

Mississippi River Steamboat Bi-Centennial

OLLI at WVU
Spring 2012

Wally Venable
Emeritus Associate Professor
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering



My Website

www.Wallace-Venable.name

Class resources in OLLI at WVY section

- .PDF files of class presentations
- Reading materials

How many classes?

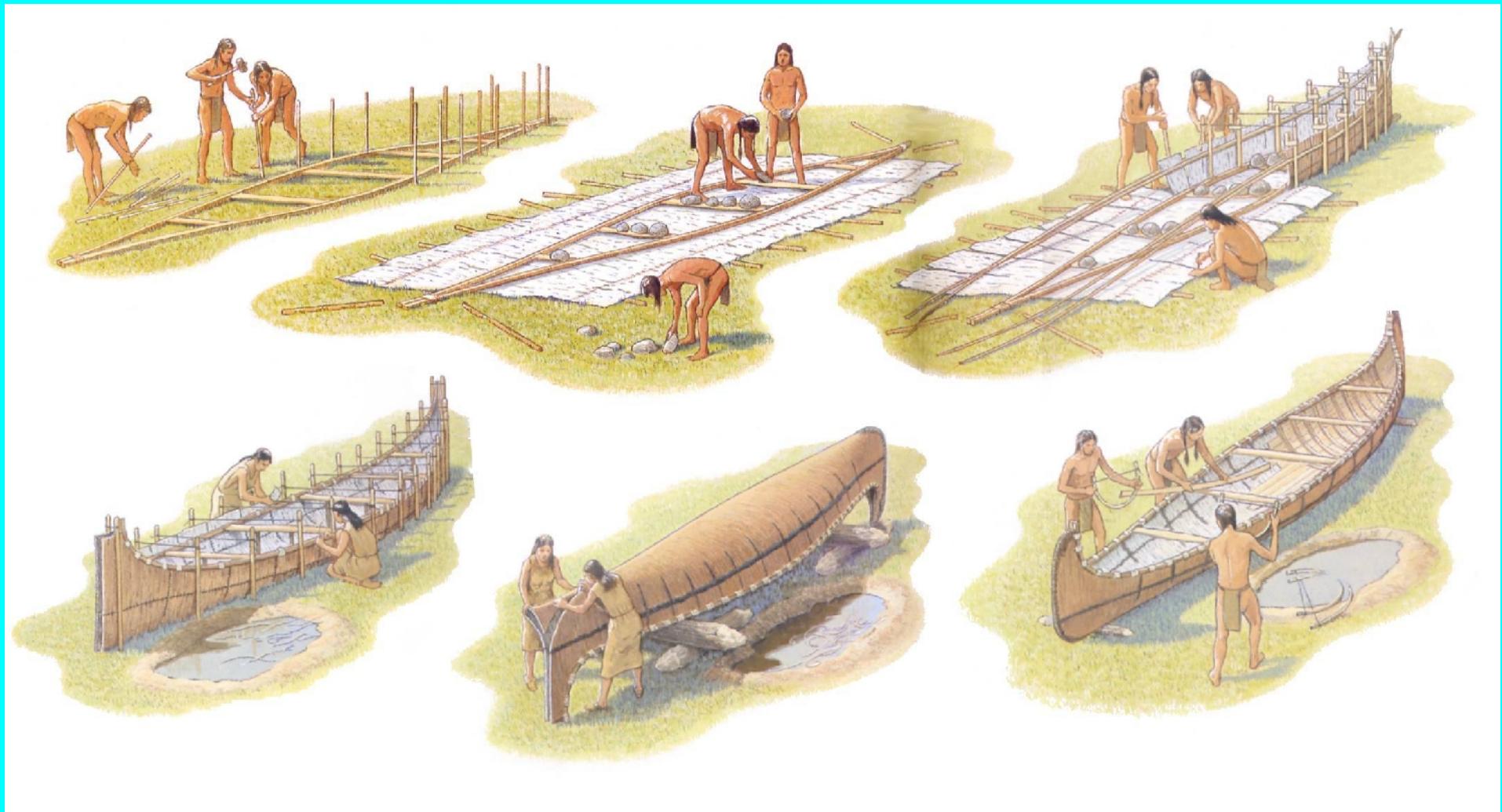
Steamboat *New Orleans*

- First *Western Rivers* Steamboat
- Launched Pittsburgh in 1811
- Left Pittsburgh on October 20, 1811
- Reached Natchez after Christmas in 1811
- Reached city of New Orleans on January 10, 1812

