

## Missouri Steamboatmen

1. Increased travel into Kansas, Nebraska, & Utah – Missouri steamboats insufficient to handle large numbers going to great West
  - a. Spring – boats crowded with Pike’s Peakers, troopers and enthusiasts bound for “bleeding Kansas”
  - b. St. Joseph Steam ferry – outfitting point – ferry capable of crossing the river every five minutes – carrying 200 head of cattle & 12 wagons, 125 people, and board and lodging for immigrants
  - c. 1856 sharp rise in rates due to rapid influx of immigrants going to Kansas
2. Missouri means used by Federal Government to transport millions of dollars’ worth of supplies to the Indian tribes of the Valley
  - a. St. Louis was made an Indian superintendency – all goods to Missouri river Indians carried by Missouri crafts
  - b. Some tribes receiving annuities: Winnebago, Potawatomie, Chippewa, Delaware, Wyandot, Shawnee, Miami, Osage, Sauk and Fox, Iowa, Kickapoo, Omaha, Assiniboin, Blackfeet and Crow
  - c. “Western Engineer” in 1819 – supplying troops in the Valley
  - d. Troops taken to far western posts by gov’t. steamer, provisions supplied by rivermen
  - e. River became part of the military frontier, means of penetration for pacification of the Indians
3. Immense amount of freight & passenger traffic
  - a. Santa Fe trade added, as well as nondescript freight of those going to Oregon & California
  - b. St. Joseph very busy river town
4. St. Louis – the “entreport” of all trade
  - a. “the steam marine at the wharf presented a fine appearance. For more than a mile there is a solid mass of boats, everyone of them engaging in receiving or discharging freight. The levee itself is covered with goods and thousands of people are hurrying to and fro, intent on business and dodging the drays and other vehicles that occupy the space assigned to them...”
  - b. Missouri river freighting – furnished many towns of valley with provisions & carried back their products to market
  - c. Large numbers of gov’t. officials & soldiers
  - d. Majority those who came to settle Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Pacific Coast of Oregon & California
  - e. 1854 – Kansas-Nebraska reopened the slavery issue