

# american studies

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inside front cover.

**ON THE COVER:** Oliver Evans' Steam-Dredge, from an illustration printed with the permission of the Historical Society of Philadelphia. Oliver Evans (1755-1819) inaugurated the use of high-pressure steampower in the United States (parallel with Richard Trevithick, 1771-1833, in England). Evans constructed the first steam-dredging machine at a time when there were probably not more than six steam engines in the United States. His "Orukter Amphibolis," pictured on the cover, was the first steam-dredger with a bucket-chain, and was built for the Philadelphia docks. The machine's name, from the Greek, means "amphibious digger" (or "miner")—"amphibious" because it operated on land or water. In 1804, Evans fascinated Philadelphia by taking his amphibious steam-dredge on a land-trip around Philadelphia's Centre Square (site of the Water Works/ Pump House) before chugging this "Orukter Amphibolis" into the Delaware River. The illustration is from a much later newspaper clipping (from, it seems, the 1920's); the Historical Society of Philadelphia has no further information about its source. See Joseph J. Feeney's article on "modernized Philadelphia" in the novels of Charles Brockden Brown, p. 25.

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