

Boat Interiors

The cabins on the canal boat in which the family of the captain lived were very small. A typical cabin would contain a stove, which burned coal or wood, a cupboard, a table, and one or two chairs. The table was hinged so that it could be folded down when not in use to provide more space.

If there were a lot of children in the family the cabin was often very crowded. One corner would be blocked off for a small and cramped stateroom used by the parents. The children would share the bunk and/or sleep on the floor.

The women of the family, along with their usual boat duties, had the difficult task of keeping the cabin clean. Since the boats were generally carrying coal, dust would constantly leak through the cracks into the cabin. Although company was a rare occurrence, it was still important to the family to present a clean home to their guests.

