

**A GENERAL CHRONOLOGY
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY
ITS PREDECESSORS AND SUCCESSORS
AND
ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

By Christopher T. Baer

PRR Chronology 1815 to 1819

- Jan. 8, 1815 General Jackson destroys British army at Battle of New Orleans; Gen. Pakenham and two other British generals killed; both sides unaware that peace treaty already signed. (EAH)
- Jan. 14, 1815 New Jersey Legislature begins hearings on Aaron Ogden's steamboat monopoly grant; Robert Fulton attends in person to lead attack. (Philip)
- Jan. 20, 1815 Pres. Madison vetoes bill to create a new national bank but concedes Congress's right to pass such a bill. (EAH)
- Jan. 25, 1815 Fulton testifies in Ogden hearing; denies he ever saw Fitch's plans and producing a letter supposedly written to Lord Stanhope in 1793 showing he had thought of side wheels; under examination letter is shown to be a backdated copy, undermining the foundation of Fulton's patent; in returning to New York, Fulton spends three hours at his Jersey City shop, then is forced to cross the Hudson in an open boat and on foot over the ice. (Philip)
- Feb. 4, 1815 New Jersey Legislature, now under Democratic-Republican control, revokes Ogden steamboat monopoly on a strict party vote, unswayed by evidence; opens way for John R. Livingston to resume running to New Brunswick. (Philip)
- Feb. 6, 1815 New Jersey issues first railroad company charter in America to John Stevens and others for "New Jersey Railroad Company" between New Brunswick and Trenton; bill has failed to pass in previous session when Federalists sympathetic to Ogden and hostile to Stevens controlled Legislature; charter is based on those of turnpike roads and becomes the model for most U.S. state railroad charters. (PL)
- Feb. 11, 1815 Couriers bringing Treaty of Ghent arrive in New York, touching off peace celebration. (EAH)

- Feb. 15, 1815 New Brunswick Associates incorporated as New Brunswick Steamboat Ferry Company, but useless with repeal of Odgen monopoly. (Thompson)
- Feb. 17, 1815 Treaty of Ghent ratified in Washington officially ending War of 1812; difficulties in conducting military operations on New York, Pennsylvania and Northwest frontier and with British blockade give strong impetus to revival of internal improvement projects. (EAH)
- Feb. 23, 1815 Robert Fulton dies of pneumonia brought on by exposure in crossing Hudson River in open boat during storm on return from Trenton. (Philip)
- Mar. 1, 1815 Napoleon lands on French soil; army rallies to him; King Louis XVIII soon flees.
- Mar. 8, 1815 Schuylkill Navigation Company incorporated in Pa. to improve river by locks, dams and short canals from Philadelphia to coal region around present-day Pottsville; opposed by Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania, which claimed prior right to route between Philadelphia and Reading. (PL)
- Mar. 10, 1815 New Castle & Frenchtown Turnpike appoints first toll collectors at Clarkes Corners and Glasgow, Del.; agrees with John Janvier, proprietor of Union Line of stages and wagons, for unrestricted use of road for one year in return for payment equal to 6% dividend. (MB)
- Mar. 15, 1815 New Brunswick Associates dissolve; unfinished hull of steamboat *John Fitch* and teamboat *Retaliation* later sold. (Thompson)
- Mar. 1815 New York City resumes trade with West Indies, Europe and Far East.
- Mar. 1815 Steamboat *Fulton* inaugurates era of steam navigation on Long Island Sound after British blockade lifted; operated between New York and New Haven.
- Mar. 20, 1815 Napoleon enters Paris and assumes power.
- Mar. 23, 1815 Britain passes the Corn Laws, placing duties on imported grain to protect its own commercial farmers.
- Mar. 31, 1815 Seneca & Susquehanna Lock Navigation Company incorporated in N.Y. to connect Seneca Lake with Susquehanna River. (Whitford)
- May 5, 1815 J.R. Livingston compromises with Aaron Ogden and grants him a 10-year permit to operate his steamboat to New York. (Turnbull says Ogden was planning to operate a stage connection between his *Sea Horse* and the *Eagle* on the Delaware River)

