

Hands Across Fall River

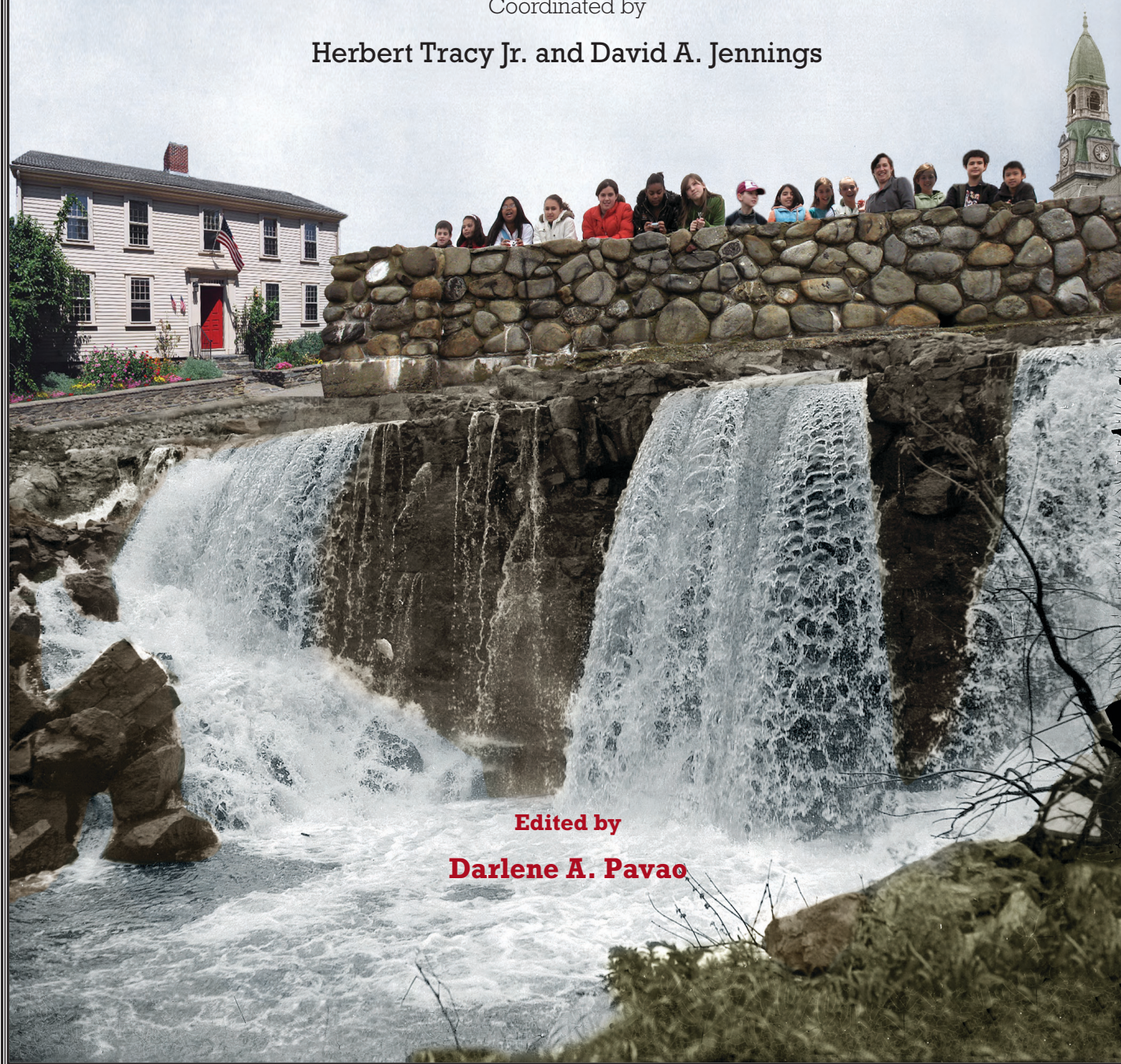
A History Resource Book

Written by

Students at William S. Greene and John J. Doran Schools

Coordinated by

Herbert Tracy Jr. and David A. Jennings



Edited by

Darlene A. Pavao

Hands Across Fall River



Grant Support Provided by

Community Service-Learning Grant
Learn and Serve Grant
21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant
The Travelers Foundation

Photography

Original photographs by students from the William S. Greene and John J. Doran Schools
Historical photographs from the Spinner Publications Archives

Design and Production

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Spinner Publications, Inc.

New Bedford, Massachusetts

Foreword

The Community Service-Learning Grant has made it possible for students to use shared historic resources to learn the importance of places, artifacts, architecture and events. The intent of this publication is to share Fall River's common history and develop a sense of civic pride as we forge a bond among citizens.

This resource book has been created to showcase the observations of students who have, through participation in this program, come to understand that Fall River has an exceptionally rich history. It is also intended to engage other students, teachers and citizens in the study of local history. By visiting significant local historic sights and researching the history of these sites, students from the John J. Doran and William S. Greene Elementary Schools have come to appreciate the uniqueness of Fall River. A clearer sense of geographic and cultural diversity in the city has been achieved through observation, research, site visits and journal keeping. In their comments students have shown that they have a better understanding of how local history is directly and indirectly linked to the history of our nation.

