

Mississippi Bibliography

Alphabetized by author

Compiled by Patrick Coleman, acquisitions librarian, Minnesota Historical Society

Anderson, Leo Sheridan

Down the Mississippi: A 65-Year-Old Paddles a Canoe the Length of the Great River to Rediscover Himself. Chicago: Bonus Books, Inc., 265p.

Brunner, Dorie

Down the River With Stinky: Two Women, a Canoe, and a Kitten.

Madison, Wisconsin: Prairie Oak Press, 2000. 136p.

The author (a retired school teacher in Rice Lake, Wisconsin) and her friend, Lou Germann, paddled the length of the Mississippi in the summer of 1960. They began their trip on June 4 at Lake Bemidji, due to low water upstream, and used a fiberglass canoe from the Bemidji Boat Company. Bothered by "river rats," they were armed and had to pull their handguns on one occasion.

Curtis, Byron

Bluffs to Bayous: One Man's Solo Kayak Expedition Down the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. Prescott, Wisconsin: Great River Printing, 2003. 216p.

This Wisconsinite paddles from Prescott to Morgan City in 42 days. An epilogue [5 pages of text] documents the author's second trip down the length of the Mississippi guiding the Slovenian long distance swimmer, Martin Strel.

Hall, B. C. and C. T. Wood

Big Muddy: Down the Mississippi Through America's Heartland. New York: Dutton, 1992. 290p.

An English professor and an economist attempt to recreate Twain's "Life on the Mississippi" by driving along the river (Highway 61) from St. Paul to New Orleans. Environmental concerns.

Hall, Rosalie Heffelfinger

A River Echoes in My Ministry: A 1700-Mile Journey in Search of Purpose Leads to Discovery. Minneapolis: Kirk House, 2006. 178p.

This is an account of a 1984 trip down the river on a beautiful lobster boat with her husband, Ted. Rosalie (aka Rody), an Episcopal priest. This travelogue is particularly introspective, insightful and intelligent. Forward by Jim Klobuchar.

Harris, Eddy L.

Mississippi Solo: A River Quest. New York: Nick Lyons Books, 1988. 250p. An African-American travel writer from St. Louis canoes the entire length of the river, except for a stretch between Bemidji and Camp Ripley. Contains much on race relations in the Mississippi valley. This is one of the best accounts of a traveler on the river.

Irons, Nick

Swim Lessons: Ten Secrets for Making Any Dream Come True.

Jonk, Clarence

River Journey. New York: Stein and Day, 1964. 221p.

In 1933, Jonk, a poet and student from Raymond, Minn. and Carl Franson of Fridley, build a houseboat on Lake Johanna. Accused of "polluting the lake, unlawful occupancy...immoral conduct, disturbing the peace" they move the boat to the Mississippi.

Keith, Andrew

Afloat Again, Adrift: Three Voyages on the Waters of North America. Minneapolis: Aliform Pub., 2006. 240p.

Knudsen, Mark with Shawn Plank
Old Man River and Me: One Man's Journey Down the Mighty Mississippi. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1998. 176p.

Knudson, an Iowa wood turner, began his trip in September of 1993, after the devastating floods. His boat "Dulcinea" was an 18-foot flat bottom john boat with an eighteen horse Johnson motor. Hard to recommend after the author identifies his point of departure, St. Paul's Watergate Marina, as Minneapolis.

Lighty, Kent and Margaret Lighty
Shanty-Boat. New York: The Century Co., 1930. 321p.

The Lighty's travel from St. Paul to New Orleans in a houseboat they purchase from Clarkson's Minnesota River Canoe Livery and Boat Works. Illustrated with photographs taken by the authors. Much on the interesting personalities of the river dwellers.

Lockwood, C. C.

Around the Bend: A Mississippi River Adventure.

Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998. 157p.

Author plies the river between Minneapolis and Grand Isle on a pontoon boat with a 30 horsepower motor. The trip took him 55 days and at the end he said "next time I would take 100 days longer, and I would drift all the way."

Markham, Chris

Mississippi Odyssey. Stafford, VA: Northwoods Press, 1980. 132p.

Markham, a journalist and photographer, hitchhiked on the road from Itaska to Minneapolis and on boats from there to New Orleans. Much lore about working river boats.

Matteson, Robert E.

The Mighty Mississippi and the Incredible Elliot. np: [1994], 109p.

As he approaches 70, one of Minnesota's most interesting citizens, travels the river with his 16-year-old grandsons, Elliott Donnelly. They begin in a canoe and also use tugboats and an automobile (that, wife, Jane brings along the river for support) to go from St. Paul to New Orleans.

Mohlke, Matthew G.

Floating Down the Country: A 79 Day Adventure Down the Mississippi From It's Source at Lake Itasca to New Orleans. Red Wing, Minnesota: Lone Oak Press, Ltd., 2001. 208p.

Otremba, Jim and Carol

A Journal of a Mississippi River Canoe Adventure: It's a Long Way for a Beignet. St. Cloud, Minnesota: Otremba Publications, 2002. 82p.

Power, Matthew

Letter From Minnesota: Mississippi Drift: River Vagrants in the Age of Wal-Mart. Harper's Magazine, March 2008. Pages 54 -63.

Price, Willard

The Amazing Mississippi. New York:

John Day Co., 1962. 188p.

Price and his wife traveled down the river for National Geographic in the late '50s. He has an interest in the industrial river, especially as it relates to the "Cold War."

Raban, Jonathan

Mississippi Water. *Granta* 45, Autumn 1993, p128-159.

Author returns to the river to report on the flooding of '93. He rents a car in Minneapolis and drives 1,000 miles down stream. Raban has very slightly mellowed in the dozen years since Old Glory.

Raban, Jonathan

Old Glory. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981. 409p.

The witty and sarcastic Englishman plies the river between Minneapolis and New Orleans, wintering in St. Louis. He puts his boat on tows between Memphis and Vicksburg and again between Natchez and New Orleans.

Saville, Curtis and Kathleen Saville

Mississippi Voyage: How We Rowed Down the Mississippi River in 67 Days.:

Derby Line, Vermont: Aardvark Publishing, 1986. 128p.

Long-distance rowers, the Saville's began at Lake Itaska (Curtis soloed the first 100 miles) and finished in New Orleans. Illustrated with Kathleen's crude sketches and photographs by Curtis.

Severs, Ron

One Good Story: A Mississippi Journey.

Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 200?

University of Minnesota forest-land manager, Severs, kayaked the entire length of the river. This book is arranged topically not chronologically.

Speakman, Harold

Mostly Mississippi. New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1927. 360p.

Designed and illustrated with drawings by the talented couple, Harold and Russell Lindsay Speakman. The couple canoe from Itaska to the Twin Cities and take a 20 foot houseboat the rest of the way to the "joyous city," New Orleans.

They meet (and sketch) "Becky

Thatcher", Laura Frazer in Missouri,

Irish poet Padraic Colum in Memphis,

and civil rights activist/poet William

Alexander Percy in Greenville. The

Speakman's boat is ahead of the terrible

1927 flooding.

Tousley, Albert S.

Where Goes the River? Iowa City: Tepee Press, 1928. 296p.

Saint Paulite and journalist, Tousley paddles the entire length of the river in his wood and canvas canoe, the "Charles H Curley of St. Paul." The book has many photos and contains decorations by Gustave Wigren. The author acknowledges Solon J. Buck, Theodore C. Blegen, the Minnesota Historical Society and eight other historical organizations. Very historical.