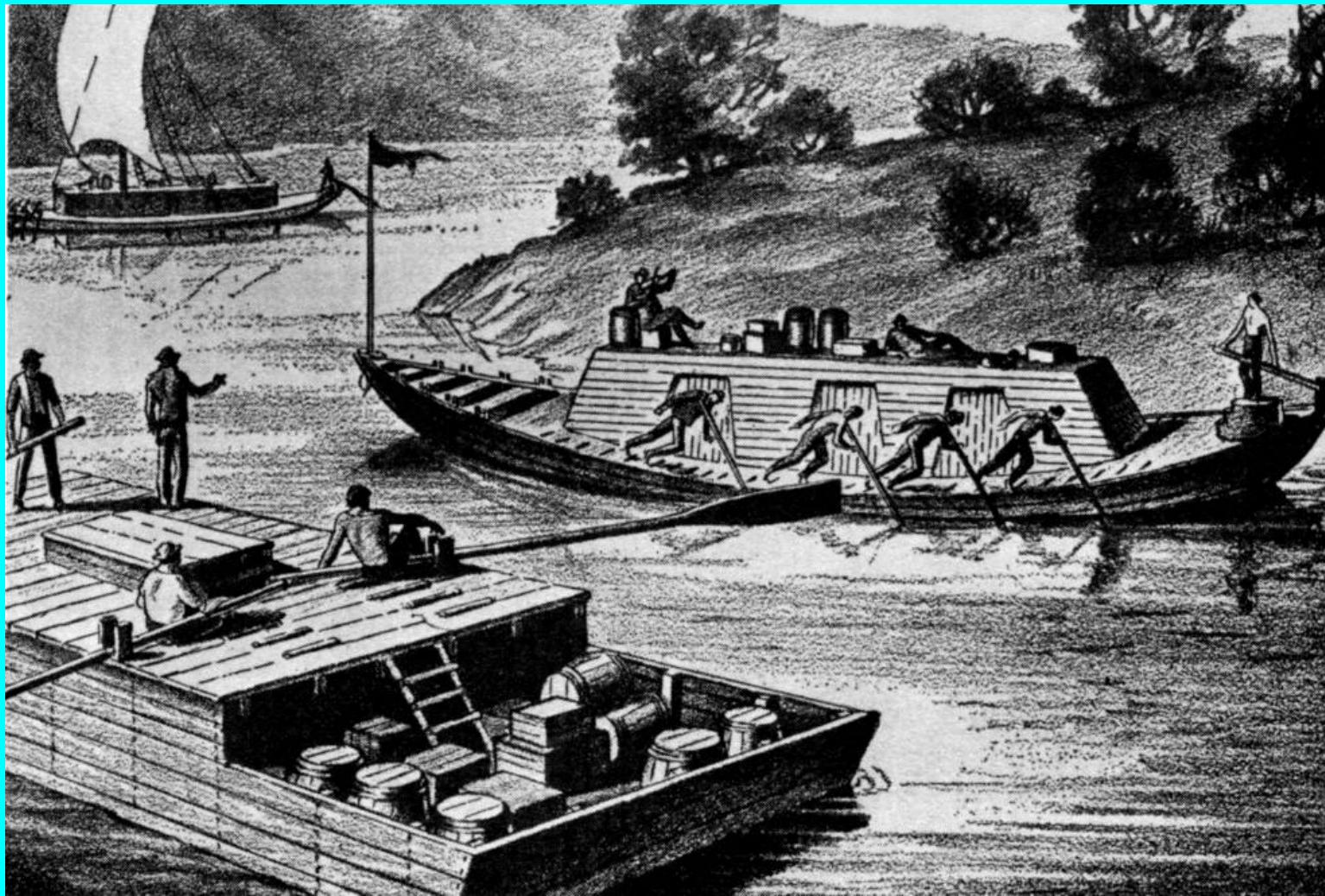
Two Heros

- NICHOLAS J. ROOSEVELT, inventor and engineer, was born in New York City, Dec. 27, 1767
- JOHN HAZLEHURST BONEVAL LATROBE, writer, lawyer, engineer, inventor and public servant, was born in Philadelphia May 4, 1803.

The Western Rivers Before Steam



The Western Rivers Before Steam



Keelboats

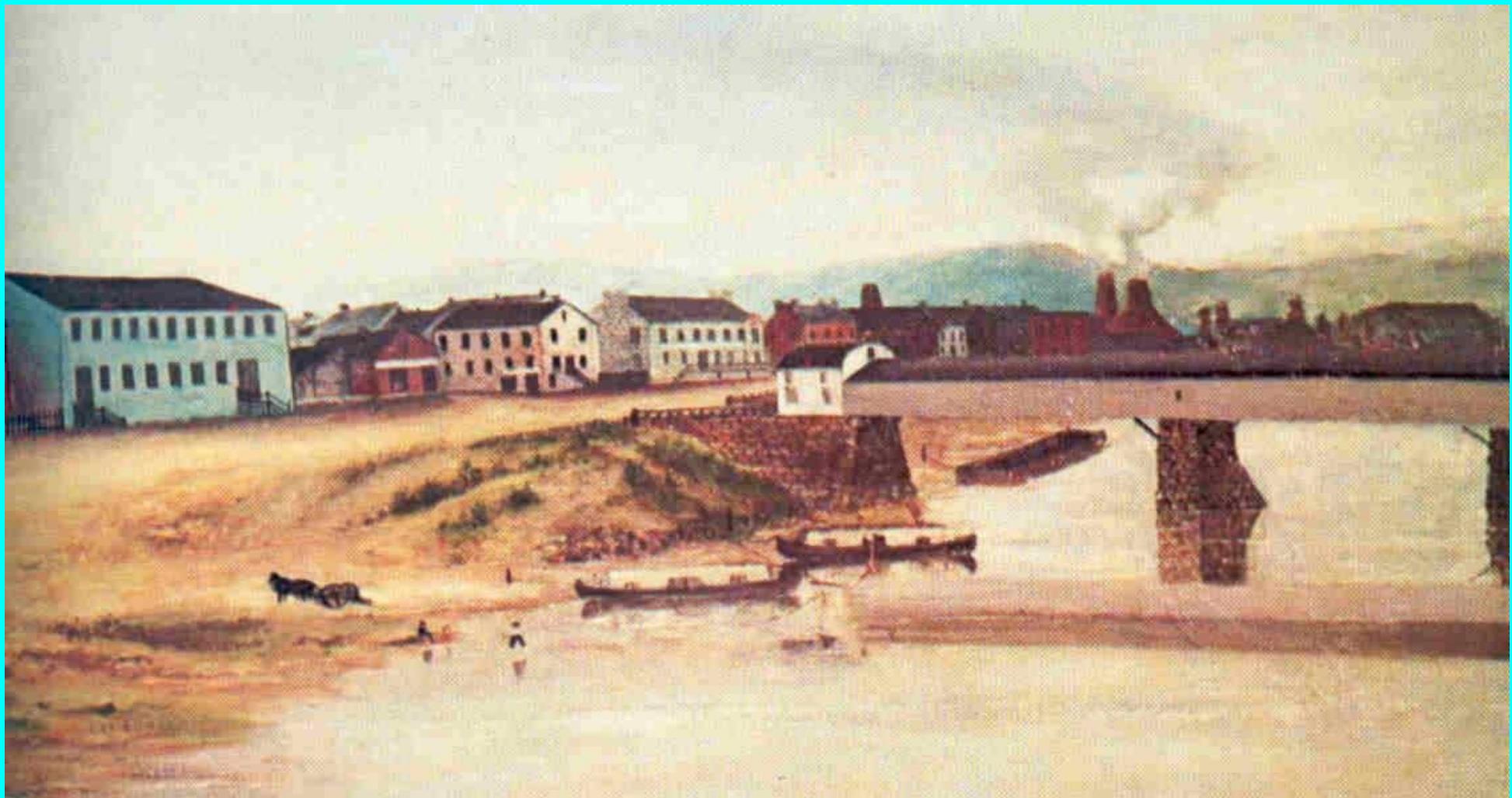
The keel boat was long and slender, sharp fore and aft, with a narrow gangway just within the gunwale, for the boatmen as they poled or warped up the stream, when not aided by the eddies that made their oars available. When the keel boat was covered with a low house, lengthwise, between the gangways, it was dignified with the name of "barge."

