



Volume 47

Fall Newsletter

October 2017

LOWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND
POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Jointly Present

LOWELL IN WORLD WAR 1 AS WE APPROACH THE CENTENNIAL

By Eileen Loucraft

Location: Community Room, Pollard Memorial Library
TIME: November 11, 2017 @ 11:00 AM

Ninety-Nine years after the Armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Eileen Loucraft, Lowell blogger and Clerk of the Lowell Historical Society will present a talk on Lowell's involvement during World War One.

Lowell contributed greatly to the Great War. From early on Lowell residents who fought for other governments before the United States entered the war, the American Cartridge Company, The Yankee Division, Camp Devens, influenza pandemic, the draft and the "Hello Girls" are a few of the stories that will be told.

Learn the stories of the heroes behind Kittridge Park, Cupples Square, O'Donnell Playground, McPherson Park and many more.

Please join us!



PAUL MOODY'S LOWELL ACCOMPLISHMENTS by Tony Connors

Location: Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Time: October 29, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

Co-Sponsored by The Lowell Historical Society. This lecture traces Paul Moody's career from his early life in Newbury and Amesbury to his years of remarkable inventiveness at the Boston Manufacturing Company at Waltham, and finally his vital role in the founding of Lowell and the early

success of the city's cotton mills. While highlighting Moody's many contributions to American industrial development, this story is less about technology and more about how an unschooled machinist could rise to a position of prominence in a major corporation. It's not only about what Moody and men like him did for the Industrial Revolution, but also about the social and economic success that the Industrial Revolution provided to them.

Tony Connors is an independent writer, editor, and teacher in early American and local history. He is particularly interested in the area where the local history of southeastern New England expands beyond its boundaries and meets up with larger events, issues, and trends in American history. He is currently working on a book about whaling captains who engaged in the slave trade.



EDITORS CORNER

I started editing the Lowell Historical Society Newsletter back in 2005 with, I think, Volume 17. As of this issue, I made it to Volume 47. The Newsletter has been one of the most gratifying and pleasant tasks I have undertaken for the Society. I felt privileged to be able to provide Growing Up in Lowell articles as well as my personal favorite "eBay Auctions of Lowell Interest." eBay Auctions made wrapping up an issue simple because it provided fast filler for using up any remaining space. I like to think that is some small way this Newsletter has helped accomplish part of the Society's mission to "publish materials related to Lowell and to promote the study of the history of the City."

I thank all of you personally for being members of the Lowell Historical Society. -- Cliff Hoyt

Lowell Trivia

By Martha Mayo

1. What Lowell company built the Statue of Liberty stairs?
2. Harriot Curtis and Harriet Farley edited and published what literary magazine?
3. Where is the "Pow Wow Oak"?
4. What was sold by W.A. Mack and Company on Shattuck Street?

The Immigrant Experience In Lowell I

Maria Cunha

[In April 2008, Maria Cunha provided an interview as part an ethnographic assessment of immigrant communities in Lowell. This assessment was conducted by Robert Forrant, Ph.D. and Christoph Stobelas, Ph.D. under contract to the Lowell National Historical Park. The following article represents a small segment of the information on Maria Cunha as edited by Cliff Hoyt. The full text is on the website for the Center for Lowell History, University of Massachusetts (<http://library.uml.edu/clh>). It can be found under "Oral History" then "ETHNICITY IN LOWELL".]

My name is Maria Cunha. My parents, myself and two younger siblings came to Lowell in 1967 when I was

twelve. We moved from the island of Terras [Terceira] in the Azores, which are nine islands off the coast of Portugal. Terceira had an American Air Force base and many of the people on the island either worked at the base or interacted with the Americans. Speaking English was common but not for my family. My other understanding of American came from my mother's aunt who had immigrated from the Azores to the United States. She would regularly send us "goodies". The goodies included clothes, toys, and candy. When I found out that my family was moving to America, I thought we were going to this wonderful place where you had all these great things that you didn't have growing up in Terceira."

