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Ohio River Flood History

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ALESSANDRO GRANT

Dayton University Press of Kentucky

It's 1937 and a storm is brewing over the town of Ironton, Ohio, and in the home of Pete and Gus Brinkmeyer. The two teenage brothers, once close, struggle with the growing differences in their relationship. Gus is the older and more cerebral brother, a romantic who falls for a girl his family does not approve of. He is also jealous of their father's seeming favoritism toward Pete, the more practical and physical brother. Pete struggles with the loss of his brother's friendship as Gus's jealousy and involvement with the girl drive a wedge between the two. When the Ohio River floods their town and the brothers are separated, each must discover his own strengths to survive and ultimately heal the fracture. Celebrated historical novelist Kathy Wiechman looks into her own family's history to create unforgettable characters caught up in a catastrophic, life-changing event. Includes an extensive author's note outlining the history behind the story.

The Ohio River, 1700-1914 Simon and Schuster

The history of Brown County has been shaped largely by the Ohio River. It has allowed farmers and industries to transport their products and provided recreation, entertainment, and travel opportunities to the residents of the community. Even though flooding of the river brought destruction many times, it also enabled freedom for thousands of slaves. Under abolitionist leaders like John Rankin and John Parker, parts of Brown County became known as the "Grand Central Station" of the Underground Railroad. Interesting and notable Brown County natives include Ulysses S. Grant, who grew up to command one of the largest armies ever assembled and later became president of the United States; Col. Charles Young, the third African American to graduate from West Point and a military attache to Liberia; Rosie Riles, better known as "Aunt Jemima"; and Joe Smith, who inadvertently helped Louis Armstrong's career, also hailed from this great county. **History of Navigation in the Ohio River Basin** The Great Ohio River Flood of 1937 Beginning on Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913, Columbus and the Ohio Valley endured a downpour that would produce the largest flood in one hundred years. Heavy rains came on the heels of an especially cold winter, resulting in a torrent of runoff over saturated and frozen ground. Rivers and streams quickly overflowed and levees failed, sending tsunami-like floodwater into unsuspecting

communities and claiming four hundred lives. There were ninety-six deaths in Columbus alone when the swollen Scioto River emptied water that ran nine to seventeen feet deep through the streets of the near west side. Join Conrade C. Hinds and the Columbus Landmarks Foundation in a closer look at a flood disaster that reshaped the American Midwest.

The Great Dayton Flood of 1913 Arcadia Publishing

Portsmouth, Ohio, originated in the 1790s, when the town of Alexandria was founded at the junction of the Scioto and Ohio Rivers. A decade later, due to the frequent disastrous floods from both rivers, Alexandria was abandoned and the entire town moved eastward. In 1814, after being platted by Henry Massie, the city of Portsmouth was incorporated. In the years that followed, Portsmouth became an industrial and transportation center, a regional leader in retail and wholesale businesses, and a recreational center that once featured, among many other things, an amusement park and a National Football League team franchise. The nickname "Peerless City" was a perfect fit.

The Flood Year 1927 Arcadia Publishing

The true story of a catastrophic weather event that will "interest readers who enjoyed Erik Larson's

Isaac's Storm" (Booklist). This is the incredible account of a flood of near-Biblical proportions in early twentieth-century America—its destruction, its heroes, its victims, and how it shaped natural-disaster policies in the United States for the next hundred years. The storm began March 23, 1913, with a series of tornadoes that killed 150 people and injured 400. Then the freezing rains started and the flooding began. It continued for days. Some people drowned in their attics, others on the roads when they tried to flee. It was the nation's most widespread flood ever—more than 700 people died, hundreds of thousands of houses and buildings were destroyed, and millions were left homeless. The destruction extended far beyond the Ohio Valley to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont—fourteen states in all, and every major and minor river east of the Mississippi. In the aftermath, flaws in America's natural disaster response system were exposed, much as they would be nearly a century later in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. People demanded change. Laws were passed, and dams were built. Teams of experts vowed to develop flood control techniques for the region and stop flooding for good. So far, those efforts have succeeded—it is estimated that in the Miami Valley alone, nearly two thousand floods have been prevented, and the same methods have been used as a model for flood control nationwide and around the world. This suspenseful historical tale of a dramatic yet little-remembered disaster "weaves tragic and heroic stories of people in the various affected states into an almost hour-by-hour account of the deadly storm" (Booklist).

