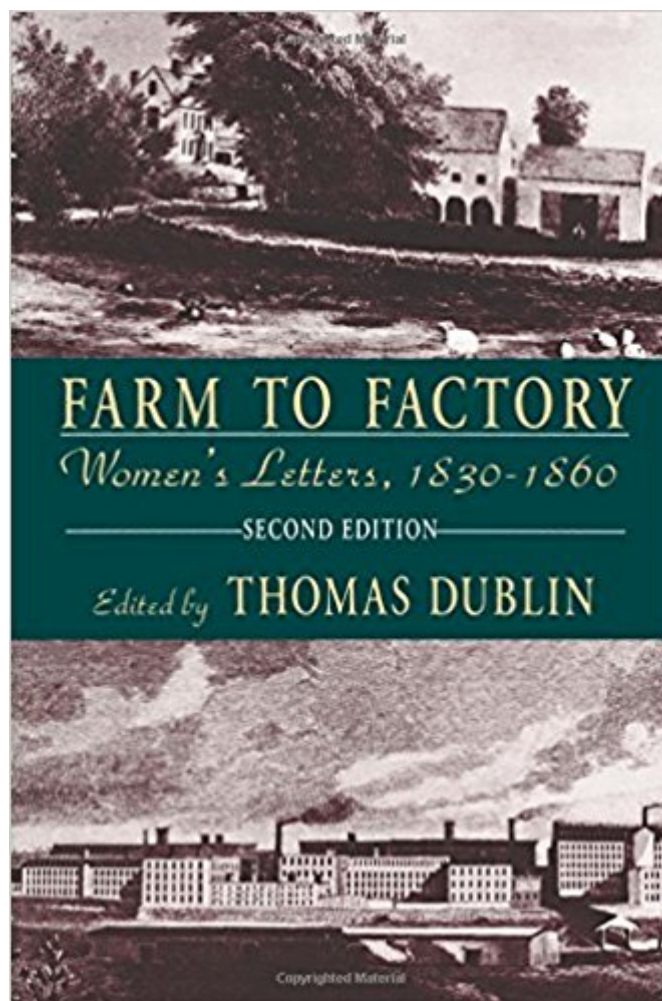


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# Farm To Factory



## Synopsis

Between 1820 and 1860, tens of thousands of single women streamed from rural New England to find work in the burgeoning factory towns of the region. In "Farm to Factory" Thomas Dublin has selected five sets of letters in order to provide a personal view of the first generation of American women employed for wages outside their own homes. The letters he has selected provide a unique perspective on early industrial capitalism and its effects on women. The second edition of what has become a classic work contains a new introduction, placing the women's correspondence in the context of broader economic developments in early-nineteenth-century New England, and a new set of letters written by Emeline Larcom from Lowell, Massachusetts. Like those in the first edition, these letters will lure you back in time, offering a broadened view of women's lives in the nineteenth century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

YA-Modern readers meet and get to know young women of the early 19th century in these letters to or from New England girls who left home to work in factories or mills. These primary sources describe in detail their economic concerns, motivation, the work itself, their friends and social lives, and their concerns about their loved ones at home. The editor's lengthy introduction describes the period and provides excellent background material for researchers. His prologues to each group of letters provide context, but it is the details and affectionate terms used by the correspondents that will make 20th-century students feel as though they are making new friends. Black-and-white photographs add interest and enable readers to visualize the situations. Many grammar and spelling

errors show the educational level achieved by these women. The index is brief but enables topical searches to be made. Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adds an important human dimension to our understanding of early American industrialization.

(Library Journal)"Farm to Factory" is an attractive addition to the literature. Dublin has collected a series of representative letters, not published before. The letters...are often very touching." (Boston Globe)Thomas Dublin has made a valuable contribution to the history of American women with this engrossing collection of letters of New England millworkers of the antebellum era... [The letters] put flesh and blood on the era's quantitative data, balance the male-dominated picture of early industrial capitalism, and show that mill employment encouraged the social, cultural, and economic independence of women." (Radcliffe Quarterly)"Farm to Factory" will attract students to the lives of the women of the past, not only because it contains revealing documents, but because the documents are introduced and displayed with extraordinary sensitivity and intelligence." (International Labor and Working Class History)

Farm to Factory is a collection of letters written between young girls and their family and friends while they lived at factory run mills. The letters are insightful and give a new meaning to the place of young women in the early workforce of America. The girls selected talk of how they spend the little extra money they have, what their living conditions are like, what they do with their little free time, if they help support their family, how they help other family members find work, how they mother younger siblings when they come to work, and many other aspects of their daily life. This book is excellent.

Needed it for college course

Dublin's Farm to Factory contains real, unedited letters about 19th century factory girls in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The book provides great insight on the daily lives of these women, and how many were torn on becoming independent and working for themselves and staying home with their families. Lowell, Mass. becoming a largely industrial city because of these women. The book also shows how women were just one source of cheap labor at the time and how they were not always treated fairly by the mill owners, and how their lives were sometimes dictated by these people. The book is a very good historical source, as it provides quite a few letters, some

from the same women (this helps the reader identify with the worker as a person and not just a historical figure), and some pictures of the town are included throughout the book. My only complaint is the length of the book, it can become rather tiring towards the end. My suggestion would be to read it in small doses so you can absorb everything and come out with a better understanding of it at the end.

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