

# **The North**

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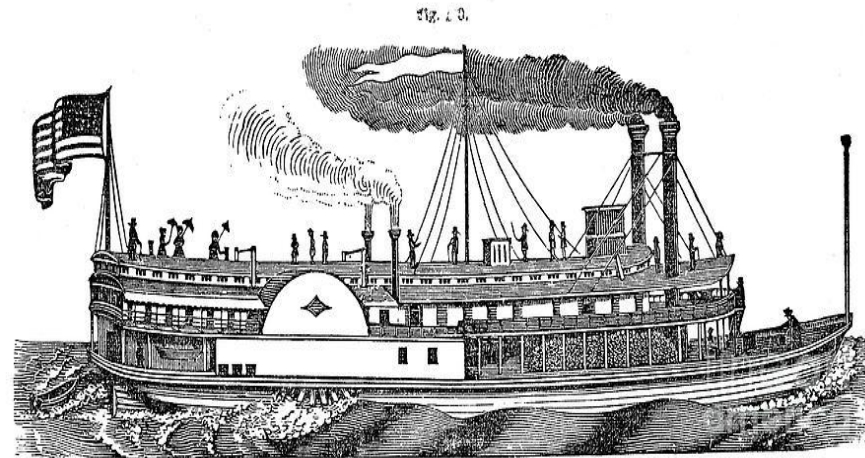
# Farmers and artisans

Pre-industrial farmers- Most farmers practiced a mixed agriculture which included raising a variety of crops and livestock. They provided for their family but when they produced more than they needed they traded with neighbors or to markets. Some people paid with cash while others traded.

Pre-industrial artisans- many things were purchased from cobblers, saddlers, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, silversmiths, and tailors. Many businessmen owned their own shops, most of them being white while free blacks were represented in some cities.

# Steamboats

- Steamboats could travel between New York and Albany in thirty-two hours.
- Steamboats became very popular on the Eastern rivers after a ruling against steamboat monopolies.
- They would transport people from the East to the Mid-West.
- They could carry more passengers than freight.
- In Western rivers, the steamboats were mainly used for commercial roles.

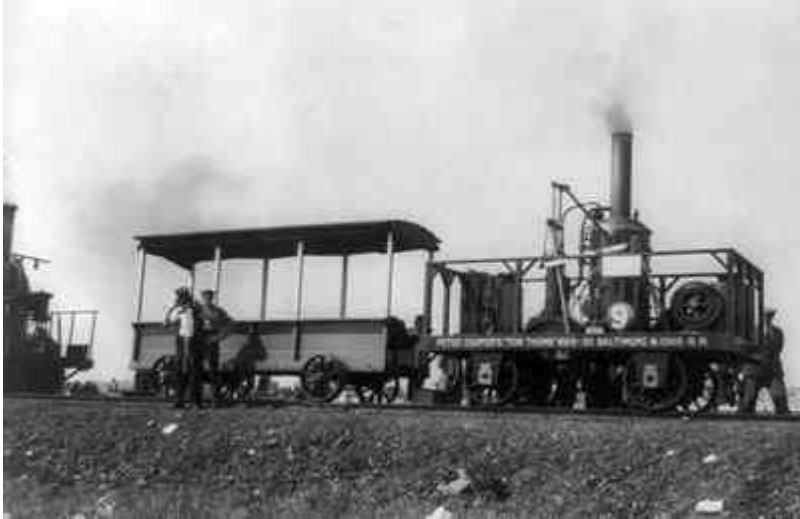


# Canals

- Madison vetoed the Bonus Bill that would support canal between Lake Erie and New York port.
- (Governor DeWitt Clinton) State-sponsored initiative for Erie Canal between Buffalo and Albany.
- Unified US and earned its commercial independence from Europe by showing Americans hard work and tenacity.
- Laborers building the Erie Canal were mostly immigrants and convicts with a few farmers and artisans. When it was done children did the labor.
- The canal helped shorten the journey between Buffalo and New York bringing logs, wheat, and oats on boats.
- Other states tried to build their own, none were as successful



