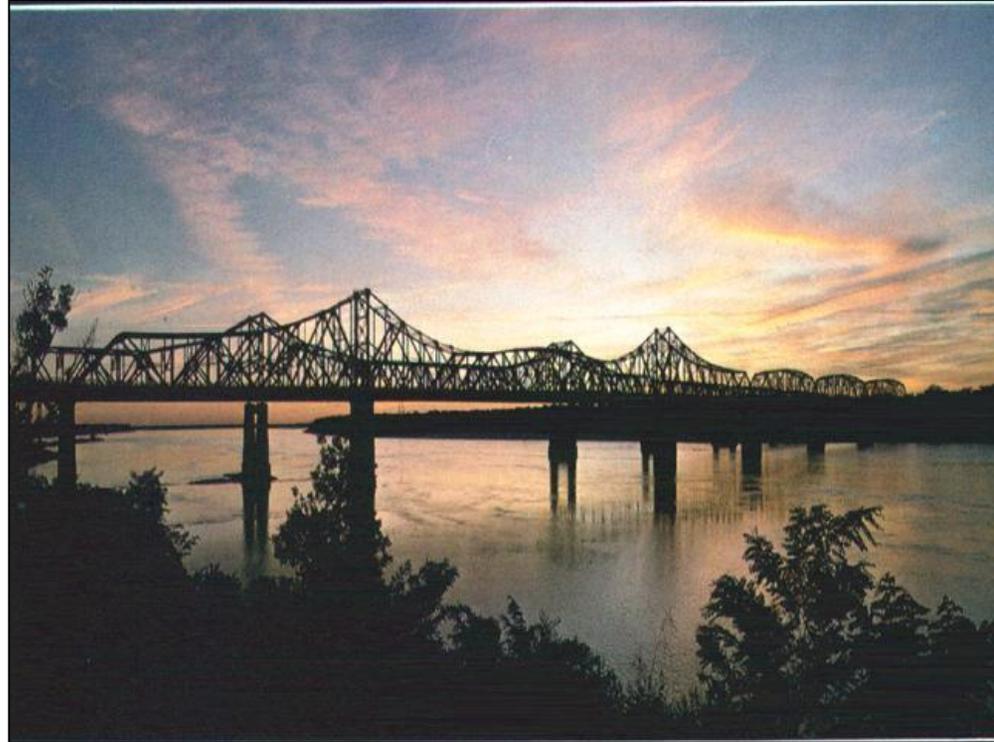


1927 Mississippi River Flood

Outline

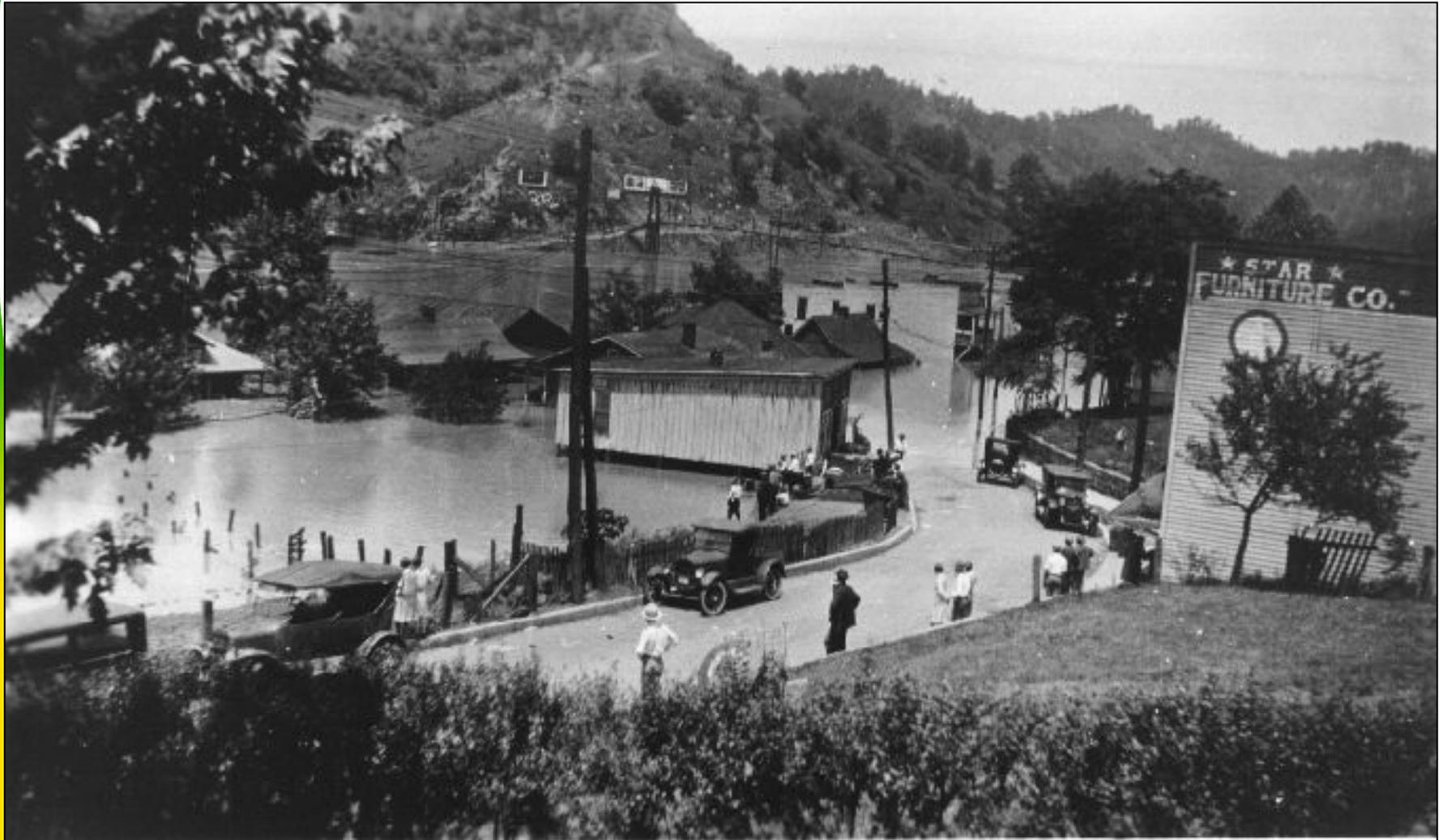
- Setting/Overview
- Causes
- 1927 Flood
- Effects
- 1927/1993 Comparison



"little European river... it would just be a holiday job... to wall it, and pile it, and dike it, and tame it down, and boss it around... But this ain't that kind of a river."

- Mark Twain

Mississippi River



Overview



- 16,570,627 acres in 7 states
- \$102,562,395 in crop losses.
- 162,017 homes flooded.

- 41,487 buildings destroyed.
- 5,934 boats used in rescue work.

Overview



- 325,554 people cared for in 154 Red Cross camps
- Over 31,000 people volunteered in rescue services.
- 42 major levee crevasses in MS, AR, and LA
- 120 levee crevasses in all.

Illinois

(March 25)



Causes

- Mississippi River Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Loggers/Farmers



“It may be stated that in a general way the improvement is providing a safe and adequate channel for navigation and is now in condition to prevent the destructive effects of floods.”
- Chief of Engineers (1926)

Corps of Engineers called on to solve flood problems



Junior, Louisiana

(April 23)



A crevasse in a levee, caused by an out of control steamship.

Effects



For two long months the water would remain above flood stage, leaving hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes.

