

# Parsons' Paper Company Workers Database

Lorraine Oloo and Camden Heafitz

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## Workers' Summary

Tasked with finding information about employees at a paper mill, we used the database ancestry.com.

The link to Amherst's access to ancestry website is [here](#).

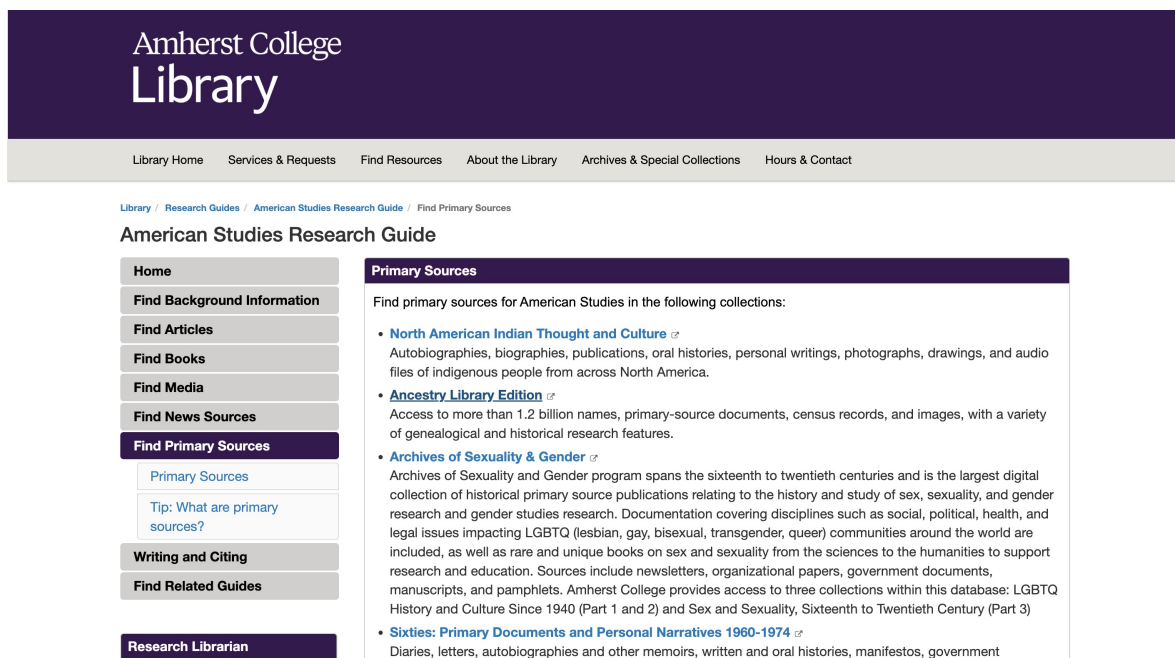


Figure 1: Once on the Amherst website, we clicked the link to Ancestry Library Edition

Figure 1

Here is how the ancestry website looks at a first glance:

ancestryLibrary Home Search Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections AMHERST COLLEGE

## Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived Birth Year

City, County, State, Country

Search Show more options

### Explore by location

Explore by collection View all

**Birth, marriage & death**  
[Birth, Baptism & christening](#)  
[Marriage & divorce](#)  
[Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries](#)

**Census & voter lists**  
[U.S. Federal Census Collection](#)  
[UK Census Collection](#)  
[Canadian Census Collection](#)  
[More...](#)

**Immigration & travel**  
[Passenger lists](#)  
[Citizenship & naturalization records](#)  
[Border crossings & passports](#)  
[More...](#)

**Military**  
[Draft, enlistment and service](#)  
[Casualties](#)  
[Soldier, veteran & prisoner rolls & lists](#)  
[More...](#)  
[Schools, directories & church histories](#)

Figure 2: Ancestry.com 'search' screen

By searching for a name and a place, (Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts), we were able to find census information from the 1800s and track down paper mill workers.

