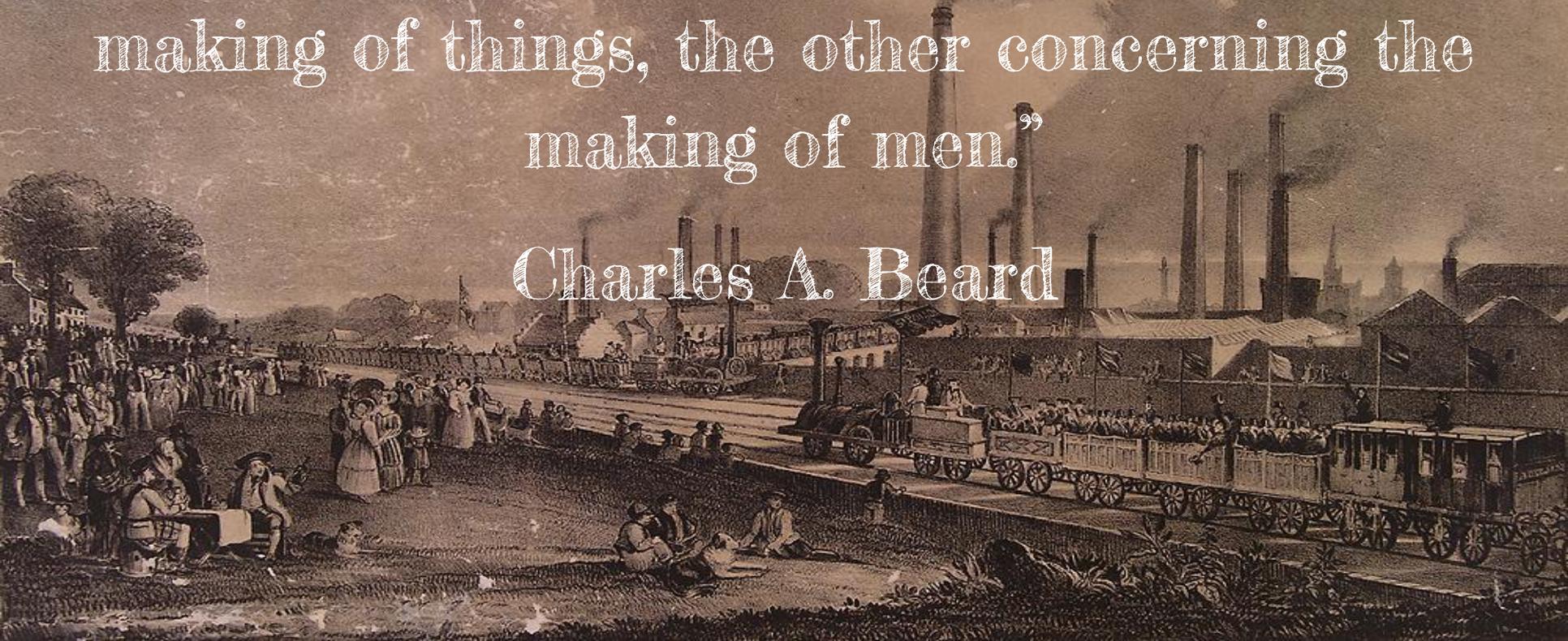


America's Economic Revolution



“The Industrial Revolution has two phases: one material, the other social; one concerning the making of things, the other concerning the making of men.”

Charles A. Beard



The Changing American Population

Reasons for Population Increase:

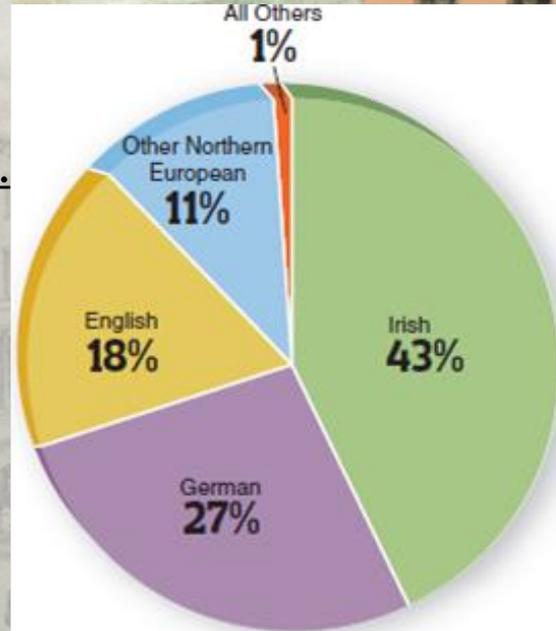
1. Improvements in public health as epidemics were less rampant.
2. High birth rate and lower children mortality rate
3. Migration of farmers from rural towns to urban cities
4. Immigration

Small western trading posts became major cities due to the growing shipping industry. They connected the farmers of the Midwest to the cities of the Northeast.



