

Special Studies Research Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Cabotville Chronicle, and Chicopee Falls Advertiser, 1839-1849. (See 11/29/45, 12/27/45,

Chicopee Weekly Journal, 1843-1856.

The Olive Leaf and Factory Girl's Repository. Chicopee (Cabotville), Massachusetts. April 25, 1843-July 8, 1843

The Olive Leaf, and New-England Operative. Chicopee (Cabotville), Massachusetts. July 24, 1843-October 28, 1843.

Secondary Sources:

Cudd, John Michael. *The Chicopee Manufacturing Company 1823-1915*. Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1974.

Cudd argues that the economic growth of The Chicopee Manufacturing Company grew not just because of simple supply and demand but by the innovative management skills and techniques used by the managers and owners of the mill during cycles of economic contractions. The author gives a brief history of early textile mills in New England including a few others in Chicopee, but focuses primarily on the sales, profit margins, and growth of the CMC beginning with establishment of the mill by the Boston Associates in the early 19th century until the mill was purchased by Johnson & Johnson in 1916. By citing typical wages of the mill women from Vera Shlakman's book, "*Economic History of a Factory Town: A Study of Chicopee, Massachusetts*," Cudd covers the mill girls efforts at labor organization and their strikes in 1843, 1868, 1905 and 1906 as well as how their wages were distributed to pay for housing and supplies while away from their families working.

DiCarlo, Ella Merkel. *Holyoke-Chicopee Perspective*. Brattleboro: Book Press, 1982.

This book primarily covers the history of Holyoke but includes some of Chicopee. The history is told as through family stories and social anecdotes of important people and events occurring in these two cities between 1650 and 1980. In Part V of DiCarlo's book, she addresses the inevitable arrival of the Industrial Revolution in New England and its impact on the area in terms of becoming a manufacturing town. She describes how the daughters of Yankee farmers were recruited to weave and spin cotton when Chicopee girls were no longer able to keep up with cotton production at the mills in order to earn a dowry, help their families, and get away from male domination of the family farms.

Farm to Factory: Women's Letters 1830-1860. Edited by Thomas Dublin. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981.

Jendrysik, Stephen R. *Postcard History Series: Chicopee*. Charleston, N.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

Like Plourde-Baker's book, Jendrysik's book is a collection of original photographs with descriptions of the modern history of Chicopee with most coming from the 20th century. He focuses his attention on several of the distinct areas of Chicopee including Cabotville, Willamansett, and Westover.

Jendrysik, Stephen R. *The Polish Community of Chicopee*. Charleston, N.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

This book is a collection of original photographs and descriptions of the Chicopee Polish Community as immigrants in the early-19th century. This book is important because the Polish immigrants made significant contributions to the city of Chicopee as well as worked in the factory textile mills and helped disrupt labor organization and unions. There are just a few pictures of people at work in the mills.

Josephson, Hannah. *The Golden Threads: New England Mill Girls & Magnates*. New York: Russell & Russell, 1949.

While Josephson writes of the history and development of the Lowell Mills, spending most of her attention on the factory girls who worked there, there is some valuable information of the Chicopee factory and its operatives. Through a social lens, she describes the life of a factory girl as well as her hopes, aspirations, and expectations. The young women who left their families and farms for the first time were very independent. The girls left for various reasons, however as they worked in the manufacturing communities they also joined churches, shopped in the local stores, contributed to literary magazines, and attended social gatherings and performances. Although the working conditions at the mills disintegrated over time with longer work hours, less pay, and harsher working conditions, these women were able to afford neat and clean clothes, attend enrichment classes, and read books while not working giving them a reputation of refinement and good manners. She also covers labor strikes, conflicts over working conditions, and female work associations created by the operatives.

Kerr, Bessie Warner. *"A History of Chicopee Series" Chicopee Herald*, 1945-1946.

Kerr was a Chicopee city librarian who wrote about the history of Chicopee in installments for the *Chicopee Herald* beginning in 1945 before her retirement in 1947. These newspaper clippings cover the early history of Chicopee in addition to important city landmarks. She also documents Chicopee's contribution to the Revolutionary, Civil, The Spanish-American and the First World Wars. Of interest to readers and myself are the three periods on Industry she writes of in the paper however, the information is similar to previous books and essays.