[Brown County](#) Princeton University Press

Cutting a wide east-west swath from the Appalachian foothills to the heart of the western Kentucky coalfields, the Green River valley extends from below the Tennessee border in the south to the Ohio River in the north. The Green River of Kentucky presents a picture of the unity and diversity of the people living in the Green River valley. Helen Bartter Crocker finds that each generation of its people approached the river in a distinctive way. Early settlers used the river simply as it was—crooked and narrow with an unpredictable water flow, and navigable only under high-water conditions. The sons of these pioneers were interested in bringing steamboats to the valley; until they succeeded in persuading the state legislature to improve the Green River and its tributary, the Barren, by a series of locks and dams, however, volunteers would work—often up to their necks in water—until they cleared the river sufficiently to allow steamers to reach Bowling Green at high water. When the locks and dams were reopened following the Civil War, a local private corporation gained a near-monopoly of the river trade. Public outcry against this private ownership caused the federal government to take control, and through the Corps of Engineers, to undertake extensive river improvements. After the Great Depression, when trade was almost at a standstill, additional federal funds were appropriated for flood-control dams in the upper river and modern locks in the lower river to harness the valley's industrial potential. These opened up coal barging and recreational facilities, which ensured the future economic well being of the Green River valley. *A Brief History of Northern Kentucky* Arcadia Publishing

"Like San Francisco's earthquake and Baltimore's fire, the flood of 1937 became a Louisville benchmark; modern Louisville started with it." So said Harper's Weekly, and most historians agree. Seventy years ago, in January 1937, the Ohio River flooded in biblical proportions. Like New Orleans after Katrina, two-thirds of the city of Louisville, Kentucky was under water. But the citizens of Louisville, under the inspired leadership of Mayor Neville Miller, fought through the hardships and the challenges of the city's worst natural disaster to overcome extraordinary tragedy to save their city. This is the complete story of those heroic days. Through historic photographs, maps, log books, diaries and personal recollections, author Rick Bell re-creates, in thrilling detail, the magnitude of the devastation and the totality of the city's eventual triumph--Amazon

Along the Ohio River Open Road Media

Indiana suffered enormous losses in the Great Flood of 1913, yet this disaster is largely forgotten. The combined tornado and flood barreled through Terre Haute, killing more than twenty. In Peru, 114 miles away, the circus lost most of its animals in the storm. At the southwestern corner of the state, a "sea of water," as local papers put it, washed over Evansville, turning streets into canals. In the capital, levee failures left hundreds homeless and vulnerable to disease and famine. Pulling from archival photographs, newspapers and local accounts, Dr. Nancy M. Germano shares stories from across the state to reveal how Indiana's history of settlement and development contributed to one of the state's worst disasters.

Rising Tide Barbour Publishing

Read a free excerpt here! American engineers have done astounding things to bend the Mississippi River to their will: forcing one of its tributaries to flow uphill, transforming over a thousand miles of roiling currents into a placid staircase of water, and wresting the lower half of the river apart from its floodplain. American law has aided and abetted these feats. But despite our best efforts, so-called "natural disasters" continue to strike the Mississippi basin, as raging floodwaters decimate waterfront communities and abandoned towns literally crumble into the Gulf of Mexico. In some places, only the tombstones remain, leaning at odd angles as the underlying soil erodes away. *Mississippi River Tragedies* reveals that it is seductively deceptive—but horribly misleading—to call such catastrophes "natural." Authors Christine A. Klein and Sandra B. Zellmer present a sympathetic account of the human dreams, pride, and foibles that got us to this point, weaving together engaging historical narratives and accessible law stories drawn from actual courtroom dramas. The authors deftly uncover the larger story of how the law reflects and even amplifies our ambivalent attitude toward nature—simultaneously revering wild rivers and places for what they are, while working feverishly to change them into something else. Despite their sobering revelations, the authors' final message is one of hope. Although the acknowledgement of human responsibility for unnatural disasters can lead to blame, guilt, and liability, it can also prod us to confront the consequences of our actions, leading to a liberating sense of possibility and to the knowledge necessary to avoid future disasters.

