

The Erie, Miami & Erie and Erie and Ohio Canals, and Mad Anthony Wayne

When I was a kid we would often have Sunday outings - sometimes just drives (often east out along Lake Erie to the Sandusky area, Crane Creek State Park, etc), sometimes for picnics (just the four of us or sometimes with larger family gatherings), usually at one or another park on the Maumee River south of Toledo near the towns of Maumee or Bowling Green.

Historic sites and artifacts were frequent destinations for our Sunday outings, and I remember fascinating days visiting and looking for arrowheads (I never found any) at the sites of the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Maumee, Fort Miami in Fort Wayne, Defiance and other memorials to Mad Anthony Wayne and the Northwest Indian Wars, my first hands-on encounter with post-Revolutionary War history in the area.

On the picnics, besides fishing in the river (mostly for bullheads), catching crawdads for bait and generally running loose in the countryside, one of the more interesting things for me were the remnants of the old Miami & Erie canal locks, unusual constructions whose purpose wasn't at all decipherable for me without the help of historical markers.

I still have lots of photos of those picnics from the family album, but I don't recall any of the canal beds and locks.

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=19574>

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<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/history-of-the-ohio-erie-canal.htm#:~:text=Power%20and%20money%20motivated%20land,throughout%20the%20state%20in%201825.>

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[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Defiance_\(Ohio\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Defiance_(Ohio))

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fallen_Timbers

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Wayne://youtu.be/Dprj_BKkaX8