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## LOWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023, Volume 56, Number 3

The mission of the [Lowell Historical Society](https://www.lowellhistoricalsociety.org/) is to collect, preserve, and publish materials related to Lowell and to encourage and promote the study of the city's history.



- √ LHS volunteers help with tour of veterans' graves at the Lowell Cemetery
- √ A 1794 map - "more of a place than represented"
- √ Video - Lowell streetscapes by Annie Powell, photographer
- √ The Lowell Humane Society - 150 years of service
- √ 50 years ago - a famous band plays in Lowell before they were famous
- √ From the bookshelf - "The Original Bucky Lew"
- √ Take the Lowell Cemetery Veterans Tour online or on-site
- √ Frederick Ayer's Boston Back Bay mansion is for sale! Only \$14,995,000!
- √ **Event** - Boston Harbor Islands Adventure: The Great Brewster Journal of 1891
- √ LHS Blogs - NEW - List of Lowell Mayors with Burial Locations
- √ Congratulations to LHS scholarship winner and Eagle Scout Nick Hoff
- √ Summer in Lowell - September 6, 1881 - "Yellow Tuesday"
- √ Lowell Firsts - Did you know . . . ?
- √ Crossword Puzzle - Lowell Firsts
- √ Events, past newsletters, membership, and Corporate Sponsors



Volunteer interpreters assemble for the tour

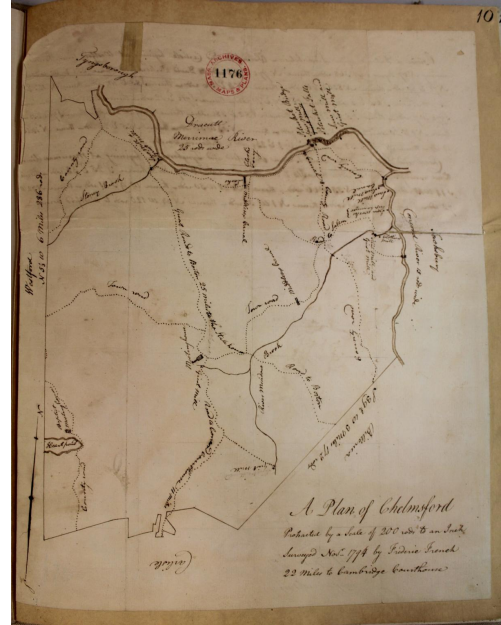
### Participants Visit Veterans' Graves on a Self-Guided Tour

On May 20, participants received a map of some of the graves of veterans from the Civil War to the Gulf War in the Lowell Cemetery. They proceeded at their own pace to the designated graves where Cemetery volunteers were stationed to tell the stories of the veteran buried there. In addition, the LHS displayed military artifacts from its collection in the Cemetery's Talbot Chapel.



Items from the Lowell Historical Society exhibit in the cemetery chapel

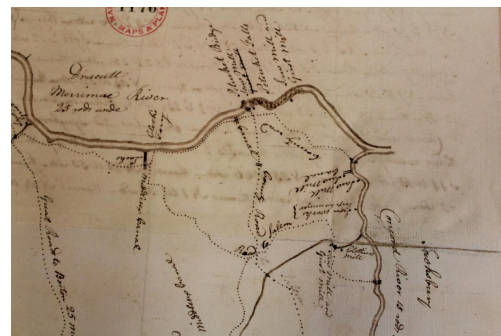
[Click here for more pictures from the event](#)



