

## Introduction

Occasional issues of *Old-Time New England* devoted to special subjects are one way in which the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities may draw attention to new fields of study and preservation concern. Recent popular interest and scholarly activity devoted to the region's industrial heritage have fostered new relationships between preservationists, historians (social, architectural, and technological), and those recording these predominantly nineteenth century remains under the banner of "industrial archaeology". Efforts to preserve individual factories (as in Arlington, Massachusetts and Laconia, New Hampshire), mill villages (Harrisville, New Hampshire and N. Uxbridge, Massachusetts), and industrial cities (Lowell, Massachusetts and Manchester, New Hampshire) reflect the new recognition given the physical remains of New England's Industrial Revolution.

This issue is devoted to the early nineteenth century growth of the textile industry. Machine manufacture of cloth was the earliest and most prominent industry to be transformed by this second American revolution. Based in economics and technology, rather than politics and warfare, its battlefield was along the region's streams and rivers where manufacturing hamlets soon became the heart of new towns or cities, transforming the traditional rural New England landscape with an unprecedented building boom. The textile companies also provided a model of architecture and town planning for other forms of industry.

Charles Hammond reminds us that in many country towns this change was a

gradual supplanting of earlier uses of waterpower on an increasingly larger scale. The buildings which housed this new industry are the subject of Theodore Sande's study of Rhode Island, the state where English machines for powered spinning of cotton were first successfully duplicated in America.

In northern New England, manufacturing on a larger scale than was common in the "Rhode Island system" was first generated by the success of a small group of "Boston Associates" who founded an alternative factory system at Waltham, Massachusetts. While these Boston investors quickly imitated their initial success by founding the factory city of Lowell, others sought to apply the "Waltham system" by erecting new large factories for specialized products. Richard Candee's account of the building of a factory for calico printing at Dover, New Hampshire is the story of one attempt by such men to match the size and technology of contemporary English industrial practice.

These separate thematic studies of social and architectural history suggest the variety of New England's early industrialization and the vigor with which it was pursued. Nearly every town holds some physical reminder, often misunderstood or unappreciated, of this process which so dramatically reshaped the region's appearance over the course of the nineteenth century. There is still much to learn about these rapidly disappearing sites, but their significance might be further clarified by the kind of careful and detailed examination displayed by our current contributors.