

## Benjamin Franklin Butler Who He Was

Program by Robert DeLossa, Richard Scott,  
Bob Forrant

November 3, 2018 4:00 - 6:00pm  
Lowell High School, Irish Auditorium

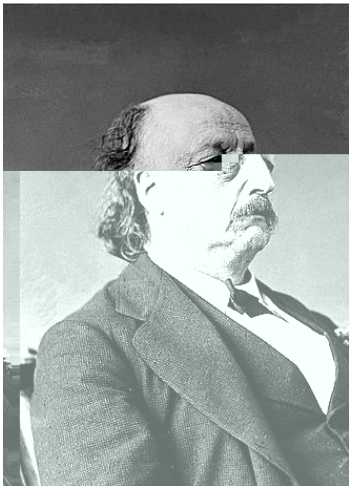


Image from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division  
November 3 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Lowell's towering political figures, Benjamin F. Butler. Lowell High School, Butler's high school *alma mater*, in conjunction with the Lowell Historical Society, and descendants of Gov. Benjamin F. Butler, will present a retrospective and homage to the man he was. He was the catalyst that pushed forward the emancipation of slaves during the Civil War. He held progressive views far ahead of his time by advancing civil rights for African-Americans, women, immigrants, and laborers. He fought the Ku Klux Klan. Butler had careers as a lawyer, Union general, US Congressional Representative, Massachusetts Governor, and presidential candidate. He belonged to three different political parties and cut a broad, controversial, and colorful swath across Massachusetts and U.S. history. The program will include well-known Butler reenactor Richard Scott, a keynote by UML Professor Robert Forrant, reminiscences by Butler family members, and other tributes from area historians. There will be an exhibit of Butleriana in the lobby of the Irish Auditorium, open to the public at 3:00 p.m. The event is free, with a recommended donation to support a new Benjamin F. Butler scholarship fund at Lowell High School. For questions, please contact Robert DeLossa, Social Studies Department Chair: e-mail, [rdelossa@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:rdelossa@lowell.k12.ma.us) or tel. 978-446-7335.

Cliff & Linda Hoyt's collection of J.C. Ayer Co. memorabilia was one of the main reasons they moved from Maryland to Lowell. They began writing the book within months of moving here in April of 2004. Since they knew they would have to describe the bottles used by the Ayer Company, they began writing a bottle manufacturing identification guide. This guide ended up being the sole appendix to the book. From this starting point they developed a 500 page history with 750 color images pertaining to products, advertising, and historical company documents. Cliff Hoyt's presentation will discuss many of the individual stories and issues that combine to make the 100 year history come alive. Items discussed will include:

## Annual Meeting & Program/Book Signing *A Century of Cures* Dr. J.C. Ayer & Co. Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. By Cliff & Linda Hoyt

November 17, 2018 1:00-2:30pm  
Center for Lowell History, 40 French St., Lowell  
The program will be preceded by the LHS annual business meeting at 12:30pm. All members welcome.

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- What was state-of-the-art of medicine?
- How did the term "patent medicine" come to mean the opposite of the individual words' meaning?
- Were J.C. & Frederick Ayer quacks?
- What was the company's stance on the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act?
- Why did the brothers build a railroad?

Come and hear the answers.



# *The Immigrant Experience In Lowell III*

**Gordon Halm**

not that precious. But over here if I know I have an appointment a×F-é'B

*[In January 2008, Gordon Halm provided an interview as part of 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 Gordon Halm 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 Gordon Halm and I am originally from Ghana in western Africa. I was born in a town called Winneba. Winneba is about thirty-five miles south-east of Accra, the capital of Ghana. As a young man I traveled to Liberia where I met my future wife. My wife's brother lived in the United States and invited her to come to the U.S. in 1989 just shortly before the Liberian war started. I was still in Liberia when the war started – gunshots here and there every day. I mean just imagine ten years of civil war, bodies burnt to ashes and people can't even find their relatives. Some people have lost their whole entire family. It was difficult to get out of Liberia. Rebels had not taken the airport and with the help from some friends I was able to board a plane out of Liberia. I eventually arrived in New York City and lived with some friends. I had not been in contact with my wife for many years but eventually located her phone number. We talked and it was decided that I would come to Lowell where she was living. That was 1995.