Immigration and Urban Growth

- Immigrants came from England, France, Italy, Scandinavia, Poland and Holland, but the overwhelming majority is from Ireland and German.
- The “Potato Famine” of 1845 and oppression of English rule drove more than a million Irish to the United States.
- Germans came to the United States due to deteriorating economic conditions in Europe.



Immigration and Urban Growth

- The Irish settled in east cities as unskilled labor while most Germans settled in the frontier as farmers or business owners.
- Most German immigrants had some wealth and came in family units.
- Most Irish immigrants were young, single women who had no money.



Rise of Nativism

Nativism is the belief that immigration needs to be stopped or restricted.

Support of immigration:

I. Employers

- Large supply of cheap labor
- Pay lower wage rates
- Expand the population in the West and thus the market for goods

I. Eastern Politicians

- Increase political influence by gaining immigrant votes
- Immigrants tend to vote Democrats



Rise of Nativism

Opposition of Immigration

I. Racism

- A. Immigrants were believed to be 'socially unfit' and less civilized.
- B. Immigrants were blamed for crimes, especially in cities and ghettos.

II. Workers feared losing jobs

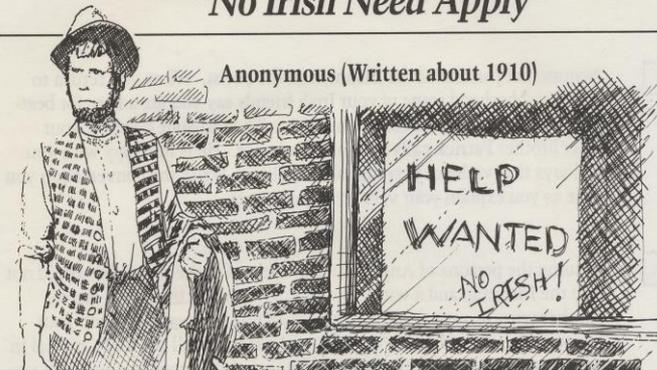
III. Religion Persecution (especially Catholics)

- A. Protestants protested the success of Irish Catholics in politics and wanted to restrict Catholic immigration.

IV. Whig politicians were outraged because most immigrants voted Democratic.

"No Irish Need Apply"

Anonymous (Written about 1910)



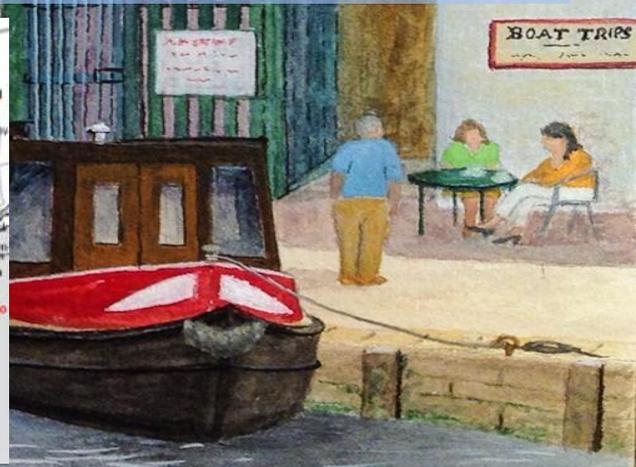
RISE OF NATIVISM

- In 1845 nativist groups combined to form a secret society called the Supreme Order of the Star-Spangled Banner and became known as the “Know-Nothings.”
- They organized themselves into the American Party during the election of 1852 and found support in the East, but had little to no support in the West.
- They demanded:
 - Catholics and foreign-born from holding public office.
 - More restrictive naturalization laws.
 - Literacy tests for voting.
 - Strict secrecy



Steamboat & Canal Era of Transportation

- ❖ Cost of transportation of goods were very high so merchants and farmers looked to the alternative: **canals**.
- ❖ Steamboats efficiently carried crops of northwestern and southwestern farmers to New Orleans. It was a faster, more reliable method of transferring goods.
- ❖ States took the lead in constructing canals because of the very expensive costs of construction.

