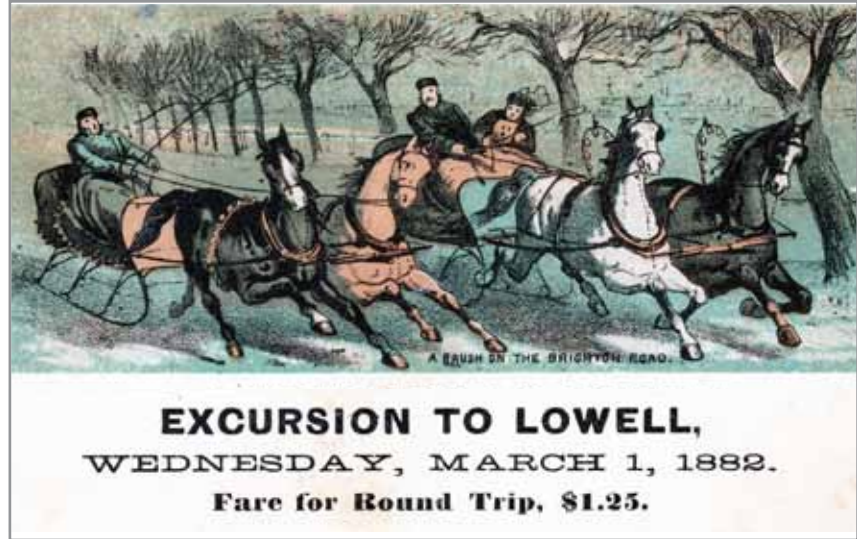


Lowell's leading politicians were as likely to indulge in dancing as anyone, perhaps more so. And the mix of sleighing and dance parties remained ever-popular.

“SLEIGH RIDING. Members of the city government for 1859, with ladies, to the number of some thirty or forty, went to Nashua, yesterday afternoon, in two large sleighs. They partook of a supper at the Indian Head Hotel, and music, dancing and jollity were the order of the evening. They arrived home about midnight, and report having had an excellent time.”¹⁹



As Lowell grew, so did the number of balls and socials. By the final decade of the century, just about every organization in town was giving dances. Even union meetings might end with a dance!

➤ “The annual hop given by the **overseers of the John Pilling Shoe Co.** was held at the factory last night and, as usual, was a happy occasion. About 100 couples were present and dancing continued from 8:30 P.M. till 1 A.M.”²⁰

➤ “Merry Plumbers They. The fifth annual social of the **Plumbers’ union** occurred in the Burkes’ hall and some 100 couples enjoyed it. Dancing embraced an order of 10 numbers, the waltz home being executed at the stroke o’ twelve. The affair was a decided success and reflected credit on its managers. A number of prominent labor men were present from out of town.”²¹



➤ “The Ingrain Weavers. The **ingrain weavers** held a very enthusiastic meeting in the Mathews hall last night. The weavers voted to stand firm and not to return to work until the ten per cent raise in wages is restored to them. The weavers enjoyed a dance afterward.”²²

➤ “The sixth anniversary concert and ball of the **Cotton Mule Spinners’** union in Huntington hall last evening, was complimentary to members and friends of the union.” “The dance order contained 26 numbers.” “The order had this warning: ‘No scabs wanted here.’”²³

➤ “A large audience assembled in the **Unitarian church** vestry last evening, and applauded the efforts of the members of the Young People’s club, who produced the comedy drama in two acts, entitled “A Box of Monkeys.” The audience was kept in a jolly mood throughout the evening by the actions of the participants. After the entertainment, the party repaired to Mrs. Darracott’s hall where dancing was enjoyed, the American orchestra furnishing music.”²⁴