When I came to the United States my preconception about America was the land of milk and honey. I think the media portrays that message to us big time! We thought the US was the land of opportunity and it is, but the idea we had was that things were so easy here. Until you come over here and then reality makes you have a different mind-set altogether. This country, no question about it, is the greatest country on the earth, but you have to work extremely hard for what you need. When I talk to people back in Africa they still cannot understand life in the U.S. We tell them that this is a great country. However, you have to work extremely hard for everything. In Africa, people are very busy, you can't compare that to this place. In this place, if you don't pay your mortgage for a month or two, the next month you are out, but over there time is

aunt said, "Go to Winneba and ask for this name, this person is your real father." The girl was brokenhearted, but she took a car and went to Winneba and she went to our family home and said to my sister, "I'm looking for my father." So my sister said, "Who is your father?" And she gave the name to my sister. When she gave the name to my sister, my sister started to cry, the girl said, "I want to see my father," but it was my senior brother and he had passed away about two years ago. My sister said, "I remember the mom and I remember the pregnancy, but your father has passed away." She told the girl that her father had a brother in the U.S. and that she should call, because in Ghana when the brother passes away, my brother's daughter is now my daughter. I asked her what she is doing right now and she said she had finished elementary school, but had no hope of going to college. From this phone call, I started sending her money. She's a very bright girl, and now she was able to go to a teacher's training college and now she's a teacher. She called me when she was graduating from college and she said graduation was only possible because she found me. She sent me graduation pictures. Right now she's a teacher and I couldn't control myself. So I think if you have the means to help someone, definitely do it. I don't care if it is one penny I will give it to make the other person's life better, so we can all live, because you never know what's going to happen. What goes around, comes around.

I own a home on Bridge Street in Centerville, and I've been living there for over thirteen years. I consider myself part of the Centerville neighborhood. About two years ago, there were cars broken into, people throwing eggs at our building and they had done graffiti. We kept reporting all these issues. Then one Sunday, we were getting ready to go to church, and when we came out our car was gone. Someone had taken our car! We were devastated, we were very saddened that someone could possibly do this. My family get along with our neighbors. Our neighbors are all white and Spanish, and sometimes when they go on vacation they give us their keys. When the trash man comes and the barrels are in the street, before you know it, they come and take our barrel to our back yard. Now all of a sudden someone was breaking into our cars, throwing eggs at our house? At the time we felt like we were being targeted. The Lowell police supported us through the ordeal and they assured us it wasn't race related. Our van was recovered about a week after we made the report, but they had burned the inside. The sad thing about it was the way the insurance company handled the whole issue. I think they probably felt we had something to do with the theft. They didn't give us the rental car that they were supposed to give us. They told us to go and find a lawyer for an examination under oath or whatever they call it. My wife and I told them we were not going to get a lawyer and pay even one cent to a lawyer to defend us. We bought our car and somebody stole it and burned it to ashes and we have to get a lawyer? We felt very discouraged and saddened. We went to the examination

without a lawyer. For about two hours they asked us questions and later on they told me they noticed some stuff and would call me back to get additional information. I said whatever additional information they needed I would provide it. The next day one of the investigators called and wanted to apologize for what we have been going through, the emotional stress and all of that, they had determined that we had nothing to do with the theft.

It was such a difficult time for us. The kids were scared, we were scared ourselves that this could happen to us. However, we had help from the police and Channel 7 news. We had people calling us from Boston and everywhere because they saw my wife and me on TV. That's when we really felt the support of the African community and not necessarily only Ghanaians, but people from all over Boston. They wrote letters to the mayor and the chief of police, so we felt that if you have the network with other neighbors and friends, emotional support goes a long way.

During this time I had two jobs, as most of the immigrants do because you cannot make it on one job. I was a supervisor in a nursing home and also worked at Life Links (working with people with developmental difficulties.) I decided to quit that day time job [nursing home] because during the day, I would be at work and the insurance company would call or the police would need us and I felt I had to be available to go right away. It was very stressful. However, time heals, so time has healed that emotional stress.

