I. **INTRODUCTION**: The market economy and expansion encouraged immigration   
   and internal migration.  Communities became more diverse.  This trend   
   was often resented by native-born Americans.  The extremes of wealth and   
   poverty manifested themselves in American society.

II. **CITY LIFE**

     A. **URBAN GROWTH**

          1. In the Northeast the percentage of people living in urban   
             areas grew from 9% to 35% between 1800 and 1860.  Most of this   
             increase occurred along transportation routes.

          2. By 1810 New York City surpassed Philadelphia as the nation's   
             most populous city.  Baltimore and New Orleans dominated the   
             South.  San Francisco became the leading West coast city.

     B. **NEW YORK CITY**

          1. Mass transit made it possible for the city to expand.  Horse   
             drawn buses appeared in New York in 1827.  The Harlem Railroad   
             was completed in 1832.

          2. "Old" residents disliked the growing concentrations of new   
             immigrants.  In the 1850's these were mostly Irish and German.   
             Some clubs were formed to isolate members from the culture of   
             immigrant groups.  The Masonic Order was one of these groups.

          3. Early 19th. century cities were disorderly, unsafe, and   
             unhealthy.  Human waste and garbage spread disease, polluted   
             the water, and smelled.  Much of city life took place on the   
             streets.  It was a volatile situation.  Poverty and squalor   
             marked districts of the cities.  New York City's Five Points   
             district had the reputation of being the worst slum in Pre-   
             Civil War America.  The Old Brewery, which had been converted   
             to housing in 1837, was mostly Irish & black.

          4. A youth culture developed on the Bowery in New York City in   
             the 1840's.  It revolved around theaters, dance halls, ice-   
             cream shops, cafes.  Bowery Boys exhibited a unique style of   
             dress and demeanor.  Bowery girls dressed "outlandishly".

          5. Children and young men who earned their living off the streets   
             by bootblacking or petty thievery were called street rats.   
             Charles Loring Brace founded Children's Aid Society (1853)

          6. Working men and women lived uncertain lives.  Unemployment   
             always threatened.  Competition from immigrants and slave   
             labor stoked their fear.

          7. Cities did not have the taxing power to raise the money needed   
             to provide services.

               a. Services were extended to property owners who were able   
                  to pay for them.

               b. Some services were provided by private companies.  Gas   
                  service was an example.

               c. Water service remained a problem until cities were able   
                  to take over and maintain it.

     C. **LEISURE**: Rural leisure activities could not be pursued in the   
        cities.  New activities included tavern games like arm wrestling,   
        quoits, nine pins, pitching coins.  Fishing remained popular.   
        Theaters were important.

     D. **SPORTS**

          1. City dwellers were increasingly becoming spectators at such   
             events as horse racing, boxing, pedestrianism, and beginning   
             in the 1850's, baseball.

          2. Sports began to be more organized.  The New York (Racing)   
             Association, the Cincinnati Angling Club, the Knickerbocker   
             Club established written rules for their respective sports.

     E. **EDUCATION**

          1. In 1800 there were no public schools outside New England.   
             By 1860 every state had some public education.

          2. Massachusetts took the lead under Horace Mann, secretary of   
             the state board of education (1837-1848).  He laid the basis   
             of free public schools.

               a. A minimum 6 month school year was established.

               b. The number of high schools was increased.

               c. Teacher training was formalized.

               d. Emphasis was placed on secular subjects and applied skills   
                  as opposed to religious teachings.  Moral education rather   
                  than religious indoctrination was stressed.  Preparation   
                  for jobs was important.

          3. Teaching became a woman's profession.  Mann saw them as a   
             refining influence.

          4. The basic texts were McGuffey's Readers which taught values   
             based on commonly held Protestant beliefs.  Catholics   
             responded by founding their own schools.

     F. **URBAN RIOTS:** Inequality, urbanization, and immigration created   
        conflict and led to riots and incidents of violence in the 1830's.   
        Nativists felt threatened & attacked those whom they held responsible   
        The ultimate example of urban unrest occurred in Philadelphia in 1844   
        during riots in which mostly Protestant skilled workers fought Irish   
        Catholics.  To cope with these disorders cities began to replace   
        parttime watchmen and constables with uniformed policemen.

