



Fall Newsletter

Volume 17

October 2005

Presidents Message Phil Belanger

Lowell has a fantastic past and an equally fantastic future. As the incoming President of the Lowell Historical Society, I eagerly look forward to working with you, the members, to preserve Lowell's past and be part of the future. I want to thank Tom Langan, our outgoing board President, for his efforts on behalf of the Lowell Historical Society for the past two years. Additionally, I want to mention the terrific contributions of our V.P. and Archivist, Denise Cailler. Over the Summer the Society moved our dead storage space from the Boott Cotton



A section of the record books donated by the Lowell 5 Cent Savings Bank.

Storehouse to a new storage area at 55 Middlesex Street, N. Chelmsford. The new storage space is significantly larger and provides a climate controlled environment that not only helps preserve the collection but allows for activities such as cataloging, research, minor

restoration, perhaps even displaying. We now hope to be able accept donations which in the past we had no place for and to concentrate on improving the quality of the collection. One of the future tasks is the accession of the record books (approximately 600 cubic feet) donated by the Lowell 5 Cents Savings Bank which form a massive pile in the storage space.

In closing, I hope that each and everyone of you will participate in the Society's activities. Anyone wishing to get involved with Lowell history can contact me or another member of the Board. See our web site at [Http://ecommunity.uml.edu/lhs/](http://ecommunity.uml.edu/lhs/) — Phil Belanger



New Historical Postcard

Here is the latest addition to the LHS series of reproduction vintage Lowell postcards. We now offer (11) reproduction postcards which are available to LHS members at a 10% discount. Or, save the postage and handling and visit one of our downtown Lowell retailers. See the LHS website (<http://ecommunity.uml.edu/lhs/>) for details or call the office at 978-970-5180. A great Christmas gift to compliment the new Lowell postcard book, "Lowell: The Mill City".

Collecting DNA

Linda Hoyt

Collecting is one of those little bits on your DNA. Collecting stuff is either in your nature, or it's not. Non-collectors just don't understand. I was rummaging around once at an antique bottle show in a mall when an elderly lady came up and tapped me on the shoulder. "Pardon me," she said. "But could you tell me why anybody would want this stuff?" I tried to explain, but the look in her eyes made it obvious that she thought the whole idea was daft. She may have been right, but it's fun.

A serious collector (as apposed to the lower form of collector called an accumulator) acquires items that fit in certain categories. A collector researches and organizes these items, trying to understand their place in the universe. Our niche is associated with three companies from Lowell, J.C. Ayer, C.I. Hood, and E.W. Hoyt. The fact that it's a niche that almost no one either knows or cares about doesn't bother us in the least.

Collectors are often also accumulators. Odd bits tend to stick to them, rather like burrs when walking through a vacant lot. Because of this, we have managed to acquire (not collect) such diverse items as an antique ore car, several hundred cereal boxes, a signed first addition of Walt Kelly's first Pogo book and hundreds of raccoons (plush, ceramic plastic, images, etc.)

When a collector marries a non-collector, the collector's lair is often limited to a single room, often in the basement if at all possible. I imagine non-collectors living in neat, uncluttered houses, presumably with neat, uncluttered minds. On the other hand when a collector is married to another collector watch out. In the cohabiting collector's house various collections threaten to take over, and their minds... well, you never know when you might need to know the approximate age of a bottle made using a snap-case and a key mold (generally 1860 - 1880.)

One advantage of being a collector is that if you meet a stranger who happens to be a collector, you have some common ground. Recently we found ourselves waiting in line next to a fellow who turned out to be an ardent collector of items related to the Lackawanna Railroad. We spent a pleasurable half hour chatting about collecting. His current dilemma was how to display, in a small apartment, brass letters spelling "Lackawanna" that once graced the side of a mountain. But, being devoted to his little niche of history, I'm sure he'll find a way.

Archivist Column

By Denise C. Cailler

We have received some important and very interesting collections this year at the Society. Our most recent acquisition is the "Ellenor Trull" collection. Ellenor was a prominent woman from Lowell whose social contacts were as extensive as her knowledge of the city. She was born in Lowell on June 6, 1907 and died on March 27, 2005. She was employed at the Lowell District Court from 1929 until 1969, as was her father who held the position of Clerk Magistrate for many years. During her lifetime she was heavily involved in many organizations including the Whistler House, American Red Cross (Lowell Chapter), Rogers Hall, Paint and Powder Club and membership in Girls, Inc. The collection includes many identifiable photos, land deeds, scrapbooks, diaries, yearbooks etc...