### Countdown to the Bicentennial: Before Lowell was Lowell

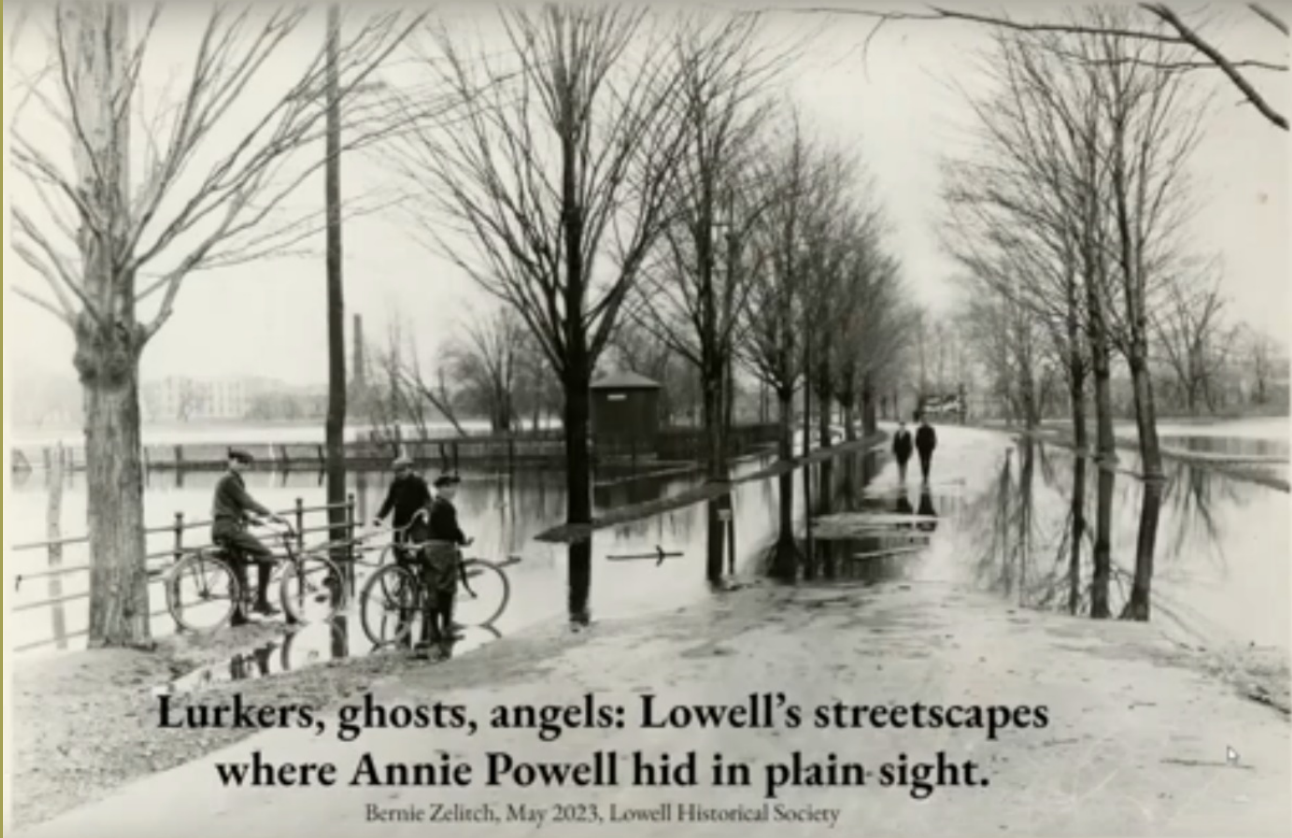
"more of a place than represented"

A 1794 map and 1820 and 1917 books help us know about life in East Chelmsford before the day in November 1821 when Nathan Appleton, Patrick T. Jackson, Kirk Boott, Warren Dutton, Paul Moody, and John W. Boott "perambulated the grounds, and scanned the capabilities of the place."



[Please click here for detailed views of the map](#)



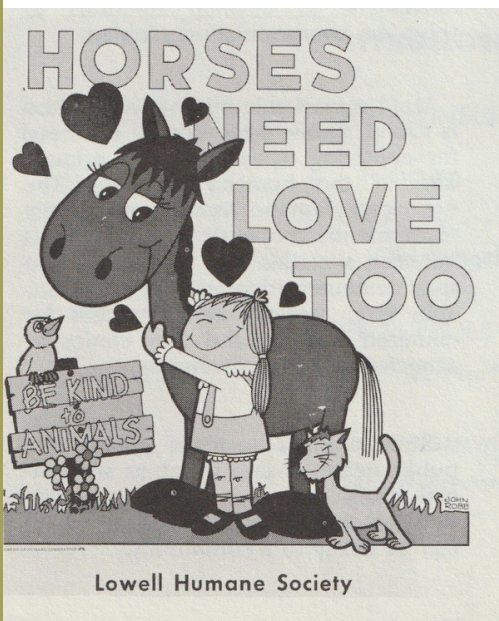


Annie Powell (1859-1952) is a recently discovered street photographer. She is likely responsible for 3,000 "anonymous" photos of Lowell, MA found in books, postcards and university libraries. This is an unlikely story of her unlikely story.

