County, PA

PORTAGE CANAL

Portage, Columbia County, WI

RED RIVER-ATCHAFALAYA NAVIGATION

Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA
Simmesport, Avoyelles Parish, LA

RED RIVER OF THE NORTH, CANADA

Lockport, Manitoba, Canada

RIDEAU CANAL, CANADA

Port Elmsley, Ontario, Canada
Portland, Ontario, Canada
Westport Ontario, Canada

SANDY & BEAVER CANAL

Williamsport, Columbiana County, OH

SACRAMENTO RIVER NAVIGATION

Freeport, Sacramento County, CA

SCHUYLKILL CANAL

Port Carbon, Schuylkill County, PA
Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County, PA
Port Clinton, Schuylkill County, PA
Leesport, Berks County, PA
Port Providence, Montgomery County, PA
Bridgeport, Montgomery County, PA

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SHUBENACADIE CANAL, CANADA

Princeport, Nova Scotia, Canada
 Port Wallace, Nova Scotia, Canada

SUSQUEHANNA CANAL

Port Deposit, Cecil County, MD

SUSQUEHANNA & TIDEWATER CANAL

York Haven, York County, PA
 Lockport, York County, PA
 Havre de Grace, Harford County, MD

TENNESSEE RIVER NAVIGATION

Bridgeport, Jackson County, AL

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY, CANADA

Port Severn, Ontario, Canada
 Port Stanton, Ontario, Canada
 Port Bolster, Ontario, Canada
 Port Perry, Ontario, Canada

WABASH & ERIE CANAL

New Haven, Allen County, IN
 Port Mahon, Huntington County, IN*
 South Haven, Wabash County, IN
 Logansport, Cass County, IN
 Lockport, Carroll County, IN
 Williamsport, Warren County, IN (e)
 Lockport, Vigo County, IN (f)
 Port Gibson, Gibson County, IN*

WELLAND CANAL

Port Robinson, Ontario, Canada
 Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada

WHITEWATER CANAL

Mound Haven, Franklin County, IN

Notes to the list:

[Notes (g) through (k) pertain to the entire list]

* Community no longer exists

(a) Portage County once included those parts of Summit County where the Ohio & Erie Canal traverses.(www.acorn.net)

(b) Original name of a town that merged with its neighbor Wert's Grove in 1847 to create Groveport, OH.(www.groveport.org)

(c) Now part of Louisville, KY. (www.preserveamerica.com)

(d) Named Port Matilda in the hope the canal would be extended there. The canal never reached here. (www.centrecountyhistory.org)

(e) Located across the Wabash River from the canal.

(f) Renamed Riley. (www.vigo.lib.in.us)

(g) Canals or canalized rivers without "port, harbor, or haven" places have not been included in the list.

(h) The places listed are not necessarily named specifically for being a port, harbor, or haven on the canal, though most are. For example, Portsmouth, Ohio, which is located at the confluence of the Scioto and Ohio Rivers and was founded and named in 1803 prior to the arrival of the Ohio & Erie Canal (appalachianohio.com).

(i) The list only includes places along and adjacent to a historic canal or canalized river and not nearby communities with "port, harbor, or haven" in their name. For example, East Weissport, PA is not included because it is not located along the Lehigh Canal.

(j) For rivers, the places are listed from upstream to downstream.

(k) For canals; they are listed west to east or north to south.

SOURCES:

American Canal Society
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