

Collection #
P 0264

**STEAMBOAT POSTCARDS
CA. 1907–1935 POSTCARDS WITH IMAGES FROM CA.
1865–1920**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders containing 14 black-and-white real photo postcards and 7 black-and-white real photo panoramic postcards

COLLECTION DATES: Postcards (ca. 1907–1935) of images from ca. 1865–1920

PROVENANCE: Gift from Lee Burns, 18 April 1935

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1935.0401

NOTES: *See also:* Ohio River Steamboat Photographs (P 0227); Marcus R. Sulzer Collection (P 0061); B. F. Callis Collection (P 0347); John M. Killian Collection (M 0418); R.M. Lintner Riverboat Collection (M 0945)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Steamboats first appeared on western rivers in 1811 when Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *New Orleans*, sailed roundtrip from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. The steamboat industry quickly expanded as steamboats revolutionized western industry and commerce. The 1850s were known as the "Golden Age" of steamboats; however, the spread of railroads led to the decline in steamboat usage. In the post-Civil War era, steamboats were mostly used for local travel and trade. Steamboats did manage to carve out one niche market for themselves as towboats. The twentieth century saw the advent of steel-hulled boats and a move toward diesel-propelled rather than steam-propelled boats. Steamboats (or diesel boats, as the case may be) continue to be used primarily as barges and towboats for coal and other supplies.

Sources:

Fishbaugh, Charles Preston. *From Paddle Wheels to Propellers: The Howard Ship Yards of Jeffersonville in the Story of Steam Navigation on the Western Rivers*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1970. General Collection VM301.H6 F5 1970.

Hunter, Louis C. and Beatrice Jones Hunter. *Steamboats on the Western Rivers: An Economic and Technological History*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1949. General Collection HE627.H8 1949.

Way, Frederick Jr. and Joseph W. Rutter. *Way's Steam Towboat Directory*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1990. General Collection HE565.U71 W33 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 21 black-and-white real photo postcards (ca. 1907–1935) of images from ca. 1865–1920 showing steamboats. The boats are identified by name, and some of the images have been partially identified as to date and location. Some notations have been made by the donor on the backs of the postcards. Most of the photographs were taken along the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers. A few images show accidents –the 1868 collision of the two steamboats *United States* and *America* (photograph of a sketch); the *City of Madison*, sunk in 1894; and the *Princess*, sunk in an ice gorge in 1918. Two images show boats overloaded with bales of cotton: the *Henry Frank* in 1881 and the *Pargoud* (possibly 1886).

The collection is divided into two series by size. **Series 1** consists of 14 standard-sized (3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches) postcards and **Series 2** includes 7 panoramic postcards (approx. 3 1/2 x 9 inches).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Real Photo Postcards

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
The <i>America</i> (United States Mail Line Co.) and the <i>Major Anderson</i> under a bridge. "Compliments, Sam G. Smith." n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Express</i> (Wheeling, Marietta & Parkersburg U.S. Mail), docked at Wheeling, West Virginia, with a horse-drawn carriage labeled "Wheeling Omnibus Line" in the foreground, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Grand Republic</i> . "Compliments, Sam G. Smith." n.d. [See also P 0061, OVB Photographs Box 2, Folder 1]	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Henry Frank</i> with 9226 bales of cotton. [Photo taken in New Orleans, 2 April 1881.]	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>J.B. Finley</i> , towboat, [early 1900s]. [See also P 0061, Photographs Box 1, Folder 3.]	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>James Howard</i> [image ca. 1870s–1880s].	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Pargoud</i> , loaded [with bales of cotton]. Photo by A.D. Lytle [possibly taken in Louisiana, 29 December 1886]. [See also P 0061, OVB Photographs Box 2, Folder 6]	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Princess</i> sunk in the ice gorge near Madison, Indiana, and the <i>Island Queen</i> , 1 February 1918.	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Queen City</i> , at Madison, Indiana, 1919.	Box 1, Folder 1
The <i>Robt. E. Lee</i> , n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1

"The Steamboat Disaster on the Ohio River, Near Warsaw, Kentucky, December 4, 1868," sketched by E.P. Frazer. [Published in *Harper's Weekly*, New York, Saturday, 26 December 1868, Vol. XII, No. 626, p. 820. Illustrates the collision of the two steamboats *United States* and *America* (United States Mail Line Co.).]

Box 1, Folder 1

The *Success Convict Ship*. Typed caption on front: "The English Prison Ship - 'Success'." Note written on back: "In the canal at Louisville -- 1920." [Built in 1840 in Burma to carry trade from Southeast Asia to England. Later became known erroneously as the convict ship that transported English prisoners to Australia. In the 1920s was a tourist attraction in waterways of North America. <www.rbhayes.org>]

Box 1, Folder 1

The *Sultana* [note on back states that this is from an old tintype and that the boat is pictured at Cairo, Illinois; however, research indicates that the original photograph was probably taken April 26, 1865 near Helena, Arkansas].

Box 1, Folder 1

The *Telegraph*, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Real Photo Panoramic Postcards

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

The *City of Cincinnati*. "At Madison [Indiana] 1915."

Box 1, Folder 2

The *City of Louisville*. "At Madison [Indiana] - 1894. On the pilot house is marked her record time, 9 hours, 42 minutes, between Louisville and Cincinnati."

Box 1, Folder 2

The *City of Madison*. "Sunk at Madison [Indiana] June 18, 1894."

Box 1, Folder 2

The *Homer Smith*. "An excursion boat at Madison [Indiana] -- 1916."

Box 1, Folder 2

The *J.T. Hatfield* and the *Frank Gilmore* at Hatfield Landing [Indiana]. "Coal barges and tow boats on the Ohio." n.d. [The *Frank Gilmore* was a sternwheel towboat, 1883–1906.]

Box 1, Folder 2

The *Natchez* and the *Robt. E. Lee*. "From an old colored lithograph." [Original chromolithograph published 24 May 1883 depicting the celebrated June–July 1870 race of the two Mississippi River steamers from New Orleans to St. Louis.]

Box 1, Folder 2

The *Princess* and the *Island Queen* (both of the Coney Island Co.). "At Carrollton, Kentucky, mouth of Kentucky River, winter of 1917."

Box 1, Folder 2

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0264).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.