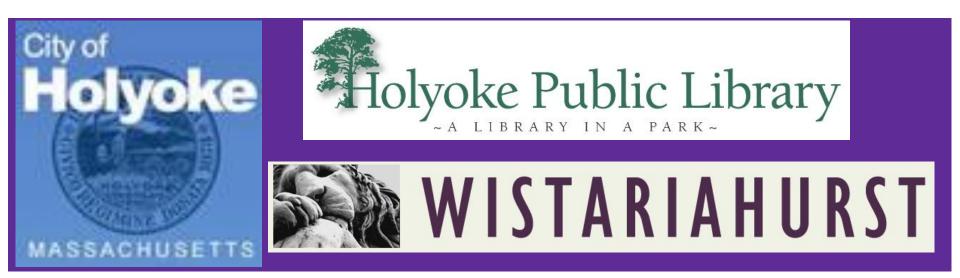
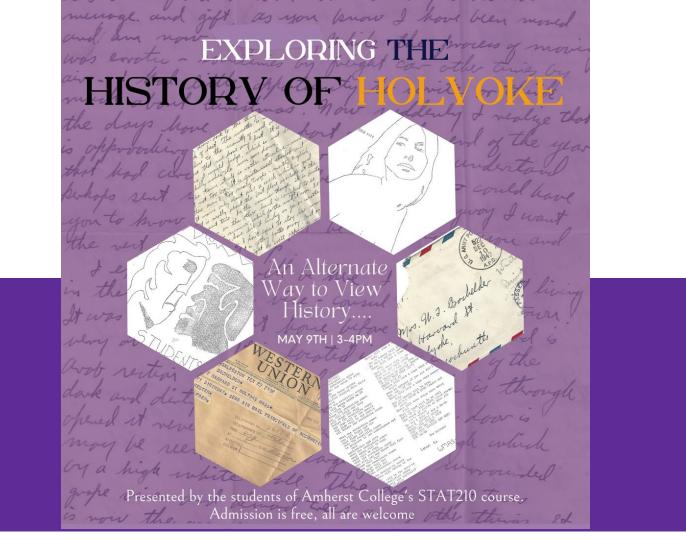
STAT210 (Mining the History of Holyoke) class presentations

May 9, 2023





Overview of the class (and plan for today)

Mining History Holyoke

Listed in: Mathematics and Statistics, as STAT-210

This course will focus on the use of text analytics to explore the rich history of Holyoke, MA. Holyoke has been a site of rapid industrialization, multiple waves of immigration and migration, urban development, rapid changes in its workforce, and ongoing creativity, activism, and innovation. Students will develop the skills to mine textual data from archives at the Wistariahurst Museum, the Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke Community College, and other repositories to address important questions regarding the development and history of this planned community. Topics include sentiment analysis, regular expressions, document-termmatrices, named entity recognition, and Latent Dirichlet analysis. Requisite:



DATA SCIENCE CORPS

WRANGLE•ANALYZE•VISUALIZE

A multi-institution, NSF-funded data science workforce development project





Thanks to NSF Grant #1923388

Many thanks:

- DSC-WAV collaborators Ileana Vasu, Nic Schwab, and Eric Carreira
- Amherst College staff and faculty Zoe Jacobs, Frank Couvares, Tim Pinault, Kathy Glista, and Cara Bostrom
- Rachel Powell from Wistariahurst
- Julia Riseman for assistance with scanning and logistics
- The Amherst College Provost Office and the Feldman Fund

Special thanks to Penni Martorell

WISTARIAHURST





Special thanks to Eileen Crosby







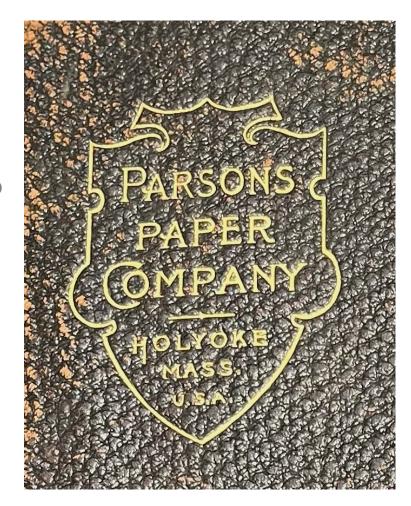


Parsons Paper Company

The Parsons Paper Company was an American pulp and paper company specializing in cotton-based fine writing papers, based in Holyoke, Massachusetts (Wikipedia, see also Constance Green's history of Holyoke).

Founded in 1853 by Joseph C. Parsons, it was the first paper manufacturer in the city.

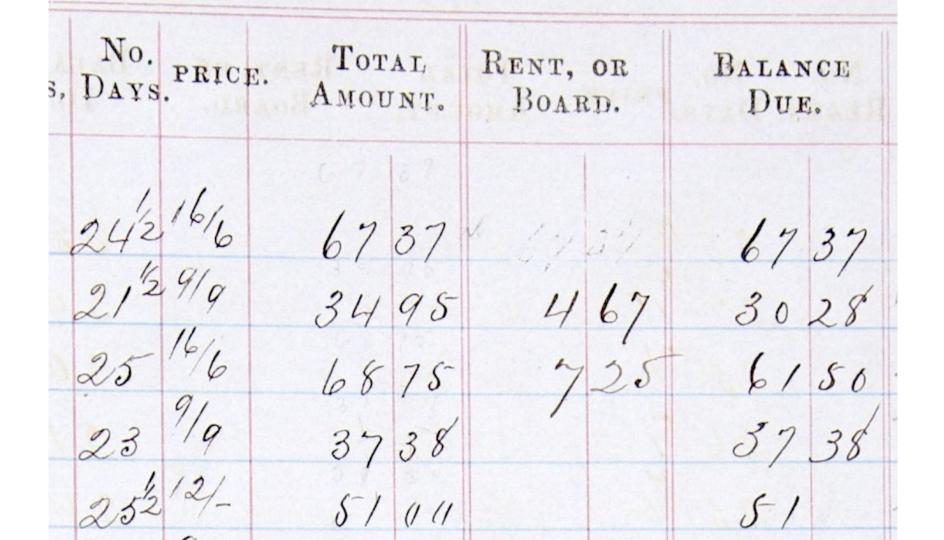
The company was liquidated in 2005 and the company's primary mill burned in a large fire.



Parsons Paper Company register

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NAMES.	No. Pounds.	No. Reams,	No. Days	PRICE.	Total, Amount,	Rent, or Board.	BALANCE DUE.	DATE.	SIGNATURES.
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Parsons Paper Company register and Revenue Stamps

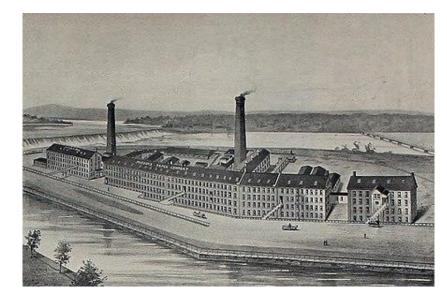
Revenue stamps first appear on page 133 (October 1, 1864)

Some pages were cut out to extract stamps



Importance of Archival Work: Nahia and Kevin

- Holyoke was founded as a company town
- Much of its history (19th, 20th, and 21st) is tied to the paper industry
- These people **ARE part of this history**
- Goal 1: Gain meaningful insights to this time period
- Goal 2: Make this history more accessible
- Digitizing historical archives is very important for preservation and future reference



Parsons Paper Company factory

Example of Digitizing a Page

- 1. The pages were scanned with a Canon 5d Mark II camera.
- 2. They were downloaded as CR2 camera file to a tiff file
- 3. The tiff files were downloaded and manually cropped and color balanced (see Figure).
- 4. A jpeg file was created for each photo.

