

Presentation by

Brigadier General
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Commander, Mississippi Valley Division

at the

**U.S. Section of International
Navigation Conference**



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi River Commission
Mississippi Valley Division

Vicksburg, Miss.
April 17, 2002

Agenda

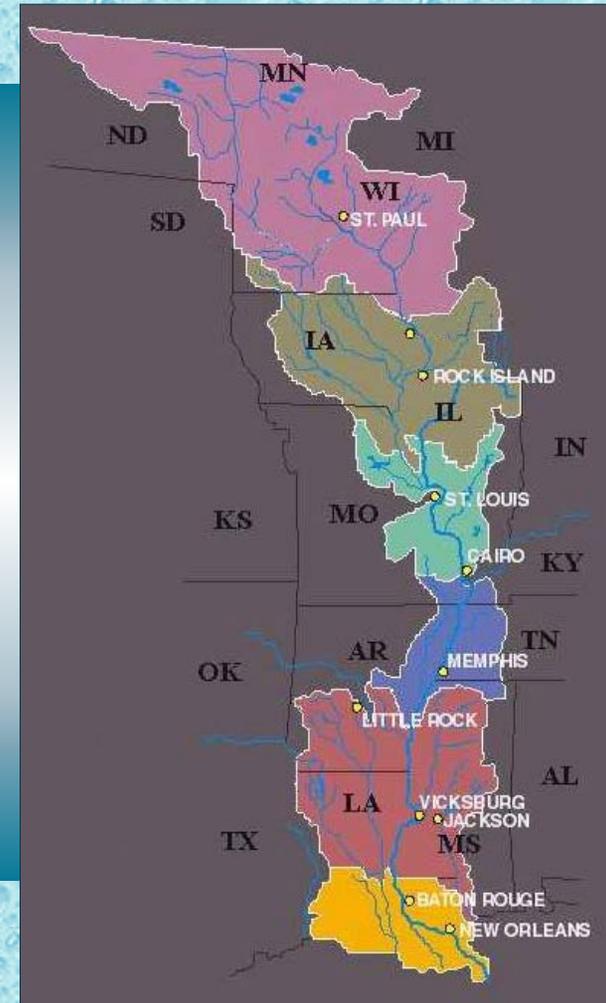
- **Overview of Mississippi Valley Division & Mississippi River Commission**
- **Brief History of Flood Protection and Navigation on the Mississippi River**
- **MVD's Work on the Mississippi River**



Geographic Boundary

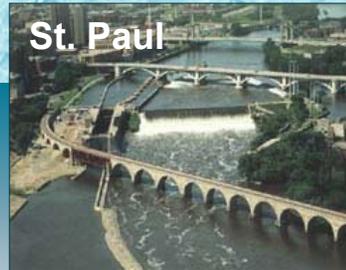


- Six Districts
- Division Headquarters
- Regional Management Board
- Board of Directors

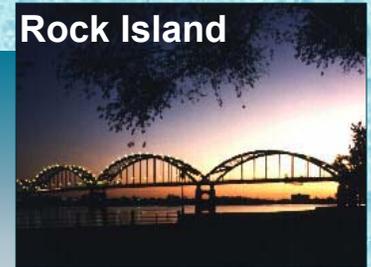


Regional Business Center

- 5,500+ Employees Utilize Project Management Business Process
- Complementary & Integrated Relationships Within 6 Districts
- Objective of the Regional Business Center is . . .



Rock Island



Mississippi River Commission

- Dual Mission
- MRC Established June 1879
- Authority to Operate on Entire Mississippi River

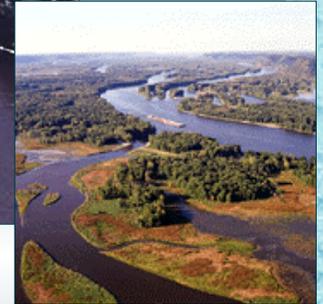


- Seven Presidentially Appointed Members
- Advisors to:
Secretary of the Army
&
Chief of Engineers



The Mississippi River

- **Upper River**
 - Valley is 5-10 Miles Wide
 - 29 Locks and Dams
- **Lower River**
 - 35,000-square-Mile Valley
 - Valley is 25-125 Miles Wide
 - Free Flowing River
 - 45-Foot depth Maintained below Baton Rouge



