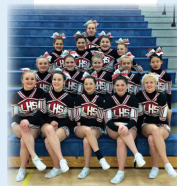




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## Lowell wrestlers claim regional championship

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

It was a triumphant week for the 26-2 Lowell varsity wrestling team as they bested competitor Byron Center 53-19 to win the team regional finals championship. They will now travel to the state tournament for the fifth consecutive year, qualifying ten of their top wrestlers for individual state competition.

Wednesday in Middleville the team posted the win over Byron Center to claim the region's top prize on the backs of eight pins and nine total wins.

Those earning pins were Tyler Lynch in the 103 pound division, Sam Russell at 112, Lucas Hall at 125, Jordan Hall at 140, David Kruse at 152, Keigan Yuhas at 160, Josh Colegrove at 215 and Logan Wilcox at 285. Zeth Dean also recorded an 18-3 win by technical fall at 135 pounds.

"I am very proud of this team and it's accomplishments," said head coach RJ Boudro following the commanding win.

"Our expectations are to make it to the state finals but we have a lot of work to do to get there," said Boudro.

Lowell's top finishers were Jordan Hall (135), Lucas Hall (119), Colegrove



This will be the fifth straight trip to the state tournament for Lowell varsity wrestlers.

(215) and Dean (130). Qualifying as runners-up were Russell (103), Wilcox (285) and Dan Kruse (152). Aaron Ward (125), Logan Blough (189) and David Kruse (145) also qualified.

Colegrove remains undefeated on the season with a record of 35-0 to lead the Lowell pack while Hall is 35-1.

"I am [a] little

overwhelmed to tell you the truth. I have made this run a couple times in the eight years that I have been coaching in Lowell, but being a head coach has made things feel differently. I am honored to have the opportunity to coach for such a tradition rich program and I feel very blessed to have all of the success we

have had this year," said coach Boudro.

The victory propels the Arrows to Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena this Friday

where they will compete in the first round of the quarterfinals against another local squad, Comstock Park.

**Semi-finals and finals will take place in the same location on Saturday. After the state championship has been awarded, ten Lowell wrestlers will go on to take part in the individual state championship.**

## Burroughs family history includes interesting ties to Lowell and Kent County

Last year I read "Call Me Burroughs: A Life," a biography of beat generation author William S. Burroughs. I was shocked when I got to page 14, which said that Burroughs' grandfather lived in Lowell in the 1860s. I dug around in the Ledger archive on the Englehardt Library website and found a few passing mentions of Burroughs' grandfather, but since the Ledger didn't exist until 1870 there was nothing from the time he lived here. I contacted Barry Miles, the book's author, for more information. Miles told me to contact James Grauerholz, Burroughs' adopted son and the executor of his literary estate. Grauerholz in turn told me to contact Simon Johnson, an archivist and researcher specializing in literary biographies. Johnson graciously offered to write an article for the Ledger detailing the Burroughs family's historic connection to Lowell. ~ contributing reporter, Tim McAllister

**As the centenary year of beat writer William S. Burroughs draws to a close, ancestral links are identified with Kent County**

by Simon Johnson

The Burroughs family left an indelible mark on an unassuming stretch of Kent County, though is undoubtedly better known for its enduring influence on the disparate fields of

literature and computational technology.

A small area of the Flat River Valley in Vergennes is still known, informally, as 'Burroughs' – almost 150 years since the pioneer

family of that name vacated the banks of the river they had made their home in 1846. Reminders of the Burroughs name are still to be found in the locality through Burroughs Street

and its eponymous bridge traversing the Flat River, whilst further upstream the Burroughs Dam holds back the water on its way towards Lowell. The name has endured locally, providing a sense of unbroken continuity with the early days of the township.

*'The story of the Burroughs family. Vague, disreputable ghosts...'* the musings of an aging writer, written in his personal journal, 14 December 1996, eight months before his death in August 1997 at the age of eighty-three. In his instantly-recognizable prose, the writer reflects on his paternal family background

with a sense of unease; a family whose ideals and potential for prosperity were very much nurtured during the nineteenth century, on the banks of the Flat River in Kent County, Michigan.

The writer in question is William S. Burroughs: the influential member of America's 'Beat Generation' of the 1950s, author of the classic and infamous novel "Naked Lunch" and counter-cultural icon. Mention of the name William Seward Burroughs conjures two seemingly far-removed individuals. A cursory glance

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# Story of William S. Burroughs, continued

at their respective careers provides no hint of common ground, of shared identity or values; only a name.

The first William Seward Burroughs, born in 1857 to working-class parents at Rochester, NY, was very much the stereotype of the nineteenth-century Yankee inventor: a driven – if wayward – mechanical genius. To great acclaim, Burroughs invented what is widely considered to have been the first practical adding machine and laid the foundations for what was

to become the Burroughs Corporation: once a world leader in the production of mainframe computers and business machines. From 1860 until 1871 Burroughs had been a resident of Lowell, where his formative years nurtured his natural bent as an inventor.

The second William Seward Burroughs, born in 1914 to a middle-class family at St. Louis, MO, became a famous writer of the 1950s alongside the writer Jack Kerouac and the poet Allen Ginsberg. Differing

generations, values, careers. Yet, connected by genes: grandfather and grandson.

The 1870 publication 'History and Directory of Kent County, Michigan...' identifies that Vergennes was settled in 1836 and organized as a township in 1838. The Burroughs family arrived a few years after the incorporation of the township.

The pioneer who lent his name to the area beside the Flat River is one James C. Burroughs: grandfather of the adding machine inventor and great great-grandfather of the writer. He was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, in 1801 and relocated with his parents to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York in 1816, where his father purchased land at the village of Romulus.