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Interactive Web App

An interactive display can be found at https://r.amherst.edu/apps/nhorton/Parsons-Paper/

Parsons Paper Company Payroll Register Exploration About Pages

Image output:

Picture: O page 000 O page 001 page 002 O page 003 O page 004 O page 005 O page 006 O page 007 O page 008 O page 009 O page 010 O page 011 O page 012 O page 013 O page 014 O page 015 O page 016 O page 017 O page 018 O page 019 O page 020 O page 021 O page 022 O page 023 O page 024

Received of the PARSON: - Rag Room_ being in f NAMES. Po

Scanned images

All of the scans can be found on Google Drive (see

https://github.com/STAT210-S23/Parsons_Paper_Register)

Parsons_Paper_Register

1860's register of the Parsons Paper Company (Holyoke, MA)

Initial scans January 10, 2023 by Nicholas Horton (nhorton@amherst.edu) as part of the STAT210 (Mining the History of Holyoke) class Subsequent scans take on February 21, 2023 for pages 249, 254, 287, 320, 338, 368)

Many thanks to Eileen Crosby (Holyoke Public Library), Tim Pinault (Amherst College), and Zoe Jacobs Feinstein (Amherst College) for their assistance with this project.

Insights from the Parsons Paper Company Register

Anna & Sarah

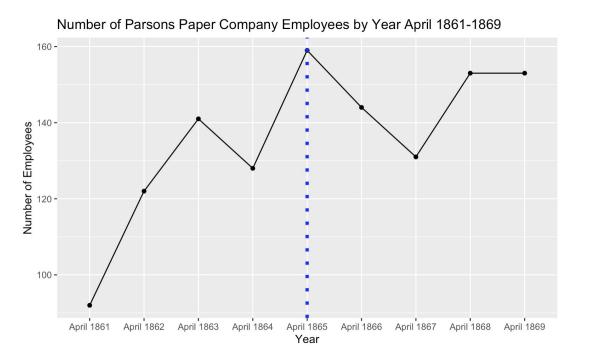
- Review contents of the register (Jan 1861 April 1869)
- Discuss employment patterns and types of jobs within the factory
- Present an analysis of wages
 - Parsons Paper Company vs. Paper Industry State Averages
 - Male vs. Female workers
 - Literate vs. Illiterate workers

Insights from the Parsons Paper Company Register

- Parsons was already the largest manufacturer of writing + envelope paper in the U.S. by 1861 (Green 1939)
- Employees were typically paid on the first of each month
- Goal was to explore patterns in employment and wage structure both before and after the civil war
 - Provide insight into the day-to-day operations at Parsons
 - Who did what work, and how were they compensated for it?

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Employment Patterns



*blue line denotes end of Civil War in April 1865, war began in April 1861

- Average of 136 employees per month over 9-year period
- Generally increased each year, especially at end of Civil War: high retention rates
- By the end of 1867, Parsons was producing 800 tons of paper annually

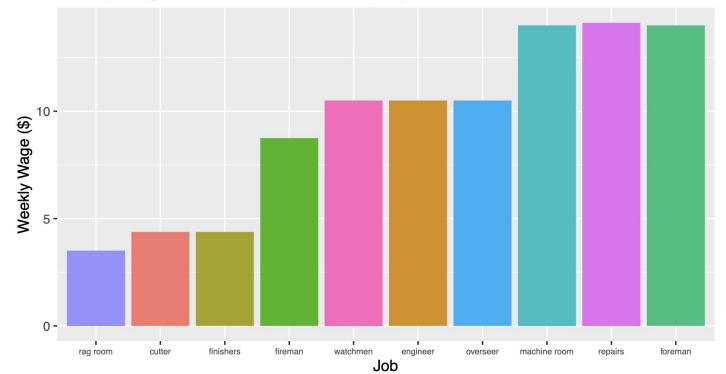


7. Eleanor Thayer, Rag Room Worker. Parsons Paper Company. 1990.

8. Rag Choppers at Parsons Paper Company. 1990.

Faces, Machines, and Voices: The Fading Landscape of Papermaking in Holyoke, Massachusetts (1992)

Weekly Wages of Parsons Paper Company Workers - 1861



"In 1861, after a period of severe readjustment just prior to the Civil War, twenty- one of the thirty-six manufactures of fine papers met at Pittsfield...to organize a protective association. They desired to raise prices which had fallen drastically as the result of a decrease in demand. **They agreed to** *reduce output* by about one-third for about three months. *This was the first* trade association established in the paper industry of the United States....The Parsons Paper Company and the Carew Manufacturing Company were charter members of this organization"

- - - - - .

John Hickey, The Holyoke Area Paper Industry (1954)

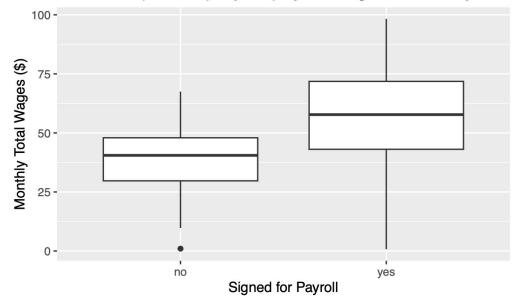
Job	Weekly Wages
repairs	14.12
foreman	14.00
machine room	14.00
repairs	12.25
machine room	11.79
engineer	10.50
overseer	10.50
watchmen	10.50
fireman	8.75
watchmen	7.00
finishers	4.38
cutter	4.38
rag room	3.50
rag room	3.50

	Р	APEI	? .						
Foremen .								\$16	63
Millwrights				•	•			9	86
Rag-engine tend		•	•		•			7	90
Paper-machine		rs		•				10	00
Thresher-wome.	n		•					ð	70
Rag-cutters			•		•			7	50
Finishers .			•	•				7	70
Finishers, girls		•				•	•		92
Finishers, boys				•	•	•		263	50
Finishers' helpe	rs			•	•				80
Cutters .	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		90
Cutters, girls		•	•	•	•	•	•		40
Bleachers .	•	•		•		•	•		70
Rag-sorters	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		27
Men on stock		٠	•	•		•	•		88
Mechanics .		•	•	•	•	•	•		75
Engineers and f	ireme	en	•	•	•	•	•	6	64
Laborers .				•	•		•	5	50

Parsons Weekly Wages - 1861 (dollars)

Average statewide wages for paper roles in 1860 (dollars). Image from the Massachusetts Tenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor.

Parsons Paper Company Employees Wages vs. Literacy



This plot shows the distribution of total monthly wages for 44 employees at Parsons Paper Company in Feb. 1867. Literacy is measured by an employee's ability to sign their own name in the payroll. On average, employees who were literate earned higher wages.