The Society would like to thank all those who have donated artifacts, photos, papers etc. to us since our last newsletter. Because of these donations, our mission continues. Our thanks go out to the following individuals:

Mehmed Ali	Tom Langan
Ann Beane	Constance Makris
Pearl Beauchesne	Richard Marion
Rita Belanger	Martha Mayo
Elizabeth Berk	Betty Poltrack
Doris Cote	John Peredina
Michael Drukman	Joseph Randazza
Jean Eaton	Douglas Shepard
Arthur Eno Jr.	Louise Szelest
Mina Gaudette	Janet Tellier
Irmgard Gienandt	Rita Villandry
Ray Hoag	Don Wall
Ray Houde	Amy Werner
Lew Karabatsos	Janine Whitcomb
Dick Lahue	Kevin Willet

In addition, we want to thank the following organizations:

Charlestown Historical Society
Lowell Fire Department
Westford Historical Society

Answers to Trivia Questions:

1. Lucy Larcom; 2. Wigginsville; 3. The Old Ladies' Home; 4. Fr. Armand Morrisette
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Calendar of Events

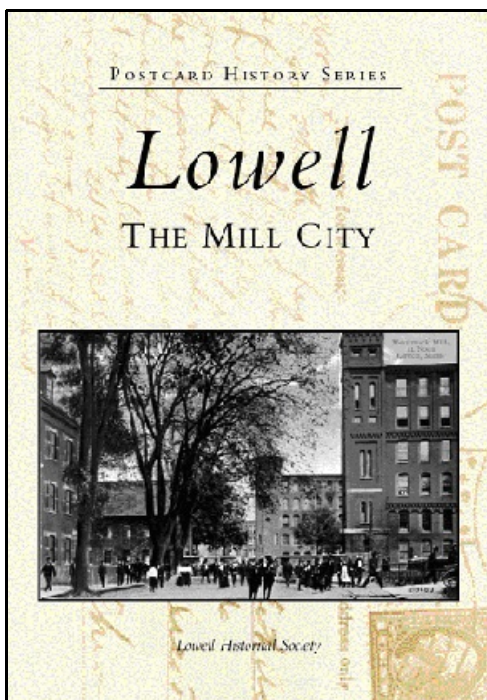
Lowell Postcard Book Signing

Sunday October 16, 2005 – National Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St., Lowell, MA between 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Note this is a time change from an original 2:00 pm.

The newly published, 144 page, Postcard History Series: Lowell: The Mill City will be ready for distribution in October. If you had your book mailed to you or picked up the book at the society, you will receive your copies prior to the book signing. Bring them with you to the signing.

Otherwise pick up your copies at the National Park Visitor Center the day of the signing whether you had our copy held for the book-signing event or if you wish to purchase copies at the signing (\$21.99 + tax per book or \$19.79 for Lowell Historical Society members in good standing). Proceeds to benefit the Lowell Historical Society.



Trivia Night

Saturday October 29, 2005 – Club Lafayette, 465 Fletcher St. 7:00 pm - \$10 per person. (Sponsored by Enterprise Bank)

An inexpensive evening out with the family and friends playing Trivial Pursuit with Lowell Trivia mixed in with the regular questions. Bring a team of 2-10 people or come and be added to an existing team. Proceeds go to preserving the LHS collection and continuing our special programs. The event is co-sponsored with the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Call Tom Langan at 978-452-0897 if you have any questions.

Trivia

Answers to the Spring Trivia Questions:

1. Who was the first female assistant city manager of Lowell? **Rosanne Riddick**
2. What western movie star drew a crowd of 100,000 to the South Common in 1929? **Tom Mix**
3. Where were the Automobile Association of America (AAA) auto races held in Lowell? **Pawtucket Blvd.**

Fall Questions:

1. Who wrote New England Girlhood?
2. Epping Street and Lawrence Street are part of what section of Lowell?
3. What was the original name for the River Valley Home?
4. Who was "Spike"?

eBay Auctions of Lowell Interest

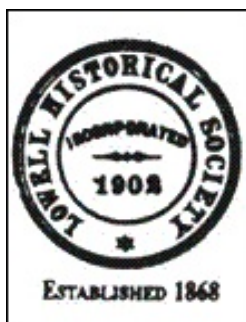
A.W. Hunking's notebook titled "Proprietors of the Locks and Canals on Merrimack River" dated April to December 1886. It contained pen and pencil drawings and notations. (Item number: 7709265740 and sold for \$242.50 plus shipping.) (Note: another of these "notebooks" by A.W. Hunking, dated Jan. 1885 to March 1886, sold for \$157.50 plus shipping.)

Harvard Brewing beer foam scraper. The celluloid pre-prohibition scraper had black lettering and on the left an image of a jagged circle containing a flag with large "H" in center of the flag. (Item number: 6204870697 and sold for \$90.99 plus shipping.)

Cabinet Photo (circa 1890's) of a policeman from a photography studio named Lothrop & Cunningham, 112 Merrimack St., Lowell" (Item number: 6207066897 and sold for \$196.06 plus shipping) This specific image was one of 5 Lowell area photographs of policemen which sold for over \$100 each.)

Lowell Historical Society
P.O. Box 1826
Lowell, MA 01853

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Lowell Historical Society

The Lowell Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve and publish materials related to Lowell and to promote the study of the history of the City.

We are located at the Boot Cotton Mills Museum
115 John Street
Fourth Floor
Downtown Lowell Massachusetts 01852

On the Web at: <http://ecommunity.uml.edu/lhs>

Please join with us in preserving Lowell's legacy

Thank You Janine Whitcomb

We would like to thank Janine Whitcomb, former Site Coordinator, for her service to the Society. Janine has worked for the Lowell Historical Society since 1994. She will be leaving the Society around the beginning of October but will still be employed by the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Center for Lowell History. During her employment here, she has been through six presidents, two computer systems, and has encountered many different members on the Board. She has always treated everyone with the utmost respect and tried to be as helpful as she could to members of the board as well as the public. Janine, always a pleasant addition to our Society, will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her new endeavor. We will always remember the positive impact she made on the Society.