A Thread In Time

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

www.textileworker.com

Volume II **July/August 2014** **Issue 3**

President's Message

It has been a busy spring/summer for our society. The annual meeting of the National Society of the Descendants of Textile Workers of America, Inc. was held March 23, 2011 at 1 pm, Willimantic Brewing Company in Willimantic, CT. Members in attendance: Mary Brown, Sandra Bullock, Joseph Chauvin, Gretchen Darche, Melody Guillemette, Nancy Merwin, Ida Ransom, Beverly Warner, and William Warner.

A number of actions was approved by the board at the annual meeting. First, the publication of the newsletter is being changed. In the future, starting with this issue, there will be a January/February and a July/August edition. The move to a January/February one will ensure that all members receive notice of our Annual meeting in March. The newsletter will continue to be available on line.

Second, the board approved a motion to increase our scholarship from 200 to 250 dollars for the next four years.

Third, the board voted to have the NSDTWA host the 2018 CT Massing of the Colors; the motion carried unanimously. This year (2018) is Samuel Slater's 250th birthday so we would be honoring him for the start of the Industrial Revolution in America.

The Massing of the Colors is an annual event that has been held for decades each fall. It brings many of the hereditary and patriotic societies in Connecticut together for a wonderful procession of flags, a short service and then a social time for everyone to mingle. Last year, the Connecticut Society, National Society Daughters of 1812 and the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut were the hosts and we had a great turnout of our members and other societies. It was held last September 8th at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Middletown, CT.

As of our meeting we had 44 members, since then we have added 2 new members and there are a couple in process. Once we achieve 50 members we will receive national recognition. I have been tasked with obtaining a source for "Charter" member insignia which would be available to our first 50 members. I will also research the possibility of "Ancestor" bars which could be added to our ribbons as well.

In June we awarded a scholarship of 250 dollars to a fine young man, Samuel Andrychowski, of the Windham Technical High School. Sam is a dedicated young man who is ranked fifth in his class. He is a member of the Culinary Arts program at Windham Tech and is a standout in the shop. He is an avid athlete and will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall to study History.

Field Trip to Slater Mill

This August 16th, we have decided to have a field trip to the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI for members of the NSDTWA. We will meet at Slater Mill at 11:00 o'clock for a ninety minute tour of the museum. Afterwards we will seek out a local restaurant for fellowship. Admission for Adults is 12.00, Seniors and students is 10.00 and children (6-12) is 8.50. Please send a RSVP to our Secretary, Ida Ransom, at iransom@snet.net or at 860-923-9052. We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards, Bill Warner

Slater Mill – Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Samuel Slater (June 9, 1768 – April 21, 1835) was an early English-American industrialist known as the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution" (a phrase coined by Andrew Jackson), and "Slater the Traitor" in England because he brought British textile technology to America with a few modifications fit for America. He learned textile machinery as an apprentice to a pioneer in the British industry. He brought the knowledge to America where he designed the first textile mills, went into business for himself and grew wealthy. By the end of Slater's life he owned thirteen spinning mills and had established tenant farms and towns around his textile mills such as Slatersville and Rhode Island.

In 1789, leading Rhode Island industrialist, Moses Brown moved Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in partnership with his son-in-law, William Almy, and cousin, Smith Brown, to operate a mill. Housed in a former fulling mill near to the Pawtucket Falls of the Blackstone River, Almy & Brown, as the company was to be called, set about to make and sell cloth spun on spinning wheels, jennies, and frames, using water power. In August, they acquired a 32 spindle frame "after the Arkwright pattern" but this was no more successful. It was at this point a letter arrived from Slater offering his services.

Slater realized that nothing could be done with the machinery as it stood, convincing Brown of the worth of his opinion. He was able to promise: *"If I do not make as good yarn, as they do in England, I will have nothing for my services, but will throw the whole of what I have attempted over the bridge."* In 1790 he signed a contract with Brown to replicate the British designs. The deal that was struck allowed Slater the funds to build the water frames and associated machinery, with a half share in their capital value and the profits derived from them. By December the shop was operational with ten to twelve workers. Despite shortages of tools and skilled mechanics, by 1791 Slater had some machinery in operation. In 1793 Slater and Brown opened their first factory in Pawtucket.

