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Voices Rising: Assimilation and the American Experience Summer II Institute Agenda

Tsongas Industrial History Center/UMass Lowell
Lowell National Historical Park

Monday, August 20, 2007

Early Industry in America

- 8:30 Meet at Saugus National Historic Site in Saugus, MA
- 8:45 Introductions and Overview of the Institute
- 9:15 Early Industry and Colonial New England Dr. Emerson "Tad" Baker
Salem State
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Tour and Exploration of Saugus Ironworks Amy Curry, NPS Park Ranger
"Meet the People" and "Simple Machines"
- 4:00 Wrap-up

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

Farm to Factory: The Market Economy

- 8:30 Bus to Old Sturbridge Village ?
- 10:00 Farms and Families in New England Jack Larkin, Chief Historian, OSV
- 10:45 Field Research at the Pliny Freeman and Salem Towne Farms
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 The Rural Economy in Transformation: Exchange, Outwork, Markets and Cash
Jack Larkin, Lecture and Discussion
- 1:45 Field Research: Investigate the Asa Knight Store and the Thompson Bank
- 3:00 Summary and Wrap-up Jack Larkin
- 3:45 Depart

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Wednesday, August 22, 2007

The Rise of Industrialization: Introducing Lowell

- 8:30 Meet at Lowell National Historical Park
Boott Cotton Mills Museum, Fifth Floor
- 9:00 The Rise of American Industrial Capitalism and the Emergence of the American System of Manufacturing
Dr. Merritt Roe Smith, MIT
- 11:00 Waterpower Workshop: Hands-on workshop to build canal systems and regulate water flow, test the efficiency of water wheels, and determine how much to charge for the use of the water
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Harnessing the Merrimack Boat Tour
- 3:00 “Millopoly”: Teaching with a simulation game in which players take on roles as either cotton textile manufacturers (establishing a mill village, buying raw cotton, reaping dividends), mill workers (building mills and canals, working in mills, consuming goods), or cotton plantation owners (selling raw cotton, purchasing finished cloth).
- 4:15 Wrap-Up

Thursday, August 23, 2007

The New Industrial Order

- 8:30 Meet at Lowell National Historical Park
- 9:00 Managing Markets, Managing Workers: The Volatility of Textile Manufacturing
Gray Fitzsimons
- 10:30 Workers on the Line Workshop: Experience work on an assembly line with high wages and increased purchasing power (compared with farm work) followed by market-induced speed-ups, stretch-outs, and lay-offs. Workers consider alternative ways to gain control over their working conditions and wages. Visit the operating weave room of the Boott Cotton Mills Museum to see what it was like to work in a cotton textile mill.
- 12:00 Lunch

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- 1:00 Labor Responses to the New Industrial Order
Lecture and Discussion Dr. Robert Farrant:
- 2:30 Group Activity with Primary Sources
I: Ten Hour Movement
Participants will take roles as the Committee on Manufacturers and as Lowell Female workers presenting testimony in 1845 asking the legislature to grant their Petitions to limit the work day to ten hours.
- II: Annenberg/CPB Was Lowell an Opportunity or Dead-End?
Participants use primary source documents to examine the changing face of gender, class, and labor in the 1830s and 1840s through the lens of the Lowell System and consider the question "Was Lowell an opportunity for working women or a dead end?"
- 4:15 Wrap-up

Friday, August 24, 2007

Immigration and Industrialization: Poverty or Upward Mobility?

- 8:30 Meet at Lowell National Historical Park
- 9:00 Immigration, Class, and Industrialization: Lowell's Irish and French Canadians as Case Studies Gray Fitzsimons
A tour of St. Patrick's Church and "the Acre," Lowell's immigrant neighborhood, using historical accounts to explore interactions of the first residents of Lowell with the Irish and with the next immigrant work force, the French Canadians.
- 11:00 Center for Lowell History
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Documents, photographs, and resources for the classroom
- 2:00 Wrap-up Lecture and Discussion
- 3:30 "Mill Girls and Immigrants" exhibit: Coming to Lowell
- 4:15 Wrap-up