The Community Service-Learning Grant has made it possible for students to use often overlooked local history resources. Visiting sites as well as studying artifacts, architecture, and events that have shaped the city not only gives students a sense of common history but forges a bond between them and their city, thus enabling them to develop a stronger sense of civic pride.

As a resource, teachers and others can look to this booklet as a compilation of student observations about Fall River. As such, it can be used as a model for exploration and extension activities for a local history curriculum.

— *Herbert Tracy Jr., Darlene Pavao*

Acknowledgments

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Community Members & Friends

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|---|--|
| 21 st Century Community Partnership | Paul Moniz Beverly Pavao |
| Bristol Community College Teaching American History Grant | Marcia Picard Southcoast Historical Associates |
| Children in Balance Grant | Spinner Publications |
| Jane DiBiasio | Staff of the John J. Doran School |
| Charlotte Doyle | Staff of the William S. Greene School |
| Fall River Public Library | Tremblay Bus Company |
| Fall River Historical Society | Donna Viera |
| Colleen Franco | |
| Lafayette – Durfee House | |



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The Fall River Public Library and The Fall River Historical Society

A field trip to the Fall River Public Library and the Fall River Historical Society gave students an opportunity to research and record information about the city's history and put them in touch with the rugged life of colonial times and the exquisite world of the Victorian era.



The Fall River Public Library (top) and the Fall River Historical Society.

“The first mill in Fall River was the Durfee Mill. It stood where Father Kelly Park is today. Col. Joseph Durfee was the owner of this mill. He is buried at the North Burial Ground.”—Victoria Silvia

Old woodcut of Colonel Joseph Durfee's mill at Globe Corners, built in 1811.



King Phillip's dad was Chief Massasoit. Phillip did not like the settlers because he thought they were stealing the land and food that the Indians needed for survival. King Phillip was shot in the back by an Indian who joined Captain Benjamin Church's army. –Noahf Binsaid

King Phillip was Chief of the Wampanoag. He led the Indians to burn 20 towns in New England. Thirteen villages were completely destroyed during King Phillip's War. –Thomas Galvin



Portrait of King Philip, 1865, from "A History of King Philip's War" by Benjamin Church.

In 1680, Captain Benjamin Church and his brother Caleb came from Watertown and built a sawmill and a grist mill on the Quequechan River. –Kalahan Briones

The sawmill was introduced very early in American history, before the sawing would be done in sawpits. One man would be in the pit and would hold one side of the saw while another would be outside the pit holding the other end. They would move the saw up and down, pushing the log over the hole to be cut. –Colin Soares

The Tory House is on French Street. The word "tory" describes someone who was loyal to the king of England. The Tory House is the oldest house in Fall River. There are still people living in the house, so you can't go in like you can the Lafayette-Durfee House, but you can pass by it anytime." –Susan Hesketh

Colonial women wore shifts, stockings, garters, stays, petticoats and pocket gowns. Men and women wore wigs made of human hair, which were expensive. Silk and horsehair wigs were less expensive. –Marissa Aguiar

The Tory House, circa 1750, on French Street is one of Fall River's oldest houses.



Photograph courtesy of Marc N. Belanger

Women wore dresses with full sleeves, full skirts and shirts with white collars. They also wore white hats or scarves that covered their hair to keep it clean. Men wore plain short trousers with stockings. –Erica Chea

A calash is a top to cover and protect hair and wigs from wind and rain. It was worn by all girls and most women. Women would wear clogs over their shoes to keep their feet nice and clean because the roads they would walk on were very muddy. The clogs would also lift them up a bit so their dresses would not drag in the mud. Women and men wore hooded cloaks over their clothes and hair to protect them from the rain and snow. –Mykala Dupree



A modern interpretation of colonial dress, modeled by Hallie Larken at the Lafayette-Durfee House.

Most colonial men wore wigs, and women made their own dresses. Sometimes the fabric would have a pattern of beautiful designs. Some ladies would try to make their dresses like the doll clothes from England. –Erica Kang

In the 1730s shoes were pointy and had high heels and high tongues in many shapes. The tops of the shoes were covered and fastened with buckles or tied over the top of the foot. Women wore a square handkerchief around the neck that was folded diagonally and tied in a knot in front or attached with a ribbon. –Susan Hesketh

The colonial schoolhouse had only one room. Some people did not get educated at all. Some schools had desks, but other schools used shelves as desks. Girls sat on one side of the class and the boys sat on the other side. Sometimes a wood stove heated the classroom. The teachers were called schoolmasters and had to

Interior of the Oxford School in Fairhaven, 1892, typifies the one-room schoolhouse of colonial times.



be unmarried because they moved from town to town. When new teachers would come to town, they were given food and a place to stay by the townspeople. The teacher taught up to eight grades at one time if there were a lot of children in the town. If there were too many kids in the town, only the oldest ones went to school. The younger children were educated during the summer months. The teacher was responsible to punish the kids who misbehaved. –Sarah Curtis

Colonial printers like John Campbell helped spread the spirit of liberty. In 1704, Campbell started the newspaper called the Boston News Letter. Other colonial newspapers were the New York Gazette, The New England Courant, Pennsylvania Gazette and The New York Weekly Journal. –Kevin Bui

Apple butter was made outdoors. Baking was done once or twice a week. Biscuits and shortbread were made in a bake kettle. Meat was never baked except in meat pies. Colonials toasted bread by putting it on long forks and holding it over the fire. The Dutch fireplace was very high and had white and blue tiles around it. Sometimes they had pictures from the bible on the fireplace. Indian corn was the common food. Samp porridge was a meal with pork, beef and root vegetables. It was cooked for three days very slowly. The type of bread they ate was rye, coarse or white bread. –Kristina Martins.

