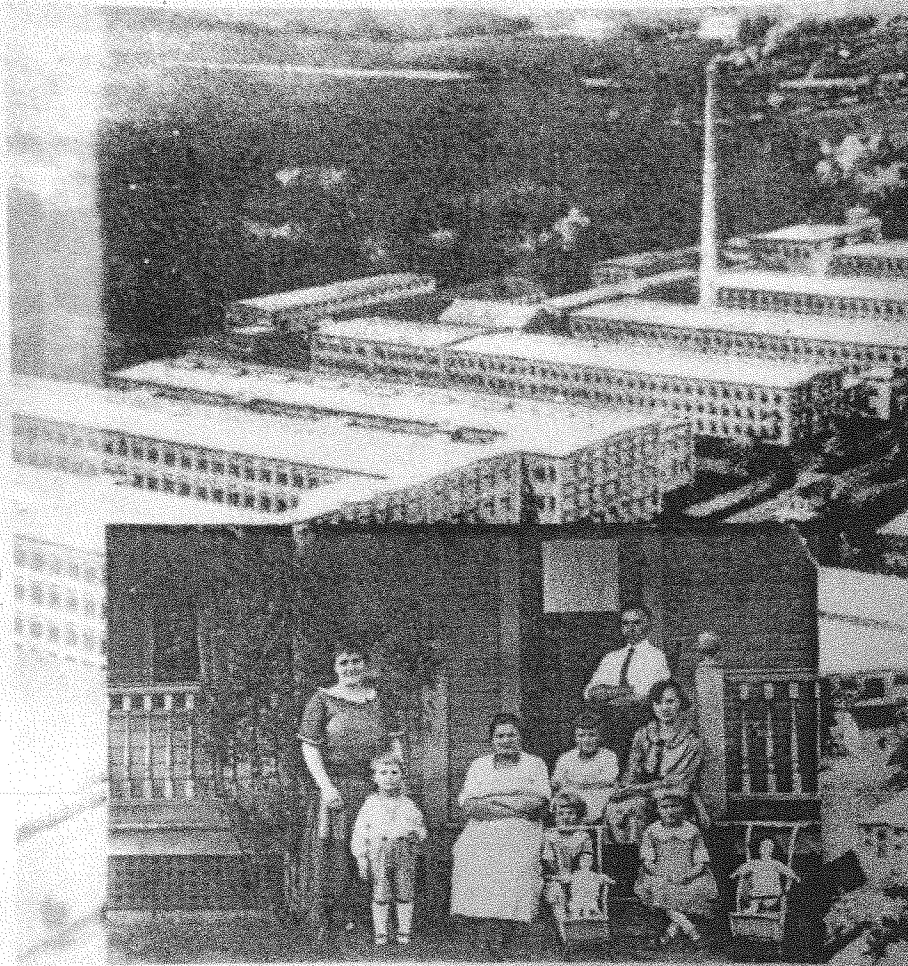


Poster for a 1981 photo exhibit, from the collection of Sylvian Ofiara (1926-2012).

"CHENEY BROTHERS WAS THE WORLD"



an exhibition of life and labor in
South Manchester, Connecticut: 1880 - 1930

Saturday, October 17, 1981

1 to 4 p.m.

The Clock Tower Mill, 63 Elm Street
FREE ADMISSION - public invited

Sponsored by: The Institute of Local History, Manchester Community College.

Cheney Brothers Historic District Commission, Town of Manchester.

Funded by: The Connecticut Humanities Council.

"CHENEY BROTHERS WAS THE WORLD"

an exhibition of life and labor in

South Manchester, Connecticut: 1880 - 1930

by Sylvian E. Ofiara & John F. Sutherland

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Funded by: The Connecticut Humanities Council

"Cheney Brothers was the world!" These words summed up one worker's memories of the years when Manchester was known as the silk kingdom. In 1838 six Cheney brothers began spinning silken thread in a small water-powered mill on Hop Brook in back of the family's Hartford Road homestead. By 1920 the company employed nearly 5,000 workers and performed all phases of silk manufacture, from raw imported silk to finished fabric. In 1923, Cheney's sales reach \$23,000,000. Cheney Brothers was one of the largest and most prosperous silk mills in the nation. Cheney silks were famous throughout the country and the world.

Cheney Brothers' success transformed Manchester from a rural village to an industrial community. Thousands of immigrants came from Europe to work in the silk mills. As the population grew, so did the town. By 1914 the mill complex covered thirty-six acres on both sides of Hartford Road. The huge labor force settled on new or enlarged streets on the east and west sides as hundreds of homes were built to accommodate them. New churches, stores and places of amusement appeared. The people of Manchester settled, raised families and put down new roots. Now the Cheney era has passed, but the mills, the homes, and many of the workers and their descendants remain. This exhibition tells their story. These photographs enable us to observe families at work and at play in the neighborhoods they helped to create. We hope that former workers will remember and young people will learn about the era when "Cheney Brothers was the world."

We would like to see your old photographs for possible use in future exhibitions; originals will be returned immediately. These pictures will then become permanent additions to the College's photographic archives. Thus you have an opportunity to contribute to the presentation of Manchester's past.

The photographs used in this exhibition are available for temporary loan to institutions in Manchester. For further information, contact John F. Sutherland, Institute of Local History, Manchester Community College, Tel. 646-4900, ext. 272.

The Institute of Local History and The Cheney Historic District Commission wish to express their appreciation to the individuals and institutions whose contributions made this exhibition possible.

