1891—Charles Prentice charges a fee for an eye exam, enraging a group of NY ophthalmologists who threaten to have him arrested.

March 1895—Name changed to The Optical Journal. Debut issue in this form includes an article using the word “optometry” to describe the science of refraction.

1896—American Association of Opticians (precursor to the American Optometric Association) is formed.

1895—Guglielmo Marconi invents the wireless telegraph.

1900—Bayer launches aspirin in water-soluble pill form, the first medication to use this delivery vehicle.

October 1, 1908—Ford’s Model T hits the roads.

1911—Dynamic Skiametry in Theory and Practice by Andrew Cross, an early retinoscopy text, is published.

1911—Alva Cross serves as president over the AOA congress, the first woman in a leadership role in optometry.

May 7, 1915—128 Americans killed in a German attack on the British liner The Lusitania.

April 6, 1917—US declares war on Germany.

1924—Last optometric licensure law passes, in the District of Columbia, completing a 23-year effort for legal status nationwide.

1925—the AOA forms the Council on Optometric Education to accredit optometric education institutions.

1928—Bacteriologist Alexander Fleming accidentally discovers the antibacterial properties of penicillin after leaving a Petri dish of Staphylococcus uncovered.

1947—Optometrist Robert Graham develops ophthalmic lenses made from CR-39, a moldable plastic, allowing the move from glass lenses to shatterproof plastic for better safety and greater variety in shape.

1948—Irvin Borish publishes Clinical Refraction, a landmark text used by optometry students for decades.

1947—Congress creates the Optometry Corps, allowing for the commission of optometrists in the military. ODs are placed on the staff of VA hospitals.

1950—In the first major federal intervention to advance optometry, Congress grants ODs privileges to certify blind patients for pensions, despite fierce lobbying from industrial workers.

1951—National Board of Examiners in Optometry founded.

1954—Leaders meet in Seattle to discuss how to combat ophthalmology’s skullduggery following the closure of the Columbia University School of Optometry, and resolve to prohibit “untrained and unlicensed persons” from practicing optometry.

1938—Neill vs. Gimbel case decides that optometry is not part of medicine.

Dec. 7, 1941—Japan bombs Pearl Harbor.

May 15, 1943—AOA President Living Adams, OD, writes in The QUO in support of the ODs joining the war effort. “In time of war, optometry has a special skill which is needed by the armed forces and industrial workers.”
Supreme Court and thus should be held to standards of regulation.

Optometry declared a “learned profession” by PA

Larry Alexander publishes Review of Optometry

Green Bay Packers defeat the Kansas City Chiefs in the first Super Bowl, launching an event that continues to break television records.

June 23, 2016

The United Kingdom’s “Brexit” vote to leave the European Union causes economic and political upheaval.

125 YEARS OF OPTOMETRY