John H. B. Latrobe

The Western Rivers Before Steam

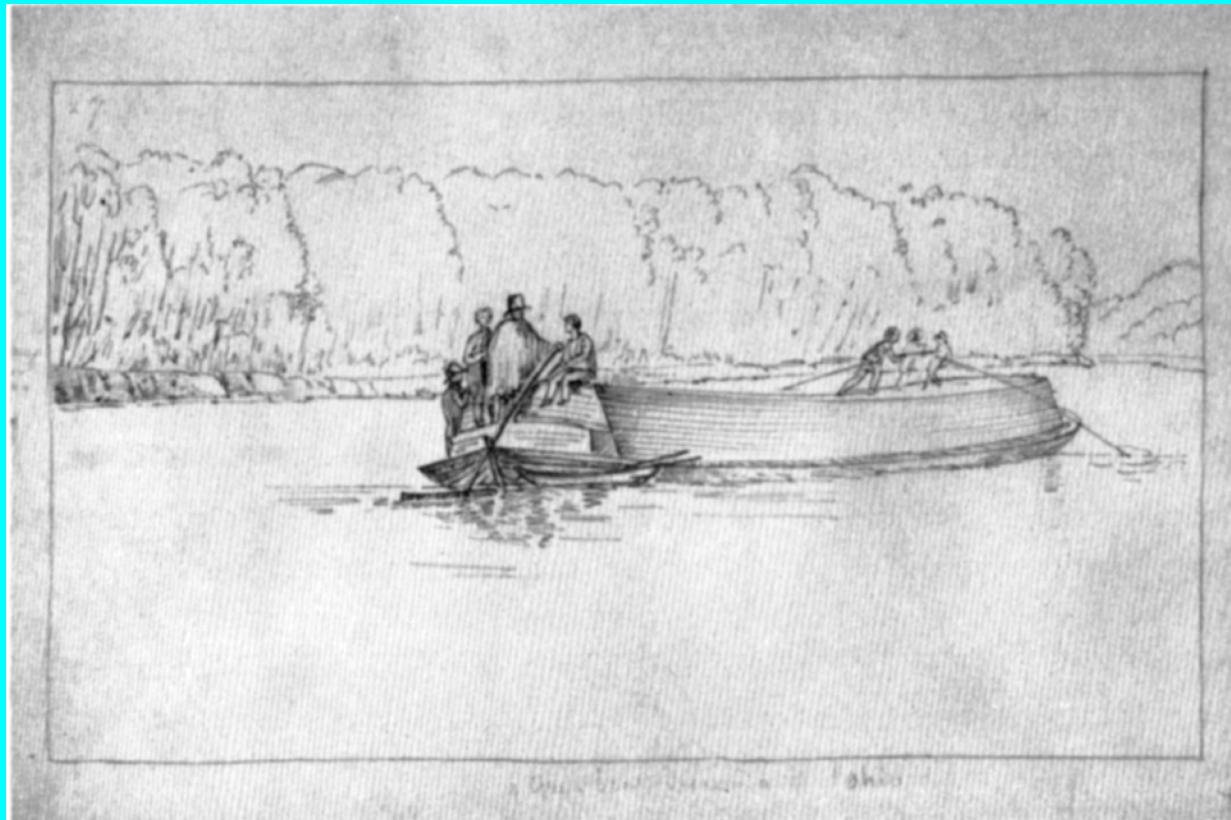


The Western Rivers Before Steam



Mon Wharf – Pittsburgh – c. 1830

The Western Rivers Before Steam



left:

MEETING A KEELBOAT. Lesueur sketched all that was worth recording on the way to Indiana and the happenings of a later exploring trip to the Missouri lead mines.

On the keelboat *The Philanthropist* encountered on the Ohio, three boatmen are pictured at the bow, while one is steering at the stern. The three passengers of the boat watch the proceedings with interest.

The Western Rivers Before Steam



Roosevelt's Exploration - 1809

"The journey in the flat boat commenced at Pittsburg, where Mr. Roosevelt had it built; a huge box containing a comfortable bed room, dining room, pantry, and a room in front for the crew, with a fireplace where the cooking was done. The top of the boat was flat, with seats and an awning. We had on board a pilot, three hands and a man cook. We always stopped at night lashing the boat to the shore."

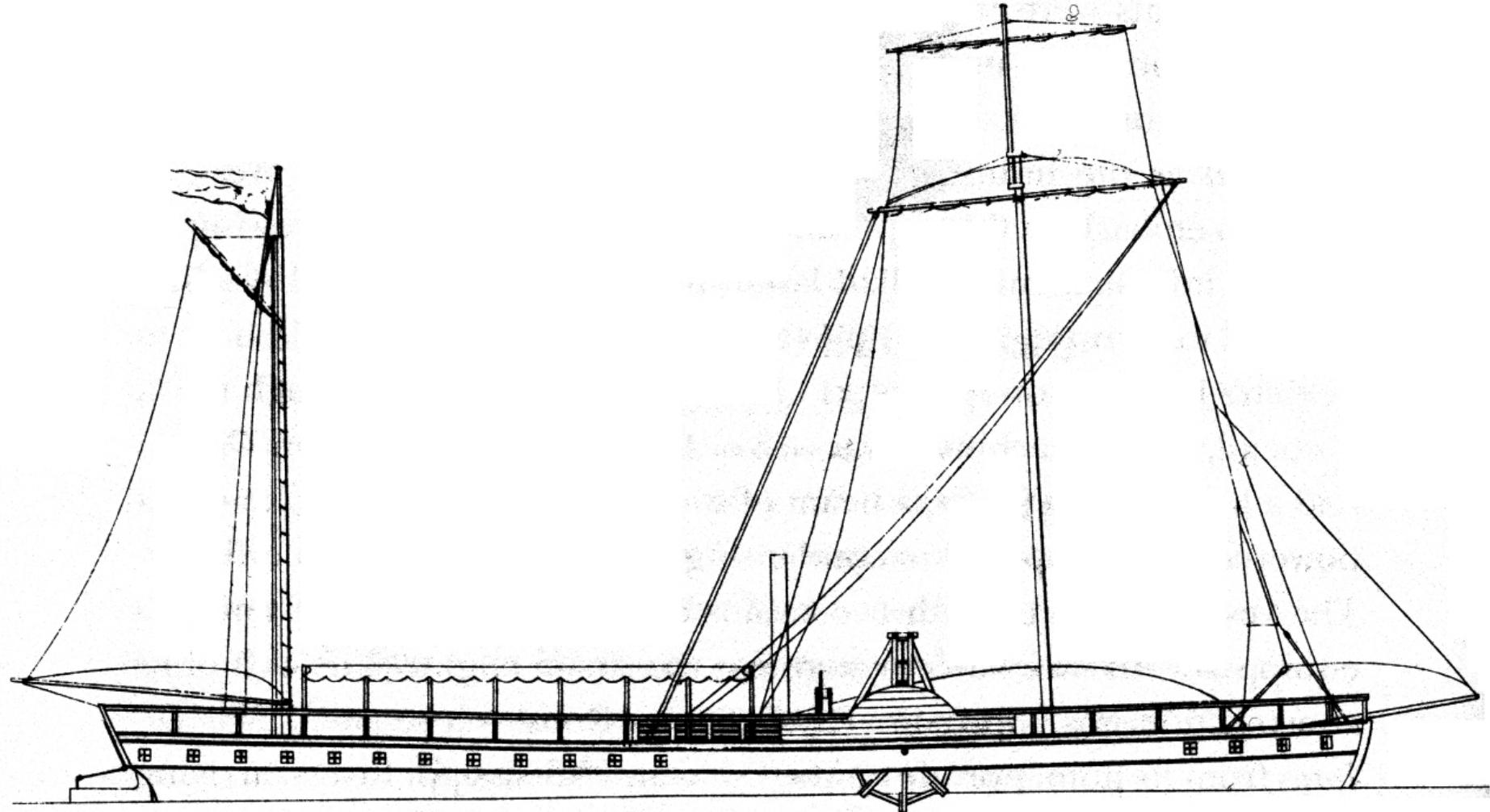
Lydia Latrobe Roosevelt

Roosevelt's Exploration - 1809

"The row boat was a large one, in which Mr. Roosevelt went out constantly with two or three of the men to ascertain the rapidity of the ripples or current. It was in this row boat we went from Natchez to New Orleans with the same crew."