I am still working at Life Links but for a time I worked part-time at the African Assistance Center helping Africans who come to Lowell find resources in the city. I am also currently an undergraduate at UMass Lowell. Right now my major is psychology. I would like to become a community psychologist. Since I started school my workload forced me to leave the African Assistance Center, but I go there to volunteer whenever they need me. My wife also works at Life Links. She graduated from UMass last year in June and got a BA in developmental disabilities.

My dream is always to do the right thing, to stay healthy, and also to complete my MA in community psychology, because I see myself as reaching out to the disadvantaged to make a difference in someone's life. What I would like to see is my kids grow up to become good citizens wherever they are. It is my hope that the children have better lives, and we can all live in peace.

## Lowell Trivia

By Martha Mayo

1. What was Lowell's first radio station?
2. What is the Indian name for this area?
3. When did Lowell High School open?
4. In what section of Lowell is Druid Hill?

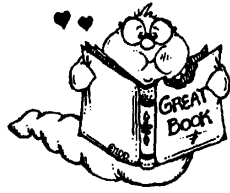
Answers on page 6.



## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

by Pauline M. Golec

The Lowell National Historical Park is now celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. As such, I thought that it was appropriate to reprint a review from a 2016 newsletter.



The book is *Mill Power: the Origin and Impact of Lowell National Historical Park* written by Paul Marion. Paul was born in Lowell, graduated from University of Massachusetts Lowell, and served as an administrator of the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission and as executive director of community and cultural affairs at UML.

The author sets the context of the park's history within the history of Lowell, the nation's first planned industrial city. The first chapter details the beginnings of this great cotton cloth producing city on the Merrimack River. The city served as a magnet for Yankee farm girls who worked in the mills and for the notables who came to visit and observe. The Civil War and its impact on Lowell and the start of a never ending Lowell immigrant story also merit pages in this chapter which ends with a description of Lowell's decline.

A big portion of the book details the fascinating history of the development of Lowell National Historical Park. The many questions that were posed - urban park or national park, economic engine or cultural pillar, historical center or industrial showcase - are compellingly presented. Initial struggles, big and small deals, and the resolution of practical and philosophical issues are all here. We meet, and in many cases remember, the educators, the visionary Dr. Patrick Mogan, the long line of politicians from Rep. Brad Morse to Sen. Paul Tsongas, and dedicated community activists, all of whose efforts resulted in the enactment of the law in 1978 whereby Lowell National Historical Park was born. The exploration of the vital "what and who came next" in the park's history makes for interesting reading.

The book also examines former and current agencies and partnerships critical to the support of the park's themes and mission. The Lowell Historic Preservation Commission's power to award money for preservation work resulted in handsome historically restored buildings in downtown Lowell as is apparent in some of the book's images. Highlighted also are the Tsongas Industrial History Center and the Lowell Folk Festival (two of my favorites).

Paul Marion's book is rich in photos, well-researched and documented. So many passages are literally a joy to read and remind us that Paul, passionate Lowell activist, is also a poet.

## LHS Corporate Memberships

The Lowell Historical Society proudly acknowledges our 2017 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:

D'Youville Senior Care  
Enterprise Bank & Trust Co.  
Fred C. Church Insurance  
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union  
Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank  
Lowell General Hospital  
Lowell Sun Charities, Inc  
Morse-Bayliss Funeral Home  
Sage Bank  
Washington Savings Bank  
Watermark Environmental

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

[lowellhistoricalsociety.org](http://lowellhistoricalsociety.org)

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

[contact@lowellhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@lowellhistoricalsociety.org)

## EBAY Auctions of Lowell Interest

**Lowell Mass Retired Police Badge.** Sold for \$91 including shipping.



**Rare 1800's Lowell, MA Cobalt Decorated Stoneware Crock.** A 11.25" tall, two gallon crock stamped French & Puffer / Lowell, Mass. Excellent condition with small, shallow rim flake. Sold for \$270 including shipping.