The people behind the Parsons Paper Company register

Cam and Lorraine

Ancestry.com info

about the Allen Family

Some worked as finishers

Jarah Camp	22 57-	1875
Many Smith	Stranfud 22 6/	22/11
A. Toron.	3430 441	13 72
John Dane	61. 12128449258	2868
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Any cecuri	1/2 2462373 11	13 73
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6. Ab Lord,	797 2 "	1594
Martha Wright	758 2 "	1516
8. Forlinson	1.1 11 8 2 "	2216
S. Beauregard	9112 2 "	1804
may Doner	1.5/15 2 "	3111
Mary Holland	Au 311 2 2	6211
Mary Course	561 22 22	14111

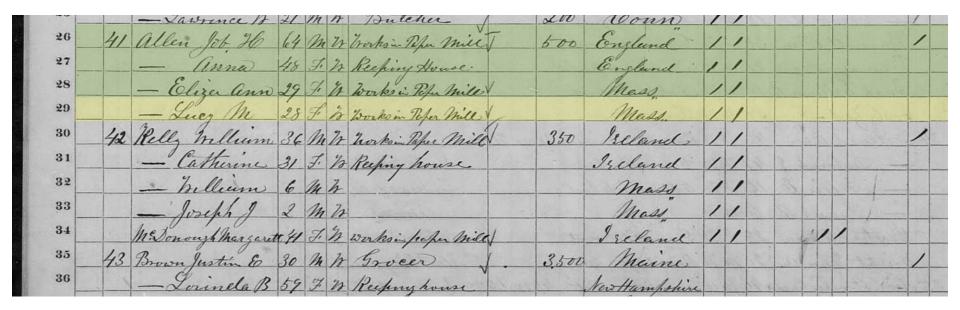
Lucy and Eliza Allen (1841-?) on page 259

Lucy M Allen in the 1870 United States Federal Census

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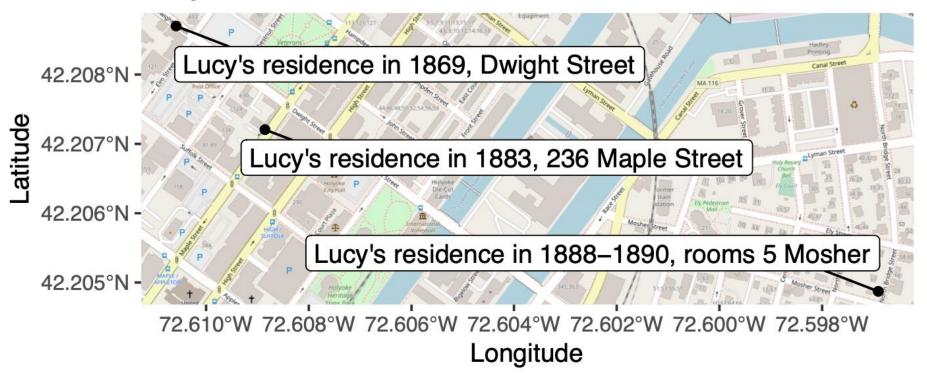
	Detail	Source	
Name:	Lucy M	Allen	
Age in 1870:	28		
Birth Date:	abt 184	2	
Birthplace:	Massa	chusetts	
Dwelling Number:	42		
Home in 1870:	Holyok	e, Hampden, Massa	chusetts
Race:	White		
Gender:	Female	9	
Post Office:	Holyok	e	
Occupation:	Works	in Paper Mill	
Father of Foreign Birth:	Yes		
Mother of Foreign Birth:	Yes		
Inferred Father:	Job H	Allen	
Inferred Mother:	Anna A	llen	
Household Members (Vame)		Age
Job H Allen			64
Anna Allen			48
Eliza Ann Allen			29
Lucy M Allen			28

Lucy Allen (1842-1893) Profile on Ancestry.com



1870 United States Federal Census Taken From Ancestry.com

Lucy's Places of residence



Segue to end of semester project presentations

Early in the semester, students worked to make the Parsons Paper Company scans accessible.

For the remainder of the semester, they worked on other projects.

But Cam continued to dive into the payroll register...

More Parsons Paper Company payroll register

• Transcribed the names of the employees for over 80

pages of the register

- Recorded more than 500 different people
- Sharing this information with the library so that others

can use it for genealogy purposes or add to it

Lucay 11 à auren PP 44

page_number	lastname	firstname
1	Ordway	F.W.
1	Pomeroy	William J.
1	Ferris	James S.
1	Divine	James
1	Jopson	William
1	Wrinkle	Lawrence
1	Perry	William
1	Burr	James M.
1	Alarr	Peter

Page 1 of the registry

Beginning of the transcription of page 1

Some of the Things I Found...

• Remember the Allens?

1	Job H. Allen	28
2	Lucy Allen	28
3	Mary Dower	28
4	Michael Ryan	28
5	William J. Pomeroy	28
6	Louisa Emerson	27
7	Patrick Beegin	27
8	William Jofson	27
9	Eliza A. Allen	26
10	John Flynn	26

Top 10 Most Frequent Names

Probability of Continued Employment



Survival Analysis Graph

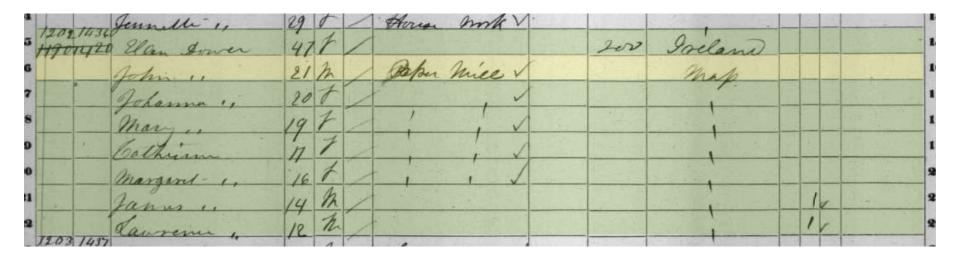
Genealogical Insights

- Which last names appeared the most?
 - Family-members?

1	Dower	10
2	Perry	7
3	Sullivan	7
4	Beegin	6
5	Bolton	6
6	Allen	5
7	Casey	5
8	Doyle	5
9	Lanahan	5
10	Sheehan	5

Top 10 most common last names

The Dowers



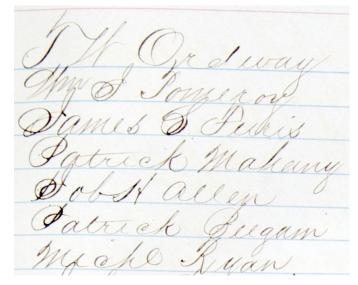
Dower information from the 1860 census

When Did the Accountants Change?

