Libraries with inland river collections include:
G.W. Blunt White Library, Mystic Seaport, Mystic, CT, [http://www.mysticseaport.org/research](http://www.mysticseaport.org/research);
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Rare Books and Special Collections, Inland Rivers Collection, Third Floor – Bridge, Main Library/North Building, 800 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202-2071, 513-369-6957;
Tulane University Library, New Orleans, LA [http://www.tulane.edu/~lmiller/Transportation.html](http://www.tulane.edu/~lmiller/Transportation.html); and
Murphy Library, 1613 Pine St., La Crosse, WI 54601, [http://www.uwlax.edu/MarlyLibrary/archome.html](http://www.uwlax.edu/MarlyLibrary/archome.html)
Fred A. Bill. Photographs and pictures of river steamers, ca. 1860-1920. 5 vol. Also one box of photographs of river steam boats. [http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/phocol.htm](http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/phocol.htm)

[http://steamboats.org](http://steamboats.org) A steamboat information resource that has a glossary of steamboat terms, interactive steamboat model, books and message board.

[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/) American Memory from the Library of Congress collections provides free internet access to historical images, maps, newspapers, periodicals, sheet music, narratives of early travel, and steamboat photographs. Other Library of Congress images are included in:

Selected Library of Congress Steamboat Photographs and Pictures

Microfilm

[http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/](http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/) The Johns Hopkins University has the Lester S. Levy Collection of Sheet Music of over 29,000 pieces focusing on popular American music from 1780 to 1960: The

[www.waterwaysjournal.net](http://www.waterwaysjournal.net) The Waterways Journal is a weekly trade publication covering news of the inland rivers and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.


HE 191 .A3x
Bar NCIR Z 7164 .T8 A3

**BIOGRAPHY AND GENEALOGY**

**Government Records**

[http://tris](http://tris) Largest and most comprehensive source of information of published transportation research on the Web, was a joint project between the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and the Transportation Research Board.

[www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov) National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408, 1-800-234-8861. The regional (NARA) that includes St. Louis is the National Archives Kansas City Branch, 2312 East Bannister Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131-3011. At the regional archives there are licenses for various positions within their regional jurisdiction.

On **August 30, 1852**, licenses were required of pilots and engineers, and the **1871 Act** added masters, chief mates, engineers and pilots of all steam vessels. **April 17, 1874 Act** licenses required of alien engineers and pilot who declared their intention of becoming citizens. In the **May 28, 1896 Act** steam vessel officer's
licenses were issued for five years, and renewal at any time before expiration. **March 23, 1898 Act**, extended licensing of steam vessel chief mates to include ocean or coastwise steam vessels' chief mates, and second or third mates in charge of a watch, and mates of river steamers. The 1871 Act was amended by the **December 21, 1898 Act** to include licensing of masters and chief mates of sail vessels over 700 tons, and all other vessels or barges of over 100 tons carrying passengers.

The Steamboat Inspection Service of the Commerce Department administered the acts by creating districts where the licenses were obtained. **First Supervising District** - Local port: St. Michael, AK. **Second Supervising District** - Local port: Albany, NY. **Fourth Supervising District** - Local ports: St. Louis, MO; Dubuque, IA. **Sixth Supervising District** - Local ports: Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Nashville, TN; Memphis, TN. **Seventh Supervising District** - Local ports: Pittsburgh, PA; Cincinnati, OH; Point Pleasant, WV. **Eighth Supervising District** - Local port: Chicago, IL. **Tenth Supervising District** - Local ports: New Orleans, LA; Mobile, AL. Licenses and records can also be found in State Historical Societies, State Archives, or other collections.

Copies of these licenses were not kept by the government, but the names were listed by supervising districts in:

Steamboat-Inspection Service. **Proceedings of the ... Annual Meeting of the Board of Supervising Inspectors of Steam Vessels.** Washington: G.P.O. Library has 1874 and 1881. A complete set (1853 - 1893) with the list of vessels and officers licensed is available at the University of Chicago Library: Microforms, microfc J83.U13 1990:T3810-I to T3810-, and SLU Law Library. Rare VM 600 .U5

Steamboat-Inspection Service. **List of Masters, Mates, Pilots, and Engineers of Merchant Steam, Motor, and Sail Vessels, Licensed During the Year Ended December ... for a Period of Five Years.** Library has 1897 - 1905. Annual publication (1894-1905) that has lists of licenses granted for a five-year period and status of licenses. Publication dates cover the previous year, example, 1894 is for people “licensed during the year ended December 31, 1893”.