When my family came to the U.S. we were supposed to go to California with my uncle where my father would work as a carpenter. However, my uncle happened to be in Lowell when we arrived so a stop-over of a week or so in Lowell was arranged. Things happened very quickly after that. We arrived on a Friday at the airport in the middle of a January snow storm. By Monday, my family had a furnished apartment on Linden St. in Back Central and my parents both had jobs in the Wannalancit mills. My father did not think that my mother's job at the Wannalancit was appropriate and very soon she had a job in a factory making pajamas and night gowns for women.

Lowell had a number of Portuguese families that came from the Azores. It was a very close community and all our neighbors made us feel welcome. They took us grocery shopping, to the doctors, to the bank, and to all of those things, so before you knew it we were part of the community. After a year in the United States, my parents bought a house on Elm Street which at one time was apartment buildings and some single homes. They paid for the house in one or two years. The center of the Portuguese community was St. Anthony's on Central Street. As I remember, that entire neighborhood around the church was Portuguese. The religious feasts at St Anthony's were the center of everything. There were also two clubs. Originally, prior to my coming, I think that they were social clubs where women were involved and they did a lot of stuff and got involved to help the community. However, by my time the social clubs were for men, and if you went as a woman, you weren't considered a nice lady. Husbands wouldn't take their wives or girlfriends to the club because it was a place where men went to drink and smoke and play cards.

People in the Portuguese community were very supportive if somebody lost a job at one of the factories, they could walk two houses down, talk to somebody, and find a factory that was hiring. People would walk to work together. They didn't speak English, they didn't have cars, so they would all walk to work together. At five in the morning they would meet at a central location and walk together downtown to Market Street and the shoe factories. It was a very close community. I don't remember any issues with anyone not getting

along or not helping each other and I think that is reflective of a lot of immigrant groups once they arrive. They stay together and seek out one another and help each other.

There weren't many Portuguese stores when I was young. We had Harry's little convenience store on Central Street. Pioneer Market at the intersection of Central and Charles street was owned by descendants of Portuguese immigrants and that's where you would go and do your grocery shopping. I remember my mother would go shopping and they would deliver. She would get out of work, walk up the street, cash her check at one of the banks downtown, and stop at the market. She would do the grocery shopping and then they would deliver the groceries. Also, there was Barry's Bakery where everyone went to buy their bread and desserts. However, the ethnic stores that are there now, the fish market and the market across the street from the church, those were not there at that time. They probably came in the late seventies or early eighties.

When I came to Lowell, I could not speak English at all. I remember registering for school at the Rogers school which was the neighborhood school. There was no bilingual education, it was total immersion -- learning by fire. I started school in Lowell in the fifth grade. Technically, I was twelve, I probably should have gone into the seventh grade. At that time I was very tiny, so I kind of fit in with the fifth graders. But I stayed back because I didn't speak English and therefore graduated from high school when I was twenty. Total immersion was difficult. However, there was a young man who lived in Billerica who had arrived six months before and he was actually the interpreter for all of the kids who were placed in the school. He helped the total immersion process where we had no choice but to learn or fail. I finished seventh grade at Rogers, then went to the Butler school for eighth grade, and then went down to Lowell High. At Lowell High there was this room where Mrs. Moore would help immigrant students. It was a place where the Greek students hung out, the Portuguese students, the Polish kids, and she taught us English as a second language. Mrs. Moore was the person we would go to when we needed help.

Neither of my parents had any education beyond fourth grade. Education in Portugal was only up to fourth grade. After the age of ten you had to pay for your children's education. Although not formally educated, my mother surrounded herself with people that had an education. She wanted her children to get an education. When we came to America, that was the goal, that was the intent -- to get an education. I don't remember my mother ever saying I wasn't going to high school or I wasn't going to college. I recall all my friends leaving school when they turned sixteen. They all left! They left high school and went to work in the mills. These girls ended up married at a very young age which was very common at that time in that culture. I remember being the only one to finish high school and go on to college. I credit my mom

for having that insight which allowed me to get an education. My mother did not have a formal education but she was a very bright and savvy woman.

