

## Annotated Bibliography

### I. Primary Sources

#### Public Documents

United States Bureau of the Census, Census Reports for 1830 – 1870, Addison County, Vermont.

These records yielded crucial listings of individual mill workers and helped create a portrait of the Davenport labor force, including living arrangements, financial status, and life after the factory. This census also included some aggregate information cited in the paper regarding population. The major drawbacks of these documents were the errors in the census index and the differences in data collected for each year of the census examined.

United States Bureau of the Census, “1840 Aggregate Value and Produce and Number of People employed in Mines, Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufacture &c.” Vermont and Massachusetts.

These records provided aggregate totals of information not given in the census reports listed above regarding the industrial and agricultural makeup of each town in every county in the nation. Unfortunately, the specific industrial and agricultural censuses for Middlebury were unavailable for examination and could have enriched the analysis of the industrialization of this region occurring in the early nineteenth century.

#### Personal Papers and Letters

Elisha Brewster Papers, “Insurance Survey 1843 of Woolen Factory” Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

This insurance survey lists the contents and layout of a Middlebury textile factory and provided good details of factory life.

Jason Davenport Papers 1837 – 1873, including “Davenport and Nash Time Book of Hands in Middlebury Manufacturing Company” Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

The factory records of Davenport’s textile mills provide an excellent (though chronologically incomplete) record of who worked in Middlebury’s mill, especially for 1850. Records also provide information regarding the factory’s employment practices, wages, and business dealings. These records were crucial to the research of this paper.

Ford Family Papers 1833 – 1889, Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

Ford Letters, Rebecca and Caroline, 1838 – 1851, Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

The papers and letters of the Ford family and Rebecca and Caroline Ford specifically provide incredible textural detail and rich commentary on life in Middlebury's mill. They are also a unique source on mill labor generally as one of few (if any) known sources to include commentary on life in both a rural mill and an urban mill.

### Published Papers

Farm to Factory Women's Letters, 1830 – 1860. Ed. Thomas Dublin. Second Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.

This excellent compilation of letters from farm daughters regarding their factory experience provides an interesting contrast to the letters of Rebecca and Caroline Ford. Unfortunately, space did not allow for the direct usage of information from these letters, but they are nonetheless a valuable source regarding mill life.

The Lowell Offering: Writings by New England Mill Women 1840 – 1845. Ed. Benita Eisler. Second Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1998.

This collection of writings by Lowell mill girls published in their own newspaper provides a rich variety of commentaries on life in this famous urban mill. Most relevant to this examination was the "Defense of a Factory Girl" essay. An essay of greater depth would greatly benefit from an in-depth examination of these sources.

## I. Secondary Sources

### Books

Cott, Nancy F. The Bonds of Womanhood: Woman's Sphere in New England, 1780 - 1835. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.

Cott's study of women's work and life in the 1800s is the major work in this field and provided wonderful information regarding conceptions of women during this period. Her survey of female employment, including domestic work, teaching, and textile work was most helpful.

Dow, Elizabeth H. Treasures Gathered Here: A Guide to the Manuscript Collection of the Sheldon Museum Research Center. Middlebury, VT: The Sheldon Museum, 1991.

This summary of the Sheldon Museum's holdings provided background information regarding the sources available there and allowed for a general, easily accessible understanding of Middlebury's basic character through this list of sources.

Dublin, Thomas. Transforming Women's Work. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1994.

Dublin expands his research of Lowell to include a comparison of seven different occupations held by women during the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, I was

only able to examine thoroughly the section on Lowell mill hands, but this study provides a thorough overview of women's labor during industrialization.

Dublin, Thomas. Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826–1860. New York: Columbia University Press, 1979.

Dublin's comprehensive examination of the Lowell mills provides a rich resource on the general character of mill labor throughout the nineteenth century. I did not end up using this source a great deal, perhaps due to its detailed focus on the Lowell experience, but it is certainly a great source on life in Lowell and the changes that occurred there in the middle part of the century.

