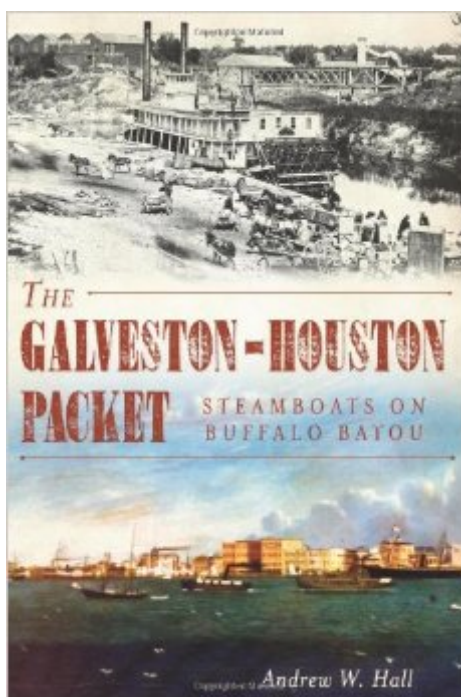


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# Galveston-Houston Packet, The: Steamboats On Buffalo Bayou



## Synopsis

Many imagine the settlement of the American West as signaled by the dust of the wagon train or the whistle of a locomotive. During the middle decades of the nineteenth century, though, the growth of Texas and points west centered on the seventy-mile water route between Galveston and Houston. This single vital link stood between the agricultural riches of the interior and the mercantile enterprises of the coast, with a round of operations that was as sophisticated and efficient as that of any large transport network today. At the same time, the packets on the overnight Houston-Galveston run earned a reputation as colorful as their Mississippi counterparts, complete with impromptu steamboat races, makeshift naval gunboats during the Civil War, professional gamblers and horrific accidents.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

More than a look at steamboat life on the important Galveston-Houston waterway, Buffalo Bayou, the book explains the influence of the steamboat trade on the growth of both cities; the challenges faced in the early years in navigating the sandbars in the shallows and the hidden threats in the depths; races and terrible boiler explosions; the important and colorful personalities involved in the steamboat industry; the role of steamboats in Houston and Galveston during the Civil War; and the waning years of the steamboat industry. Firsthand accounts give life and voices to steamboat life for pilots and passengers alike. Appendices give details on dozens of steamboats known to traverse the Bayou. More than 30 period illustrations and photographs, and EXCELLENT maps (prepared by Andy himself), add to the value of this wonderful book. There's even more supplementary material

at his excellent blog. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Of interest to the growing sub culture of people who read about Houston. There is a one block street called Sterrett Street on the 5th ward. Find out the importance of the person for whom this one was named and speculate as to what was there.

Interesting read, a deeper dive into transportation history of the steam age. Could have been longer without hurting readability. Revisionist racial terminology prevents 5 stars (Would Texans of African descent have been "African Americans" more than 100 years before the term was developed?)

Poor excuse to be called a book. One sentence or possibly one paragraph would have summed up most of the material in this book

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