In the 18th century, transportation was very primitive. People walked to get where they were going. Some people had horses and really wealthy people had carriages to bring their whole family along. –Chavahya Soto

Transportation for groups of people in colonial days was either in a horse-drawn carriage or stagecoach. People would also ride horses, oxen or mules. These animals would pull carts loaded with goods and personal property from one place to another. The roads were not paved with asphalt like today, but were mostly dirt paths. Later, they turned to roads paved with stones. –Laurel Boie

In colonial times, guns were used for protection and for hunting just like today. Every man had to be ready to fight, even young boys. They had to learn to shoot and to fight at a very young age. Men and boys were expected to protect their home, family and property. –Thomas Galvin

The most common crafts people in colonial villages were shoemakers and leather workers, who made shoes, saddles, and horse harnesses. Cabinetmakers built coffins and repaired musical instruments. The gunsmith made and repaired weapons. The milliner made and sold clothes such as hats, belts, gloves, feathers, tassels, buttons and buckles. Wig makers fitted wigs made from human hair, animal hair or silk. –Jessica Miranda

A replica of the stagecoach from Steep Brook to Globe Village is featured in this parade along Durfee Street, circa 1930.



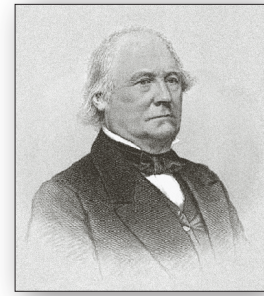
Fall River is the official name of the community that we live in. In 1800, Fall River only had eight houses near the center of town. The first families in the town were the Bordens, Durfees, Braytons, Davols, Slades, Osborns and Chases. –Joseph Teixeira

In 1804, the name of Fall River was changed to Troy. This name stayed for 30 years until it was changed back to Fall River on February 12, 1884. –Sajeda Ahmed

In 1821, Bradford Durfee and Richard Borden founded the Fall River Iron Works. Durfee's name was listed as a member of the board of directors of many corporations in Fall River. Durfee married Phoebe Borden and they had one son, Holder Borden. –Victoria Silvia

Colonel Richard Borden is an important person in Fall River history. He was born in 1795 and died in 1874. He founded banks and businesses like the Fall River Iron Works in 1821. He started the Fall River Line, the Fall River Gas Company, The Fall River Iron Works and the Fall River Branch Railroad. He was president and director of the American Print Works and the Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufactory. He was Director of the Watuppa Reservoir and the Fall River Glass Works. The people of the town described him as a great worker. His ancestor, also named Richard Borden, was one of the colonists who fought in the Battle of Fall River. His son Richard

Baxter Borden would serve as president of the mills and banks owned by the Bordens. His son Matthew C. D. Borden took over American Printing Company. His third son, Colonel Thomas James Borden, built the Richard Borden Mill as a tribute to his father. Colonel Richard Borden is buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery. –Austin Cote



Colonel Richard Borden,
1795–1874

Thomas Borden owned a sawmill and a gristmill on the south bank of the Quequechan River. His cousin Steven Borden had a gristmill and sawmill on the North Bank of the river. His uncle Joseph Borden had a fulling mill further up the river. –Sajeda Ahmed

James Buffington was the first mayor of Fall River. He was born on March 17, 1817. He was born near French's Hill where the Charlton Memorial Hospital now stands. He went to Moses Brown School in Providence, RI and studied to be a teacher. After finishing school he taught in Westport and Dartmouth. Later, he met some fishermen in New Bedford and decided that he would rather work on a whaling ship. He became a doctor on one of the ships. When he returned to Fall River he opened

Early woodcut of North Main Street from Pine Street made before the Great Fire of 1843, which destroyed most of this area.



a pharmacy on Main Street. In 1839, he married Sarah Perkins who had a millinery in the city. Then he was elected as fire chief engineer. He was important to Fall River because he got Congress to give the city \$200,000 to build a post office and customs house. –Colin Soares

The Fall River Historical Society building was built in 1843 for Andrew Robeson Jr. It was bought by Robert Knight Remington in 1870. The house was built first on Columbia Street then it was taken apart piece-by-piece and pulled up the hill to Rock Street. The blocks of granite were too heavy for horses to pull so instead they used oxen. –Micheala Cabral

The Fall River Historical Society on Rock Street used to be the home of Elizabeth Brayton. She was the last member of the Brayton Family to live in this house. In 1930 the house was given to the Fall River Historical Society so that it could be used as a museum. The Brayton Family loved to go to Paris and went three or four times each year. Sometimes they would bring guests back to stay in this house to enjoy luxury. –Kensie Moore

