A Bibliography of Labor History in Pennsylvania

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Introduction

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Pennsylvania was recognized as a national industrial leader. Dominant industries included Iron and Steel, Coal, Coke, Textiles, Garment, Lumber, and Railroads. Immigrant workers composed a large percentage of the Commonwealth’s industrial workforce as had slaves and indentured servants in an earlier era. While its natural resources, capital investments, and industrial outputs were impressive, industrialization came at a cost as the struggles of workers and labor unions formed a dominant element in industrial Pennsylvania. Capital and labor were often at odds as reflected in monumental events such as the Battle of Homestead in 1892, the Great Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902, the Great Steel or “Hunkie” Strike of 1919 and the Knox Mine Disaster in 1959.

Pennsylvania was also home to farm laborers and public-sector workers who were among the first in the nation to unionize with the unprecedented Acts 111 and 195 in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Indeed, strong public- and private-sector unions and displays of worker solidarity were, and, in some cases, remain common in the Commonwealth’s diverse economy.

By the latter-half of the twentieth century, Pennsylvania entered into its long and painful industrial decline. “Deindustrialization,” as it came to be called by economists, historians, and social scientists, devastated communities and displaced hundreds of thousands of industrial workers. The once powerful industrial unions saw their membership decrease. Public-sector
unions expanded, however. In addition, newly emerging unions within the public sector came to represent tens of thousands of workers.

This bibliography contains publications about labor and workers in Pennsylvania history. It is a diverse compilation that includes among its entries titles of scholarly and popular books and articles, public history, film and songs, but not dissertations. It lists a number of titles under more than one subject heading. The bibliography also has works that partially cover Pennsylvania under the category, “Other.” While comprehensive, it remains a work-in-progress as new scholarship and depictions of the lives of Pennsylvania workers and labor unions appear. The bibliography is useful to scholars, students, and laypersons interested in the history of labor in Pennsylvania.
African American Labor


**Artisan and Craft Labor**


**Biography**


**Child Labor**


**Coal**


Deindustrialization


Rosenberg, David L. “Pittsburgh in Revolt: Sources and Artifacts of the Struggle against Deindustrialization from the UE/Labor Archives at the University of Pittsburgh.” *Pennsylvania History* 68, no. 3 (2001): 367-382.

**Environment**


Editor’s Note: A comprehensive bibliography on environmental and conservation history in available on the website of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation at [www.ppff.org](http://www.ppff.org). Several of these bibliographic entries indirectly deal with labor history. Thus, they are not listed here but the reader is referred to the PPFF website.

**Farming and Agricultural Labor**


**Glass Industry**


**Healthcare and Hospitals**


**Immigrant Labor**


—. The Role of Pittsburgh’s Polish Falcons in the Organization of the Polish Army in France. Pittsburgh: Polish Falcons of America, 1972.


**Industrialization**


Folsom, Burton W. "A Regional Analysis of Urban History: City-Building in the Lackawanna Valley during Early Industrialization." *Working Papers from the Regional Economic History Research Center* 2, no. 4 (March 1979): 71-100.


**Iron**


**Law and Politics**


**Life**


**Literature**


**Lumber**


**Movies, Multimedia, and Videos**


**Fire in the Hole!: A Coal Miner's Tale.** Producer, Editor, Len Smith; Director, Hal Wounderly. [S.l.]: Time-Warner Cable Productions, c1997. 1 videocassette (53 min.): sd., col. with b&w sequences; 1/2 in.


**Labor-Management Relations in Steel: Conflict or Cooperation.** University Park: Pennsylvania State University, Audio-Visual Services, c1984. 1 videocassette (26 min.): sd., col.; 1/2 in.


USW, the Fighting Spirit. [S.l.: s.n., n.d.]. http://palaborhistory.org/movies2.php; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5CtBOSKscU

Music


—. 500 Days. DN Striker Relief Fund, 1996, compact disc.


—. If I Can’t Dance. A. Feeney, 2006, compact disc.


—. There’s a Whole Lot More of Us Than They Think. A. Feeney, 1990, cassette.


—. *Rising Again*. UAW Records, 1982, 33 1/3 rpm.


—. *A World to Win*. Flying Fish, 1989, cassette.


**Office Work**


**Oil**


Miller, Ernest C. “The Fountain and Hequembourg Flowing Oil Wells.” *Pennsylvania History* 12, no. 3 (1945): 194-199.


**Public Sector**


Railroad and Locomotives (See also Transportation)


**Restaurants, Diners, and Fast-Food Franchises**


Butko, Brian A. “Seen Any Good Diners Lately?” *Pittsburgh History* 73, no. 3 (1990): 99-114.


**Slavery, Servitude, and Prison Labor**


**Steel**


**Strikes and Protests**


**Textiles**


—. “Keeping It in the Family: Mother Jones and the Pennsylvania Silk Strike of 1900-1901.” Labor History, 38, no. 4 (Fall 1997): 432-449.


Transportation (See also Railroads and Locomotives)


Unions and the Labor Movement


Visual Arts


Women’s Labor


Cross, Gary, and Peter Shergold. “‘We Think We Are of the Oppressed.’” Labor History 28, no. 1 (Winter 1987): 22-53.


Weaver, Karol K. “‘She Knew All the Old Remedies’: Medical Caregiving and the Neighborhood Women of the Anthracite Coal Region of Pennsylvania.” *Pennsylvania History* 71, no. 4 (2004): 421-444.


Other


**Websites**

Pennsylvania Historical Association [www.pha.org](http://www.pha.org)

Pennsylvania Labor History Society [www.palaborhistory.org](http://www.palaborhistory.org)

Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania Labor Legacy [www.library.pitt.edu/labor_legacy/index.html](http://www.library.pitt.edu/labor_legacy/index.html)