

In 1851 an injunction was brought by Joshua Davis, George Depriest, Elisha Embree and others to stop the construction of the reservoir; or at the very least remove all the trees from the site. In October 1851, Judge Hovey, of the Vanderburgh Circuit Court ruled in favor of the Trustees. However, 250 acres of land subject to inundation during high water were eventually cleared of timber. By May 1853 the Pigeon Creek Reservoir allowed navigation to open to Evansville 32 miles away. Because of its location the reservoir became a frequent site of hunting and fishing trips. Until 1869 the reservoir served as a source of water and allowed navigation to Evansville to continue long after the canals abandonment in 1860. In February 1869, area residents long concerned over the reservoirs effect on their health cut the embankment west of the feeder gates. The resulting flood destroyed bridges, buildings, and livestock in the valley below the dam and left the area a marsh for several years afterward.

