



National Society of the Descendants of Textile Workers of America, Inc.

A Thread in Time!

January, 2018

Happy Birthday Samuel Slater



This picture is from Wikipedia of Samuel Slater (June 9, 1768–April 21, 1835)

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President's Message

Dear Textile Descendant,

It is with great honor that I took over as President of our Society in September 2017. It was rather an abrupt an unexpected start for me. Sadly, I had to pull our Society from hosting The Massing of the Colors in 2018 as time and resources are short for us at this time. To introduce myself for those of you I've yet to meet, my name is Dawn Darche, nee Olsta. I was born in Webster, MA. I've lived amongst the many textile mills in Thompson, CT, Wester/Dudley, MA and the mostly abandoned mill area of Scituate, RI. Currently, I am a public school teacher in CT working with Preschool children and their families. I have been in my current school for the past 25 years and have held many teaching positions. I have been married since 1993 to Jeffrey, and we have two beautiful daughters who are both in college. While I can see the retirement light at the end of my tunnel, it is still only a small flicker at this time.

I am one of the founders of this Society along with Mr. J. Atwood and Mrs. M. Brown. I would like to try different types of business meetings for us. In our very beginning, our meetings were held as just business meetings where we discussed how to get our Society out there and recognized. I would like to try a business meeting on a Saturday at 10 am in a mill town. At that time, I would like to know who would be interested in going on a tour of the Slater Museum in Pawtucket, RI in June. There is a bit of walking outside for the tour and I would prefer to go in June as the weather is usually much nicer than in March. This is, of course, open to discussion at our meeting.

I would like to thank Muriel Young for sending [The Yankee Xpress](#) article on Samuel Slater to us! Excellent article and series about someone so important to our countries development! Thank you very much!!!

We enrolled our 80th member this fall! This was so exciting! What a way to honor our relatives who worked very hard for us.

Sincerely,
Dawn Darche
NSDTWA, President

Welcome New Members!!!

78 Marg Studley of Newtown, CT
79 Barbara Ricozzi of Branford, CT
80 Callia Ricozzi of Branford, CT

Our Website!

textileworker.com

Please visit our website! It has been upgraded and 'modernized' thanks to David DiLeo!!

Thank you for all of you hard work and imagination David! Our honor roll is growing strongly!!!!

Look at the newsletter on the website! It looks better there!

Donate to NSDTWA!

Smile.amazon.com is a way you can use your spending to donate to our society! Amazon will give a percentage of what you spend through this site to our Society. Thank you to Mary Brown for finding this and to Nancy Merwin for setting it up so quickly!! You have to sign in to your amazon account then choose (type in) your charity. I typed in textile worker and then chose ours from the list that came up.

This is an exciting way to help boost our scholarship fund and to raise money for our general fund. Because we are still just starting out, our general fund does need some work at this time.

Call for Articles

If you have an article or would be willing to write an article please send them to Dawn Darche, 27 Apple Hill Drive, North Scituate, RI 02857 or send to dawndar@gmail.com. If you use google docs you can share with them with me there. I would need your submission by July 2018.



Waterwheel

Executive Board

President Dawn Darche

(dawndar@gmail.com)

Treasurer Nancy Merwin

(nancymerwin284@gmail.com)

Secretary Ida Ransom

(iransom@snet.net)

Genealogist Mary Brown

(mbrown06239@gmail.com)

Mission

The mission of the National Society of Descendants of Textile Workers of America is to keep alive the memory of the Industrial Revolution and maintain its rightful place in the history of America with special regard for the Textile Workers and their contributions to the development of our American culture and society.



An Arkwright water frame that was made in 1775.

March Meeting

This is an event I think you will fully enjoy and find highly interesting!! Mr. Richard Cazeault, the author of 'Who is Samuel Slater' will be speaking to us!! I am so excited and invite you all to attend as you will enjoy what he has to say!

Our next meeting will be March 3, 2018, at 10 am at the Thompson Public Library in the Community Room. Please send me an email if you plan to attend. dawndar@gmail.com. I am looking forward to seeing you there!!!!

Gentle Reminder

Please make sure your dues are up to date! Please either mail to Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Rd., Oakdale, CT 06370 or you can pay her in person at the meeting.



Slater Mill in Pawtucket

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia



But what do these photos have to do with this newsletter? Read on!

The Yankee Xpress published this article on April 21, 2017. Go to <http://theyankeexpress.com> click past issues you can find more in Mr. Cazeault's series.

