Pioneers Cross the Appalachians
Daniel Boone was a pioneer. He found the Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains. This made crossing the mountains much easier. Daniel Boone helped build a road called the Wilderness Road through the gap. Many pioneers traveled through the gap to settle on the frontier in the Ohio River Valley. However, many American Indians already lived there.

Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson was chosen as President in 1800. In 1804, the nation ratified the Twelfth Amendment, which said that electors would vote separately for the President and Vice President.

At that time, the French claimed most of the land between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. They called it Louisiana. The French sold Louisiana to the United States. This was called the Louisiana Purchase. It doubled the size of the United States.

President Jefferson wanted to find a water route to the Pacific. He sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the West. A Shoshone woman named Sacagawea was their interpreter. They learned that there was no water route to the Pacific, but they learned how to cross the Rocky Mountains. They learned about wildlife and people.

War of 1812
More settlers moved west. They fought American Indians over land. Americans thought British colonists were giving the Indians weapons. In 1812, the United States declared war against Britain. The War of 1812 ended without a winner. In 1823, President Monroe wrote the Monroe Doctrine. It warned European nations not to start colonies in the Americas.

New states were added after the war. All white men in these states had suffrage. They helped to elect Andrew Jackson President. Jackson wanted more land for settlers. In 1838, the army forced American Indians who lived east of the Mississippi River to move to Oklahoma. Thousands of Cherokee Indians died along the way. This journey was called the Trail of Tears.