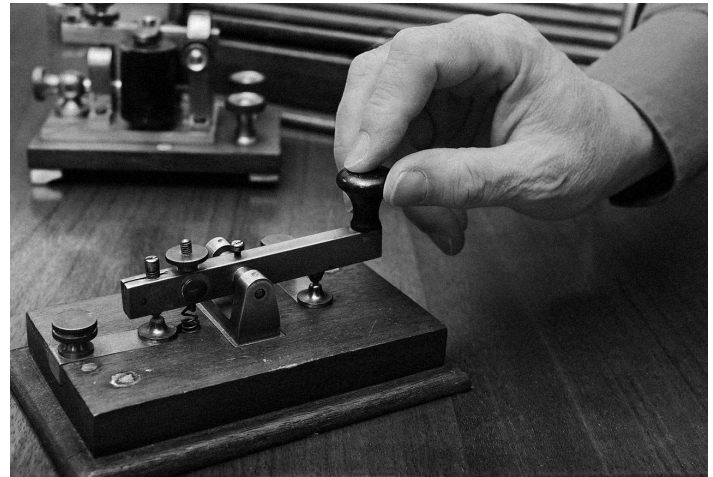
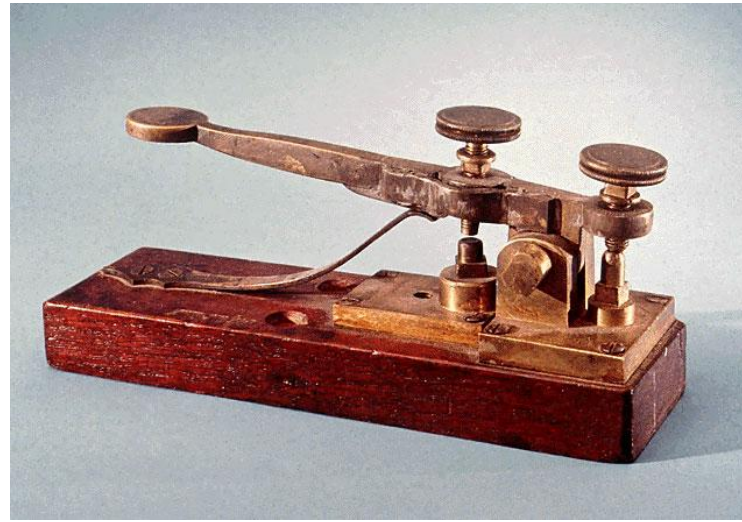
# Railroads



- Trains move faster than boats and didn't require water.
- The 60,000 miles of track reduced the cost and time used to ship goods.
- 1830: Peter Cooper's "Tom Thumb" went along 13 miles of track.
- By the 1850's railroads offered long-distance services, although it required many train changes.
- Government sponsored canals and railroads in hope for nationalism to unite Americans (didn't work).

# Telegraph

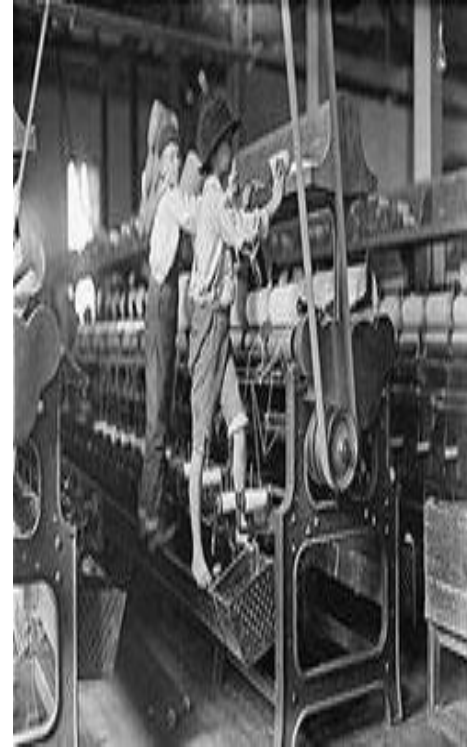
- Created by Samuel F. B. Morse in 1844
- News traveled almost instantly along the wires in the telegraph
- By 1852, more than 23,000 miles were strung nationwide
- It enabled the creation of modern business practices
- Internal improvements made the population's westward migration quicker. People from previously remote areas now came to the Northeast and Midwest
- Internal improvements, including the telegraph, allowed people in other areas to declare themselves a "citizen of the world"
- Many people living in the north called internal improvements a symbol of progress





# Textile mills

- Mechanization occurred mostly in textile mills
- Textile mills were placed near water so the mills could obtain power (hydropower)
- 1815 cotton mills developed into modern factories
  - ~cotton production went from 4 million yards in 1817
  - to 323 million in 1840
- Mechanization did not eliminate jobs in textile mills, instead it allowed for MORE jobs to open up
- The workers were recruited farm daughters that were looking for a way to earn their independence and social skills.
- The female workers got paid and housed in dorms with other girls.
- People protested for better wage, rights, and working conditions.
- Working conditions were not safe, for the workers. Many machines were not made with the safety of the workers in mind. Many workers were injured and died from their injuries. They were also overworked and under fed.



# Working Conditions

- Workers consisted of immigrants and free African Americans.
- Work was divided by gender.
- Men and boys worked in fields, herded livestock, chopped firewood, fished, and hunted.
- Women and girls tended gardens, milked cows, spun and wove, processed and preserved food, prepared meals, washed clothes, and looked after infant and toddlers.
- Men, women, and children worked long days on farms and in workshops.
- Pace of work was generally uneven and unregimented.
- Worked from dawn-dusk.



