

work on this area in 1850 and 1851 cholera epidemics were prevalent, resulti
in the death of many canal workers. During the course of construction
rock removed from the excavation was used to build dry stone retaining walls
along portions of the cut. This along with ditches at the top of the cut
were intended to prevent the washing of earth into the canal. The tow path
was left atop of the cut so that in places the horses would be some 25
feet above the boats they were pulling. Between 1853 and 1860 the Patoka
deep cut was a source of problems resulting from earth washing into the
canal. In 1858 a proposal was made to build a 3 foot crib on the east side
of the cut to serve as a tow path and to catch the washing dirt. As far as
I can tell this work was never done before the abandonment of the canal.

