



lawrence_strike1912



lawrence_strike1912 “If you visited one of those factories in [_____] that are making for example, blue jeans, the issues the workers are facing there are the same as they faced in Lawrence. When you go to one of these factories in another country in 2018, it’s like taking a time machine back into 1912.”

Conversation & emails with Ethan Snow, Political Director, Unite Here, January, 2018.

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lawrence_strike1912 “Spinners worked in extremely damp and humid rooms and were vulnerable to tuberculosis and pneumonia. In the years before the 1912 strike, one third of Lawrence’s spinners would die before they had worked ten years, and half of these would never reach the age of 25.”

So wrote Dr. Elizabeth Shapleigh, a physician working in Lawrence at the time of the strike. It is difficult to choose a short quote that fully captures the level of suffering from poverty & disease. <https://dp.la/exhibitions/breadandroses/workerslife/working> Photo at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Center. Super friendly historians there, free parking! [#annalopizzo](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lowellnps](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “In Lawrence, Massachusetts, fully one-half of the population 14 years of age or over is employed in the woolen and worsted mills and cotton mills, and approximately 60,000 of the 85,982 people living in Lawrence are directly dependent upon earnings in these textile mills.”

Thus begins the federal government’s *Report on Strike of Textile Workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912*. *Lawrence and the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike* by Robert Farrant and Susan Grabski, p. 7.

Looking at photos at the Lawrence History Center. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lowellnps](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#workingclasshistory](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “In January 1912, in the cold and snow of winter, a strike among thousands of woolen and cotton mill workers in Lawrence forced the nation to face questions about [#community](#), [#immigration](#), [#organizedLabor](#), and the harsh realities of American industry.”

Taking notes from *Lawrence and the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike* by Robert Forrant and Susan Grabski (p. 38). It is so cold today in Lawrence, can't imagine being sprayed with fire hoses. Historic photo courtesy Lawrence History Center. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lowellnps](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#workingclasshistory](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “On Thursday January 11, these Everett Mill bricks and windows were the first to witness shouts of ‘Short pay. All out!’, to witness the deafening silence of sabotaged looms, and on January 29, to witness the gunshot which killed Anna LoPizzo.”

Kathy Flynn, Head Researcher/Volunteer at the Lawrence History Center points across the street to the Everett Mill building where mill workers refused to accept pay cut. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrenceMa](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lowellnps](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#unionstrong](#) [#workingclasshistory](#) [#IWW](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “As the strike spread, it defied the popular assumption that immigrant, largely female, and linguistically and ethnically distinct workers could not or would not organize.”

Taking more notes (p. 5) from introduction to Forrant & Siegenthaler’s *The Great Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912: New Scholarship on the Bread & Roses Strike*, thinking about “divide and conquer” strategy, how it is used today. Source photo of mill workers courtesy Lawrence History Center.

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lawrence_strike1912 “These women [*in the Lawrence workforce*] forged strong alliances with neighbors regardless of ethnic background. They shared food and child-care, laundry ... The strength of these networks also contributed to the solidarity essential to sustaining the strike of 1912.”

Reading Anne F. Mattina and Domenique Ciavattone, *Striking Women: Massachusetts Mill Workers in the Wake of Bread and Roses, 1912 -1913* (p. 156) in Forrant & Siegenthaler’s *The Great Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912: New Scholarship on the Bread & Roses Strike*. Source photo of strikers courtesy Lawrence History Center [#annalopizzo](#) [#publichistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#fairwages](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “Precisely this much is known about Anna LoPizzo. She was thirty-three years old. She boarded at 18.5 Common Street. She had dark brown hair and dark eyes. She worked in a mill.”

Taking notes from Bruce Watson’s *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream*, p. 106. Photo: Looking at maps with Dexter, Amita, and Kathy at the Lawrence History Center.