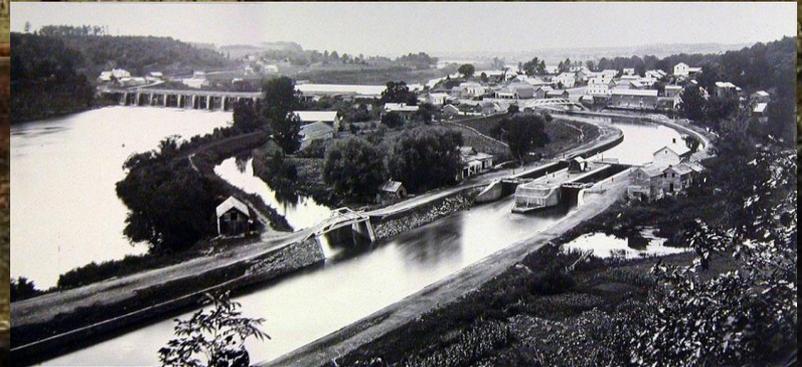
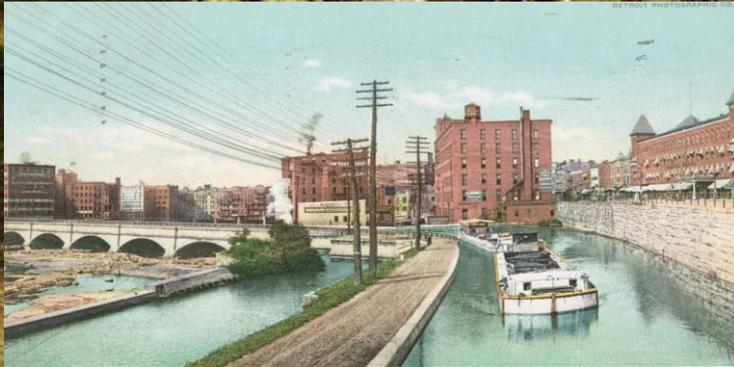


The Erie Canal

It connected the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes and the growing markets of the West.

Results:

- 1. Led to increased white settlement in the Northwest.**
- 2. Cheaper transportation**
- 3. New businesses and markets led to better communication**



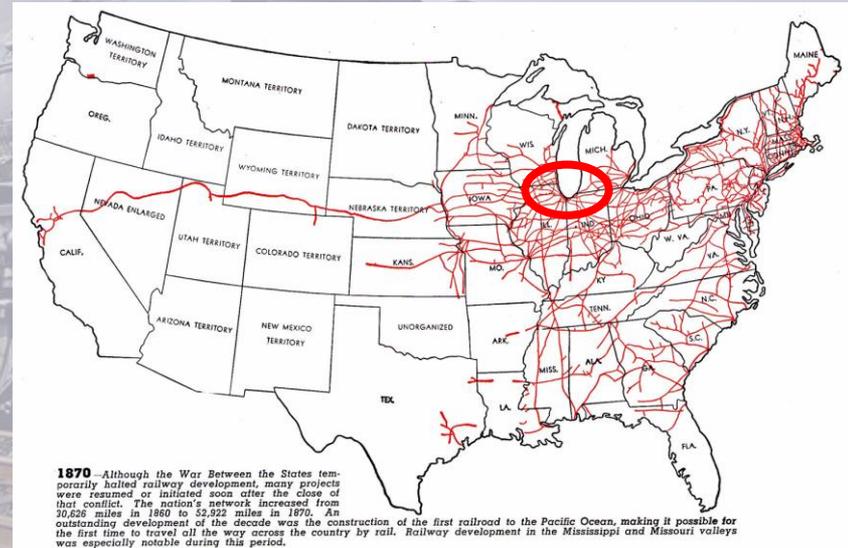
The Early Railroads

- Technological breakthroughs including the invention of tracks, steam-powered locomotives, passenger carriers and freight led to the railroad era.
- The introduction of iron rails improved roadbeds.
- Steam locomotives became more flexible and powerful, able to travel long distances. Passenger cars were stable, comfortable and larger.
- It diverted traffic from canals and gradually replaced canals.



