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Work and the Human Condition
Annotated Bibliography
March 3, 2009

The following bibliography is a collection of resources regarding African Americans and their working conditions in the Roslyn coal mines in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The resources cover a wide range of topics from racial tension, union and non unionized labor treatment and coal miner's life styles in general.

Works Cited

Alexander, Peter. "Race, Class Loyalty and the Structure of Capitalism: Coal Miners in Alabama and the Transvaal 1918-1922." Journal of Southern African Studies 30.No. 1, Special Issue: Race and Class in South Africa and the United States (2004): pp. 115-132. 24 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4133860>>.

The author focuses on two major coal-industry strikes, one in Alabama (1920-1921) and one in the Transvaal (1922), this article attempts to understand why the former was biracial and the latter only involved white employees. For example, in Alabama, most black miners and most white miners were free and settled, and came from similar rural areas. However, in the Transvaal community, blacks were forced to continually move and integrate into different surviving societies, while whites were free and settled.

Arkyan, Shereth. "File:Kittitas County Washington Incorporated and Unincorporated areas Roslyn Highlighted.svg - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 24 Feb. 2009
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kittitas_County_Washington_Incorporated_and_Unincorporated_areas_Roslyn_Highlighted.svg>.

This is a map of Kittitas County, Washington. Roslyn is highlighted in red.

Armstead, Robert, and S. L. Gardner. Black Days, Black Dust: The Memories of an African American Coal Miner. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002.

Robert Armstead, a third-generation African American coal miner, collaborated with writer S. L. Gardner to produce a memoir of life and labor in the coal mines of northern West Virginia. It is based on over 40 years of his recollections that Armstead had written down in a journal during retirement. Gardner also conducted extensive interviews with him, his fellow workers, and his family members. This book allows the reader to fully grasp the life of a coal miner and experience the hardships of this dangerous work as well as the joys.

Boal, William M., and John Pencavel. "The Effects of Labor Unions on Employment, Wages, and Days of Operation: Coal Mining in West Virginia." The Quarterly

Journal of Economics 109.1 (1994): pp. 32. 24 Feb. 2009
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2118435>>.

This article examines the impact of labor unions on wages, employment, and days of work in West Virginia coal mining communities from 1897 to 1938. The most common belief was that there was a fifty percent difference in wages earned by union and nonunion workers. However, the authors estimate that they are substantially less. While reading this article, it is important to realize that the authors and the group in charge of reporting the statistics were white and not in favor of blacks and other cultures having more rights, as well as earning more money and working less hours.

Burnham, Deborah Jo. "Roslyn's Mutual Aid Lodges: Between Assimilation And Cultural Continuity, 1887-1940." Journal of the West 36.4 (1997): pp. 13-19. 27 Jan. 2009
<<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=5&hid=12&sid=f59786f8-c12d-40a3-a3ca-d154704fa4ab%40sessionmgr103&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhtvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#db=a9h&AN=9712156982>>.

Burnham's main focus is to investigate the number of immigrants which migrated to Roslyn, Washington, in the 19th century. In this article, she discusses the assimilation and culture of the coal mining community between 1887 and 1940. As well as the origins of the immigrant workers in Roslyn and the work that was done by them and their impact on the community's culture.

Campbell, Robert A. "Blacks and the Coal Mines of Western Washington 1888-1896." Pacific Northwest Quarterly 73.4 (1982): pp. 146-155.

The author of this article writes about the frustrations of coal miners and the unethical management of company owners who would put profit over the safety of their workers.

Carlson, Linda. Company Towns of the Pacific Northwest. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.

In Company Towns of the Pacific Northwest, Linda Carlson has done an extensive amount of research on communities that have been created by the driving force of capitalism and the need for laborers in the Pacific Northwest. Carlson gathers her information from residents through personal interviews, contemporary newspaper accounts, company newsletters and histories, census and school records, and site plans, the book looks at towns in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, considering who planned the towns and designed the buildings. It examines how companies went about controlling housing, religion, taxes, liquor, prostitution, and union organizers.

Condee, William Faricy. Coal & Culture: Opera Houses In Appalachia. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2004.

With the majority of literature on coal mining focused on work conditions and labor unions, very little room is left for the culture of mining society. This book allows us to get an inside look at what coal miners did for fun. From the mid 1860s to the early 1930s, the opera house in the coal-mining region of Appalachia from was used as multipurpose facility. For example, it was used for traveling theater, concerts, religious events, lectures, commencements, boxing matches, benefits, union meetings, and depending on the auditorium, sometime skating rinks and basketball courts.

Corbin, David. Life, Work, and Rebellion in the Coal Fields: The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880-1922 (Working Class in American History). Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989.

Between 1880 and 1922, the coal fields of southern West Virginia witnessed two bloody and inevitably long strikes, the creation of two competing unions, and the largest armed conflict in American labor history. There was a week long battle between 20,000 coal miners and 5,000 state police, deputy sheriffs, and mine guards. These events resulted in an untold number of deaths, over 550 accusations of rebellion and treason, and four declarations of martial law. Corbin argues that these violent events were the result of decades of oppression and collective and militant acts of aggression.