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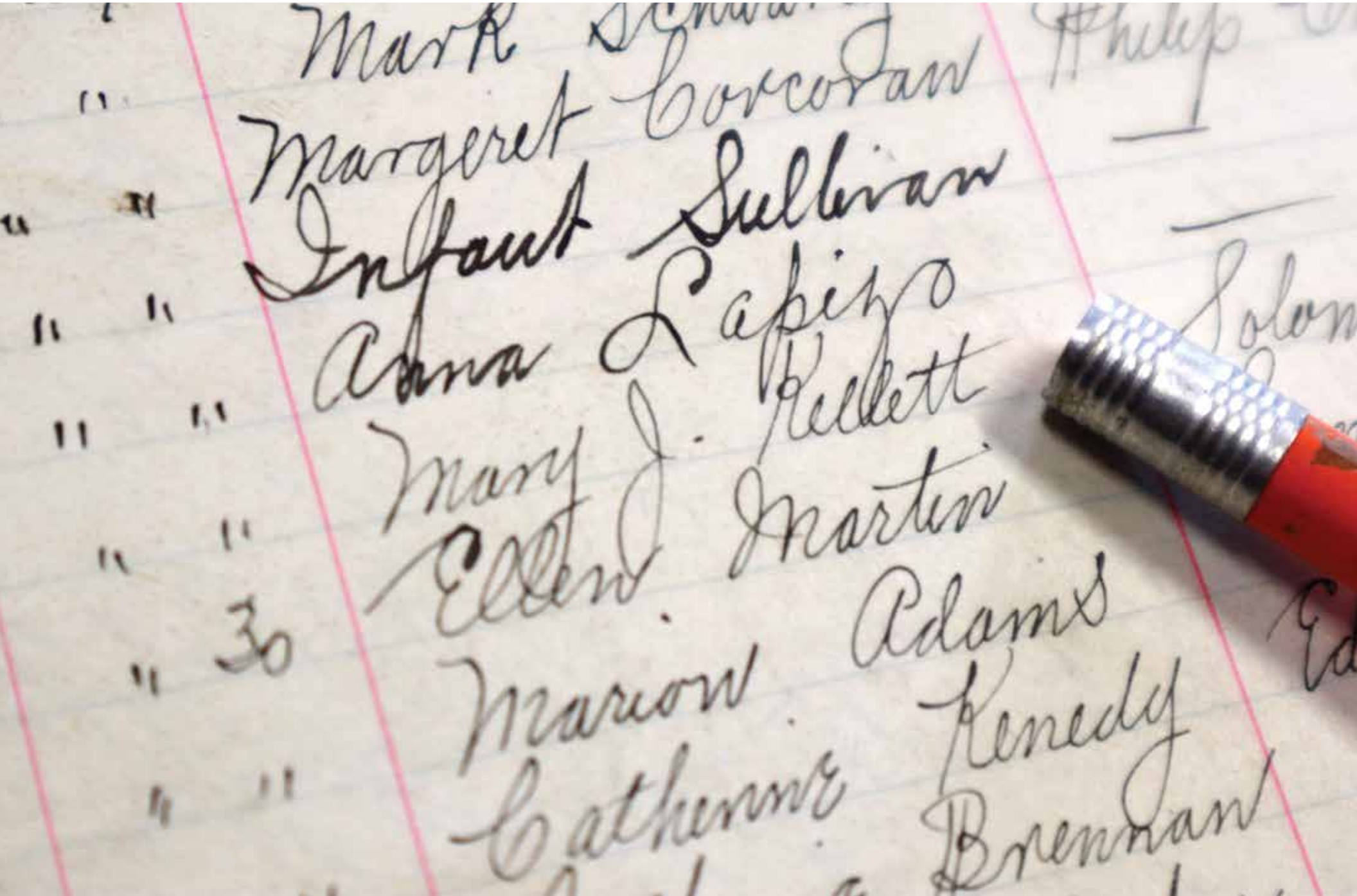


lawrence_strike1912 “On January 29, at about 5:00 p.m., she left her home and walked into the fringes of a brawl between strikers and police near the corner of Union and Garden Streets. She was on strike but was not active in the picketing [...] Yet with a shawl over her head, she was standing on a street corner watching when the bullet struck her.”

Reading Bruce Watson's, *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream*, pp.106-107. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 “Her name is known, but even that detail is debated. In the coming newspaper articles and history books she would be known as Annie LoPezzi, Anna La piazza, Anna lapizza, Anna Lopez. On Common Street some say she was Annie LaMonica ...”

Bruce Watson, *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream*, p.107.
Lawrence History Center staff has the actual death register, eerie to see a version of her name written out.
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lawrence_strike1912 “If America had a Tomb of the Unknown Immigrant paying tribute to the millions of migrants known only to God and to distant cousins compiling family trees, Anna LoPizzo would be a prime candidate to lie in it.”