• Handwriting changes on page 97 (1863-10-01)



Top of page 96 (1863-09-01)



Top of page 97 (1863-10-01)

Kevin: Reverse Directory

- 1905 Holyoke companies first published a "reverse directory"
 - Given address, report who lives there instead of given person report the address
- Convenient in tracking down the history of any given location
- In 2013, the Internet Archive digitized the 1885
 Holyoke Directory and provided a txt file
 conversion of the pdf
 - ~40,000 Total Lines of text
 - ~10,000 Lines for addresses

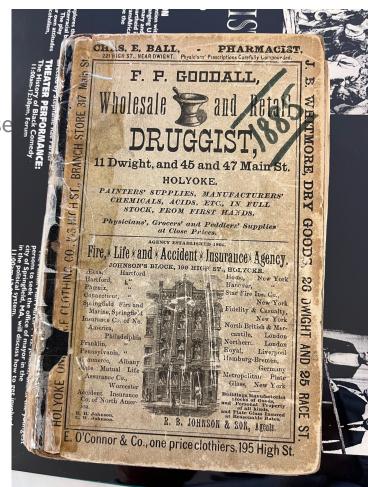


Photo taken by Nicholas Horton

Goals

- 1. **Clean up** the text file: formatting issues, text corruptions, and other miscellaneous mistakes
- 2. Automate a process to **Parse** through the strings to collect address information of individuals
 - Many different types of strings, i.e., businesses, removed to other locations, and other personal details
- 3. **Output** to a CSV/excel file for ease of use and accessibility
- 4. **Give access** to Eileen and the Holyoke Public Library History Room as an important genealogical resource

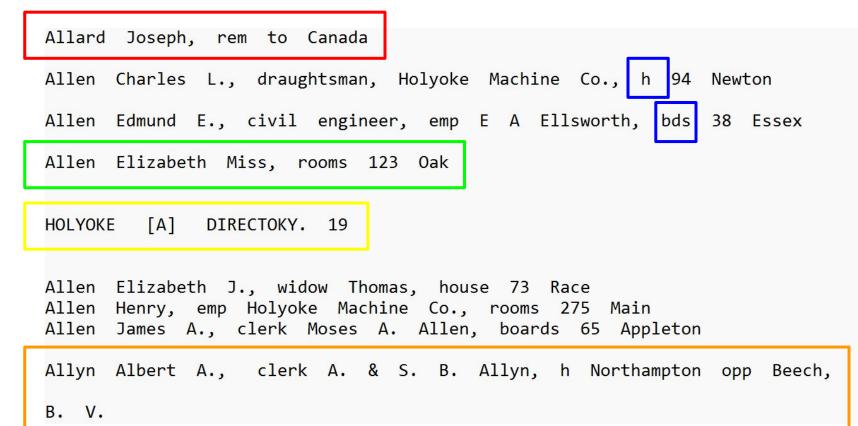
Example Errors

Brown James M., C. R. R. R. bridge-keeper, h Riverside n bridge Brown John, emp Valley Paper Co., rooms 7 Main John, emp Holyoke Warp Co., house 518 Main Brown John L., emp Merrick Thread Co., rooms 35 Newton Brown John N. (Buchanan, Bolt & Co.), house 192 Beech Brown John S., emp Albion Paper Co , boards 50 Center Brown Joseph, painter, emp Dean & Wheelock, bds 23 Hampden Brown Joseph, boards 51 Newton Brown

3 X P <

CD

Example Text Input



Example Output

Street	Address	Last Name	Names
Maple	208	Whiting	William B.
Maple	212	Perry	George LI.
Maple	236	Hubbard	J. Clark
Maple	237	Blanchard	William H.
Maple	237	Griffith	J. Eveleth
Mosher	5	Richards	Charles H.
Mosher	6	Bissland	James H.

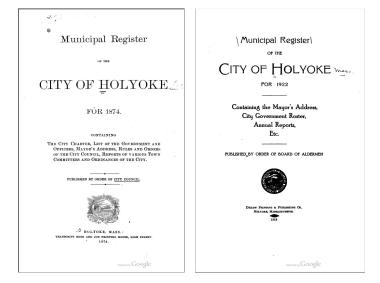
Nahia: the municipal reports



City of Holyoke Municipal Registries

What are they?

- A Registry is an authoritative list of information. These Municipal Registries serve as Government Reports where they published reports and information for each year.
- There are 28 Holyoke Reports available on Google Books (see listing at the Holyoke Public Library): 1874-1922.



Increasing Accessibility

Much of this work is already done by having them accessible as PDFs, but that is the only form that they can be consumed as.

- By having them as txt files, we can apply text analytical techniques
- Possible other applications, such as text to speech for accessibility

All of the reports have been run through and the full texts are available.

PDF to TXT

Long story short...

- Created a function that automates the conversion process of PDF documents into txt files by using **Tesseract OCR** technology.
- https://nahia.shinyapps.io/PDFtoTXT/

Convert from PDF to TXT using Tesseract OCR

Choose PDF File

Browse	No file selected		

This app utilitizes the tesseract package in R, an open source OCR engine. More information on how to use it can be found here .

The program may take a couple of minutes, especially for more complex or multipage documents.

Board of Health Exploration

Pulled out the sections of the reports related to the Board of Health as it existed and changed.

- What can we learn about the structure of these reports over time?
- What language and sentiments are used in them?
- What are the topics overseen by the board of health?
- What were the responsibilities of the Board of Health?

These files will be available for others to see

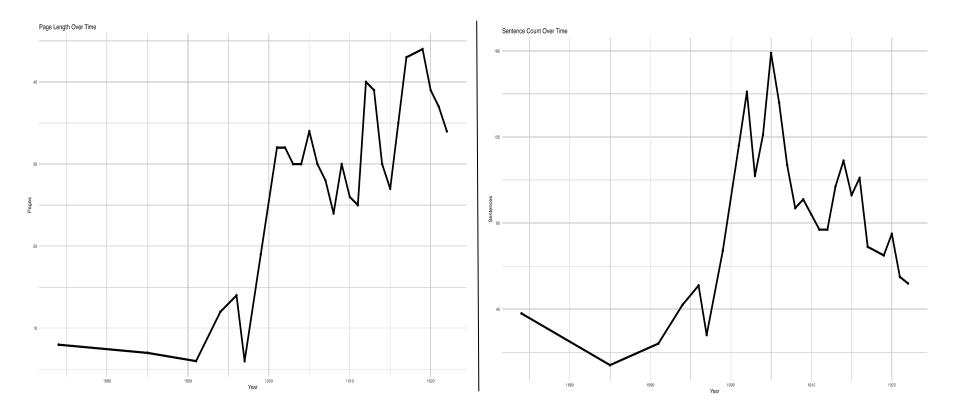
Board of Health Structure

- The reports will summarize the health of the city overall and the work that the Board (or particular members) did throughout.
- Tables will be provided with the year's statistics
 - Stillbirths, cases of diseases, etc.
 - These are not well read by the conversion process
- Occasionally Recommendations or Requests will be made for the upcoming year.

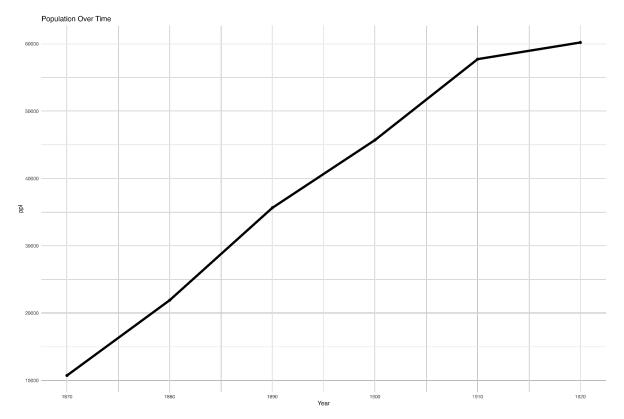
Board of Health Structure cont.

- 1902 the **City Physician** starts submitting reports under the Board of Health.
- 1901 the **Board of Plumbing's** report starts occurring under the Board of Health
- 1907 the **Inspector of Milk, Vinegar, and Petroleum** starts submitting reports under the Board of Health.
- Sometime between 1899 and 1901, a **Bacteriologist** position is established.