Diaz, Ed. More Voices, New Stories: King County, Washington's First 150 Years. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.

Some people believed that the black workers that were recruited to work in the coal mines in the Pacific Northwest were "inexperienced, ignorant tools of mine workers," and some people believed that the workers knew they were being recruited for strikebreaking, but came anyway. The truth is that blacks were fleeing from their hostile environment in the south and their poverty stricken lives. Eventually, blacks were able to obtain the things that were seeking. For instance, they were able to build families, have a homestead, join and feel like a part of their community, and get involved with politics.

Fishback, Price V. "Segregation in Job Hierarchies: West Virginia Coal Mining, 1906-1932." The Journal of Economic History 44.3 (1984): pp. 755-774. 24 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2124151>>.

When blacks began to migrate north from southern United States, they found vocational opportunities in the West Virginia's coal mines. In which they found a reasonable amount of success. High paying machine jobs were open to blacks and job segregation had almost no impact on their wages, but management

positions were off limits with a few exceptions for all black workforces.

Fishback, Price V. Soft Coal, Hard Choices: The Economic Welfare of Bituminous Coal Miners, 1890-1930. New York: Oxford University Press, USA, 1992.

Fishback regards the economic lives of the bituminous coal miners in the early twentieth century and analyzes competition among employers for labor, the legal environment, institutional development in response to transaction costs as well as the impact of labor unions on the coal industry.

Giesen, Carol A.B. Coal Miners' Wives: Portraits of Endurance. Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1995.

Giesen studied and interviewed eighteen women on the impact of coal mining on families between 1897 and 1939. In their own words, the woman expressed their concerns about the safety of their husbands in the dangerous environment of coal mining. They described their fears of the job hazards and tell how they tried to cope with stress of strikes, layoffs, mine closings and companies that place more emphasis on profit than on safety.

Hraba, Joseph, Dorothy Schweider, and Elmer Schwieder. Buxton: A Black Utopia in the Heartland, An Expanded Edition (Bur Oak Book). Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2003.

From 1900 until the early 1920s, a unique community existed in Buxton, Iowa. It was originally established by the Consolidation Coal Company and it was the largest unincorporated coal mining community in Iowa. What made Buxton uncommon was the fact that the majority of its 5,000 residents were African Americans, which was a highly unusual racial demographic composition for a state which was over 90 percent white. At a time when both southern and northern blacks were disadvantaged and oppressed, blacks in Buxton enjoyed true racial integration, steady employment, above-average wages, decent housing, and minimal discrimination. Hence, Buxton is commonly referred to as "the black man's utopia in Iowa"._

Hynding, Alan A. "The Coal Miners of Washington Territory: Labor Troubles in 1888-89." Arizona & the West 12.3 (1970): pp. 211-236. 20 Jan. 2009
<<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=4&hid=12&sid=f59786f8-c12d-40a3-a3ca-154704fa4ab%40sessionmgr103&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#db=ahl&AN=A000032636.01>>.

In the 1880's, the economy began to rapidly gain momentum and became a financial force in America due to the introduction of capitalism. The success of industrialization caused violent clashes between management and lower level laborers. Managers of the coal mines were often unfair and ruthless, frequently

taking the law into their own hands and by the time Roslyn became one of the focal points of the violent struggle between the hierarchies of workers, a tradition of violence had already been deeply established in the territory, as was as the employment of agents and strikebreakers. In 1889, management was victorious in the struggle and better laws and enforcement came from their success.

Lange, Greg. "African Americans used as strikebreakers at the Franklin coal mines starting May 17, 1891." HistoryLink.org- the Free Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History. 1 Jan. 2000. 24 Feb. 2009
<http://www.HistoryLink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=1941>.

In this article the author describes how the Oregon Improvement Company recruited African Americans from Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee with promises of good paying jobs and free transportation. However, when they got there, they realized that they were being used as strikebreakers. Then the White strikers stopped focusing on the economic dilemma and started to focus on the racial tension, which ultimately punished the blacks until the creation of the integrated local union in 1904.

Lewis, Ronald L. Black Coal Miners in America: Race, Class and Community Conflict, 1780-1980. Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1987.

Lewis provides an incredibly detailed history of black coal miners as slaves, as convicts, and as wage laborers, until the final displacement of most by mechanization. Lewis believes that their treatment could be explained by the Marxist theory of class conflict.

"Master and Servant. Unlawful Employment of Child. Misstatement as to Age of Child, Desoto Coal, Mining & Development Co. v. Hill." The Yale Law Journal 22.6 (1913): 502-503. 24 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/783937>>.

This article explains the legality of child labor. Any boy working in a coal mine under the age of fourteen is in violation of Code 1907, Sec. 1035, which makes the company that hired an underage employee fully responsible for and liabilities that may happen. It is scary to know that kids above the age of fourteen were allowed to work in such dangerous conditions.

