

## **Floyd County: New Albany and Portland Ferry Company Records, 1862–1884**

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The New Albany and Portland Ferry Company was one of the many ferry companies along the Ohio River, transporting people and goods on steamboats. It was created by John Conner who came to New Albany, Indiana, in 1816 and bought a block of land from a competing ferry company. His son, Thomas, later joined him and by 1847 they owned many landings in both New Albany and Portland, Kentucky, directly across the river. It was later renamed the Portland and New Albany Ferry Company in 1881 and remained in business until 1891 when it was bought by a railroad company. The “golden age” of ferries lasted from 1835 to 1870, ending when bridges made the river accessible by trains.<sup>1</sup>

The New Albany and Portland Ferry Company owned ferries near Upper Fifth Street in New Albany. Like other companies, they kept ledgers, cash books, and portage books. These records typically noted wharfage fees (taxes and payments for use of the landing area), supplies used, workers on the boats, and companies that provided services. The names listed below are crew members from a portage book dating from 1870 to 1872 and a cash book from 1872 to 1876. There were various roles on a steamboat or ferry that the men fulfilled during trips. The head of the boat was the captain, who typically owned the boat. The pilot was under the captain and was responsible for steering the ship. Under the pilot was the engineer who ran the boiler and engine and made sure the ship was working properly. The firemen, who worked for the engineer, stoked the boiler to create steam, while a striker managed the engines. The deckhands represented the biggest part of the crew, performing work as laborers, repairmen, and various other roles that are listed in the logbooks.<sup>2</sup>

Listed below are names from the Portage and Cash books of the New Albany and Portland Ferry Company. Among the alphabetized names in the cash book are lists of companies and their rendered services. The companies are useful in identifying the names of people who owned and operated various businesses in the area during the mid- to late-nineteenth century. The records below were compiled by John Conner’s great-great-granddaughter, Virginia Lee Bennett, and are now available at the Indiana Historical Society’s William Henry Smith

Memorial Library, along with other ledgers, cash books, and portage books from the New Albany and Portland Ferry Company collection. There are no page numbers listed with the names on the transcribed list below, but most show up more than once and can be found on multiple pages.<sup>3</sup>

## Notes

1. Alan L. Bates, Martin C. Striegel, and Victoria L. Nugent, “Falls Cities Ferries: A Note,” *Indiana Magazine of History* 95, no. 3 (September 1999): 262, 264, JStor.
2. Ibid., 262, 269, 271, 281–82; New Albany and Portland Ferry Company Records, 1862–1884, F0264 and collection guide, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis; “Steamboat *Heroine*: The Crew of a Western Steamboat,” Oklahoma Historical Society, <https://www.okhistory.org/learn/steamboat4>, accessed February 12, 2024; George Byron Merrick, *Old Times on the Upper Mississippi: Recollections of a Steamboat Pilot from 1854 to 1863* (Cleveland, Ohio: Arthur H. Clark, 1909), 39–40, Google Books.
3. New Albany and Portland Ferry Company Records, 1862–1884.

## New Albany and Portland Ferry Company Portage Book, 1870–1872

Alford, J.	Repairs
Banks, John	Repairs
Baugh, John	Fireman
Beasley, Harrison	Fireman
Beck, J. Cal	Labor & Striker
Beck, Jacob	Repairs
Beebee, Peter	Pilot & Watchman
Beeler, Ed	Engineer
Bence, H.	Labor
Bounds, Ben F.	Captain
Burk, Wm.	Labor

Cannon, Mike	Labor
Cannon, Tom	Labor
Casey, Chas.	Repairs
Clark, Thornton	Labor
Cogswell, Jos.	Repairs
Coil, John	Labor
Conley, Tom	Labor
Conner, Andrew	Repairs
Conner, James	Pilot
Conner, John	Captain
Conner, Tom	Pilot
Corbit, James	Yarding Coal
Cornell, Unis	Labor
Crosier, W.	Repairs
Curry, Thompson	Repairs
Dawson, Ben	Foreman
Defore, Jno.	Repairs
De Mar, Wm.	Labor
[Dewal?], S.	Labor
Douglas, Jim	Labor
Draper, Hiram	Striker
Draper, James	Captain & Engineer
Ellis, Len	Repairs
Ferguson, John	Labor
Finley, John	Labor
Fiske, Sam	Labor on Machinery