THE TRIUMPH OF THE RAILS

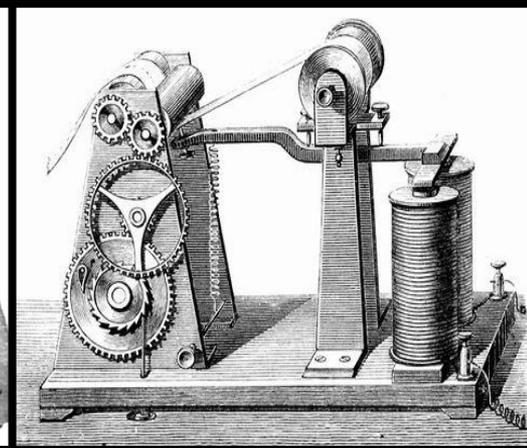
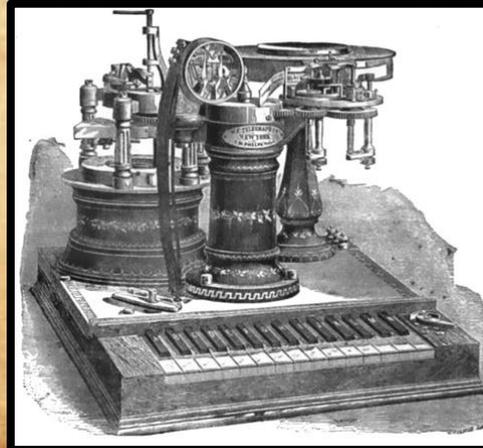
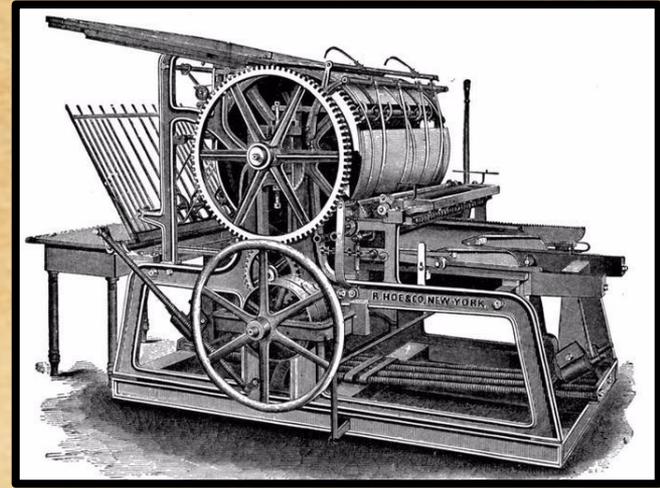
- Chicago became the rail center of the West by decreasing dependence on the Mississippi River.
- The railroads further distanced the North and South as railroads were more extensive in the North than in the South.
- In 1840, there were 2,818 miles of railroad tracks and in 1850, there were 9,021 as the expansion of rails left no region untouched.
- By 1860, Congress allocated over 30 million acres to assist railroad construction.



1870 Although the War Between the States temporarily halted railway development, many projects were resumed or initiated soon after the close of that conflict. The nation's network increased from 30,526 miles in 1860 to 52,922 miles in 1870. An outstanding development of the decade was the construction of the first railroad to the Pacific Ocean, making it possible for the first time to travel all the way across the country by rail. Railway development in the Mississippi and Missouri valleys was especially notable during this period.

Innovations in Communications and Journalism

- **Samuel F.B. Morse invents the telegraph in 1844, making instant communication across the country possible.**
- **Richard March Hoe invented the steam cylinder rotary press in 1843, making it possible to print newspapers rapidly and cheaply.**
- **Magnetic telegraphs allowed for instant communication between cities.**
- **By 1860, more than 50,000 miles of wire connected most of the country.**
- **Telegraph lines were also far more extensive in the North than in the South.**