Merc Ref HE 589 .U5 A25

Steamboat-Inspection Service. **List of Officers of Merchant Steam, Motor, and Sail Vessels, Licensed During the Year ... for a Period of Five Years.** Library has 1906 - 1915. Annual publication continues Steamboat-Inspection Service. **List of Masters, Mates, Pilots, and Engineers ... (previous entry).**

Merc Ref HE 589 .U5 A25


Lists of government employees

**Other Sources**

Evidence of early steamboat travelers can be found in newspapers of time, for instance travelers placed notices thanking the captain and crew for a particular steamboat trip. 19th Century newspapers carried lists of people with letters waiting to be picked up at the post office, and also list of people staying at different lodgings.

Emigrant guides and pamphlets were written to promote travel to America for newcomers, and sometimes for a specific nationality. Useful information about the journey could include: Government regulations, preparation for the ocean voyage and port of debarkation, and modes of travel to other destinations. For example:
Vault E 158 .O36 1851

Morris, Jean S.  Western Migrations by River and Canal from PA & NY:  A Bibliography.  2005

December 1990, 245-261.

Radloff, Herman and Alexander Coyle.  "Your ancestor a river captain?”  St. Louis, MO:  St. Louis  
Includes references to primary sources and lists of licensed officers from the 1857, 1859 and 1915  
St. Louis City Directories  
Merc Ref F474 .S2 Y68 1973

CIVIL WAR
Government Records
Names of Civil War masters of vessels contracted by the U.S. Army can sometimes be found in the NARA  
“vessel papers” in Record Group 92, Records of the Office of Quartermaster General.  These “vessel  
papers” are arranged by vessel name.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion.  Washington:  GPO,  
1894.  
Wtr Wys E 591 .U58 1987 (reprint)

Silverstone, Paul H., Warships of the Civil War Navies.  Annapolis, MD:  Naval Institute Press, 1989  
Authoritative and illustrated  
Wtr Wys VA 61 .S573 1989

Other Sources
Links to the Navy and War Department lists for the Civil War period:  
http://americahurrah.com/OfficialRegister/Index.htm

Gibson, Charles Dana and E. Kay Gibson.  Assault and Logistics:  Union Army Coastal and River  
Role of contracted vessels in the Civil War.  
Wtr Wys E 591 .G53 1995

Gibson, Charles Dana and E. Kay Gibson.  Dictionary of Transports and Combatant Vessels Steam and Sail  
Lists contracted vessels and their role in the Civil War.  
Wtr Wys VA 61 .G53 1995

Civil War gunboats  
Wtr Wys E 591 .G67

Greene, F.V.  The Mississippi.  New York:  Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1882  
Campaigns of the Civil War, Vol. VIII  
Rare E 470.8 .G81 1882, 1892

MACHINERY, MODELS & PLANS

http://pc-78-120.udac.se:8001/WWW/Transport/Transport.html Different sections: Air; Rail; Road; Sea
Transport, contains Maritime History and Pointers to Other Sites of Nautical Interest.

Comprehensive book about knots that rivermen used.

Steamboat machinery

Steamboat structure

Illustrated catalog of this large steamboat yard

"The Machinery of Western River Steamboats", from the International Correspondence School Textbook on Marine Engineering, Vol. II.
Steamboat machinery

Paddlewheels and Props Catalog. John Fryant, 7672 Crystal Cove Pointe, Maineville, Ohio 45039-7008
Model plans and supplies

St. Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club. Contact: Thomas P. O'Dell, 417 Valley View Drive, East Alton, IL 62024, Telephone: 618-259-3052

Vessel plans

TERMS

Towboat terms


Wtr Wys V 23 .O96 1976

Wtr Wys HE 567 .W6 1963

VESSELS

Government Records

www.nara.gov National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-000. The regional (NARA) that includes St. Louis is the National Archives Kansas City Branch, 2312 East Bannister Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131-3011.

