

# **Parsons\_Paper\_Register #7**

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## **How many days in a pay period?**

- The Parsons Paper Company register comprises monthly pay periods from January 1861-April 1869
- Pay periods appear to be a month long with employees typically getting paid on the 1st of the next (?) month
- Based off the spreadsheet from p. 253, most employees work between 20-30 days each pay period, the average is around 27 so most employees work at least 6 days/week
  - In Chapter IV of Green's book, she writes that male Holyoke paper makers worked 58-72 hours a week
    - \* 11.25 hours five days a week + 8.75 hours on Saturday was typical for Holyoke textile mills
  - Women worked slightly shorter hours
- Pgs. 261-263 appear to comprise an entire pay period for the month of April in 1868 (most pay periods span ~3 pages in the register)

- Pgs. 223-225 below and Pgs. 261-263 above are exactly one year apart in the register (April 1st 1867 + April 1st 1868)

## **How many employees during this era?**

- Counted 92 employees in April 1861, 122 employees in April 1862, 141 employees in April 1863, 128 employees in April 1864, 159 employees in April 1865, 144 employees in April 1866, 131 employees in April 1867, 153 employees in April 1868, 153 employees in April 1869
  - Average across the measured 9 years = 136 employees between 1861-1869
    - \* Subset Pages: 8-10 (1861) 43-45 (1862), 79-81 (1863), 115-117 (1864 - this month also has pay records from the 30th not included in the employee count above), 151-153 (1865), 187-189 (1866) 223-225 (1867), 261-263 (1868), 314-316 (1869)
  - Number of employees generally increased over time
    - \* Green mentions that these mills had abnormally high employee retention rates
    - \* Boom in employment towards end of Civil War in 1865
- Some pages have a separate section of employees at the bottom under “Repairs” and “Reparis & Watchmen” (April 1862 p.45 - 4 employees under ‘Repairs & Watchmen’) -- I included these names in the counts above

Received of the PARSONS PAPER COMPANY, by their Agent, the sum specified to one Signature,  
being in full of all demands up to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1869.

NAMES	No. POUNDS.	No. REAMS.	No. DATE.	PRICE	TOTAL AMOUNT.	BENT, OR BORED.	BALANCE DUE.	DATE.	SIGNATURES.
W. Ordway.	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			\$2.00	\$2.00	Open			W. Ordway
J. S. Penney	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			\$3.00	\$3.00				Wm. S. Penney
J. S. Liver	51 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			\$1.67	\$5.67				J. S. Liver
John Thun	35 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			\$1.00	\$35.00				John X Thun
J. H. Allou	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			\$2.00	\$52.00	Open	10.00		J. H. Allou
Sam Rogers	46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			4.612	46.12	Open			Sam X Rogers
Patrick Sagan	56 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			11.00	616.00	Open	15.00		Patrick De Sagan
John O'igan	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2.50	25.00		25.00		John X O'igan
James Vaughan	28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2.25	28.25				James X Vaughan
John Vaughan	28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2.25	28.25				John X Vaughan
Michael Ryan	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			0.75	20.50				Michael Ryan
William Perry	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			30.75	100.00	Open	30.75		William Perry
William Styron	31 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			30.75	30.75				Wm. Styron
Sorenance Franklin	24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			30.75	30.75				Sorenance Franklin
Patrick Mahony	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			20.75	20.75				Pat X Mahony
Hector Bishop	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			39.50	39.50				Hector Bishop
John W. Frey	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			31.20	31.20				John W. Frey
William Hall	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			36.00	36.00				Wm. Hall
K. S. Singhaporn	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			28.12	28.12				K. S. Singhaporn
Patrick Farahan	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			25.18	25.18				Pat X Farahan
Mary Hayden	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			15.00	15.00				Mary X Hayden
W. L. Baldwin	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			11.00	11.00				W. L. Baldwin
Catharine Powers	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			5.25	5.25				Catharine Powers
Mrs. Shunk	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			7.00	7.00				Zayenne Shunk
Thomas Blake	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			9.00	9.00	Open			Thomas Blake
John Cawie	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			20.70	20.70	Open			John Cawie
James Cosy	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			112.25	112.25				James X Cosy
				466.15	157.00				
					719.45				

## Repairs & Watchman.

R. S. Howard	50 30	6000	6000	Open 1st	R. S. Howard
G. T. Setzer	\$2 49	3400	5600	1	George Setzer
Hillman Kelly	50 10	3000	3000	1	Hillman Kelly
Enos Wellington	\$1 93	2765	2713	1	Enos Wellington
		173 65	173 65		

- Presumably employees whose main role was to repair the machines instead of making paper
  - There were 5 people under “Repairs” for April 1st, 1867 (see p. 225 above) and 8 under April 1st, 1868 (see p. 262 above)

## **Quotes from Hickey thesis that may be of relevance to employment from 1861-1869**

- “In 1861, after a period of severe readjustment just prior to the Civil War, twenty-one of the thirty-six manufactures of fine papers met at Pittsfield...to organize a protective association. They desired to raise prices which had fallen drastically as the result of a decrease in demand. They agreed to reduce output by about one-third for about three months. This was the first trade association established in the paper industry of the United States....The Parsons Paper Company and the Carew Manufacturing Company were charter members of this organization” (108)
- “Since the discovery of how to utilize wood for the manufacture of paper in 1867, this raw material has been in increasing demand” (84)
- “several of the local mills were quite large, employing 200 or more workers” and there were “about 3700 workers employed in the local paper industry at the turn of the century” (4)
- “Repairs, if necessary, are undertaken on Sundays” (94)
- “In replacing a wire on a Fourdrinier paper machine, workers in the Holyoke mills receive half a day’s pay besides their regular pay during the hours they work on the replacement. This acts as an incentive to the workers to get the machine back in operation as soon as possible” (94)