

- Was not until 1905 that railroad passenger cars were made of steel
- Rivers were the first U.S. "highways"
In 1840, almost 900,000 cords of wood sold for steamboat fuel (about one-fifth of all fuelwood sold).
- Called the iron road, but for most of 19th century only train engines and rails were made of iron

- Telegraphs used to dispatch trains beginning in 1851 (telegraph poles made of wood)

- Lumber production increased more than 8 times between 1850/1910 (from 5.4 billion board feet to 44.6 annually)
1850, lumber was second largest industry in US; in 1880, was 4th largest.

- Mileage of U.S. railroads increased more than 30 times between 1850 and 1910.
By late 1800s railroads accounted for between 20-25% of total lumber consumption in US.

- wood = principal material in many 19th and 20th century modes of transportation - ~~used~~ used to construct most ships, riverboats, barges, plank roads, canal locks, and bridges.

From a Railway Carriage (1st stanza)
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle,
All through the meadows the horses and cattle,
I find all of the sights of the hill and the plain,
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.