The number of names that appear in first search. We used educated guess to selected the most appropriate person.

ancestryLibrary
Home
Search
Message Boards
Learning Center
Charts and Forms
New Collections
AMHERST COLLEGE

## All results for joseph Clark Parsons

**Your search**

Joseph Clark Parsons

Born: 1814

Any: Holyoke, Hampden, M...

Apply

Broad Exact

1-20 of 123,945

Browse by collection

To get better results, add more information such as **Death info**—even a guess will help.

[Edit your search](#) or [learn more](#)

<p><b>U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s–Current</b></p> <p>Death, burial, cemetery &amp; obituaries</p>	<p><b>Name</b> Joseph Clark Parsons</p> <p><b>Birth</b> 6 Feb 1814 Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, United States of America</p> <p><b>Death</b> 12 Mar 1886 Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, United States of America</p>
<p><b>1880 United States Federal Census</b></p> <p>1880s</p> <p><a href="#">View</a></p>	<p><b>Name</b> Joseph C. Parsons</p> <p><b>Birth</b> Abt 1814 Massachusetts</p> <p><b>Residence</b> 1880 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts, USA</p>
<p><b>1870 United States Federal Census</b></p> <p>1870s</p> <p><a href="#">View</a></p>	<p><b>Name</b> Joseph C Parsons</p> <p><b>Birth</b> abt 1814 Massachusetts</p> <p><b>Residence</b> 1870 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts, USA</p>

> Census & voter lists 9,000+

> Birth, marriage & death 30,000+

> Military 10,000+

> Immigration & emigration 1,586

> Newspapers & periodicals 13

> Pictures 6

> Stories, memories & histories 283

> Maps, atlases & gazetteers 5

> Directories & member lists 50,000+

> Court, land, wills & financial 7,000+

> Dictionaries, encyclopedias & reference 208

> Family trees

> Record location 70,000+

> North America

Figure 3: Initial search results

The amount of information we could find on each worker varied from name to name but in general, we were able to find birth year, birthplace, spouse, children, parents, occupation, and address. We then compiled these results into a spreadsheet.

Lucy Allen was one of the names in the record book.

The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, and New Collections. The main content area is titled "Lucy M Allen in the 1870 United States Federal Census". On the left is a thumbnail image of a census record book. On the right is a "Detail" tab with a "Source" link. The profile lists the following information:

- Name: Lucy M Allen
- Age in 1870: 28
- Birth Date: abt 1842
- Birthplace: Massachusetts
- Dwelling Number: 42
- Home in 1870: Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts
- Race: White
- Gender: Female
- Post Office: Holyoke
- Occupation: Works in Paper Mill
- Father of Foreign Birth: Yes
- Mother of Foreign Birth: Yes
- Inferred Father: [Job H Allen](#)
- Inferred Mother: [Anna Allen](#)

Below the profile is a table titled "Household Members (Name)" with columns for Name and Age:

Household Members (Name)	Age
<a href="#">Job H Allen</a>	64
<a href="#">Anna Allen</a>	48
<a href="#">Eliza Ann Allen</a>	29
<a href="#">Lucy M Allen</a>	28

Figure 4: Lucy Allen's Profile

She was born in Massachusetts in 1842 and lived in dwelling 42.

We were unable to find the house number or the street name but we did find that Lucy had a sister named Eliza Ann born in 1841.

The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, and New Collections. The main content area is titled "Eliza Ann Allen in the 1870 United States Federal Census". On the left is a thumbnail image of a census record book. On the right is a "Detail" tab with a "Source" link. The profile lists the following information:

- Name: Eliza Ann Allen
- Age in 1870: 29
- Birth Date: abt 1841
- Birthplace: Massachusetts
- Dwelling Number: 42
- Home in 1870: Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts
- Race: White
- Gender: Female
- Post Office: Holyoke
- Occupation: Works in Paper Mill
- Father of Foreign Birth: Yes
- Mother of Foreign Birth: Yes
- Inferred Father: [Job H Allen](#)
- Inferred Mother: [Anna Allen](#)

Below the profile is a table titled "Household Members (Name)" with columns for Name and Age:

Household Members (Name)	Age
<a href="#">Job H Allen</a>	64
<a href="#">Anna Allen</a>	48
<a href="#">Eliza Ann Allen</a>	29
<a href="#">Lucy M Allen</a>	28

Figure 5: Eliza Ann Allen's Profile

Their father's name was Job Allen and their mother was Anna Allen.