Who is Samuel Slater

by Richard Cazeault

Samuel Slater was born in Derbyshire, England, on June 9, 1768, the second son of William Slater. His father was educated and owned his own farm. He also was a timber merchant. Their neighbor Jedidiah Strutt (1726-1797), also a farmer and textile manufacturer. Strutt's partner in the textile in the textile mill was Richard Arkwright (1732-17920). Arkwright had invented the first carding machine and spinning frame (also known as the water frame because it was driven by a water wheel) to automatically manufacture cotton yarn. His mill was the first to yarn in large quantities at a very low cost. Within five years Arkwright's mills were employing more than five thousand workers.

Prior to Arkwright's inventions, all yarn, thread, and cloth was handmade, using a manual brush to straighten the cotton, linen or woolen fibers, a spinning wheel to make the yarn and thread, and a hand loom to make cloth. It was very time consuming. One bobbin of yarn or thread was made at a time by one person. With the Arkwright machine many bobbins could be made at one time by one person. During this time, most of the countries of the world consisted of family farming as the main staple of the economy. The farms made their own clothing. In some cases, they would raise sheep for wool, cotton plants, and flax plants for making yarn or thread.

Arkwright's inventions would begin an unimagined Industrial Revolution. England had a textile monopoly and became an economic powerhouse. No other country had anything to compare with it, and everyone wanted these cheap textile goods. Likewise, to protect this monopoly, England made the export of the machines, plans, or trained personnel, a crime. Eventually Arkwright would be knighted for his inventions.

Early on, Samuel's father noticed that his son had a gift for mathematics and creating small mechanisms. When Samuel was 14 (1782), his father recommended his son for an apprenticeship with his friend Strutt. A couple of years later his father died and Samuel signed indenture papers that would tie him to the mill until the age of 21 (1789). Samuel was an avid student and learned all phases of the mill from maintenance, to design, to operations management, to the material elements of the fibers. He was also involved with the construction of an all new Arkwright cotton mill. Before he finished his indenture, he was promoted to superintendent of the Strutt Mill.

During this period, he and Strutt made a trip to a village near Nottingham that employed a new invention, the steam engine, to drive the textile mill. Strutt's mill was powered by a water wheel and a susceptible to shut down during dry

periods. Because of the dirty fuel used in the steam boilers for the steam engine, the village and its inhabitants were covered in soot, and had respiratory ailments. Strutt and Samuel both agreed after the visit to stick with the water wheel. Environmentalists in the 1700's?

But for another revolution across the Atlantic, Samuel Slater probably would have continued to excel and lead a comfortable life working in England's colonies in America decided to form their own country. The American Revolution started in 1775 and ended with independence in 1783. The American Constitution became effective in 1789, about the time of the end of Samuel's indenture to Strutt.

By 1789, the world, including the newly created United States, was hungry to share in the growing and rich English Industrial Revolution. The State of Pennsylvania voted to offer a bounty to anyone who could design a successful textile machine. Although many had tried to build similar textile machines, none were successful.

Although the English were thriving, Slater thought that his chances of obtaining enough capital to build his own mill were slim. The English textile industry was very competitive and difficult to enter as a mill owner. Samuel wanted his own operation.

The U.S. was an English-speaking country. It had revived the democratic principles of the ancient Greeks to form a unique government. There was an abundance of natural resources. Including innovation, and the potential of another Industrial Revolution.

The stage was set for Slater. This is where he could find his opportunity and future. Slater decided to take a chance. By making this decision, he knew that he could not take a chance. He would probably never see his family again. There would be no returning home, ever.

He didn't take any plans or prints, just his knowledge and experience, and a hidden set of his indenture papers issued by Strutt. He went to London and boarded a ship, posing as a non-descript farmer bound for New York City. Sixty-six days later he arrived in New York. He originally had planned to go on to Philadelphia (Maybe to collect their bounty?), but ended up working for the New York Manufacturing Company in Manhattan.

This company used antiquated hand operated English designs to manufacture linen. It was a very crude and inefficient operation compared to the cotton mills in England. Slater was unimpressed and looked for another opportunity.

He soon learned of another operation in Rhode Island and took a ship to Providence. A short distance away in Pawtucket he would go into business with a wealthy, retired merchant named Moses Brown. Brown would later help found Brown University, and was noted for his imagination and business prowess.

The first chapter in the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution was about to begin. Slater had his opportunity.

In the next installment we'll outline the possible thought process of Slater. Was he a copycat with a photographic mind, or a genius? In England he would be called Slater the Traitor.

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