- May 6, 1815 *Enterprise* leaves New Orleans for Louisville; first to ascend lower Ohio and falls at Louisville. (verify)
- May 1815 First ships arrive in New York from Britain loaded with manufactures formerly interdicted by war; Britain favors central location of New York for dumping its manufactures on starved American market; gives New York a permanent lead as main American entrepôt port; New York customs receipts for year exceed Pennsylvania and Massachusetts combined; market is soon glutted but surplus goods are sold at auction, drawing country merchants from all over U.S. looking for bargains. (Albion)
- May 17, 1815 New Castle & Frenchtown Turnpike Company asks Governor of Maryland for viewers to license portion of road from Delaware state line to Frenchtown, which is now completed. (MB - according to Scharf, not licensed until Apr. 1817)
- May 23, 1815 Steamboat *Washington* arrives in Norfolk en route to Washington, D.C.; operated under Fulton grant. (Holly)
- June 5, 1815 Alfred Kelley elected first Pres. of Village of Cleveland. (Vexler)
- June 18, 1815 Napoleon suffers final defeat at Waterloo.
- June 19, 1815 Steamboat *Eagle* arrives in Norfolk from Philadelphia via outside route under Capt. Moses Rogers; inaugurates first steamboat service between Norfolk and Baltimore a few days later. (Holly)
- June 22, 1815 Napoleon abdicates.
- July 3, 1815 Commercial treaty with Britain admits American trade with the East Indies without concessions on the West Indies. (EAH)
- July 17, 1815 After attempting to escape to America, Napoleon surrenders to the British; Napoleon is exiled to St. Helena, a remote volcanic rock in the South Atlantic, under heavy guard; many Bonapartists flee to America, including Napoleon's brother Joseph Bonaparte, the ex-King of Spain, who settles in Bordentown, N.J., and military engineers Simon Bernard and Claude Crozet, who introduce French engineering methods in America; end of war in Europe brings end to lucrative American carrying trade; U.S. turns from involvement in European affairs to internal development and sectional problems.
- July 24, 1815 Brisco & Partridge establish Elkton Line of stages and steamboats between Baltimore and Philadelphia via Elkton and Wilmington three times a week; steamboat *Vesta* on Delaware River and *Eagle* on Chesapeake Bay; driven out of business by Union Line by 1819. (Shannahan - Holly says B&P)

formed in 1817!)

- Aug. 8, 1815 Steamboat *Vesta* placed on Philadelphia-Wilmington run, connecting with stage to Elkton and steamboat *Eagle* to Baltimore. (Alexander)
- Oct. 28, 1815 Isaac Hinckley (1815-1888), future Pres. of Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad, born at Hingham, Mass.; later attends Harvard, Class of 1834. (NYT obit)
- Nov. 20, 1815 Second Treaty of Paris ends Napoleonic Wars and reduces France to her 1789 boundaries.
- Dec. 5, 1815 Pres. Madison in annual message calls for federal aid to internal improvements where of a national character and constitutional amendment authorizing same; also tentatively supports creation of a new national bank if state banks are unable to restore uniform currency. (Ward, EAH)
- Dec. 29, 1815 New steamboat *Baltimore* launched at Vaughan & Bowers, Kensington. (Walther)
- 1815 U.S. flour exports begin postwar decline of 50% and remain depressed for about 10 years.
- 1815? Steamboat *New Jersey* begins operating six times a week between Philadelphia and White Hill connecting with stages for South Amboy and New Brunswick. (Lane)
- 1815 *Enterprise* of Brownsville, Pa., built by Daniel French and captained by Henry M. Shreve, descends from Brownsville, Pa., to New Orleans in defiance of Fulton monopoly; in returning to Brownsville becomes the first steamboat to ascend the Mississippi and Ohio rivers above Natchez.
- 1815 Lawrenceville, Pa., laid out by William Barclay Foster, Sr. (PittsDir)
- 1815 Capital of Ohio moved from Chillicothe to Columbus. (or 1816?)
- Jan. 8, 1816 Rep. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina introduces bill to create a new national bank. (EAH)
- Feb. 5, 1816 Virginia creates Fund for Internal Improvement and Board of Public Works to supervise and aid construction of roads and canals; state transfers all bank stock, Patowmac Company stock and turnpike stock to fund. (PL)
- Feb. 12, 1816 Pennsylvania appoints new commissioners to clear Juniata River to Frankstown; no work done. (PaArch)
- Feb. 13, 1816 New Jersey appoints John Rutherford, John N. Simpson (d. 1832) and Dr.

