

"Lock" Place Names in the United States & Canada

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In a recent article entitled "Canal" Place Names, 17 communities across the United States and Canada were listed which include "canal" in their name. In preparing this follow-up article, it was quite surprising to find out how many communities include "lock" in their name. At last count there were more than 125 in the United States and Canada. Some of the communities, including those named Locke, Lockerby, Lockwood, or Locksley, were likely named after founders or prominent families. Other places had interesting "lock" names based on topographical or geographical features. For example, the town of Lockridge in southeastern Iowa was not named for a lock on a river or canal, but instead for two nearby ridges which appear to interlock (e-podunk).

One community that was surprisingly not associated with a canal or river lock is Locktown, New Jersey. It would be easy to assume this small hamlet in Hunterdon County would be named for its location alongside an old canal. Instead, the community was named after a disputed lock-out by parishioners at a local church (joekatz.net).

Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio lead the way with the most communities with "lock" in their names. Pennsylvania has nine, including five separate communities adopting the name "Lockport," New York has six, and Ohio has five. Fifteen different states or provinces have at least one community with "lock" in its name that can be correlated to a specific canal or river lock. While many of these are small villages or hamlets, several have grown to be quite big, as is attested to by the Census Bureau data contained in the following chart:

Chart 1: Census Bureau Population Data for "Lock" Communities

COMMUNITY	2004 Est.	2000	1990
Lockport, New York	21,504	22,279	24,426
Lockport, Illinois	20,587	15,191	9,401
Windsor Lock, Connecticut	12,327	12,043	12,358
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania	8,983	9,149	9,230
South Lockport, New York	unavailable	8,552	7,112
Lockport Township, Michigan	3,987	3,814	3,395
Lockland, Ohio	3,451	3,707	4,357
Combined Locks, Wisconsin	2,790	2,422	2,190
Cascade Locks, Oregon	1,113	1,115	930
Lockhart, South Carolina	514	39	58
Lockbourne, Ohio	268	280	173
Lockington, Ohio	207	208	214

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The following chart identifies those places with "lock" or "locks" included in their name, which could either be confirmed or are plausible as being associated with a canal or river lock.

Chart 2: Canal or River "Lock" Communities in the United States and Canada

PLACE	COUNTY, PARISH or REGION	STATE or PROVINCE	CANAL/RIVER
Cascade Locks	Hood River	Oregon	Cascade Canal & Lock
Chaffey's Lock	Leeds-Rideau Lakes	Ontario	Rideau Canal
Combined Locks	Outgamie	Wisconsin	Fox River Rapids Bypass Canal
Coyne Lock	York	Pennsylvania	Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal
Creeklcks	Ulster	New York	Delaware & Hudson Canal
Four Locks	Washington	Maryland	Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
Fricks Lock	Chester	Pennsylvania	Schuylkill Canal
Lockbourne	Franklin	Ohio	Ohio & Erie Canal
Lockhart	Union	South Carolina	Lockhart Canal (Broad River Rapids Bypass)
Lock Haven	Clinton	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Main Line Canal; West Branch Division
Lockington	Shelby	Ohio	Miami & Erie Canal
Lockland	Hamilton	Ohio	Miami & Erie Canal
Lockpit	Wayne	New York	Erie Canal
Lockport	Will	Illinois	Illinois & Michigan Canal
Lockport	Carroll	Indiana	Wabash & Erie Canal
Lockport (Riley)*	Vigo	Indiana	Wabash & Erie Canal
Lockport	Henry	Kentucky	Kentucky River Lock and Dam #2
Lockport	Laforche	Louisiana	Company Canal
Lockport	St. Andrews	Manitoba	St. Andrews Rapids Bypass Canal
Lockport	Niagara	New York	Erie Canal
Lockport	Clinton	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Main Line Canal; West Branch Division
Lockport	Mifflin	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Canal
Lockport	Northampton	Pennsylvania	Lehigh Canal
Lockport	Westmoreland	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Canal
Lockport	York	Pennsylvania	Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal
Lockport Heights	Laforce	Louisiana	Company Canal
Lockport Junction	Niagara	New York	Erie Canal
Lockport Township	St. Joseph	Michigan	Canal started but never completed along the St. Joseph River
Lockview	Washington	Pennsylvania	Old Lock #4, Monongahela River
Lockville	Fairfield	Ohio	Ohio & Erie Canal
Mud Lock	Seneca	New York	Cayuga & Seneca Canal
Rokey Lock	Morgan	Ohio	Muskingum River Lock and Dam #8
South Lockport	Niagara	New York	Erie Canal
Two Locks	Washington	Maryland	Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
Windsor Locks	Hartford	Connecticut	Enfield Falls Canal

* Name changed to Riley. (www.vigo.lib.in.us)

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