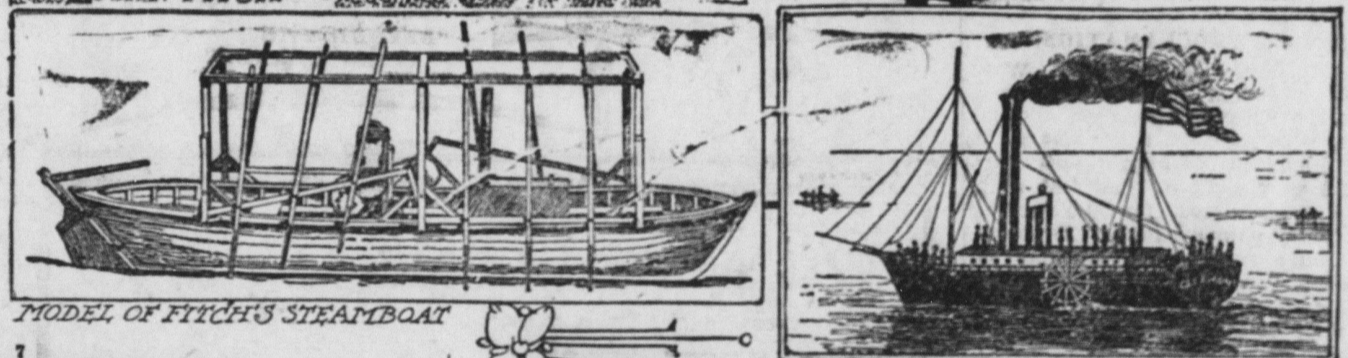


# Who "Invented" the Steamboat?



**W**HO "invented" the steamboat? Ask ten Americans that question and the chances are that nine out of the ten, remembering a few outstanding names in their school histories, will answer "Robert Fulton," thereby proving once more what a strange jumble of fact and fiction is the average American's conception of the history of his country. For the question of who deserves credit for "inventing" the steamboat has recently started another of those controversies over historical matters, which sometimes results in clearing up certain disputed points in the annals of our nation. More often it does not, principally because the partisans never seem able to agree upon a strict definition of terms, without which it is virtually impossible to settle such disputes conclusively.

In this particular case the word "inventor" is the crux of the situation. While popular opinion accords that distinction to Robert Fulton, and in 1900 he was elected to the Hall of Fame at New York university as "the inventor of the steamboat," being the first inventor and the ninth American chosen to membership among "America's Immortals," his right to that title has been challenged on behalf of no less than eight other Americans. Outstanding among these claimants is that of Lieut. John Fitch, who, it is asserted, made a successful trip on the Delaware river in a steamboat which he had designed more than 20 years before Fulton's historic voyage up the Hudson in the Clermont.

Fitch's right to the title of "inventor" is supported by his descendants who are members of the Fitch Family association. They have nominated his name for inclusion in the Hall of Fame at New York university with the demand that either the name and bust of Fulton be removed or that those of Fitch be added. They are planning a nation-wide celebration in 1935 to mark the one hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of "the invention of the steamboat by Fitch in 1785," and they ask that this celebration be given recognition by the government and that public agencies and national patriotic societies co-operate in it as they did in the Hudson-Fulton celebration of 1907.

In 1788 Fitch completed his first commercial boat for carrying passengers, and it was driven in a similar manner. This boat was 60 feet long and 8 feet wide. She made a trip from Philadelphia to Burlington, about 20 miles, in July, 1788, the longest ever made by any steamboat up to that date. October 12, 1788, the boat took 30 passengers from Philadelphia to Burlington in 3 hours and 10 minutes, a speed of over six miles an hour. In 1790 Fitch built another boat which attained a speed of eight miles an hour and continued to run on the Delaware river, carrying passengers and freight, for three or four months.

They base their contention that Fitch rather than Fulton was the "inventor" of the steamboat upon certain official acts of the government, the chief one being that both houses of congress by a unanimous vote, approved on February 12, 1820, an appropriation of \$15,000 for a suitable monument to Fitch as "the first in the world's history to successfully apply steam propulsion of vessels through water." This memorial was unveiled May 27, 1927, in the public square in Bardonia, Ky., where Fitch died July 2, 1798, in poverty and despair of proving to an unbelieving world the practical value of a steamboat.

