

OurStory Video: John Bull Riding the Rails

Date: November 2010

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/v/johnbull.html>

Codes:

JW = Jenny Wei

N = Narrator

“ “ =interrupting, pause

[] = not speaker's words

JW: Hi, I'm Jenny and I'm an Education Specialist here at the National Museum of American History. The object behind me is a steam locomotive called the John Bull. A locomotive is an engine that can pull other things behind it, such as train cars.

In 1981, for the John Bull's 150th birthday, the Museum took the train out to run on nearby train tracks. Take a look at this video to see the John Bull locomotive in action.

Video transcript:

[on screen text] The Smithsonian Institution presents the John Bull

[on screen text] The World's Oldest Operable Locomotive

N: Among the engines of change is the locomotive. With its speed, its power, its transforming effect in bringing new civilization into the wilderness, the locomotive became a symbol of the Industrial Revolution. This locomotive, called the John Bull, was made in England. Americans imported it in 1831 for use between Philadelphia and New York City on one of the first railway routes in the United States.

N: The John Bull was shipped to an America where the Industrial Revolution was just beginning. The man who assembled the locomotive after its arrival had never seen one. The people who rode in the cars it pulled had never moved so fast. Americans adapted quickly to the new machine and then changed the machine to better serve a rapidly expanding society.

[on screen text] credits