Board of Health Report Length

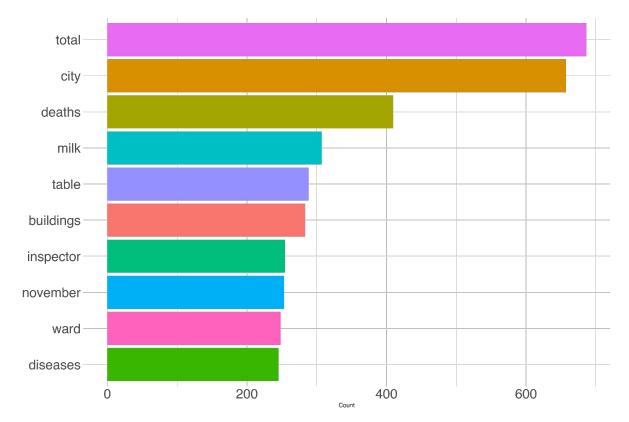


Holyoke Population



Less space taken up by narrative, more taken up by tables

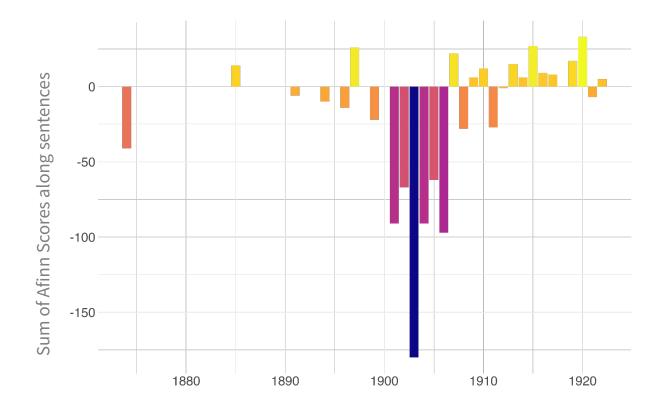
Board of Health Common Words



Board of Health Common Words cont.



Board of Health Sentiment



Board of Health Sentiment cont.

[1] "report of board of health. jelly destroyed pails, .,, cheese destroyed pounds, canned goods destroyed cans, ., butter destroyed pounds,. . cabbage destroyed heads, ,. leeks destroyed bunches, . ."

- Part of a report by the Health Officer in which he breaks down the reason for 3 licences to peddle vegetables were refused.
- 1899 to 1909 had similar reports

Board of Health Sentiment cont.

Positive words

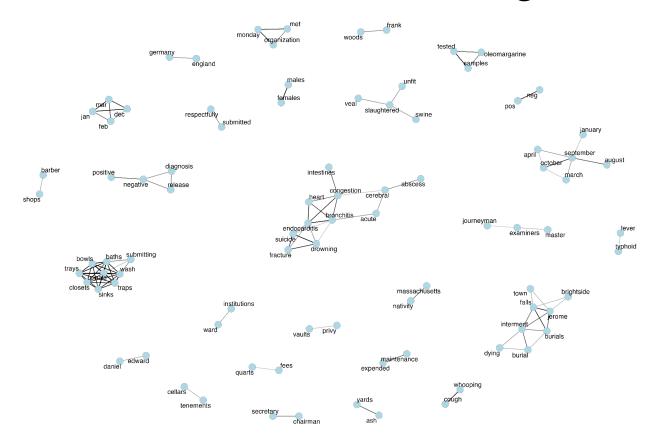


Negative words

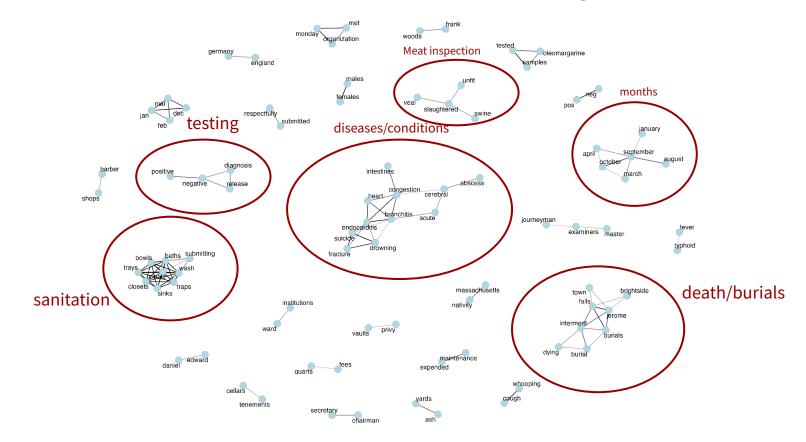
destroyed admitted danger accidental criticism block pay dead traumatic violence Condemned issanity afficted prosecution contagion dump injury fatalities prosecuted gueres isolated pressure affected b troubles isolated pressure affected b troubles accident illowest bytken blocks cut died nervous guident blocks cut died nervous guident blocks cut died nervous guident

warnings cancer stopped menace poison suicide suspected charged prevent demands annoyance

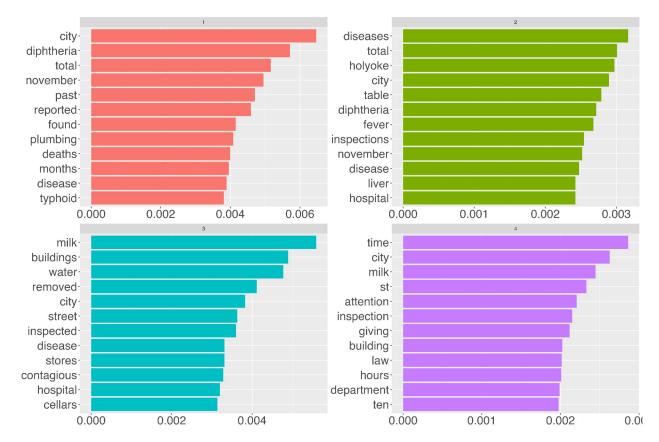
Board of Health Correlation Modeling



Board of Health Correlation Modeling



Board of Health Exploration

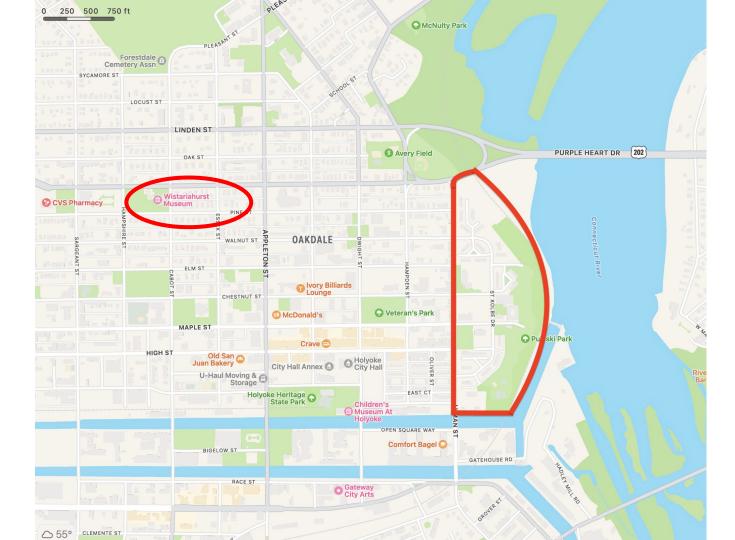


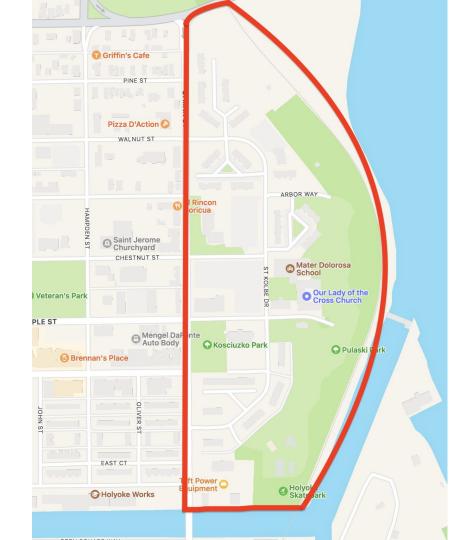
Board of Health Structure cont.