III. **EXTREMES OF WEALTH**

     A. In 1831-32 Alexis de Tocqueville toured the 24 existing states.   
        When he returned to his native France he wrote Democracy in America,   
        an analysis of the American people and nation.  He stressed the   
        equality of conditions and the opportunity that existed.  He ascribed   
        this to mobility.  It was commonly held that talent, hard work, and   
        saving money led to success.

     B. **DIFFERENCES IN WEALTH**: New York Sun publisher Moses Yale Beach   
        wrote Wealth and Biography of the Wealthy Citizens of New York City   
        in which he revealed the enormous wealth of New York's upper class.   
        Wealth was becoming concentrated in the hands of a relatively   
        small number of people.

     C. **THE URBAN ELITE**: Masked balls were big social events for the rich.   
        Dinner parties, country estates, retinues of servants, ocean resorts,   
        mineral spas, grand tours of Europe figured prominently in the   
        lives of the 1% of the people who owned 50% of the wealth.  Much of   
        this wealth was inherited.  Some married into wealth.  They increased   
        this wealth by investing in transportation, commerce, and   
        manufacturing.

     D. **THE MIDDLE CLASS**: This expanded between 1800 & 1860.  Its members   
        enjoyed the benefits of increasing consumer products.  They took   
        advantage of the educational opportunities offered.  They became the   
        backbone of society, preserving its religious and cultural heritage.

IV. **WOMEN AND THE FAMILY**

     A. **WORKING WOMEN**: Women worked in the textile mills in the early 19th.   
        century.  In the 1840's they worked as clerks and cash runners in new   
        urban department stores.  Many worked as teachers.  For many women   
        work was only a stage of their lives between their paternal   
        households and their marital households.

          1. But for working class women jobs were needed to support the   
             family.  Many worked as domestics, laundresses, seamstresses,   
             cooks, and boarding-house keepers.

          2. For middle class women the home, child rearing, interest in   
             education, religion, morality, domestic arts, and culture   
             became their special sphere. Women were to be self-sacrificing,   
             preparing their children to fill a role in a virtuous republic.   
             The family was supposed to be a stable force in a competitive   
             world.  Paying jobs for middle class women were limited -   
             teaching was OK.

     B. **DECLINE IN THE BIRTHRATE**

          1. Many viewed small families as desirable.  Children would have   
             greater opportunities.  Parents could pay more attention to   
             them & could afford to educate them & help them financially.

          2. The harmful effects of too many children on a woman's health   
             began to be mentioned in marriage manuals.

          3. Without the need for child labor in some families they became   
             consumers but not producers in the family and therefore a   
             greater economic cost to the family.

     C. **BIRTH CONTROL**

          1. Some married later in life thus shortening childbearing years.

          2. Birth control methods included coitus interruptus, rubber   
             condoms (available in the 1850's), rhythm, and abstinence.

          3. Surgical abortion was available after 1830.  As the number of   
             abortions increased so too did legislation restricting it.

          4. As the cult of domesticity arose, the refinement and purity   
             of women ruled the household, including the bedroom.  Men were   
             to curb their passions.

     D. **ROLES FOR MARRIED WOMEN**: The woman was a "domestic goddess".  As   
        some women were freed from childcare since they were giving birth to   
        fewer children, they formed benevolent societies, an extension of   
        their domestic concerns.  Religion and charity combined to give women   
        new experiences in organization and leadership.

     E. **SINGLE WOMEN**: 17% of native-born women chose this as a lifestyle   
        during the mid-19th. century.

V. **IMMIGRANT LIVES IN AMERICA**

     A. Five million immigrants came to the United States between 1820 and   
        1860.  The vast majority were from Europe.  The peak period of   
        immigration was from 1847 through 1857.  By 1860 15% of the white   
        population was foreign-born.

     B. **PROMOTION OF IMMIGRATION**: Western states lured potential settlers   
        in the interest of promoting their economies.  Large construction   
        projects & mines needed strong young laborers.  Textile mills and   
        cities attracted young women workers.  Immigrants who were successful   
        in the U.S. encouraged others to emigrate.

     C. **JOURNEY TO AMERICA**: The average crossing took six weeks. (Up to 3   
        months-bad weather)  Disease spread among people crowded together in   
        steerage.  "Ship fever" killed many.  Con artists and swindlers   
        worked the docks ready to take advantage of unsuspecting immigrants.   
        New York established Castle Garden on the tip of Manhattan Island in   
        1855 to process immigrants and protect them from fraud.  Not all   
        immigrants were successful and some returned to their former   
        countries.