At our annual meeting in May, Bernie Zeilitch presented a fascinating talk and slideshow about the photography of Annie Powell of Lowell. You can watch an updated version of this by clicking on the link below.

Watch the [38 minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GBOWBS0oJk) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GBOWBS0oJk>

Learn more about Annie Powell and her photos of Lowell at <https://byanniepowell.org/>



**50 years ago . . .**

A famous rock band, now on its final tour, played at Lowell Tech 50 years ago.

Did you know . . . ?

This band played at the Rogers

This is part 3 of a series appearing in this year's newsletters honoring 150 years of service of the Lowell Humane Society.

School twice in 1971, two years before their first album was released.

[Click here for Part #3 on the history of the Lowell Humane Society](#)

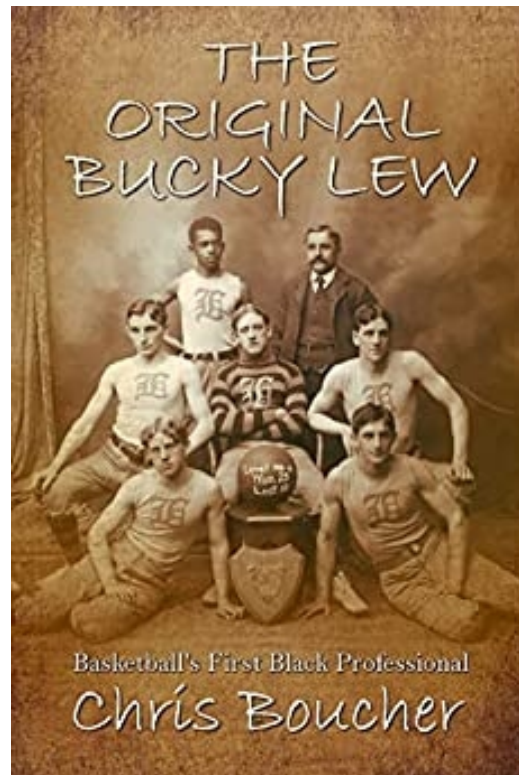
[Click here for more about the 3 Lowell concerts very early in the long career of this legendary band](#)

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## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

By Pauline M. Golec

### **The Original Bucky Lew** by Chris Boucher



Near the end of this season of professional basketball, I, coincidentally, started to read THE ORIGINAL BUCKY LEW. This novel written by Chris Boucher is a comprehensive story of Harry Haskell "Bucky Lew," a member of an illustrious Lowell Black family and an early basketball legend.

Bucky Lew, the first Black professional basketball player, joined the Pawtucketville Athletic Club in 1902. The author, citing the Lowell Courier-Citizen and the Lowell Sun, describes many league games played by Bucky, including one in Natick, whose players were willing to forfeit the game rather than play against "a colored boy."

Later chapters inform us of Bucky's career in white leagues as the first Black coach, referee, and team owner. He also was the coach of the Lowell Textile School (now UMass Lowell)

basketball team when it beat Boston College (I wish that the date of this match had been mentioned).

Serious basketball fans will enjoy the author's references to changes in the rules of the game and in the kinds of venues where these early games were played.

While I had some knowledge of Bucky Lew and his family (thanks to Martha Mayo, Lowell historian, whose help is also acknowledged by the author), I enjoyed reading about Bucky's courtship and his marriage to Florence, their move to Springfield for economic reasons, .... and his skill as a violinist.

The book's cover is striking and captures Bucky and his teammates in the uniform styles of the times.

Lowellian [Chris Boucher](#) has done a service to both Bucky Lew and to the history of basketball in writing this book.



Take the Lowell Cemetery Veterans Tour online or on-site with the Google Map created by Richard Howe. [Click here for more information and links to the maps.](#)



[Frederick Ayer](#)'s mansion in Boston's Back Bay is for sale! Click here to check out this beautiful and historic home, also known as the [Tiffany Ayer Mansion](#).