Lydia Latrobe Roosevelt

Fulton Type Steamboat - 1911



3.1. *Robert Fulton's Paragon, 1811.*

Construction of the *New Orleans*

- Shipwright & engine builder from the East
- 148 feet long, 20 foot beam, 7 foot draft
- "She was built after the fashion of a ship, with port-holes in the side — long bowsprit painted a sky blue. Her cabin was in the hold."
- Cost in the neighborhood of \$38,000

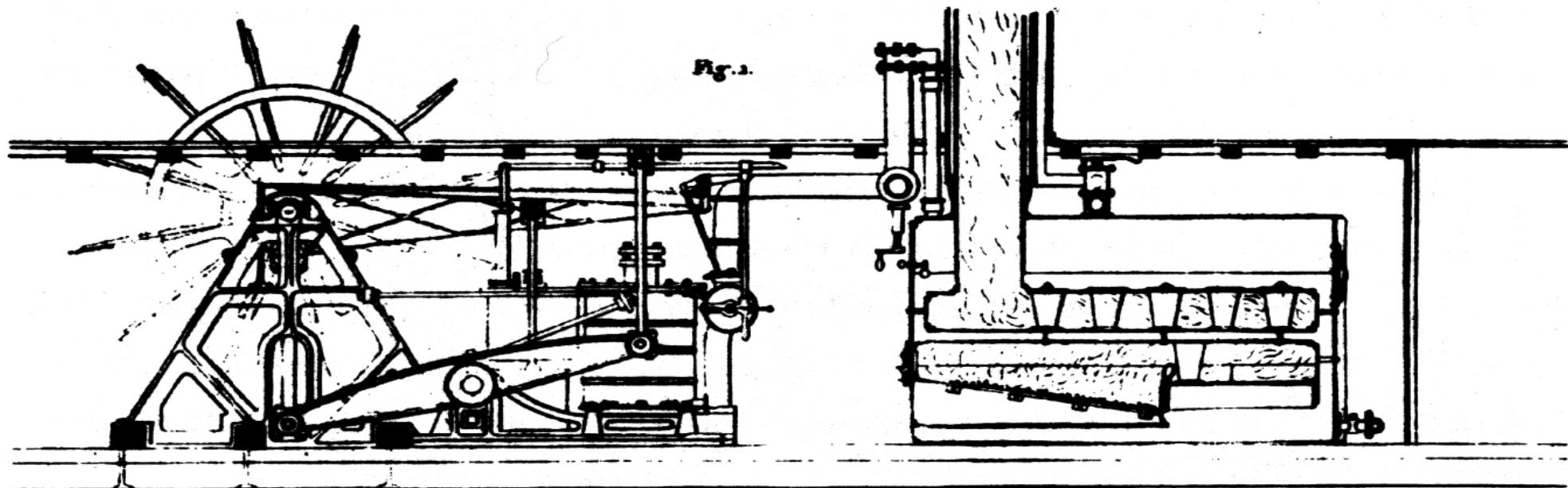


Fig. 1.

