

Back From Jerusalem:

The Life and Times of
Emma Hardinge Britten,
Spiritualist Propagandist

Marc Demarest
The Emma Hardinge Britten Archive

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Intermission 1

Traveling-as-Network

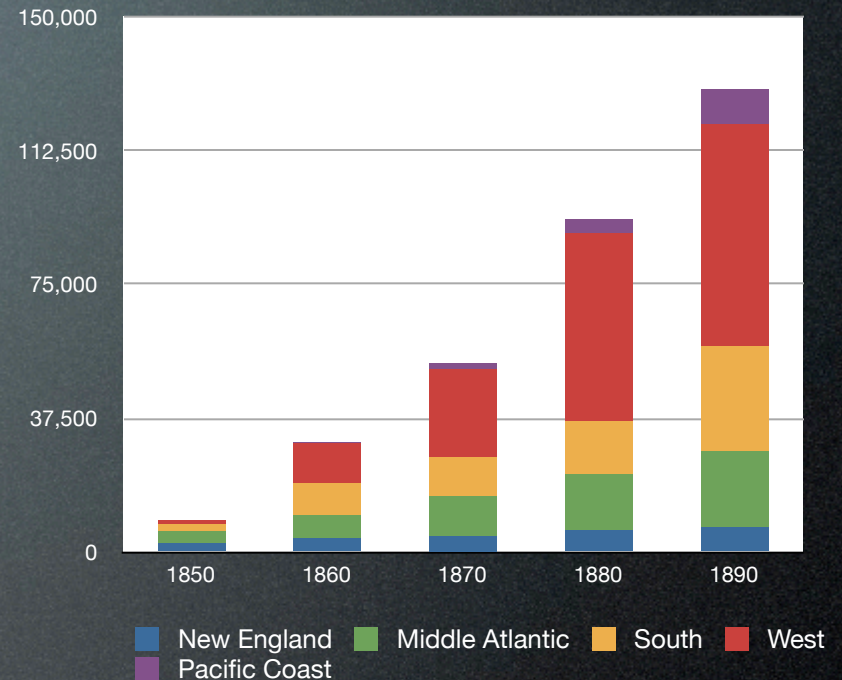
Traveling-As-Network

- Emma and Ann Sophia came and went across the Atlantic between the two major nodes in the Anglo-American network -- Liverpool & New York -- on a Collins' Line steamship that was making the crossing in an average of 13 days, bankrupting Collins in the process (were it not for the generous subsidies paid by the Federal government to Collins for carrying US mails)
- The women (think about it) arrived at a time when the US was undergoing a profound infrastructural transition, on top of which Emma would build her life, and her career
 - The growth of railroad and steamship networks
 - The growth of public accommodation -- hotels and boarding houses
 - The growth of printing press capacity, and the decline in the cost of printing
 - Telegraphy -- Internet 1.0
- Emma's life was all about how people and information travel

Traveling-As-Network

- Railroads
 - Began as private affairs, or to link major metropolitan 'hubs' to immediate outliers
 - Long-haul rail was highly politicized when Emma and Ann Sophia arrived in the US, and stymied, to some extent, by limitations in the printing system -- the hand-etching process for producing maps that could be used to plan routes
 - Watching Emma's itinerary unfold in her Western adventures between 1863 and 1881 is to a large extent watching the railroads get built
- In the right-of-way, telegraph poles....

Railroad Miles: US 1850-1890



Why did Emma not speak in Salt Lake City before the late 1870s?

Because she could not get there, economically, before that time.

Mrs. Britten's Lectures.
Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten, the celebrated speaker and authoress, is announced to speak at the Liberal Institute on the evenings of Friday, Sunday and Monday next, the 21st, 23d and 24th of May, on subjects in the following order: "The Footsteps of Angels;" "The Origin and Destiny of the Human Soul;" "Free Masonry, Ancient and Modern." Commence each evening at 7:30. To enable all to hear Mrs. Britten, the local committee have placed the general price of admission at 25 cents; gallery 15 cents, or two tickets 25 cents. Persons unable to pay will be given tickets on application to T. C. Armstrong or Mr. Harrison.

Salt Lake City Daily Tribune, May 21, 1880

Traveling-As-Network

- Hotels And Boarding Houses
 - Q: Why did Emma spend so much time in Lowell, Massachusetts?
 - A: Because she could.
- As hotels and short-term boarding houses sprung up (along transportation arterials, to support trade) in the 1850s and after, they created
 - Accessibility
 - Places for the exchange of information among strangers
 - Points where the foreign was injected into the local

A. K. Sandoval-Strausz, Hotel: An American History.



2.5 This map displays the forty most populous cities in the United States in 1840 and the year in which each built its first hotel.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Walker House.
C B Casper, W Casper, Little Rock; E J Stoltz, Tucuman; M Daly, John O Frawley Jr, San Francisco; C W Hackett, M D, Belmont; New Hampshire; W T Lewis, Randolph, Wis; C G Hackett, Belmont, N. H.; C F Hilditch, Oregon; E W Soule, Rochester; Schenewach, Oregon; F A Lewis, Bristol, Nev; W Jones, Cheyenne; John M Burke, Price; J Bently, Omaha; J Shuler, Sandy; A G Campbell, Price; E H Russell, West Jordan; A P Sutherland, Globe City; S D Sellers, Palsadapha.

