



IMPACT OF RAILWAY  
TRANSPORTATION ON  
LEXINGTON COMMERCE

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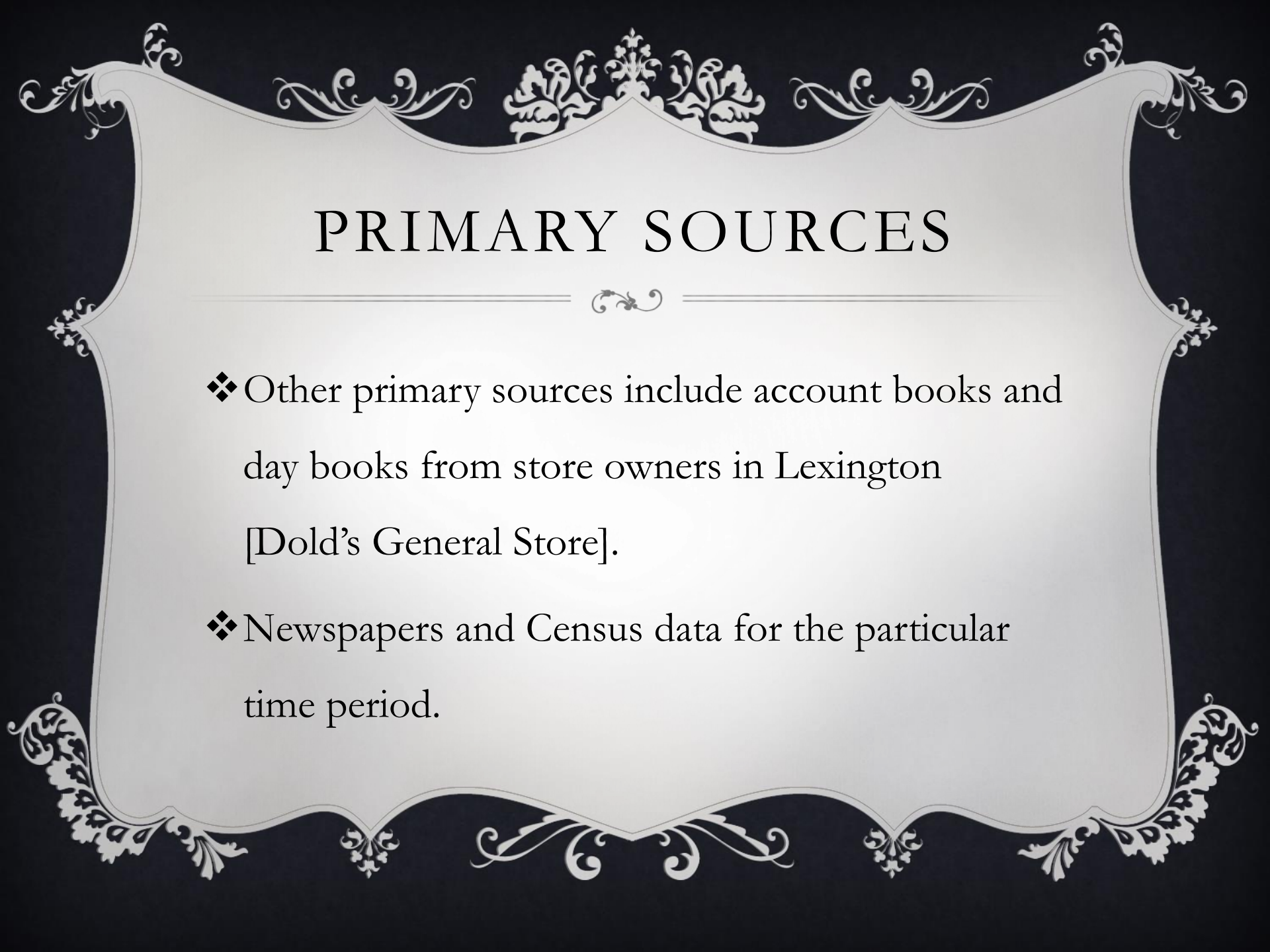
*Bereket Mechale*

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# SOURCES USED

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❖ Primary Sources such as books describing the history of railroads in Lexington: *Iron Horses in the Valley* by John Hilderbrand.



# PRIMARY SOURCES

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- ❖ Other primary sources include account books and day books from store owners in Lexington [Dold's General Store].
- ❖ Newspapers and Census data for the particular time period.



# SECONDARY SOURCES

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❖ Secondary sources used are articles from the Rockbridge Historical Society Journal and the C&O RR Journal.



## RR HISTORY WITH RESPECT TO LEXINGTON

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- ❖ The civil war had crippled the South's economy as a result of destructions directly due the war, the devaluation of the confederate currency, and various other complex factors.
- ❖ In efforts to bring back pre-Civil war prosperity, it was paramount that trade routes [VRR] be open connecting the south with the east-west rail lines of the nation (Hilderbrand, 2000).



# EFFORTS TO RAISE FUNDS

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- ❖ Rockbridge county gave about \$525,000 in the form of bonds (RHS Journal, 1980-89).
- ❖ Robert E. Lee was sent as a representative of VRR. City of Baltimore gave an aid of \$1 million in the form of stock shares (Hilderbrand, 2000).
- ❖ B&O was to invest \$1,000,000 and construct connection between Harper's Ferry and Hagerstown.