Bruce Watson, *Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream*, p.107. Dexter emails that the quote is also on a plaque at the Casa Di Anna Housing in Lawrence, MA, a housing complex built in her honor — need to get back to Lawrence.

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lawrence_strike1912 *[Anna's death inspired mass protests and also authorities to arrest key labor leaders in order to weaken the strike. Despite harsh conditions, the strikers prevailed and voted to end the strike March 14, 1912. However, civic leaders shifted focus away from this victory to patriotism ... which to them meant driving out the IWW and its influence with a 'God & Country' Parade Columbus Day, 1912. Publicly honoring the strike or showing loyalty to the union, could jeopardize millworkers' jobs.]*

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Jim Beauchesne narration from the DVD, “*The Strike Heard ‘Round the World: Bread & Roses 1912*” Methuen Community Television, January 5, 2012, <https://www.methuentv.org/>. DVD courtesy Lawrence Heritage State Park. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#lowellnps](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#unionstrong](#) [#workingclasshistory](#) [#IWW](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 *[It would be decades before factors such as renewed interest in labor history, a changing political climate, and specific individual initiatives would lead to formal public commemorations of the Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912.]* “... the site was unmarked by anything more than the falling leaves that covered her grave every autumn.”

Paul Heller, *History Space: Barre and the Bread and Roses Strike*, <https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/2017/05/14/history-space-barre-bread-roses-strike/101638016/> retrieved March 2017.
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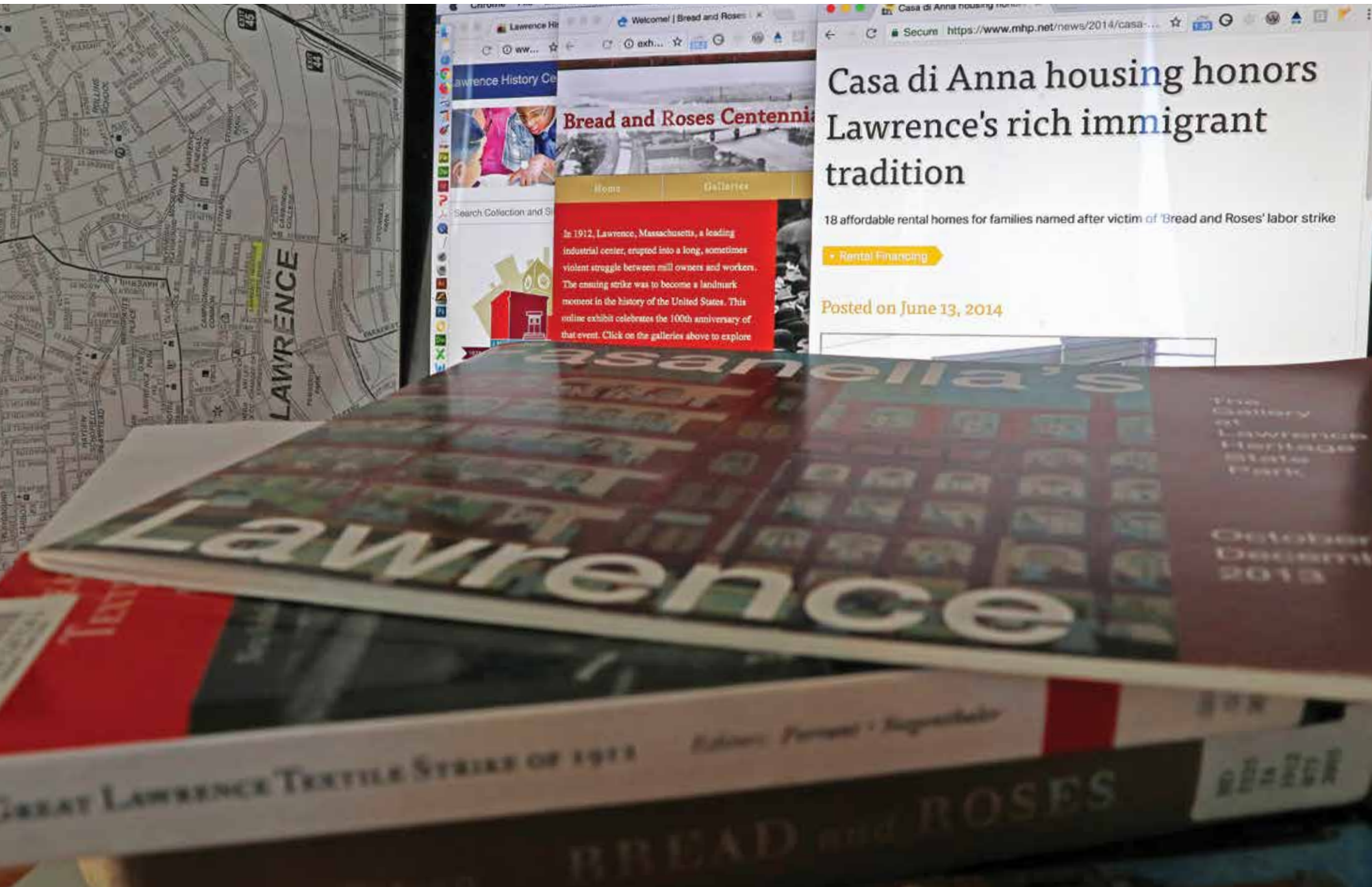