If you visit the Historical Society, it is really good. Mr. Brayton would buy art to decorate his home. In the hallway, there are many beautiful paintings, furniture, and a big, thick carpet on the floor. There is a statue of a little girl who is crying because she broke her plate. It looks

Fall River Facts

- Fall River is in Bristol County, Massachusetts and has a total area of 39.2 square miles.
- Fall River was founded by the Borden and Durfee families and was once the textile manufacturing leader in America.
- Known as the Scholarship City, Fall River's motto is "We'll Try."
- Fall River is the only city in America to have its government center over an interstate highway.
- The first inhabitants of Fall River were the Pokanoket Wampanoag tribe.
- The city was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1843.
- The first mill was a spinning mill called the Globe Yarn Mills.
- B.M.C. Durfee High School was founded in 1886. Durfee Teams wear red and black and are called the "Hilltoppers."
- Fall River Neighborhoods include: Downtown, Maplewood, the Highlands, the Lower Highlands, the Upper Highlands, the South End, the North End, Steep Brook, Globe Village, Bogle Hill, Corky Row, Flint Village, Townsend Hill.

very old. The dining room is round with curved doors that are very tall and made of wood. There is a hand-crafted baby chair in the room that looks just like you could still use it. A radiator with a stone top helps keep the food warm during dinner. There was once a foot press under the table that you could step on to call the servants so they could take the dishes away. –Tiara Gomes

Interior view of the Fall River Historical Society in 1983 with curator Florence Brigham.



The Fall River Historical Society is an amazing place. There were so many paintings and delicate works of art. The ceiling and the windows were very high and the curtains were very long. When the curtains hung on the floor, it was called puddeling, and this was a symbol of great wealth. The dining room cabinets have more than 100 cups inside. There is a false bookcase that would open into a staircase leading to the cellar. This was used to help people on the Underground Railroad. –Serena Riley

At the turn of the 20th century, Fall River was the leading textile manufacturing city in the world. The mill owners in the city were very rich and would spend their money on beautiful houses and clothes. The home that Mr. Brayton

made for his family needed ten servants to maintain, entertain guests, and care for the children. –Kalahan Briones

The Rolling Rock was brought from far away to this spot by a huge flood. It balances on a slab of granite and used to rock back and forth by pushing it. It is called a puddingstone, which is made of lots of smaller stones all meshed together into one. –Susan Hesketh

Some of Fall River's best places are fun to visit. I like Globe Four Corners, Father Kelly Park, Cook Pond, Loral Lake School, Henry Lord School, Talbot School, Maplewood Park, and the Prince Henry the Navigator monument. –Marissa Aguiar

Greene School students gather beneath 140 tons of puddingstone known as Rolling Rock.



The Lafayette – Durfee House

Students had the chance to experience a true New England Colonial setting when they explored the Lafayette-Durfee House. Children participated in a number of domestic activities of the colonial era such as cooking and water collecting. They also had the opportunity to handle artifacts used during colonial times. Throughout the process of examining and interpreting these artifacts, they were able to use specialized vocabulary, relevant to the time period.



Colonel Joseph Durfee (Dave Jennings) welcomes visitors.

“Built sometime before 1750 by Judge Thomas Durfee, the Lafayette-Durfee House was one of only 18 houses near the Taunton River.” –Sara Pais

The Lafayette-Durfee House at 94 Cherry Street.



In 1778, the Marquis de Lafayette came to town for a visit. The Marquis fought alongside Colonel Joseph Durfee and came to Fall River to help plan against British attacks on the town. The house was a good place to meet because it was halfway between Boston and Newport. The Marquis slept in the second floor bedroom. –Sara Pais

The Marquis de Lafayette was born on September 6, 1757. He and his wife Adie Robich came to Fall River and stayed at the Judge Thomas Durfee's house. –Vanessa Combs

Today, the house is called the Lafayette-Durfee House because the Marquis stayed here often. Historians believe that he and Colonel Joseph Durfee, would stay up late to discuss strategy of war, play card games, and read books. In 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette was the first foreigner to address the Congress. He died in 1834. –Vanessa Combs

I think that Lafayette was very helpful to our land because he had experience with war and helped the Minutemen fight the British. When we visited the Lafayette-Durfee House, I saw that it had only six rooms. The cellar and attic have hewn beams with wooden pegs. The house was restored by Vaughn Baash of Westport. –Vanessa Combs

We had so much fun at the Lafayette-Durfee House today! The house is on Cherry Street and everyone who lives in Fall River should see it at least once. It is such a nice building and is in really good shape. It is not clear exactly when the house was built, but probably circa 1750. –Susan Hesketh

Three families have owned the property in the past. The house first belonged to the Durfee family. In 1847 it became the home of Rev. John Anthony. The son of John Anthony sold it to Charles Y. Lewin in 1850. The house was then moved piece by piece to Cherry Street where it remains today. –Sara Pais



Interior views of the Lafayette-Durfee House

“Judge Thomas Durfee mortgaged all his land to help finance the American Revolution. His son Joseph was a hero at the Battle of Fall River.” –Sara Pais

At the Lafayette-Durfee House students re-enact card-playing view the living room, and gather at the front door with the Colonel.



We cooked like they did in the colonial days and we got to eat it, too. Cooking over the fire was very different and made the house a little bit smoky. We ate chicken, beef, beans, sour dough bread and cheese. –Kensie Moore

Cooking on a fire inside the house was really cool! We cooked beef in a skillet and beans in a frying pan. The beef tasted so good, even with the grease. We used hand-made utensils like a wooden spoon and iron roasting fork. –Susan Hesketh

A common meal was baked beans. The beans were slow-cooked all day in a pot with pork and molasses. Baking was done once or twice a week. Bread was baked at night and taken out in the morning. Families would eat the bread with ale in the morning for breakfast. –Cassidy Charest

I got to flip meat with an iron roasting fork. I could feel the heat from the fire inside the brick oven. When Mr. Jennings added charcoal the house got a little smoky, but I liked the smell of the chicken cooking. –Tommy Ramirez

The food we cooked was delicious, but I think the beef was a little under cooked. I like it well-done. I tried sour-dough bread and drank cranberry juice, too. –Serena Riley

The kind of bread they ate was rye, course white or plain white. The hotter the oven, the crustier the bread. There were no refrigerators, running water, electric stoves or microwaves. But there were plenty of kitchen gadgets to help get the cooking done. Cream was churned to make fresh butter. A mortar bowl and pestle was used to crush grain into spices and herbs. Sugar was sold in cones and sugar cutters were used to snip off the small pieces of sugar as you needed it. The warming pan was used to warm your bed before you got in. –Hailey Croteau



Museum Curator, Dave Jennings, demonstrates the art of colonial cooking.

Cooking was done in large fireplaces four or five feet tall. In the colonial days, people used to make beans often. Making beans would sometimes take all day and even overnight to get just the right flavor. There is special equipment used to cook chicken. It looks like a big bread box. The door of the box swings up to open and inside there is a long, metal stick called a spit. This is where the chicken goes. The spit can be turned or just left alone. The chicken we made was tender and juicy and tasted delicious. –Marissa Aguiar

Doran School students sample Mr. Jennings' fare.



Students await another course in the smoky kitchen.



Colonial cooking is a lot like cooking today. There were four things cooking at once inside one oven. People still cook more than one thing a time. They use the top of the stove and the oven at the same time. –Dylan Cooper

In the southern colonies there were two kitchens used during colonial days. The one inside was used during the winter; and one outside was used in the summer. The inside kitchen was called the common room. –Austin Cote

Mr. Jennings used a tool called a bellows to blow air on to the fire. When you blow air on to the fire, it burns faster and hotter. The coals were glowing bright red when I looked into the fireplace. –Cedric DeSousa

Colonial toolmakers would make hammers, saws, drills and screwdrivers. They would also make pots and pans used for cooking. Sometimes the toolmaker would use a saw wheel to help make the tools. Some of the iron cooking utensils used during colonial days were a toasting fork, bake kettle, sauce pan, frying pan, strainer, and gridiron broiler. –Tiffany Borges

Coopering is making barrels. This was a big part of colonial times. Slack barrels were used to store dry goods and wet barrels to hold wet materials. –Sara Pais

Cooking at the Lafayette-Durfee House was the best. I liked cooking over a fire. I got to turn over the meat in the skillet. –Jose Alves

Mr. Jennings made a fire in the fireplace at the Lafayette-Durfee House. I never ate chicken cooked over a fire. The oven is so big; I could stand up inside of it. We used a wooden yoke to carry water. Miss Pavao took pictures while I carried it. The sour dough bread with the cheese was awesome! –Victoria Silvia

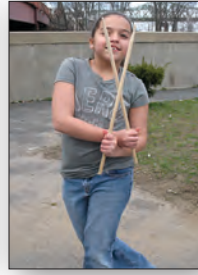
I got to carry a yoke on my neck. It was so heavy! A yoke is a piece of wood that is carved with a place for your neck. It has two ropes with buckets on each side. It was used to carry all sorts of things into the house. I have been learning so many new words like systematically, demoralizing, decimated, Narragansett, rebellious, Quequechan and Aquidneck. –Susan Hesketh

Indentured students experience the arduous task of toting water.





Players engage in the art of trap ball, led by instructor Herbert Tracy.



Dave Jennings coaches games of three graces and rolling the hoop.

We played a game from Colonial times called "skittles." It's a lot like bowling, but the pins and ball are very small. To play, you set up nine wooden pins and roll the ball to knock them down. It was really fun to try to knock all the pins down. –Cristian Vazquez

Playing colonial games was really fun. We played games called "three graces" and "trap ball." I didn't know it would be so much fun. The top we played with had a long string. You wound the string around the top and pulled it to let it fly on the floor. It went for a long time. –Cassidy Charest

Children used to play a game called "top-whipping." They would spin their tops at the same time and the one whose top spun the longest won. It was a competition of skill. –Laurel Boie

We played with a wooden top today. It was really fun to play and it lasts for a long time. It keeps going and going and going! –Micheala Cabral

Children demonstrate skill and enthusiasm while competing in a friendly game of skittles.