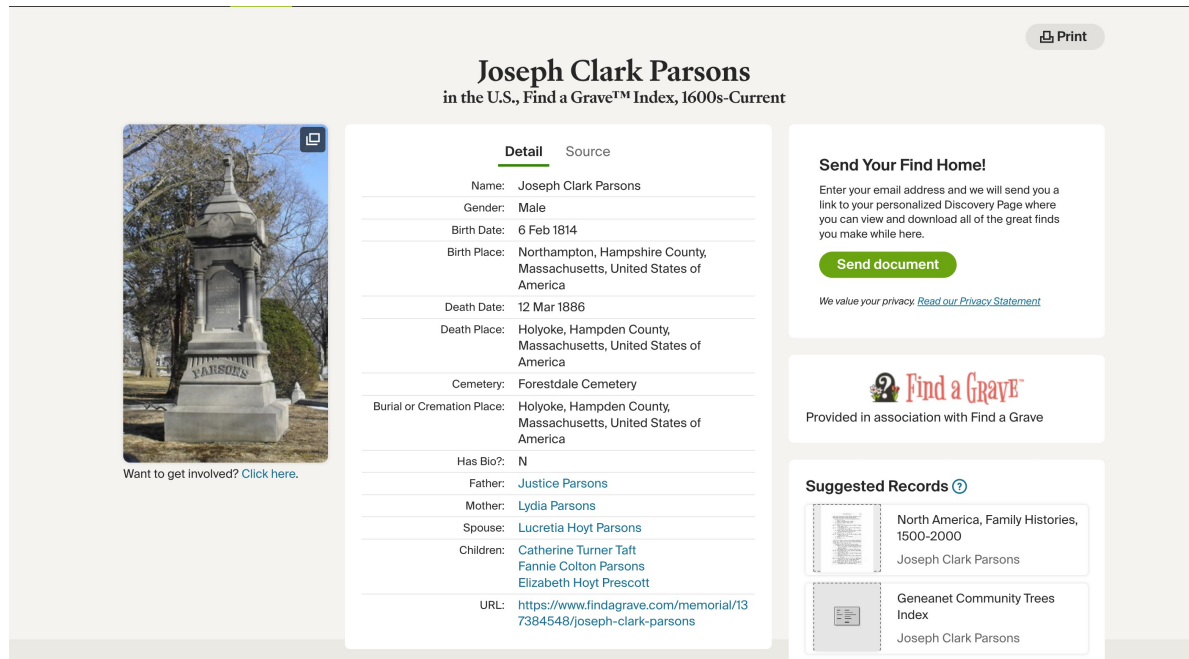
Job was born in England and moved to the United States sometime before 1841.

The interesting thing about the Allen family is that Eliza Ann, Lucy, and Job all worked at the Parsons Paper Company.

Anna Allen stayed at home.

This was an unfortunate but somewhat common life for a working-class family in Holyoke, Massachusetts in the 1860s.

Conversely, we were able to find records on Joseph C. Parsons; the founder of the Parsons Paper Company.



The screenshot shows the profile of Joseph Clark Parsons on the Find a Grave website. The profile includes a photo of a gravestone, a detailed biography, and suggested records. The biography lists his birth date as February 6, 1814, in Northampton, Massachusetts, and his death date as March 12, 1886, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He is buried in Forestdale Cemetery. The suggested records include 'North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000' and 'Geneanet Community Trees Index'.

