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## MS 76 Box 12 Notebook 16 - Steamboat on the Guyandotte, by James Rumsey Godbey

Fred Bussey Lambert

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BX 12  
NBK 16

[Steamboat on the  
Guyandotte. By James  
Rumsey Godby of  
Chapmansville, W. Va.]

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MS 76  
BX 12  
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Steamboat on the Guyandotte.

By  
James Rumsey Godby

of  
Chapmansville, W. Va.

I was b. March 29, 1867, at  
Father Tolbert S. Godby, called "T.S."  
He married Dolly Dingess, daughter  
of Peter Dingess. He died about  
the mouth of Big Creek. (Cany. is  
about eight miles below Logan)

I and my brother, George  
Woodson Godby owned the boats  
in partnership. The engineer and  
pilots both had to be licensed.  
This was about 1895-6

The G. V. R. R. was completed  
to Logan, and the first passage  
carried to Logan, in the fall  
of 1904. We first owned the  
J. I. Hustler purchased of J. I.  
Wentz, for \$600-\$700. Pomp  
built it. We run her about  
three years

Pomp only run it about a year. He made a failure. We had the trade on him, as we had a line of 8 or 10 push boats, from Guyanotte to Logan. We sometimes brought wheat to a mill, at Harboursville, for grinding, but were slow in getting it hauled and delivered on time. We often waited an hour or two - so had to quit.

We some times carried passengers, but were too slow - it took two days to go to Logan - hence, only carried them when they insisted.

We handled but little freight the first thirty miles, because there were roads to the Falls, making team competition too strong for us. We preferred the upper freight because rates were better. We ran night and day till we reached about 6 or 10 miles, after which we only run in day time, because customers lived out in the hills - at least,

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part of them did, and freight might be stolen, and sometimes was stolen, and we had to be responsible.

For 6 or 7 months each year, we went as far as the Falls, and used push boats, from there on.

In the summer time, we ran the steamboat, on the Ohio river.

For two or three seasons, we ran to Portsmouth, and other seasons, (3 or 4), we ran from Malamoras to Wheeling - about 30 miles.

After about three years, we dismantled the Hustler, at Guyandotte, and built a new hull, and put the machinery on it.

We called the new boat the Guyandotte. We run her about four years. My brother George served as Pilot, on the Hustler, as well as on the Guyandotte.

Dyke Parley, from Lincoln County, was engineer, on the Hustler. He lived about Nine Mile Creek. John Bandy

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Guyandotte was also our engineer.  
Both worked for us sometimes  
together, for about seven years.

We sold the Guyandotte, to a  
Cabletsburg man. He took her to  
Big Sandy, and used her two or  
three years. He had her insured.  
She burned up.

The R. R. put us out of  
business, and ruined our push  
boating. Marmet was 39 miles  
from Chapmansville. When flat  
boats couldn't run up Guyan,  
people hauled from Charleston,  
or Marmet (Brownstown). Stuff  
was shipped, by rail, to Marmet,  
and then hauled, hence, was  
expensive - about \$1 <sup>25</sup>/<sub>100</sub> per cwt.

Our rates, at first, when hauled  
by flat boats, to Logan, ran  
about 65 cts per cwt. When we  
had steamboats, the rates varied  
from 40¢ to 50¢ per cwt.

depending upon the bulkiness of the freight - the heavier taking the cheaper rate.

We were the only ones since the days of the locks and dams. The "Favorite" came in one season from Sandy River, but did no good. This was while we were running the Guyandotte. I don't think of the names of the owner.

We frequently ran to Logan with either coal. We had to have at least three feet of water. Our greatest trouble was at King's Shoal, at and below Peck's dam.

We had to run a line and windless. If we ran to the Falls and transferred to flat boats, it took usually about five days, to go up. One day put us back in one day. It was one half day's run from the Falls to Guyandotte, by steamboat, one day, by steamboat to Guyandotte

Both our engineers died shortly after we quit work. My brother died about three months ago. I married Ella Dingess, daughter of James and Martha Jane Dingess, about Chapmanville, on the river, at the R. R. station called Godby. My brother lived at Midkiff. He married Kate Keenan, daughter of Pat Keenan of Guyandotte. They had seven children. I had four children; two boys, Edwin and Millard Godby, at Norfolk, Virginia. One was a dentist, the other one was a laboratory dentist. My two girls were Della Godby, who married W. E. Lunkham of Logan, and Mattie Godby who married W. W. Reddow, of Schlar-  
gle, West Virginia