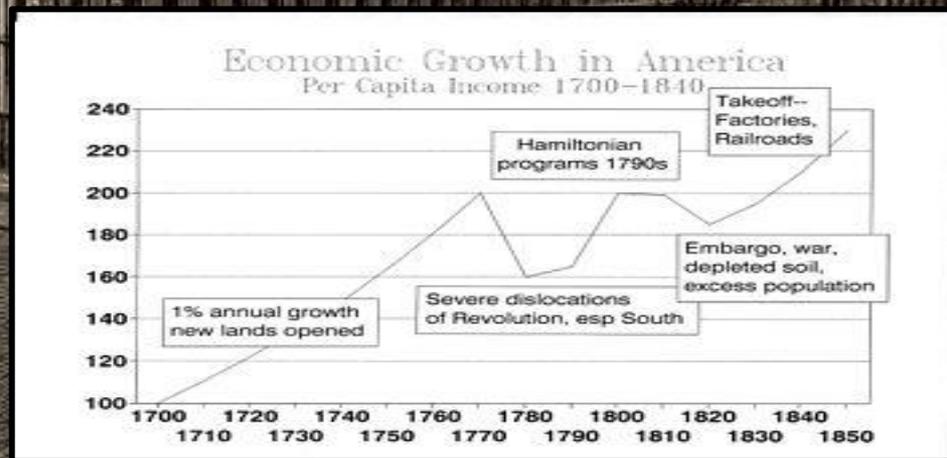
Journalism

- Journalism became an unifying factor in American life. But it also helped to feed the sectional discord. Most major magazines and newspaper were in the North. Southern newspapers were largely local.
- The telegraph and press made possible speedier collection of information and distribution of news.
- Horace Greeley's Times will become a major newspaper chain.



Commerce and Industry

- By the mid 19th century, the United States developed massive wealth as a result of the developing capitalist economy and an advanced industrial capacity.
- However, some classes and regions benefited from the economic development more than others.



Commerce and Industry

American Business grew rapidly in the 1820s and 1830s. Why?

1. Population growth
2. Ruthless entrepreneurs
3. The growth of specialized stores in larger cities
4. Changing business organization:
 - I. Corporations: Legal barriers to incorporation were removed, allowing for much more money to be raised.
 - II. Limited Liability: Stockholders in a corporation lost only their investment in corporation if it failed and not liable for the corporation's larger losses.

Commerce and Industry



- Despite rapid growth in American business, inadequate credit and currency fluctuations often caused economic panics.
- The factory emerged to replace private households as the chief means of output.
- Improved technology and increasing demand allowed for factories to increase output and consolidate manufacturing operations, revolutionizing the textile and shoe industries.
- By 1860 the total value of manufactured goods in the U.S. reached 2 billion dollars.
- Primarily, industry in the United States would be concentrated in the Northeast.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

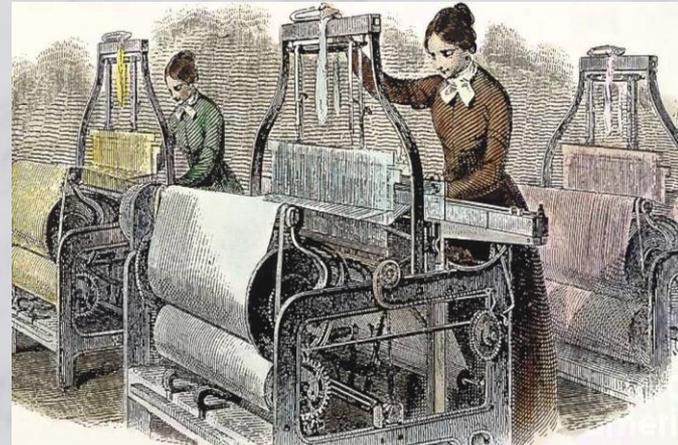
Several technological advancements would aid the development of the factory.

1. Universal milling machine
2. Turret lathe
3. Eli Whitney's system of interchangeable parts
4. Coal mining
5. Singer-Howe sewing machine



Men and Women at Work

- Poor New England farming conditions and new Midwestern farmlands caused an emerging labor force.
- Two systems emerged for the recruitment of a labor force:
 - a. Recruitment of entire families.
 - b. Recruitment of young, unmarried women -> Lowell System
- The Lowell factories had pristine conditions, but the work was tedious and repetitive.
- Many factory owners decided to drop the costly system in response to economic panics.



