



# A Thread in Time



June 2022

## President's Message



I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying summer. Please seriously consider joining our annual meeting this year. It is so nice to get to meet our members in person. I had the honor of attending the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, MA this past April with Muriel Young and Mary Brown. I have never had such an immersive experience. I've been to the Van Gogh Immersive show and it was beautiful but did not hold a candle to the Samuel Slater Experience. If you are in the area of Webster, Massachusetts please consider visiting, It is well worth your time! I hope this QR Code makes it through the copy and mailing process so you can have the info on the Museum at your fingertips. The website is [samuel Slater Experience.org](http://samuel Slater Experience.org)



Sincerely,  
Dawn Darche  
President

### Officers

President: Dawn Darche  
Vice President: Ed Strickland  
Secretary: Marg Studley  
Treasurer: Nancy Merwin  
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](mailto:nancyamerwin284@gmail.com).

### Career Advancement Grant

The NSDTWA is proud to offer a Career Advancement Grant to any member, child or grandchild of a member, who is graduating from a Vocational High School. This grant may be used for advanced education, tools, or licensing fees. For the 2022 grant we are able to award \$1,000. Application may be made through the website, [textileworkers.com](http://textileworkers.com). If you would like to make a donation to this fund, checks made out to NSDTWA should be sent to Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Rd., Oakdale, CT 06370. Questions or comments should be directed to [mbrown06239@gmail.com](mailto:mbrown06239@gmail.com).

## **Woot! Woot! Welcome Woot! Woot!**

We have reached 150 members. It is so nice to see us growing so well. Thank you so much for joining us and making our organization strong.

#147L Mr. Richard Devin, Dillon CO

#149 Ms. Carol Williamson, Denver, Co

#148 Mrs, Mary Turner, Jasper, GA

#150L Dr, Kathryn Beck, Carrollton, TX

An article submitted by Sue Peters. The valley referred to is Lykens Valley, Millersburg, PA. If you have an article please send to [textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com](mailto:textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com).

### **A GREAT INDUSTRY**

#### ***Hosiery Mills of Issac Mossop & Company, Oldest and Best Equipped in the Valley***

*Among the leading manufacturing industries in this valley is that of **Isaac Mossop** and Company, hosiery mills, established May, 1889. This is the pioneer mill of the valley for the manufacture of men's seamless half hose. When they began they employed about twenty-five hands. They now number about one hundred and thirty. Then each machine required the constant attention of an operator. So great has been the improvement in the knitting machines that now one hand can attend from two to ten machines, the automatic action of which makes them appear to be endowed with intellectual faculties. Indeed, there are few inventions that show more of man's inventiveness genius than those you see in the work of making seamless hosiery. These labor-saving machines are being constantly improved.*

*Mr. Mossop kindly showed us the action of some of the latest which are seen in but few places near us outside of his establishment. There are 147 machines in the knitting department, which turns out five hundred dozen pairs of stockings a day; that is, six thousand pairs, or taken singly, twelve thousand stockings each day. one can not help comparing it with the old fashioned method of our grandmothers' knitting needles, and noting the rapid strides in a few years in the making of stockings.*

*The material must pass through twenty sets of hands including dyeing, before the stocking is finished. The pay roll runs about five hundred dollars a week. Some young girls do not make more than \$1.75 per week, while many experienced girls make \$1.20 per day. The community ought to appreciate the value of such a plant, bringing, as it does, so much money into the families, and stores, and consequently furnishing many material comforts.*

*The plant has been recently improved by adding to the structure a building 40 x 40 feet, three stories high. The entire building is now, 90 x 80 feet, three stories in height. Goods are sent to points from*

*Maine to California. Fifteen percent of the work is sold to the government, some of which is sent to Porto Rico, to Cuba and other American possessions. The company has a forty horse power engine and a sixty horse power boiler. They make their own electricity. A one hundred and fifty light dynamo sends the light to all parts of the building. When the beautiful and powerful lights are turned on the darkness is turned into day. The building is thoroughly equipped for fighting fire. In addition to a chemical engine always ready, hose pipes reaching to all parts of the building are so arranged as to be brought into operation very quickly. The process, which is equivalent to the ironing of the stockings, is by a pressure of sixty tons. In the year 1896 this company established the dye works, under the name of the **Wiconisco** Dyeing Company. They do the dyeing for about nine mills besides their own. Ten men are employed in this establishment.*

*About two hundred and forty tons of coal a year are used in the knitting mill and twice that amount in the dye works. Obviously their close proximity to the mines is a vantage point for the company.*

