

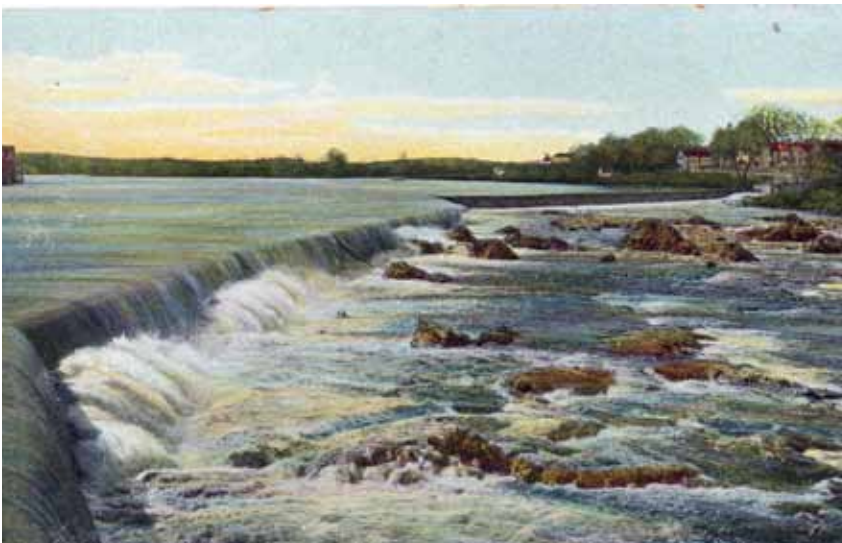
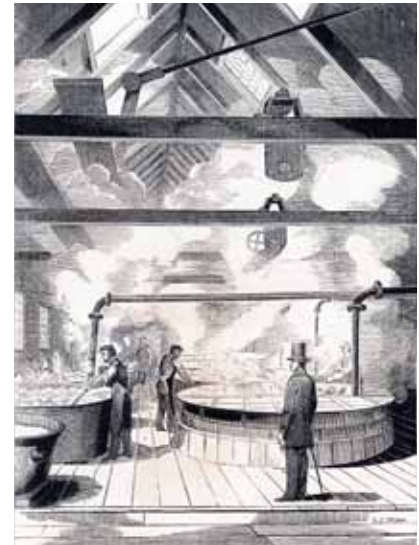
A list of Lowell's associates reads like a street directory of modern Lowell, including such names as Appleton, Jackson, Gorham, Moody, and Thordike. This group built their first factory in Waltham and began producing cloth late in 1814. There were other textile mills already operating in the United States, but Boston Manufacturing was the first to take raw fiber all the way to finished fabric under one roof.

This unified approach to textile production quickly began turning a profit. The company built a second mill in 1818 and a third in 1819.



Francis Cabot Lowell didn't live to see the extent of his plans' success. He died of pneumonia August 10th, 1817. The Boston Manufacturing Company thrived anyway. When it became obvious that the power of the Charles River at Waltham was inadequate to support further expansion, Lowell's surviving partners went looking for a new site. They eventually came to name it for him.

As the search progressed, someone suggested: "Why don't they buy up the Pawtucket Canal? They can put up as many mills as they please there, and never want for water."²⁸



Top: Photo of The Boston Manufacturing Company's Cotton Mill in Waltham from a vintage postcard.

Above left: Wash Room at Boston Manufacturing's Bleachery.

Above right: Boiling Room at Boston Manufacturing's Bleachery.

Left: Image of Pawtucket Falls and the adjoining dam from a vintage postcard. This section of the Merrimack drops 32 feet over a short distance—a nightmare for navigation but a superb source of water power.