Marine Inspection and Navigation, Bureau of (Record Group 41) Steamboat Inspection Service, was created July 7, 1838. Inspectors listed the dates of their first inspections. Local newspapers and The Waterways Journal (1891-present) would likely carry descriptions of these new vessels. Vessels had to be measured before being registered, enrolled, or licensed, and after licensing they were numbered and named. Vessels were required to have a license showing hulls inspected every twelve months, and boilers every six months and to provide safety equipment. The 1871 Act made ferryboats, canal boats, yachts and other small craft subject to vessel inspection. The August 7, 1882 Act provided foreign private passenger vessels between any U.S. port and elsewhere subject to the laws.

The Steamboat Inspection Service of the Commerce Department administered the acts by creating districts where the inspections were done. First Supervising District - Local port: St. Michael, AK Second Supervising District - Local port: Albany, NY Fourth Supervising District - Local ports: St. Louis, MO; Dubuque, IA Sixth Supervising District - Local ports: Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Nashville, TN; Memphis, TN Seventh Supervising District - Local ports: Pittsburgh, PA; Cincinnati, OH; Point Pleasant, WV Eighth Supervising District - Local port: Chicago, IL Tenth Supervising District - Local ports: New Orleans, LA; Mobile, AL. Licenses and records can also be found in State Historical Societies, State Archives, or other collections.

Library has 1874 and 1881. A complete set (1853 - 1893) with the list of vessels and officers licensed is available at the University of Chicago Library: Microforms, microfc J83.U13 1990:T3810-1 to T3810---, and SLU Law Library.
Rare VM 600 .U5

http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/vesnhl.htm List of vessels that have been designated National Historic Landmarks. The full text of many of the nominations is available at this site. For copies of nominations not online robert_sandoval@nps.gov

http://psix.uscg.mil The Port State Information Exchange (PSIX) system contains vessel specific information derived from the United States Coast Guard's Marine Safety Information system (MSIS).

Title varies slightly. Library has 1870-1912. Coverage is for example for 1912 is “fiscal year ended June 30, 1912”.
Merc Ref HE 589 .U5 A15

Comprehensive American naval history with illustrations

Gov Docs D207.10:1/pt.A/991-


Annual publication, some issues available on microfiche

Wtr Wys HE 565 .U5 A27


Dubuque

Permanent Enrollments by Dubuque Steamboat Inspectors, 1870-1888, Steamboats, Steam Ferryboats, Flatboats, and Barges (Record Groups 26)

Microfilm

New Orleans

Ship Registers and Enrollments of New Orleans, Louisiana. University, La.: Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, 1941- Vol. I-VI, 1804-1870

Merc Ref HE 565 .U73

New York


Merc Ref HE 565 .U5 A43 1968 v. 1 & 2

St. Louis

General Index, Grantor-Grantee, 1867 – 1913

Index of Enrollments, and Enrollments at St. Louis (1835, 1844)

Steamboats Bill of Sale, Transfers, Power of Attorney, Deeds of Trust, Mortgages, Releases, Shares (Record Group 26)

Microfilm

Vessel Documentation Records from the Port of St. Louis, Mo., 1835 – 1944

Copies of Licenses of Vessels Over 20 Tons (1844 – July 1912) Roll 1 – 17

Copies of Licenses of Vessels under 20 Tons (September 1893 – May 1931) Rolls 18 - 20

Copies of Licenses of Yachts (April 1902 – June 1911); Enrollments, Volumes B90-B92 (May 1835 – December 1901) Roll 21

Enrollments, Volume B93 (January 1902 – July 1911) Roll 22

Combined Certificates of Enrollment and License (August 1911 – June 1918) Roll 23

Accident Reports (May 1884 – 1942) Roll 24

Reports of Vessel Construction, Destruction, and Legal or Physical Alteration (June 1900 – June 1914) Roll 25

Quarterly Abstracts of the Status of Vessels (July 1900 – June 1914); Annual Listings of Vessels (July – June 1911); Annual Vessel Recapitulations (July 1900 – June 1911); Licenses of Vessels Over 20 Tons: Cairo, IL (1867 – 1870) Roll 26

Microfilm
City of St. Louis.  Index to Steamboat Arrivals and Departures, 1878 to 1881 and 1888 to 1918.  (Roll H-379)
Microfilm.

