



A Thread In Time

Newsletter of the
National Association of Textile Workers of America, Inc.
Volume I Issue 3
June, 2011

President's Message

Wonderful news. Our Society is growing! Our last assigned membership number is 29. Our members are from all across the United States and our honor roll reflects the pride we have in our ancestor's or our own contribution to the Industrial Revolution.

Our annual meeting in March found us approving an official insignia. This beautiful symbol is now our watermark, as well as lapel medal to be worn with pride. Please see the following article about this insignia.

I encourage you all to plan to attend our 2012 annual meeting which will be held March 25, 2012 at the Windham Textile and History Museum in Willimantic, CT. More details will be sent after the beginning of the year. This is a time to review our progress and plan our next goals for the growth of this society. Your input, even from afar is always welcome. If you cannot attend, but have some concerns, ideas, suggestion, or comments, please send them to us for consideration and possible implementation.

In this beautiful spring weather, I can only think of this closing. Watch us grow!

I invite you all to contribute to our newsletter. Please send me your articles, information, bulletins, etc.

Regards,
Mary Brown

Membership Notice:

The opportunity to enjoy life membership is now offered at

Under age 50 - 30 times the annual dues

Age 50 and older - 20 times the annual dues

We established this category of membership to allow members the privilege of a onetime payment and membership for life. This frees up our treasurer from multiple mailings for dues notices. You also have to consider that at sometime in the future dues will increase. This insures that you will not be affected by a dues increase. All life membership funds will be placed in a dedicated fund and only the interest will be used annually.

Currently, the annual dues are \$10. We know that we can't keep them at that level for long, so it may behoove you to purchase a life membership now. If you have already paid your 2011 dues, deduct them from your life membership check. Checks should be made out to NSDTWA and mailed to Gail Rebello, treasurer, 4 Village Hill Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249.

Scholarship

A goal of our Society is to provide scholarships to Vocational School students. The scholarship does not have to be used for college. It can be for licensing fees, tools, etc. *Daniel Livingston*, who has graduated fourth in his class from Windham Technical School in Willimantic, CT met the following criteria:

1. Exemplary work ethic
2. Respect for self, family, peers, and persons in authority
3. Strong background and interest in American History
4. Good academic performance
5. Attendance record indicates no suspensions or unexcused absences

Congratulations Daniel and best wishes for a successful career.

Calendar of Events

October 30, 2011 - Massing of the Colors 3 p.m.
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT.

May 25, 2011- Annual Meeting 1 p.m.
Windham Textile and History Museum, Willimantic, CT

Website

Please visit our outstanding website at www.textileworker.com. This website was designed and is maintained by Tracy Crocker. You will notice that some of the honor roll members have special attachments with anecdotes about their life. You are welcome to submit material about your ancestor. Please contact or Tracy Crocker at Tracy@tracycrocker.com or Mary Brown at mbrown51@snet.net for submission of this material.

Our New Logo

When I agreed to work on the logo for our society, I thought a photo of Betsy Ross sewing the American Flag would be an excellent choice. I even located a nice likeness from the Smithsonian. Except it was not original enough, and was too detailed for most applications.

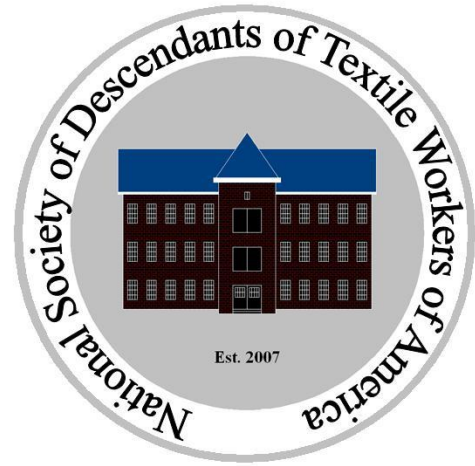
In speaking with other members of the society, the decision was made to have a logo that was more inclusive to mill workers of all types. The next version looked more like a Coat of Arms, with needles as cross pieces, a spinning jenny, a loom, a thimble, and a cow hide. It became too busy, with too many colors. It was also easy to determine the thimble, but the loom and spinning jenny were just splotches on a small medallion. And although there were many good ideas on what to include from fellow society members, we needed something simple, that said "mill worker".

Living in New England, the answer was all around us, Mill Buildings! Throughout New England there are old Mill Buildings, some are wooded like Slater Mill in Rhode Island, some are stone like the mills in Willimantic, CT, but most are made with brick. See the Pryn Mill in Dayville, CT below.



A brick building made it easy to select the colors for our logo, red brick, white trim, and blue accents, the perfect colors for a "National" society.

In most mills built in the 19th century, there was a square tower section in the front of the rectangular building, although this occasionally was located elsewhere depending on the site. This section served two purposes, first it was the main entrance and stairway, but more importantly, it served as egress for the machinery needed in the mill. For buildings built before the electrification, they needed a method of getting machinery into the building. The solution was a pulley system that ran on a track along the peak of the tower. At each level there were large doors that could be opened to allow riggers to move machinery in and out of the building. The old mill buildings also required many windows for ambient light.



In honoring our textile worker ancestors, we tried to capture the essence of a typical New England mill building in our new logo. I thank everyone that contributed their input into the design. 35mm medallions with a red, white and blue ribbon are now available.



You may order this medal for \$45 including shipping and handling. Send a check made out to NSDTWA to William A. Warner, P. O. Box 232, Thompson, CT 06277. All proceeds from the sale of this medal are placed in the dedicated scholarship fund.

Officers:

President

Mary F. Brown
218 Green Hollow Rd.
Danielson, CT 06239

Secretary

Dawn M. Darche
27 Apple Hill Dr.
N. Scituate, RI 02857

Vice President

Michael Steinberg
1531 Fulton St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Treasurer

Gail L. Rebello
4 Village Hill Rd.
Lebanon, CT 06249

