

# CENTENNIAL OF THE CLERMONT

## Robert Fulton, a Pennsylvania genius, first steamed his boat up the Hudson, August 7, 1807. Practically the beginning of modern steam navigation.

Philadelphia—While New Yorkers were celebrating over the centennial of the historic journey of Robert Fulton's steamboat *Clermont*, which made the trip from New York city to Albany under her own steam, on August 7, 1807, Pennsylvania, have a more than ordinary interest in the honors to be paid to the inventor, for he was a son of this commonwealth, and it was here that he obtained his first ideas of a method of propelling boats by the use of steam.

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**Projects Before Fulton's.**  
More than 100 years before Fulton began his experiments upon the *Clermont*, the idea had been possessed by others in other parts of the world. In 1690 Philip de Kameke proposed the use of a steam engine for the propulsion of a boat. The first boat to be propelled by steam, was exactly a century before the *Clermont* made its famous run. The inventor actually constructed such a boat, which he used on the river at Caswell. The boat was of rude construction, and the method of propulsion consisted of raising water by means of a steam pump, which was then applied to a water wheel and drew a set of paddles on the invention shaft. What intrusions and accidents might have had upon the completion of the world will never be known, for it was not allowed to proceed, being destroyed by some ignorant fanatic.

In the century which intervened there was considerable talk of applying the steam engine to the use of boats. Nothing came of it in a practical way until an American followed the way. The first of these pioneers was also a Pennsylvanian—William Henry, a native of Chester county, at the time of his experiments, captain of Lancaster county. About 1762 Henry, who had just returned from a visit to England, took up the subject of a steamboat. He considered the small boat, or rather attached an engine to an old barge. This consisted of a pair of paddles, and with this primitive contrivance he boldly essayed to steam down the Schuylkill river. From what can be learned of the attempt, it was far from being successful, but it was the first time a boat was sunk, and the steerman was able to wait another quarter of a century before it was to be given practical shape.

**Distinction Due Fitch.**  
This time it was a resident of Philadelphia, John Fitch, who from all appearances lacked only support to be known for all time as the man to whom modern steam navigation was due. Fitch had an adventurous career. He was born in Connecticut. At the time of the revolution he was a watchmaker at Trenton, but the British destroyed his stock and he is

wonders that the system devised by Carle C. Hungerford of the railway mail service is employed.

"The weighing of the mails for the purpose of ascertaining the weight of a new departure," said Mr. Hungerford. "That was part of the old system. The mail weighers have always received the weight of the mail taken on at each station on the route, and also the weight put off. Another card records the weight of the return of the mail to the same points.

"This process of daily weighing is kept up for 90 days, and the totals made up at the end of each week and the end of the whole period. Formerly each day's report was entered by the clerks on a large tabulated sheet, but now it is done on two trains, on a long run for the period of 90 days took up 13 of these large sheets.

"The work kept 25 men busy in the Chicago headquarters during the time

"The clerks in the middle of the column make the dividing line between the columns for mail put off of the train and the weight put on at each station. The weighing period the totals for the various weeks are footed on the machine.

"We can do the work with half the clerks that were used for the first three months to finish the reports after the weighing closes. Herebefore we had to keep 25 men at work, now half the number can do the work."

something of a genius. It is told of him that at the age of ten years he had made for himself his own lead pencil. The work was crude, but of course, but at that time they were nearly as good as could be purchased. At 14 he devised a skyrocket, and had invented an airplane. His biographers say that it was at this time that the idea of steam propulsion for vessels first took possession of him, and that he actually made a model of a boat that could be propelled by means of paddles.

**Experiments on the Hudson.**  
After he went to England, where he studied painting, in which art the numerous examples of his work extant show him to have been proficient, he went to France. There he became busy on a plan for steam navigation, which he succeeded in getting presented to the first consul; but the French government was too much preoccupied to pay much attention to the young American's representations. A friendship, however, most important for the future of steam navigation, sprang up between Fulton and his minister to France, Robert R. Livingston, formerly chancellor of the state of New York. Livingston had become interested in steam, and had built a vessel and made experiments on the Hudson. In 1793 the New York legislature gave him a monopoly of navigating the waters of New York by steam, provided that within one year he should propel by steam a vessel of 20 tons weight in an hour. This he failed to do, but his interest in the problem never flagged. The two men formed a partnership and made an experiment on the Seine which, however, proved a failure. Then they decided to make experiments on the Hudson, and the New York legislature granted another potential monopoly similar to that granted to Livingston.

