

Suggested Additions as follows:

1.

“In those days water transportation was very efficient versus horse and wagon.” For 1805, the company reported that goods carried by water, "if carried by land, would have taken 9405 teams of four oxen, one cart, and one man, a day and an half each. Thus the labours of 14,107 days of a man, the labour of 56,430 oxen a day, and the wear of 9,405 carts one day and an half each".

Enumerating the toil of moving goods by land before the railroad shows the efficiency of water borne transportation and why our forebears spent ten years digging a 27-mile ditch.

LML34 Lewis Means Lawrence, *The Middlesex Canal*, Boston: 1942, page 34, quoting from Boston Public Library Scrap Book, H.90. 408.

"The above property was transported 27 miles, on an average; at 25 cents, the common price of land-carriage, it would amount to 53,484 dollars; carried on the Canal, the tolls would amount to 13,371 dollars. This saves the proprietors of the goods 40,113 dollars. The sun. received in toll is 1,539 dollars less than the above calculation, which arises from setting wood at only one cord for a ton, and other lumber in proportion, which was done to encourage the business, and is so much more saved to the proprietors of the goods."

"The above goods, if carried by land, would have taken 9405 teams of four oxen., one cart, and one man, a day and an half each. Thus the labours of 14,107 days of a man, the labour of 56,430 oxen a day, and the wear of 9,405 carts one day and an half each, without calculating the return; this is saved to the public; because the expenses of animal labour on the Canal may be nearly balanced by the advantage of having the goods transported in large quantities; and claiming less care and attention of the owner. Besides this, many articles are in this way brought profitably to market, which could never bear to be transported by land, and is therefor as so much given to the country."

2.

Breen quoted a report by the US Secretary of the Treasury to Congress in 1808 that said, "The Middlesex canal, uniting the waters of [the Merrimack River] with the harbor of Boston, is however the greatest work of the kind that has been completed in the United States."

Breen ~~proudly added~~ emphasized, "The greatest work had its groundbreaking in Billerica." And was not surpassed until the Erie Canal, the Commissioners for which examined the Middlesex as the prototype for the Erie.

Mary Stetson Clarke, *The Old Middlesex Canal*, 1974, p. 10, noting *Official Reports of the Cnal Commissioners of the State of New York*, New York, 1817.

3.

and the towpath that Henry David Thoreau and his brother travelled with a rowboat in 1839 can be walked by nature enthusiasts who don't mind a trek through the woods on a rugged path. And there read from *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*,

This canal, which is the oldest in the country, and has even an antique look beside the more modern

railroads, is fed by the Concord, so that we were still floating on its familiar waters. It is so much water which the river *lets* for the advantage of commerce. There appeared some want of harmony in its scenery, since it was not of equal date with the woods and meadows through which it is led, and we missed the conciliatory influence of time on land and water; but in the lapse of ages, Nature will recover and indemnify herself, and gradually plant fit shrubs and flowers along its borders. Already the kingfisher sat upon a pine over the water, and the bream and pickerel swam below. Thus all works pass directly out of the hands of the architect into the hands of Nature, to be perfected.

Thoreau's canal is here in Billerica where you can see what nature has perfected in 175 years.

Trek, rugged? Hike, walk maybe, rough?