Comparing Great Lakes Maritime Transportation Systems: 1800 to 1898
Voyageurs, Chicagoist, 30 June 2010.
http://chicagoist.com/2004/07/12/calling_all_voyageurs.php
http://www.boatnerd.com/news/newsthumbs/images06/s00-1908-waf.jpg
Focus Questions

- How did transportation systems change from 1800 to 1898?
- What economic impact have maritime systems had on America?
Great Lakes Marine Transportation Systems in 1800
http://www.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/watershed.html
Great Lakes Frontier Settlements 1800

- Fur and trade goods moved in and out of settlements like Detroit, Green Bay, and Mackinac Island
- Settlements were founded on bodies of water
- The waterways were the highways, connecting the settlements with the rest of the world
Great Lakes Frontier Settlements 1800

- Furs and trade goods were carried by voyageur powered, 36 foot long, birch bark covered canoes
- Voyageurs carried goods, and the canoe, on their backs around large rapids

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http://chicagoist.com/2004/07/12/calling_all_voyageurs.php
By 1800 small ships were carrying people and goods between towns on the Great Lakes. Cargo was unloaded and delivered by hand or cart.

Great Lakes Frontier Settlements 1800

- Canoes and ships brought goods into settlements for local use and transshipment.
- Voyageurs and sailors spent money in the settlements they visited or settled.
- Merchants built warehouses, wharfs, and ships to meet increased demand for transportation systems, hiring local labor.
- Settlements grew into towns and cities as more goods and immigrants arrived.
Great Lakes Marine Transportation Systems in 1898
Packet ships carried a great variety of packaged goods, passengers, to small ports along the lakes.

Packet ships often connected rail lines.

Wharfs were built to accommodate ships, then goods unloaded by hand.

These wooden steam ships were built along the lakes.
Great Lakes Marine Transportation 1898

- Ships were designed and built to carry passengers, for day trips and longer
- From Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, and Cleveland, vacationers traveled to Mackinac Island or Put-in-Bay

Great Lakes Marine Transportation 1898

- Bulk freighters carried coal, iron ore, limestone, or wheat
- Transportation systems were corporate built and operated
- Ports connected ships with railroads
- Ships could self unload

Great Lakes Marine Transportation 1898

- Ship building no longer done by small town entrepreneurs, but by big city corporations
- Ships became more specialized, carrying passengers, packages, or bulk cargo
- Transportation systems were becoming more intermodal (ships to trains)
- Transportation systems monopolized riverfronts with wharfs, dry docks, shipyards
- Settlements had become major cities, populations increased and diversified