

Working in Early Rhode Island

BY

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Did you know that the government of Rhode Island experimented with price and wage controls as early as 1776?

Did you know that nine very young children and a black man were the workers who helped Samuel Slater launch the American industrial revolution?

Did you know that women textile workers were the leaders of a "turnout" that closed the Pawtucket cotton mills in 1824?

Did you know that one of the earliest crusaders for workingmen's associations, public education, and women's rights was born in Providence?

Did you know that one of the pioneer paid union organizers toured Rhode Island in 1844 forming associations of workingmen and women?

Do you know the Rhode Island Labor Union that has been serving its members for about one and one quarter centuries?

These and other little known facts about the early development of labor unions in Rhode Island are contained in a publication that has been in preparation for about twenty-five years. It is expected that it will be completed before the close of this year. This paper is a synopsis of a Rhode Island labor history project that is to serve as the Rhode Island AFL-CIO's contribution to America's Bicentennial.

Histories of the early American labor movement have concentrated on the experiences of workers in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. However, the workers in many of the other communities along the eastern seaboard also made significant contributions to the establishment of workingmen's associations in America.

The workers in Rhode Island were no exception.

Fellowship Club of Rhode Island - 1752

On deposit, in the vault of the Newport Historical Society is the set of records believed to be the formation of the first workers' association in Rhode Island-- The Fellowship Club of Rhode Island. This club of maritime workers was formed in 1752 for the mutual protection of its members and to provide relief for distressed

A series of regional conventions were held to regulate wages and prices. On December 1, 1776, delegates from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island met in the Providence Convention and considered alternatives needed for a strong economy and produced a series of recommendations. It set the price for twenty-seven domestic commodities such as corn, wheat, wool, etc., and on manufactured goods, such as shoes, stockings, and other clothing. It also set wages for farm labor, house carpenters, trucking, barbers and the makers of felt and beaver hats. Other states adopted similar provisions.

Later that year the Governor of Rhode Island complained that other states were not enforcing the wage limits and to continue to enforce them in Rhode Island would be impossible.

At a later date, another convention was held in East Greenwich where the delegates from Rhode Island adopted another code. This code updated wage scales for common laborers, house carpenters, horseshoers, boat and hat makers.

Federal Constitution

In the meantime, the wealthy, the land speculators, and the holders of state and federal securities were demanding a federal constitution that would protect their property rights. The small farmers, home manufacturers, and working mechanics wanted one that included a "Rights of Man" provision. In Rhode Island, as elsewhere, the working class was instinctively suspicious of "the rich, the wise, and the good." The differences were deep and bitter and eventually a constitution was hammered out. However, as was feared by the working class, "the rich, the wise, and the good" prevailed. The Constitution did not provide any protection for individual rights.

The working class would not accept the proposed constitution and continued their agitation until they were successful. Subsequently, on December 15, 1791, the first ten amendments to the Federal Constitution were adopted providing people

of the United States with the protection of the "Bill of Rights."

The Constitution was so drafted that it prevented the people from running their government and assured "the rich, the wise, and the good" that government would be tilted in their favor.

The feeling against the original constitution was so bitter in Rhode Island, the colony was the last of the thirteen states to adopt the basic law of the land. The fears of the working class were well-founded, and since that experience, workers have remained suspicious of the ruling elite.

The Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers - 1789

On February 27, 1789, a small group of mechanics and home manufacturers including hatmakers, tin platemakers, cabinetmakers, printers, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, store clerks, clothiers, and hairdressers met in the home of Captain Elijah Bacon, a carpenter, on Union Street in Providence and formed the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers. On March 16, 1780, the Association was granted a charter by the Rhode Island General Assembly.

The purpose of the association was to "promote home manufacturing, the cementing of mechanics' interest, and causing a fund for the distressed." It was also in favor of "public education, temperance and its kindred virtues, educating itself as well as the families and apprentices of its members, and public improvement."

Slater Mill - 1790

As the eighteenth century drew to a close, a wide variety of problems confronted the new nation. After the Revolution, the colonists were cut off from many of the goods that had been imported from England. The economy was fast changing from its agrarian and maritime nature to one of manufacturing and mass production. There was a shortage of skilled craftsmen and mechanics and none knew much about running a business of mass production.

