

History 346
The Gilded Age
T - F 3:30 - 4:50
GHH 106
Roger Williams University
Spring Semester 2010

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Week of February 2, 2010

For **Tuesday, February 2**

Read,

On the **Internet**,

#1, [Andrew Carnegie on Wealth \(North American Review\)](#)

#2, [Henry George Introduction to Progress and Poverty](#)

Plus this little poem by The Reverend Alexander Lewis (1902)

*There is always a way to rise, my boy
Always a way to advance
Yet the road that leads to Mount Success
Does not pass by the way of Chance,
But goes through the stations of Work and Strive,
Through the valley of Persevere;
And the man that succeeds while others fail,
Must be willing to pay most dear.*

*For there's always a way to fail, my boy,
Always a way to slide,
And the men that you find at the foot of the hill
All sought for an easy ride.
So on and up, though the road be rough
And the stones come thick and fast,
There is room at the top for the man that tries,
And victory comes at last.*

If you find this inspiring, you might want to read the book from which I extracted it:

[Stepping stones to manhood: a book of inspiration for boys and young men](#)

By William Peter Pearce

[Andrew Carnegie](#) and [Henry George](#) look at the economic machine from widely differing perspectives. Interestingly, both men rose from very humble origins to positions of fame and prominence. In Carnegie's case, one can add wealth to the list of his triumphs. George, on the other hand became a public icon for those who greeted the new economy with suspicion. Alexander Lewis's short poem is the kind of thing which teachers at the turn of the century might encourage their students to memorize. (I won't force that on any of you... but if you have invented an appropriate character you may want to learn this "by heart." How does one become rich? Lewis provides what becomes the standard American answer for a century or more.

For *Friday, February 5*

A Culture in Motion

Read, in **Schlereth**:

Chapter 1: Moving pp. 7-31

and, on the **Internet**

<http://www.cmhpf.org/kids/TopicalEssays/TrolleyGuide.html>

<http://www.citybus.org/history.htm> (Through "end of an era")

<http://apps.detnews.com/apps/history/index.php?id=50>

As *Schlereth* will demonstrate, all sorts of mobility dominated American culture at the turn of the century. It may help to organize thinking about this as a matter of scale of distance, as much as anything else. At the top of the scale would be immigration. At the bottom, the commute from domicile to workplace. In between would be the movement between regions of this country, and from the farms, villages and market towns to the emerging industrial centers. All of these happened more or less simultaneously and more or less continuously, and at an ever accelerating pace.

Today, we'll look at the bottom of the scale. We'll flip to the top next week as we explore immigration and immigrants..

Looking Ahead.

To do this, we're going to do some work with historic census figures. I'll give a demonstration in class today, but you might try playing with the materials yourself. You'll find them at <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>