Flanagin, T.	Labor
Foley, Tom	Labor
Gaunt, Jim	Labor
Gavin, Anthony	Coal Hauler
Genung, H.	Carpenter
Graham M.	Labor
Griggs, Jo	Fireman
Hannan, L	[---]
Harper, R.	Labor
Higgins, Pat	Labor
Hines, John	Repairs
Hines, Mike	Labor
Hodge, Wm.	Painter
[Horner/Homer], Wm.	Labor
How, H.	Labor
Howe, Hardin	Repairs
Irvin, Jim	Repairs
Irwin, J.	Labor
Jackson, A.	Labor
Jocelyn, J. G.	Labor
Johnson, Dave	Labor - Fireman
Johnson, R.	Towing
Jones, E.	Painter

Kennan, John	Cart
Kennedy, George	Labor
Kennedy, Tom	Labor
Kinman, L.	Repairs
Kinslow, Sam	Labor
[Kye/Rye], Ed.	Labor
Leslie, George	Striker
Lock, Chas.	Painter
Lock, Garlen	Carts
Logeton, Wm.	Repairs
Logstet, C.	Repairs
Lonnon, C.	Repairs
Lonnon, Geo.	Labor
Lotis, H.	Labor
Mackey, J.	Repairs
Manley, C.	Labor
Manley, James	Labor
McGuire, A.	Labor
Meeker, Henry	Repairs
Meeker, S.	Repairs
Mitchell, John	Captain
Moore, Frank	Labor
Morris, B.	Repairs
Morris, Wm.	Labor
Mullen, John	Labor
Nicklson, James	Repairs
Noles, John	Striker & Fireman

O'Brien, Mike	Labor
O'Brien, Pat	Towing
Phillips, Andrew	Labor
Phillips, Ben	Labor
Phillips, J.	Labor
Priest, Ed	Labor
Reilly, M.	Labor
Richey, W.	Repairs
Riggle, Jas.	Towing
Rowley, D.	Labor
Rowley, John	Labor
Rowley, Wm.	Labor
Rusk, Harry	Repairs
Russell, John	Labor
Sampson, F.	Labor
Sanders, A.	Labor
Sands, A.	Labor
Scribner, J.	Repairs
Sears, Frank	Repairs & Towing
Sears, William	Engineer
Sherrer, Jo's	Striker
Sherrer, R.	Labor
Shoemaker, John	Labor on Coal Dock
Shuler, John	Yarding Coal
Shultz, John	Labor
Simms, Ed	Labor

Simms, Frank	Labor
Simpson, F.	Labor
Slaughter, Ed	Repairs to road
Snider, Mart	Labor
Sowle, S.	Labor
Sowle, Sheridan	Machinery Labor
Spence, James W.	Engineer
Spence, Thad	Engineer
Stewart, Gus	Repairs
Stilwell, Wm.	Repairs
Stuart, Gus	Labor
Tamper, F.	Labor
Tefner, John	Labor on Towing
Temple, F.	Labor
Temple, J. Frank	Fireman & Striker
Thompson, Jack	Labor
Tompson, T. F.	Repairs
Waters, W.	Labor
Wells, Wm.	Labor
Welsch, John	Labor & Fireman
Whetsel, Tom	Labor
Whetsel, Wm.	Labor
Whiteman, J.	Labor
Williams, A.	Labor
Wilt, George	Engineer

Wright, Christ	[---]
Wright, Harmon	[---]

Yagle, Antone	Labor
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### **New Albany and Portland Ferry Company Cash Book, 1872–1876**

Ailer, Fred	Lumber
Alford, J.	Lumber
Apple, W.	Lumber
Armstrong, W.	Repair Boiler

Badgeley, Geo.

Baker, H. J.	Brickwork
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Bannon, T.

Barmore, D. S.

Barmore, J.

Bean, Thos.	Lumber
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Beeler, Granvel	Rock
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Belknap, W. B.	Bolts
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Betinger,	Rock & Hauling
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Bigley, W. J.	Coal
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Bonner & Duffy	Coal
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Briggs Bros.