English law forbade exporting textile machinery and made it difficult for skilled mechanics to leave the country. However, the ingenuity of the American businessman was not to be underestimated. They induced craftsmen and mechanics to leave England, settle in America, and build textile machinery.

The Rhode Island Commercial House of Almy and Brown induced one of these mechanics, Samuel Slater, to come to Rhode Island. Slater had no drawings or machine parts and it was necessary that he build the machinery from memory. After experiencing some difficulty he successfully built the textile machinery and in December, 1790, he started to operate the first successful textile mill in America. This mill, erected along the banks of the Blackstone River in Pawtucket, was the start of the industrial revolution in America. Production started when Slater fed some raw cotton into the carding machine which was handcranked by an elderly black man.

Child labor played an important role in the establishment of the American textile industry. In England, very young children were employed in the shops and factories, and Slater followed the same routine here. Initially there were four children employed by Slater. By the end of December 1790, his work force had increased to nine children:-- seven boys and two girls -- all between the ages of seven and twelve years of age.

Early Working Conditions

After the successful establishment of the Slater Mill, other mills began operations in Rhode Island and elsewhere. These mills were established along the streams and rivers wherever there was sufficient water power. Unfortunately, the health and safety of the workers and good working conditions were given little consideration by the mill owners.

The mill buildings had low narrow-studded factory rooms, were poorly heated, ill-ventilated, inadequately lighted, and had no sanitary facilities. The windows were small and the burning of candles and oil lamps provided poor illumination. The buildings were hot in summer, and cold in winter.

The air was stale all year long. It was filled with lint and dust that caused lung disease. Women and children comprised most of the work force and they were required to be at their workplace before sunup and remained at work till after sundown.

The work day was 12 to 14 hours depending upon the season of the year. The workers were allowed two one-half hour periods daily to eat their lunch and evening meal.

Early Union Activity

In March 1820, the Providence Association of Workingmen was formed, but it did not meet with great success and within a few years it folded. In 1821, there was located in Newport the Newport Association of Mechanics.

On December 5, 1825, delegates from the New England states met in Providence to consider plans for securing a shorter work day.

In 1831, about 50 delegates representing 1200 mechanics in Rhode Island and Massachusetts met in Washington Hall in Providence and discussed methods of obtaining a shorter work day. The meeting resulted in an agreement that seeking to work no more than ten hours a day was just, and after March 20, 1832, the mechanics would no longer work more than ten hours a day. When employers learned of any workers who attended this meeting as delegates, they were fired from their job.

During the next several years, there were several notable strikes throughout Rhode Island and in many instances women were the active leaders.

For example, in 1834 the women cotton operators in Woonsocket went on strike for a wage increase. In 1853 and 1858 the workers of the Blackstone Mill struck for improved wages.

Newport was not an area exempt of workers unrest. In 1839, there was a strike at the Coddington Mill in Newport. It may be a surprise to some to learn that in the

early 1800's, Newport was an active textile community. The harbor made it relatively easy to receive cotton from the south and ship the finished goods.

Women Lead Strike - 1824

On May 24, 1824, the mill owners of Pawtucket announced that as of June 1st, the cotton mills would run one hour longer and wages would be reduced by twenty-five percent. Business was in an economic depression and the mill owners sought to take advantage of the economic climate. Previously, women workers showed little inclination to join workers associations and participate in "turnouts." The mill owners believed that the large numbers of children and women employed in the mills would not resist the extension of hours of work and the reduction in wages. However, they greatly underestimated the reaction and militant spirit of these young women. One hundred and two of the women weavers held a meeting and resolved that they would "abandon their looms unless the former conditions prevailed."

When the company bell rang calling them to their machines, they assembled around the doors of the mill to hinder the entrance of anyone wishing to enter. This strike led by the women closed the cotton textile mills of Pawtucket. The strike lasted for one week and the "Manufacturers and Farmers Journal" reported that "on Wednesday night a tumultuous crowd filled the streets -- made excessive noise, and visited successively the homes of the manufacturers shouting, exclaiming, and using every imaginable term of abuse and insult." There is no positive evidence that the workers were members of any workers' association, but it is believed that it was inspired and guided by the Providence Association of Workingmen that had formed in 1820.

The strike was settled by compromise, but the terms are no longer known.

