

John McCarthy's List of Canal Statistics from GFVC Lunch Room

Revised by author 5/29/15

75:	number of lift locks (counting Tide Lock)
8 feet:	lift of the average lock
7 and 10 feet:	lift of the occasional lock
40 tons:	estimated weight of an empty freighter (1852)
120 tons:	maximum weight of a freighter's cargo
160 tons:	maximum weight of a fully loaded freighter (by 1852)
4,000 pounds:	probable weight of the Katie Dreamer
7 tons:	weight of the Mercer
17 ½ tons:	weight of the Georgetown
25 tons:	weight of the Canal Clipper III
6 feet:	length of Carl
100 feet:	length of a lock (The design standard. Actual locks vary.)
15 feet:	width of a lock (The design standard. Actual locks vary.)
14-17 feet:	height of a lock
90 feet:	maximum length of a freighter (1852)
14 ½ feet:	maximum width of a freighter (1852)
7-8:	the average age when kids started driving mules
6 feet:	maximum depth of the historic canal in the center
4 ½ feet:	maximum draft of a fully-loaded freighter (by 1852)
2 ½ minutes:	fastest recorded lock-through (1831)
2 mph:	average speed of a freighter
12 inches:	approximate draft of the Mercer
18 inches:	approximate draft of the Georgetown
28 inches:	approximate draft of the launches
60 feet:	width of the prism at the top (outside Georgetown and below Harpers Ferry)
48 feet:	width of the prism at the bottom (outside Georgetown and below Harpers Ferry)
6-7 days:	a fast trip by freighter, DC to Cumberland (Running normally, sun-up to sun-down.)
4 hours:	average length of an excursion boat trip, DC to Great Falls

Principle source: "Historic Resource Study: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal", Harlan D. Unrau, as prepared by Karen Gray for the C&O Canal NHP, Hagerstown MD