A History of:

Transportation on the Water of Austin, TX



Photo Title: Ferry boat on Colorado River

Location: Travis County

Probably mid 1800s

Some people, some horses, the river

Is this the ferry boat? Or a small dock? Was the photo taken from the ferry boat? Keelboats (1839ish)

1802

Lake Navigation Company Lake McDonald Austin Dam Ben Hur/Dam Boats (1892-1900)

Ferry boats (1941-1970)

1970s

Moses and Stephen F Austin

Kate Ward reaches Austin (1845)

Railroads reach Austin (1871)

Invoice of Goods taken from the Boat

1 Iron square\$1.00 1 Coffee Hill 2.50 2.50 1.00..... 1.00 1 Blank o de note Books75 1.50 2 do stops75 1.50 1 Doz Bunches tape12 1/2... 1.50 3 Green pocket Books ...1.50..... 4.50 1 Doz thimbles 12 1/2 1.50 2 na mosquetos netting 20yds 1.00.20.00 2 pr shoes 1 pr shovel and Tongues 3.00.....3.00 7 wool Hats 2.00..... 14.00 3 pr Rose Blankets..... 8.00 ... 24.00 2 Doz dineing Plates.... 3.00 pr Doz. 2 Doz Cups and Saucers .. 400..... 8.00 1 wire Seive 1.50..... 1.50 3 stirrip gun locks8.00.....24.00 3 double Roller do 7.00.... 21.00 3 single do..do 6.00.....18.00 2 niain 3 pr suspenders..... 1.50.... 4.50

5 pr do..... 1.50..... 5.00

Ant Brot over

18 Carrots Tobacco..... 2 Phials Landanium..... /75..... 1.50 2 do Elizer rarigoric..... 75..... 1.50 3 do jalap..... 2.25 2 cork ink stands50...... 1.00 3 setts Tutania spoons 1.25..... 5.25 cat fish hooks 1.00 2.50 Short do not found .62 1/2 Double Barrel whiskey 58 galls 1.50......102.00 8 ounces vermilleion..... 1.00..... 8.00 8 Axes 28.00 30 yds muslin75..... 22.50 6 Carrots Tobacco.....1.00.... Castings 8 1 g Pepper 6.00 4 3/4 lbs Allapice75...... 3.56 1/6

SPANISH MISSIONS, PRESIDIOS, AND ROADS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

Moses and Stephen FAustin

Invoice from goods taken off a boat on the Colorado River from a time between 1802 and 1810

Stephen F Austin really wanted to use the Lively (steamboat) on the Colorado River and be the first to navigate a Texas River, but someone else beat him to it



San José 1716 -1730

luestra Sra. de

los Dolores 1716

A

estra Sra.

1716-177

Natchitoches 1714

Nuestra Sra.

1721-1773

del Pilat

Keelboats (1839ish) & then Steamboats

Austin became the upper limit for steamboat navigation on the Colorado River

David Crockett keelboat





Kate Ward reaches Austin (1845)

"In the spring of 1845 the Kate Ward, constructed especially for Colorado trade, was launched at Matagorda. This boat had a keel of 110 feet, a beam of twenty-four feet, and would carry 600 bales of cotton in three feet of water. A channel was cut through the raft and the Kate Ward reached Austin on May 8, 1845." https://www.forttumbleweed.net/steamboats.html







On April 6, 1900, nearly 17-incbes of rain in a 48 bour period caused the McDonald Dam to break, resulting in eighteen deaths, the destruction of 100 bomes, damage to the dam powerbouse and waterworks plant, and the destruction of the excursion steamer BEN HUR.



The BEN HUR with passengers about to begin her 60-mile daylight cruise around Lake McDonald. Dinner, dancing and even Vaudeville shows were provided. A midnight cruise was also scheduled.

Lake Navigation Company Lake McDonald Austin Dam Ben Hur/Dam Boats (1892-1900)

Ferries were used periodically when dams put bridges out of service on the lakes from 1941-1970

The Austin, TX waterways were primarily used for recreation thereafter

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