

More specifically, perhaps, the papers reveal the relations of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company (more recently known as the Reading Company) with both the Schuylkill Navigation Company and with the Susquehanna Canal Company. This latter company (the Susquehanna Canal Company) was commonly called the Susquehanna and Tidewater; it descended on the west bank of the Susquehanna from Wrightsville, opposite Columbia, Pennsylvania, to Havre de Grace, Maryland; it was controlled for many years by the Reading Company; and its more important papers are now, by courtesy of the Pennsylvania Water and Power Company, on permanent loan in the office of the Division of Public Records of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. In brief, the Schuylkill Navigation Company papers, through distinctive inclusions among them, notably supplement official sources for the history of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal as well as relate to other official Commonwealth navigation company papers today held and filed in the Public Records Division under the particular heading of "The Schuylkill Navigation Company."

Of interest in the assemblage of books and documents are maps and map books, from those which record early years of exploration and construction to others which picture property holdings and services of the last years of operation. Of similar importance are day-by-day, year-by-year reports of rainfall and weather conditions along the canal; descriptions of conditions at dams, bridges, and locks or on towing paths; registers of boats, their tonnage and destinations; of amounts of water power dispensed; of heights of water at dams; of toll charges and regulations; of costs of repair and maintenance; and the like.

The problems of finance and the solutions thereto adopted by the Board of Managers are revealed in the books