Larcom, Lucy. *A New England Girlhood (Outlined from Memory)*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 188

McKinstry, Winthrop. *Glimpses of the Past*. Chicopee, MA: Alice McKinstry Hawes, 1978.

This book gives a detailed account of the founding of Chicopee. The author uses several original maps and photographs to highlight and discuss important sections of Chicopee prior to 1800 including burying grounds where Revolutionary and French and Indian War Soldiers are buried, first schoolhouses, and meetinghouses.

Moran, William. *The Belles of New England: The Women of the Textile Mills and the Families Whose Wealth They Wove*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002.

Plourde-Barker, Michelle. *Images of America: Chicopee*. Charleston, N.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 1998.

This book is a collection of photographs and short essays of the history of Chicopee, Massachusetts up until the early 20th century. Like Vina Spence, Plourde-Baker describes the history of Chicopee through the lens of topography and geography. She writes that it is the converging of the Chicopee and Connecticut Rivers, the varied landscapes, sandy plains, and fertile soil as the reasons why Chicopee developed into 5 distinct villages with their own identity as well as a manufacturing town. She includes many maps and original photographs of the landscape to prove her point but also includes an enormous amount of historical landmarks and photographs of people in the book with most of them coming from industry created in the early 20th century such as bicycle, rubber tire, and sporting goods manufacturing. There are a few nice pictures of both the female and male mill workers of Dwight Mills posing at their work stations as well as pictures of a street of mill boarding houses from the 1920's. What is missing is the addition of any pictures or stories of the early mill workers.

Robinson, Harriet H. *Loom & Spindle or Life Among the Early Mill Girls*. Kailua: Press Pacifica, 1976.

Shlakman, Vera. *Economic History of a Factory Town: A Study of Chicopee, Massachusetts*. New York: Octagon Books, 1969.

This book traces the transformation of Chicopee, a rural Connecticut Valley village into an industrial factory town when large-scale outside capital from Boston established textile mills there. The author focuses on economic developments in the community, labor development, and the subsequent rise of a middle class. Drawing data from primary sources, state records, and old manuscripts, Shlakman gathered data about workers wages, capital investments, and profit and loss margins of several industries in Chicopee. Of interest is Chapter III where she discusses the recruitment and use of female Yankee labor from Granby, West Springfield, and other surrounding communities who worked in the textile mills before immigrants from Ireland, Poland, and Canada came to work in the mills. These girls lived in dorm-style boarding tenements owned by the textile mills and managed by older women who were responsible for any improper conduct in the houses. In addition, labor unrest was evident as early at

the mid-1830's as longer hours were imposed on the operatives, the machines began running faster, and the price of boarding increased.

Spence, Vina E. *The Manufacturing Industries of the City of Chicopee, Massachusetts*. Worcester, MA: Clark University, 1930.

This book describes the various manufacturing industries in Chicopee, Massachusetts. By focusing on the geography of the area, the author argues that it was the favorable economic and physical factors such as the humid climate, water power, raw materials, a large labor supply, and outside investment that attracted industry to develop in Chicopee. Spence briefly describes the workers who originally worked in these new industries as "Old Yankee Stock" and the immigrants who followed as one of the major reasons why the character of Chicopee was easily transformed into an industrial hub of manufacturing businesses in New England. However, the author does not address the workers as a subject in his thesis.

Szetela, Thaddeus M. *History of Chicopee*. Chicopee: Szetela & Rich Publishing Company, 1948.

Szetela writes of the history of Chicopee until WWII. In his chapter "Industrial Development," he points out the importance of cotton manufacturing during the period of 1815-1850 in developing a middle class in Chicopee, however there are no footnotes. However Szetela does give a small list of sources. What is interesting about his book is that he includes many black and white sketches of the original mills and manufacturers not located or absent in the Chicopee Library Archives. In addition he includes a complete list of Chicopee's fallen soldiers during the first and second World Wars.

The Lowell Offerings: Writings by New England Mill Women 1840-1845. Edited by Benita Eisler. Philadelphia: J.B Lippincott, 1977.