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STS.036 Technology and Nature in American History
Spring 2008

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Week 4: Industrial America in the Countryside
26 Feb 2008
Lecture outline

Imposing an Industrial Order on the Antebellum Landscape

1. Rationalizing the landscape
 - a. Jeffersonian vision of an agrarian republic
 - b. Jefferson: "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens" (1785)
 - c. U.S. Rectangular Land Survey (1785)

2. New sites and modes of production
 - a. Industrial expansion and natural resources in the Atlantic corridor
 - b. Regional specialization
 - c. Land and labor in the American factory system
 - i. Water-powered mills in the countryside
 - ii. The social world of the mill
 - iii. Paternalism
 1. Patrick Tracy Jackson (1780-1847): "The village steeple is the unfailing companion of the waterwheel."
 2. The Brandywine Iron Works
 - a. Rebecca Lukens (1794-1854)
 3. Lowell textile mills
 - a. The Boston Associates
 - iv. Worker resistance and labor activism in Lowell
 1. Strike of 1834
 2. Strike of 1836
 3. Lowell Female Labor Reform Association (est. 1844)
 4. Industrial accidents
 5. *The Lowell Offering* (1840-1845)

3. A new transportation infrastructure
 - a. General Survey Act (1824)
 - i. Army Corps of Engineers
 - ii. B&O Railroad
 - b. Roads
 - i. Turnpike companies
 1. Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Co. (est. 1794)
 - ii. "Internal improvements"
 - iii. The Cumberland (National) Road (1806-1852)
 - c. The "canal craze"
 - i. Benjamin Franklin: "Rivers are ungovernable Things . . . Canals are quiet and always manageable." (1772)
 - ii. Early canal projects (1785-1815)
 - iii. The Erie Canal (1817-1825)

- d. Steamboats
 - i. Fulton's *Clermont* (1807)
 - ii. The switch to high-pressure steam engines (1816)
 - iii. Steamboat explosions
- e. Railroads
 - i. Adopting and adapting British technology to American terrain
 - ii. The Lowell engine-works
 - iii. Conquest and settlement of the West