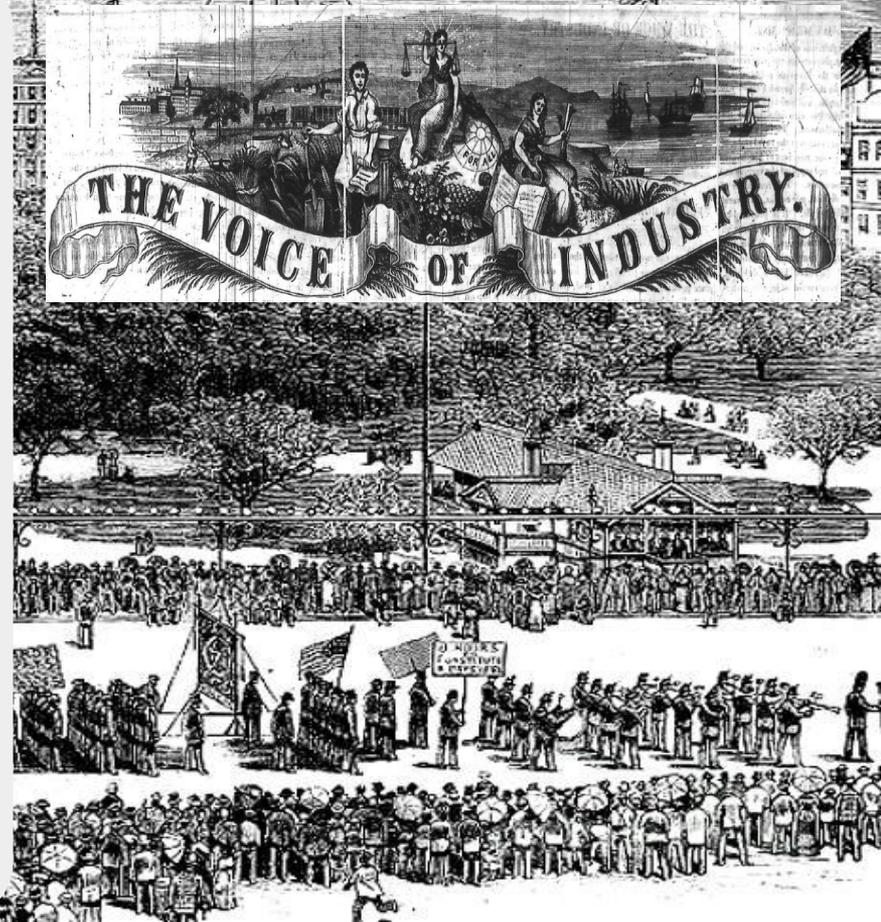
Men and Women at Work

- Declining factory conditions led to the first unions, led by artisans and workers.
 - a. Female Labor Reform Association was led by Sarah Bagley to demand a ten hour work day.
- The rise of unions led factory owners to turn to immigrants for a labor source.



Men and Women At Work

- Labor unions scored some political victories:
 - a. Ten Hour Workday laws
 - b. Commonwealth v. Hunt: Unions are lawful.
 - c. Child Labor laws
- However, management used legal measures to counter these.
- Philosophers, like Henry David Thoreau placed value on freedom from the market economy.
- Many Northern workers believed that freedom meant the absence of slavery leading to the Free Soil Ideology.



Patterns of Industrial Society

The rapid commercial and industrial growth increased the unequal distribution of wealth.

- By 1860, 5% of the families had 50% the wealth.
- Many wealthy people lived in cities and a new culture began to emerge.
 - Materialistic society (ex. Mansions, carriages, lavish clothes, etc.)



The Urban Poor

- A community of urban poor was emerging.
 - Many were immigrants, some were widows, orphans, alcoholics, and people with mental illness.
- African Americans were also the victim of severe poverty.
 - Most had access to only menial jobs that did not pay enough to support them and their families.



COPYRIGHT 1900.
BY DETROIT PHOTOGRAPH

MOBILITY IN THE LABOR FORCE

Despite the declining economic position of laborers, there was mobility within the working class.

- While few workers achieved the riches they desired, many were able to move up the ladder slightly.
 - Ex. unskilled worker to skilled worker



MOBILITY IN THE LABOR FORCE

Geographic mobility increased the opportunities for workers.

- Those that were able to save enough money could move to the west to farm on the uncultivated land available.
- More commonly, laborers moved from one industrial town to another searching for better opportunities.



AMERICAN FARM SCENES.

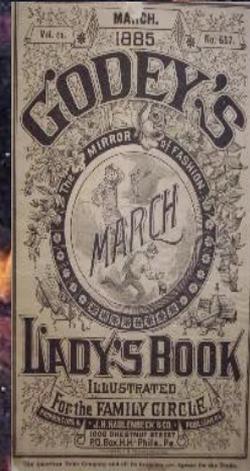
Middle Class

- The rapid economic growth created opportunities for people to work in businesses.
 - Ex. professionals, shop owners
- Jobs take priority over owning land.
- Women mostly stayed in the home and raised children.
- New household inventions like the cast-iron stove and ice box helped change the diet of those in the middle class.

