1. The Great Northern (GN) and the Northern Pacific (NP) were vicious competitors.
   1. Lots of railroad scandals after 1860. Rumors of lots of underhanded money paid to Congress for railroad “charters”.
   2. Great Northern goes from Grand Forks to Williston
   3. Northern Pacific goes from Fargo to Dickinson
2. 1871 The Northern Pacific reached Moorhead
3. 1871 The GN reached Breckenridge
4. 1872 the NP put down 164 miles of track across North Dakota. This would be past Sanborn.
5. 1873 the NP made impressive strides and rails from the east reached the [Missouri River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_River)
6. 1873 The Panic of 1873 stopped NP construction.
7. 1873-1879 Some people out of work from Panic of 1873 to the rails. Lots of stories in Valley City newspapers about problems with hobos, bums and vagrants
8. 1875 NP files bankruptcy
9. 1879 Pioneer **Opheim** built his cabin in Griggs County
10. 1879 NP recovered from bankruptcy and built 100 miles of track west of Mandan.
11. 1880 **R. C. Cooper** came to this area. He knew he had to have a railroad somehow.
12. 1880 The Northern Pacific had a gentlemen's agreement with Great Northern that the NP would build no branch lines north (from Sanborn to Cooperstown) of their main lines if the GN would build none south (from Lakota to Cooperstown).
13. 1882 The Missouri River was bridged with a million-dollar span. The Missouri had been handled by a ferry service most of the year. During winters, when ice was thick enough, the rails were laid across the river itself.
14. 1882 The GN reached Hope through Breckenridge, Wahpeton and Casselton.
15. 1885 The Manitoba Railway reached west from Grand Forks through Lakota Devils Lake, N. D.
16. 1889 GN name came about from the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba
17. 1893 NP files for second bankruptcy.
18. 1896 GN Line extended from Hope to Aneta through Finley. Free rides to Aneta, where it turned around.
19. 1970 The Great Northern Railway, Northern Pacific Railway, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway all merged into the Burlington Northern