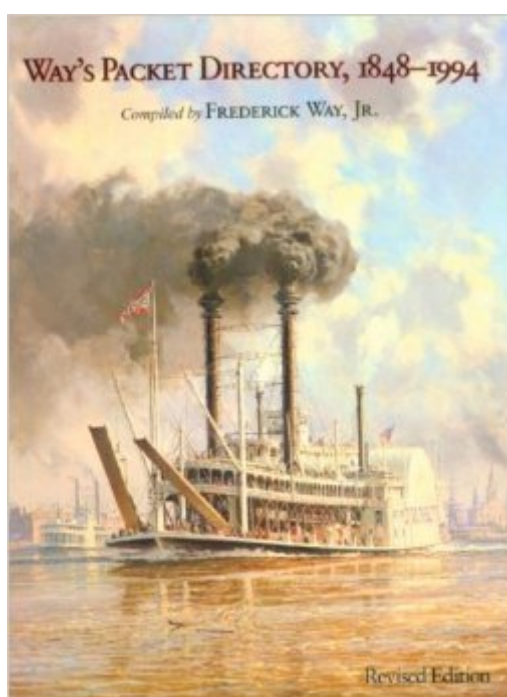


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Way's Packet Directory 1848-1994: Passenger Steamboats Of The Mississippi River System Since The Advent Of Photography In Mid-Continent America



Synopsis

The first Mississippi steamboat was a packet, the New Orleans, a sidewheeler built at Pittsburgh in 1811, designed for the New Orleans-Natchez trade. Packets dominated during the first forty years of steam, providing the quickest passenger transportation throughout mid-continent America. The packets remained fairly numerous even into the first two decades of the twentieth century when old age or calamity overtook them. By the 1930s, the flock was severely depleted, and today the packet is extinct. Containing almost 6,000 entries, Way's Packet Directory includes a majority of combination passenger and freight steamers, but includes in a broader sense all types of passenger carriers propelled by steam that plied the waters of the Mississippi System. Each entry describes its steamboat by rig, class, engines, boilers, the shipyard where and when built, along with tidbits of historical interest on its use, demise, and/or conversion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Way's is an almost staggering achievement. Mr. Way (now deceased) spent approx. 80 years of his life collecting this information. There isn't any other source that comes close to Way's if you need to know about steamboats on the Western Waters (Pittsburgh westwards).

I like the thoroughness of it. It covers almost all the steamboats that plied either the Mississippi or the Ohio rivers. I found the boat my 2nd great-grandfather worked on as a carpenter. I may have found (I haven't found who T. is yet) a brother of that 2nd great-grandfather on another steamboat that plied the Ohio river (I wish).

This is a very comprehensive listing of steamboats, where they were built, their size, who was Captain if known, etc. It also includes some, but not a lot, very nice photographs of steamboats. The only drawback is that the index is not comprehensive. My gg grandfather had only two listings in the index by his name, but he was actually mentioned in one additional listing for a total of three. So a bit of due diligence is required.

Whether you are a river historian or genealogist whose ancestors traveled on the rivers, Way's is bound to be of help in your research. Listed in alphabetical order by name of the steamboats, each entry tells when and where the steamboats were built, names of captains, clerks and owners plus, in some cases, what happened to the steamboats. I am especially interested in steamers on the Ohio River and this book has been very helpful.

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