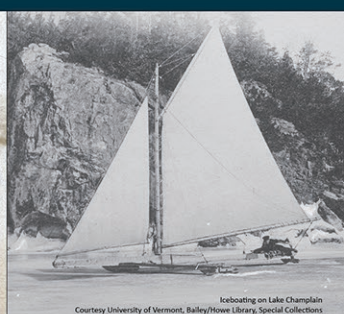
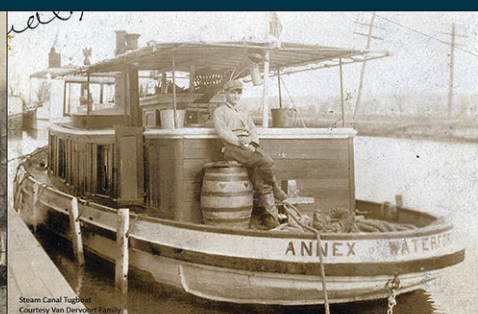


# WHY SO MANY SHIPWRECKS?

BECAUSE SO MANY BOATS HAVE TRAVELED NY WATERS

*From the earliest times, people have utilized New York's waterways to travel, transport, & control.*

*About 13% of New York State is covered by water.*



## Water Highways

For centuries, the waterways of New York State were the most efficient means of inland travel. Native Americans used birch bark and dugout canoes to fish, hunt, trade, and make war. Europeans flocked to the region in the 17th century, and introduced rowing boats, sloops, schooners, and brigs as trading and war vessels. Waterborne commerce flourished in the 1800s aboard sail- and steamboats. When man-made canals connected rivers and lakes, they required custom watercraft: the canal boat. Steam tugboats and diesel workboats of all sizes were essential in canals and ports for "pushing us around."

**Today,** steel-hulled working boats like tugs, freighters, and tankers, are a common sight for recreational kayakers, sailors, and cruisers.



*There may be as many as 10,000 shipwrecks in NY state waters.*

- National Park Service

