

# Lawrence History News

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2005

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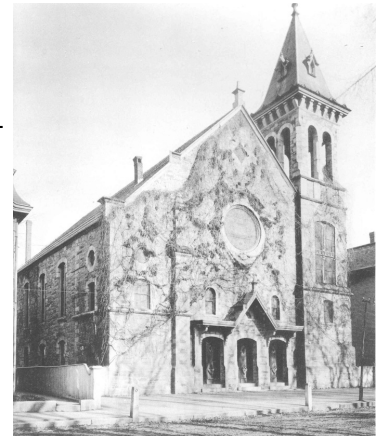
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## Understanding Lawrence through Church History

We earlier reported on the acquisition of the combined Presbyterian Churches records. Now, because of donations before and since, LHC has stewardship of the majority of the past Protestant churches in Lawrence. The records are important for a number of reasons beyond the intrinsic value of church histories. The earliest churches were established within two years of each other, reflecting the rapid creation of Lawrence. Within the cultural and moral framework of Yankee Protestantism, the Essex Company developed the foundations of the social infrastructure through design of the school system, deed restrictions on

lots they sold to ensure solid and attractive construction, and influential role in the establishment of government. The churches themselves set about collaboratively creating the social support system, working together to establish first the Provident Association and then the City Mission to address the needs of the poor, sick, or injured. As the years went by, members of the Protestant churches continued to develop organizations according to perceived need, including the General Hospital, the YMCA and the YWCA. They weighed in on the issue of slavery in ways that were representative of the differ-



Trinity Congregational Church

ences among them. As the young community struggled to establish order in a rapidly growing population, the churches exerted moral authority that supplemented the efforts of the fledgling police force.

Of course, the unanticipated Catholic churches

*Continued on Page 2*

As you undertake your estate planning, please keep the Lawrence History Center in mind in order to ensure sustained support for the efforts to preserve the history of Lawrence and its people.

## For the Public Good

Our next exhibit (June through August 2005) will focus on the history of public safety in Lawrence, particularly focusing on the Police and Fire Departments, which date from the very beginning of the town.

If you have old photographs, documents or objects associated with this history, please consider loaning them to us for the exhibit. We can also reproduce the



original photographs for preservation and exhibition.

The exhibit will open on June 15, 2005 at Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.



## Lawrence and Church History, cont.

(records in custody of individual parishes or the Archdiocese) also began very early to influence the moral climate and to serve the needs of the poor. As the Irish immigrants began pouring into Lawrence, the Essex Company sold land for the Immaculate Conception and St. Mary's Churches, but not nearby. They were assigned property at what was then the very out-

skirts of the town, distant from the power center of the Common, with the literal and symbolic proximity of the Protestant churches, the first primary and secondary schools, the developing park, and City Hall. Throughout the early decades, Catholic leaders were on occasion brought in to support particular efforts, but were in general kept at arm's length by the fellowship of the

Protestant congregations.

Once the records are processed, with catalog records and a finding aid, researchers will have access to vital resources to help reveal the cultural foundations and characters of early community leaders.



## Theresa DePippo

Theresa DePippo died this past January. She was a long time volunteer at the Lawrence History Center, focusing much of her efforts on conducting oral histories. She was also a historian. In addition to researching the lives of women in Lawrence, she wrote a book on the history of the Essex Company, donating all copies of the latter to LHC to sell. It was a very popular item. We also knew that she was working for several years on a history of Italians in Lawrence. However, after moving out of her house, she lost track of the manuscript. Her niece, Barbara Gallo, helped to locate the work and brought it to LHC. Our satisfaction derives both from being able to preserve these valuable insights into the Italian community and enabling other people to appreciate the contribution of this dedicated woman.

# The Preservation Corner

We are adding a feature to our newsletter. Each issue will provide tips on preserving those items that hold family memories.



Winter is a good time to arrange and describe your family photographs. Albums with adhesive coated pages damage photographs. Try to separate photographs using

dental floss. Once you do that, label the back of each photograph with a pencil, indicating names of people, context (location or event), and approximate date. Make sure that new storage boxes or albums are **acid free**. Also the dimensions of boxes should be **just large enough** to accommodate photographs so that they will stay flat and stationary.

Companies that offer protective enclosures include University Products and Gay-

lord.

A bit of advice, be wary of sales descriptions that say an item is “archival”. There are no common standards to define that term.



## Special Offer

### Encourage Others to Join!

*We need your help:*

*Send us 2 new memberships at any level and we will send you a poster of Ralph Fasanella’s Bread and Roses Strike!*

*Send us 4 new memberships at any level and we will send you a copy of **Mill Time** by Ken Skulski AND a poster!*

#### Membership

Sign up for:	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<b>\$35</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Undergraduate Student	<b>\$20</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<b>\$50</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	<b>\$100</b>
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#### LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER

6 Essex Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

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**LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER**

*Immigrant City Archives and Museum*

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Lawrence, MA 01840

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Lawrence History Center, as Immigrant City Archives, was created in 1978 by Eartha Dengler to preserve the history of Lawrence. Along with preserving the growing collection, we mount exhibits, develop educational programs and assist researchers. LCA's site—the Essex Company complex in the North Canal Historic District—is on the National Register of Historic Places.

**We're on the Web!**

**[Lawrencehistorycenter.org](http://Lawrencehistorycenter.org)**

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## Upcoming Events

**\*Appraisal Day** Sunday, April 10

Noon to 3:00 at Lawrence History Center. See insert.

**\*6th Eartha Dengler History Award Dinner**

Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 at Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack Street, Lawrence. See insert.

**\*Exhibit Opening: History of Public Safety in Lawrence.**

Wednesday, June 15 at 5:30 at Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence.