

RAILROADS

The early history of Kansas and the Great Plains is meshed with that of railroads, and many settlers correctly concluded that their economic future would be tied to the railroad revolution. The vision of a transcontinental railroad existed in Kansas even before the Civil War and it caused frenzied promotion and construction of short and long lines that were supposed to tie into a national railroad network. A few of the projects succeeded, but more typical is the Elwood and Marysville Railroad, the first to begin construction in 1859. It was to run from the Missouri River to Iaratic, Wyoming. The rails advanced only 15 miles toward their destination before the Elwood and Marysville came to its end.