Effects



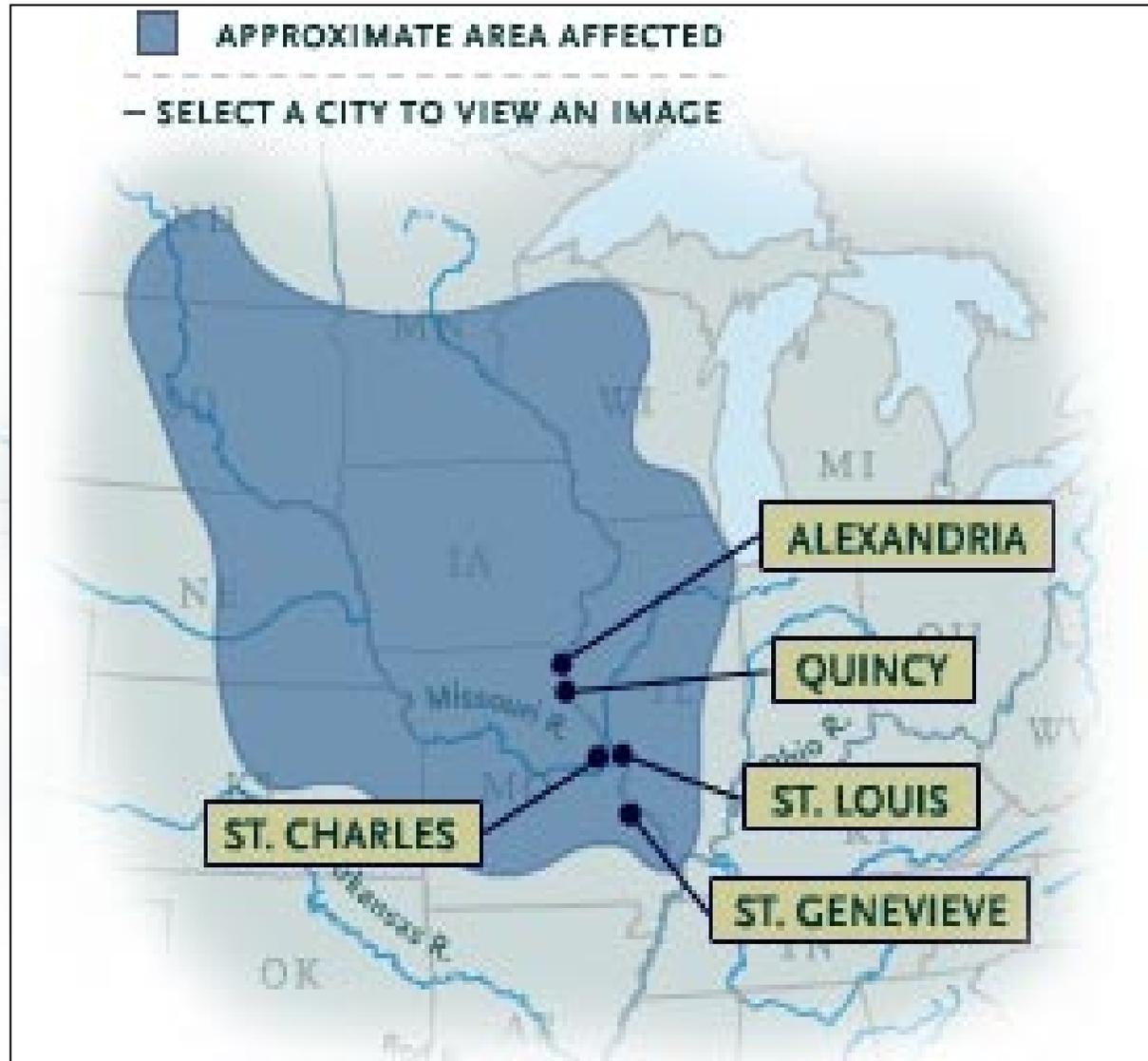
POWER PLANT UNDER WATER OSAGE 4-23-27

MURPHY ELECTRIC ST

Herbert Hoover



Comparison of Floods



Comparison of Floods

	1927 FLOOD	1993 FLOOD
Human Loss of Life	246	47
Displaced People	700,000	74,000
Financial Loss	\$347,000,000 in 1927 (\$4.4 billion in 1993 dollars)	\$7,500,536,000
Structural Damage	137,000 buildings destroyed or damaged	47,650 buildings destroyed or damaged
Flooded Area	27,000 square miles	15,600 square miles
River Volume	2,500,000 cubic feet of water per second	1,000,000 cubic feet of water per second (USGS)

Data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers except where noted.

Conclusion

"One who knows the Mississippi will promptly aver - not aloud but to himself - that 10,000 river commissions... cannot tame that lawless stream, cannot curb it or confine it, cannot say to it go here, or go there, and make it obey; cannot save a shore which it has sentenced; cannot bar its path with an obstruction which it will not tear down, dance over, and laugh at. "

---Mark Twain