- George Holcombe commissioners to survey a canal between the Raritan and Delaware. (PL - rept has 2/14)
- Mar. 18, 1816 Pittsburgh incorporated as a city. (PittsDir)
- Mar. 25, 1816 Union Canal Company Pres. Charles G. Paleske dies in Philadelphia. (Poulson's)
- Apr. 10, 1816 Congress charters Second Bank of the United States for 20 years to restore national finances after war; federal government is to hold one-fifth of \$35 million capital and receive a \$1.5 million bonus; Pres. is to name 5 of 25 directors. (EAH)
- Apr. 12, 1816 Brooklyn, N.Y., incorporated as a village. (Vexler)
- Apr. 17, 1816 New York appoints new five-man Canal Commissioner and appoints \$20,000 for surveys for Erie and Champlain Canals.
- Apr. 27, 1816 Tariff Act of 1816 passed with 25% duty for textile and iron manufactures to protect domestic industries that had enjoyed no competition during war. (EAH)
- May 30, 1816 Aaron Ogden has Thomas Gibbons arrested on the steamboat from New York over a protested note that Ogden had endorsed; a long-simmering feud between the two men breaks out into open warfare. (Lane)
- June 11, 1816 Gas Light Company of Baltimore organized; first urban gasworks in U.S. (verify - or date of first gas light?)
- June 1816 "Year without a summer" in New England and Middle Atlantic States caused by release of vast amounts of ash and dust into the Northern Hemisphere jet stream by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia in 1815, blocking sunlight; frosts and ice continue all year.
- June 18, 1816 Steamboat *Superior* launched at Philadelphia; engine by Daniel Large. (Alexander)
- July 25, 1816 Thomas Gibbons goes to Aaron Odgen's home with a horsewhip to challenge him to a duel for advising his wife and daughter in a delicate family scandal; finding him not at home, he nails a handbill to his door and publishes it in the local paper. (Lane)
- July 30, 1816 Rutherford, Simpson and Holcombe contract with John Randel, Jr., of New York to run surveys for Delaware & Raritan Canal. (Rept)
- Aug. 6, 1816 Alfred Kelley opens Commercial Bank of Lake Erie at Cleveland. (Vexler)

- Aug. 15, 1816 John Randel, Jr., begins surveys for Delaware & Raritan Canal. (Rept)
- Sep. 7, 1816 *Frontenac*, first steamboat on Great Lakes, launched at Kingston, Ont.; begins operation between Kingston, York (Toronto), and Niagara in spring of 1817.
- Oct. 1816 First sale of lots held in Terre Haute, Ind.
- Oct. 30, 1816 Herman J. Lombaert (1816-1885), future PRR VP, born in Easton, Pa. (Wilson)
- Nov. 12, 1816 Virginia Board of Public Works appoints Loammi Baldwin as first Principal Engineer. (BPW)
- Nov. 15, 1816 Board of Engineers for Fortifications established in War Dept.; although originally charged with building border and harbor forts in aftermath of War of 1812, gradually become involved in surveying and designing internal improvements. (Hill)
- Fall 1816 Capital of Ohio moved from Chillicothe to Columbus.
- Dec. 3, 1816 In last message to Congress, Pres. Madison calls for federally subsidized roads and canals, but only with a Constitutional amendment. (EAH)
- Dec. 5, 1816 In annual message, Pennsylvania Governor Simon Snyder urges construction of a canal between the upper Susquehanna and Seneca Lake in New York. (PaArch)
- Dec. 1816 New York petitions Congress for federal aid to New York canals.
- Dec. 11, 1816 Indiana enters the Union with present borders as the 19th state with capital at Corydon.
- Dec. 23, 1816 John C. Calhoun introduces bill to create a permanent federal fund for internal improvements from the \$1.5 million bonus from the Second Bank of the United States, plus any future dividends from bank stock; Calhoun justifies federal internal improvements under "general welfare" clause and power to create post roads. (EAH)
- Dec. 29, 1816 John Randel, Jr., completes survey for Delaware & Raritan Canal. (Rept)
- Winter 1816 Depression in domestic ocean shipping and textile manufacture caused by British dumping, despite tariff.
- 1816 New tariff act; fails to halt British dumping of manufactured goods.

- 1816 Bordentown & South Amboy Turnpike laid out. (Lane)
- c. 1816 Delaware River steamboat *Phoenix* scrapped; apparently never enrolled. (Heyl)
- 1816 Baltimore Union Line builds steamers *George Washington* and *Charles Carroll*. (Zerin)
- 1816 Union Line inaugurates regular coastwise sailings between New York and Philadelphia.
- 1816 Buffalo, N.Y., incorporated as a town.
- 1816 Town of Portland laid out by Connecticut settlers on Put-in (?) Bay, the largest natural harbor on Lake Erie; renamed Sandusky in 1845 (?)
- 1816 Fort Dearborn rebuilt on site of Chicago.
- 1816 Terre Haute, Ind., incorporated on site of Fort Harrison.
- Jan. 7, 1817 Second Bank of the United States opens for business in Philadelphia; is required to pay specie on demand or pay 12% penalty. (EAH has 1/1/1817 - requirement that public receipts be in specie or bank notes redeemable in specie after Feb. 20, 1817 was bill intro. by Webster; premature resumption stresses state banks and helps precipitate Panic of 1819 - under first Pres. William Jones (1760-1831), a Republican politician, the Bank was mismanaged and nearly ruined)
- Jan. 22, 1817 John Rutherford, John N. Simpson and George Holcombe report on canal surveys across New Jersey made by John Randel, Jr., of New York City; urge canal 8 feet deep for coasting vessels; find insufficient water on Assanpink/Millstone summit; suggest a level canal to a point on the Raritan east of New Brunswick; estimate of \$836,824 is beyond state's means; were counting on federal aid from Bonus Bill. (Rept, Lane)
- Feb. 5, 1817 Gas Light Company of Baltimore incorporated; first urban gas company. (Vexler)
- Feb. 17, 1817 New York Canal Commissioners report setting dimensions of Erie and Champlain Canals with combined cost of \$6 million; to be financed by \$1.5 million state loan and surplus revenues.
- Feb. 20, 1817 Banks in Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore resume specie payments under agreement with new Bank of the United States.
- Mar. 3, 1817 Outgoing President James Madison vetoes the Bonus Bill on constitutional