Public Education

Every workers' association formed in America has advocated a public tax supported education system. The only education available in the early days was by private sources, and only the wealthy could afford private tutors.

Tax supported education for all children was considered a socialistic tool of the devil by the ruling class. Employers took the position that "no parent is allowed to take a child out of work to go to school. If one child is removed from work all must leave, and the family move from the village."

Employers were of the opinion that the presence of so many children in the factories called for methods of discipline and the owners did not hesitate to make appropriate provisions. One employer in 1833, freely confessed that..."the whipping room was an indispensable appendage to a cotton mill."

A Governor of Virginia wrote..."Thank God there are no free schools or printing -- for learning has brought disobedience and heresy into the world, and printing has divulged them -- God keep us from both."

In the 1840's when a Rhode Island state legislator was supporting public education, he was threatened with violence for advocating "such heresy as the partial confiscation of one man's property to educate another man's child."

None the less, agitation for public education continued and gradually a tax supported school system gradually evolved. In Rhode Island the struggle lasted until 1893 when the Rhode Island General Assembly completed the process and enacted the final link in the public education need when it passed a law that provided free text books for public school pupils.

Spokesmen for labor unions played a prominent role in the evolution of public education. John Mulleda, a member of the Providence Bricklayer's union, a spokes-

man for the A F of L was a most active person in securing the long sought-after goal. John O'Keefe of the Rhode Island Assembly of the Knights of Labor was another strong advocate of the public education issue.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century both of these men were active in advancing the status of working people in the state and were outstanding union leaders along with Edward Leslie Pike and Meyrick Waites of the Providence Typographical Union #33.

Seth Luther - 1830

One of the earliest advocates of workers' associations was Seth Luther. He was born in the City of Providence in 1795, the son of Thomas and Rebecca Luther. He received a common school education, learned the carpenters trade from Caleb Earle and became one of the first authentic protagonists of human rights.

Luther, in 1817, at the age of twenty-two adopted the life of a wayfarer. During the next twelve years, this articulate Providence house carpenter traveled in fourteen of the then twenty-four states, from Rhode Island to the Ohio River, into Canada, and south along the east coast of Florida. He worked at this trade, observed the living and working conditions of the settlers and wrote about them.

Early in the 1830's Luther returned to his home territory where he worked in the cotton mills and as a house carpenter. He also became a prominent labor spokesman.

He was very concerned over the unfavorable working conditions in the cotton mills and was outspoken in his desire to find alternatives to those deplorable conditions created by the emerging manufacturing economy. He was also concerned of the power of the rising merchant class, the failure of workers' associations to be effective, the use of child labor, the treatment of working women, the lack of universal suffrage, and the failure to educate the young in tax supported

schools. He concluded that relief was needed. His solution was the formation of militant workers' associations, establish tax supported public schools for the education of the young, abolition of child labor, equal treatment of women and the right of all adults to vote.

By his writings, speaking, and activity, this self-educated carpenter made his influence felt far beyond the borders of Rhode Island.

After the failure of the Boston Carpenters strike in 1832, Luther was determined to do more about improving the conditions for workers. He toured New England, speaking and helping to organize workers into associations and he met with a high degree of success. He won the praise of the New England Association of Farmers, Mechanics and other Workingmen. In 1834, he with Dr. Charles Douglas, engineered the Convention that founded the Boston Trades Union. Also, in that year he was active in the formation of the National Trades Union that took place in New York City.

In 1835, he wrote a circular about the ten hour day that was so stimulating it caused a strike in Philadelphia. Examples of the horror stories that fired Luther and others' desire to abolish child labor took place in Woonsocket.

In 1837, the eight year old daughter of widow, Mrs. Nicholas Spencer, was employed in one of the Woonsocket Textile mills and by some means, the child incurred the displeasure of one of the overseers. "He tied her feet together and suspended her, head downward, from one of the mill windows. The little girl died a few days afterwards, and the brutal overseer left town hurriedly, fearing violence at the hands of the indignant people." This incident was written up in the Boston papers and cited as an example of the cruel working conditions that existed in the Rhode Island factories.

Luther was very active in consitutional reform in Rhode Island and he played a prominent part in reform ten years before Thomas Dorr and^{was} also prominent in the Dorr Rebellion that led to a change in the Rhode Island Constitution.

