

The First Railways

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1830 - The first public railway in the United States, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O), opened with 23 miles of track, with mostly hardwood rail topped with iron. The steam locomotive, Tom Thumb (locomotive), was designed and built by Peter Cooper for the B&O — the first American-built steam locomotive.

~~Timeline of railway history~~—Wikipedia

Railways existed long before steam engines were invented. From the mid-1500s onward, railways were used in some European mines to move heavy wagonloads of coal and mineral ore along tunnels. Later, others were built to carry coal from collieries (coal mines) to ships in nearby rivers and harbors.

~~First Railways | History of Railways | DK Find Out~~

The Beginnings of American Railroads and Mapping Railways were introduced in England in the seventeenth century as a way to reduce friction in moving heavily loaded wheeled vehicles. The first North American "gravity road," as it was called, was erected in 1764 for military purposes at the Niagara portage in Lewiston, New York.

~~The Beginnings of American Railroads and Mapping | History~~...

The First Modern Railways The precursors to modern trains debuted in the early 1550s in Germany with the introduction of wagonways. These primitive railed roads consisted of wooden rails over which horse-drawn wagons or carts were able to move with greater ease than over dirt roads. By the 1770s, wooden rails had been replaced with iron ones.

~~The History of Railroads: From Trackways to Hyperloop Trains~~

The quarry man's 'make-do' railroad solution was the continent's first chartered railway, first operational non-temporary railway, first well documented railroad, and first constructed railroad also meant to be permanent. It was perhaps the only railroad replaced by a canal, and also one of the first to close, and of those, perhaps is alone in reopening again in 1858.

~~Timeline of United States railway history~~—Wikipedia

The first time a railway used a true steam locomotive running on rails was the Liverpool to Manchester railway in 1830. This is probably the true landmark in rail and mirrored the route of the groundbreaking Bridgewater Canal. Indeed, the owner of the canal had opposed the railway to protect his investment.

~~The Railways in the Industrial Revolution~~

It was not until 1825, that the success of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in County Durham, England, the world's first public railway to combine locomotive power, malleable iron rails, twin tracks and other innovations such as early signalling, proto-Station buildings and rudimentary timetables in one place It proved to a national and international audience that the railways could be made profitable for passengers and general goods as well as a single commodity such as coal.

~~History of rail transport~~—Wikipedia

The first public railway in the world was the Lake Lock Rail Road, a narrow gauge railway built near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England. Although the idea of wooden-railed wagonways originated in Germany in the 16th century, the first use of steam locomotives was in Britain.

~~History of rail transport in Great Britain~~—Wikipedia

1832–1852: Industrial railways India's first railway proposals were made in Madras in 1832. The Red Hill Railway, the country's first train, ran from Red Hills to Chintadripet bridge in Madras in 1837. It was hauled by a rotary steam-engine locomotive manufactured by William Avery.

~~History of rail transport in India~~—Wikipedia

The Liverpool and Manchester Railway, which opened in 1830, was the first modern railroad. It was a public carrier of both passengers and freight. By 1870 Britain had about 13,500 miles (21,700 km) of railroad. At the system ' s greatest extent, in 1914, there were about 20,000 miles (32,000 km) of track, run by 120 competing companies.

~~British Railways | History & Facts | Britannica~~

From my point of view this is fine as the first American railroads were opened in the 1820s and 30s whereas European railways were mainly later. Looking in more detail at a couple of the chapters which describe the process of planning early railways may give a flavour of the book's contents.

~~The First Railways: Amazon.co.uk: Hayes, Derek, Times~~...

The location of Vermont ' s early railroads helped determine where communities formed. Above, a shunting engine, used to move train cars within a rail yard, sits in the rail yard at Island Pond in ...

~~Then Again: How early railroad competition shaped today ' s~~...

The First Railways The first passenger-carrying railway in the UK was the Swansea and Mumbles railway. This was opened in 1807 but, unlike today ' s railways, didn ' t use big locomotives! Instead, a horse drew carriages along an existing tramline.

~~Discover the early history of Britain's railways: What was~~...

A good wagonway named " Diolkos " was built in 600 BC using the idea of the wagonway train and is considered as the first railway in the railway history. The wagonways started to disappear from Europe with the fall of Greece rule.

~~Who Invented the First Train in the World~~...

George Stephenson built the first railway in 1825 after a number of years working specifically with locomotives for coal transport. In the same year, Colonel John Stevens designed the first American locomotive. His sons, Edwin and Robert Stevens, later developed the first American commercial railroad.

~~Who Invented the First Railway?~~—Reference.com

The first true railway built in Canada was the Champlain and Saint Lawrence Railroad from La Prairie on the St. Lawrence River to St. Johns on the Richelieu River (now Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu). Backed by John Molson and other Montreal merchants, the line opened officially on 21 July 1836.

~~Railway History in Canada | The Canadian Encyclopedia~~

But it is North East England that is known as the birthplace of railways for here, around Newcastle, the world ' s first tramways were laid and, later, the world ' s first public railway between Stockton and Darlington steamed into life.

~~The History of Steam Trains and Railways~~—Historic UK

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