The True Story of Our National Calamity of Flood, Fire and Tornado University of Chicago Press

The Ohio River is not only a river of scenery and beauty, but also one of opportunity. It is a river of journey and exploration; a river of dreams, both personal and private; a river of commerce and enterprise. It is also a river of floods and destruction. Along the Ohio River: Cincinnati to Louisville journeys down this dynamic river. The postcard images show many riverfront scenes, from the cities along the way to excursion steamboats, river scenery, and the river at work.

[The Thousand-Year Flood](#) Good Press

The greatest flood in United States history struck the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys in January 1937. Perhaps no single flood in the United States had caused as much damage, displayed as much brutal natural force and displaced as many people. Not even the calamitous flood of 1927, which has eclipsed the '37 flood in terms of historical coverage was as massive. Author and Memphis local Patrick O'Daniel illustrates how this national natural disaster affected Memphis, in particular, and how the politicians of the day, from national figures like FDR to local political bosses like Ed Crump, handled unprecedented infrastructural challenges. Yet beyond politics and policy, O'Daniel tells the story of this historic disaster through the eyes of everyday Memphians, their struggles, care for thousands of desperate refugees and the measures they took to save their city from this devastating flood.

[Year of the Big Flood, 1937](#) University Press of Kentucky

The mighty Mississippi River and its tributaries drain a huge part of the central United States. After heavy rainfall throughout the spring of 1993, people living on the rivers held their breath as the waters rose. When the rivers broke their banks, the floods covered large parts of nine states and left more than seventy thousand people homeless. It was one of the worst disasters in American history. Book jacket.

[TVA and the River](#) Arcadia Publishing

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, winner of the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and the Lillian Smith Award. An American epic of science, politics, race, honor, high society, and the Mississippi River, *Rising Tide* tells the riveting and nearly forgotten story of the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927. The river inundated the homes of almost one million people, helped elect Huey Long governor and made Herbert Hoover president, drove hundreds of thousands of African Americans north, and transformed American society and politics forever. The flood brought with it a human storm: white and black collided, honor and money collided, regional and national powers collided. New Orleans's elite used their power to divert the flood to those without political connections, power, or wealth, while causing Black sharecroppers to abandon their land to flee up north. The states were unprepared for this disaster and failed to support the Black community. The racial divides only widened when a white officer killed a Black man for refusing to return to work on levee repairs after a sleepless night of work. In the powerful prose of *Rising Tide*, John M. Barry removes any remaining veil that there had been equality in the South. This flood not only left millions of people ruined, but further emphasized the racial inequality that have continued even to this day.

[Indiana and the Great Flood of 1913](#) Arcadia Publishing

In the early days of 1937, the Ohio River, swollen by heavy winter rains, began rising. And rising.

And rising. By the time the waters crested, the Ohio and Mississippi had climbed to record heights. Nearly four hundred people had died, while a million more had run from their homes. The deluge caused more than half a billion dollars of damage at a time when the Great Depression still battered the nation. Timed to coincide with the flood's seventy-fifth anniversary, *The Thousand-Year Flood* is the first comprehensive history of one of the most destructive disasters in American history. David Welky first shows how decades of settlement put Ohio valley farms and towns at risk and how politicians and planners repeatedly ignored the dangers. Then he tells the gripping story of the river's inexorable rise: residents fled to refugee camps and higher ground, towns imposed martial law, prisoners rioted, Red Cross nurses endured terrifying conditions, and FDR dispatched thousands of relief workers. In a landscape fraught with dangers—from unmoored gas tanks that became floating bombs to powerful currents of filthy floodwaters that swept away whole towns—people hastily raised sandbag barricades, piled into overloaded rowboats, and marveled at water that stretched as far as the eye could see. In the flood's aftermath, Welky explains, New Deal reformers, utopian dreamers, and hard-pressed locals restructured not only the flood-stricken valleys, but also the nation's relationship with its waterways, changes that continue to affect life along the rivers to this day. A striking narrative of danger and adventure—and the mix of heroism and generosity, greed and pettiness that always accompany disaster—*The Thousand-Year Flood* breathes new life into a fascinating yet little-remembered American story.

