

## **Lesson Plan: Day 4**

**Grade: 11**

**Unit: The Rise and Fall of a Textile Empire: Lowell, Ma 1820-1861**

### **Goal (enduring understanding):**

Massachusetts has a rich history. Among one of the many events of historical significance is Lowell's rise as a textile manufacturing empire, leading to the birth of the American Industrial Revolution.

Besides the natural resources that provided waterpower, Lowell's close proximity to the Northern New England farmlands enabled the mill owners to recruit labor.

### **Essential Question(s):**

Were the mill girls treated fairly in terms of pay, living quarters, etc.?

### **Development and selection of activities and resources:**

- The class will be handed out primary source documents and discuss the documents by answering the essential question.
- Brief lecture on the life of a mill girl
- Finish group project on recruitment poster

### **Content:**

- The work, social, and recreational life of a mill girl.
- The Lowell Offering
- Lucy Larcom
- Sarah Bagley

### **Curriculum Standard:**

#### **Economic Growth in the North and South, 1800-1860**

USI.26 Explain the importance of the Transportation Revolution of the 19th century (the building of canals, roads, bridges, turnpikes, steamboats, and railroads), including the stimulus it provided to the growth of a market economy. (H, E)

USI.27 Explain the emergence and impact of the textile industry in New England and industrial growth generally throughout antebellum America. (H, E)

a. The technological improvements and inventions that contributed to industrial growth

- b. The causes and impact of the wave of immigration from Northern Europe to America in the 1840s and 1850s
- c. The rise of a business class of merchants and manufacturers
- d. The roles of women in New England textile factories

### **History and Geography**

- 5. Explain how a cause and effect relationship is different from a sequence or correlation of events. (H, C, E)
- 6. Distinguish between long-term and short-term cause and effect relationships. (H, G, C, E)
- 7. Show connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and ideas and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments. (H, G, C, E)

### **Assignment:**

In your class journal answer the following question we discussed in class: Were the mill girls treated fairly in terms of pay, living quarters, etc.? Has your opinion changed as a result of the class discussion/lecture? Use information provided in the class discussion handouts (Time table, Company Regulations, Boarding House Regulations, and Power Loom picture.)

In addition to your journal entry read *Lyddie* pages 62-93

### **How will the essential question be assessed?**

- The essential question will be formally assessed thru class discussion and private journal entry.



REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
BOARDING HOUSES  
OF THE  
MIDDLESEX COMPANY

Two tenants of the Boarding Houses are not to board, or permit any part of their houses to be occupied by any person except those in the employ of the Company.

They will be considered answerable for any improper conduct in their houses, and are not to permit their Boarders to have company at unreasonable hours.

The doors must be closed at ten o'clock in the evening, and no one admitted after that time without some reasonable excuse.

The Keepers of the Boarding Houses must give an account of the number, names, and employment of their boarders, when required, and report the names of such as are guilty of any improper conduct, or are not in the regular habit of attending public worship.

The buildings and yards about them must be kept clean and in good order, and if they are injured otherwise than from ordinary use, all necessary repairs will be made, and charged to the occupants.

It is indispensable that all persons in the employ of the Middlesex Company should be vaccinated who have not been, as also the families with whom they board, which will be done at the expense of the Company.

SAMUEL LAWRENCE Agent

*Boarding House Regulations of the Middlesex Company, ca. 1850. Agreement Valley Forge Museum*

**REGULATIONS**  
**TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE FACTORIES OF THE**  
**APPLETON COMPANY.**

1. \* The Overseers are to be present in their places at the starting of the mill, and will on the whole be responsible for the good order of the mill. They are to see that all things are done in their places as in their places in due season. They may grant leave of their places, whenever they see fit in great years of sickness, except in cases of absolute necessity.

2. \* All persons in the employ of the Appleton Company are required to observe the regulations of the overseer of the mill where they are employed. They are not to be absent from their work, without his consent, except in case of sickness, and then they are to send him word of the cause of their absence.

3. \* They are to be heard in one of the hearing boxes belonging to the Company, and according to the regulations of the boxes where they heard.

4. \* A regular attendance on public worship on the Sabbath is necessary for the preservation of good order. The Company will not employ any person who is notoriously absent.

5. \* All persons entering into the employ of the Company are considered as engaging in such service on their own account, and those who have received a discharge unless they had sufficient experience when they commenced, to enable them to do that work.

6. \* All persons intending to leave the employ of the Company, are to give one week's notice of their intention to their overseer, and their engagement with the Company is not considered as dissolved, unless they comply with this regulation.

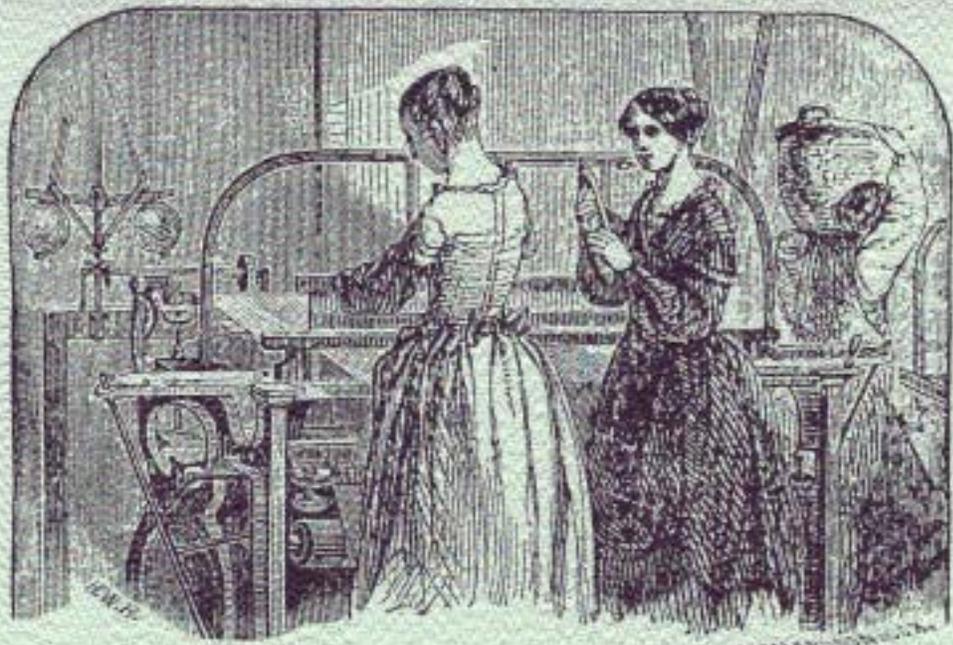
7. \* Pay will be made monthly, including board and wages, which will be made up in the last 5 number of every month, and paid in the course of the following week.

8. \* These regulations are considered part of the contract with all persons entering into the employ of the Appleton Company.

**G. W. LYMAN, Agent.**

George C. Bliss, Captain of Mill.

*Regulations for the Appleton Company, Lowell. Signed and dated on reverse.  
 Hannah Thompson W. R. No. 229 November 1833 - Merrimack Valley Textile Museum*



POWER LOOM, ONE GIRL ATTENDS FOUR.

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1854