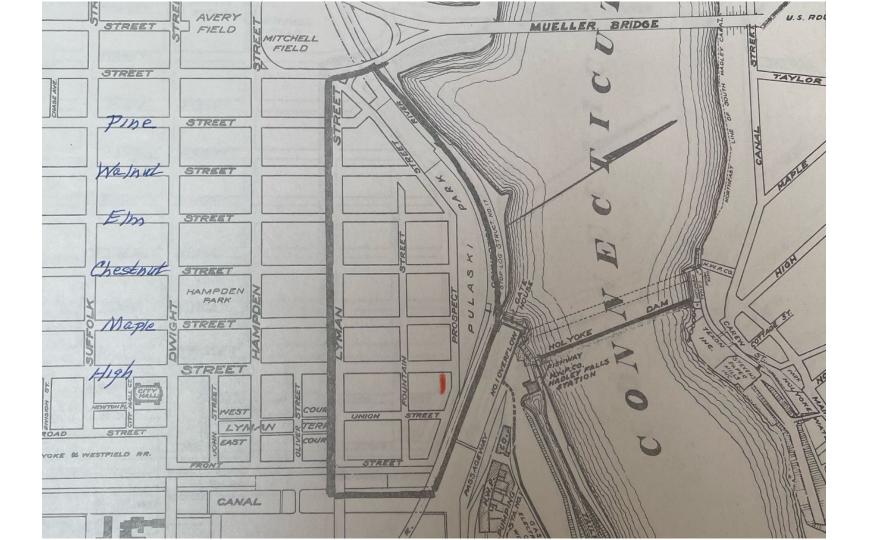
- 1. General Reporting (city, total, months, reported...)
- 2. Disease Reporting (disease, total, fever, liver, disphtheria)
- 3. Action Items (buildings, removed, inspections, contagious)
- 4. Administrative (law, city, department)

Sarah and Lorraine: Riverview Urban Renewal Project

- Created a detailed overview of the archival information of the urban renewal project that took place in the 1960s.
- Created a spreadsheet that allows searching by address
- Organized scans and made them accessible
- Designed an app that individuals can access and track down the properties that existed before.







Name

	IMG_1047.png
	IMG_1048.png
11	IMG_1049.png
	IMG_1050.png
	IMG_1052.png
-	IMG_1053.png
	IMG_1054.png
	IMG_1055.png
	IMG_1056.png
	IMG_1057.png
	IMG_1058.png
	IMG_1059.png
	IMG_1060.png
	NO 1061 PPG

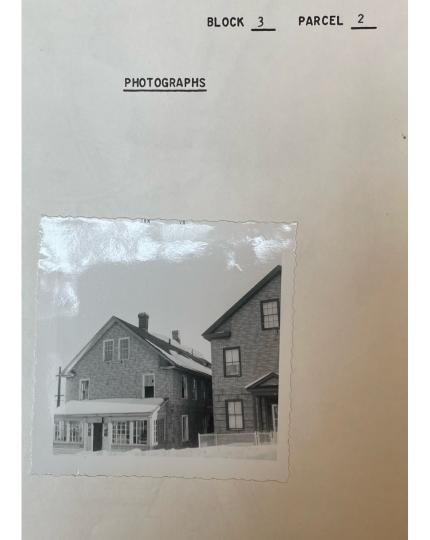
riverview_organized

Name

<

block_01_parcel_04_photo_01.png block_02_parcel_01_info.png block_02_parcel_05_info.png block_02_parcel_05_map_01.png block_03_parcel_01_info.png block_03_parcel_01_map_01.png block_03_parcel_01_photo_01.png block_03_parcel_02_info.png block_03_parcel_02_map_01.png block_03_parcel_02_photo_01.png block_03_parcel_03_info.png block_03_parcel_03_map_01.png block_03_parcel_03_photo_01.png







PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION							
BLOCK NO. 3	C 22000000	PARCEL NO. 2					
PROPERTY ADDRESS	8-10 High Street						
OWNED BY	Ronald G. Giguere & Pauline Bernier						
OWNER ADDRESS	64 Hanover St., West Springfield, Mass.						
DATE ACQUIRED	6/28/67						
GRANTOR	Thomas & Alice Giguere						
DEED REFERENCE	BOOK 3267	PAGE 489					
STAMPS	None						
ASSESSED VALUE							
BUILDINGS	LAND	TOTAL					
Wood Block \$2,400.	\$1,500.	\$3,900.					

Property Information Spreadsheet

Rive	erview Renewal Urk	oan Project	About	Property Information	Resources	Unique property dis	splay			
This	This tab displays information about individual buildings									
									Search:	
	file_name	👌 block 👌	parcel	property_location	owner	owner_address 🍦	data_acquired 🍦	grantor 🍦	deed_reference_book	deed_reference_page
1	block_02_parcel_01_i	nfo 2		Union & Prospect Streets	Whiting Oil Corp.	1 Fountain Street, Holyoke, Mass.				
2	block_02_parcel_05_i	nfo 2	! {	Westerly side Front Street, Fountain Street and Prospect Street	Whiting Oil Corporation	458 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Mass.				
3	block_03_parcel_01_i	nfo 3		16-20 Prospect Street	Theodore J. & Tita V. Dec	1663 Northampton Street, Holyoke, Mass.				
4	block_03_parcel_02_i	nfo 3	. 2	2 8-10 High Street	Ronald G. Giguere & Pauline Bernier	64 Hanover St., West Springfield, Mass.	24651.0	Thomas & Alice Giguere	3267.0	489.0
5	block_03_parcel_03_i	nfo 3		3 14-16 High Street	Bronislaw & Stefania Lukomski	16 High Street, Holyoke, Mass.	19854.0	Leopold J. & Stelia A. Kozlowski	2309.0	116.0

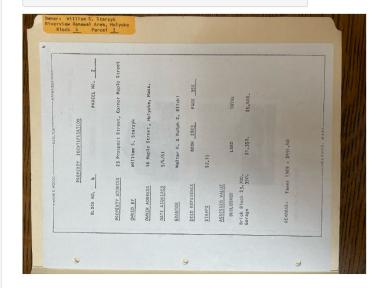
To view specific information about a property, click on a column labeled 'Property' in the left-hand panel. The corresponding data, including initial building location, owner, value before demolition, and photos, will be displayed on the right-hand side of the screen, 'Property information'.