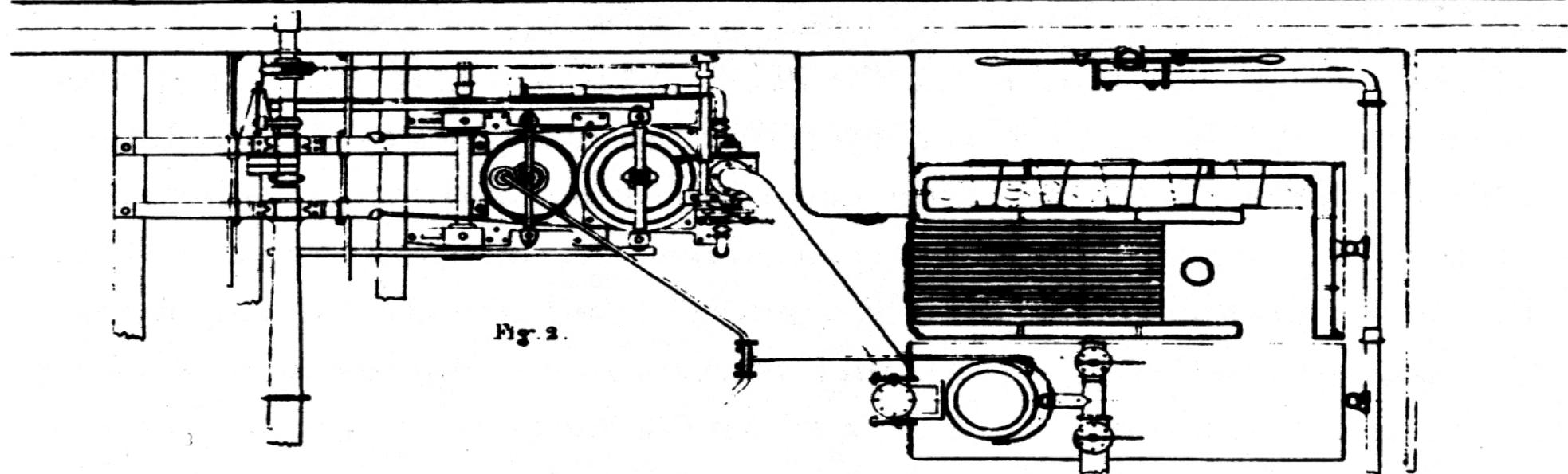
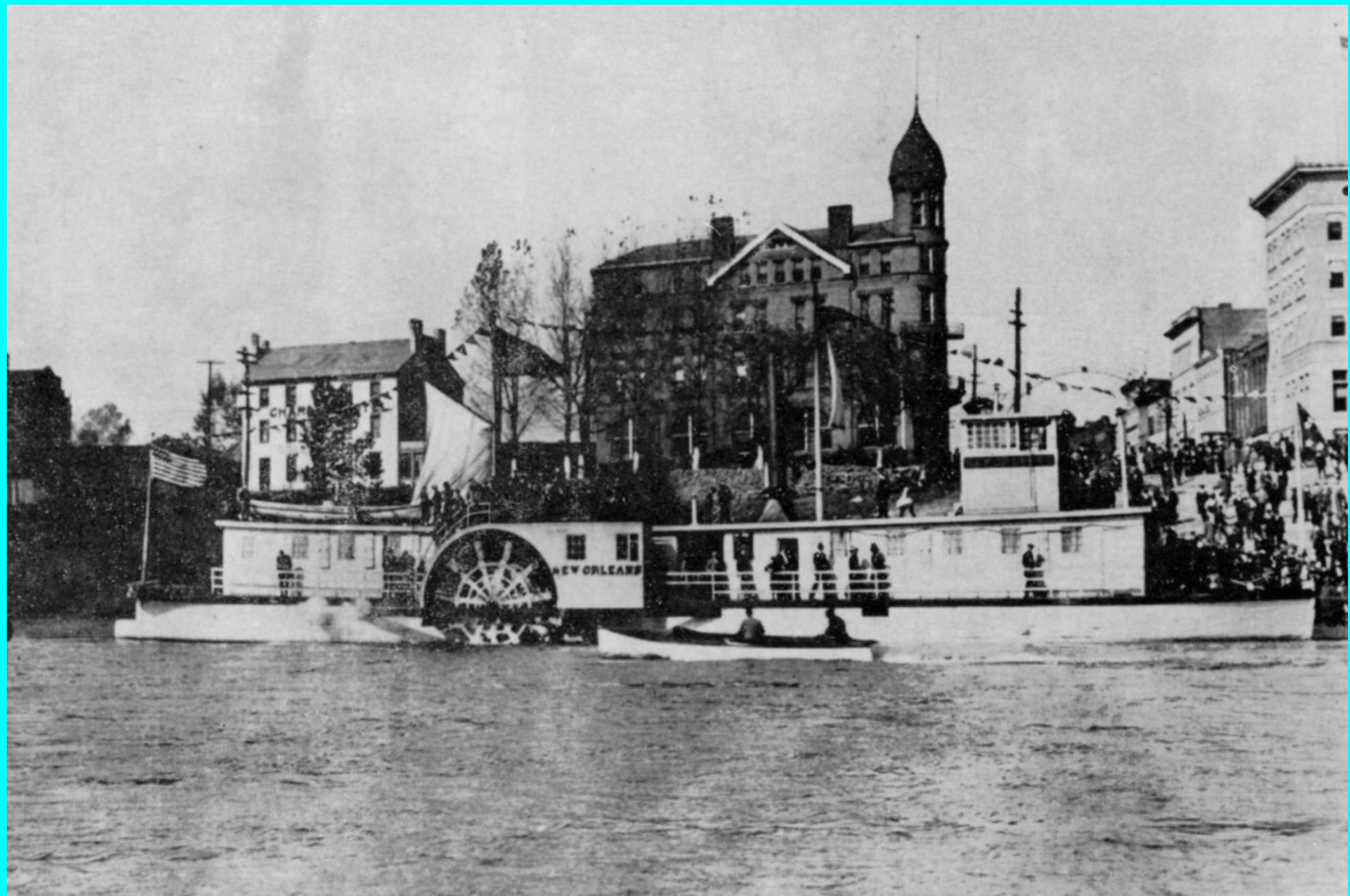


Fig. 2.

3.3. *The profile view and plan of the low-pressure condensing engine used by Robert Fulton in his early steamboats.*





THE REPLICA OF THE NEW ORLEANS AT MARIETTA, OHIO, 1911 Photo By S. Durward Hoag

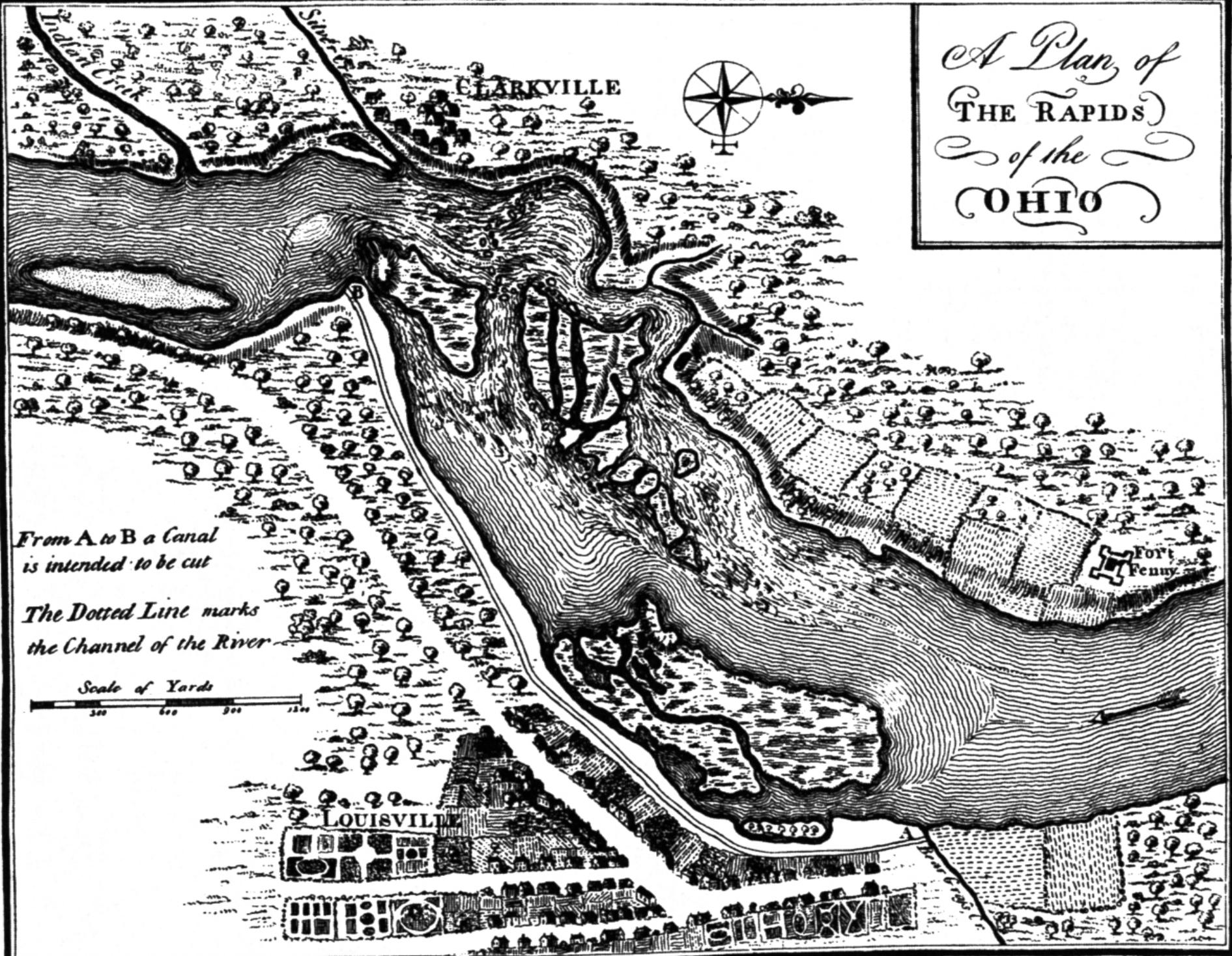
On Sunday last, the Steam-Boat lately
built at Pittsburgh passed this place on her
way to N. Orleans—The citizens of this
place were much disappointed in not having
an opportunity of viewing her, only as she
passed—she made no stop here. From the
rapidity with which she passed this place it
is supposed she went at the rate of 12 or 14
miles an hour.