Potash, P. Jeffrey. Vermont's Burned Over District. Brooklyn, NY: Carlson Publishing Inc., 1991.

Potash's in-depth study of the economic changes and religious movements occurring in the first half of the nineteenth century in Middlebury and two other nearby Vermont communities provided excellent information on the often confusing transition of Middlebury's economy from agricultural to industrial. Potash's discussion of religious revivalism was also informative, though his examination ended prior to the Fords' arrival in Middlebury.

Stilwell, Lewis D. Migration from Vermont. Montpelier and Rutland, VT: Vermont Historical Society and Academy Books, 1948.

Stillwell's comprehensive and well-respected study of the demographic changes occurring in Vermont as a result of industrialization and the decline of small family farms provided good statistical information and analysis.

Swift, Samuel. History of the Town of Middlebury in the County of Addison Vermont. Second Edition. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1971.

This history of Middlebury, originally published in 1859, provides a decent background assessment of many different aspects of Middlebury life in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. However, it lacks true objectivity and reflects many biases of the period.

### Articles

Dublin, Thomas. "Introduction" Farm to Factory: Women's Letters 1830–1860. Second Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.

Dublin's introduction is the most comprehensive and accessible overview of life in Lowell, addressing wages, boarding, unrest, and more. It was the perfect level of detail for the purposes of my comparison with Middlebury's mill.

Thomas Dublin. "Women Workers and the Study of Social Mobility" Journal of Interdisciplinary History, vol IX, issue 4, Spring 1979, 658. Accessed via JSTOR.

Dublin's study of the labor unrest in Lowell gave good statistics and strong analysis of the uprisings and change to immigrant labor. While these issues were not the focus of my paper, their mention is necessary because they were part of the Lowell experience.

Eisler, Benita. "Introduction" The Lowell Offering: Writings by New England Mill Women 1840 – 1845. Second Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1998, 13 - 41.

Eisler's well-written and well-researched introduction provides a context for mill work generally and the Lowell Offering specifically, providing especially useful commentary on the sources available for research on Lowell mills.

Lazerow, Jama. "Religion and the New England Mill Girl: A New Perspective on an Old Theme" The New England Quarterly, vol. 60, issue 3 (1987), 429 – 453.

Lazerow's article is an excellent source regarding religious life and all its implications in Lowell. However, she neglects any examination of rural mills outside of Lowell, thus limiting her relevance to my paper.

Ouelette, Susan. "In the Shadow of a Factory: Worker Housing in Winooski" The Mill at Winooski Falls. Ed. Laura Krawitt. Winooski, VT: Onion River Press, 2000, 63 – 68.

Ouelette writes a largely descriptive article about boarding life in the Winooski Mills. Her article is part of a larger collection of writings regarding mill life in Winooski. While the content of this article was not totally relevant, its existence as a study of a rural mill is significant.

Zonderman, David A. "From Mill Village to Industrial City: Letters from Vermont Factory Operatives," Labor History, vol. 27 issue 2 (1986), 265 – 285.

Zonderman's article provides the only historical examination of the Ford Letters published to my knowledge. His article is more descriptive than analytical, but still provides important information regarding the lives of the Ford sisters and the areas they occupied. Included with this article is the publication of the entire set of letters in original form.

### Unpublished Work

Bryan, Betsy. "Female Millworkers in Davenport and Nash Mills in Middlebury, Vermont, 1850"., 1979, MS Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont.

Bryan's sociological analysis of the Davenport time books was invaluable to my paper, providing assistance with the census compilations, hours worked, and general trends observed. I am most grateful for Bryan's research.

Kvasnak, Megan Foley. "Middlebury 1830 – 1850 A Transitional Stage" Middlebury College Senior Thesis, Unpublished: 1985.

Foley's overview of Middlebury in the early to mid nineteenth century was helpful in providing a context for textile labor in the region in comparison to other opportunities for female labor, specifically teaching and domestic work.