

STAT 210 Parsons' Paper Company Workers Database

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Introduction

Mining the History of Holyoke (STAT210) is a class at Amherst College with a mission statement of curating and publishing a piece of Holyoke's history and making it accessible to the town's people. One way our class has begun this journey is by analyzing an old payroll registry found in an attic in Holyoke and now available in the archives of the Holyoke Public Library History Room. This register tracked pay for employees who worked at the Parsons Paper Mill in Holyoke, Massachusetts (the "Paper City") in the 1860s. It has been remarkable to track down so much history as each page of this nearly 400 page registry has upwards of 30 names, and each name has its own story worth telling. In the registry, we can see one's name, number of days worked, their wages, whether or not the worker had rent or board due, the final balance owed, and signature (see Figure 1). See [here](#) for an interactive display of the register.

Workers' Summary

We took on the task of finding information about some of the employees at the paper mill using the database Ancestry.com. On page 259, we found two women with the same last name which was common back then but still we decided to search for one of them on Ancestry.com.

Their names were Lucy and E.A. Allen. When we searched for Lucy, we found that E.A. stood for Eliza Ann Allen—they were sisters! (see Figure 2). Lucy was born in Massachusetts in 1842 and Eliza Ann was her older sister born in 1841. They lived in dwelling 42. 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. Like his daughters, he too worked at the Parsons Paper Company. We found record of him first on page 3. (see Figure 3). Anna Allen stayed at home. This was a common life for a working-class family in Holyoke, Massachusetts in the 1860s. From what we were able to gather, Eliza and Lucy were finishers meaning they helped with finalizing the paper making process. We made this assumption when we found Lucy's name on Page 2 under the label "Finishers." See (Figure 4). Eliza and Lucy were paid not by the number of hours or days they worked but rather the number of reams they finished. We can see on page 2 that Lucy finished 756 reams of paper for the month of January in 1861. Eliza's name first appeared in 1862 on page 34 right below her sister's name, one year after her sister first started working. (see Figure 5). Coincidentally, they were one year apart in age. Perhaps their father Job did not want his daughters to work until they were 20 years of age. It seemed that the Allen family had trouble finding a permanent residence as we found a number of addresses reported across different resources. In 1869, the Holyoke city directory shows that the Allen family lived on Dwight Street. Ancestry.com showed that the Allen family lived in dwelling 42 with no street name reported in 1870. (see Figure 11). We were able to follow Lucy's places of residence in several years after 1870 until her death on May 11, 1893 in Holyoke, MA. See Figure 7 for Lucy's places of residence. It is also worth noting that Lucy, Eliza, and Job worked for roughly the entire decade at the mill suggesting the daughters were not pursuing any form of education in this period. Lucy also appears to have continued working in the PPC mill until her death. It is difficult to determine if the Allen family's literacy due to inconsistencies in signatures. Some signatures have "X" in them while others do not, and the handwriting is different across the decade suggesting they multiple people could have been signing for them.

Conversely, we were able to find records on Joseph C. Parsons; the founder of the Parsons Paper Company. (see Figure 6). 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. If we continued our research, we would aim to find descendants of the Parsons Paper Company that are still living today.

Photo References

*Received of the PARSONS PAPER COMPANY, by their Agent, the sum prefixed to our Signatures,
being in full of all demands up to March 1st 1868.*

NAMES.	No. POUNDS.	No. REAMS.	No. DAYS.	PRICE.	TOTAL AMOUNT.	RENT, OR BOARD.	BALANCE DUE.	DATE.	SIGNATURES.
Geo Papillion	22	15/4		59 07			59 07	14	Geo Papillion
James P. Dow	19	4 1/4	6	33 67			33 67		James P. Dow
W. J. Lord	24	2 1/4	11	57 16	7 25	49 91			Walter J. Lord
Geo A. Day	23	4 1/4		58 75	7 25	51 50			Geo A. Day
O. G. Wheler	22	4 1/4	1	51 93	16 57	3 36			Oren G. Wheler
A. L. P. Sykes	25	1 1/4		48 75	16 57	27 18			A. L. P. Sykes
J. Farrell	25	2 1/4		58 75	8 57	50 18			J. Farrell
Chas Robertson	25	7 1/2		31 25			31 25		Chas Robertson
Chas H. Morgan	25	8 1/2		21 83			20 83		Charles H. Morgan
Ellen Dorothy	23	6 1/2		28 11			23 00		Ellen Dorothy
Johannah Stack	25	"		25 00			25		Johannah Stack
H. Cussey	24	"		24 00			24		H. Cussey
Fannie Strong	25	"		25 00			25		Fannie Strong
Geo Whitemore	25	"		25 00	12 42	12 58			George Whitemore
Maria Brown					00 00				
Sarah Slatar	24	2 1/2	"	24 50	12 42	12 08			Sarah Slatar
Clara Worth	23	3 1/4	"	28 75	12 42	11 33			Clara Worth