Clift House.
George Austin, Lehl; John P Flynn, Ogden;
R L Thomas, wife and family, Frank Robinson,
Baton Clark, Park City; George B Van
Emon, H M Kelly, Bingham; W E Hildreth,
New York; John McCullough, Pioche; W C
Freeland, Tinscarora.

Valley House.
Thomson Murray, Sacramento; Michael Hennessy, Matt Sullivan, M E Welch, Virginia City; P H Outley, Idaho; Wm. Harris, Blaine; J W Lewis, Park City; Wm. Richards, Thomas Kvn, J A Jefferson, Stockton; Thos E Bond, Altai; E M Carrington, Chicago; T A Andrews, Cheyenne; F W Gusey, Chas Wolfenstein, Fort Cameron; J E Evans, American Fork; Dr W H Seales, Wis; Thos Slater, Stockton.

People who do work like mine
depend on this feature of
every local newspaper in the
19th century

Salt Lake City had three hotels 'worth watching' in 1880

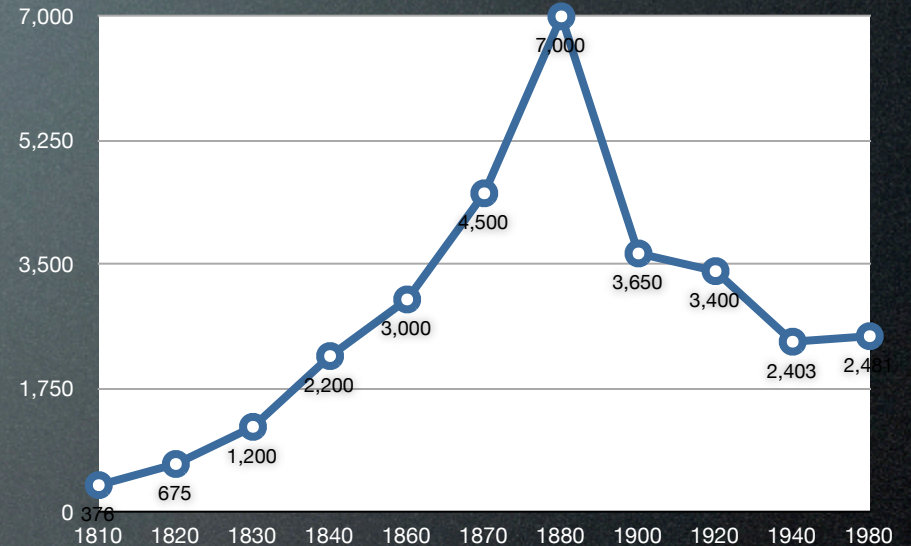
New York City has eight or ten.

Traveling-As-Network

- Printing & Publishing

- Hardening and automation (paper --> press --> bindery/folder)
- Pre-press (typewriter [1847, 1857, 1873], Linotype/Monotype)
- Post-press distribution (see railroads)
- The penny press (2-8 pages for 1 cent) exploded after 1830, and made millionaires -- cost-of-goods-sold about a tenth-of-a-cent per page
- A New York Mercury meme could be in the Chicago Inter-Ocean in 7 days or less by 1875, or in the Medium & Daybreak in London in 12 days, and in the Glasgow papers in a further 2 days
- Emma's exposure in 1881 took 48 hours to get from "live" in New York to "in print" in Salt Lake City
- Not Twitter speed, but getting there....

