

Holder Borden

Second greatest Fall River millman. Was an entrepreneur. Main business activity was in Providence.

**Related to many of the principal mill men
Richard Borden was his uncle.
Bradford Durfee was his stepfather
David Anthony was his uncle by marriage.
Dr. Nathan Durfee was a brother-in-law
Matthew C.D. Durfee was a first cousin.**

Father died when Holder was eleven. Holder became the man of the house for his mother and three younger sisters.

Started out as general handy man in his mother's Inn (site of the present Fall River Public Library).

Worked as clerk for the Wilkinson brothers in Providence. Became a partner in Providence business venture. Had special cigars that would last the time needed for a horseback ride to or from Providence. (What was the nature of the business in Providence?) Rented the entire Pocasset mill and proved that the market could absorb large amounts of cotton cloth. Also set up the cloth printing operations on a large scale. (Samuel Robeson set up the first cloth printing mill in Fall River.)

Established the pattern of Fall River mill operations. Large scale, concentrate on one product, a versatile product, the cloth patterns are placed at by dyeing after the weaving stage, rather than during weaving.

Married his three sisters to two Durfee brothers (Doctor Nathan and Matthew) and their first cousin (Joseph). Built a house for each of his sisters.

Died at age thirty seven of consumption. Never married. (Fiancee died of tuberculosis, (Alice Brayton). Find physical description (Alice Brayton's Life on the Stream). Had whiskers at a time when most men were clean shaven.

His two uncles, Richard and Jefferson, built on the structure Holder had started. Did Holder's money go to his mother, then to Bradford Durfee and then Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee and then Mary Brayton Young? Some went to his sisters and therefore Dr. Nathan Durfee, his daughter Hattie and therefore Matt Borden.

Return to Home Page