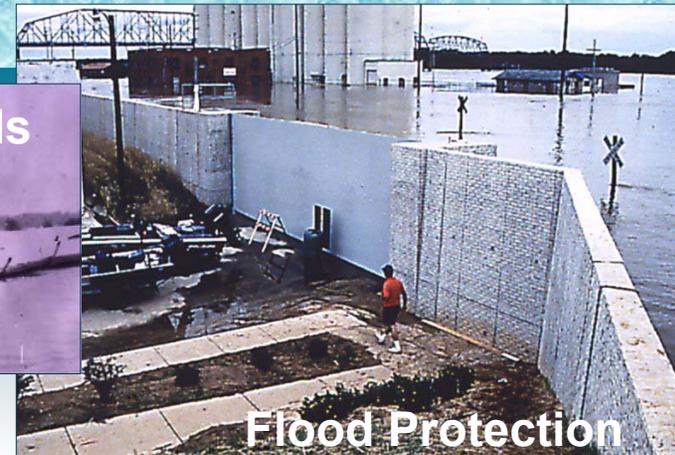
The Mississippi River

- Basin Drains 41% of the United States
 - 31 States and 2 Canadian Provinces
- 2,348 Miles Long
- From Lake Itasca to Head of Passes



The Mississippi River

- MVD's Missions Have Mirrored the River's Extremes



A Turbulent Beginning

- Now, for the When, Why, and How
- Corps Presence Since 1824
- Missions Included:
 - Surveying
 - Snag Removal

1st MRC Secretary

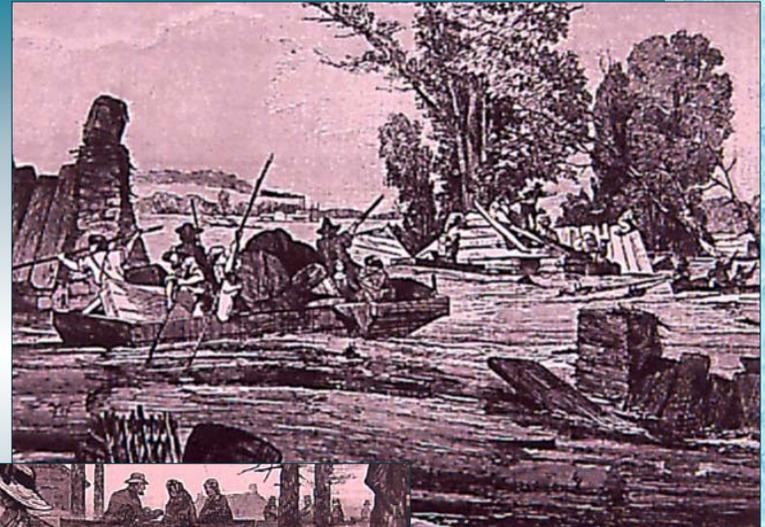


1st MRC Secretary



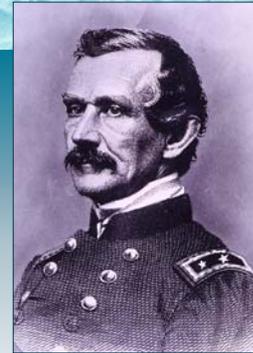
A Turbulent Beginning

- Late 19th Century
- Rapid Expansion
- Wetlands Drained
- Poorly Managed Flood Control Efforts
- Loss of Life and Property

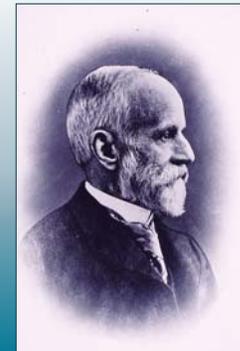


A Turbulent Beginning

- First Comprehensive Effort
- Congress Authorized Survey of Mississippi River Delta
- 500-Page Report
- Levees Only