The Battle of Fall River and The North Burial Ground

Visiting the North Burial Ground to explore the resting place of some of Fall River's important historical figures, students used cemetery survey forms to collect and interpret data, draw conclusions and frame reasonable opinions regarding preservation issues. During the survey students became increasingly curious about two British soldiers who fell at the Battle of Fall River in 1778, and made educated guesses as to where they might be buried.



Mr. Jennings talks about the Battle of Fall River at the Kennedy Park pavilion.

On May 25, 1778, a British warship with 150 men sailed up Mount Hope Bay looking for a fight. Colonel Joseph Durfee led some men to the Fall River battlefield. The men fought bravely to send the British back to the ship. –Diane Benevides



“We went to the pavilion at Kennedy Park and looked out on Mount Hope Bay. The view down to the river was so beautiful. This is how it looked at the Battle of Fall River.” –Kristina Martins

At Kennedy Park, we marched up the hill just like the British soldiers did. They must have been easy to see because their uniforms were bright red. The colonists did not have uniforms. They just wore their regular clothes. –Jessica Miranda





Students representing both sides dress for battle.



Mr. Jennings lectures about the Battle of Fall River.

During the Battle of Fall River, the British burned Thomas Borden's mills as they returned to their ship on the Mount Hope Bay. On January 12, 1802, Thomas Borden and 155 other men signed a letter pleading for Fall River to become a town of its own because it was too far to travel to the meetinghouse on the north end of Freetown. –Sajeda Ahmed

We went to the bottom of the hill and pretended that we were British soldiers marching up the hill. Some kids hid behind the big rocks and pretended to shoot at us. The British soldiers could not run or hide. They had to stay in formation. The men who fought for our independence were called Patriots. Even though they did not wear uniforms, they were American soldiers. –Kristina Martins

150 British Soldiers marched up the hill in perfect rows. Col. Joseph Durfee and his men hid behind rocks and fired their muskets at the soldiers. Four British soldiers were injured during the battle, but only two of them died. –Micheala Cabral

I am stunned and amazed that a real battle happened in Fall River. That means that the Revolutionary War happened right here in our city! I am surprised that the men of the town fought so bravely and actually had the courage to fight for their freedom. –Vichara Kim

I could picture the Patriots hiding behind the rocks and trees. The muskets shot bullets called grape shot. They got this name because the bullet was the size and shape of a grape. –Samantha Whitehead

The North Burial Ground was kind of creepy but it was fun to fill out the cemetery survey form that Ms. Pavao gave to us. I found a grave with the name John Q. Adams and another with Colonel Joseph Durfee, a brave leader

during the Battle of Fall River. Mr. Jennings told us that two British soldiers were buried here, but they have no gravestones. I think they must have been buried far away from the regular people of the colony. –Jessica Miranda

Richard Borden was born in 1595. A descendant of Richard Borden arrived in America from England in 1636. He married Joan Fowle in 1625 and they had 12 children. He was taken prisoner by the British soldiers during the Battle of Fall River but he was released in just a few days. –Samantha Whitehead

Battle of Fall River Fact Sheet

- Started early in the morning on May 25, 1778
- Fall River was called Freetown at the time.
- A warship under the command of Major Ayers sailed up the Taunton River.
- Colonel Joseph Durfee asked permission from General Sullivan of Providence to gather a group of men to defend the town.
- Colonel Durfee built a guardhouse at the edge of the river.
- Samuel Reed saw the soldiers approaching and fired his musket to alarm the guardhouse.
- Hiding behind rocks and trees, the patriots fired at the 150 British soldiers marching up the hill in a stiff formation.
- The militia pushed the soldiers back to the ship.
- In retreat to the ship, the British troops burned Thomas Borden's home and mill.
- The fire was put out and the property was saved.
- Thomas Borden, an elderly man, was taken prisoner and held several days before being returned to the colony.
- Two British soldiers were killed—one died on the battlefield and one died shortly after the battle.
- The fallen soldiers were buried in the North Burial Ground but there are no grave markers.



Leaving the North Burial Ground cemetery.



Students record information about the city's ancestors.



The North Burial Ground was bought in 1825 and a townhouse was built on part of it. In 1836, this house was moved to Central Street and was used for meetings and voting until city hall was built in 1844. –Austin Cote

the stones were made of marble and others were made of slate. The slate ones seemed to be the oldest ones. –Austin Cote

We looked at the oldest gravestones that we could find. This is where I think the British soldiers would be, but maybe they were buried far from here because this spot was for local residents. It is a mystery. –Susan Hesketh

We looked at gravestones and then described them using a cemetery survey form. It was interesting to see the oldest gravestones in the cemetery. –Kristina Martins

Erika and I studied some of the gravestones that we saw. Some were very old and hard to read. Some of

The gravestones in the North Burial Ground are from pretty far back. We looked for the spot where two British soldiers might be buried. It is hard to find the place because there is no gravestone to mark it. –Serena Riley

The North Burial Ground cemetery was established in 1810 and is still used today.





“I don't think we will ever know where the British soldiers were buried in the North Burial Ground.”

–Susan Hesketh



On a late autumn day at the North Burial Ground, students get to practice hands on research.



The Quequechan River

Studying the topography and course of the Quequechan River exposes students to the distinctive characteristics that ultimately made it possible for our city to enjoy most opulent times. Viewing the river from various sites puts the river in historic perspective. The Quequechan River can have a renewed open future if all citizens become aware of its potential as a source for recreation and energy.