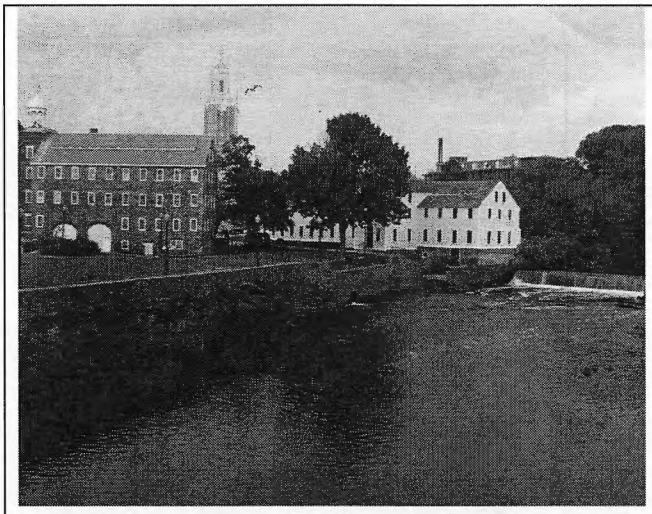
Slater knew the secret of Arkwright's success - namely that account had to be taken of varying fibre lengths - but he also understood Arkwright's carding, drawing, and roving machines, plus the experience of blending the whole into a continuous production system. During construction, Slater made some adjustments to the designs to fit local needs. The result was the first successful water-powered roller spinning textile mill in America. Samuel's wife, Hannah (Wilkinson) Slater, also invented a type of cotton sewing thread, becoming in 1793 the first American woman to be granted a patent.

In 1793, now partners with Almy and Brown, Slater constructed a new mill for the sole purpose of textile manufacture under the name Almy, Brown & Slater. It was a 72-spindle mill; the patenting of Eli Whitney's cotton gin in 1794 ensured ample supplies of cotton from the South. In 1798 Samuel Slater split from Almy and Brown and formed Samuel Slater & Company in partnership with his father-in-law Oziel Wilkinson to develop other mills in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

By 1810 Slater held part ownership in three factories in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In 1823, he bought a mill in Connecticut. He then built factories that made textile machinery used by many of the region's mills, and formed a partnership with his brother-in-law to produce iron for use in machinery construction.

Slater died on April 21, 1835 in Webster, Massachusetts (a town that he founded and had become a town three years earlier in 1832 and was named after his friend Senator Daniel Webster). At the time of his death, he owned thirteen mills and was worth a million dollars. His original mill, known today as Slater Mill, still stands and operates as a museum dedicated to preserving the history of Samuel Slater and his contribution to American industry.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Slater



Slater Mill operating today as a museum.

Insignia

You may order our insignia pin for $40, or the life membership pin for $10 (available to Life Members only). Send a check, including $5 for shipping and handling, made out to NSDTWA to Ms. Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, CT 06370. All proceeds from the sale of insignia are placed in the scholarship fund.

Officers

President	William A. Warner NSDTWA@gmail.com
Vice President	Melody L. Guillmette melodylee14@hotmail.com
Secretary	Ida J. Ransom iransom@snet.net
Treasurer	Nancy A. Merwin Nancyamerwin284@gmail.com
Genealogist	Mary F. Brown mbrown@ct.metrocast.net

New Members – Welcome!

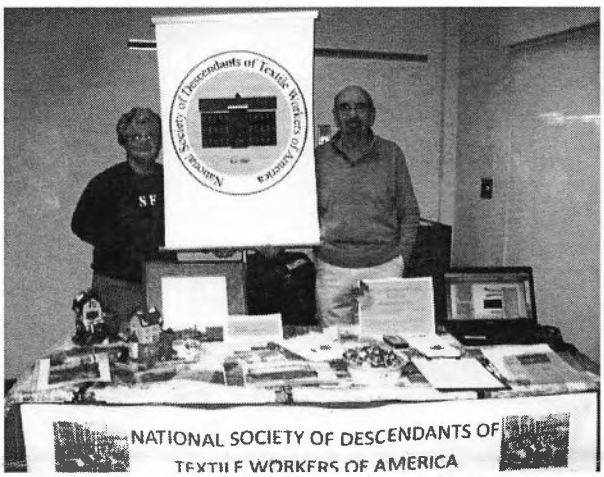
#45 Thomas J. Guillemette
Danielson, CT
Ancestor; *Wilfred Henry Guillemette*

#46 Mrs. Joyce Anderson
Princeton, MA
Ancestor; Mary Elizabeth Greason Harrington

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. The student must meet 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



Mary Brown and Russell DeGrafft at the Groton CT Library representing the NSDTWA.

Website

Once again, I invite you to visit our outstanding website at www.textileworker.com. This website was designed and is maintained by Tracy Crocker. Our newsletters are available on the website in full color. You will also 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 Tracy Crocker at Tracy@tracycrocker.com or Mary Brown at mbrown@ct.metrocast.net for submission of this material.

Treasurers Report

Checking Account	$1,949.96
Scholarship Fund	$1,450.05
Life Member Endowment Fund	$1,035.74
Total as of March 23, 2014	$4,435.75