Another vessel was built at a shipyard on the same river, according to plans carefully worked out by Fulton. A new exhibit will be that of lightning rods. Two concerns will show by static machines, the use of lightning rods. Two concerns will show by static machines, the use of lightning rods, and how to prevent damage from same.

**THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.**  
The recent tragic episode of "Mt. Vesuvius" which has been chosen by Henry J. Park, the famous prophetic seer, for the theme of his new operatic spectacle, will be seen every evening at the State Fair.

**MEMORIAL TO FULTON.**  
The task of erecting an adequate monument to commemorate the centennial of the birth of the inventor is in the hands of an association of public-spirited men, incorporated under the laws of New York, known as the Robert Fulton Memorial association. The association has determined that the monument shall take the form of a water gate and mansion on the west end of the Hudson and Sixty-ninth street and the Hudson river. A bill has been passed by the legislature making the necessary grant of land. It is intended to provide a place where distinguished foreign visitors to our shores may be stingly received by the municipal authorities, and yet the State Park Service will be broken on the next anniversary of Fulton's birthday, November 14.

**WEIGH MAIL ON CARS.**  
Done Every Four Years as a Basis for Railroad Contracts.

"The railroads are paid for carrying the mails on the basis of a contract running four years. Once during this period additional mail is put on the mail cars, whose duty it is to weigh the mail received and delivered at each station.

**THE OLD WAY TO SAW WOOD.**  
Means hard work—does the "old way" of sawing wood is being replaced by the new way. It is simpler, it is applied like paint, it won't rub, or wash, off and each application wears months.

**KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS.**  
WITH Dr. King's New Discovery FOR COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS AND ALL THROAT AFFECTIONS. GUARANTEED SATISFACTORY OR MONEY REFUNDED.

**The Best Laxative for Children.**  
Parents should note that this medicine is not a cathartic, it does not irritate the bowels, and it does not produce the griping, colic, or any other of the many evils which are the result of the use of the many so-called laxatives.

**FOLEY'S HONEY-CATHARTIC**  
—children safe, sure, no nausea.

**NEW EXHIBITS FOR STATE FAIR.**  
Machinery and Implement Department Will Be a Hummer.

**PROSPECTS VERY ENCOURAGING.**  
Never in the history of the Michigan State Fair, which extends over a period of fifty-eight years, were there more entries made by the time the fair opens than at this year. It is estimated that four weeks in advance of the first day. The indications are that the number of entries will be doubled, and the perplexing problem is how to see that each exhibitor has a place. Exhibitors will have to content themselves with less space than one year ago.

**THE CHURCHES.**  
ST. JAMES—Rev. W. Thornberry, pastor, Sunday school at 2 1/2 p. m. Prayer service 7:30 p. m. For further particulars consult pastor.

**Heart Strength.**  
Heart strength, or Heart Weakness, is a disease which is becoming more prevalent in our times. It is a disease which is becoming more prevalent in our times. It is a disease which is becoming more prevalent in our times. It is a disease which is becoming more prevalent in our times.

**Dr. Shoop's Restorative**  
CHARLES J. SHAIN.

**FOR SALE**  
I have for sale at all times New and Second-hand Buggies. A Bargain can be had at any time.

**Livery Stable**  
I can furnish you at all times Single and Double Rigs, up to date, and price right.

**Ed A. Parks**  
Birmingham, Mich.

**Do You Intend to Build?**  
If so, consult

**G. Wm. Cray**  
Contractor and Builder

**ESTIMATES FURNISHED**  
Ideal Cement Bldg. Blocks  
Birmingham, Mich.

**The Old Way to Saw Wood**  
Means hard work—does the "old way" of sawing wood is being replaced by the new way. It is simpler, it is applied like paint, it won't rub, or wash, off and each application wears months.

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**FOLEY'S HONEY-CATHARTIC**  
—children safe, sure, no nausea.

If the Danish herb tablets prove a success, prohibition may do its worst. For the man with a thirst will go about with a song in his head, and at the longest as a large section of the human race wears wet socks.

**EXCURSION TO TORONTO**  
via Grand Truck Railway System.

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**DR. KING'S**  
A PROMPT, EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR ALL FORMS OF RHEUMATISM.

**GIVES QUICK RELIEF.**  
Almost instantly it affords relief in all cases of rheumatism, relieved from pain, while permanent results being effected by its use.

**DR. C. L. GATES**  
Remedy, Minn., system

**FREE**  
If you are suffering with Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Gout, etc., write to us for a TRIAL BOTTLE OF "DR. KING'S"

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**FENWICK'S Lunch Parlors**  
99 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

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