Other Sources
The St. Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club is an organization with the sole purpose of sharing and teaching other the joy of radio controlled model boats. These models have most of the same controls that you would have if you were aboard the full sized vessel. They include variable forward and reverse speed control, steering and sail control for the sailboats.  http://www.stlouisadmirals.com/

The Steamship Historical Society Archives (SSHSA) http://www.sshsa.org consists of over 200,000 steamship photographs including WWII, cargo and inland. Collection is currently unavailable.

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse - Murphy Library, Special Collections Department, La Crosse, WI 54601  Tel. 608-785-8511 Extensive collection of photographs of inland river steamboats and river scenes. http://perth.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/Departments/archome.html

Dick’s Towboat Gallery has Mississippi and Ohio River Towboats and links. http://www.towboatgallery.com

Wtr Wys F 351 .B18 1941

Merc Ref HE 633 .E35 B7 1951

Wtr Wys HE 571 .B67 1981

Classification Index for the Harold Brown Adkinson Collection of Mississippi and Ohio River Steamboats.  Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN
Microfilm

Merc Ref CC 77 .U5 C97 1997

Wtr Wys VM 461 .D6 1966

Wtr Wys VM 615 .E63 1929

Wtr Wys VM 615 .F63 1944

Gibson, Charles Dana and E. Kay Gibson.  Marine Transportation in War: The U.S. Army Experience
Wtr Wys UC 323 .G53 1992

Wtr Wys HE 631 .W4 H35 1975

Western Steamboats listed on p. 213-263, 290-304
Rare F 353 .H19 1838

Western Steamboats listed on p. 213-263
Rare F 353 .H17 1836

Heyl, Erik. Early American Steamers. Buffalo, NY: Erik Heyl, 1953 -
Merc Ref VM 23 .H4 1964 v.3

Many drawings and photos of world steamers
Wtr Wys VM 615 .H54 1976

Wtr Wys GV 836 .H93 1905 (ovr)

Authoritative overall history of the steamboat age
Merc Ref HE 627.H8 1949

Annual publication of barge and towing companies, terminals, services, shipyards on Midwestern and southern rivers, professionals and agencies
Wtr Wys HE 627 .I54, current year in Merc Ref

Inland River Record. St. Louis, Mo.: The Waterways Journal, Inc.
Annual publication of stack logos, pertinent information about river boats and their owners on Midwestern and southern rivers
Wtr Wys VM 23 .I5, current year in Merc Ref

Scholarly combination of historical sources and steamboat archaeology
Wtr Wys VM 461 .K35 2004

Merc Ref HE 6185 .U5 K54 1940

Lane, Carl D. American Paddle Steamboats. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc., 1943
Many images of steamboats
*Alphabetical List of Steamboats on the Western Waters*, pp. 461-468
Merch Ref E 165 .L984 1837

"The Lytle List", "The Lytle-Holdcamper List and Supplement" combined form a standard steamboat listing
Merch Ref HE 745 .L97 1952

Merch Ref HE 745 .L97 1975, (Supplement Number 1, HE/745/.L97/1975/ Suppl no. 1 - Suppl no. 2, no. 3)

Merch Ref VM 461 .M3 1944

*History of early steamboats*
VM 140 .S57 M35 1984, Pott VM 140 .S57 M35 1984

Merch Ref HE 565 .C2 M54 and Suppl. 1

[http://www.umsl.edu/pott/pmore/fblcoll/fblcoll.htm](http://www.umsl.edu/pott/pmore/fblcoll/fblcoll.htm)
Merch Ref and TJ Ref Z 881 .S85 S82 1988

Merch Ref VM 623 .M87 1958

*Naval & Maritime History: An Annotated Bibliography*  and  *A Supplement to Naval & Maritime History: An Annotated Bibliography*.  

*Saskatchewan River steamboats*  
F 1071 .P3x

Preble, George Henry.  *A Complete List of Vessels of the United States Navy, from 1797 to 1874 ...*  Philadelphia?:  For private Distribution, 1874


[http://www.steamboats.org/cgi-bin/database.pl](http://www.steamboats.org/cgi-bin/database.pl) includes photos

*Wtr Wys HE 565 .U71 W3 1954*  
*Merc Ref HE 565 .U71 W33 1990*