News of the New Orleans from Cincinnati's Western Spy, November 2, 1811

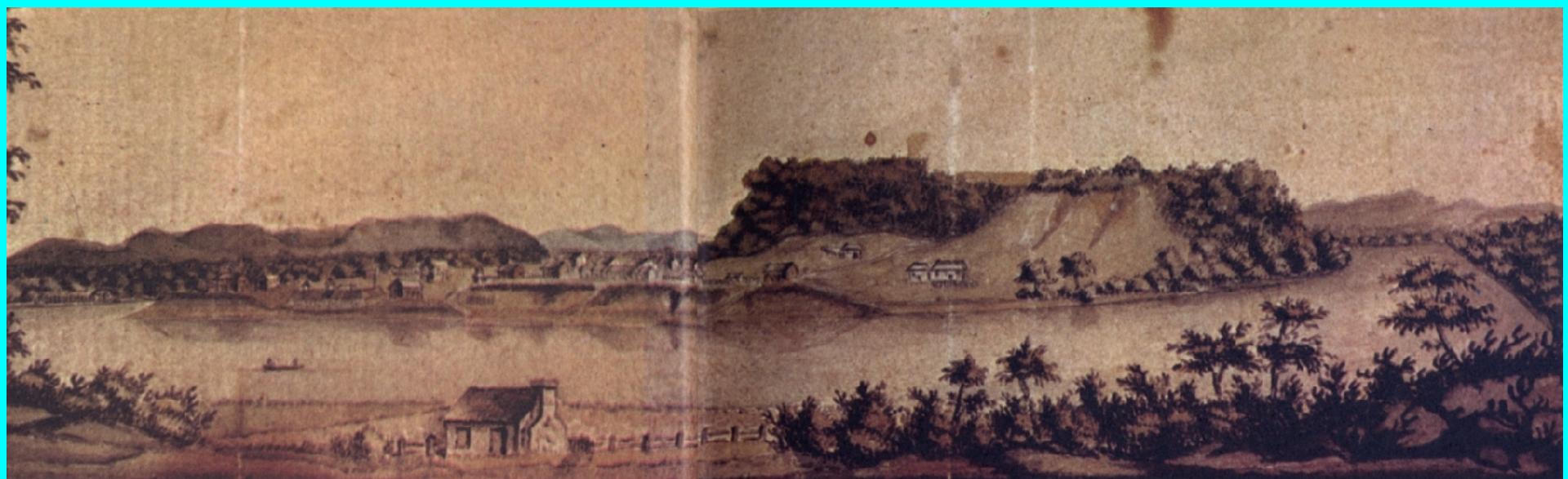


An etching of the Falls of the Ohio River, 1811

*A Plan of
THE RAPIDS
of the
OHIO*

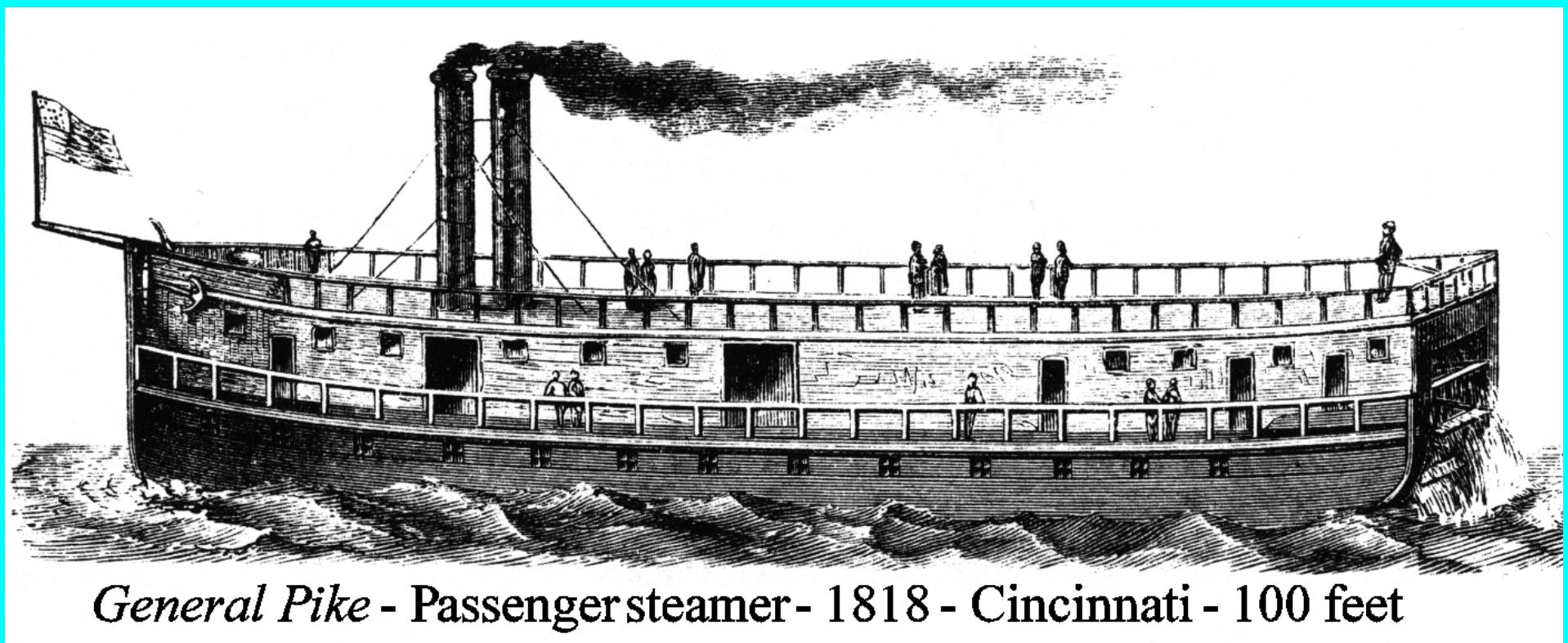


Pittsburgh in 1790



A Challange to Fulton

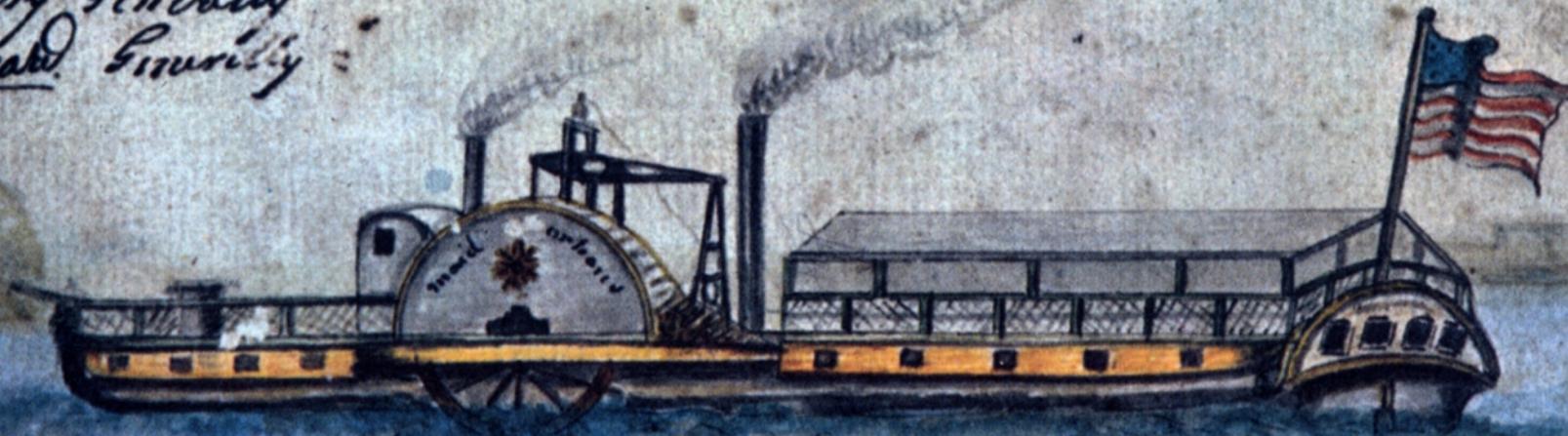
- Daniel French of Connecticut had been challenging Fulton group's Hudson River monopoly