With the new middle class, the economic role of the family was declining. Businesses were relying more on workers than the family.

Women's Role

- Women did not have many opportunities to become educated.
 - Mount Holyoke, founded in 1837, was one of the rare women's college.
- Their role as wives and mothers was to be a companion and helper to their husband and children.
- The middle class created a “separate sphere”, developing a new culture
 - Women formed their own clubs.
 - Women's magazines, such *Godey's Lady's Book* by Sarah Hale, were made.
- Working-class women emerged because they could not afford to stay home.
 - Their working conditions were often worse than those of men.



Leisure Activities

Leisure time was reserved for the wealthiest Americans.

- Men went to taverns to drink and gamble.
- Women gathered in homes for conversation and sewing.

Acts of public leisure became increasingly popular.

- Minstrel shows were public performances in which white actors mimicked African American culture.
- Public sporting events (i.e. baseball) promoted gambling and attracted large crowds.
- The circus emerged from the famous showman P. T. Barnum.



The Agricultural North

Farmers in the North could not compete with the rich soil in the west

1. Centers of production were shifting westward.
2. Some farmers moved to the west and some became laborers.
3. Many farmers remaining in the east supplied food to nearby towns.

As the northeast became more industrial, agriculture was becoming less important to the economy.

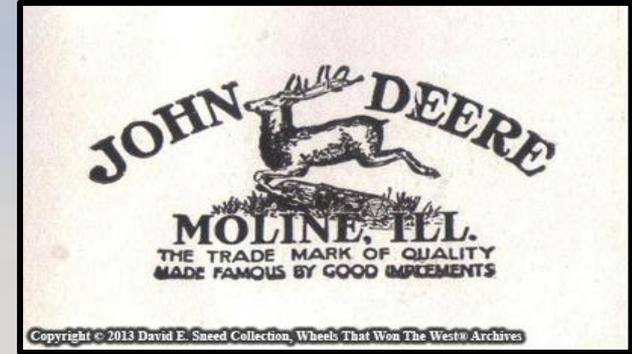
Rising farm prices led to more western farmers to engage in commercial agriculture.

- The Napoleonic Wars debilitated the agriculture in Europe raising farm prices around the world.
- The international agricultural trade **increased** greatly while the domestic agricultural market **decreased**.

Agricultural Technologies

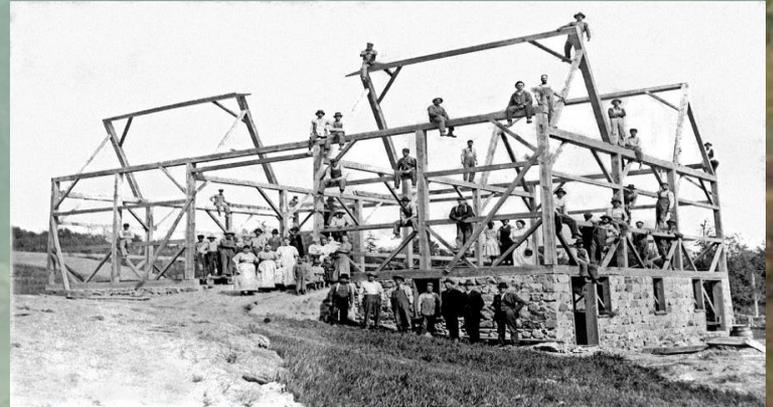
American manufacturers produced new technology for improved efficiency of crop production.

- Grain drills, harrows, mowers, and hay rakes became popular.
- The cast-iron plow remained popular due to its replaceable parts.
- John Deere manufactured steel plows which were sturdier than iron.
- Cyrus H. McCormick invented an automatic reaper, the McCormick Reaper.
 - This greatly improved the efficiency of farming wheat.



Rural Life

- Religion in rural towns drew communities together.
- Many farm towns were populated by people with the same ethnic and religious backgrounds.
- Festive barn raisings were popular and joined farm communities together.
- Rural towns were very isolated so the community was central to rural life.



Legacy of the Industrial Revolution

- The American industrial revolution changed the American economy so profoundly that it transformed almost every area of life in fundamental ways.
- Technological advances will improve economic development.
- Great wealth emerged as well as a massive wealth divide between rich and poor.
- American agriculture will forever change due to advances in technology.