

WESTERN FEVER TIMELINE

What pushes, what pulls?

1790s—Private turnpike companies are chartered to build and operate toll roads in NH

1793—Samuel Morey runs his first steam-powered boat on the Connecticut River

1811—Construction of the National Road begins at Cumberland, MD; reaches Wheeling on the Ohio River in 1818 and Vandalia, IL in 1839.



1825—Erie Canal completed



1830—60 – 80% of the land cleared in NH and VT for pasture

1830—Sheep boom peaks with many farms consolidated; Walpole, NH, recorded 20,000 sheep

1833—11 steamboats are running on the Great Lakes

1837—John Deere introduces the first steel plow to the United States. Successive new technologies make each acre more productive but smaller farms less competitive.



1838—First railroad in NH started operating between Nashua and Lowell.

1841—Boston – Albany Railroad is completed

1845—Construction of the Vermont Central Railroad begins.

1846—There are 1,200 Vermont girls in the mills of Lowell alone and 3,654 NH girls



1850—11,000 Vermonters had reached California, many bound for the gold mines.

1860—42% of native-born Vermonters are living outside of the state.

1862—Homestead Act encourages settlement of "unoccupied" western lands.

1869--The first transcontinental railroad is completed linking the United States into a huge single market & encouraging settlement of "unoccupied" western lands.