grounds; bill sponsored by John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay would have used the bonus and dividends from the Second Bank of the United States to fund internal improvements; bill is supported by New York, Pennsylvania (which provide nearly half the votes in favor) and Midwest and opposed in New England and the South; New York and Pennsylvania thereafter turn to state funding of internal improvements and oppose federal spending as benefiting rivals.

- Mar. 1817 *Ontario*, built under Fulton grant, launched at Sacketts Harbor; operates between Oswego, York (Toronto) and Niagara.
- Mar. 17, 1817 Eight firms and 19 individual brokers form New York Stock & Exchange Board, formalizing meetings started in 1792. (Wyckoff)
- Mar. 24, 1817 First Monongahela Navigation Company incorporated in Pa. to improve river to Virginia state line. (PL)
- Mar. 26, 1817 Herman Haupt (1817-1905), future PRR Chief Engineer and General Superintendent, born at Philadelphia; family name was then German spelling "Haupt". (Ward)
- Apr. 4, 1817 Alfred Lewis Dennis (1817-1890), future Pres. of United New Jersey Railroad & Canal Company, born in Newton, N.J. (NCAB)
- Apr. 15, 1817 New York State passes Erie Canal Bill authorizing Erie and Champlain Canals and establishes Canal Fund.
- Apr. 15, 1817 New York State passes new auction law for New York City; reduces state tax on auctions but requires tax be paid prior to sale, thus encouraging the sale of goods at any price and reinforcing New York's reputation for bargains and its dominance of the import trade; at Philadelphia auctions, in contrast, goods are usually withdrawn from sale without a tax penalty if bids deemed too low. (Albion)
- May 6, 1817 Briscoe & Partridge place *Superior* in service between Philadelphia and Wilmington under Capt. William Milnes, connecting with *New Jersey* under Capt. Moses Rogers on Chesapeake Bay. (Alexander)
- June 5, 1817 Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Transportation Company organized by Thomas Harper, et. al of Philadelphia; a group of merchants hope to equalize the cost of cartage and operate a daily wagon between the two cities; advertise for contractors to provide horses to haul wagons in 10-mile relays.
- July 1, 1817 Hugh Judge Jewett (1817-1898), future Pres. of Little Miami Railroad and of Erie Railway, born Deer Creek, Harford County, Md.; younger brother of Thomas Lightfoot Jewett. (NCAB)

- July 4, 1817 New York State breaks ground for Erie Canal at Rome, N.Y. (Whitford)
- July 1814 Briscoe & Partridge establish daily line between Philadelphia and Baltimore via Wilmington and Elkton with *Superior* and *Vesta* on Delaware and *New Jersey* and *Eagle* on Chesapeake. (Alexander)
- Sep. 3, 1817 In letter to Gov. DeWitt Clinton, Gov. Snyder notes has appointed surveyors Robert Brooke of Philadelphia and Charles Treziyulny of Bellefonte to survey Susquehanna & Seneca Canal. (PaArch)
- Sep. 1817 First steamboat on Chester River, *Surprise*, begins running between Baltimore and Miles River Ferry, near Easton, Md., via Annapolis, and to Centreville on alternate days. (Emory)
- Sep. 22, 1817 John Noble Cumming is operating stages between Aaron Ogden's *Atalanta* at Elizabethtown Point and the *Aetna* and *Pennsylvania* of the Columbian Steamboat Company on the Delaware. (Lane)
- Oct. 2, 1817 Webster Wagner (1817-1882), sleeping car inventor, born at Palatine Bridge, N.Y.
- Oct. 28, 1817 Thomas Gibbons (1757-1826), a wealthy Georgian living at Elizabethtown, N.J., and a bitter personal and political enemy of Aaron Ogden, begins operating a rival steamboat line to New York.
- Dec. 9, 1817 U.S. Senate proposes constitutional amendment to permit federal government to fund internal improvements, provided done with consent of states and funds distributed pro-rata among the states based on number of House seats. (Ward)
- Dec. 10, 1817 Michael Lieb and George F. Goodman, Democrats of Philadelphia County, introduce motion in Pennsylvania House directing Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation to investigate appropriating auction duties to finance surveys linking Delaware, Susquehanna and Allegheny Rivers and Lake Erie. (HseJrnl)
- Dec. 13, 1817 William Lehman (1779-1829), a Philadelphia wholesale druggist and Federalist Representative, and Samuel Hodgdon of Philadelphia introduce a motion in Pennsylvania House to have the Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation investigate running surveys between the Susquehanna and Allegheny Rivers. (HseJrnl)
- Dec. 17, 1817 Pennsylvania House adopts Lehman's motion, but nothing is done. (HseJrnl)

