

## LOCAL HISTORY



**OHA**  
ONONDAGA  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
Since 1853

## The day the bottom fell out of the canal

Each week, the Onondaga Historical Association looks back at important events:

**108 years ago:** On July 30, 1907, an arch in an 1838 stone culvert supporting the Erie Canal where it passed over Onondaga Creek gave way, creating a huge hole in the bottom of the canal. The ensuing vortex of water was so strong that five canal boats were sucked in and destroyed. The back wall of the Amos Mill, which backed up to the canal, also collapsed, adding barrels of flour to the debris. That section of canal had to be closed and drained until it could be repaired, which was a devastating blow for the local economy. After holding up for an additional 107 years, the culvert was repaired again this year and is still in place, carrying Erie Boulevard over Onondaga Creek.

— Dan Connors of the OHA

Canal boats are drawn into the hole created when a culvert over Onondaga Creek collapsed. The back wall of the Amos Mill also collapsed. (OHA photo)



Take a look back at this week in history with photos from Central New York and around the world at [syracuse.com/photos](http://syracuse.com/photos)