Property:

- O block_01_parcel_04
- O block_02_parcel_01
- O block_02_parcel_05
- O block_03_parcel_01
- O block_03_parcel_02
- O block_03_parcel_03
- O block_03_parcel_04
- O block_03_parcel_05
- O block_03_parcel_06
- O block_03_parcel_07
- O block_03_parcel_10
- O block_03_parcel_11
- O block_04_parcel_01
- block_04_parcel_02
- O block_04_parcel_03
- O block_04_parcel_04
- O block_04_parcel_05
- \bigcirc block_04_parcel_06
- block_04_parcel_07
- O block_04_parcel_08
- O block_04_parcel_09
- \bigcirc block_05_parcel_02
- O block 05 parcel 03.

Property information:

For this property, there are:
 1 information page(s)
 1 photo page(s)
 1 map page(s)
This property was located in 23 Prospect Street, Cor





Holyoke History Room Deliverables

Parsons Paper Company register scans (and partial list of employees)

1886 reverse directory: spreadsheet sorted in multiple ways for genealogical support

Municipal Reports: transcriptions for multiple years for several reports

Riverview Renewal Project: spreadsheet mapping from block/parcel to address and archive of scans and interactive display

https://github.com/STAT210-S23/STAT210-Holyoke-History-Room

They will be donated to the Holyoke Public Library History Room collection to be made accessible via Digital Commonwealth

Sarah and Lorraine: Bachelder letters at Wistariahurst

		Dear Mothe Canteen.	Here I e Not that I Not that I t I much re t I mort hand ther	n again writ have gone to ther write o meately I ce SYMBOLS
CLASS OF SERVICE This is a full-rate Telegram unless its de- ferred character is in- dicated by a suitable symbol above or pre- ceding the address.	WHITE WEITER	ON TON J. G. WILL		Day Letter Night Letter C= Deferred Cable F=Cable Night Letter Ship Radiogram
MRS W F BACHELD 2 HARVARD	ST HOLYOKE MASS		1940 OCT 29	PM 9 03
HAPPY BIRTHDAY	SEND AIR MAIL P	RINCIPALS O	F ACCOUNT	ring
BY KESTER		26155		
FRED	TELEPHONE No. TELEPHONED T TIME 97. BY NITEMPTS DELIVER	0 adre		

letters

- The Bachelder Letters Collection contains 135 documents, comprised of letters and a few telegrams and cards
- Letters from Julia and Walter Frederick (Fred) to their mother Selma, who lived at 2 Harvard Street in Holyoke
- Spans 1927-1953 most are from WWII time period

Julia Bloodgood Bachelder

- Born February 7, 1915
- Attended Wellesley College
- Worked at Compton Advertising
- Joined the NYTimes as a secretary to the war desk (under Hanson Baldwin) and later as a picture editor for both the Sunday Book Review (under Francis Brown) and Tuesday Science Section

Walter Frederick (Fred) Bachelder

- Born November 12, 1918 in Holyoke, MA.
- Attended Deerfield Academy, Dartmouth, and the Tuck Business School
- Served in WWII and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)
- President of family business, Testing Machines, Inc.



WWII training at Camp Hulen, Texas. 211th Anti-aircraft artillery, Massachusetts National Guard (Digital Commonwealth)

Extracting Text

We are now allowed to tell you where we are and were. You probably know that I landed in Oran, went from there to Tunis, then back to Algiers, from there to Bari, Italy, then up the land to Florence. In the last city I made my headquarters but travelled up along the Fifth Army front when it was facing the so-called Gothic line in the rugged Appenines. About a month ago I left Florence and came back to Cecina, a town south of Leghorn. Now I am in a hospital right on the coast a few miles south of Cecina. Soon I hope to be in America.

I cannot go into detail as to what I did. In the fi rst place it would be to involved and possibly misleading, secondly I cannot say for security reasons everything. However you might be interested in reading "Two Yanks Make an Army" in May 'American Magazine'. It will throw a little light on the subject.

Love to all,

Extracting Text

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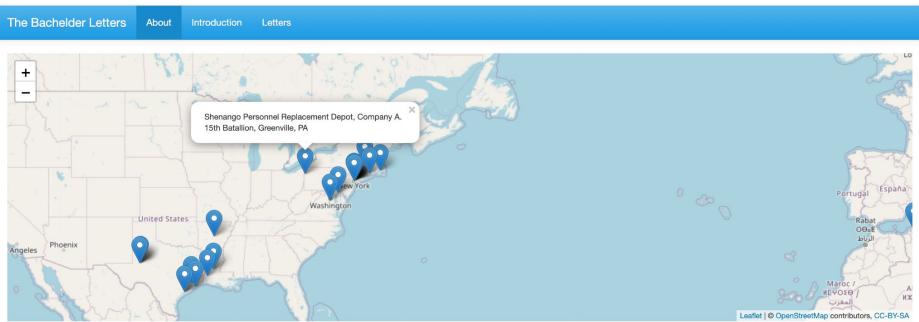
Love to all, Fred.



MIDLAND ARMY CENTER 210 WEST TEXAS AVENUE Midland, Texas

my address is -god fl. 2. Company A. 15TH Battalion S. P. R. D Greenville, Pannylvania.

Interactive Map & Letter Viewer



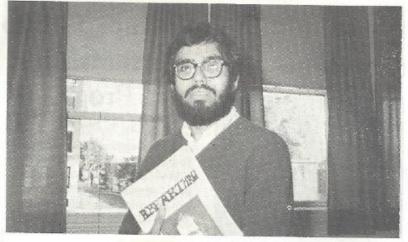
The Bachelder Letters Collection contains 135 documents, comprised of mostly letters but also telegrams. According to Penni Martorell, 76 of these letters are from Walter Frederick (Fred) Bachelder to his mother Selma Bachelder. The rest are from Julia Bachelder (minus a few signed by his daughter Susan). The early letters are handwritten, but several of the later letters are typed. The collection spans many years (1927-1953), but there are also some letters/telegrams that are undated. There is only one letter from the 1930s (written by Julia to her mother in 1932). Interestingly, some of the letters have parts that are cut out or whited out. For example, on December 8, 1943 Fred writes to his mother telling him where the Army has moved him, yet the part where he writes the location is covered with whiteout.

Anna: Insights from the Carlos Vega archive at Wistariahurst



Who Was Carlos Vega?

- Carlos Alberto Vega was born in Quito, Ecuador in 1950 and immigrated to Holyoke at the age of five
- From 1956-2012, Vega established himself as one of the city's most tireless and influential community activists
 - Advocate for affordable housing, anti-war movement, racial justice, voting + civil rights
- Co-founded Nueva Esperanza in 1982, ran for public office + spearheaded public initiatives
 - Community development organization w/ focus on safe, affordable housing



"I have heard that there is a lot of apathy here and I don't want to be a part of it."-Carlos Vega.

> Vega holding a copy of *Breakthru* in a 1969 issue of *The Phoenix*

About the Carlos Vega Archive

- Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History in Holyoke contains news clippings, letters, & memorabilia collected between 1958-2012 (43 boxes of material)
- Make community newsletters from Vega's early years as a budding political activist more widely accessible
 - Oracle (later renamed Breakthru) Holyoke High School (1968-70)
 - **The Phoenix** Holyoke Community College (1969-71)
 - The Community Builder published by Nueva
 Esperanza in Spanish + English (1984-89)
- Topics explored: anti-Vietnam War movement; Black, Native American, immigrant, and labor rights; freedom of speech + student protests; educational reform





Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History in Holyoke, 1958-2012 [*bulk: 1970-2005*] 43 boxes (24.5 linear ft.) Collection number: 2011.1.2

Abstract

The Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History in Holyoke consists of administrative files, electoral and legal documents, scholarly works, memorabilia, and news clippings illustrating myriad facets of the social, political, and cultural Latino experience in Holyoke. The organizational records of Nueva Esperanza, which Vega co-founded and directed, as well as the minutes, budgets, memoranda, and grant proposals composed by various grassroots organizations, citizens' groups, and community foundations, demonstrate the allencompassing scope, collaboarive paradigm, and remarkable accomplishments of the programs that Vega developed, implemented, and inspired thoughout the course of his life.

