

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

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

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.

![worker search] (name_search.jpeg)

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

The names we used were in a registry from 1863.

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.

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.

![Eliza Ann Allen] (Eliza_Allen.jpeg)

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.

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Find primary sources for American Studies in the following collections:

• North American Indian Thought and Culture

Autobiographies, biographies, publications, oral histories, personal writings, photographs, files of indigenous people from across North America.

• Ancestry Library Edition

Access to more than 1.2 billion names, primary-source documents, census records, and in of genealogical and historical research features.

• Archives of Sexuality & Gender

Archives of Sexuality and Gender program spans the sixteenth to twentieth centuries and collection of historical primary source publications relating to the history and study of sex, research and gender studies research. Documentation covering disciplines such as social, legal issues impacting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) communities are included, as well as rare and unique books on sex and sexuality from the sciences to the h research and education. Sources include newsletters, organizational papers, government manuscripts, and pamphlets. Amherst College provides access to three collections within History and Culture Since 1940 (Part 1 and 2) and Sex and Sexuality, Sixteenth to Twentieth

• Sixties: Primary Documents and Personal Narratives 1960-1974

Diaries, letters, autobiographies and other memoirs, written and oral histories, manifestos,

Figure 1: Amherst website

ancestryLibrary

HomeSearchMessage BoardsLearning CenterCharts and FormsNew Collections

Search

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived

City, County, State, Country

Birth Year

Search

Show more options

Explore by collection

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[Marriage & divorce](#)

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Explore by location

+

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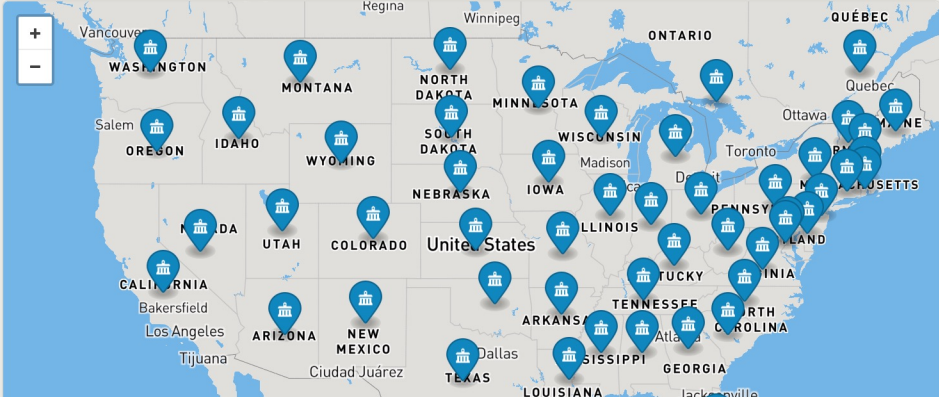


Figure 2: Sample caption

All results for joseph Clark Parsons

Your search 1-20 of 123,945

Broad Exact

joseph Clark
Parsons
Born: 1814
Any: Holyoke, Hampden, M...

Apply

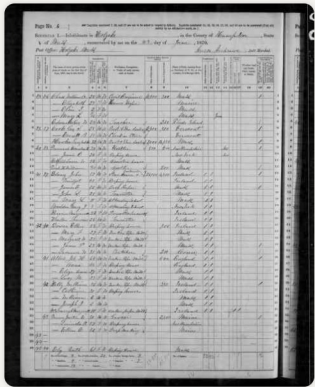
- Filters
- > Census & voter lists 9,000+
 - > Birth, marriage & death 30,000+
 - > Military 10,000+
 - > Immigration & emigration 1,586
 - > Newspapers & periodicals 13
 - > Pictures 6
 - > Stories, memories & histories 283
 - > Maps, atlases & gazetteers 5
 - > Directories & member lists 50,000+
 - > Court, land, wills & financial 7,000+
 - > Dictionaries, encyclopedias & reference 208
 - > Family trees
- Record location
- > North America 70,000+

To get better results, add more information such as **Death Info**—even a guess. [Edit your search](#) or [learn more](#)

U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s-Current Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries	Name Joseph Birth 6 Feb 1814 Hampsh Massach America Death 12 Mar 1870 County, Hampden States of Mass
1880 United States Federal Census 1880s View	Name Joseph Birth Abt 1814 Residence 1880 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts
1870 United States Federal Census 1870s View	Name Joseph Birth abt 1814 Residence 1870 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts

Figure 3: Sample caption

Lucy M Allen
in the 1870 United States Federal Census



Detail Source

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

Household Members (Name)	Age
Job H Allen	64
Anna Allen	48
Eliza Ann Allen	29
Lucy M Allen	28

Figure 4: Sample caption

[illegible]

Figure 5: Sample caption

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.

Joseph Clark Parsons

in the U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s-Current



Want to get involved? [Click here.](#)


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

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Provided in association with

Suggested Records



North A
1500-20
Joseph



Genean
Index
Joseph

Figure 6: Sample caption

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.

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",~
```

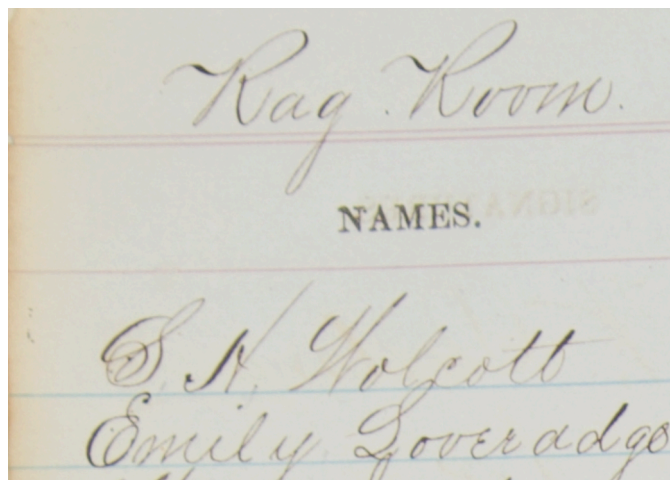



Figure 7: Sample caption

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

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