NOTE ON SOURCES AND ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY

This book is multidisciplinary, with chapters about the history, economics, politics, folklore, popular culture, arts, movies, and music of the Mississippi Valley. The large scope of secondary literature used precludes an unabridged bibliography. The best place to identify sources is in the notes themselves. For this reason, I have used footnotes rather than endnotes.

What follows is a list of essential works for students and scholars of the Mississippi Valley. A few are primary sources, but most are secondary. If I have somehow neglected to list an important source, I beg the author’s forgiveness.

Readers will note that I cite many older works that some might (unkindly) label “outdated.” I believe that while the work of past scholars might carry some misperceptions and dated points of view, we should not throw out the baby with the bath water. The present generation of scholars does not have a monopoly on historical truth.

Thus, the works cited below come from multigenerational authors who help us to better understand the Mississippi Valley. These works are, in my opinion, the “greatest hits” in the literature of the Mississippi Valley.

Baldwin, Leland D. The Keelboat Age on Western Waters. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1941.
Flint, Timothy. A Condensed Geography and History of the Western


Finally, I am vain enough to eschew alphabetical order and end with some of my own work. These are cited in the book’s footnotes alongside additional river-related articles I have published.

Allen, Michael. Western Rivermen, 1763–1860: Ohio and Mississippi