Fremont and Nicollet passed through the area that would become Griggs County in 1839. Fourteen years later Isaac Stevens would lead a railroad surveying expedition through this area.

The first steam locomotive had begun operation in the United States in 1830. It went back and forth on a 13 mile track between Baltimore and Ellicott's Mills. It wasn't established to earn a profit but just to see if a steam locomotive might be feasible. At that time there was less than 30 miles of railroad track in the United States, primarily horse powered carts in mining areas.

The steam locomotive proved so feasible that in 1853, a short 23 years later, Congress allotted $150,000 towards six expeditions to find the most practical path to carry a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Governor Isaac I. Stevens led the northern-most survey along the 47th to 49th parallels. The 47th parallel is about halfway between Sanborn and Rogers and the 49th parallel is our border with Canada.

There were political, business and sectional rivalries between all of these routes. The people along each route all wanted their section to be chosen. It could mean a lot of potential wealth to anyone living along the chosen route.

There is a lot of further reading available at http://www.cprr.org/Museum/Pacific\_RR\_Surveys/

Stevens said that frogs were by far the best bait to use for catching pike, pickerel and catfish.

Even though this route was not chosen for the first route, the expedition provided many journals of information on the new territory along this route.