Elizabeth Abbe	Dr. Thomas R. Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Andisio	Stephen Ling
Dr. Herbert Bandes	Lutz Junior Museum
Mr. & Mrs. William Belfiore	Carl Mancarella
Herbert Bengston	<u>Manchester Evening Herald</u>
Anthony Borkowski	Manchester Historical Society
Aline Bouchard	John Murray
Betty Jean Billings	Peter Negrola
Irene Brown	Arlene Paterwick
Cheney Brothers, Inc.	James Perry
Connecticut Historical Society	John Robinson
Connecticut Firemen's Historical Society	Willian Ryan
Bertha Chapin	Merritt Ritson
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Salem-Nassiff Studio & Camera Shop
Leon Follett	St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church
Steven Galvin	Jack Scheiderman
Cecile Grout	Margaret Kohls Schleminger
Alton Hall	Adeline Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Harrison	Eugene Spaziani
The <u>Journal-Inquirer</u>	Mr. & Mrs. George C. Stoneman
Everett Kennedy	Margaret Kingbaum Storrs
Emma Kingbaum	Eileen Sullivan
Arnold Kleinschmidt	Joseph Sullivan
Isabelle Knofla	Dr. William Vincent
Arthur Larder	Robert Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Learned	

The following individuals have contributed greatly to our understanding of Manchester's past through their interviews for Manchester Community College's Oral History Program.

John Adams

Nathan Agostinelli

Edson Bailey

Irving Bayer

William E. Buckley

Elizabeth Chase

John P. Cheney

Thomas J. Cordner

Mary C. Dannaher

Mary Della Fera

Leonard Eccellente

Louise Gaggianesi

Howard S. Gilman

Mr. & Mrs. Guido Giorgetti

Anthony Golas

Mr. & Mrs. Hayden Griswold

Joseph Handley

Mr. & Mrs. Albert W. Harrison

Charles S. House

Phyllis Howeson

John Hyde

John A. Johnston

John Kluck

Alice Koski

Horace B. Learned

Joseph W. Leary

Christie McCormick

James T. McLaughlin

Chester W. Obuchowski

Margaret R. Olmstead

Thomas O'Neill

Ida Ostrinsky

Ignazio Ottone

Mr. & Mrs. Luigi Pola

Frances Prior

James M. Reardon

Lucy Addy Richardson

Albert J. Robinson

John S. Robinson

Frank C. Robinson

Gertrude Rockwell

Catherine C. Shea

Ann S. Struzenski

Frances Volkert Tedford

Leon A. Thorp

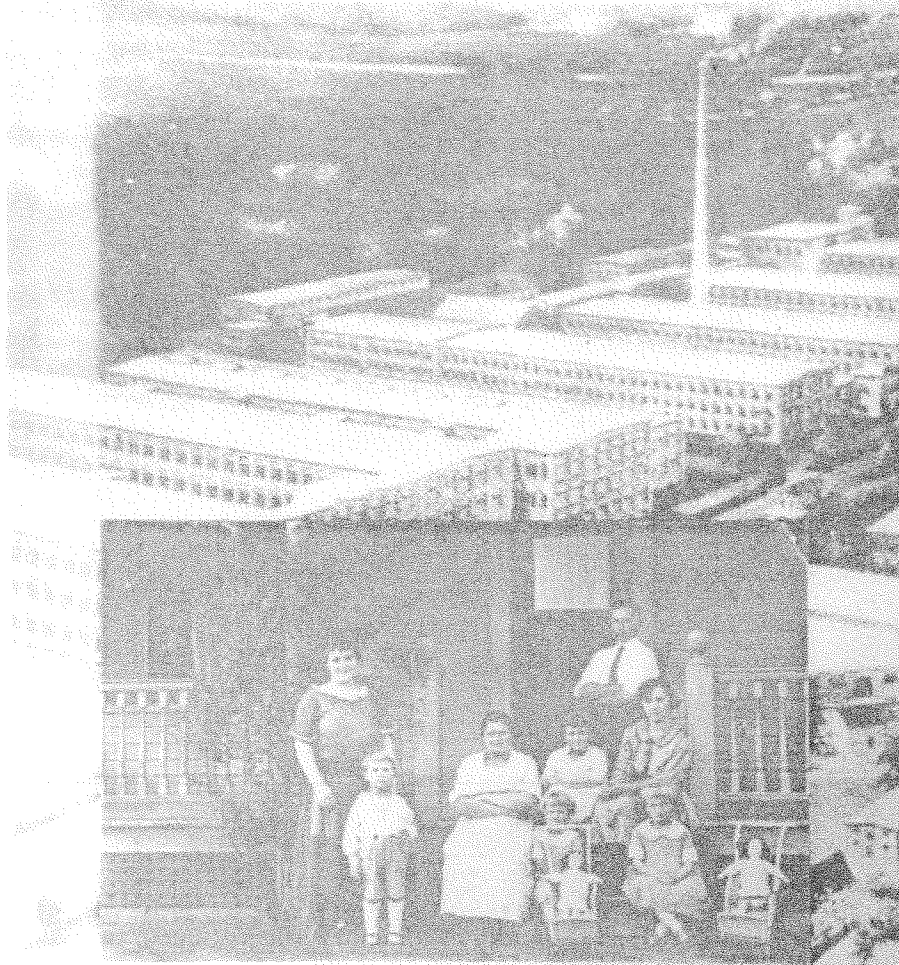
Fred Thrall

Harold Turkington

Richard Wright

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