

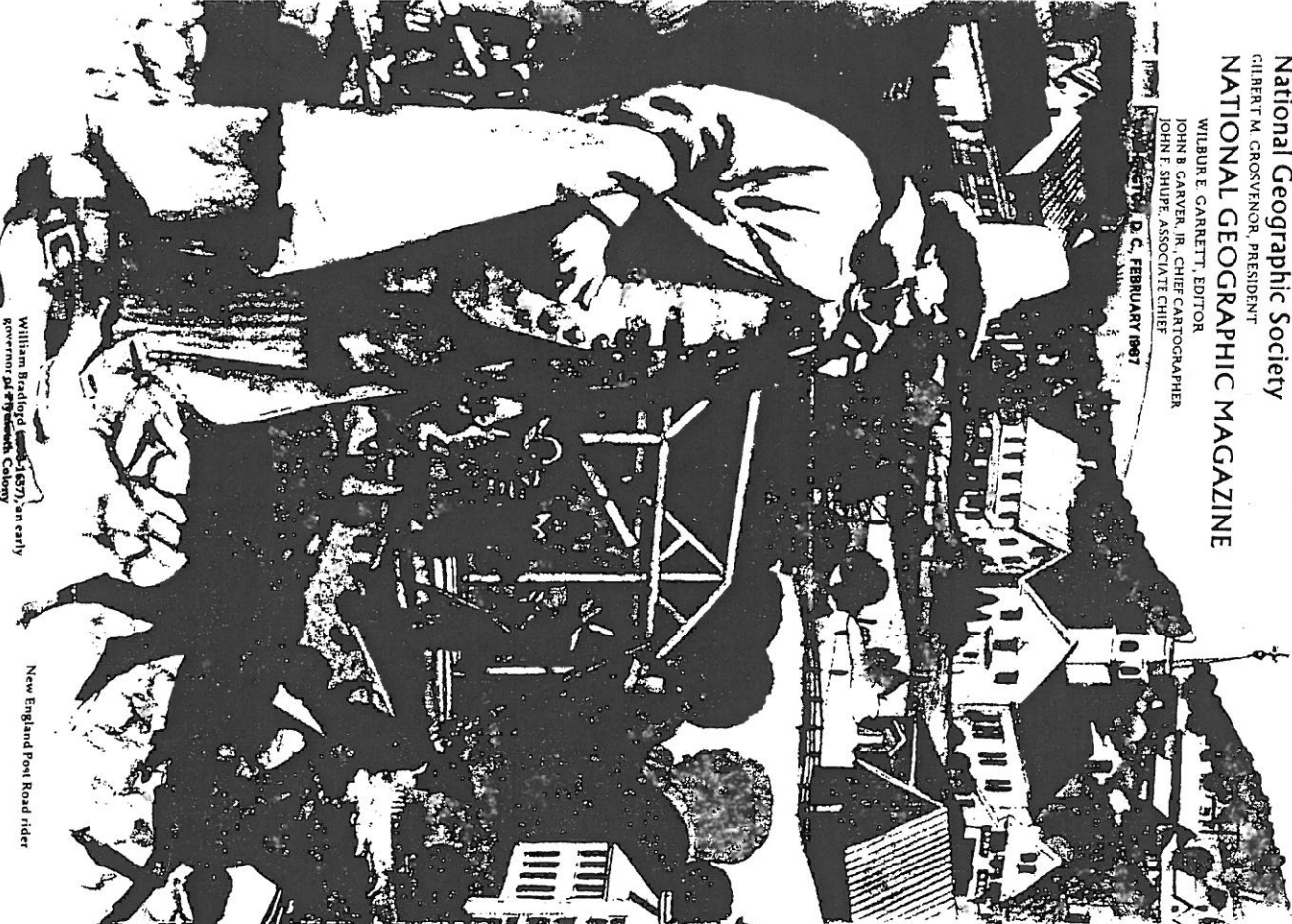
THE MAKING OF AMERICA

New England

Produced by the Cartographic Division
National Geographic Society
GILBERT M. GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

WILBUR E. GARRETT, EDITOR
JOHN B. CARVER, JR., CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER
JOHN F. SHUPPE, ASSOCIATE CHIEF

1967
D. C., FEBRUARY 1967



William Bradford (map 187), an early
government geographer's colony

New England Post Road rider

NEW ENGLAND, more so than any other region, holds the key to the making of America. To its colonists can be traced quintessential American qualities: regard for religion, respect for education, relish for work, and restlessness of spirit. New England's colonial heritage helped lay the foundations of American democracy, and in New England's founding industrialists can be seen the entrepreneurship that figured strongly in making the United States preeminent among manufacturing nations.

Not until early in the 1600s did European powers establish footholds to validate long-standing charter claims (map 1). New England's population, although tiny, soon exceeded that of New France and New Netherlands combined. A seed of permanent English colonization germinated at Plymouth in 1620; a decade later a convoy of English Puritans landed at Salem (map 2). By the mid-1600s more than 15,000 religious exiles had stepped ashore in the Great Migration. In time and with the influence of newcomers—Scottish Presbyterians, Quakers, and others—New Englanders shed their Puritan mantle, becoming independent-spirited Yankees.

Britain's triumph over France in 1763 caused great shifts of peoples (map 3), and the war for American independence brought further up-

heavals (inset map). Former colonies settled boundary disputes, and in 1791 the independent republic of Vermont joined the Union as the 14th state. Footloose Yankees continued streaming west and north, seeking fertile lands beyond the confines of the region.

As a new century turned, so mill wheels began turning in the Northeast (map 4). New England had the ingredients for industrial success: abundant water power and capital, a trainable labor force, and a wealth of inventors and entrepreneurs.

European and Canadian immigrants provided muscle for strong growth through the late 1800s (map 5). After World War I, textile production fell while that of the South rose, and shoe manufacturers moved to the Midwest. In the 1930s the Great Depression made bad times worse. Between 1919 and 1939 almost 400,000 workers lost their jobs—eight times the rate of decline in the rest of the nation.

World War II fostered an electronics boom spearheaded by New England (map 6). By 1960, when John F. Kennedy's election as President signaled the dying embers of tension between Irish Catholics and Yankee Protestants, New England brainpower was sparking a high-tech wildfire. Today's vitality draws from a legacy of educational excellence reaching back to the Puritan era.



Samuel Slater's cotton mill

Speerwhale on sperm-whale lough

Irish immigrant girls