Captain A. A. Humphreys



Lieutenant H. L. Abbot



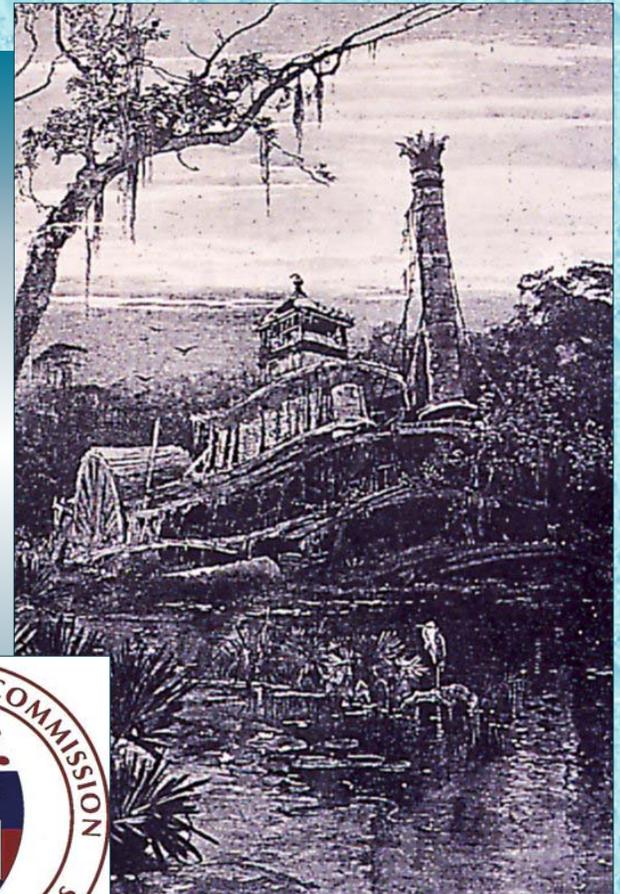
A Turbulent Beginning

- Not just on the Lower Mississippi . . .
- In 1866, Congress Authorized 1st Project to Improve Upper Mississippi River for Navigation



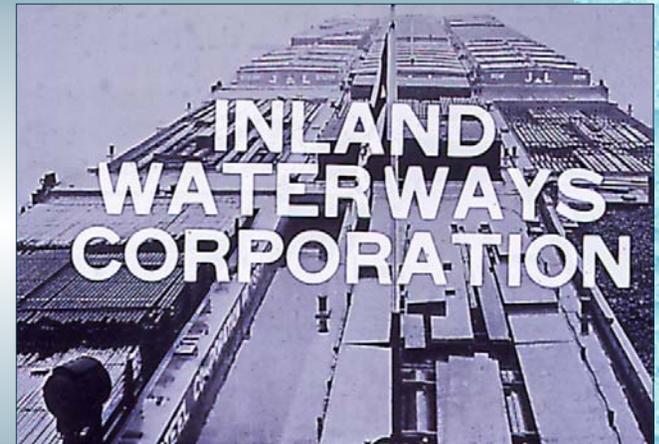
A Turbulent Beginning

- Need Recognized for one Org. to Coordinate Navigation & Flood Control Efforts
- MRC Created in 1879
- Commercial River Navigation Declined due to Railroad
- Flood Control Still Viewed as Local Responsibility



