

An Historical Geography of NYS Settlement Sequence II


Post Revolution Period 1865-1945

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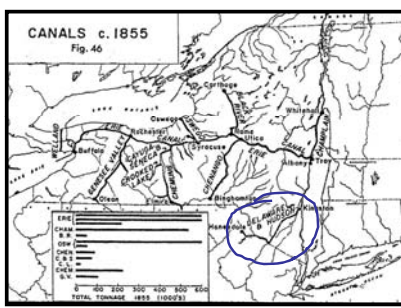
RECAP: 1780-1865

- End of period saw the imprint of the basic population distribution pattern.
- Focal points of higher population densities developed.
- These focal points became links in the modern transportation system (turnpikes >> canals >> railroads >> highways)



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Canals of NYS in 1855



CANALS c. 1855
Fig. 46


The success of the Erie Canal began the Canal Era in the US but no other state had the combination of landforms and water sources as did NYS.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal was the first privately built canal in the US. Its purpose was to carry coal from eastern Pennsylvania to NYC.

The late 1850s saw the end of the Canal Era as the rail network grows.

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Delaware and Hudson Canal



Of Pulleys and Ropes and Gear
The Locks, Ropes and Gear of the Delaware and Hudson Canal

ANTHRACITE COAL ROUTE FROM CARBONDALE TO NEW YORK CITY

DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL

<http://www.rps.gov/updates/photos/multimedia/16/Delaware-and-Hudson-Canal.htm>

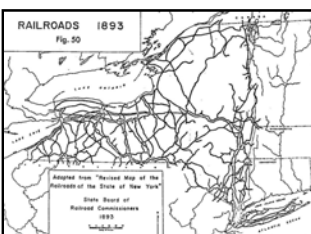
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Settlement Sequence Industrial New York 1865-1945

- Post Civil War period sees **urban-industrial** growth.
- **The axis of settlement** across central NYS to Lake Erie **fills in**.
- New urban places **emphasize manufacturing and trade**, not agriculture.
- **Railroads replace canals** as the chief mover of people and goods.
- **Urban places on a rail line grow; others don't.**

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Railroad Rights of Way



RAILROADS 1893
Fig. 90

- Starting in the 1860s, railroads become the primary mover of people and goods.
- They are less expensive, faster and could carry more weight than canal boats.
- They could be built almost any where and could run in winter.
- They increased the mobility of people and interaction between regions.

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Settlement Sequence
Industrial New York
1865-1945

- **Mechanization frees people from the land.**
- After the Civil War with industrialization, **people shift from the farm to the cities.**
- **Industrial workers require services.**
- Cities grow; rural areas are depopulated.
- European immigration – late 1800s.
- **By 1900, NYS is a major industrial state.**

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Settlement Sequence
Industrial New York, 1865-1945

The late 1800s is a time when people considered environmental beauty to be important.

- Travel to “see nature” became a tourist activity.
- Enjoyment and appreciation of scenery was considered a cultural activity.
- To the railroad companies in the 1870s, tourism and tourist destinations were vital to business.
- **NYS sites were popular destinations** (Niagara Falls, Finger Lakes, Thousand Islands, Adirondacks, Saratoga, Lake George, Catskills, Hudson Valley, eastern Long Island).

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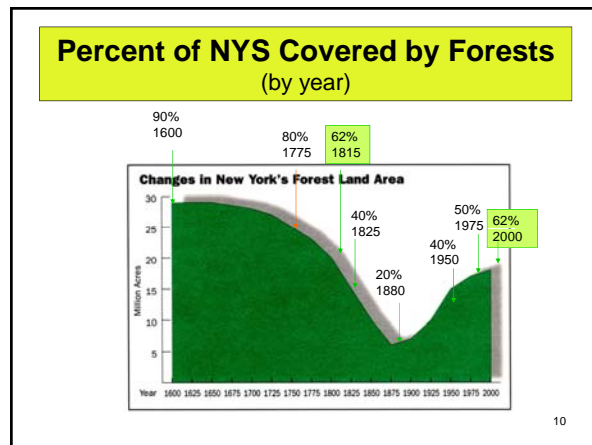
Settlement Sequence
Industrial New York, 1865-1945

Settlement of interior NYS, the opening of the Erie Canal, the growth of East Coast cities, manufacturing, demand for paper and the need of fuel and building material.

The forests were being cut down at an alarming rate and natural habitats were being destroyed.

By the late 1870s, much of NYS was a treeless landscape and paper mills in the Adirondacks had polluted nearby lakes and rivers.

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1880s Environmental Awareness

- In 1885 the “**forever wild**” **Article XIV** was voted into the Constitution of NYS. “The lands of the state ... constituting the forest preserve...shall be forever kept as wild forest lands.”
- **Forest preserves were established.**
- **State reservations (parks) were established.**
- **NYS's Bureau of Wildlife was established** (then called Fisheries, Game & Forest Commission) when wildlife populations were at one of the lowest points in history.

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Settlement Sequence

We will return to Phase III and cover Phase IV when we look at Urban NYS.

More on Conservation in Rural NYS.

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