- Dec. 19, 1817 Bank of Michigan incorporated.
- 1817 John Gulick & Sons establish Common Stock Line of stages over Trenton & New Brunswick Turnpike. (Lane)
- 1817 William Findlay elected (?) Governor of Pennsylvania; first to be nominated by a state convention, which is aimed at curtailing the power of conservative caucuses in Philadelphia; conservatives spend most of Findlay's term trying to impeach him, causing deadlock on internal improvements and other issues. (SKS)
- 1817 Peter A. Karthaus builds Karthaus Furnace in Clearfield County, Pa. (SKS - verify)
- 1817 Susquehanna Canal sold at foreclosure to Samuel Serritt of Baltimore on suit of Bank of Maryland.
- 1817 Loammi Baldwin, Jr., formerly with Middlesex Canal, named first Principal Engineer of Virginia Board of Public Works.
- 1817 John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company establishes a trading post on Mackinac Island.
- 1817 Town of Port Lawrence laid out near present-day Toledo, Ohio.
- 1817 The *Pike* is the first steamboat to arrive at St. Louis.
- Jan. 1, 1818 Lewisburg Bridge over West Branch of Susquehanna opens; built by Reuben Fields. (C&C - has ca. 1/1)
- Jan. 2, 1818 Jeffersonville Ohio Canal Company incorporated in Indiana to build canal around the Falls of Ohio. (PL)
- Jan. 4, 1818 *Courier* leaves Liverpool for New York, inaugurating monthly sailings of the Black Ball Line, the first regularly scheduled trans-Atlantic packet service; *James Madison* makes first eastbound departure from New York on Jan. 5. (Albion)
- Jan. 30, 1818 Kentucky Ohio Canal Company incorporated in Kentucky to build canal around the Falls of Ohio. (PL)
- Jan. 31, 1818 Robert Brooke and Charles Treziyulney make report on canal from present-day Elmira to Seneca Lake; estimate cost at \$583,300; presented to Pa. House on Feb. 7. (HseJrnl)
- Feb. 4, 1818 Cortlandt Street ferry *York* leaves Paulus Hook with 30 passengers and 3

wagons during severe winter storm; nearly blown out to sea; finally reaches Manhattan at 4:00 AM next day. (HC)

- Feb. 7, 1818 York & Jersey Steam-Boat Ferry Company incorporated in New Jersey for the Paulus Hook-Cortlandt Street run for 12 years from May 1. (PL)
- Feb. 7, 1818 William Lehman and Samuel Hodgdon of Philadelphia introduce motion in Pennsylvania House for the Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation to bring in bill for appointment of a board of commissioners to explore for a canal and receive proposals for making ascending and descending navigations on various rivers, particularly for canals linking the Delaware River with Lake Erie by means of canals, inclined planes, turnpikes or railroads; first call for a transmontane canal and a commission equal to New York's or Virginia's. (HseJrnl)
- Feb. 11, 1818 New Jersey passes act to create a fund for the improvement of internal navigation based on a tax on steamboat passengers. (PL)
- Feb. 11, 1818 Maryland passes act legalizing 1817 foreclosure sale of Susquehanna Canal and ordering purchaser to relinquish it for resale. (PL)
- Feb. 23, 1818 William Lehman's motion for a Board on Internal Improvement Commissioners postponed indefinitely by House Democrats. (HseJrnl)
- Mar. 23, 1818 Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Transportation Company obtains charter of incorporation from Pennsylvania; firm fails in wake of Panic of 1819 unable to pay all creditors; failures of this type help turn Pennsylvanians against corporate charters and limited liability for manufacturing and trading enterprises but not for internal improvement projects.
- Mar. 23, 1818 Pennsylvania declares Bennetts Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek as public highway. (PL)
- Mar. 26, 1818 U.S. Senate tables proposed constitutional amendment for federal funding of internal improvements by 22-9. (Ward)
- Apr. 1818 U.S. House passes resolution directing Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, then a nationalist and a leading proponent of economic development, to prepare a report on the subject of roads and canals. (Ward)
- Apr. 18, 1818 Illinois Enabling Act adds all of Wisconsin and Minnesota to Michigan Territory.
- Apr. 20, 1818 Tariff Act of 1818 extends 25% duty on cottons and woollens to 1826 instead of 1819. (EAH)