# OBSTACLES

- ❖ Target Amount \$3,200,000.
- ❖ Counties only could raise bond subscription up to \$1,105,000.
- ❖ \$95,000 less than what was projected.
- ❖ B&O increased investment with \$20,000—Largest Shareholder of VRR.
- ❖ Private subscription from Staunton of \$75,000.
- ❖ Construction began on July 1872 (Hilderbrand, 2000).

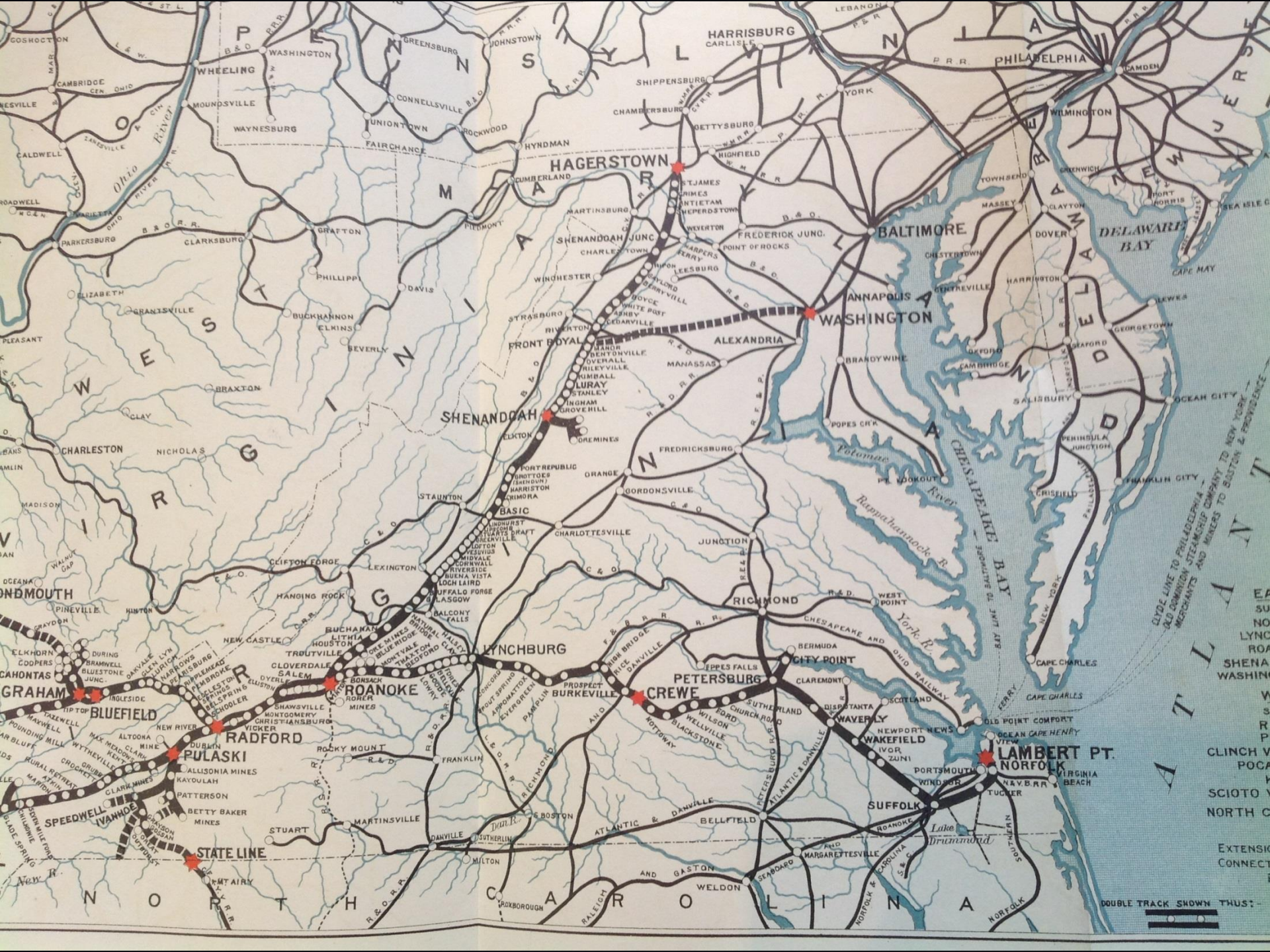
# DEPRESSION OF 1873

- ❖ VRR was in a financially insecure position (Hilderbrand, 2000).
- ❖ Several Counties were not meeting subscription promises for various reasons.
- ❖ Construction was officially suspended towards the end of 1874 and wouldn't resume until 1883.



# COMPETITION

- ❖ Meanwhile, the R&A is chartered and construction begins to connect Richmond with C&O at Clifton Forge, VA in 1878 (Hilderbrand, 2000).
- ❖ It provided an extension into Lexington which was completed by October 14<sup>th</sup> 1881.
- ❖ SVRR [Hagerstown to Big Lick (Roanoke)] financed by Pennsylvania was completed by 1881.



