

That Wallet That Came Home

Some things are lost.

Some things are forgotten.

And some things, somehow, wait.

In the summer of 2026, during renovations at Lowell High School, a discovery was made that brought a family's past suddenly and expectantly back to life.

More than fifty years earlier, sometime around 1972, a wallet belonging to Kathleen Cassidy Regan had disappeared from the school library.

Kathleen was born in Lowell in 1924. She attended St. Peter's Grammar School and graduated from Lowell High School before continuing her education at D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She then worked for Catholic Charities in Lowell for eight years until she and her husband, Joseph, started a family. She stayed at home until their three children were older returning to the workforce as a librarian at Lowell High School – where her wallet disappeared.

At that time, it was simply lost – eventually something that became part of the past.

But inside her wallet were photographs of her family: her three children and four great nieces, all also graduates of Lowell High. Those photographs were about to begin a journey of their own.

Kathleen's husband, Joseph M. Regan, was also a Lowell native. Born in 1921, he graduated from Boston College (BC) with a degree in mathematics. His college matriculation was accelerated. It was World War II and he was recruited as a Naval officer. He served four years as a ship navigator in the South Pacific.

After the war, he dedicated his life to education, following many in his family. He returned to BC and earned a Master's degree in Education. By the early 1970's he was serving as the Dean of Faculty at Lowell High.

Decades passed. The children grew older, life moved on. Kathleen and Joseph passed away. The wallet became a long-forgotten mystery.

Until July 2026! During renovations at Lowell High, specifically basement demolition, a considerate construction worker from Suffolk Construction found the wallet. After more than fifty years of waiting in the darkness, the wallet came back to life, in a remarkable way.

The two earnest construction workers began the search for the owner of the wallet. One of Kathleen's grandchildren was contacted via Facebook and received the incredible news! We think we have found a wallet belonging to your family.

The wallet itself was old and worn, but its real value was never in the leather or anything it might have contained. Its value was in the memories. The photographs. The faces. The family life captured in small images more than fifty years ago.

Those photographs had been carried by a mother who dearly loved her family. They had disappeared with her wallet, remained hidden through decades of change, and then unexpectedly resurfaced in the very school where she had worked.

There is something almost poetic about that.

Kathleen's wallet had not been found just anywhere. It was found at Lowell High School – a place with so much family history.

Kathleen and Joseph never knew that the wallet would one day be found. They never had the opportunity to see those photographs again. But perhaps that is why this story is so special.

For more than fifty years, the wallet waited. And then, when the time was right, it returned.

Sometimes history is found in museums.

Sometimes it is written in books.

And sometimes, it is hidden behind a wall in an old school building, inside a forgotten wallet, quietly holding the faces of family who never stopped remembering.

After more than fifty years, Kathleen Cassidy Regan's wallet finally came home.