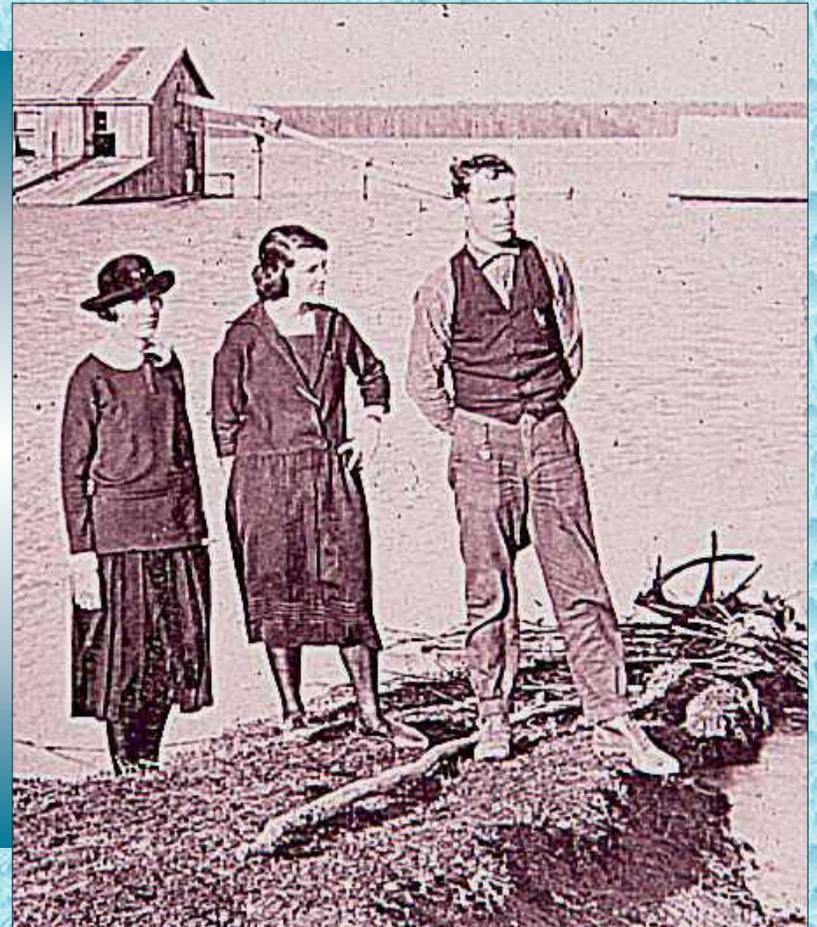
A Turbulent Beginning

- During World War I Strategic Value of the River Became Apparent
- IWC Created to Revive Navigation
- Federal Flood Control Work Authorized in 1917
- Hundreds of Miles of Levees Raised & Strengthened on Lower River



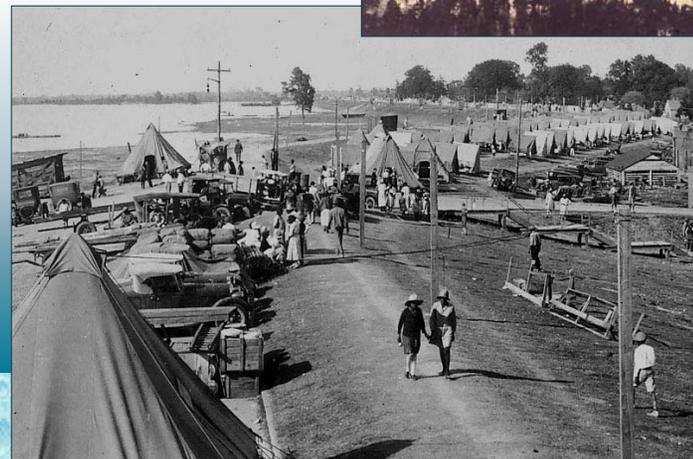
1927 Flood Anniversary

- 75th Anniversary
- Mounds Landing levee break was the greatest single crevasse ever to occur on the Mississippi River. It put water over the tops of houses 75 miles away.



1927 Flood Anniversary

- 246+ Deaths
- 325,000 Refugees
- 162,000 Homes Inundated
- 16.6 Million Acres Flooded



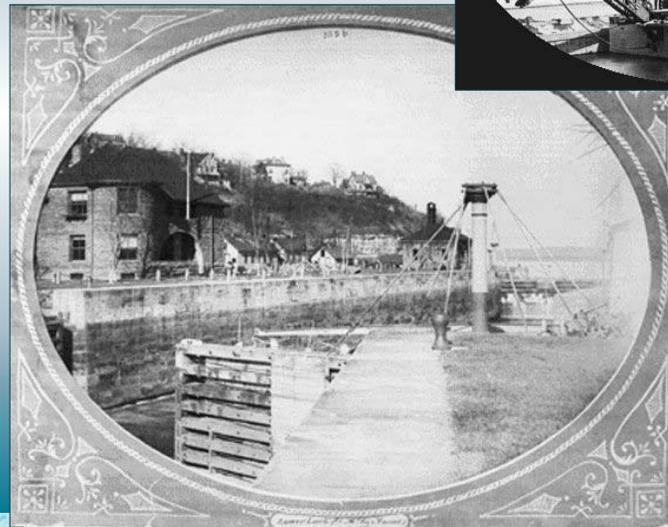
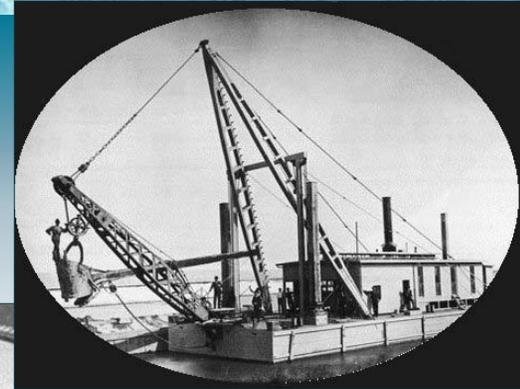
1927 Flood Anniversary

