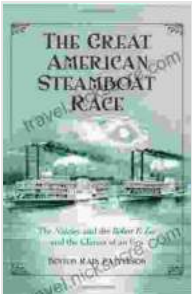


The Great American Steamboat Race

The Great American Steamboat Race was a legendary competition that took place in 1870 between two of the most powerful steamboats of the era: the *Robert E. Lee* and the *Natchez*.



The Great American Steamboat Race: The Natchez and the Robert E. Lee and the Climax of an Era

by Benton Rain Patterson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2949 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 216 pages



The race captured the imagination of the American public and became a turning point in the development of the American transportation system.

The Contenders

The *Robert E. Lee* was built in New Albany, Indiana, in 1866. She was 260 feet long and weighed 1,200 tons. Her engines produced 2,200 horsepower, making her one of the fastest steamboats on the Mississippi River.

The *Natchez* was built in Jeffersonville, Indiana, in 1869. She was 285 feet long and weighed 1,700 tons. Her engines produced 2,400 horsepower,

making her slightly faster than the *Robert E. Lee*.

The Race

The race began on June 30, 1870, at New Orleans, Louisiana. The two steamboats raced up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri, a distance of over 1,200 miles.

The race was a close one, with the *Robert E. Lee* and the *Natchez* trading the lead several times.

In the end, the *Natchez* won the race by a margin of just two hours. She arrived in St. Louis on July 4, 1870, at 4:30 p.m.

The Aftermath

The Great American Steamboat Race was a major event in American history.

The race demonstrated the power and speed of steamboats and helped to make them the dominant form of transportation on the Mississippi River.

The race also helped to spur the development of the American Industrial Revolution. The steamboats that competed in the race were powered by engines that were manufactured in American factories.

The race also helped to create a sense of national pride in America.

Legacy

The Great American Steamboat Race is still remembered today as one of the most exciting and important events in American history.

The race is commemorated by a statue in St. Louis, Missouri, and a museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The race also continues to inspire writers and filmmakers. In 1954, the race was the subject of a Hollywood movie called *The Great Race*, starring Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon.

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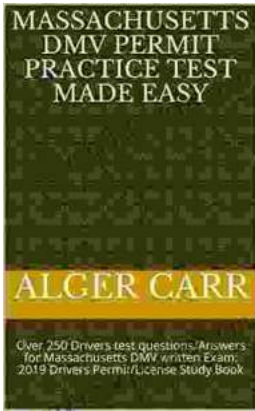
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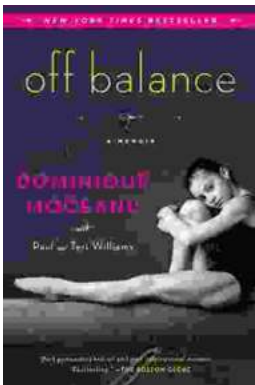
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