During the years that Luther was agitating for social and political reform, he drew the unforgiving wrath of the establishment class. As a result, he was continually harassed, eventually arrested and sentenced to prison for his role in the Dorr Rebellion. He was accused of intending to "disturb the peace of the state and to overthrow and destroy the government and laws thereof."

When the attorney general questioned him about the others who participated in the rebellion, he refused to implicate them.

When in prison, he continued to cause trouble. He set the jail afire and when the jailer went to get water he escaped, was recaptured, and returned to the Newport Prison. On March 22, 1843, he was released from prison and the Providence Journal printed... "Luther -- the illustrious Seth Luther is again at large" and continued with satirical ridicule of the man.

During the next three years Luther continued his agitation for reforms causing consternation for the Journal, businessmen, and government officials. On June 15, 1846, he was committed to a mental hospital and during the next seventeen years he was transferred from one hospital to another until he passed away on April 29, 1863.

In his obituary, the Journal wrote..."He was a natural radical, dissatisfied with all existing institutions about him, and labored under the not uncommon delusion that it was his especial mission to set things right. He had considerable talent for both writing and speaking, but he was too violent, willful, and headstrong to accomplish any good."

New England Association of Farmers, Mechanics, and other Workingmen-1831

Although we have not been able to directly associate Seth Luther with the formation of the New England Association of Farmers, Mechanics, and other Workingmen, it can reasonably be assumed he played a role in its formation. There was a preliminary meeting of the Association held in Providence, Rhode Island on December 5, 1831, comprised of delegations of workingmen from all parts of New England. It was in this time frame when Luther had returned to Rhode Island and it was the type of program he had expressed interest in advancing.

Later that month, another meeting was held at the Marlborough Hotel in Boston. There were ten delegates from Rhode Island at this meeting and three from North Providence and Pawtucket which were communities in the State of Massachusetts in those days. Seth Luther's name was not listed as a delegate from Rhode Island, but it is believed he was active as one of the organizers.

The Association pledged "to labor no more than ten hours a day" -- "collect a per capita tax of fifty cents annually" -- "abolish imprisonment for debt" -- "education of children" and protested that factory time was twenty-five minutes behind solar time.

S. C. Hewitt - 1844

After Seth Luther was silenced in Rhode Island, the drive to form workingmen's associations did not end. The economic depression of 1837 destroyed most of the unions that had been formed but working conditions continued to be such that workers sought ways to attain economic and political clout through organization.

Early in 1844, the mechanics of Fall River, Massachusetts formed a workingmen's association. The primary purpose of the association was to advance the ten hour work day movement.

To expand the ten hour day movement throughout New England, the Fall River Association planned a Boston Convention in the fall of 1844 at which time a New England Workingmen's Association would be organized.

The Fall River association on April 27, 1844, published the first edition of its four page paper "The Mechanic." In the June 22, 1844 issue, it denounced the long work day and stressed that "12 to 15 hours per diem is more than the physical constitution of a man can bear."

The Fall River association also engaged a clergyman, S. C. Hewitt, from Dighton, Massachusetts as a "Lecturer." He toured Rhode Island and nearby communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut organizing local workingmen's associations and promoting the coming Boston Convention. He started his organizing tour on July 25, 1844 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and ended the tour in Taunton, Massachusetts on August 24, 1844.

During his Rhode Island visits to Pawtucket, Providence, Westerly, Woonsocket, and Newport, he met clergymen and interested worker advocates and enjoyed varying degrees of success. As a result of his efforts, several delegates representing the associations he organized in Rhode Island were present at the Boston Convention of the formation of the New England Workingmen's Association.

Hewitt was a strong believer in Fourierism, (a utopian system of production cooperatives.) Of one meeting in Providence, he wrote in The Mechanic ...

"Friends of humanity arise and shake yourself from the dust, let avarice tyrannize no longer over the souls and bodies of men."

Of the Westerly meeting he wrote of the "avaricious capitalists who worship no other God so faithfully -- if at all, as he does the almighty dollar."

He reported at another time that if any people may be said to have had a "living death" it was the people of Woonsocket."

In Newport, one merchant remarked of a Hewitt pamphlet that..."Massachusetts must not think of sending such treasonable stuff as that into Rhode Island."

