

Year -

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Boston merchants involved in international trade evolved into manufacturers through development of textile communities powered largely by water.

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Essex Company formed by Boston merchants. Company Charter calls for building a dam and canals for manufacturing purposes. Abbot Lawrence invests most money to project. Company hires Charles Storrow as agent and chief engineer.

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Lawrence incorporated as Town. Took 3 ½ sq. miles from Methuen and 2 ½ sq. miles from Andover. Named after one or all members of the Lawrence family.

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National Financial Crash. Particularly bad in Lawrence because of embezzlement by Samuel Lawrence. Bay State Mills, Pemberton Mill, Lawrence Machine Shop all went bankrupt.

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Collapse and fire of Pemberton Mill.

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Lawrence survives the negative impact of the Civil War that similar Mill towns, such as Lowell, experienced forcing the shutdown of many factories and putting 11,000 out of work.

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Because of the severe Typhoid epidemic, work begins on state-of –the-art slow sand filter for water treatment based on Hiram Mills’ work on purifying water at the Lawrence Experiment Station.

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Water tower and reservoir completed. Because of this, the rate of Typhoid is reduced dramatically.

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Lawrence Survey published, detailing overcrowding, working conditions and contamination as causes for high rates of disease and death among Lawrence residents living in poverty.

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Great Strike of 1912 (sometimes called Bread and Roses Strike). Workers of diverse ethnic groups and languages struck for three months. In the short-term they won. Of greatest importance were the U.S. Congressional Hearings afterward which called national attention to the conditions of workers, especially of children. It contributed to changes in the Federal laws regarding child labor.

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Majority of mills leave the city. Greater numbers of Lawrence natives leave.

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Latino Immigration begins. After several decades of slower immigration, a new ethnic group (Latinos) begin to arrive. Puerto Ricans first migrated to Lawrence, some to work in the farms and orchards in the region.

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Urban Renewal of this period results in demolition of whole neighborhoods. Results in more native families leaving.