Figure 1: Page 259 of the Registry

Sarah Camp	22	\$1	1875
Mary Smith	22	4	22.00
M. Brown	34.30	4	13.72
J. Davis	4.98	1	
Lucy Allen	212.84	49	28.68
H. Brown	4.10	22	28.36
Wm. H. Davis	21.29	49	"
E. A. Allen	6.88	2	
C. B. Lind	3.46	233	13.73
Martha Fugitt	2.95	2	
E. Emilinson	3.97	204	12.03
S. Beaumgard	10.83	4	2.00
Mary Davis	3	2	0.68
Mary Holland	7.97	2	1.59
	7.88	2	1.51
	1.18	2	2.21
	9.02	2	1.80
	15.15	2	3.01
	31.11	2	6.22
	5.61	2	1.41

Figure 2: Lucy and Eliza Ann Allen in the Registry page 259

Received of the PARSONS PAPER COMPANY, by their Agent, the sum referred to our Signatures, - May 5 - bring in full of all demands up to <u>January 1886</u> .									
NAME	NO. POUNDS	NO. BRAMS	NO. DAYS	PRICE per Pound	TOTAL AMOUNT	RECEIVED ON BRAMS	BALANCE DUE	DATE	SIGNATURES.
John Cudaway	30,000			40.000	1,200.00		1,200.00	John Cudaway	
W. S. Sawyer	26			52.00	1,320		1,320	W. S. Sawyer	
James D. Stiles	224			51.75	11,575		11,575	James D. Stiles	
Sam. Lane	468			50.25	23,525		23,525	Sam. Lane	
Ed. H. Allin	27	8		58.00	152.00	80.00	72.00	Ed. H. Allin	
Patrick T. Keen	612			59.50	35,985		35,985	Patrick T. Keen	
Braxton Morris	52			56.00	2,880		2,880	Braxton Morris	
Patrick Morris	110			55.00	6,050		6,050	Patrick Morris	
Anthony Gause	23	6		58.00	1,320		1,320	Anthony Gause	
Ed. T. Scott	26			58.00	1,508		1,508	Ed. T. Scott	
Sam. Loring	26			58.00	1,508		1,508	Sam. Loring	
John Angell	1			53.50	53.50		53.50	John Angell	
Frank Clegg	2			56.00	112.00		112.00	Frank Clegg	
Samuel Clegg	13			58.00	754.00		754.00	Samuel Clegg	
William Kelly	62			51.00	3,120		3,120	William Kelly	
William Weston	26	28		50.00	1,300		1,300	William Weston	
Pete Hart	59	6		51	305		305	Pete Hart	
George Franklin	35,40			50.00	1,770		1,770	George Franklin	
Lydia Hart	62	20		50.00	3,000		3,000	Lydia Hart	
William Hart	20	10		50.00	1,000		1,000	William Hart	
Mary A. Hart	21	1		23.00	483		483	Mary A. Hart	

Figure 3: Job Allen in the Registry page 3

Adele Burnham		14
Ellen M. Perry		11
Zuey Allen	Sorties	756
Lucia M. Crandall	"	603
Emma. Perry	"	306
S. E. Morey	"	624

Figure 4: Lucy Allen in the Registry page 2

Virginia Penneke	28	96	1150				
Mary Murphy	16	96	1000	10.00	1	Eliza J. Murphy	
Suzie Cram	5	9	324	324	0	Laura Cram	
Opma Perry	15	9	939	939	1	Eva M. Perry	
Suey Allen	17	9	907	907	0	Eliza A. Allen	
E A Allen	20	9	1250	1250	0	Eliza Allen	
K. Winnie Sotter	24	9	1532	1532	1	Winnie Bolton	
Suey Campion	18	70	1296	1296	1	Lucy Campion	
Total							
Opma Perry	344	20	682	682	Jan 186	Eva M. Perry	
Suey Allen	39	0	638	638	0	Eliza A. Allen	
E A Allen	341	0	722	722	0	Eliza Allen	
Suey Cram	442	0	984	984	0	Laura M. Cram	
Ella J. Cram	37	0	774	774	0	Laura Cram	
Suey Henry	107	0	2000	2000	0	A. Henry	
Suey Hatch	52	0	10521	10521	0	Isabelle Hatch	
H. P. Stevens	842	0	1728	1728	0	A. P. Stuart	
H. S. Guy	750	0	1500	1500	0	E. H. Guy	
Ada Bushnell	326	0	680	680	0	Ada Bushnell	
Total Deaths							
C W Terry	49	1050	504				
Sarah E. Hayes	15	1445.58	0	2912		29.12 Jan 186	E. M. Perry
Angie Remond	240	0	3025	3025	0	30.25	0
							Sarah E. Hayes

Figure 5: Lucy and Eliza Ann Allen on page 34

Print

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	

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](#)