“The word ‘Quequechan’ is Native American meaning ‘falling waters.’ That’s where Fall River gets its name.” –Tiffany Borges

Quequechan Falls, downtown Fall River, circa 1928.

There was once a river that ran through Fall River called the Quequechan. Even though some of the river is still there, most of it is underground. There is still a beautiful waterfall but it is hidden. –Sajeda Ahmed

The bed of the Quequechan River is made of granite bedrock. The river has three environments: the fresh water inland environment, the falling water environment, and the salt water coastal environment. –Christian Braga





Views down old New Boston Road show the Fall River Ice House, circa 1930s, at the southwest corner of Interlochen (formerly Spencer Borden's estate), and the present-day ruins (right top and middle). At right is a view of the North Watuppa Reservoir from Interlochen.

“The lower North and South Watuppa Ponds meet at ‘The Narrows.’ The ponds are eight miles long and one mile wide. North Watuppa Pond is Fall River’s main reservoir.” – Amber Mello



Aerial view of Interlochen shows the peninsula's development around 1930. Note the Spencer Borden estate at the northeast corner; the farms at center; and the ice house near the bottom. The inset at lower right shows how today the woodlands have taken over this environmentally protected watershed.





Teacher Herb Tracy instructs students on the art of fly fishing . . .



. . . then demonstrates.

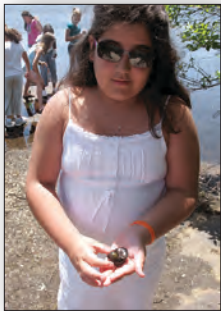
The source of the river is the beginning and the mouth is the end. The waterfall had a lot of force, kind of like Niagara Falls. We visited spots along the river and Watuppa Pond. –Vanessa Combs

The narrow place where the Quequechan River starts is called the source. We went behind Burlington Coat Factory to see the river close up. We saw a few ducks, but it's very cold today. –Micheala Cabral

I looked at beautiful pictures of downtown Fall River and the Quequechan River. I think that Fall River was so pretty then. I think that Fall River is not as nice now as it was then. I'm sad about all the litter that is in the river and all over the streets now. I am heartbroken to see how much people litter. –Amber Mello

Some of the animals in the Quequechan River include, the bald eagle, mallard ducks, swans, egrets, great blue heron, grebes, perch, bass, sunfish, pickerel, catfish and turtles. Some of the plant life includes, cattails, reeds, and pampas grass. Activities on the river include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and photography. Ponds nearby are the North and South Watuppa Ponds, Stafford Pond, Sawdy Pond, Cook Pond and Devol Pond. –Tiffany Borges

Students examine wildlife found along the river.

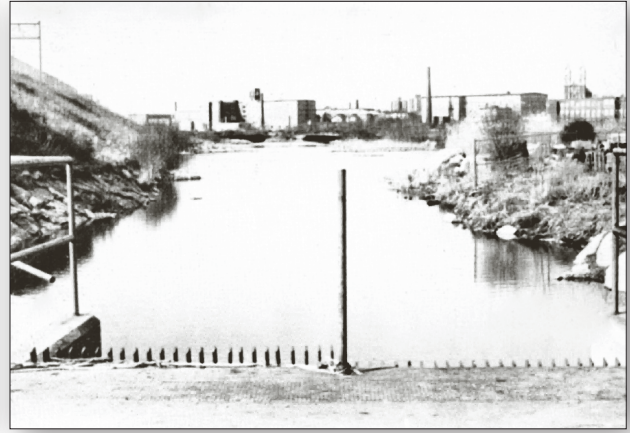


Doran and Greene students take a break.





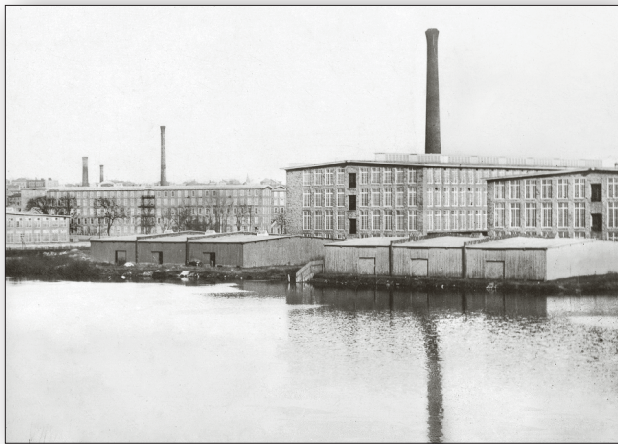
A man-made sluiceway directed water from the Quequechan River into the mills to be used for steam power.



View of the banks of the Quequechan River looking west from Quarry Street, 1982.

“The force of the water from the river used to make power for the mills before there was electricity.” –Sajeda Ahmed

Mills along the “straights” of the Quequechan River (below and bottom), 1930s.



An old railroad bridge crosses the Quequechan River near the Crescent Mill (built in 1872), 2009.





The last vestige of power emanating from the Quequechan is the fall running between the American Printing Company Mill No. 7 and the Metacommet Mill on Anawan Street.