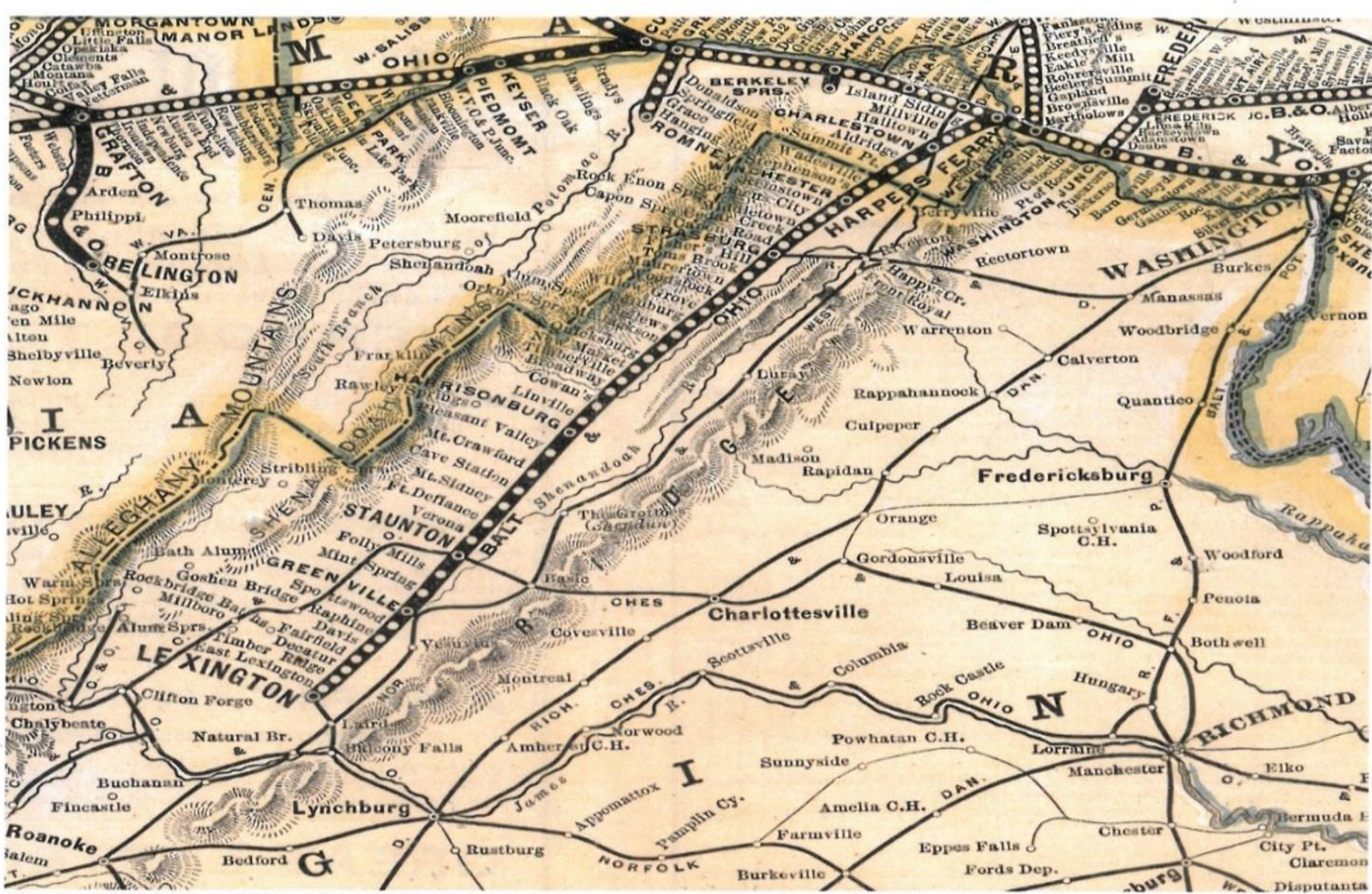
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# RESUMING OF CONSTRUCTION

❖ VRR secured a \$1,000,000 mortgage and a traffic agreement with the R&A for a connection and to make use of their railway which passes through Lexington as a terminus for the VRR (Hilderbrand, 2000)

❖ Issues with Contractors

❖ Construction of the VRR resumed in the fall (March) of 1883 and was completed by the end of the year.



The July 1894 B&O Public Timetable gives us this beautiful stylized map of the service in the region we are studying. All those places we have visited thus far, and those we are about to encounter are represented. A few communities changed names over the years; others have seemingly vanished. Otherwise, this is a good representation of what has come to pass. Southern Railway was just created out of the Richmond & Danville RR receivership, so their lines still show the previous name, Richmond & Danville. Lots was about to happen over the next few years in the region. Of course the railroads were not this straight as seen here but this map fills in the basics.

