

Holyoke's History

Written by Historical Commission Admin

Saturday, April 26 2008 04:45 - Last Updated Tuesday, January 25 2011 15:02

Holyoke's History is the story of immigrant and migrant labor that built a textile and paper city. The city is still a place where immigrants and migrants can begin a new life.



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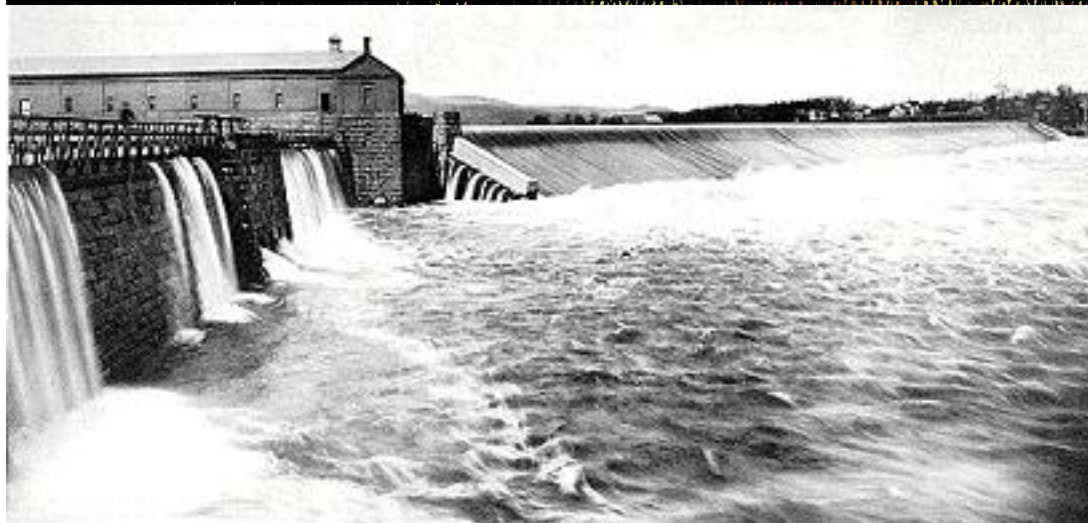
About 15,000 years ago, the current site of the City of Holyoke lay on the bottom of a portion of a 157 mile long body of water known as Lake Hitchcock. As the waters receded, they left a double legacy - the rich alluvial soils which have supported a long history of agriculture in the Connecticut Valley, and the river itself, the original motor of economic progress in the region.

The first inhabitants of Holyoke were Native Americans, specifically the tribes of the Algonquians, including the Pequots, Mohegans, and Chippewas. The Agawams settled to the south of Holyoke and the Nonotocks settled to the north of Holyoke. The Connecticut River provided resources such as food and transportation for all Native Americans who settled nearby.

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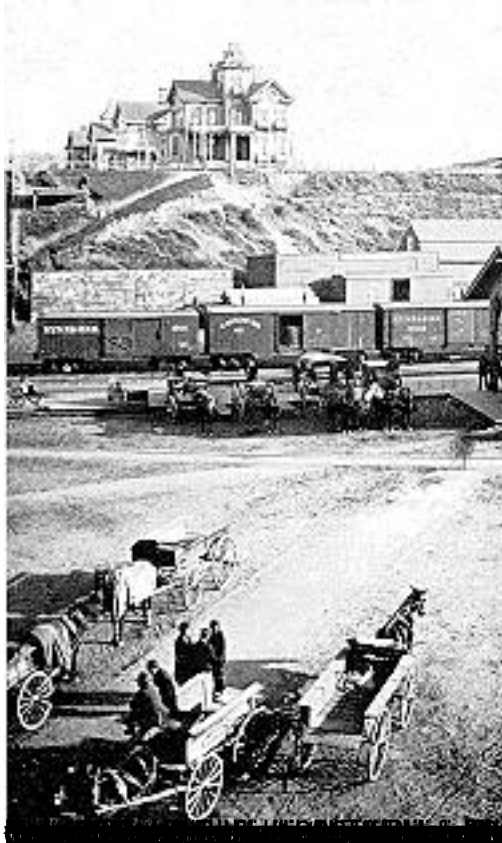
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~~Holyoke, Massachusetts, showing a large industrial building, a train, and a hill with a church in the background.~~



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