Number of US Newspapers (Daily, Weekly) By Decade



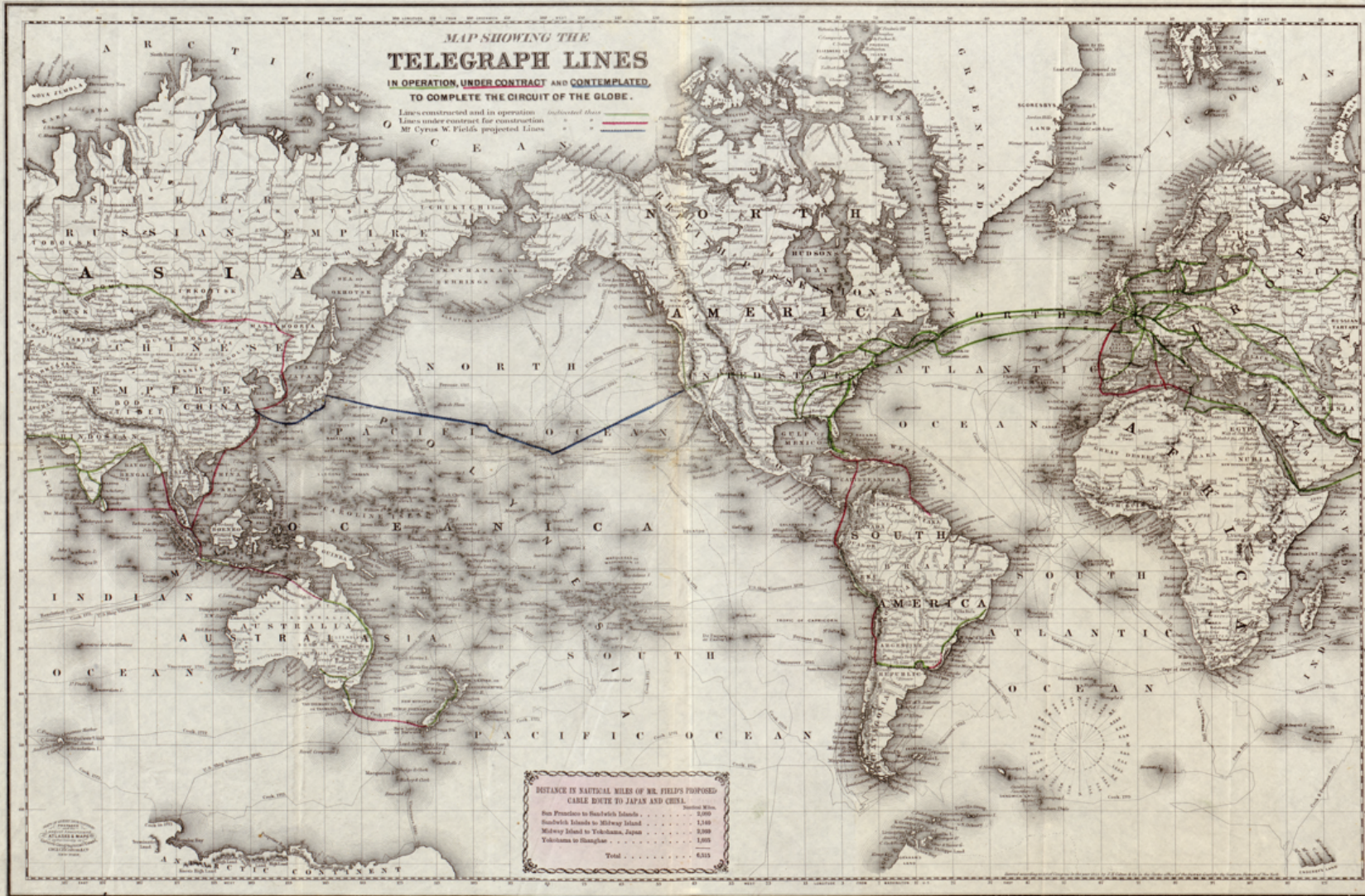
Approximately 80% of what I think I know about EHB, I learned by reading period newspapers and periodicals.

Today, people of EHB's relative cultural "weight" do not make it to the pages of USA Today or the New York Times.

But they'd have a blog, and a tweetstream, and they'd self-publish e-books on Amazon.com

Traveling-As-Network

- Telegraphy -- The Metaphor of the Movement



JH Colton & Co., 1871
www.loc.gov

Traveling-As-Network

- Informational Distance and Speed
 - You can measure the distance between two points in miles, or in informational distance: road miles, or information minutes
 - Information cannot travel faster than c (186k mps), or cause-and-effect relationships are compromised (Einstein)
 - 1775: The battles at Lexington and Concord occur on April 19; are published in the NY press on April 23; in Philadelphia on April 25; in Baltimore on April 27; in Charleston on May 9; in Savannah on May 31
 - ~1100 hours (45 days) to travel 1100 miles - 1 information mile per hour
 - 1872: the London-to-Calcutta undersea cable is lit
 - 3 hours to travel 6900 (overland) miles: 2300 information miles per hour; 38 information miles per minute
 - During this same period, the informational distance between many places within the US and the UK remained unchanged, and very low (in terms of i-mph)
- Globalization is about compression of road-miles, and information-minutes

Traveling-As-Network

- Informational Speed

Event	Year	Distance (Miles)	Elapsed Time Until Arrival in London (hours)	i-MPH
Battle of the Nile	1798	2073	1,488	1.39
Battle of Trafalgar	1805	1100	408	2.70
Kutch Earthquake (India)	1819	4118	3,672	1.12
Treaty of Nanking	1842	5597	2,016	2.78
Charge of the Light Brigade	1854	1646	408	4.0
Indian Mutiny	1857	4176	1,104	3.78
Treaty of Tien-Sin	1858	5140	1,968	2.61
Lincoln Assassination	1865	3674	312	12
Archduke Maximilian Assassination (Mexico)	1867	5545	288	19.3
Alexander II Assassination	1881	1309	12	109
Nobi Earthquake (Japan)	1891	5916	24	247
Source: Clark, A Farewell to Alms (2008)				

In the 1870s,
i-MPH eclipsed
p-MPH for the first
time...and it has been
that way ever since.

