

1880	Lee Reader moves to Sayre, AR and establishes a lumber mill
1884	St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad builds 33 mile line from Gurdon to Camden, Arkansas to connect with the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt)
1889	Sayre Narrow Gauge constructs line to move timber to the Iron Mountain connection
1891	Town of Sayre, AR established
	Town of Sayre renamed Reader
ca 1910	Reader lumber mill sold to McVay Lumber Company – line converts to standard gauge
	Reader mill burns
1913	Valley Lumber Company takes over operations – owned 3 locomotives
1921	Oil fields discovered in Waterloo, Arkansas
1924	Mansfield Hardwood Lumber Company purchases the lumber operations
8/10/1925	Reader Railroad chartered by the Mansfield Company as a common carrier
1927	ICC thwarts expansion plans to El Dorado
1936	Receiver appointed to the Reader Railroad
7/1/1956	Mansfield Company sells the Reader Railroad to Tom T.W.M. Long of Shreveport, LA
1960	1887 Whelen Springs, AR MP depot moved from Gum Springs, AR to Waterloo, AR
1961	Tri-weekly mixed train service established
1962	Reader purchases passenger cars for excursion service
12/19/1962	First scheduled passenger service for the Reader Railroad begins - \$4.50 round trip! (23.5 miles)
May 1964	2-6-2 Prairie #108 overhauled
7/3/1964	2-8-0 1702 arrives at Reader
Aug. 1964	#11 completely rebuilt at Reader shops
Sep. 1964	1702 used in the filming of <i>"This Property Is Condemned"</i> in Mississippi
4/27/1965	Only 2 nd ever grade crossing accident in 40 years of the Reader
Apr. 1965	Two ex-Rock Island commuter cars purchased #s 2534 and 2549
4/4/1966	Trains editor David Morgan christened the 1702
Spg. 1967	Combine 501 completely overhauled
1971	Movie "Boxcar Bertha" filmed on the Reader Railroad
1972	Brad Miller of Sound Bird Records in Los Angeles, CA releases LP album "Last Train to Waterloo"
12/2/1972	Last scheduled train as common carrier runs
Early 1973	Berry Asphalt Plant ceases operations
3/9/1973	ICC approves Reader abandonment
3/20/1973	Arkansas General Assembly passes bill to authorize the State Parks and Tourism Department to issue revenue bonds for the purchase of the Reader Railroad, which would be leased to a nonprofit foundation for operation as a tourist attraction. (Trains June 1973)
5/19/1973	Last run from Reader to Waterloo
June 1973	20 miles of line scrapped from Waterloo to Camp DeWoody
5/1/1975	Newly formed Reader Railroad Park Commission purchases the Reader Railroad
6/14/1975	Weekend excursions begin from Adams Crossing (Highway 368) to Camp DeWoody (Highway 24)
Oct. 1975	Trains Magazine reports the Reader "has been resurrected as a privately funded tourist operation which runs as part of Reader Railroad Park."
1976	Prairie #108 sold to the Conway Scenic Railroad in North Conway, NH
1980	Reader Railroad sold to Richard Grigsby
1985	The North and the South filmed
Aug. 1985	Consolidation #1702 sold and leased to the Fremont & Elk Horn Valley Railroad in Fremont, Nebraska
1991	Reader shut down tourist operations
3/7/1995	T.W.M. Long passed away – born 10/2/1918
Aug. 1996	Union Pacific abandons the Gurdon to Camden line
2000	Reader locomotive #4 (2 nd) used in the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou"
10/7/2002	The town of Reader deincorporated

