

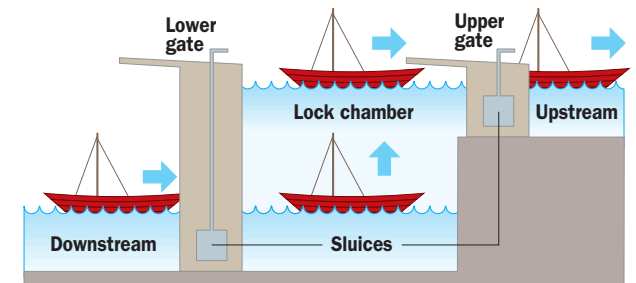
# Rappahannock navigation

System of 47 locks, 20 dams and 15 miles of canal ran 50 miles from Fredericksburg to Waterloo in Fauquier County. Barrel-laden bateaux were the workhorses of the river commerce route.

Water-powered locks would raise or lower boats through the system.

## How a canal lock works:

Canal boat enters the lock chamber. Gates to the chamber are closed. To raise boat, sluices are opened in the upper gate (upstream) to let water in. To lower the boat, sluices are opened to let water out. Then the upper or lower gates are opened to allow boat to the new level.



## Key:



## Canal boats at a glance:

- Known as bateaux, they were shallow-draft, oak craft, up to 65 feet long and 9 feet wide.
- Cargo included corn, oats and wheat, salt fish, fertilizer, whiskey, lumber, household goods.
- Boats generally had a crew of two men and could carry up to 20 tons.