Of these labels, the one on Fitch's model is the only one which uses words "successful public trial." If, then, a "successful public trial" is proof of "invention," it would seem that there is no doubt as to the right of Fitch to be given the title of "inventor of the steamboat." However, there are those whose definition of "invention" is a vastly different one and they assert that no one person can claim the credit for the invention of the steamboat.

They point out, too, that the labels on the models of steamboats in the Smithsonian institution bears out their contention that he was the "inventor." These labels read as follows:

Of the other "inventors" of the steamboat, the volume "The March of Commerce" by Malcolm Keir in the Yale University Press, "Pageant of America," has this to say:

"Samuel Morey of New Hampshire, who began experimenting with a steamboat in 1790, built a paddle-wheel steamer which in 1794 ran from Hartford to New York at a speed of about 15 miles an hour. This boat had the paddle wheel at the stern. A later boat of Morey's, built at Bordentown on the Delaware, was operated with two side paddle wheels. Others who were seized with the 'steam mania,' as it was derisively called at the time, were William Longstreet of New Jersey, whose boat made five miles an hour against the current of the Savannah river in 1790, and Elijah Ormsbee of Connecticut, who made paddles to imitate ducks' feet and operated them by steam in a boat that he nav-

(© by Western Newspaper Union.)



### A Few Little Smiles

**LOOKED QUEER**

The Bride (Indignantly)—I never was so embarrassed in my life!  
The Groom—Why, whassa matter, dearie?  
The Bride—All through the wedding ceremony you had your eyes glued on the side door marked "Exit," and the best man actually started two or three times to grab you as if he thought you were going to make a dash for it.



### AN ACCIDENT

He—"Did that girl who was so determined to marry George get him?"  
She—"No, she did not." He—"Did he die of accident or disease?"

**From a Rear Seat**

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
On the vaudeville stage afar!  
I wonder how you'd look if I,  
With glasses up, were sitting nigh?

**Carry On**

Pat, who was moving, had asked one or two of his friends to carry his chicken-house round for him.  
They found this a very strenuous job, but struggled on. About halfway they set the coop down to have a rest when one of them suddenly exclaimed: "Why, where's Pat?"  
"I'm all right," came a voice from inside the house, "I'm carrying the perches."—Exchange.

**Godspeed!**

"Let me take \$10 will you? I left my wallet at home."  
"Sorry, but I can't. I'll put you in the way of getting it, though."  
"Thanks, how?"  
"Here's a dime for carfare. Run home and get your wallet."

**Education Something Fierce**

"Why did you leave your last place?" asked the mistress of a fashionable home of the prospective negro maid.  
"Dey was too highbrow for me," she answered. "Dey was always fightin' an' fussin', an' it sho' kept me busy runnin' from de keyhole to de dictionary, so Ah got mad an' quit."

**Nerve**

"What's this extra charge for oil?" demanded the motorist.  
"That's for the oil we left on the upholstery," explained the garage man.

**HIS OWN GAME FIRST**

She—"Do you ever give any consideration to our foreign relations?"  
He—"Can't say I do. My poor relations get all I have to give."

**Economics**

The old experience comes again  
To all the conscientious lands,  
With many striving to explain  
What no one clearly understands.

**Even Split**

Angry Mistress—"In the time it takes me to tell you to do the work, I could do it myself."  
Housemaid—"Yes'm, and in the time it takes me to listen to you, so could I."

**Foolish Chance to Take**

"George was killed going to pay a debt."  
"There! That is what comes of wanting to pay one's debts."—Stray Stories.

**Education's Costs**

"Since you gave your son a car has he kept his promise to do more studying at college?"  
"I'm certain of it, because he writes home much oftener now for money for books."

**Trained Caddy**

The Collier—Loafing as usual?  
The Terrier—Nope. I gotta job. I get a pork chop just for retrieving that little ball and dropping it somewhere near the hole.

### Italy Unable to Check Movement From Villages

Italy's efforts to check the flow of population to the cities apparently have not been successful. This is especially true in the Alpine districts. The rapid depopulation there in recent years has been causing anxiety to the Italian government, which two years ago authorized the expenditure of \$100,000 upon the construction of highways, the sanitation of mountain areas and other improvements. Afforestation laws, designed to create new opportunities for woodmen in the Alps areas, were also passed. The attractions of the cities of the plains have continued, however, to prove too strong for many of the old mountaineering stock, and the fall in the population of Alpine towns and villages has not been appreciably checked. Some villages have lost from half to two-thirds of their population in less than half a century.