- Forced an Overhaul of Flood Protection Plan for Lower Mississippi Valley
- 1928 Flood Control Act Passed
- MR&T Project Created



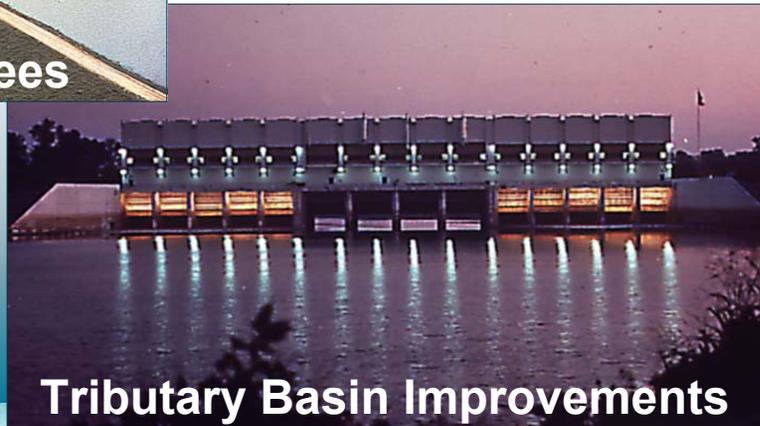
Navigation

- Upper River
 - 9-Foot Channel Project Authorized in 1930
 - Locks and Dams 3-26 Built



Miss. River & Tributaries

- Authorized as Direct Result of 1927 Flood

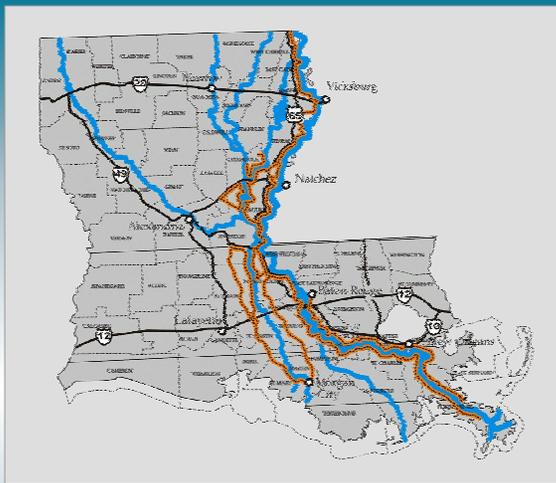


MR&T Project

- **Levees**
 - 3,715 Miles Authorized
- **Floodways**
 - 4 Floodways and Backwater Areas
- **Channel Stabilization**
 - Dikes, Revetment, Dredging
- **Tributary Basin Improvements**
 - Reservoirs, Pumping Plants, Canals, Control Structures



MR&T Levees – 1997 Flood



- **With MR&T Levees**
(Below Vicksburg, Miss.)



