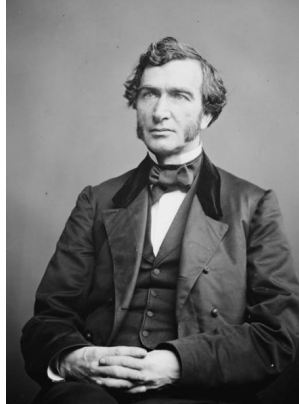


LAND GRANT COLLEGES



Justin Smith Morrill. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Justin_Smith_Morrill_-_Brady-Handy.jpg>

- First proposed by Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont in 1858
 - Morrill had been denied a college education himself because his father could not afford tuition
 - Morrill was influenced by Jonathan Baldwin Turner of Illinois, a Yale-educated farmer, newspaper editor, and college professor, who championed education for the working class
 - Opposed by Southerners in 1858 who objected to federal involvement in higher education
 - Vetoed by President James Buchanan for both constitutional and economic reasons
- Reintroduced by Morrill in 1862
 - Resisted by western representatives whose states received less land than the more populous eastern states were appeased by passage of the Homestead Act
 - Passed simultaneously with the Homestead Act (which appeased westerners)
 - Signed into law on July 2, 1862 by Abraham Lincoln
- Operation of the act
 - Granted each state 30,000 acres of government land (primarily in the West) per Congressional representative and senator
 - Land to be sold “at least to endow one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”
 - Land was typically sold cheaply to speculators
 - Proceeds could go to build new institutions or to fund existing ones
 - Extended to Southern states following the end of the Civil War

- Purdue University was founded on May 6, 1869, as the sole Indiana Land Grant institution

- To read the entire text of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, click on
http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/exhibits/lincoln/lincoln_morrill.html