

Ferretting Freedom Seekers by Packet and Steamboats

Description: By 1845, the Louisville Directory documents thousands of tons of commerce transported along the Ohio River; 1,476 steamboats and 168 flat and packet boats went through the Louisville and Portland Canal Company. Every county along the Ohio River and multiple landings for transporting raw goods and cities like Evansville, Owensboro, Louisville, New Albany, Madison, Vevay, Lawrenceburg, Cincinnati, Covington, New Richmond, Augusta, Ripley and Maysville were bustling shipping ports. Slave labor was involved in every aspect of the river trade including foundries, fuels, portage, transport, ship maintenance, food preparation and cleaning which also gave opportunity for freedom seekers.