After high school, I went to Regis College, in Weston, MA and majored in languages and secondary education. and I started out my career teaching Spanish and French in Chelmsford. When Proposition 2 ½ was implemented, that reduced spending, I lost my job. I wanted to help immigrants so I decided to do social work. I went to work at the International Institute for twelve years. While at the International Institute, I worked with immigrants. At that time, a significant number of the immigrants were undocumented, especially the Colombian community in Lowell. The International Institute had an incredible relationship with Immigration. I worked very closely with the Colombians. Then in 1986, President Reagan signed a bill that gave all those immigrants an opportunity to become legal. Working at the Institute was a learning process. I learned about the whole process of becoming legal and filing for citizenship. I learned that when you couldn't get things done, you contacted your Congressman. However, feeling totally burnt out from driving to Boston with a carload of Jamaicans to get an extension on their temporary visa, or helping someone in the Cambodian community to get their green card, I decided that in order to be more effective you had to do different things. I realized I could probably be a lot more effective if I worked for our new Congressman Marty Meehan.

I went for three interviews, the last interview was with him and I was hired to be the case manager. I then became the Director of Constituent Services where I could be more effective for the little guy. I loved doing what I did and Congressman Meehan was incredible. It didn't matter if you were undocumented, it didn't matter if you were a homeless person. Everyone was welcome into the office and I could spend hours listening to a person's hardships and troubles and trying to help them. There was never a sense that I shouldn't be helping that person, or that I should be helping some other person because they were a contributor, or a business owner -- never. We treated everyone the same and we had an opportunity to really impact people's lives.

My goal in life has always been to help the little guy, it's never been about money and I know my family could have been better off if I had chosen something different than social services, but we are happy and it doesn't bother me.

Answers to Trivia Questions

1) American Mason Safety Tread Copany, 2) *The Lowell Offering*, 3) Clark Road, and 4) Stoves and furnaces.

LHS Corporate Memberships

The Lowell Historical Society proudly acknowledge our 2016 Corporate members who demonstrated their organization's commitment to the preservation of Lowell's past and the dissemination of information to keep Lowell's heritage alive in the future. The following organizations have made this commitment:

Blue Taleh Restaurant
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Morse-Bayliss Funeral Home
Washington Savings Bank
Watermark

We would like to add the listing of your company here in the future. Join on-line at:

lowellhistoricalsociety.org

For information contact the Historical Society at 978-934-4995 or by email at:

contact@lowellhistoricalsociety.org

Lowell Historical Society Board Members

The current Board members includes:

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Bridget Cooley
Cliff Hoyt
Gray Fitzsimons

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

by Pauline M. Golec

The LOWELLS OF MASSACHUSETTS: An American Family, written by Nina Sankovitch, is a story of a fascinating and influential family. The author takes us on a biographical journey of nearly 300 years beginning with Percival Lowle. This elderly merchant, weary of prohibitive taxes and wary of impending war, left Bristol, England, in 1639, and landed nine months later in Newbury, Massachusetts. He farmed and prospered, and his progeny would follow his example of working hard, seizing opportunities, and serving the community.



Rev. John Lowell, Percival's great-great grandson, changed the spelling of the family name to "Lowell." A kind and tolerant clergyman, he was the first of many Lowells to attend Harvard. In 1909, generations of Lowell Harvard alumni later, A. Lawrence Lowell became the President of Harvard.

Francis Cabot Lowell, the famed cotton manufacturing industrialist of the early 1800s and for whom Lowell, Massachusetts is named, is a fairly well known figure here. What struck me in reading this book was that the names of his investors and business associates - Moody, Dutton, Jackson, Cabot, Thorndike, Gorham, Appleton - are alive today as the names of downtown Lowell streets.