- May 28, 1818 *Walk-in-the-Water*, first steamboat on upper Great Lakes, launched at Black Rock near Buffalo by Lake Erie Steamboat Company.
- June 14, 1818 First boat passes locks on Seneca River at Seneca Falls built by Seneca Lock Navigation Company, incorporated on Apr. 6, 1813. (Whitford)
- June 26, 1818 Thomas Gibbons hires Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), a boatman from Staten Island, as his steamboat captain in his war with Aaron Ogden and John R. Livingston. (Lane)
- c. July 1818 Crisis at Bank of the United States: Baltimore Branch fails.
- July 1818 Thomas Moore (d. 1822) named Principal Engineer of Virginia Board of Public Works, replacing Loammi Baldwin, resigned. (BPW)
- Aug. 1, 1818? National Road completed between Cumberland, Md., and Wheeling, Va. (some parts still being worked on in 1819!)
- Aug. 1, 1818 Meeting held in Exchange Coffee House in Washington for purpose of promoting the formation of a steamboat line between Washington and Norfolk. (NatIntlgncr)
- Aug. 23, 1818 *Walk-in-the-Water* leaves Buffalo on first trip to Detroit.
- Aug. 25, 1818 *Walk-in-the-Water* arrives at Detroit.
- ca. Aug. 1818 Rapid price deflation occurs in West.
- Oct. 1818 New Purchase in Indiana; Miami, Kickapoo, Potowatomi, Wea and Delaware sell remaining lands south of the Wabash-Maumee line, plus a strip north of the Wabash between the Tippecanoe and Vermillion Rivers, and leave the state.
- Oct. 12, 1818 Future transportation entrepreneur and Lines West VP William Thaw (1818-1889) born at Pittsburgh, son of banker John Thaw. (Mem)
- Oct. 20, 1818 Aaron Ogden secures injunction against Thomas Gibbons's operations of steamboats *Stoudinger* and *Bellona* into New York City from New York Court of Chancery; Gibbons and Vanderbilt defy the injunction by a variety of subterfuges, including secret hiding places built into the ship. (Lane)
- Nov. 5, 1818 Cincinnati banks suspend specie payments. (Vexler)
- Dec. 3, 1818 In annual message, Pennsylvania Governor William Findlay makes first gubernatorial appeal for a statewide system of internal improvements since the 1790s; includes links between the Delaware and Susquehanna, the

Susquehanna and the Allegheny, the Juniata and Conemaugh, the Allegheny and Lake Erie, and a canal between the Susquehanna and Potomac via Conococheague Creek; notes state can't afford construction but suggests a small appropriation for surveys; also suggests a fund to buy up stock of private canal and turnpike companies for state. (PaArch)

- Dec. 3, 1818 Illinois enters the Union as the 21st state.
- Dec. 4, 1818 William Lehman and John Purdon, Federalists of Philadelphia, again introduce motion in Pennsylvania House calling for Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation to report a bill creating a Board of Internal Improvement Commissioners. (HseJrnl)
- Dec. 12, 1818 On second reading, Lehman's motion amended to have Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation merely "enquire into the expediency" of acting, rather than acting. (HseJrnl)
- Dec. 1818 Thomas Gibbons secures rights from Gov. Daniel D. Tompkins, who has a Livingston grant to operate steamboat *Nautilus* between New York and Staten Island to carry his passengers from New Brunswick into New York City. (Lane)
- 1818 Pioneer New York ferryboat *Jersey* scrapped and replaced by *New Jersey*; hull timber used for stable on Greene Street, Jersey City. (HC)
- 1818 Livingstons place new steamboat *Olive Branch* in service with *Rariton* on New Brunswick run. (Heyl)
- 1818 John Potter, a Scotch-Irish merchant, emigrates to Charleston, S.C., where he amasses a fortune later invested in Delaware & Raritan Canal. (Watkins - verify)
- 1818 Joseph Lyon & Sons of New York take over operation of northern leg of stages formerly operated by John Noble Cumming as the Citizen's Line. (Lane)
- 1818 William T. Stockton of Philadelphia, proprietor of Philadelphia-Baltimore stages and a former partner of John Noble Cumming, establishes Columbian Post Chaise Line over turnpike between Bordentown and South Amboy; connects with Livingston's *Swift* and *Olive Branch* on Raritan and with *Pennsylvania* at Bordentown. (Lane)
- 1818 Lancaster, Elizabethtown & Middletown Turnpike and Middletown & Harrisburg Turnpike complete chain of turnpikes between Lancaster and Harrisburg.