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# ACCOUNT-BOOK RESEARCH

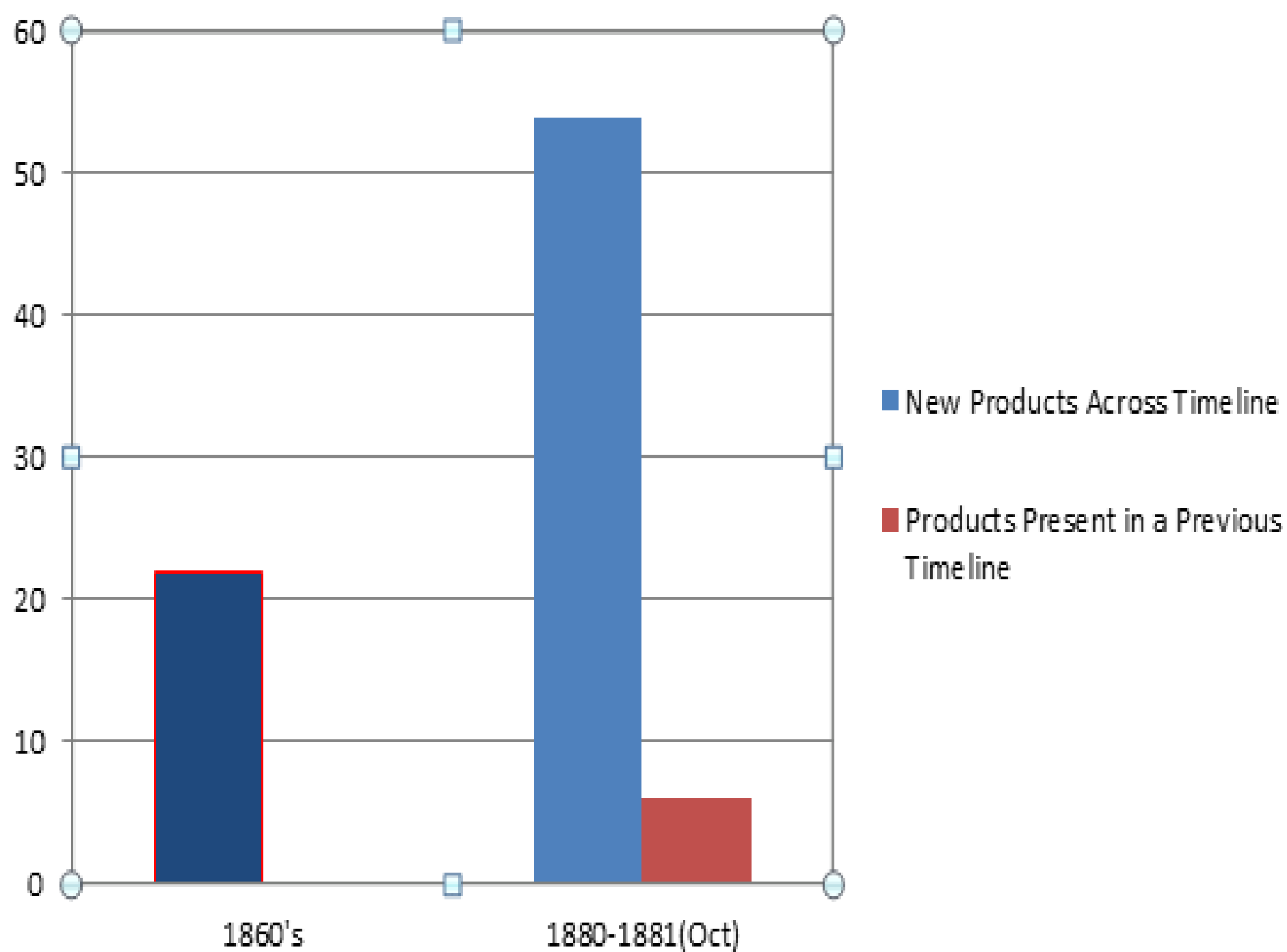
- ❖ 4 Timelines
- ❖ 1860's
- ❖ 1880-1881(Oct)
- ❖ 1881(Oct)- 1883(Oct)
- ❖ Post 1883(Oct)
- ❖ 2 Seasonal Analyses




Coca-Cola

DOLDS CORNER  
Let's Show You  
THE  
CORRECT  
INFORMATION









## 1860'S

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- Coffee and Coffee pots
  - Tin Cups and Pipes
  - Sugar and Pepper
  - Eggs, Bacon and Beef
  - Corn, Wheat, Rye, Hay and Oats
  - Coat Buttons and Brandy
  - Bleach and Soda
- Cotton
  - Shirting
  - Bleached Shirting

"	12	"	14 <sup>1/2</sup> bushels of oats	6	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	"	"	sharpening ploughshare & 1 screw		18 $\frac{3}{4}$
"	"	"	cash		13
May	8	"	2 bushels of oats		90
June	1	"	3 bushels of oats	1	35
"	30	"	4 bushels of corn	2	80
July	29	"	1 bus		70
"	"	"	2 removals & mil for sythe		16 $\frac{1}{2}$
August	18	by	<del>20</del> lbs of harness		
"	22	"	12 lbs of bacon	1	50
"	"	"	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of corn	1	05
"	"	"	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hand one day		75
			by 2270 ft of flooring	17	02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sept	17	"	12 lbs of bacon	1	50
Sept	28	"	41 lbs of beef & 6 cts	2	46
Oct	5	"	sharpening shear		12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1855 Feb	17	"	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of oats @ 45 <sup>c</sup> per bu		67 $\frac{1}{2}$
March	1	"	3 bus of oats		

	"	12 1/2 bushels of corn	7	20	73	35 1/2
March	5	" 9 bushels of corn	5	04		
"	"	" 3 bushels of corn for Powell	1	68		
"	"	" 275 ft of sgr plank at 75	2	06 1/2		
"	9	" 10 1/2 bushels of corn	5	88		
"	11	" 22 1/2 bushels of corn	12	60		
"	16	" 17 bushels of corn	9	52		
"	"	" 5 bushel of corn	2	80		
"	"	" hay for cattle	1	50		
"	"	" 14 bus of corn	7	80		
"	"	" 3 stacks of hay	75	00		
"	"	" 209 bushels of wheat in Wallaces mill at 75 cts per bushel	156	75		
"	"	" 18 bushels of corn	10	08		
"	"	" 24 bushels of corn	13	44		
"	"	" 16 bushels of corn	8	96	\$313	15 1/2
April	1	" 20 1/2 bushels of corn	11	48		
"	"	" 23 bushels of corn	12	88		
		P. ...				