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

Map of Lucy Allen's places of residency

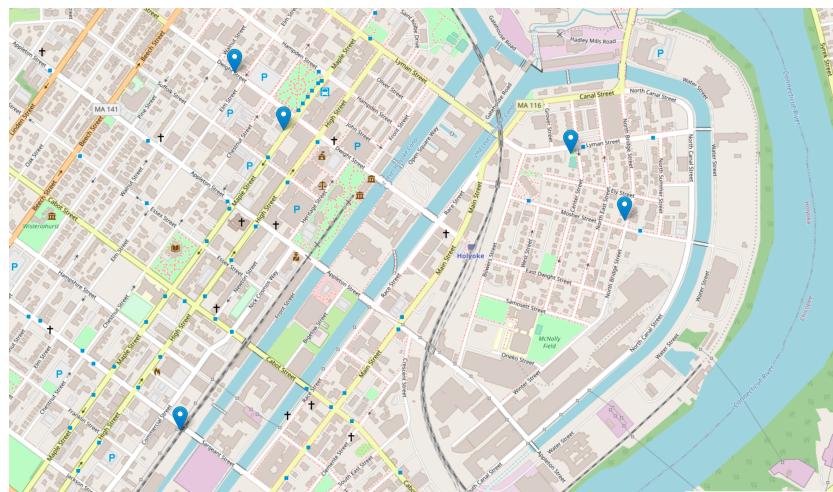


Figure 7: Lucy Allen Residency between 1869-91

```
#library(leaflet)
#m <- leaflet() %>%
  #addTiles() %>% # Add default OpenStreetMap map tiles
  # addMarkers(lng=-72.610583, lat=42.208699, popup="Lucy's residence in 1869, Dwight Street")
  # addMarkers(lng=-72.60885324421784, lat=42.207205320691806, popup="Lucy's residence in 1870")
  # addMarkers(lng=-72.59690708839962, lat=42.2048726160808, popup="Lucy's residence in 1871")
  # addMarkers(lng=-72.59879076909023, lat=42.20659749781258, popup="Lucy's residence in 1872")
  # addMarkers(lng=-72.61248214421803, lat=42.199421732536955, popup="Parsons Paper Company")
#m # Print the map
```

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
#> #> #> #> #> #> #> #> #> #> #>
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```

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

Technical Appendix

First, we accessed the Amherst College Library account for Ancestry.com.

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

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.

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

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. Here is what Lucy and Eliza Ann's profiles looked like on Ancestry.com

We then compiled these results into a spreadsheet linked below.

The screenshot shows the Amherst College Library website with a dark purple header. The main content area is titled "American Studies Research Guide". On the left, there's a sidebar with links like "Home", "Find Background Information", "Find Articles", "Find Books", "Find Media", "Find News Sources", "Find Primary Sources" (which is highlighted in blue), "Primary Sources", "Tip: What are primary sources?", "Writing and Citing", and "Find Related Guides". The main content area has a section titled "Primary Sources" with a list of collections: "North American Indian Thought and Culture", "Ancestry Library Edition", "Archives of Sexuality & Gender", and "Sixties: Primary Documents and Personal Narratives 1960-1974".

Figure 8: Once on the Amherst website, we clicked the link to Ancestry Library Edition

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com search interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Home", "Search", "Message Boards", "Learning Center", "Charts and Forms", and "New Collections". The "Search" tab is active. Below the navigation, there are search fields for "First & Middle Name(s)" and "Last Name". A map of North America is displayed with various locations marked by blue dots, labeled with city names like Vancouver, Seattle, Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Santa Fe, Tucson, Phoenix, El Paso, Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, Atlanta, Charlotte, and Miami. To the right of the map, there are sections for "Explore by collection" (Birth, marriage & death; Census & voter lists; Immigration & travel; Military; Schools, directories & church histories) and "Explore by location" (a list of US states and Canadian provinces).

Figure 9: Ancestry.com ‘search’ screen

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

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

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

Filters

> Census & voter lists	9,000+
> Birth, marriage & death	30,000+
> Military	10,000+
> Immigration & emigration	1,566
> 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	

Results

U.S., Find a Grave™ Index, 1600s-Current
Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries

Name: Joseph Clark Parsons
Birth: 6 Feb 1814 Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, United States of America
Death: 12 Mar 1886 Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, United States of America

1880 United States Federal Census
1880s [View](#)

Name: Joseph C. Parsons
Birth: abt 1814 Massachusetts
Residence: 1880 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts, USA

1870 United States Federal Census
1870s [View](#)

Name: Joseph C Parsons
Birth: abt 1814 Massachusetts
Residence: 1870 Holyoke, Hampden, Massachusetts, USA

Figure 10: Initial search results

Ancestry Library Home Search Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections

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 11: Lucy Allen's Profile

Eliza Ann Allen
in the 1870 United States Federal Census

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

Figure 12: Eliza Ann Allen's Profile