***Isaac Mossop**, to whose talents and energy the plant owes its continued prosperity, is an esteemed citizen, who wins his successes only by honest dealing and legitimate business enterprise. The appearance of the mill inside and out is in accordance with his refined tastes and excellent sense of the fitness of things. He is kind and considerate to those in his employ, freely conceding a just remuneration for labor. You do not see here pale checks, and sallow complexions, but girls rosy-faced, bright-eyed and apparently happy. The writer was pleased with a recent visit to the mills, and the kind treatment received at the hands of the gentlemanly proprietor and manager.*

## Insignia



This insignia medal is available to all members of the National Society of Descendants of Textile Workers of America. You can wear this proudly, knowing that you are honoring your textile worker ancestor. All proceeds (including handling and postage) from the sale of this medal are placed in the dedicated scholarship fund. You may order this medal for \$45 including shipping and handling. There is also a charm, a miniature medal and life member pin shown on the website. [www.textileworker.com](http://www.textileworker.com). Send a check made out to NSDTWA to Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Rd., Oakdale, CT '06370.

## Annual Meeting

Please consider joining us for our 2022 annual meeting. It is a fun time for about an hour. We love to 'see' you and talk briefly. This past year we all shared about our ancestor. If you would like any pics or stories posted about your ancestor in our honor roll please send to [textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com](mailto:textileworkersofamerica@gmail.com). One of the big discussions we will have is whether to resume in face meetings or leave it to the online format. Your input is essential!

Annual NSDTWA meeting

Saturday, July 16, 2022 · 10:00 – 11:00am

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/dnq-xmsh-one>

### Calling all Artists and Craftsmen!!!

While you may not consider yourself an artist, you are! After having a discussion with our Executive Committee, I've begun to wonder what textil hobbies you are involved in. I personally love to crochet. I have even submitted some of my work to the Woodstock Fair and won a blue ribbon! I was shocked! I'm looking for pictures of things you have created. I'd love to post in the next newsletter what your special talent is. Now I know I'm only hitting the tip of the iceberg here but some of the other textile hobbies I've come up with are: knitting, crochet, rug hooking, quilting, embroidery, cross stitching, painting on cloth, and dress making..... There are so, so many more. Please send a picture of yourself and your craft either modeling or you in the background. We all want to see you with what you've done! I'll start with my prize winning shawl.



## Minutes from the August 7, 2021 Annual Meeting

National Society Descendants of Textile Workers of America, Inc. Minutes August 7, 2021

The 2021 annual meeting was called to order by President Dawn Darche at 10:00 AM with 10 members in attendance. The meeting was conducted virtually. President Darche welcomed the members in attendance. Each member introduced themselves and related something about their textile ancestor. Dawn noted that one great aspect of the NSDWTA is that many members knew their textile ancestor.

### Minutes

The Secretary presented a summary of the 2020 annual meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2020, annual meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a report for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Available funds      \$ 3,070.81

### Restricted funds:

    Scholarship            3,219.85

    Life member           6,142.00

                              \$12,432.74

The treasurer noted that the IRS form 990-N was filed in January 2021.

The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

### Membership Report

Mary Brown reported that currently there are 142 members with 6 applications pending. She noted that the organization is growing by leaps and bounds. She thanked JaniSue Regal for initiating the Sharing Our Societies event. Mary asked members to send pictures or vignettes of their ancestor to add to our website Honor Roll.

### Old Business

Discussion ensued concerning reorganizing the scholarship application process and the need to establish a committee to read applications and establish a scoring rubric. Ed Strickland, Barbara Ricoszi and Dawn Darche have volunteered to serve on this committee.

It was decided to characterize the scholarship as a "Career Advancement Grant" since non college – bound applicants may be hesitant to apply. It was noted that the grant can be used for tools and other expenses related to an applicant's career.

A motion was made to increase the 2022 Career Advancement Grant to \$1,000 with the amount to be reviewed annually. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

It was generally decided that future meetings should be held virtually to allow more distant members to attend. The option of having a hybrid meeting was also discussed as it allows for better socialization and having a program.

### New Business

President Darche thanked all for the work they do for the society. She also requested ideas for future newsletter articles. She suggested that articles regarding those other than mill workers such as cotton farmers, cotton pickers, mill mechanics, and seamstresses and tailors would be of interest.

It was noted that there will be a Massing of the Colors at the Meeting House in Old Weathersfield in October and it was suggested that the NSDTWA participate as they have in the past.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully Submitted

Marg Studley, Secretary