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Steamer Little Pike business records, 1855

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Steamer Little Pike business records

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Steamer Little Pike business records
Date	1855
Extent	0.02 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Steamer Little Pike business records, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Historical Note

The steamboat played an important role in Arkansas from the earliest days of the Arkansas Territory. Before being superseded by the railroad in the post-Civil War era, steamboats were the primary means of passenger transport, as well as moving raw materials out of Arkansas and consumer goods into the state. In 1819, the first steamboat came up the Ouachita, making such a strange sound and presenting such a monstrous sight that it was described as “a puffing dragon.” After that frightful debut, steamboats began to play an integral part in the colorful history connected with the Ouachita. From 1819 to 1910, the Ouachita was the great highway of commerce and transportation for the entire river valley. Steamboats came from as far as New Orleans up the Ouachita River, reaching even Camden and Arkadelphia during times of high water; however, steamboats began to vanish in the early 1900s with the proliferation of the railroads.

Scope and Contents

Collection contains two account records detailing crew hires, cargo freight and raising of steamboat from the Ouachita River.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 10/11/2011

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

South by Southwest Books, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1982.

Collection Inventory

	Reel
1854 February 22-June 16, 1855: John E. Ford, Ouachita River 1854-1855	MG00221
1855 January 9-June 23: G.M.R. Marks	MG00221