- 1818 John Stevens publishes *Hints on the Expediency of a Rail Road from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh*.
- 1818 Samuel Breck, a Pennsylvania State Senator, publishes *Sketch of Internal Improvements already made by Pennsylvania* urging construction of canal between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to meet competition of New York and Baltimore.
- 1818? Thomas Pim Cope, a Philadelphia merchant and later one of founders of the PRR, inaugurates first regular monthly packet line between Philadelphia and Liverpool. (Albion has 1821!!); in contrast to New York, Philadelphia sustains only this single line.
- 1818 Tramroad built at Bradys Bend Iron Works on Allegheny River. (SKS - verify)
- 1818 Heirs of Fulton and Livingston drop all attempts to defend their monopoly grant from Louisiana, opening western rivers to unlimited steam navigation.
- 1818 West Point Foundry established at Cold Spring, N.Y., across the Hudson from West Point; serves as main U.S. manufacturer of artillery and ordnance and later a pioneer builder of locomotives.
- 1818 Tramroad built at Bear Creek Furnace, Armstrong County, Pa.
- 1818 Last Indian titles cleared from Ohio, particularly northwestern part.
- 1818 Adjoining villages of Smithville and Coxborough, Ind., consolidated and incorporated as town of Richmond.
- 1818 U.S. builds road from Detroit via Monroe to rapids of the Maumee River.
- Jan. 8, 1819 Gov. ___ of Ohio in annual message calls for canal between Lake Erie and Ohio River.
- Jan. 12, 1819 In Pennsylvania House, William Lehman, from the Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation, reports a bill calling for the appointment of a Board of Internal Improvement Commissioners and pledging state funds for internal improvements. (HseJrnl)
- Jan. 14, 1819 Secretary of War John C. Calhoun issues *Report on Roads & Canals*; urges federally-funded chain of canals to provide protected navigation along east coast; proposes direct federal involvement through use of Army Engineer Corps; actions blocked by Panic of 1819. (Ward, NASP)
- Jan. 15, 1819 Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania petitions Legislature for \$500,000

subscription, which fails of passage. (AR)

- Jan. 29, 1819 Legislature authorizes Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania to issue \$500,000 in new stock without state subscription; no offers. (AR)
- Feb. 2, 1819 Led by Chief Justice John Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court rules in Dartmouth College Case that corporate charters fall under sanctity of contracts clause of the Constitution and may not be unilaterally abrogated by state legislatures. (EAH)
- Feb. 5, 1819 Cincinnati incorporated as a city.
- Feb. 12, 1819 New Jersey grants John Stevens, Robert L. Stevens and James A. Stevens, proprietors of steamboat *Philadelphia* authority to remove obstructions in Delaware River three miles below Trenton, creating channel 60 feet wide and 4 feet deep, along with exclusive right to transport passengers by steamboat over this section. (PL)
- Mar. 2, 1819 Illinois grants Samuel Wiggins special rights to operate a ferry across the Mississippi from points opposite St. Louis. (Church)
- Mar. 5, 1819 Pennsylvania House, on motion of Richard Coulter of Westmoreland and James Patterson, Jr., of Lancaster, votes 56-33 to postpone Lehman's bill indefinitely; this ends the attempt to form a New York style Board of Commissioners for five years, during which Pennsylvania falls further and further behind; Lehman continues to press for internal improvements, but focus shifts to grab-bag bills in which each section is given something in return for its votes; this policy gives Pennsylvania a system of roads and turnpikes and primitive river clearings, but prevents concentration of capital for expensive projects like canals. (HseJrnl)
- Mar. 6, 1819 In *McCulloch vs. Maryland*, Chief Justice John Marshall rules that Second Bank of the United States is constitutional, and state laws to tax or regulate it are null and void. (EAH)
- Mar. 29, 1819 Pennsylvania guarantees 6% dividend to purchasers of new Union Canal Company stock; Union Canal lottery proceeds are pledged to pay the 6% dividend; must begin work within three years or face revocation of charter. (PL)
- Apr. 3, 1819 Monongahela Navigation Company receives letters patent. (PaArch)
- Apr. 7, 1819 New York act authorizes construction of Eastern and Western Divisions of Erie Canal. (Whitford)
- Apr. 13, 1819 New York act accepts gift of Holland Land Company of 100,632 acres in

Cattaraugus County to help finance Erie Canal. (Whitford)