**Joseph Clark Parsons**  
in the U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s-Current

[Print](#)

**Detail** Source

Name: Joseph Clark Parsons  
Gender: Male  
Birth Date: 6 Feb 1814  
Birth Place: Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, United States of America  
Death Date: 12 Mar 1886  
Death Place: Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, United States of America  
Cemetery: Forestdale Cemetery  
Burial or Cremation Place: Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, United States of America  
Has Bio?: N  
Father: [Justice Parsons](#)  
Mother: [Lydia Parsons](#)  
Spouse: [Lucretia Hoyt Parsons](#)  
Children: [Catherine Turner Taft](#), [Fannie Colton Parsons](#), [Elizabeth Hoyt Prescott](#)  
URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137384548/joseph-clark-parsons>

**Send Your Find Home!**  
Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.  
[Send document](#)  
We value your privacy. [Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**Find a Grave**  
Provided in association with Find a Grave

**Suggested Records**

- North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000  
Joseph Clark Parsons
- Geneanet Community Trees Index  
Joseph Clark Parsons

Figure 6: Joseph C. Parsons' Profile

Born on February 6, 1814, in Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts to Lydia and Justice Parsons, Joseph Clark Parsons was a local businessman who became very successful after founding his mill.

He married Lucretia Hoyt Parsons and had three daughters; Catherine Turner Taft, Fannie Colton Parsons, and Elizabeth Hoyt Parsons.

We found that Parsons lived in house 22 of dwelling 165 on Suffolk street which was quite close to his Mill.

This was surprising because we expected him to live in the upper-class district because wealthier people lived in hills above sea level.

## **Appendix**

First, we accessed the Amherst College Library account for Ancestry.com. Second, we clicked the “Search” option and typed in the names of the workers and set the location to Holyoke, Hampden, MA. Finally, we used common sense by checking if occupation of the worker was the paper industry to figure out which of the search results were our person of interest.

## Database

This is the aggregated info for some of the workers who worked in Parsons' paper in the 1860s:

```
ancestry <- readr::read_csv("ancestry_addresses_updated.csv")
```

```
Rows: 22 Columns: 11
```

```
-- Column specification -----
```

```
Delimiter: ","
```

```
chr (11): First name, Last Name, Birthday, Death Day, Address, Spouse, Child...
```

```
i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
```

```
i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
```

```
glimpse(ancestry)
```

```
Rows: 22
```

```
Columns: 11
```

```
$ `First name` <chr> "Ellen", "Joseph", "William", "James", "Patrick", "Patric~  
$ `Last Name` <chr> "Strick", "Parsons", "Kelly", "Casey", "Kelley", "Hollom"~  
$ Birthday <chr> "1859", "2/6/1814", "1834", "1843", "1840", "1835", "1849~  
$ `Death Day` <chr> "N/A", "3/12/1886", "N/A", "N/A", "N/A", "N/A", "N/A", "N~  
$ Address <chr> "N/A", "House 22, Dwelling 165, Suffolk Street", "Holyoke~  
$ Spouse <chr> "N/A", "Lucretia Hoyt Parsons", "Catherine Kelly", "Ann C~  
$ Children <chr> "N/A", "Catherine Turner Taft, Fannie Colton Parsons, Eli~  
$ Birthplace <chr> "Chicopee, Mass", "Northampton, Hampshire County, Massach~  
$ Mother <chr> "N/A", "Lydia Parsons", "Irish", NA, "N/A", "Irish", "Can~  
$ Father <chr> "N/A", "Justice Parsons", "Irish", "Patrick Casey", "N/A"~  
$ `US born?` <chr> "Yes", "Yes", "No", "No", "No", "No", "No", "N/A", "Yes",~
```

Here is some more sample text that refers to Figure 7.

Here is a [LINK](#) to this repo

Rag Room.

NAMES.

S. N. Wolcott  
Emily Loveladgo

Figure 7: Sample caption