### Wax-Work Show Mystery

Among the wax figures at Mme. Tussaud's in London, there are many of prominent politicians of today, and in one of these an old-fashioned hat-pin was discovered embedded up to the head. It was removed, but next day two others were discovered in the same position. At one time, when those who practiced "black magic" wished to destroy anyone, they made a wax figure in his likeness and stuck pins into it. This was supposed to have the effect of unmaking the person concerned fall ill, and unless something happened to break the spell, the illness would have a fatal termination.

### Static Forecasts Favored

Static should be forecast along with weather reports for the benefit of radio fans. This was one of the ideas being offered of the International Geodetic survey's section on earth magnetism and electricity, which will be held at Stockholm, Sweden. The daily reports would include those on possible magnetic disturbances, so that the listener would know what sort of radio reception to expect.

### Premium for French Babies

The French have a sliding scale of beneficiaries for the parents of larger and better families. The first-born draws a prize of 120 francs, the second 300, and from them on a 540 a head until the total reaches an even dozen, at which time there is a general payoff bonus and everybody starts all over again. M. Desire Ferry, the minister of public health, has transmitted orders to that effect to the prefects.

### Gull Made Gift of Fish

Henry Pester was fishing in Long Island sound off Mayville, L. I. A sea gull frisked greedily about his catch. He kept chasing it away. Just to show that there were no hard feelings, the gull darted at the water, caught a one-pound weakfish, dropped it squarely in Mr. Pester's lap and flew away.

### Record for Motherhood?

Senora Leoncio Chavarria of Tuxte Gutierrez, Mexico, is supposed to be Mexico's most prolific mother. In 40 years she has borne by one husband 37 children—23 boys and 14 girls. There were 18 pairs of twins.

### Matter of Gender

Little Girl—I wonder why they say "Amen" and not "Awomen."  
Her Brother—Because they sing hymns and not hers, stupid.—London Answers.

### Especially the Blues

Clarence—Doctor Fixum says paw-paws will cure dyspepsia.  
Jack—Paw-paws will cure most anything if they have money enough.

Isn't the world rich enough to have cotton napkins that it can throw away instead of paper ones?

## Summer COLDS

Almost everybody knows how Bayer Aspirin breaks up a cold—but why not prevent it? Take a tablet or two when you first feel the cold coming on. Spare yourself the discomfort of a summer cold. Read the proven directions in every package for headaches, pain, etc.

**Wanted—Men and women** for exclusive distributing and rental rights for the Magnetic Ray, the simple safe and sure method of permanent relief from rheumatism, arthritis, lumbago, constipation, blood pressure, diabetes, menstrual pains and irregularity, and many other diseases, without medicine, diet or inconvenience. Dignified entire or part time employment. Real profits. Thos. T. Bond 22 E. 24th St., N. Y.

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**Odor-Not.** Relieves tired, aching feet. Pleasant, soothing and healing. Successfully used since 1844. Box of 12 treatments \$1. NATIONAL SERVICE. 225 Dollar Bank Bldg., Youngstown, Ohio.

**CUREX** used in cases of ECZEMA, TETTER, ITCH and other skin troubles is guaranteed to bring relief even though other treatment may have failed. Send one dollar today for prompt shipment of this healing preparation. Your money refunded without question if not satisfied.

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Removes Dandruff—Stops Hair Falling—Imparts Color and Gives Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair. 6c and 15c at drug stores. (Hilkey Chem. Works, Paterson, N. Y.)

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**DR. J.D. KELLOGG'S ASTHMA REMEDY**

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W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 32-1930.

**Patient Work on Quilt**

Mrs. Arnold Stevens, an invalid of Brockton, Mass., has completed work on a quilt made of 20,736 pieces, each cut the size of a postage stamp. There are scarcely two squares alike in the entire coverlet, which was made entirely by hand. Mrs. Arnold used 100 spools of thread in the quilt. She set herself this task a few years ago, and has worked at it intermittently. In addition to this and to other sewing she has made in this time 10 other quilts of slightly larger pieces.

**In the Same Class**

At that, a back seat driver is no worse than an arm chair housekeeper.—Arkansas Gazette.

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