1880-1881 (OCT)

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- Macaroni and Mustard
- Cheese and Canned Tomatoes
- Salmon and Mackerel
- Blacking, Ticking and Calico
- Soap, Spools and Comforts
- Crackers and Syrup
- Pickles and Matches
- Sardines and Chocolate
- Perfumery and Pair of Pants
- Syrup and Anchovy Paste
- Roe Herring and Lobster
- Smocking Tobacco and Cigars

January 20 1880 57 25

S. M. Dold for John Stearns

1 lb Bacon 27 1/2 lbs 2 22  
1 plug Tobacco 15  
\$ 2.45

D. Orbigon. Wf

12 yds Tickings @ 30 3 60  
14 " Calico @ 60 1 17  
6 " Pro Drillings @ 90 75  
2 S. frools @ 5 10  
2 Comforts @ 12 24 00  
1 box Soap 104 10  
\$ 9.72

Gumms

Tobacco 5

W<sup>m</sup> Lovreigler

3 lbs Coffee for Mrs Conner 60

2 Comforts	@ \$2.-	4 00
1 lux Eye	104	10
		<hr/>
		\$ 9.72

173. Junius Tobacco 5

11. W<sup>m</sup> Creigler  
3 lbs Coffee for no Corner 60

7. P. Cordelius  
Canvas + drilling 13

73. Junius - Candles 15

Jan'y 21<sup>st</sup> - 1880

no - Sheridan

Horace Brown H  
 10. 1 bottle Chew Chew 35  
 no tobacco - 10  
 .45

P. Cordelius -  
 7. 3 pts Molasses @ 50 19  
 1/2 gal Oil - 10  
 8 1/3 lbs Beans 25  
 Salt 5. tobacco 5 10  
 Soap - 10  
 flour - 75  
 \$ 1.49

J. H. Deaver for order  
 2. flour - 50

W<sup>m</sup> Creigler H  
 11. 2 lbs Crackers 20

1/6 "	Salmon	@ 1/6	1 25
1/6 "	Lobster	"	- 25
1/6 "	Oyster	@ 10	- 50
1 doz	Blacking		- 20
20 lbs	Buckwheat	@ 3¢	1 00
3 cakes	Soap		60
1 lb	Ground Pepper		25
6 "	Macaroni	@ 20	1 20
2 "	Cheese	@ 20	- 40
1 box	Mustard		- 35
1 bottle	Tabasco Sauce		- 50
2 Ham	- 22 lbs	@ 15¢	3 30
			<hr/> 12 05

Jan'y 30 = 1880

Jan'y 30	=	1880	
Jan'y 30	-		
cash	-	1.25	1 50
Sugar	10		<hr/> 1 40

M. Drummond  
2 lbs Honning -

S. M. Dold for John C. Steele

4.	1 Bush meal	60	
	1 pack Salt	25	
	4 doz fish	100	
	5 lbs Lard	50	
	1 Bucket	25	
	1/2 lb Tobacco	30	
	5 " Sugar	50	
	= cash	<u>5</u>	3 45