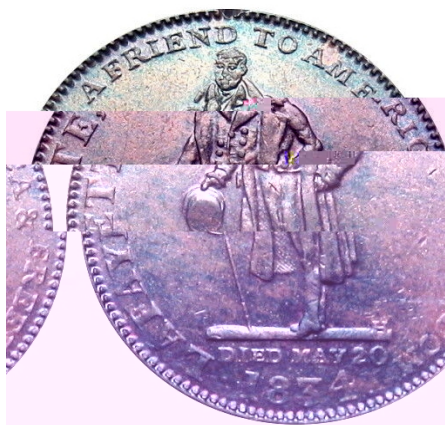
**De Havilland Moth Aircraft Corporation Employee Pin.** The Moth Aircraft Corporation made the De Havilland Moth and the Gypsy Moth as well as other planes in Lowell between 1928 to 1930. The Gypsy Moth is a small biplane treasured by aviation enthusiasts for its design, mobility and ease of operation. The seller felt that this was an employee number or department of the plant. The pin is used/worn condition but is quite a rare find. The pin is 1.5" in diameter. Sold for \$128.50 including shipping.



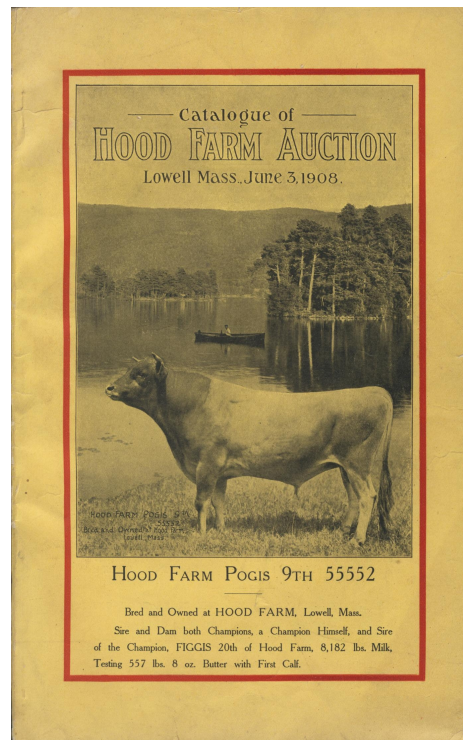
**Harvard Ale Dull Grey Quart Cone** – from Harvard Brewing Co. This is a fantastic and rare dull grey quart cone. From the early 1940's when silver paint was in short supply from the war effort. Can has some light wear and in a previous life someone has touched up the black along both rims. Sold for \$910 including shipping.



**Hard Times Token.** Front: Image of a man with top hat and cane with text saying Lafayette, A Friend To America & Freedom Died May 20, 1834. Back has advertising – S.L. Wilkins Dealer In Boots, Shoes & Shoe Stock Hats, Caps, Furs 22 Merrimack St. Lowell, Mass.



**Vintage Tin Litho Phillex Fire Extinguisher made in Lowell Mass.** Has the image of a burning Ford Model T on the upper portion of the can. Made by Phillex Extinguisher Co. 294 Varnum Ave. Lowell Mass. The size of the can is 2-1/2" x 10-1/8". Originally priced at \$3.00. Sold for \$75 including shipping.



**Hood Farm Auction Catalogue, Lowell, Mass., June 3, 1908.** Paper back book format with over 100 pages of cows and pigs for sale. The catalogue contains each cow's lineage and production statistics. The catalogue is 6.1" x 10.0". Sold for \$72 including shipping.

**\$3 Rail Road Bank currency from Lowell Massachusetts,** dated Dec. 1 1857. Sold for \$250 including shipping.



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

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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 City's history. We have recently moved 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 978-319-4631 or by email at:

[contact@lowellhistoricalsociety.org](mailto: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 Monday through Friday 9-5 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10-3.

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: Ben Butler - Who He Was  
Time: Nov. 3, 2018, Display at 3:00pm & Program at 4:00pm.  
Location: Lowell High School, Irish Auditorium

Program: Annual Meeting & Program  
Time: Saturday Nov. 17, 2018 12:30-1pm  
Location: Center for Lowell History, 40 French Street, Lowell, MA  
Followed by: Program and Book Signing for the just-published book *A Century of Cures: J.C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.* by Cliff & Linda Hoyt

**Time:** Saturday Nov. 17, 2018 1-2:30pm

These events are free to the public.

### Answers to Trivia Questions

1) WLLH, 2) Wamesit, 3) 1831, and 4) Pawtucketville.