- 1809 patented horizontal engine
- Installed sternwheel on 30 foot fishing boat at Pittsburgh and raced *New Orleans*
- Organized company at Brownsville to build smaller steamboats



General Pike - Passenger steamer - 1818 - Cincinnati - 100 feet

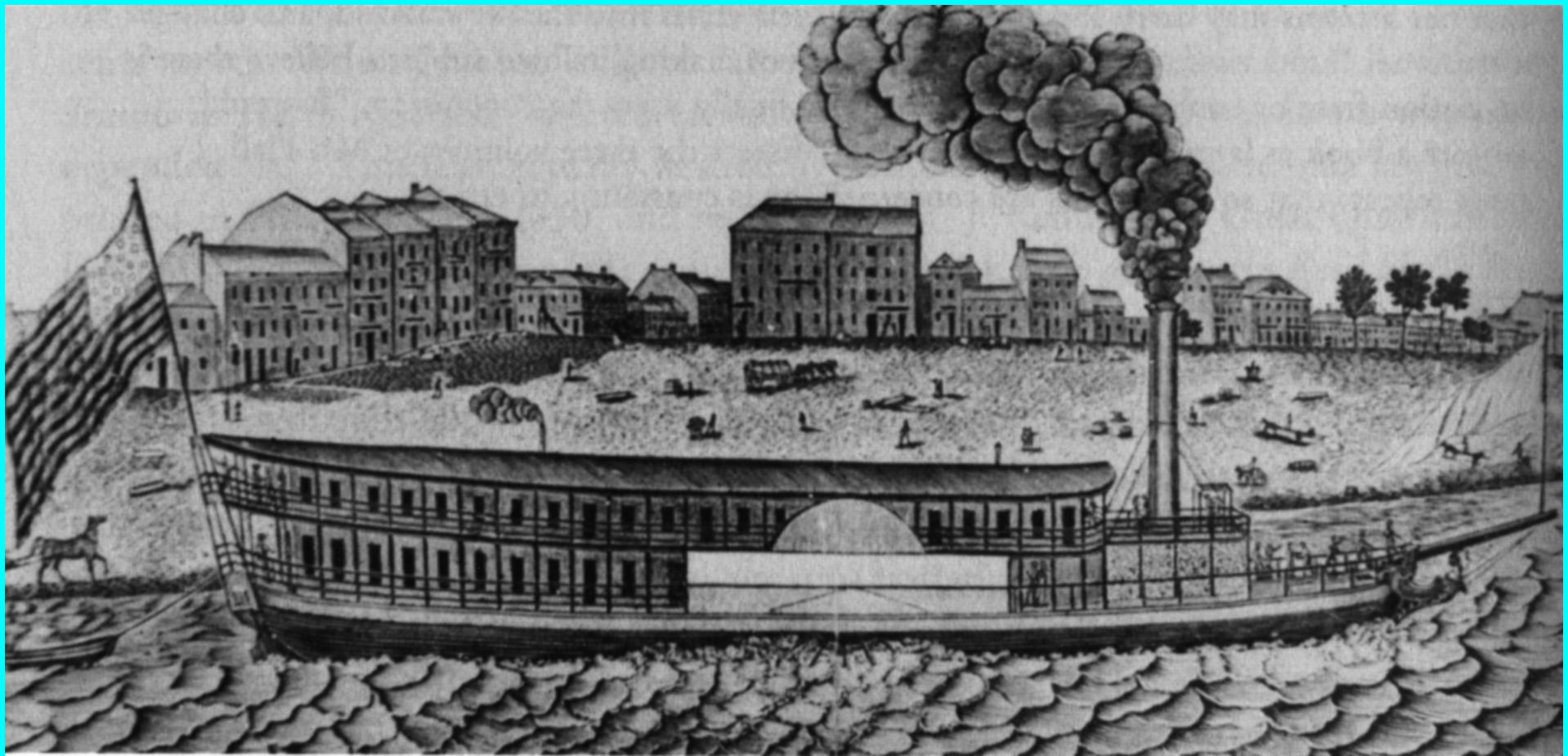
Steam boat off aid of Orleans on the Mississippi Rivers
February 1st 1820 Going to St Louis