In the 1850s, James Russell Lowell, lawyer, editor, and abolitionist, became the most popular poet in the country. About a half century later, Amy Lowell, writer of both free form and rhymed verse, was a controversial trailblazer in promoting new forms of poetry. She was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1926.

To read this book is to marvel at so many Lowell family accomplishments in many varied fields; it is to become aware of the tensions between active Lowell abolitionists and Lowells, who benefited from the cotton grown by slaves; it is to grieve with Lowells as they solemnly go to Mt. Auburn Cemetery to bury their dead; and it is to learn of their military, social, and humanitarian service.

The breadth and depth of the author's research is awesome. Photos of some Lowells and family estates complement the text as does the way Nina Sankovitch uses details to add warmth and human interest to her narrative.

It is a pleasure to recommend this book.

EBAY Auctions of Lowell Interest



RARE Antique WESTON & DENNIS Lowell MA Pressure Gauge Patented April 21, 1875 (9"Dia. x 3"). The gauge was used on a press to provide a more accurate indication of the weight being applied to baling, and finishing woolens, shawls, hosiery, delaines, silks, etc. This very heavy gauge is in excellent condition. The glass is intact, the brass lettering and frame shows some paint loss and there is some rust on the back. Sold for \$1,039 including shipping.



Lowell, Ma. Antique 1875 Church Tankard. Engraved with: "The Gift / of The Eliot Church / to / The First Presbyterian Church" / "Lowell, Mass./ Jan. 20, 1875". The bottom has a round stamp with: "Rogers Smith & Co. New Haven, Ct. No. 10". The tankard is 14 1/2" tall and, 8 1/2" wide (from spout to handle) and weighs 3.9 lbs. Sold for \$188 including shipping.

June 30, 1884 Boston & Lowell Railroad Timetable. The closed brochure is about 6.75"x3.25" and it is about 18.75"x13.5" when fully opened. There are no tears or significant creases or wrinkling. There are a few small light stains to the paper and some general light wear. Sold for \$27 including shipping.



Vintage 1958 ZIPPO Lighter In Original Box. Lighter printed with the motto for the city of Lowell, MA "Art is the Handmaid of Human Good." Box has some damage to top but the lighter is mint. Sold for \$62 including shipping.

Lowell, MA straight sided Coca Cola bottle. The bottle is embossed with "Coca Cola / Lowell MASS. / contents 1 pint 12 fluid ounces registered" [/ implies new line. The bottom of the bottle is embossed with "Coca Cola". Sold for \$89 including shipping.



Thanks
for the
memories



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The preservation of Lowell history depends heavily on your membership. If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal, please do so as soon as possible.

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 have just finished moving the Historical Society's collection out of the Boott Mill as requested by the National Park Service. A permanent home is yet to be determined. We can be reached via phone at 978-934-4995 or by email at:

contact@lowellhistoricalsociety.org

or visit our web site:

<http://www.lowellhistoricalsociety.org>

Center for Lowell History

The Center for Lowell History, 40 French Street, currently is open Tuesday through Friday 9-5.

The contact point for information is Janine Whitcomb, 978-934-4997. The Center's web address is: <http://library.uml.edu/clh/>.

Calendar of Events

Program: Lowell in World War 1 / As We Approach the Centennial

Date: Saturday November 11, 2017 at 11:00AM.

Location: Community Room, Pollard Memorial Library

Program: Paul Moody's Lowell Accomplishments

Time: October 29, 2017 at 2:00PM

Location: Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center

Lowell's Portuguese Community

An exhibition on Lowell's Portuguese community is being produced by the University of Massachusetts Lowell's Saab Center for Portuguese Studies. It will be on display at Lowell National Historical Park beginning in early December 2017.