The convention was held in Boston on October 16, 1844 and The New England Workingmen's Association was formed with the help of several delegates from Rhode Island. It adopted a strong resolution calling for a ten hour day and also granted full privileges to all "Female Labor Reform Associations."

Formation of Rhode Island Unions - 1850-1900

About halfway through the nineteenth century, American workers had gained considerable knowledge about the formation of workingmen's associations. Between 1850 and 1900 more than sixty national unions were organized. These national unions were formed by joining together a number of local independent unions of the same craft or calling. In addition to the formation of national unions, the latter quarter of the nineteenth century found federations of national unions being formed, notably the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor.

Listed here are the unions and the dates many of these local unions appeared on the Rhode Island scene:

Typographical #33 - 1856

The National Typos was started in 1850 and formally organized in 1852. The grand daddy of Rhode Island labor unions is Typographical Local #33. Formation was started in June 1856 as an independent printers society. In 1857, application was made to the National Typographical Union for a charter and it was granted in 1858. It was reorganized on April 8, 1883. The Woonsocket Typos were chartered on May 21, 1888 and Pawtucket Typos December 4, 1888.

Cotton Mule Spinners -- 1858

In 1858, the National Cotton Mule Spinners Association of America was organized in Fall River, Massachusetts and serviced the Mule Spinners of New England including Rhode Island. In January 1891 a branch was organized in Rhode Island.

Bricklayers -- 1863

The Bricklayers Union #1 in Providence was formed in 1863 and reorganized on March 1, 1880. In addition to the Providence local there were locals formed in Newport in 1887 and in the city of Pawtucket, Natick, and Warren.

Tailors -- 1867

Tailors was first organized in Providence in 1867, disbanded and was reorganized in 1880. It was then affiliated with the National Union of Journeymen Tailors.

Amalgamated Society of Engineers -- 1869

The Providence Branch #607 of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was organized in 1869 and was a branch of an international union that was originally formed in England in 1850.

Granite Cutters --- 1877

The Granite Cutters National Union was organized in Rockland, Maine in 1877 and the Rhode Island affiliate was established in Westerly during July 1877.

Plasterers -- 1880

Local #40 of the Plasterers and Cement Masons was organized in 1880. Local #565 of the Cement Masons was organized in 1884 and these locals merged. The Plasterers Helpers was formed in 1884.

Cigarmakers -- 1882

The first cigarmaker's union in Rhode Island was Local #94 that was chartered in Pawtucket on April 15, 1882. The other local was #10 in Providence that was chartered on March 10, 1900. Both were affiliated with the national union of which Sam Gompers was a member.

Carpenters -- 1882

The Providence Carpenters formed a union on February 22, 1882 and it was known as Rhode Island Lodge #1. When Peter McGuire of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters learned of a Carpenter's Union in Providence, he engaged in correspondence with local carpenters and on February 22, 1885 he spoke in Providence; as a result of his visit, the local carpenters affiliated with the National union. The local was chartered on April 9, 1885 and #176 in Newport was also one of the early carpenters unions.

Rhode Island Central Labor Council -- 1884

The National Federation of Trades and Labor Unions was formed in 1881. This was the forerunner of the American Federation of Labor that was created in 1886, the result of a reorganization of the Federation of Trades.

By the year 1884, there was a sufficient interest within the local unions in Rhode Island to form a statewide union of unions. On March 27, 1884, the amalgamation took place. This was three years after the formation of the National Trades and two years before the creation of the AFofL. The state council was composed of representatives of workers' associations, socialist societies, and assemblies of the Knights of Labor. Meyrick Waites and Edward Leslie Pike of the Typos and John O'Keefe of the Knights of Labor were prime movers in the organization of the Council.

On December 27, 1897, the Building Trades Council merged with the State Labor Council.

Knights of Labor -- 1885

Assembly No. 1 of the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor was organized in December 1869. The first Rhode Island District assembly of the Knights was #99 that was organized on August 15, 1885. John O'Keefe and P.J. Quinn, a folder in West Warwick, were prime movers in the Providence Assembly of the Knights. In Newport there was also an assembly and a Joseph O'Keefe was an active participant.

