

**THE PATHS OF INLAND
COMMERCE: A
CHRONICLE OF TRAIL,
ROAD, AND WATERWAY**

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The Paths of Inland Commerce: A Chronicle of Trail, Road, and Waterway by Archer B. Hulbert

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ARCHER B. HULBERT

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THE PATHS OF INLAND COMMERCE



**CONESTOGA WAGONS ON THE NATIONAL ROAD THROUGH
PENNSYLVANIA, 1830-40**

From the painting by C. W. Jefferys

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A CHRONICLE OF
TRAIL, ROAD, AND WATERWAY
BY ARCHER B. HULBERT



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PREFACE

IF the great American novel is ever written, I hazard the guess that its plot will be woven around the theme of American transportation, for that has been the vital factor in the national development of the United States. Every problem in the building of the Republic has been, in the last analysis, a problem in transportation. The author of such a novel will find a rich fund of material in the perpetual rivalries of pack-horseman and wagoner, of riverman and canal boatman, of steamboat promoter and railway capitalist. He will find at every point the old jostling and challenging the new: pack-horsemen demolishing wagons in the early days of the Alleghany traffic; wagoners deriding Clinton's Ditch; angry boatmen anxious to ram the paddle wheels of Fulton's *Clermont*, which threatened their monopoly. Such opposition has always been an incident of progress; and even in this new country, receptive as it was to new ideas, the Washingtons, the Fitches, the Fultons, the Coopers, and

the Whitneys, who saw visions and dreamed dreams, all had to face scepticism and hostility from those whom they would serve.

A. B. H.

WORCESTER, MASS.,
June, 1919.

CONTENTS

I. THE MAN WHO CAUGHT THE VISION	Page	1
II. THE RED MAN'S TRAIL	"	14
III. THE MASTERY OF THE RIVERS	"	30
IV. A NATION ON WHEELS	"	44
V. THE FLATBOAT AGE	"	62
VI. THE PASSING SHOW OF 1800	"	81
VII. THE BIRTH OF THE STEAMBOAT	"	100
VIII. THE CONQUEST OF THE ALLEGHANJES	"	116
IX. THE DAWN OF THE IRON AGE	"	134
X. THE PATHWAY OF THE LAKES	"	154
XI. THE STEAMBOAT AND THE WEST	"	174
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	"	197
INDEX	"	208