# Protest and unionization

## Labor Protests:

Due to the depression and declining demand for cloth, life working in the mill began to get harder

Protesting mill workers began to protest against mill owners claiming they were treated like “wage slaves”

A strike broke out when labor workers wages were cut by 25% that failed to raise the wage

Women in Massachusetts formed the Lowell Female Reform Association to try and change the work day to 10 hours, which failed

Other similar reform groups formed and took to the press against major mill companies

## Unionization:

Court provided protection from conspiracy laws

Employers were able to accuse worker of criminal conspiracy when gathering out of work until unions formed

The first unions were formed in printing, woodworking, shoemaking, and tailoring jobs

They established minimum wage and regulated apprenticeships

# Cities

Cities symbolize what market expansion had created

No other period in history had more rapid urbanization than the years 1820 through 1860

Urban areas- a place with a population of 2,500 or more

People living in urban areas increased from 7% to 20% in 40 years, taking place mostly in the Northeast and Midwest

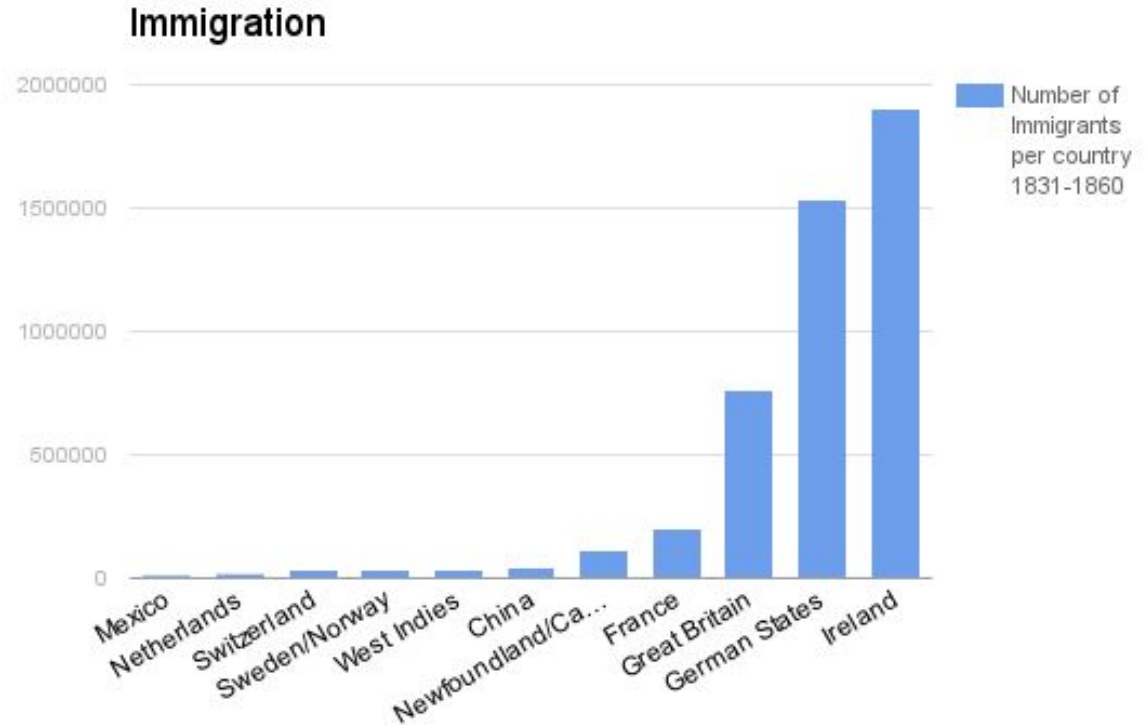
Many of the city residence were temporary and they would quickly move on to another city

Cities helped sustain the North's market revolution by helping with easier transportation, commercial centers, and, sometimes, manufacturing sites

# Immigration

Five million immigrants to the United States between 1830 and 1860. This outnumbered the population in 1790.

90 percent of Immigrants to the US lived in the North



# Living conditions

Living conditions were overcrowded and unsafe for workers. Often people were crammed into a space meant to hold half their number. Since things were crowded, they were encouraged to go outside, but in poor areas outside was disgusting. Streets were covered in filth, excess sewage, and garbage. Animals roamed the streets. This dirtiness led to diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, malaria, and tuberculosis becoming more and more common. When there were outbreaks of cholera in 1831, 1849, and 1866, thousands of people died because it was so easy to spread.

# Opportunities for women

Married women stayed at home if they could financially afford to, and their time was often spent cleaning the house, watching the children, and cooking for the husbands. However, some women still worked, whether it be for another income in the house, or for the opinion that these domestic ideals were oppressive to women.

Working class families sent their girls to work as young as twelve years old. They would often work either as servants to wealthy families, or they would work in factories. Once they were married, they would often work washing and/or sewing clothes or cooking. No matter what the work was, women could not typically earn enough wages to support themselves without a husband.

# Family structure in the North

Changes in the economy sparked new family ideals. Before the changes, family units had been more economically-oriented, while after the changes, they were more moral and culturally connected. Homes kind of became an “emotional retreat” from the busy market economy, that was separating home from the workplace.

People were marrying for love more often, rather than for economic prosperity. Children’s lives began revolving more around education, rather than occupations. Family sizes began to shrink, in order for mothers to pay more attention to their children; giving them better education and more attention.



# Entertainment

People spent their free time out of their homes dancing in dance halls, seeing plays at theaters, eating at cafes, and playing and watching sports. In more urban settings like New York City, those who had money would go to fancy private clubs and societies to be around other elite people. Theater was a big part of entertainment, along with travelling circuses and minstrel shows.



NYC in 1820 [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)