



HISTORY DETECTIVES

HISTORY NEWSLETTER for YOUNG PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2009, ISSUE NO. 3

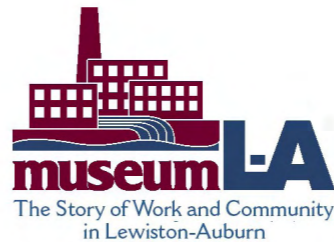
SOMETHING WE DID!



3 classes (60 second-graders) at Trinity School asked 100 great questions about Museum L-A and the artifacts Ms. Dorey talked about. They learned about the mills and shoes and the many workers at the heart of the Twin Cities.



Games Day the end of December was much fun and took brain work, too.



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Dacia, a young lady from Lewiston, really enjoyed the new games the students played at an after-school program, including the card game "GO To the MILL!"

Remember: "Ask an Expert" is a place for your history Questions and Answers inside History Detectives.

The next
After-School Program

Bring a friend!



February VACATION Program



The Power of Money

"Long Hours, Low Pay"

2 to 4pm, Thursday \$4.00

How much could you earn as a child worker?
What could you buy years ago?

Sign up by Feb. 18.

Sign up to bring a friend this time and earn an extra punch for yourself on your DETECTIVE CARD.

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

PLAN A-HEAD! 2009

FEB 19 "Long Hours, Low Pay" 2 to 4pm, \$4 Thursday. See how much you could earn as a child worker. What could you buy long ago?

\$ The Power of Money ■ Sign up by Feb. 18

THINK:



Use your *History Detective* skills:

In 1880 the average worker in the mills worked 12 hours each day for six days per week. The average monthly wages in Maine in 1880 was \$28.80. **Q:** What was the average pay per hour?

In 1985, the average pay at Bates Mill was \$6.10 per hour. By that time people worked just 5 days a week and had 2-day weekends. A normal work day was 8 hours. **Q:** What was the average monthly wages for mill workers in 1985, one hundred and five years later?

Answer #1: 10¢ per hour

Illustration © KIDS Discover, NY

Who Invented Standardized Shoe

Sizes? Inventor Edward Simpson first made shoe lasts for every different size and width for men, women, children, and infants in 1880.

Before, shoe sizes were *small, medium, large*. He made half-sizes and many widths, as well as distinctions between left and right shoes!

What is the name for this “wooden foot”?



ASK AN EXPERT:

A student asked: **Q:** How did the Museum get all the old stuff that you have? **A:** That is a great question. A group of local citizens got together back in 1996 to figure out how to save an important part of our local history that might be lost. The last mill was barely able to keep weaving cloth and bedspreads. This group tried to save one of most every type of machine that was used in the textile mills. Machines were left standing in empty, **abandoned** factories.

Other important objects (we call them **artifacts**) were **rescued** from trucks that were hauling many things away to the dump or landfill.

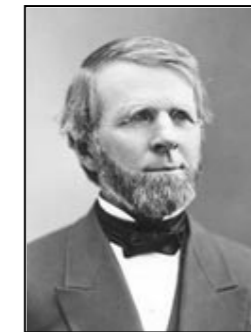
Since then, many wonderful citizens have **donated** objects that they owned or found in their grandparent’s house. They ask us if it is something we want to preserve in the museum and can use it to help tell the stories of work and workers.

Annette Vance Dorey, *Chief Detective*

MEET: Minister, Educator and Abolitionist, **Oren B. Cheney**

Oren Cheney grew up in New Hampshire and attended several colleges. Cheney began the **Maine State Seminary** in Lewiston in 1855 with one building. In 1863 he got the legislature to rename it **Bates College** in honor of Benjamin Bates (without his knowledge). Bates donated much money to the school over three decades. Cheney also requested an upgrade to a 4-yr college with a “regular” course of study in addition to its religion major. Benjamin Bates continued to support the College.

Cheney was an outspoken **abolitionist**, always trying to abolish slavery. He published a newspaper, *The Morning Star*. Cheney was the college president for 39 years (1855–1894). (His name and **legacy** are overshadowed by



Bates’s wealth.) He died in 1903, buried in Lewiston’s Riverside Cemetery.

INVESTIGATE: Find names of other citizens who started schools & churches.



(1816–1903)

FOLLOW THE LOCAL HISTORY TIME LINE

1845

Lincoln Mill, first big textile mill, is built by powerful Lewiston Falls; later it is renamed the Libbey Mill.

1849

Railroad tracks come to Lewiston—raw materials & finished goods move faster now.

1868

Bates Mill employed 3,500 women and 1,500 men. Lewiston population: 7,424 in 1860, 13,600 in 1870.

1882

The canning factory in Minot canned 34,740 cans of corn in one day in Sept., enough to fill three railroad cars.

1904

Expert shoe pattern maker Warren Leighton from Lynn, MA, bought the old Piper Shoe Factory in Auburn; adds new machines, more skilled men.

What will

happen

next?