

# Scenes from the great 1927 Flood



Leland, MS

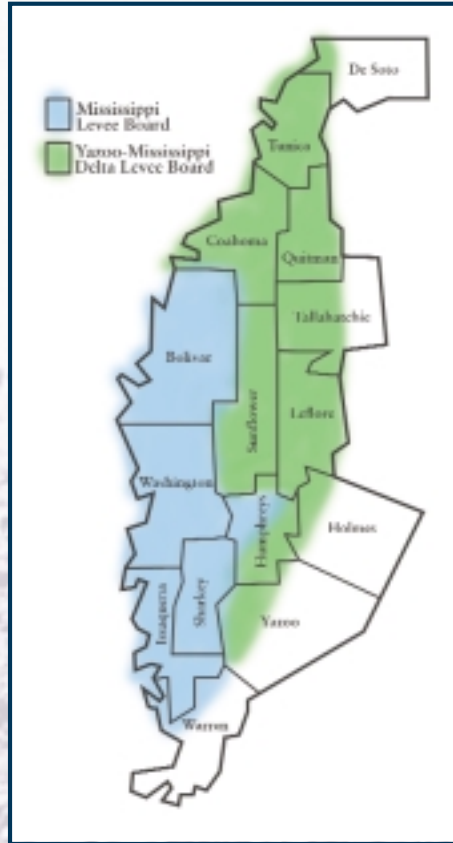


Rolling Fork, MS



Greenville, MS

## The Mississippi Delta's Levee Boards COVERAGE AREA



# Mississippi

**LEVEE BOARD**  
Where people come first.



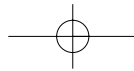
## The Mississippi Levee Board... WHERE PEOPLE COME FIRST

For more information on the Mississippi Levee Board or any of their many important projects, please call us at

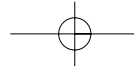
**662-334-4813**

or visit our website at [www.msleveeboard.com](http://www.msleveeboard.com)

# WHERE PEOPLE COME FIRST







## WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO...

Approximately 200 years of effort have gone into relieving the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta from periodic overflow flooding of the Mississippi River to make the region safe. The Mississippi Levee Board has led the way in protecting Delta lives, homes, and businesses since 1865.

The Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners consists of seven members elected from their respective counties. The Levee District contains Bolivar, Washington, Issaquena, and Sharkey Counties, along with a portion of Humphreys and Warren Counties. The Board historically appoints the Chief Engineer who is responsible for the day-to-day operations. The staff employed consists of an Assistant Engineer, Attorney, Treasurer, Secretary, Engineering Technician, Maintenance Superintendent, and a field maintenance crew, usually consisting of approximately six employees.

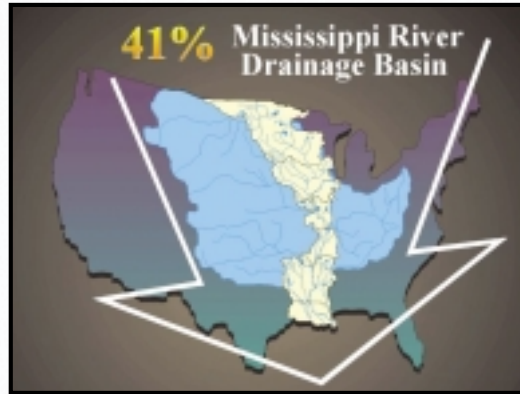
Together, the Mississippi Levee Board, located in Greenville, along with the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board, located in Clarksdale, have the constitutional responsibility to the State of Mississippi to operate and maintain a system of levees along the Mississippi River. Within its district, the Mississippi Levee Board has the role of furnishing rights of way, maintaining the levee system, keeping up systematic inspection of the line and, when necessary, organizing and leading high water flood fights. The Board also has the legislative authority to participate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on various projects on the interior drainage, such as the Big Sunflower River and Tributaries Project, Upper Steele Bayou Project, and the Yazoo Backwater Project—which is recognized as the last major unconstructed component in flood control for the Delta.

## WHERE WE COME FROM...

As the Mississippi River moves toward the Gulf of Mexico, it divides its flood plain into a number of large basins, each bounded on one side by the bluff of the valley wall and on the other by the high ridges or natural levees of the river itself. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta is such a basin 200 miles long and 60 miles wide. Before man's involvement, these basins along the river flooded when the river exceeded bank full relieving the channel of the water it could not carry.

The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta lies at the neck of a funnel at which point the Mississippi River drains 31 states and two provinces of Canada. The drainage area served covers an area

extending from New York to Montana. Forty one percent of the United States drains past Vicksburg at the south end of the Delta.



Starting around 1803, the first levees were constructed by settlers along the high banks of the river and were seldom over three feet high. Some of these original levees can still be seen along the east side of Bayou Road at Greenville.

In 1819, the state's first authorized levee was erected to prevent inundation and overflow. A commission was set up to oversee this work. In 1858, legislation was passed to create the 1858 Levee District to oversee work on a statewide levee system. During the Civil War, levee work was ceased and many levees were decimated by Union attacks. In November of 1865, immediately after the Civil War, the Board of Levee Commissioners for Bolivar, Washington and Issaquena Counties was formed in Greenville and in 1877 the board was enlarged by the Legislature under the name of the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners.

The major flood of 1927 resulted in the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1928, which set in motion a great national project, the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR & T), for improvement of the Mississippi River for both flood control and navigation. The Act provided that the federal government would help bear the cost of these projects. Right of way and levee maintenance would be provided by the local levee districts.

## WHY OUR WORK IS NECESSARY...

To many, the great days of Mississippi River overflow and month-long high water fighting are over. Unfortunately, this is not an accurate picture of reality and far from the truth. Since the flood of '27 there have been numerous major floods causing loss of life and extensive property damage.

The disastrous flood of 1973 was the first test of completed works in 23 years. The testing proved that the Mississippi River improvements, particularly the cut-offs, were not functioning as efficiently as predicted. The result was that the Project Design Flood on the river would result in higher stages particularly from Greenville south. Sixty-nine miles of Mainline Levee in our district would need to be raised to safely pass this flood. The levee near Mayersville was found to require a maximum raise of eight feet. Today, work continues on the MR & T project, with an expected completion date of 2031.

The Mississippi Levee Board is diligent and conscientious in their efforts to protect the lives and property of citizens in the Delta. Their job is to be concerned about flooding so that flooding will never concern you. The projects worked on and sponsored by the Mississippi Levee Board have as their end goal the purpose of ensuring the safety of the Delta's people.

### Levee Maintenance Responsibility

Levee System	Miles
Mississippi River Mainline Levee	163
Greenville Harbor Dike	8
Brunswick Extension Levee	13
Yazoo Backwater Levee	28

**TOTAL MILES OF LEVEES .....212**

### Interior Stream Maintenance Responsibility

Interior Stream	Miles
Big Sunflower River	50.59
Black Bayou	35.77
Bouge Hasty	6.5
Bouge Phalia	60.69
Clear Creek	13.15
Ditchlow Bayou	4.16
Dowling Bayou	7.88
Holly Bluff Cut-Out	4.21
Hushpuckena River	27.5
Little Sunflower River	20.85
Main Canal	22.2
Snake Creek	9.8
Steele Bayou	67.55
Twin Lakes Bayou	2.46
Valewood Ditch	2.42
Yazoo Backwater Channel	24.04

**TOTAL MILES OF INTERIOR STREAMS .....360**