There is a beautiful waterfall behind a mill near government center. I could hear the water before I could see it. It sounded like an open hose. When we got to the waterfall I was amazed. It looked like water dropping from the sky. Mr. Jennings said, "Don't get too close." I saw the tunnel where the water was going then Victoria went to the other side and said, "Look, that's the other side of the

tunnel!" I said, "Wow!!!" with full excitement. I can't wait to study waterfalls at home online. I just love watching the waterfall. It was amazing. -Micheala Cabral

A keystone is the piece of an arch that is at the center. If the keystone is put in place correctly, the arch will stay together without mortar or cement. -Sajeda Ahmed

Quequechan Falls, 1930, flows over and through a bed of granite.





Instructor Dave Jennings shows students the former location of the Quequechan Falls. Today, I-195 runs in its place.



In 1920s, the city built an aqueduct channeling the river underground, removing a traffic hazard.

The waterfall was nicer than I thought it would be. The water was shades of blue, yellow and white. I wish it looked cleaner, like the waterfalls in the Bahamas. I found out that the smaller the tunnel that a river runs through, the faster the water travels. –Kristina Martins

The Quequechan River has been piped under the city. A huge waterfall is down the street and behind a big mill on Anawan Street. The waterfall is very small and hidden. I never knew it was there, but now I want to show everybody. –Susan Hesketh

Before the river was channeled underground, it ran swiftly through the city. This view is taken in the downtown area.





Quequechan Falls, 1930s.

We looked at black and white photographs of how the waterfalls of the Quequechan River used to be. The river was frozen in the winter so it looked like you could slide on it! –Anthony Cabral

We looked at pretty pictures today of the Quequechan River and the waterfalls. They showed the falls in the winter when they were frozen. I read that the river is close to being a dead river. This makes me very sad. I want the waterfalls back and the river to be taken out of the underground pipes. –Laurel Boie

The bus stopped next to Work Out World and we walked up the hill. This is where the waterfall used to be but now it is underground in pipes. It would look better if the waterfall was still there instead of government center. –Micheala Cabral



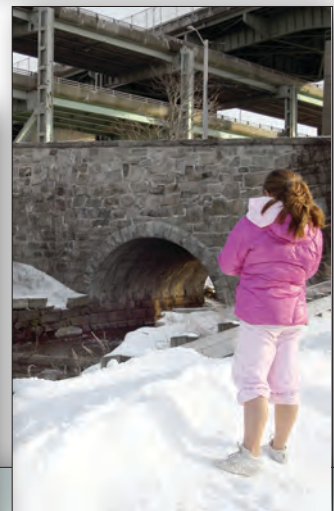
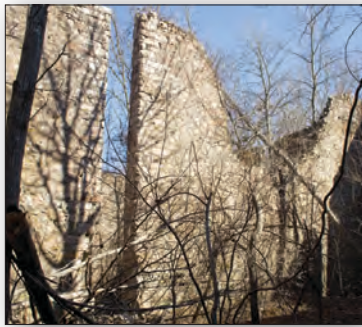
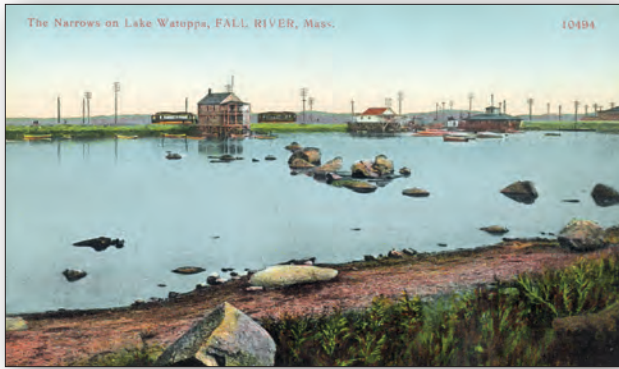
Boys scavenge wood where the falls once flowed, 1930s.

I was amazed. It's so beautiful and I wonder if there are other waterfalls in Massachusetts? I love waterfalls, this waterfall will always be special to me because it was the first one I have ever seen. –Marissa Aguiar

Fall River looks so pretty when you look at it closer and see so many nice sights. If I have a question, I can ask Mr. Tracy or Mr. Jennings and then I can write it in my journal. –Serena Riley

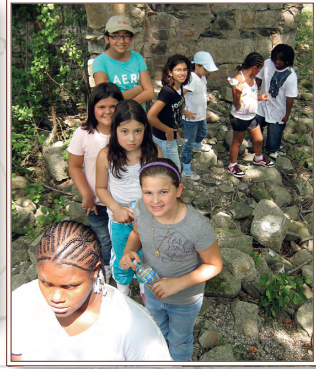
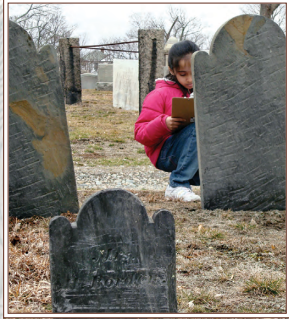
In the shadows of Route 9 near Battleship Cove, students gather to glimpse the river before it merges with the Taunton River.





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Published by Spinner Publications, Inc.