



# HISTORY DETECTIVES

# Museum L-A

HISTORY NEWSLETTER for YOUNG PEOPLE  
DECEMBER 2008

## SOMETHING WE DID!

**Whirling Water Wheels** –the Science Discovery workshop held Nov. 19 at Museum L-A was a great success! This picture shows the final step: testing the water wheels that the teams built from recycled and scrap materials. Students analyzed what might have made their wheels more effective. They learned how early mills got their power, too.

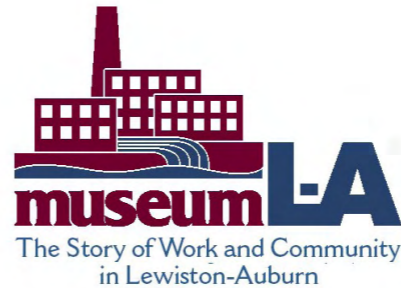


## PLAN A-HEAD!

**Dec. 6** “Cotton to Dye For!” Saturday, 2pm to 3:30pm, Science Discovery Workshop. Learn how to dye cloth and yarn.

**Dec. 29** **Game Day at Museum L-A**, Monday 2pm to 4pm (snow day: Dec. 30) Play some **fun** games that call for skill and luck!

**Call to sign up** & for more information.



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*The next*

**Science Discovery Workshop**

Bring a friend!



## Cotton to Dye For!

*Science Discovery Workshop*

- Investigate sources of natural **dyes**
- Learn the chemistry of **color**
- Explore the uses of **dye** in the local textile industry
- **Dye** your own **colorful** creation

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 - 3:30pm**

Free Admission! Snacks, too

Call 333-3881 to sign up



Bring a friend!

If you have an idea or some news, let me know! If you want to be on the mailing list to get **History Detectives** on a regular basis, a mom or dad or grandparent must let me know. Call **333-3881**, or send an e-mail to: [adorey@museumla.org](mailto:adorey@museumla.org)

Remember: “**Ask an Expert**” is a place for your history Questions and Answers.

Watch for future issues of **History Detectives**.

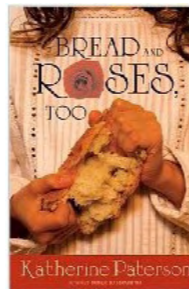
Get your **HISTORY DETECTIVES** punch card – earn points on your **Journey of Discovery!** each time you come to investigate!

**PARENTS:** We hope your child enjoys *History Newsletter for Young People*. If you wish your child to receive future *History Detectives* by mail, **you** need to call 333-3881 or e-mail me to let me know. Thank you.  
 Editor, Annette  
 E-mail: [adorey@museumla.org](mailto:adorey@museumla.org).

**READ:**



Bread and Roses, too, by Katherine Paterson (2006) is the story of young Rosa's adventures during a 1912 strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts.



**Did You Know?** In 1905 L-A had 15 cotton mills that employed 12,382 people; 590 were children under age 16.

**THINK:**



Use your *History Detective* skills to solve this problem about the shoes and boots that were made right here in Auburn in 1880:

That year there were 1,758,681 pairs of **boots** made by hand in large and small shoe shops in Auburn. The total number of pairs of boots and shoes made by hand was 5,675,854.

- How many **pairs** of **shoes** were made? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many **individual** shoes and boots were made? \_\_\_\_\_

In 1880 all of Maine had 52 establishments manufacturing boots and shoes. They employed 2,634 males over age 16; 1,180 females over age 15; 105 children. ▪ How many people had jobs in all manufacturing industries in Androscoggin county in 1880?

*Answer:* 5,065 men, 4,394 women, and 745 children

**ASK AN EXPERT:**

Here's a good one: **Q:** Did workers get injured or sick from working in the textile mills?

**A:** Many injuries occurred around all the machinery. **Byssinosis** is a job-related asthma-like lung disease in yarn and fabric factories caused by too much cotton dust. Bacteria grow on the cotton dust in workers' lungs causing the disease. This disease often occurred in the busiest part of the Industrial Revolution. Most commonly young girls working in textile mills would develop this disease. Reducing the amount of cotton dust in the factory or better ventilation can help prevent byssinosis. Nowadays, people often change jobs to avoid getting byssinosis.

Annette Vance Dorey,  
 Museum L-A Educator & Detective



**MEET:** 19th-century mill girl  
**Harriet Hanson Robinson**

Harriet began working in the Lowell mills at age 10 to 23 (1834 to 1848). Her mother ran a mill boardinghouse for young "female operatives." Loom and Spindle is a book Harriet wrote later in her life. It is a richly detailed account of the daily life in the mills, and of the later achievements of a several working women back then.

Other women wrote about those early years of the Industrial Revolution when the "Lowell factory system" when the factory owners & managers had a fatherly influence over the girls and how they lived their lives outside of the 12- and 14-hour days of hard work in the mills.

**INVESTIGATE:**  
 Find names of other women who started out as mill girls.



**FOLLOW THE LOCAL HISTORY TIME LINE**

1845	1849	1868	1882	---	---	---	---
Lincoln Mill, first big textile mill, is built by powerful Lewiston Falls; later it is renamed the Libbey Mill.	Railroad tracks come to Lewiston—raw materials & finished goods move faster now.	Bates Mill employed 3,500 women and 1,500 men. Lewiston population: 7,424 in 1860 13,600 in 1870.	The canning factory in Minot canned 34,740 cans of corn in one day in Sept., enough to fill three railroad cars.	? What	will	happen	next ?