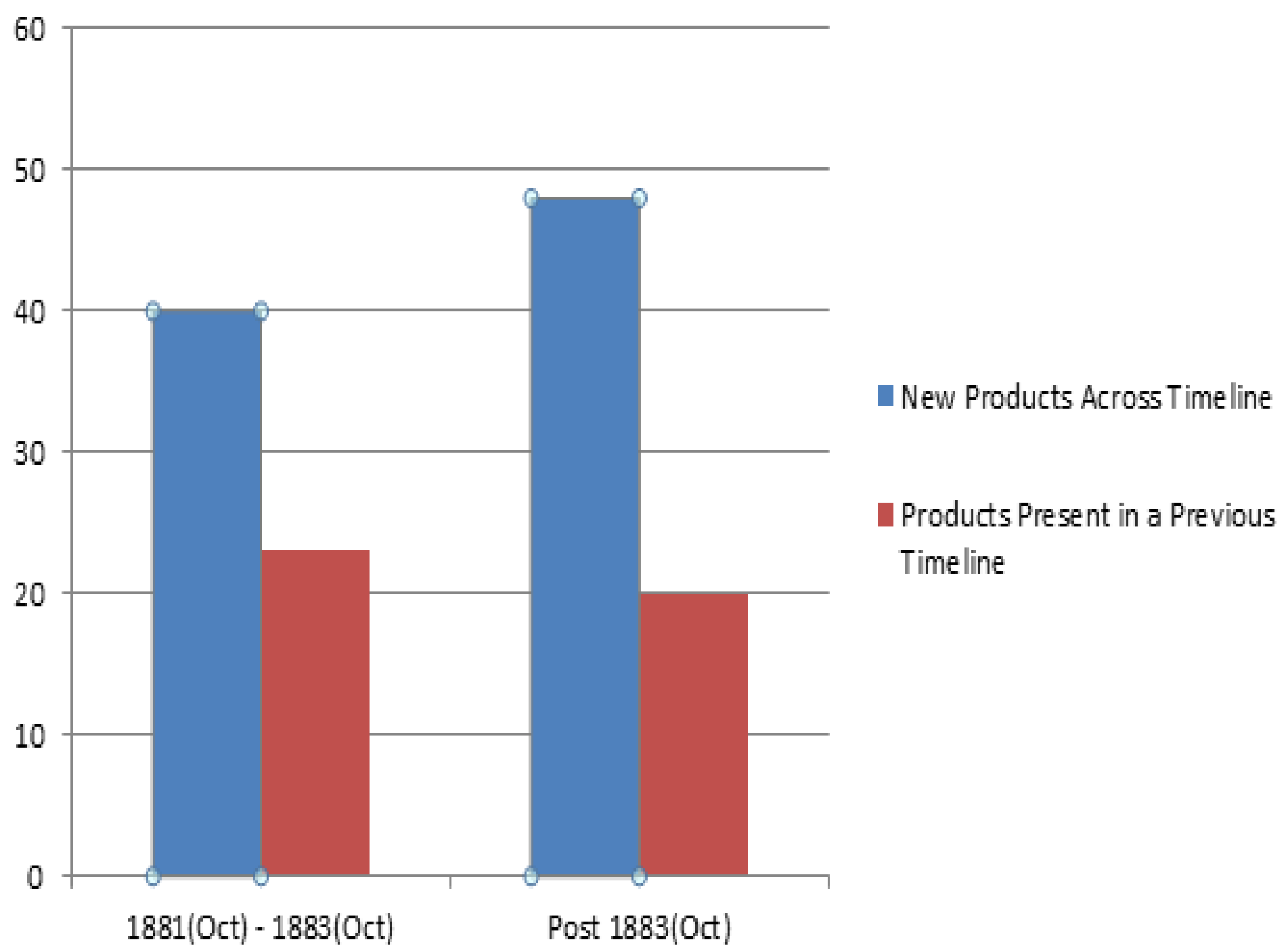
Junius -


60	5ms Tobacco	10	
180.	= 1 lb Sugar	<u>10</u>	20

John Sheridan

15.	= 1/2 doz flow lines -		" 50
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1881 (OCT) - 1883 (OCT)

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- Shoes
- Java Coffee and Rio Coffee
- Gram Sugar and Starch (Glass Starch)
- Yellow Bird Tobacco
- Grits (Corn and Oat)
- Gelatin and Molasses
- Potted Ham & Mince Meat
- Blueing and Medicine
- Lemon Extract & Moleskin
- Dried Peaches & Prunes
- Peck Onions & Pears
- Hair Brush and Combs
- Rio Cotton & Cotton Cloth

Horace G. Corwin		
50 lbs Gran Sugar @ 9 <sup>0</sup>		6.25
# 25" Bro" " @ 10¢		2.50
10" Java Coffee @ 25 <sup>-</sup>		2.50
5" Rio " @ 15 <sup>-</sup>		..75
30, Bacon Side @ 1/-		5.00
2 Hams do - $13\frac{1}{4} + 11 = 24\frac{1}{4}$ @ 19		4.60
10 lbs Rice @ 10¢		1.00
5" Breakfast Hominy		..25
1" Mustard (4 boxes)		..40
box table Salt		..15
<del>1/2</del> lb pow <sup>r</sup> pepper		20
1/4" Cayenne "		15
1 doz Olean Soap. -		1.00
2 lbs Gloss Starch		..30
1 lb Yellow Bird Tobacco.		<u>1.25</u>

" 30 4 lbs Cat gets " 30

Hugh G. Stephens hf  
5 lbs fancy cakes @ 20 1 00

4 cans 3 lb Tomatoes " 70

# 2 boxes Coleman's Mustard " 50


3 cans Pineapple " 75

2 boxes Crackers " 30

5 lbs Cheese 1 00


3 cans 3 lb Peaches 1 05

1 Glass mustard 10



## POST 1883(OCT)

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- Mixed Nuts and Raisins
- Fire Crackers and Bananas
- Figs, Taffy & Twist Tobacco
- Cologne and Glycerin
- Cream Honey Soap & Club Bath Soap
- Awassa Soap and Towels
- Soup and Cream
- Suspenders for Men
- Cardigan Jackets & Collars
- Pairs of Cuffs & Purses
- Pens & Pocket Books
- Lemons and Oranges

204. Chas. L. Todd  
To Cash

~~35.00~~

184. Mannie Moor  
To 1 gal. Oil

203. Potts Stokes & Co  
To cash

~~25.00~~

18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Kirkpatrick  
To 20 lbs. buckwheat  
" 1 lb. cream crackers

64. " 4 " fancy cakes  
" 1 box figs  
" 3 1/3 lbs. prunes  
" 1 bottle Ol. Oil

80  
20  
100  
75  
100  
20

November 21<sup>st</sup> 1883

245

E. L. Perry		
To	1 1/2 plugs tobacco	
"	5 packs firecrackers	34.70
"	25 large	
"	4 small	50
"	1 bundle (Roman)	25-
"	(ten balls)	25-
		10

To	Dr. Kirkpatrick by Miss Mary	20
"	4 lbs. minced meat	130
"	6 boxes blacking	50