Horseshoers and Blacksmiths--1886

A National Union of Journeymen Horseshoers of United States was organized in Boston in 1874. The Providence Horseshoers Union Local #30 of Providence was organized on May 2, 1886 and affiliated with the national union on April 26, 1887.

Plumbers --1889

On October 11, 1889, the United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting industry was organized. However, prior to the formation of the national union there were several independent unions of this jurisdiction in Rhode Island. Over the years, several of these unions merged into local #28.

Iron Molders 1888

Local #41 of the Iron Molders Union of North America was organized on October 30, 1888 and was an affiliate of the national union that had organized on July 5, 1859.

Letter Carriers -- 1890

The National Association of Letter Carriers was organized on August 26, 1889 and in 1890 it issued five charters to Rhode Island local unions.

Painters -- 1891

On March 5, 1887, in the city of Baltimore, the Painters National Union was organized and on August 8, 1891, Local #195 in Providence came into existence-- on May 25, 1892, Local #15 in Pawtucket was created.

Machinists -- 1891

Local #147 of the International Association of Machinists is the oldest Machinists Union in Rhode Island. It was chartered in January 1891 by the International that had organized on May 5, 1888.

Textile -- 1893

Although the Textile workers were the first ones to participate in the American Industrial Revolution for one reason or another, they were not able to join together and establish any permanency to a labor organization. During the 1880's, the textile workers were frequently forced to resort to strike action, but always without union protection.

However, in 1893, the Textile Union in Rhode Island was formed and it may have affiliated with the National Union of Textile Workers because in 1894 that national union had an office in Olneyville Square. Earlier the Knights of Labor had several assemblies of textile workers.

Other unions operating during the final decade of the nineteenth century were the Musicians Protective Union, Teamsters, Lathers, Spinners, Car Inspectors, Core makers, German Labor Society, Railway Trainmen, Salesmen's Association, Stationary Engineers, Street Pavers, Tin and Sheet Metal Workers, Tool Sharpeners, Coopers, Burlers, and Sewers, Loomfixers, Weavers, Carders and Dyers, Drawers-in, Dresser Tenders, Worstered Mill Help and the Narragansett Lodge #478 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers that was chartered on March 25, 1892.

Stagehands -- 1894

One year after the formation of the International Union, Local #23 of the International Alliance of Theatrical, Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators was chartered in Rhode Island on July 16, 1894.

Street Railway -- 1894

Over the years there had been several attempts to organize street railway unions in Rhode Island. In 1894, a charter was issued to Division #200 by the National Union that had formed in 1892. Another charter was issued to Division #39 in 1894 and several charters were issued after the turn of the century.

Bakers -- 1894

Bakers were organized as early as 1741 in New York City, but the national union did not come into being until 1886. Rhode Island Local #171 of the Bakers and Confectionery Workers Union was organized on November 28, 1894.

Brewery Workers -- 1896

Local #114 of the Brewery Workers was organized in December 1896 and affiliated with the United Brewery Workers of the U. S. that had organized in 1886. On November 15, 1898, Local #166 was established by the national union.

Seamen

During the latter part of the century there was a Seamen's Local in Providence that was affiliated with the International Seamen's Union that had been organized in 1895.

Bartenders Union -- 1898

In 1898 there was a Bartender's Union in Pawtucket and no evidence can be located as to its affiliation with the national union.

Pawtucket Central Labor Union -- 1898

The Pawtucket Central Labor Union was formed in 1898.

Printing Pressmen -- 1899

The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America was founded on October 8, 1889 and ten years later, 1899, Local #114 was granted a charter. Local #12 came upon the scene in 1900.

Barbers -- 1899

In October 1899, 42 Providence barbers organized Local #224 of the Journeyman Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmetologists' and Proprietors. The national barbers was formed in December 1866.

Some of the Rhode Island unions that were created in 1900 were Coopers Local #51 on May 2, 1900; Dresser Tenders #77 in February 1900; Local #99 of the IBEW in January 4, 1900; Local #57 of the Hoisting Engineers in 1900; Local #6 of the United Hatters of North America; Horseshoe Nail Makers Union #8653 on September 11, 1900; Lace Curtain Weavers; R.I. Oystermen's Protective Union #8865 on March 3, 1900; Web Pressmen's Union #12, July 23, 1900.