Also, watch the recent [Chronical segment](#) about the mansion and its history.

Asking price \$14,995,000!

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# EVENT



*A*  
**BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS**  
ADVENTURE

THE GREAT BREWSTER JOURNAL  
*of 1891*



STEPHANIE SCHOROW  
*and the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands*

What happens when four women from Lowell society decide to leave their restrictive 19th-century lives behind and escape to a remote island in Boston Harbor for 17 days? In her new book, ***Boston Harbor Islands Adventure: The Great Brewster Journal of 1891***, Boston-based author Stephanie Schorow, brings us to the island with them, using their remarkable journal as our guide.

The lecture, sponsored jointly by the Lowell Historical Society, the Pollard Memorial Library and the Lowell Cemetery, will take place in the **Talbot Chapel at the Lowell Cemetery on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** Copies of the book will also be available at the event.

Space in the chapel is limited and **attendees must register**, in advance, to reserve

a seat, **beginning Tuesday, August 1, 2023**. Please make your reservation, **no later than Friday, September 15, 2023**, by accessing <https://pollardml.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/boston-harbor-islands-adventure/>

OR



SCAN ME



## List of Lowell Mayors with Burial Locations

Have you ever wondered where the Mayors of Lowell were buried? Early in Lowell history, Lowell Cemetery was the popular place. Over time as the city became more diverse other cemeteries became popular.

Click here to visit the LHS Blog page for this and other blogs about Lowell



We are thrilled to announce that Nick Hoff, who will be attending the University of Vermont this fall, has been awarded the Mildred E. Walgren History Award, which is given to a student who will major in history and is active in the community. We congratulate Nick on this well-deserved recognition.

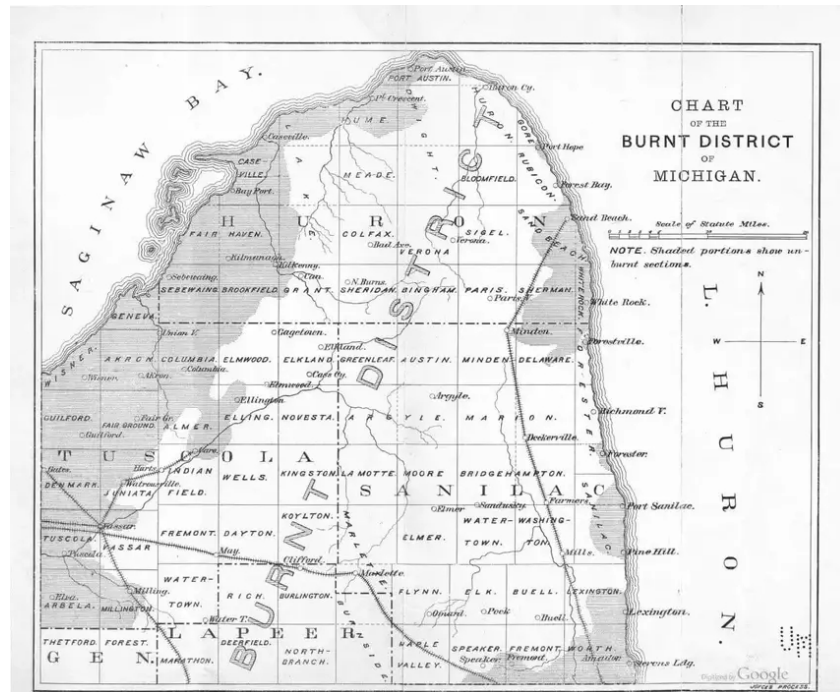
In addition to his academic achievements, Nick is also an Eagle Scout and completed his Eagle Scout project at the Center for Lowell History (see the LHS newsletter, Winter 2023). His dedication to both academics and community service is truly inspiring.

As Nick prepares to embark on this next exciting chapter of his life, we wish him all the best and are confident that he will continue to make a positive impact on the world. Congratulations Nick!

# Summer in Lowell -

# 1881

"Yellow Tuesday" - September 6, 1881



Map of the ["Thumb Fire" in Michigan](#), September 1881



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## The Darkest Day for Over A Hundred Years.

