

My Revolutionary Ancestor: Louis Grossman

Louis Grossman was 26 years old when he immigrated to America from Russia, or current day Krasyliv, Ukraine. On one of his first days in the United States, he stopped in Quincy, Massachusetts and made his first transaction repairing a chair for a fireman. He became a junk peddler to raise money so that his family could join him for a better life in America. This was an early way of recycling discarded items. He would take whatever he found on the street or whatever people didn't want anymore and sell it for a profit. Over time, he was finally able to acquire enough money for his family to join him. He decided that they would live in Quincy.

Louis started many businesses, such as The New England Clothing Store, where he purchased clothing from buildings and companies that got burned down or damaged in fires. He also opened a public bath house where you could take one bath for 15 cents or 7 for one dollar. This worked out well because there were few houses back then that had bathrooms. The city's first synagogue was established by him too, with a fireplace and old religious books. Eventually, Louis Grossman started the lumber company, "L. Grossman and Sons." He traded for materials and bought them for good deals from companies selling inventory they no longer needed. His whole success story escalated from being a junk peddler. That's pretty much where he ended up, just in a bigger way. He had risen the ranks from just selling and trading whatever he could find on the street, to turning it into a beneficial business.

Louis Grossman was considered "revolutionary" for his time because he basically was recycling lots of lumber that, without his role, would all go to waste. "He learned that nothing was useless; if you could not sell it you could certainly trade it for something that could be sold" (*Profiles In The American Dream* by Timothy Patrick Cahill). He brought a new way of doing business to the table.

I collected most of this information from the book, *Profiles In The American Dream* by Timothy Patrick Cahill. The first chapter in the book is about Louis Grossman and his life story. After some time of reading and re-reading the chapter, I was able to gather enough information to begin my essay. Additionally, I used [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) to collect some facts on Louis Grossman. My mom, our family's genealogist, also aided me in finding some of the information and deciphering it from the text. During this time when I was learning about Louis Grossman, my great-great-great grandfather, I discovered that even when he had so little, he never gave up and he always fought for success to support his loved ones. This has taught me that with a lot of hard work and dedication, you can achieve anything you want.

In conclusion, Louis Grossman made a revolutionary change for his time by recycling lumber and turning it into something useful. He was always able to recover from the worst things that happened to him and rise over his failures in success. "Save it; use it; convert it; everything has value" (*Profiles In The American Dream*).