[A Pictorial History of the Great Dayton Flood, March 25, 26, 27, 1913](#) Boyds Mills Press

NOTE: NO FURTHER DISCOUNT FOR THIS PRINT PRODUCT -OVERSTOCK SALE -- Significantly reduced list price Traces the federal program from its tentative beginnings in the 19th century to the enactment of a permanent federal policy on disaster assistance in 1950. Explains how the Engineers came to acquire that mission during the great Mississippi River flood of 1882. Describes the development of the Corps' statutory authorities and the Army's regulations for emergency operations. Tells the stories of Corps and Army Engineer operations during various calamities." *Some Observations on the Late Pleistocene and Holocene History of the Lower Ohio Valley* U.S. Government Printing Office

When the Great Miami River breached its shores and spilled into Dayton and the surrounding areas, many people thought the city would never dry out. This book provides a pictorial history of the devastation brought on by the flood waters.?

[Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Survey: History of study](#) Arcadia Publishing

Bound volume of complete Cincinnati area newspapers published during the Ohio River flood, from Thursday, January 21, 1937 to Monday, February 8, 1937: Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati Times-Star, Cincinnati Post, Kentucky Post. Also includes the Cincinnati Post souvenir edition of Saturday, February 13, 1937, and the Cincinnati Times-Star edition "10 wet days: a pictorial history of 1937 Greater Cincinnati flood.

Floods Arcadia Publishing

Presents the Ohio River Forecast Center (OHRFC), part of the Wilmington, Ohio, office of the National Weather Service (NWS). Posts the hours of operation and provides a history of the center. Details the OHRFC products, which include flood warnings and statements and river gauge readings. Features real-time hydrologic data, rainfall estimates, long-range outlooks, and river forecasting. Contains information on historical floods in the Ohio Valley.

1937 Ohio River Flood Scrapbook NYU Press

What was it like to live, work, play, and travel along the Ohio River in the early part of the twentieth century? What was the look and feel of the towns and villages that lined its banks in the days before private cars and highways? From 1900 to 1930, the Ohio River was the most economical and reliable mode of transporting goods and people from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Louisville, Kentucky, and to the dozens of towns that lay between. This fascinating pictorial history gives readers a glimpse into the past of this area, and its extensive river heritage. A Sunday cruise down the Ohio River was always enjoyable, but traveling the waters was not always easy. Spring flooding reached far inland, disrupting households and businesses. Pilots' navigational skills were challenged by swiftly-moving water filled with floating debris. Ice wreaked havoc on boats and shore facilities in the winter. Low water in the summer often stopped navigation completely. But the boats were too important to let such difficulties stand in their way. They endured and served the area faithfully until hard economic times and a new reliance on trucks and automobiles ended the packet trade in the early 1930s.

History of the Johnstown Flood Gareth Stevens

A scrapbook of newspaper articles from Cincinnati area newspapers covering the Ohio River flood

and cleanup, Jan. 22-March 10, 1937. Also includes a copy of the February 13, 1937 souvenir

edition of the Cincinnati post, a copy of the Cincinnati times-star souvenir edition titled "10 wet days": a pictorial history of 1937 Greater Cincinnati Flood, and the front sections of the Cincinnati

times-star, Cincinnati enquirer, and Cincinnati post from January 25-29, 1937.

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