

LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

50 Fr. Morissette Blvd.
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Tel. 978-937-8901

Fax. 978-937-8902

Marianne Busteded, *Head of School*
Robert DeLossa, *Academic Chair, Social Studies*

e-mail: mbusteded@lowell.k12.ma.us

e-mail: rdelossa@lowell.k12.ma.us

25 October 2018

PRESS RELEASE for immediate distribution
Contact: Robert DeLossa, rdelossa@lowell.k12.ma.us; 978-446-7335

Benjamin Franklin Butler, Distinguished Lowell High School alumnus, was born on November 5, 1818. He graduated from LHS in 1831. At that time that his mother ran a boarding house for Lowell Mill Girls. He went on to become one of the most important figures in Lowell history and a major figure in American history of the mid- to late-1800s. Butler was a Civil War general, US Congressional Representative for Massachusetts, and held many other important positions for Massachusetts. He was a tireless defender of civil rights, especially of African Americans, and held progressive views far ahead of his time.

In order to celebrate the **200th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin Butler's birth**, Lowell High School, UMass Lowell's History Department, The Lowell Historical Society, and the Lowell National Historical Park are partnering to present a weekend celebration of Butler.

Events begin with the annual opening of the private Hildreth Cemetery site where Butler is buried from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, November 3. This is the only time that the public is allowed into the private cemetery, which is located at 270 Hildreth St. *beyond* the public cemetery. At that time, the restoration of the sculpture *The Sorrow and the Pity* by Bela Lyons Pratt will be unveiled. Members of the Butler and Hildreth families will discuss the history and care of the cemetery.

Following this, an exhibit will open in the Mogan Cultural Center at 40 French Street with items from Butler's life. The exhibit opens at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the lobby outside the Center for Lowell History.

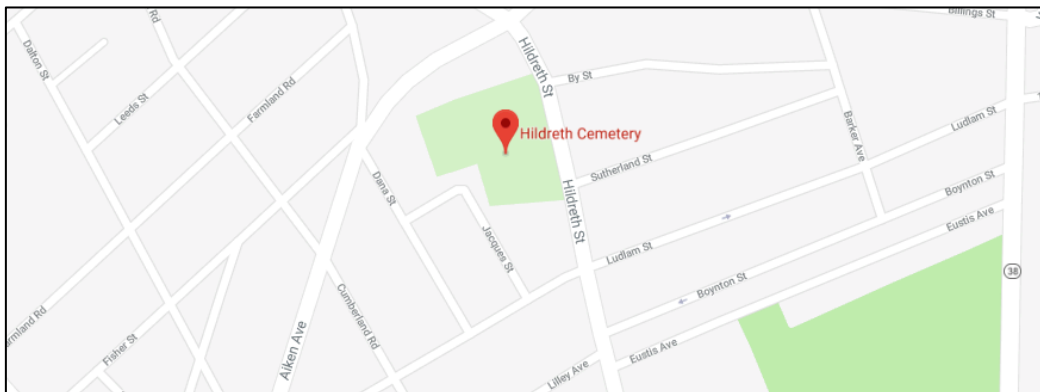
Later that day, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., a program will be held at Lowell High School's Burgoyne Theater in the Freshman Academy. The main entrance of the Freshman Academy is 40 Paige Street, but the back of the Academy opens onto French Street across from the Mogan Cultural Center. Access to the Burgoyne Theater is possible from there.

The afternoon program keynote is by Prof. Robert Forrant of the UML History department. Other elements of the program include addresses by Butler descendants Valeria Palmer and Oakes Plimpton, as well as remarks by LHS alumnus and former Head of School Brian Martin, and Social Studies Chair Robert DeLossa. A special guest from the past also will be prominently featured. This program will be followed by a reception with a birthday cake for Benjamin Butler.

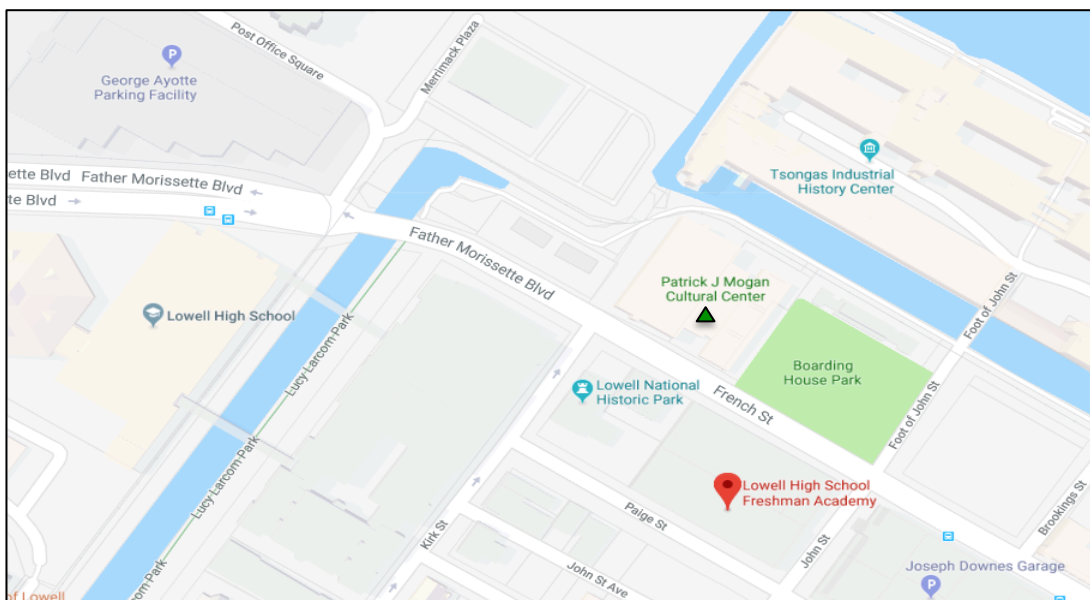
On Sunday, Nov. 4, there will be a living history "Conversation with Benjamin Butler" at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum at 115 John St. at 11:00 a.m.

All events are free and open to the public. Parking is available at a modest fee at the Lowell Municipal Joseph Downes Garage on John Street, adjacent to the Freshman Academy, as well as the Lowell Municipal George Ayotte Garage across from the UML Tsongas Center.

Sat., Nov. 3, 1:00 to 1:45 p.m.: Hildreth Cemetery (270 Hildreth St., Lowell, MA)



Sat., Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m. Mogan Cultural Center (40 French St., Lowell, MA) exhibit is open to the public
Sat. Nov. 3, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m Lowell High School Burgoyne Theater (40 Paige St., Lowell, MA); formal celebration with keynote by Prof. Robert Forrant.



Sun. Nov. 4, 11:00 a.m. Lowell National Historical Park, Boott Cotton Mills Museum (115 John St., Lowell, MA); "A Conversation with Benjamin Butler."

