



A Thread In Time

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

www.textileworker.com

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President's Message

It has been a busy summer/fall for our society. In June we awarded a scholarship of 200 dollars to a fine young woman, Brianna Belske, of the Windham Technical High School. She is a great student who is ranked 3rd in her class and carries the highest average overall in social studies. She will be attending Sweet Briar College in the fall.

This July we received Copyright VA 1-866-176 for Textile Logo – Logo of the NSDTWA, for our insignia. In the near future we will establish an Insignia Committee to develop items which can be sold to enhance the scholarship fund. We have also designed a life membership pin to wear on the insignia ribbon which is now available to our life members. The pin should be placed in the center of the ribbon as shown.



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. This 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 on September 8th at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Middletown, CT.

The coordinator for the National Society Daughters of 1812 was its Vice President, Ida Ransom, who did an excellent job with the program. Ida also serves on our board as Secretary.

National Society of Descendants of Textile Workers of America was well represented by all of its officers and a few of its members.



Pictured, L-R, Treasurer, Nancy A. Merwin, Genealogist Mary Brown, Scholarship Beverly Warner, President Bill Warner.

Starting with this newsletter, we are beginning a new series of Mills Around America. This issue will focus on the Cannelton Cotton Mill located in Indiana. The information was provided by Ms. Carol Seales, courtesy of the internet. If you have other mills you would like to see highlighted in future issues, please send your information in an email to NSDTWA@gmail.com.

Regards, Bill Warner

Cannelton Cotton Mill – Cannelton, Indiana

The Cannelton Cotton Mill was constructed between 1849 and 1851. It was designed by Rhode Island architect Thomas Alexander Tefft. It is built of sandstone and was once the largest industrial building in the United States west of the Allegheny Mountains. It initially employed about 400 workers, mostly women and girls, and annually produced more than 200,000 pounds of cotton batting and four million yards of cotton sheeting. During the Civil War it made uniforms for the Union Army and also made uniforms for both World Wars. Of 309 workers employed there in 1890, only 78 were men. As late as 1900, the mill employed 35 girls and 19 boys under the age of 18.

The driving force behind the mill's construction was Hamilton Smith, a prominent attorney from Louisville, Kentucky. Smith's vision was to create a western milling center to rival Lowell, MA, but using steam-powered machinery fired by locally-produced coal (canel coal) instead of the hydropower that ran the Lowell mills. The task proved too difficult for Smith and his associates, Salmon P. Chase and Indiana federal judge Elisha Mills Huntington. In 1851, control of the mill passed to brothers Dwight Newcomb and Horatio Dalton Newcomb who operated it successfully. The mill closed in 1954. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

The mill is located facing the Ohio River and is 280 feet long and 60 feet wide. Its most striking features are 100-foot twin towers, one housed a fire escape and the other was used for water storage and fire protection. The mill's style is Romanesque, but it was not built as Tefft originally designed it. Tefft's drawings called for each story to have different window heads and for dormer windows in the roof. His plan also called for a stepped foundation. As built, the dormers were eliminated completely and the remaining windows, except for those in the towers, were all capped with square lintels. A half-basement with square windows replaced the stepped foundation. The overall effect is much more severe than Tefft had intended.

In 1998, at the request of local community leaders including the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC) became involved in efforts to preserve the Indiana Cotton Mill. In 1999, LHDC purchased the mill, and adjoining property, and transferred the property to its subsidiary, Cotton Mill Apartments, Inc. and began efforts to preserve, rehabilitate and convert the mill into 70 units of affordable rental housing. At the time LHDC became involved in the project, the Indiana Cotton Mill was ranked the #1 Most Endangered Historic Landmark in the state by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

After over 3 years of painstaking efforts, LHDC - with the assistance of numerous partners, investors and supporters - was successful in preserving this *National Historic Landmark* for the enjoyment of future generations. In June 2004, Cannelton celebrated the transformation of the 1849 Indiana Cotton Mill (also known as the Cannelton Cotton Mill) into 70 low cost apartments.

The above information was obtained from the following websites:

<http://www.perrycountychamber.com/profile.php>

<http://www.lhdc.org/FultonHill/LincolnHillsDevelopmentCorp.-IndianaCottonMill.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannelton_Cotton_Mill



The Cannelton Mill today as an apartment complex

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.

Treasurers Report

Checking Account	\$ 1,452.38
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,440.42
Life Member Endowment Fund	\$ 1,028.87
Total as of September 20, 2013	\$ 3,921.67

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

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

This program will soon be opened to Vocational School students in other states. Please support our scholarship endowment fund to make this possible.

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.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2014 at the Willimantic Brewing Company, 967 Main Street, Willimantic, CT at 2:00 pm. Please send an email to NSDTWA@gmail.com if you are interested in attending, A reminder email will be sent out a month before the event.

Membership Notice

It is that time of year again - time to send in your yearly dues if you are not a life member. The annual dues are still \$10. This is a good time to consider the opportunity to enjoy life membership. It is offered at: Under age 50 – 30 times the annual dues (\$300) or Age 50 and older – 20 times the annual dues (\$200). Please send a check made out to NSDTWA to Ms. Nancy Merwin, 284 Chesterfield Road, Oakdale, CT 06370. Thank you!