Making the Carlos Vega Newsletters Accessible

1969 issue of Oracle

EDIFORIAL

In the past year many high school students have begun to realize what this world is like, the injustices inflicted on man by his own brothers. In growing aware, they have become active in denouncing their inadequate administrative heads. They want a voice in the forming of school policies. They are tired of puppet student governments. The administration's ignorance and stubborness breed these revolts.

Underground papers, like this and some more radical, have sprung from one part of this country to the other in high schools. Why? <u>Dissatisfaction</u> with the rules that try to regulate our lives, bodies, and souls; <u>awaroness</u> of the malfunctioning courses and teachers that in no way serve our need of preparing us for the world; <u>dress</u> <u>codes</u> which have nothing to so with the institution's business-education.

1) Collect **png** scan of original newsletter

EDILOKIAL

In theo pist vetr miny hich school students hove begun to reclize whet this world is like the injustices inflicted on man by his own brothers. In growing ww84re, they hove bocone :ctive in denouncing their invwd-quite administrative he ds . They wint 1 voice in the forming of school policies. They are tired of puppet student rovernments. The administration's imnor nee 'nd stubborness breed these revolts.

Underground o tpers, lik this "nd come more rodice.1l, hve sprunz from one pirt of this country to the other in hizth schrols. Why? Dissotisfaction with t e rules tht try to rerul:te our lives,

bodies, "nd souls; awaroness of the milfunctioning courses und toxchers that in no wiry serve our nerd of prepuring us for the world; dress codes which hive nothing to so with the institution's business-educition.

2) Use OCR to convert scan into digitally encoded raw **txt** file

Making the Carlos Vega Newsletters Accessible



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EDITORIAL

In the past year many high school students have begun to realize what this world is like, the injustices inflicted on man by his own brothers. In growing aware, they have become active in denouncing their inadequate administrative heads. They want a voice in the forming of school policies. They are tired of puppet student governments. The administration's ignorance and stubbornness breed these revolts.

Underground papers, like this and some more radical, have sprung from one part of this country to the other in high schools. Why? Dissatisfaction with the rules that try to regulate our lives, bodies, and souls; awareness of the malfunctioning courses and teachers that in no way serve our need of preparing us for the world; dress codes which have nothing to do with the institution's business-- education.

3) Create clean txt file by making corrections to raw digitized text by hand

4) Repeat one-by-one for each column/page for all newsletters!

Example: Spanish version of *The Community Builder*

Poniendo al Dia

En diciembre, Nueva Esperanza recibio noticias que la Solicitud Preliminar con la agencia de "Massachusetts Housing Finance" (MHFA) sobre su primer proyecto, 550 de las calles South Summer y Hamilton, está en la categoría de acción oficial. ¿Que significa esto?

El proceso de solicitar un préstamo para construcción de MHFA envuelve varias etapas. La rendición de una Solicitud Preliminar es la primera. Un repaso acertado por el Comité de "Collateral Securities" y la Junta Directiva completa de MHFA otorga a la solicitud la posición de acción oficial. Después de otro repaso, un compromiso del préstamo se establece. La última etapa se llama el cierre final.

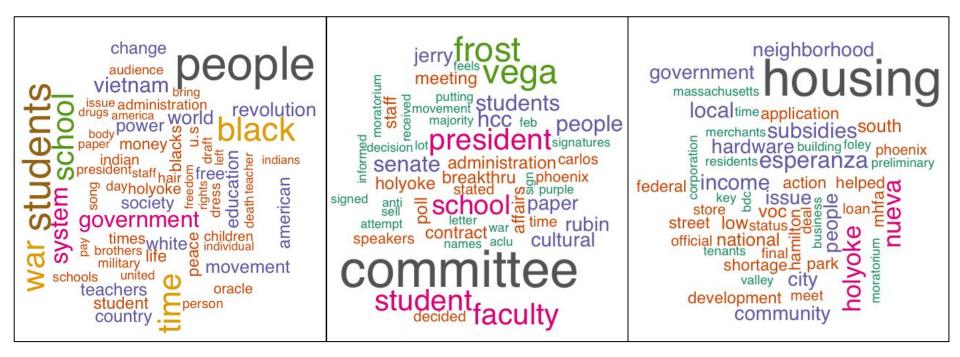
Jan 1984 issue of The Community Builder

Poniendo al Dia

En diciembre, Nueva Esperanza recibió noticias que la Solicitud Preliminar con la agencia de "Massachusetts Housing Finance" (MHFA) sobre su primer proyecto, 550 de las calles South Summer y Hamilton, está en la categoría de acción oficial. ¿Que significa esto?

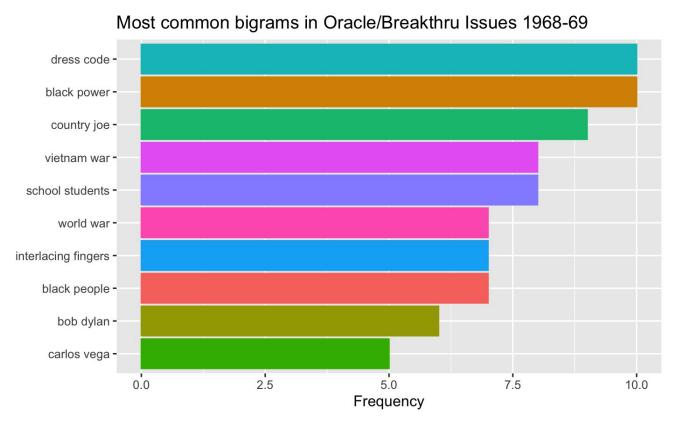
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Text analysis – word usage



Top 60 most common words in Oracle/Breakthru Issues 1968-1969 Top 50 most common words in HCC's *The Phoenix* Issues 1969-1970 Top 50 most common words in January 1984 Issue of *The Community Builder*

Text analysis of Oracle/Breakthru



Top 10 most common 2-word phrases in Oracle/Breakthru Issues 1968-1969

Wistariahurst Archive Deliverables

- Bachelder letter: transcription and finding aid
- Carlos Vega collection: digital raw + clean transcription of newsletters and additional material for the finding aid

These resources are available at

https://github.com/STAT210-S23/STAT210-Wistariahurst

Thanks and acknowledgements

Thanks again to

- Eileen Crosby (Holyoke Public Library History Room)
- Penni Martorell (Wistariahurst Library)

and the fabulous students in STAT210 (Mining the History of Holyoke)!

Q&A and refreshments







More materials and resources are available at https://github.com/STAT210-S23/STAT210-Wistariahurst

https://github.com/STAT210-S23/STAT210-Holyoke-History-Room

Interactive display https://r.amherst.edu/apps/nhorton/Parsons-Paper