

ROBERT E. LEE ~ 1866

(Mississippi Steamboat)

This famous steamboat was employed in the cotton trade between New Orleans & Vicksburg.

The Robert E. Lee was 300 feet long, had a 44-foot beam, 10 foot hold and two engines with a 10 foot stroke and cylinders with a 40 inch bore. She carried 8 boilers 32 feet long and had side paddles of 38 feet in diameter. Her largest load of cotton was 5,741 bales.

The most famous event to happen along the Great River was the race between the Natchez and the Robert E. Lee. The Lee was the winner. Being the fastest steamboat on the river, it was the only boat privileged to carry a pair of deer antlers fastened to her bell frame.

This famous event was recorded in song and story and became part of the tradition of the Old Mississippi River.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

This boat was hand crafted and generously donated by Jack Smith. Jack, a native of the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania, has spent the better part of his life in engineering design. He now resides in Lakeland, Florida where his creative energy comes alive in his unique woodcarving art.