lawrence_strike1912 “When we ask ‘how did Lawrence remember 1912 and where did the strike story go,’ we must also consider the strikers and their communities. Then the answer is, ‘It did not go very far.’ The story went into strikers’ memories, into ethnic community networks, and into practical lessons for future activism.”

Dexter Arnold, *Beyond the Bread and Roses Strike: Worker Militancy, Working-Class Realism, and Popular Memory in Lawrence, 1912-1937*. Photo courtesy of Dexter Arnold, pictured with the late labor activist Linda Horan in front of the Strikers’ Monument, Lawrence, MA. Scan of the monument plaque courtesy Lawrence Heritage State Park. [#annalopizzo](#) [#IWW](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#IWW](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#laborhistory](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 [*The late 1970s/80s saw increased interest in Public History, Labor history and commemorating the strikes.*] “While in Lawrence for a union meeting in 1998, I went looking for the three graves in Immaculate Conception Cemetery ... Ramey’s name was on a family monument, but the graves of LoPizzo and Smolskas were unmarked.”

Dexter Arnold, *Bread and Roses Centennial: Dialogue Between Past and Present*. LAWCHA: Labor and Working-Class History Association Newsletter, 2012. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#publichistory](#) [#laborhistory](#) [#fairwages](#) [#lowellnps](#) [#lawrenceheritagestatepark](#) [#lawrence1912](#) [#unionstrong](#) [#workingclasshistory](#) [#IWW](#)



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lawrence_strike1912 [Dexter discussed the absent grave markers with Dave Morris, asst. business manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2321. Dave arranged with the Granite Cutters union in Barre, VT— a community who took in strikers' children during the winter of 1912— to create and donate a gravestone for Anna. The gravestone was dedicated in 2000. New markers were also made later for strike victims John Ramey & Jonas Smolskas.]

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Conversations & emails with Dave Morris, IBEW Assistant Business Manager, retired & Delegate of Lawrence Central Labor Council. [#annalopizzo](#) [#lawrencehistory](#) [#breadrosesfest](#) [#textilestrike](#) [#laborhistory](#)



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Conversations & emails with Jonas Stundzia, co-chair Strikers’ Monument Committee. Photo of folder with documentation of memorial projects, shot with permission, Lawrence Heritage State Park.

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EVENING TRIBUNE—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1912.

FUNERAL OF ANNA LOPIZZO

The much-feared rioting which was to take place at the funeral of Anna Lopizzo, the Italian woman who was shot to death during a riot on Garden street Monday, did not materialize. Her funeral took place Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the undertaking parlor of Frank Deceasare on Common street. Brief services were conducted by Rev. Fr. Milanese. There was no demonstration on the part of the strikers.

A large crowd gathered at the place shortly after dinner, but they were moving by the militiamen and



lawrence_strike1912 “The things that we take for granted— overtime pay, the weekend, the 8-hour workday, child labor laws, minimum wage, unemployment insurance — we forget that ordinary people, people that you’d run into in the supermarket, died in the streets so we could have these things.”

Conversation & emails with Ethan Snow, Political Director, Unite Here, January, 2018.

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