



A Thread in Time



June, 2021

President's Message



I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and healthy. What a year it has been! I hope everyone is finding joy in our getting back to 'normal' time. I'm not really sure what that means, but it is my hope that family life has been strengthened and that people have become more interested in building relationships, not just having a pretty picture to share. Our textile worker ancestors worked very hard to provide things for their families not just to live, but to thrive. While many of us still work hard we are all thriving. We have the work ethic of these ancestors to thank for laying that foundation. It still amazes me that some of the textile worker families all lived in a two room (no bathroom) apartment and basically all shared a bed. Usually this bed was never empty as those who worked different shifts all slept at different times. I am grateful that I do not have to share my bed with the rest of my family! Love them as I do, just no!!!!

Annual meeting August 7, 2021 10:00 am - 11:00 am.

Sincerely,
Dawn Darche
President

Officers

President: Dawn Darche
Vice President: Ed Strickland
Treasurer: Nancy Merwin
Secretary: Marg Studley
Genealogist: Mary Brown

Treasurer's Information

Dues can be paid to Nancy Merwin at 284 Chesterfield Rd Oakdale, CT 06370 and are \$10 per year. There are life member options, please contact Nancy at nancyamerwin284@gmail.com.



Birthplace



Samuel Slater



Cemetery

The Gate Contest

We had one submission written by Dr. Mark Blais115L

The Gate

In Webster there is an Open Gate,
 when viewed will cause one to contemplate.
 Open wide for all to see,
 with a grave that stands behind thee.
 In His Word God did say,
 that Jesus is the only way!
 To pass through one must trust,
 not in one's selfish lust.
 The gate is open for the selfless just,
 Because of the only one who died for us.
 Who is this you may ask?
 Reading God's Word is the task.
 You will find the answer in the Old,
 that Jesus was promised to open the fold.
 You will find in the New,
 That trusting in Him will let you through.
 What does it mean to follow?
 Repenting of all in our life that is hollow.
 He lived a perfect life to fulfill the law,
 so we would not have to pay the penalty of the law.
 He took upon himself our sin,
 and through His pain and suffering those who trust win.
 You see He said "I am the way the truth and the Life",
 and He loves you so much He wants to make you His Wife.
 He is the Gate open to set you free,
 and He paid for your penalty on Calvary.
 All that is asked is that you repent of Sin,
 and that we put our trust in Him.

Anyone else with an article or idea for an article please email me at textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com

Welcome!

We have so many new members it is so nice to see us growing so well.

#106 Mrs. Janice Rowan, Jackson, TN	#121L Mr. Benjamin Webster. Stuyvesant Falls, NY
#107 Mr. Adam Boyce, Reading, VT	#122 Mr. Christopher Foley, Winnetka, IL
#108 Miss Macie Wyatt, Jackson, TN	#123 Mr. John Foley, Winnetka, IL
#109 Miss Frances Collins, Toccoa, GA	#124 Mr. Christopher M. Foley, Winnetka, IL
#110 Miss Alyvia Baxter, Jackson, TN	#125 Mrs. Deborah Hansen, Succasunna, NJ
#111 Mr. Dylan West, Jackson, TN	#126L Mr. James Long, Andover, KS
#112 Mrs. Barbara Holder, Gallatin, TN	#127 Ms. Linda Lashley, Wilmington, NC
#113 Mrs. Julia Hesler, LaGrange, GA	#128 Mr. Matthew Whisman, Louisville, KY
#114 Miss Alice Holtin, Henderson, TN	#129 Mrs Amanda Morris, Herndon, VA
#115L Dr. Mark Blais, Lynchburg, VA	#130 Mr. Terry DeWitt, Evans, GA
#116 Hon. JoAnne Makely, Plymouth, MA	#131L Ms. Sherrie Raleigh, Macon, GA
#117 Mr. Martin Beerman, Omaha, Ne	#132 Mrs. Nancy Gillfillan, Putnam, IL
#119 Dr. Joan Nathan, Medford, NY	#133 Mrs. Elizabeth Hawn, Sandpoint, ID
#120 Mrs. Ann Bridges, Cartersville, GA	

Meeting

Our last meeting via zoom worked out very well. It worked out so well in fact I've decided to try again. Here is the link to the Google meet: [Textile Worker Annual Meeting](#)

[Saturday, August 7 · 10:00 – 11:00am](#)

[Google Meet joining info](#)

[Video call link: https://meet.google.com/cmm-zade-eph](https://meet.google.com/cmm-zade-eph)

Meeting Agenda

Welcome

Minutes for the last meeting reviewed

Treasurer's Report

Membership

Old Business

New Business

Hope to see you there!

Housing in the Industrial Revolution

By Dawn Darche

I have always been curious about tenement housing. My great-grandfather was a carpenter and built many duplex and tenement houses when he came to America from Poland. My twin aunts were left the big six family apartment house when he and his wife

passed. We always called it a tenement house but it is really an apartment house due to the fact that the apartments are not cramped, it was never a single family home converted to multiple living spaces, and there was ventilation. As I researched the history of tenement housing the amount of information from New York City is overwhelming. Many immigrants came to America through Ellis Island and looked for work in the general area. The population in NYC doubled every decade from 1800 - 1880. This clearly led to a need for housing. Many of the people who had lived in the city moved north and converted their homes into multiple living spaces. Many of these renovations left less than a foot of space between buildings which led to little or no ventilation. I'm not big on plumbing history but I'm sure the 1800's were not technically advanced with indoor plumbing. I'm also not an expert on electricity, but I am sure these renovations did not include lighting. I do not know what the rent was that was collected, but people were happy to have space to call their own after leaving their homes and families in another country. I cannot imagine living in a cramped, poorly lit, and no indoor plumbing space with little to no ventilation. I cannot fathom the hot summers and cold winters.

I was also interested in the rent that people would pay. Now, these are 1900 rent figures I was able to find but on the first floor you would pay \$12-13 while on the 4th floor you would pay \$9.50 -\$10 per month. I am assuming that 100 years prior the rents would have been a bit less.

I was also curious how a tenement turned into a slum. Due to the fact that housing was needed and people were willing to pay the homes and tenements were not kept up to any standards. Many people died as a result of the poor conditions. The landlords used a middle man to collect the rents and then collected their money. The actual landlord never saw the conditions or shape of the constructions. Because it was only about making money no money was put into the upkeep of a building. The buildings without care fell into disrepair and despair and hence a slum. The people living there wanted better but could not afford to move. Talk about a catch 22.

Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/tenements>

https://www.tenement.org/visit/neighborhood-walking-tours/?gclid=CjwKCAjw8uGBhBAEiwAayu_9QJu2DZ0sfNm8UScvkCFvHUzXad6O4osJpuPLBI_G13tqUzsj4yq9BoCDq8QAvD_BwE

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=94d1e3701b7d4f68a03e3c5277768b05>