- May 1819 City Bank of Baltimore fails as a result of its speculation in Bank of the United States stock; in following panic, about 100 businesses fail, including Buchanan & Smith, composed of James A. Buchanan, Pres. of Baltimore branch of BUS, and his cousin Samuel Smith; BUS Cashier James W. McCulloh, Buchanan and George Williams had appropriated \$4.5 million in bank stock and \$1.4 million in unsecured loans to finance their speculations; Buchanan and McCulloh were later acquitted of conspiracy. (Dilts)
- May 17, 1819 Union Canal of Pennsylvania opens books for new subscription; remain open for ten days without subscribers, so turn to lottery.
- May 24, 1819 *Savannah*, first steamboat to cross the Atlantic, arrives in Liverpool after 27-day crossing from Savannah: relies on sail most of the way and is not a commercial success.
- June 15, 1819 John Gulick and partners quarrel with former partner ___ Letson over use of name "Union Line"; Letson had started a rival line of stages to run between *Philadelphia* at Bristol and Gibbons's *Bellona* at New Brunswick; Gulick connected the *Philadelphia* at Trenton with J.R. Livingston's *Olive Branch* at New Brunswick; eventually, Gulick was forced to adopt name of "New Union Line". (Lane)
- June 1819 Steamboat *Maryland* begins regular trips between Baltimore and Easton, via Annapolis. (Emory)
- June 21, 1819 Governor of Susquehanna Canal Company in Maryland responds to Pennsylvania complaints that its wing dam obstructs navigation; notes extends only a short distance into river and have built an ark channel along the east bank; dam is underwater when river is high and river is not navigable when water is low.
- Summer 1819 Commissioners appointed by Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky examine Ohio River above Louisville to suggest navigation improvements; no further action taken by states.
- Summer 1819 Summer steamboat service between Philadelphia and Cape May begins with *Vesta* making two trips per week. (Alexander)
- July? 1819 Thomas Gibbons begins (?) running new steamboat *Bellona* between New York and New Brunswick with Cornelius Vanderbilt as captain; saves over one hour and 50% fare over Aaron Ogden's *Olive Branch*. (Thompson - verify not earlier - see Lane)
- July 7, 1819 George Weems begins operating steamboat *Surprise* from Baltimore to

Patuxent River landings. (Holly)

- July 1819 Kickapoo cede lands south and east of the Illinois and Kaskaskia Rivers.
- Aug. 16, 1819 Manchester Yeomanry, a mounted militia unit of the gentry, ride down a peaceful protest meeting of 60,000 at St. Peters Fields outside the city; protesters were demanding electoral reform and repeal of the Corn Laws; 9 men and 2 women killed and 600 injured in what becomes known as the Peterloo Massacre.
- Aug. 26, 1817 Steamboat *Eagle* sold to Briscoe & Partridge who establish opposition line between Baltimore and Philadelphia. (Holly - or 1815? see Burgess)
- Fall? 1819 Thomas Gibbons sues Aaron Ogden in the New York Court of Chancery, challenging his steamboat monopoly grant on constitutional grounds, thus beginning the landmark case of Gibbons vs. Ogden. (Lane)
- Sep. 1819 First sale of lots at Vandalia, Ill., laid out on the Kaskaskia River.
- Sep. 30, 1819 Pennsylvania subscribes \$30,000 to Monongahela Navigation Company. (PaArch)
- Oct. 6, 1819 New York Chancellor James Kent finds for Ogden in first phase of Gibbons vs. Ogden, holding Federal coasting license only imparts an American character to a vessel and conveys no operating rights. (Lane)
- Oct. 22, 1819 First boat, *Chief Engineer* designed by Canvass White, passes from Rome to Utica opening first section of Erie Canal. (Whitford)
- Nov. 24, 1819 Champlain Canal opens. (fully navigable but not complete)
- Dec. 10, 1819 In annual message, Pennsylvania Gov. Findlay again recommends the creation of a board to make canal and road surveys. (PaArch)
- Dec. 17, 1819 In Pennsylvania House, Abraham Baily and Joshua Hunt of Chester County, introduce motion of Committee on Roads & Inland Navigation to bring in bill for canal surveys between the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers via the Great Valley and Lancaster. (HseJrnl)
- Dec. 17, 1819 Simon Bolivar proclaims an independent Republic of Colombia; British investment soon flows into the new Latin American republics as an alternative to the U.S.
- 1819 Late in year, John Gulick & Sons join William T. Stockton's Columbian Post Chaise Line; offer service on Trenton-New Brunswick as well as Bordentown-South Amboy route. (Lane)

- 1819 Downingtown, Ephrata & Harrisburg Turnpike completed, opening a second improved route between Philadelphia and Harrisburg (now U.S. 322).
- 1819 York & Gettysburg Turnpike opens.
- 1819 Hother Hagé (1800-1872), future civil engineer, arrives in U.S. from Denmark and settles in Clearfield County, Pa., on a tract bought for him by his father. (BioDauphin)
- 1819 Huntingdon, Cambria & Indiana Turnpike completed between Huntingdon and ____? (U.S. 22); passes through Blair's Gap, later occupied by Allegheny Portage Railroad.
- 1819 Potowmack Company ceases active operations, having expended over \$700,000 and accumulated a \$170,000 debt.
- 1819 Thomas S. Clarke (1801-1867) joins forwarding house of Knox & McKee at Wheeling. (StdHstPitts)
- 1819 *General Pike*, first steam packet on western rivers, begins operating between Louisville, Cincinnati and Maysville on Ohio River.
- 1819 At Treaty of Sangamo, Chippewas cede central and northeastern Michigan.
- 1819 Langdon Cheves (1776-1857) of South Carolina assumes presidency of Second Bank of the United States and begins a conservative policy. (EAH)