Brown, Peter

Busby, J.

Cline, B. F.

Coggswell, J.

Coil, N.	Pump
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Conner, J. H.	
Cook, Josh	Coal
Crane & Gohman	
Crane, D. & Son	
Crane, David	
Crane, J. E.	
Creese, J. E.	
Dantz, A.	
Daremore & Wilson	Hauling
Davis, J. S.	Fee
Devenish, Jas.	Hay for Mule
Devol, H. W.	
Dillingham, W. H.	
Dorsey, John	Sheet Iron
Dorst, J. H.	
Duckwald & Duckwald	
Duckwall & Troxall	
Duckwall, W. A.	
Dutt, Henry	
Edwards, Ed	
Faucey, John	
Fawcett Bros.	
Fawcett, C. H.	Coal
Flanagan, T.	Labor
Foley, Tom	Spikes

Gavin, Anthony	Coal Hauler
Genung, H.	Carpenter
Gohman, J. H. & Co.	
Graf, V.	
Gwin, Berry	
Hagen, C.	Assessment for Well
Hatfield, Wm.	
Heck, Jos.	Lumber
Hegewald & Co.	Packing the McHarry.
Hill, D. C. & Co.	
Hipple & Rager	
Hoffer, F. & Co.	
Horn, John	
Howard, James & Co.	
Irvin, M.	Spr. (Superintendent)
Irvin, Moses	
James, John	Posts
Jarnison, T.	
Jewell, J. H. & Co.	Lumber
Johnston & Webster	Foundry Bill
Jones, H.	Painting Chimneys
Jones, Harry	Painting chimneys
Keck, Geo.	
Kenart, Louis	
Kent, B. C.	
Kistler, N. J.	

Kistler, Payton & Co.	Lumber
Knofle, Aug.	Painter
Lasch, Geo.	
Ledger Standard Co.	
Lewis, E.	Lumber
Lightner, L.	
Lithgour, J. S. & Co.	
Loughmiller, J.	
Loyd, Robert	
Main & Park	
Mantle & Cowan	
McCowan, W.	Skiff Oars
McCulloch, Geo.	Ferriage
McHarry, E. M., Mrs.	
McNaulty & Co.	
Miller, Mury	Decking for Docks
Mix & Devol	
Mix, W. M. & Co.	
Morris, F. M.	
Motweiler & Bettinger	Rock
Muler, J.	Barge Wreck
N. A. Steam Forge	Welding Shaft
Needham, J. H.	
Neubauer, John	
Newkirk, W. J.	
Nunemac[k/h]er, J. R.	

Ohio Falls Iron Works	Iron for Float
O'Neil & Co.	Coal
Payne, G.	
Payne, Geo.	
Payton & Co.	
Payton & Kistler	
Pierce, James	
Porter, J. & Co.	
Porter & Strong	Lumber
Ranson, A.	
Reasor, J. A.	Boiler Composition
Reasor, S. A.	
Robinson, M. J.	
[Roockinwal, L?]	
Roose, Chas.	
Rowley, H.	
Sackett & Crane	
Sackett, O.	Repair Boiler
Sackett, Oz.	
Shane, C. M.	Agency
Shaw & Mix	
Sheehom & Co.	
Sherley & Woolfolk	
Shrader, John	
[Skein?], Wm.	
Smith, Geo.	
Smithwick, P.	

Smithwick, T.	Blacksmith
Snyder & Co.	Lumber
Sowle, S.	Labor
Spangler, Geo., Shr.	Towing
Spear, J. B.	
Staker, Adam	
Steeple & [Mulleland?]	
Stewart, J. I.	
Stoy, P. R.	
Strong, Thos.	Posts
Swartz, J.	Rock
Terry & Perry	
Townsend, F.	Valve
Varble & Co.	Towing Coal
Vernia, L.	
Wattam & Co.	
Wheelhouse, W.	
Whistler, E. S.	Lumber
Wiley, Isaac	Cleaning Boiler
Wiley, J.	
Williby, J.	Rock & Hauling
Wilson, J.	
Woodward, J. K.	
Wunderlick, F.	