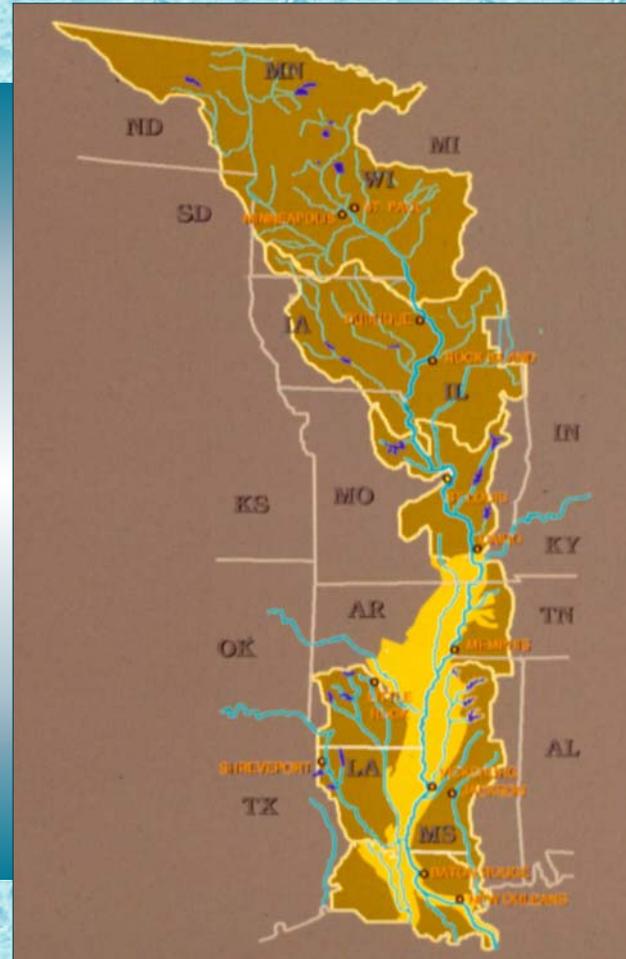
- **Without MR&T Levees**
(Below Vicksburg, Miss.)



MR&T Project

(1928-2001)

- **Federal Expenditures:**
\$11 Billion Invested
- **Flood Damages:**
\$258 Billion Prevented



Navigation

- MR&T is Only Part of our Mission
- Navigation is Vital to Nation's Economy and Security
- Millions of Tons of Commodities Moved Each Year
- Nation Saves \$1 Billion Each Year on Shipping & Fuel Costs



Navigation

- Built in the 1930s
- Major Rehab Program
- Study Underway



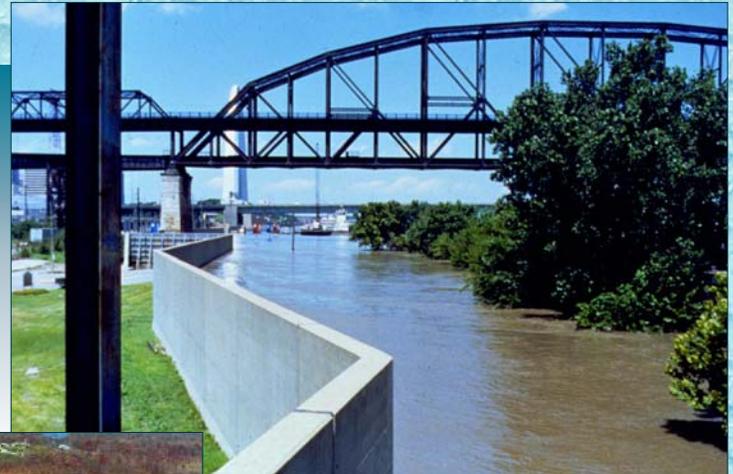
Navigation Study Update

- The refocused study will be restructured to emphasize environmentally sustainable use of the river



Flood Protection

- Urban Levees
- Rural Levees
- Floodwalls
- Reservoirs



Environmental Stewardship

- 1990 Legislation
- Upper Mississippi
 - EMP
 - Program to Minimize Effects of O&M on Endangered Species
 - Avoid & Minimize



Environmental Stewardship

- Lower Mississippi
 - Yazoo Basin Reforestation
 - Freshwater Diversion
 - Wetland Enhancement
 - Environmental Designs for Dike and Revetment Systems
 - Large Regulatory Mission



Recreation

- 44 Lakes
- 639 Recreation Sites
- 32 Visitor Centers
- 6,030 Camp Sites
- 329 Boat Ramps
- \$5.7 Million User Fees Collected



Emergency Management



- Strong Emergency Management Capability
- Readiness 2000 Initiative
- Homeland Security



US Army Corps
of Engineers
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Mississippi Valley Division

Essayons!