James remained in the Finger Lakes region until 1846 when he and his second

James received patents on two portions of land in Sections 26 and 27, totaling about seventy-five acres alongside the Flat River.

Having harnessed the power of the river by erecting a dam, James built a farm and grist mill, which would later be mortgaged to members of the Fox family, who were among the original settlers in Vergennes. A small settlement known locally as 'Fox's Mill' became established around the farm and mill, the history of which is recalled in the late Priscilla Lusmyer's paper "A Brief History of Fox's Mill" published in the 1984 publication "Vergennes Township Living History."

James's probate records from the Kent County Probate Court show that he associated in business with some of the area's most prominent pioneers,

1871. Rosetta joined the family in Auburn several years later.

During the 1870s, James's teenage grandson William Seward Burroughs was employed as a clerk at the Cayuga County National Bank at Auburn and conceived the idea of inventing a 'practical' adding machine to assist those in his profession. His inventive tendencies, influenced by his mechanic father and nurtured during his early childhood in Lowell, would come to the fore after relocating to St. Louis in 1879/80.

After several years of toil, a first working model of William's adding machine was completed during 1884 and the patent was granted in 1888. William was a co-founder, in 1886, of the American Arithmometer Company, which was established to market his machine. It was later

is drawn from extensive research into the paternal family background of the writer William S. Burroughs, partly in collaboration with James Grauerholz: Burroughs' long-time friend, business manager, literary executor, and adopted son.

One of the primary concerns of the research is to provide an accurate and fully referenced biography of Burroughs' grandfather: the inventor of the Burroughs Adding Machine. Much of what is published about the adding machine inventor, particularly online, is unreferenced and littered with errors and assumptions. This research attempts to right these wrongs through detailed primary research, which has involved descendants of the Burroughs family.

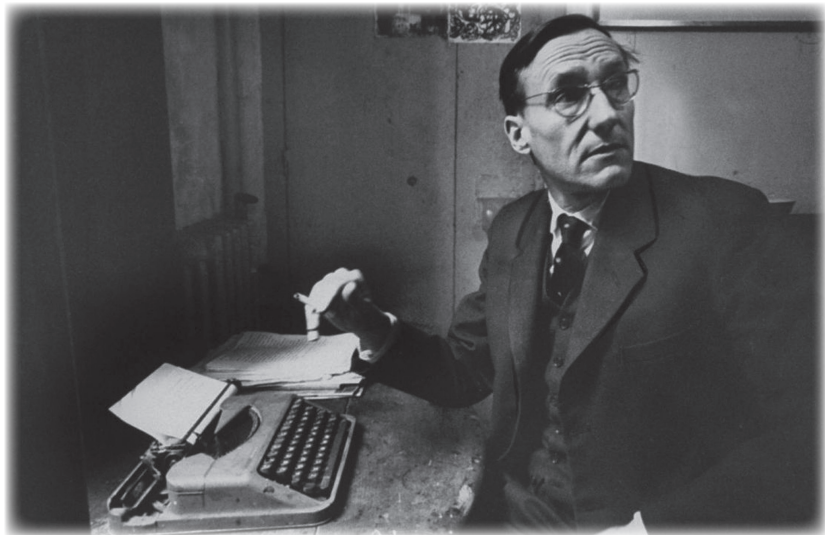
Plans for eventual publication of this research remain in development and



**William Seward Burroughs I (1857-1898), former Lowell resident and inventor of the Burroughs Adding Machine.** [Charles Babbage Institute]



**Photograph of the Burroughs/Flat River street signs today.**



**William Seward Burroughs II (1914-1997), pictured in Paris in 1959, shortly after the publication of his seminal work "The Naked Lunch."** [Loomis Dean, LIFE]

wife became another statistic in the national migration to the west, when agricultural opportunities attracted aspiring pioneers. James and his family arrived in Michigan and settled in Kent County, where in 1848 he was awarded patents for land in Vergennes by President Polk.

James became a prosperous farmer and landowner who would play a significant role in the early development of Vergennes, leaving his surname as an enduring mark on the local community. In 1846, he was granted permission by the Legislature of the State of Michigan to erect a dam across the Flat River in Section 26, which can be identified on contemporary plans of Vergennes. In 1848

including the Fox family and the township's first supervisor Rodney Robinson.

At the time of his death in 1865, James C. Burroughs was a significant local landowner and had recently been one of the founding members of a national bank in Lowell. Leaving behind his wife Rosetta, his son Edmund and several grandchildren, he was laid to rest in Fox's Corners Cemetery, where his now-topped headstone is still visible on the front row of the burial ground.

James's widow Rosetta became the executor of his considerable estate and relocated to Lowell to live with James's son and his family, until they relocated to Auburn, New York, in

renamed the Burroughs Adding Machine Company following its relocation to Detroit in 1904 and later the Burroughs Corporation in 1953.

William had made a significant contribution to the world: the era of the business machine had begun. The full story of the first William Seward Burroughs forms the basis of a detailed biographical study, currently in production.

This very brief overview of the early history of the Burroughs family and its links with Kent County is published in the Lowell Ledger for the benefit of the local community, from whom members of the Lowell Area Historical Museum should be acknowledged for their kind assistance. The article

will be communicated to the Lowell Area Historical Museum in due course.

Simon Johnson is a British archivist and biographical researcher, based in Edinburgh. Recent credits include his 2014 long essay "The Beautiful Belle Burgess – A Biography of Elizabeth Burgess: The Mother Anthony Burgess Never Knew" (shortly to be published by the International Anthony Burgess Foundation). Research contributions have also been provided to the 2014 publication "Call Me Burroughs: A Life" by Barry Miles, as well as to ongoing biographical projects regarding W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood and Joan Vollmer.