To	Dr. Kirkpatrick for	50
"	1 Kit Roe Herring	100
"	7 lbs cheese	2.00
"	10 " Evaporated Peaches - @ 20 -	1.40
		<u>2.00</u>

Ben Loun

5.40

1874. Wannell Moore  
To Cash

+ ~~3.95-~~

	E. L. Perry		
	To 1 box figs	75-	
	" 1 lb. raisins	20	
	" 1 " ginger snaps	15-	
	" 1 bottle cologne	75-	
857	" 1 box cream honey soap	45-	
	" 1 " palm glycerines "	25-	
	" 1 cake bath king "	10	
	" 1 " owassa "	10	
	" 1 " club baths "	5-	
	" 1 lb. candy	<u>20-</u>	300
			<u>45.50</u>



53.

on

50 1/2 gal. Molasses  
 " 5 lb. buckwheat-  
 " 1/2 doz. oranges  
 " 1/4 lb. Molasses taffy

" 38  
 " 25  
 " 20  
 " 5  


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 88

Jacob Macke

63.

50 1/2 gal. Molasses  
 " 1/2 doz. oranges  
 " 1/2 " lemons  
 " 5 lb. buckwheat-  
 " 2/3 " rifle nuts

" 38  
 " 20  
 " 15  
 " 25  
 " 10  


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 108

C. L. Perry

3-9.

do 4 fire crackers

" 80

11<sup>th</sup>

John Shuidan

64.