Olympia, Washington: Division of Geology and Earth Resources. The Washington State Coal Mine Map Collection: A catalog, index and users guide. Call number: TN 805-W2-W38. 1994

A detailed map of the coal mines in Kittitas County.

Shideler, John C. Coal Towns in the Cascades: A Centennial History of Roslyn and Cle Elum, Washington. Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.: Melior Pubns, 2006.

This detailed work on two Kittitas Valley mining communities includes sections on the native peoples of the region, the pioneer period, the railroads, coal and coal mining, and more. The book is filled with illustrations of black and white photographs.

Spawn of Coal Dust: History of Roslyn 1886-1955. Sault Ste. Marie: Community Development Program, 1955.

Founded three years before Washington was admitted to the Union, Roslyn became a boom town after the discovery of coal. Coal was king in Roslyn for 80 years, and immigrants came from all over the world to work the mines. Roslyn's remarkable history includes stories of murder, a mine strike that ended with the mine boss tied to the railroad tracks, and a bank robbery some claim was the work of the famous outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

Stern, Mark. "Black Strikebreakers in the Coal Fields: King County, Washington -- 1891." The Journal of Ethnic Studies 5.3 (1977): pp. 60-70.

Stern demonstrates further examples of how blacks were brought in to work at the coal mines in Seattle when the unions were calling for strikes. Reference was made to the press that the stikebreakers were tools of the corporations running the mines.

Taylor, Quintard. In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the West, 1528-1990. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999.

Quintard Taylor traces the history of blacks in the West. He documents the experiences of black explorers, black mountain men, black coal miners, buffalo soldiers, and black women who joined clubs and "progressive associations" and helped found all-black towns. Taylor has thoroughly researched the history of blacks and their established communities.

Trimble, Jaymi. Roslyn (WA) (Images of America). Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

Trimble narrates along side a vast collection of over 200 vintage photographs of the Roslyn community. This book allows the reader to truly experience the community of the small coal mining town with stories about local residents like Tony Bailey who turned out to be a woman that had worked the mines for 11 months in 1949 before being arrested in a tavern for going into the woman's bathroom dressed as a man.

Trotter, Joe W. Coal, Class, and Color: Blacks in Southern West Virginia, 1915-32 (Blacks in the New World). Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

Trotter provides an extensive amount of research on the study of Black proletarians moving to West Virginia's coal fields, the construction of Black communities, and the lives of African Americans in the mining camps and mining towns. With his words, he illustrates an excellent representation of the conflicting forces involved in including the mine owners and the state and local governments they controlled, white American and immigrant miners, the bureaucrats who ran the UMWA (United Mine Workers of America), as well as the black middle class that grew up in West Virginia.

Waldron, Caroline A. "Lynch-law Must Go!": Race, Citizenship, and the Other in an American Coal Mining Town." Journal of American Ethnic History 20.1 (2000). 24 Feb. 2009
<<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=8&hid=12&sid=f59786f8-c12d-40a3-a3ca-d154704fa4ab%40sessionmgr103&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZW9vc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#db=a9h&AN=3810405>>.

Waldron describes the hostile environment that the African American community experienced during 1895 in the coal mining town of Spring Valley, Illinois. She writes of the struggles with the coal mine unions and racial tensions between the residents of Spring Valley and Princeton. In particular the influx of European immigrants who flocked to the area to work in the coal mines.

Wilma, David. "Worst coalmine disaster in Washington history kills 45 miners at Roslyn on May 10, 1892." HistoryLink.org- the Free Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History. 4 Dec. 2006. 24 Feb. 2009
<http://www.HistoryLink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8016>.

This is another example of how dangerous it was to be a coal miner in the late 19th and early 20th century. This article discusses the reason behind the blast and attempts to determine who was at fault. The disaster created 29 widows and 91 orphans. Some families filed suit against the Northern Pacific Coal Co. The parties settled with \$1,000 going to each widow except when there was son in the family that was capable of providing for the family and then the payment was \$500.

Woodson, Carter G. A Century of Negro Migration. Lancaster: Russel & Russel, 1918.

The book examines the migrations of southern blacks moving north and westward from the colonial era through the early 20th century. Woodson studied the economic progress and surveyed modern-day movements. This book is full of scholarly research and facts that are organized and interpreted with a scientific perspective.

Yarmie, Andrew. "Employers and Exceptionalism: A Cross-Border Comparison of

Washington State and British Columbia, 1890-1935." The Pacific Historical Review 72.4 (2003): pp. 561-615. 24 Feb. 2009
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3641145>>.

This article cross examines employers and their organizations in Washington state and British Columbia with the goal of determining the difference between the economic and social background, ideologies, values, objectives, and tactics of these two nations. It turned out that there was very little difference in the fundamental aspects of this regional study. However, the major differences between the two nations rose from political and social difference and were not due to exceptionalism.

Zinn, Howard. People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present (P.S.). New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2005.

Howard Zinn uses this book to inform Americans of the true history of America's ugly journey to prominence. In this journey, he discusses how coal mines began to be established and how their presence affected the economy and the workers tilling the mines.