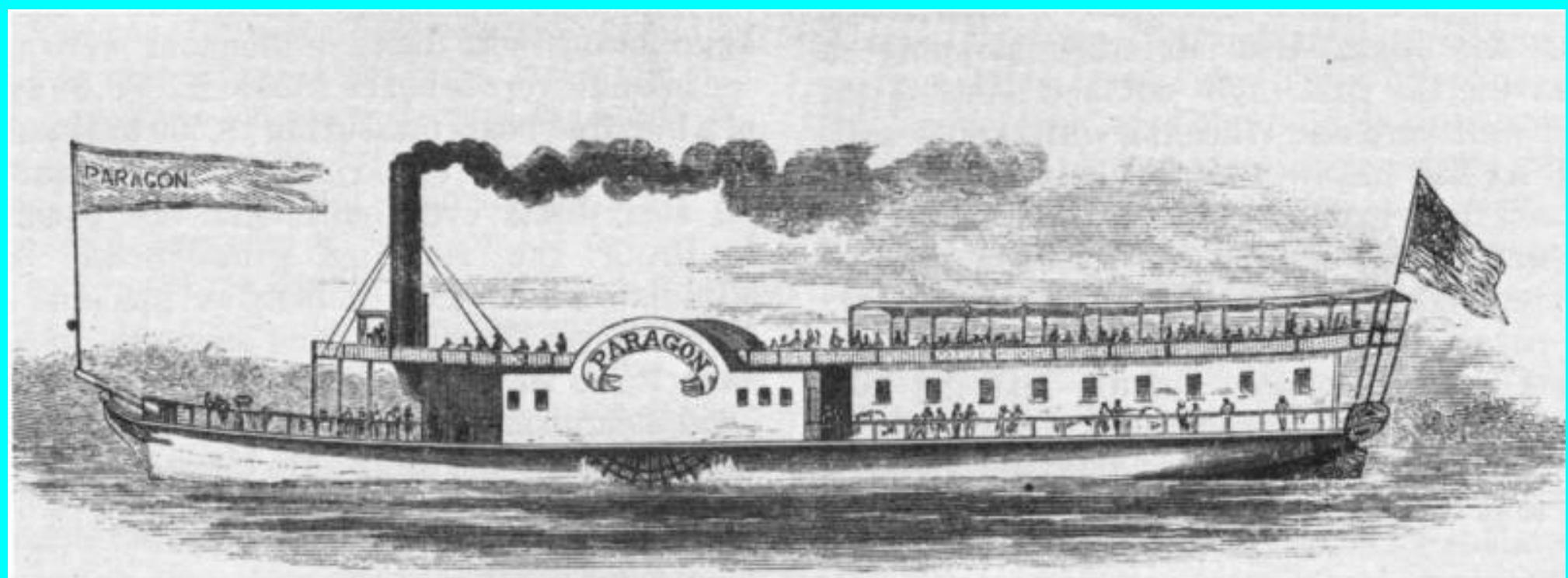
Elmer generally
Elmer generally
Elmer generally
Elmer generally



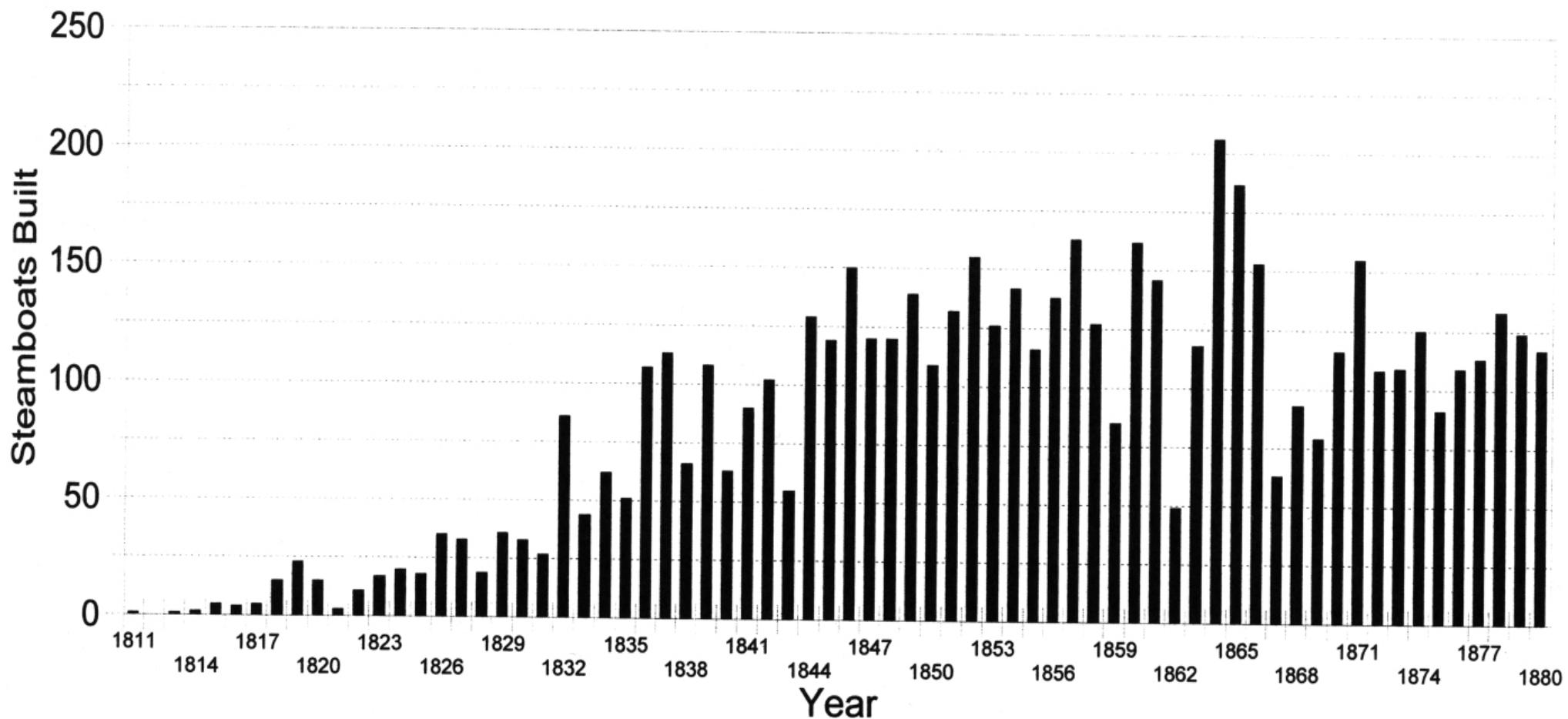
Painted le 1^{er} juillet 1820 dans les orleans
arrive a St Louis le 4 aout 1820 -
annois pour remonter

Unknown Steamer About 1830





Western Rivers Shipbuilding





Mississippi River Steamboat Bi-Centennial

OLLI at WVU
Spring 2012

Wally Venable
Emeritus Associate Professor
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