do 2 lb. mix nuts

40

" 2 " raisins

40

" 1 " taffy

20

" 1 qt. peanuts

5

" 2 box figs

10

" 2 barrel candy

20

" 2 U. S. barrels

10

" 2 buckets candy

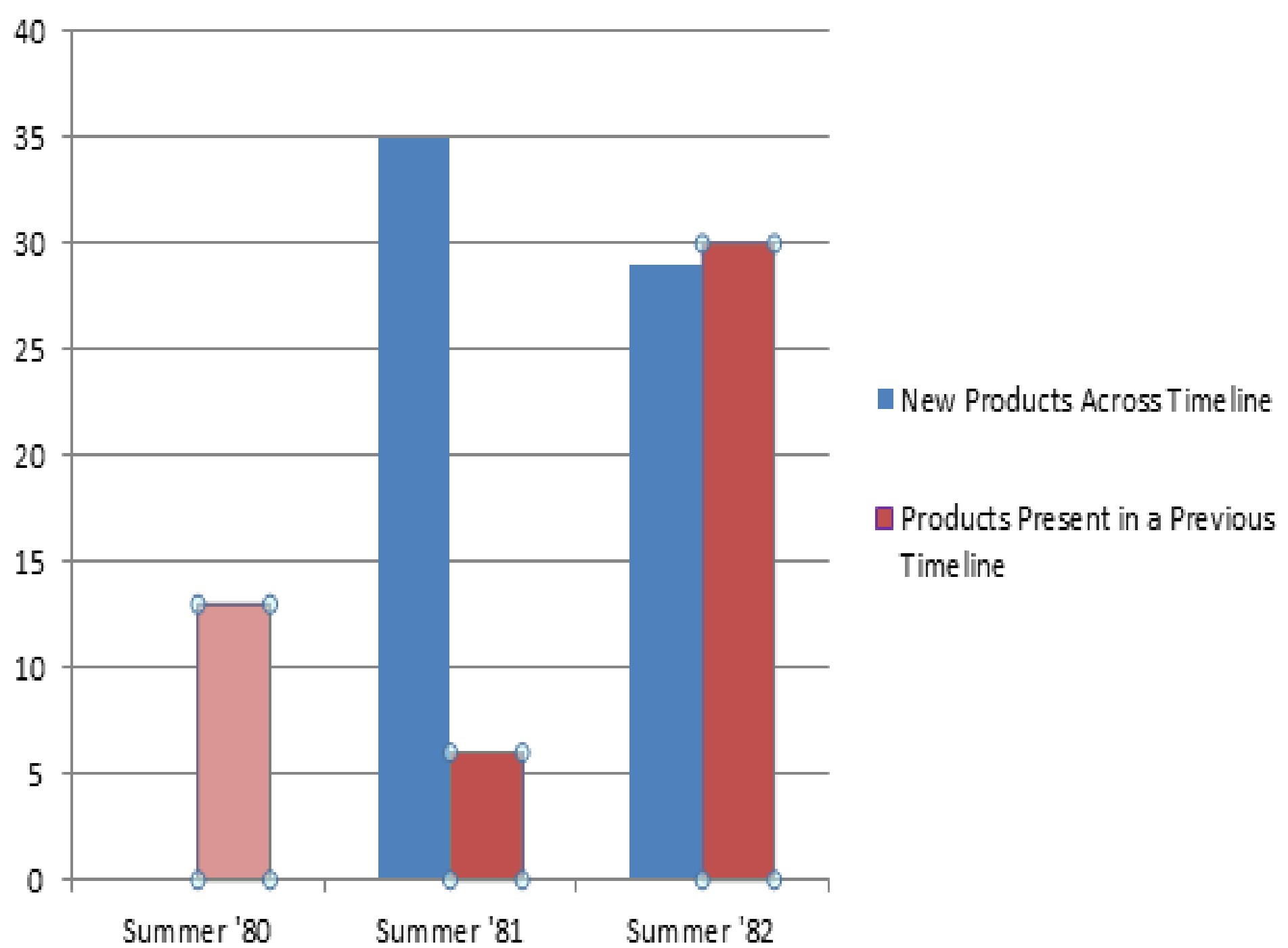
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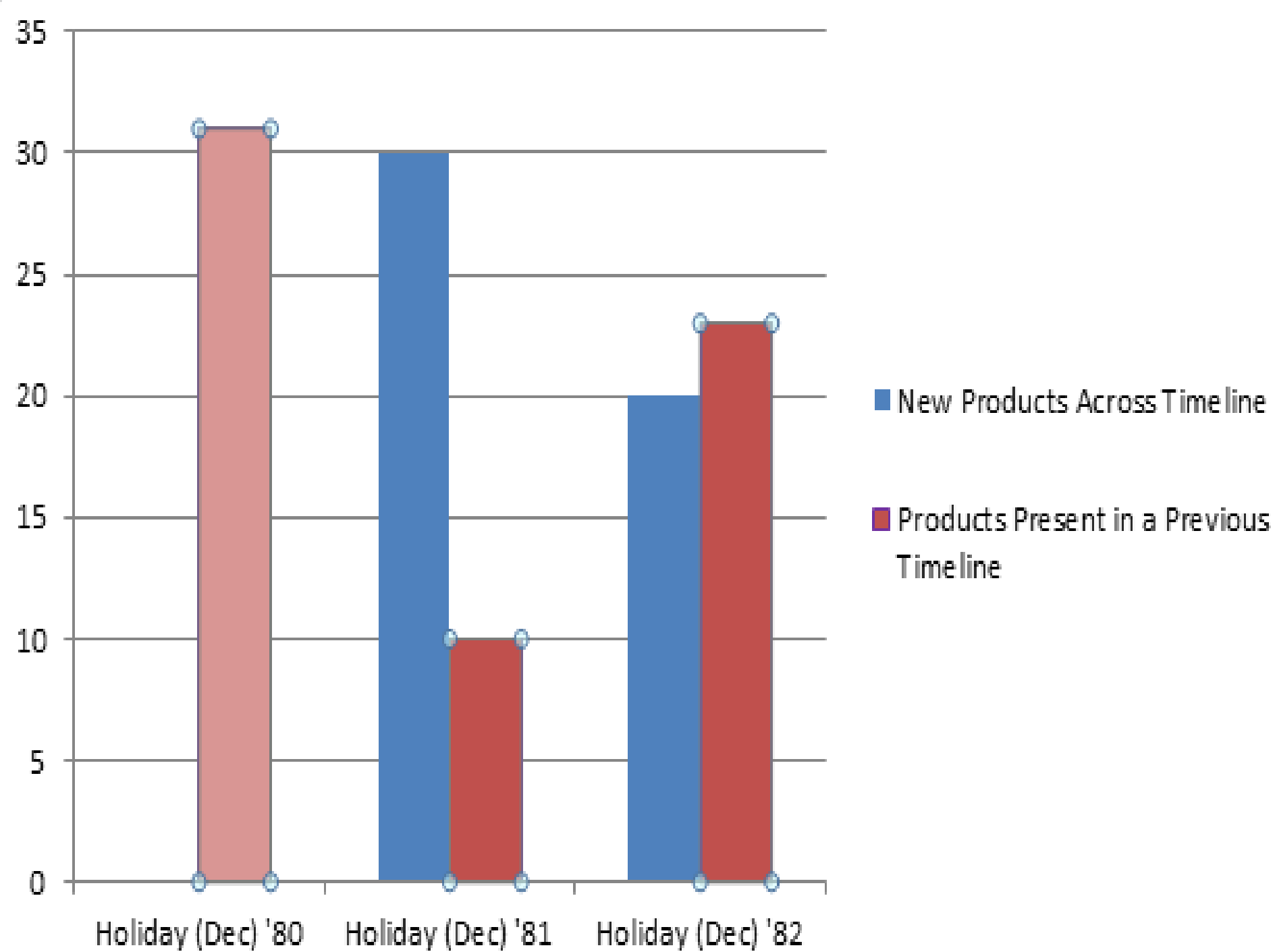
" 2 rolling pins

10

195





# ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

- ❖ Barter transactions were more common pre 1881 than post 1881. However, barter transactions were prevalent to a certain extent in both time periods.
- ❖ As a result, Cash is less prevalent prior to the introduction of railroads.
- ❖ Record keeping became neater and much more organized in terms of summing up daily numbers.

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# RESEARCH DRAWBACKS

- ❖ Going forward, further research into pricing changes, additional product mix changes and shifts in record keeping practices.
- ❖ Looking into other Store owners' financials—from either Lexington or other cities from other nearby counties—in order to compare the changes noticed in the Dold account books.
- ❖ Further research into other Dold account books to make sure changes are consistent.



# CONCLUSIONS

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- ❖ Increase in amount, type and number of products sold.
- ❖ Diversification within product lines. For Ex: Tobacco
- ❖ A shift in purchasing patterns from day to day subsistence products to luxury or non-basic items.
- ❖ Consistent products across time found to be Coffee, Sugar, Tobacco, Lard, Beef, Bacon, Corn, Flour, Macaroni, Cheese among others.



QUESTIONS?

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Thank You for Listening