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Tuesday, September 6, 1881, has passed into history as the darkest day experienced in this country since Black Friday, 1780, or more than a hundred years. The causes, it appears, were on both occasions very similar, if not identical, namely, calm, cloudy weather and wood smoke from extensive forest fires. The effects were also very much alike. The darkness, or yellowness, on Tuesday extended all over New England and the eastern portions of the Middle States, and was densest at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted throughout the day. Gas jets and lamps were burning most of the day in many residences, stores, workshops and factories, some of the help in the latter being obliged to cease work, and others left their work because of superstitious fright. The schools in many places were dismissed for want of light. At Woonsocket and Hartford the Adventists donned their ascension robes, being convinced that the end of the world had come.

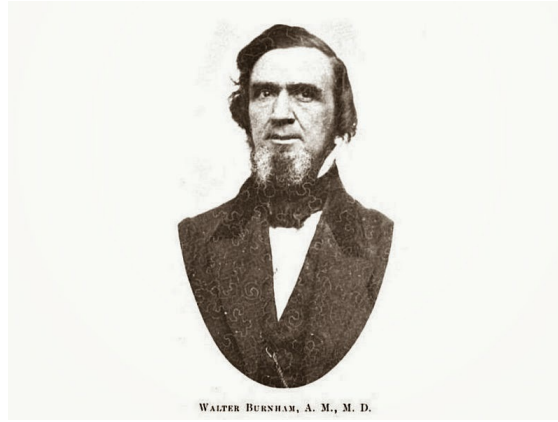
Persons who read in Tuesday's morning papers that miles of forest were burning the previous day in the province of Ontario, Canada, and who observed the almost still state of the vapory atmosphere, were not long in reaching the theory, which afterwards proved to be correct, that these three conditions were the cause of the phenomenon which excited universal wonderment.

From the Lowell Sun, September 10, 1881

For more on Yellow Tuesday, follow these links -

<http://www.celebrateboston.com/disasters/yellow-day.htm>

<https://forgottennewengland.com/2013/02/09/new-englands-yellow-day-of-1881-a-saffron-curtain-descends/>



### Lowell Firsts

Did you know . . . ?

Dr. Walter Burnham, who is buried in the Lowell Cemetery performed the first **successful** hysterectomy in the world on June 26, 1853, in **Lowell**!

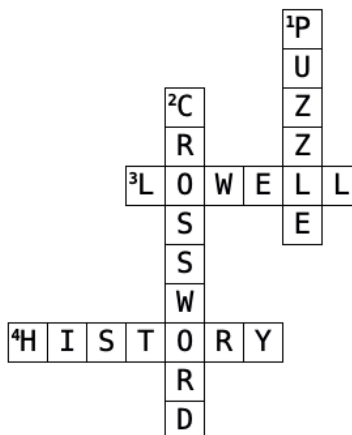
[Click here to read an article about Dr. Burnham on Eileen Loucraft's blogsite](#)

[Lowell Doughboys and more...](#)

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## Crossword Puzzle

### Lowell Firsts



Test your knowledge of Lowell History with this online crossword puzzle about  
Lowell Firsts

[Click here for the answers - this will download as a pdf](#)

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## Read the past newsletters-

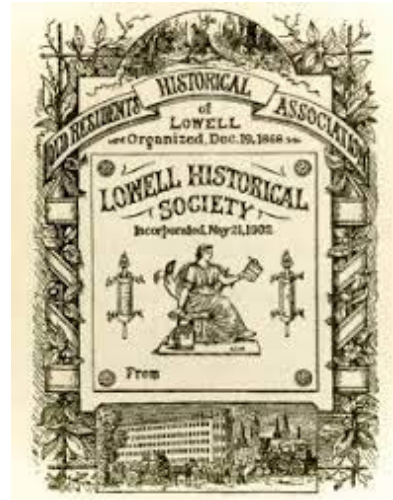
The 2005 - 2023 newsletters of the Lowell Historical Society are available online!

[Click here to see the past newsletters](#)



\*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\*

[Click here for more information about these events](#)



### Become a member!

We welcome all of those interested in history and Lowell to join! Membership is open to the public and all contributions are tax-deductible.

[Click here for more information](#)

Thank you to our Corporate Donors who help to guarantee that Lowell's history, stories, and artifacts are maintained for future generations.





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