

Early Post Roads in Eastern Pennsylvania.

An itinerary of the Post Roads established by the Postmaster General, and which were in operation in this and other localities in Eastern Pennsylvania, in 1816, is herewith presented. The mails were carried in wagons or coaches, which, in addition to the mail matter, also carried passengers and parcels, as well to increase the emoluments of the contractors as to render the community a service.

The names of the several mail stations along the way, and the distances from point to point, are of no little interest, even at this distant day. As the roads in these days generally took the most direct route, it will be noticed that the distances given in some cases are actually less than they are to-day, as traversed by the iron horse.

The first column represents the distances from point to point, and the second the distance from the starting point to the last-named point on each route mentioned. At most of the stations along the way a fresh span of horses was secured and the journey resumed with renewed vigor and speed.

The first route is that from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, beginning at the former city:

Buck	11	11
Admiral Warren	12	23
Dauringh's	10	33
Wagen & Whitaker	8	41
McClellan's	9	50
Bressler's	9	59
Lancaster Court	7	66
Cochran's Chickies	9	75

Elizabethtown	9	84
Middletown	8	92
Chambers' Ferry	6	98
Silver Spring	10	108
Carlisle	8	116
Turner's	10	126
Shippensburg	10	137
Strasburg	10	147
Skimer's	3	150
Burnt Cabbins	9	159
Littlestown	4	163
Wild's, at the foot of Sliding Hill	9	172
Crossing Juniata	10	182
Hartley's	8	190
Bedford	6	196
Bonner's	4	200

We have now reached the place called Ryan's, at the foot of the Allegheny Mountains

Stanley's	7	207
Webster's Stony Creek	8	215
Wells	9	224
Wells	9	233
Fort Ligonier	12	245
Nine Mile Run	9	254
Greensburg	10	264
Waltour	8	272
Turtle Creek	12	284
Pittsburg	12	296

The traveler having made this trip would at that time have been pretty sure to lie over a week before venturing on the return trip. To-day he would most likely return the next day, being absent not longer than forty-eight hours.

The next is the itinerary of a trip from Lancaster to Reading. The first stop is at

Benjamin Landis'	4	4
Meyers' Mill	4	4
Cocalico Bridge	1	8
Reamstown	4	17
Adamstown	4	21
Reading	11	32

Thus we have reached the point that ends this journey, and have traversed through some of the finest scenery in Lancaster and Berks counties, and enjoyed the trip.

The next journey is from Reading to Philadelphia. The first point en route is:

Drury's	7	..
Potts'	9	16
Widow Lloyd's	8	24
Perkiomen Creek	6	30
Bartle Stalls	6	36
Plymouth Meeting-house	4	40
Robin Hood	10	50
Philadelphia	4	54

We will also take a trip upon our return from Philadelphia, first going to Harrisburg, traversing the beautiful Lebanon Valley. The first station is

Reynolds'	4	...
Cockasing Creek	1	5
Conrad Weiser's	8	9
Benjamin Spiker's	3	16
F. Hatheroud's	4	20
John Gudder's	8	28
Galbraith's	13	41
Harris', on the Swatara	3	44
Harrisburg	12	56

We will take in another trip with Reading as our starting point, and go to Easton, a distance of fifty-two miles. First we reach

Perrins	6	6
De Levan's	12	18
County Line	4	22
Dachler's	6	28
Cedar Creek	6	34
West bank of the Delaware.	3	37
Bethlehem	5	42
Easton	10	52

The last trip we will take is from Philadelphia to Bethlehem, which is

rich in historic interest. First we stop with

B. Davis	16	16
Baptist Meeting-house	7	23
Housekeeper's	2	25
Swamp Meeting-house	13	38
Christopher Weigner's	9	47
Bethlehem	6	53

Thus we have taken six different trips, and have traveled 533 miles one way, and passed many interesting points in our journey through our native State. The data for this paper was taken from the Lancaster Calendar for 1816. It was published by Anton Albright, who had a book store on Prince street, two doors north of the prison, as he says on the front page of his almanac.

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