

History 336
Fall 2007
Tue-Thur. 10:45-12:00

Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley

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Introduction:

Why should anybody study local history? In the grand drama of the human experience, who cares how a relatively small number of people in a particular location went about their mundane everyday lives? In the past, before the ongoing onslaught of modern communication and transportation technologies, history was a local phenomenon. That is, the things that mattered to people and affected their lives largely came from their local area. One of the major historical trends of the past several centuries has been the incessantly increasing influence of larger geographical spheres on the fortunes of localities. For example, in the early nineteenth century the Lehigh Valley was developed largely by capitalists from Philadelphia. Later Bethlehem Steel's foray into armaments manufacture made the Lehigh Valley a key component into international affairs. World War I was by far and away the most important event in the history of our region—bringing enormous sums of money into the valley. Later in the century, changes in international politics and industry led to the ultimate implosion of Bethlehem Steel. The Lehigh Valley both shaped and was shaped by the important historical events and trends of American, and, in some instances, world history.

Bethlehem has been a special place because it has directly experienced most of the major developments that make up the core of traditional American history. It has experienced: Utopian religious origins, Ambiguous relationships with Native Americans, the Revolutionary War, Coal, Canals and Railroads, Industrialists, Immigrants, Philanthropy, Labor Organization, World Wars, Suburbanization, and De-industrialization.

Books

Jane Merritt, *At the Crossroads: Indians and Empires on a Mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763*.

Paul Douglas Newman, *Fries Rebellion*

Kevin Kelly, *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires*

John Strohmeyer, *Crisis in Bethlehem: Big Steel's Struggle to Survive*.

Grading:

Short papers 25%; Midterm 20%; Quizzes 25%; Final exam 30%. Extra credit—museum or other report 5%.

Short Papers:

The short papers are a three to five page analysis of the reading assigned for that day.

Quizzes:

The format of this course will be structured discussion, not lecture. Therefore, it is essential that students do the assigned reading. Students who do the reading will be rewarded with good quiz grades. Students who do not do the reading may be asked to leave the class.

Schedule:

Aug. 28 Introduction: Local History and the Lehigh Valley

Aug. 30 Colonial Pennsylvania
Merritt, chaps. 1-2

Sept. 4 Moravians
<http://bdhp/moravian.edu>

Sept. 6 Moravians and Native Americans
Merritt, *At the Crossroads*, chap. 3-4.

Sept. 11 Native Americans and War
Merritt, chaps. 5-8.”

Sept. 13 The American Revolution in the Lehigh Valley
Dan Gilbert, “Bethlehem and the American Revolution”

Sept. 18 Radical Pennsylvania
Newman, chaps.1-2

Sept. 20 Fries Rebellion
Newman, chaps. 3-6.
Short Paper

Sept. 23 O’Sleepy Town of Bethlehem
W. Ross Yates, *Bethlehem of Pennsylvania, the first one hundred years, 1741 to 1841*, pp.165-176, 202-215.

Sept. 27 Coal and Canals
Donald Sayenga, “The Untried Business: An Appreciation of White and Hazard,”
Proceedings of the Canal History and Symposium, Vol. 2 (1983): 105-127.

Oct. 2 Iron and Railroads
Yates, *Wharton*, chap.8
The Diaries of Robert Heysham Sayre, 1-12.

Oct. 4 MIDTERM EXAM

- Oct. 11 The Civil War in the Lehigh Valley
- Oct. 16 The Molly Maguires
Kenny, *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires*
Short Paper
- Oct. 18 Steel and Battleships
Yates, *Wharton*, chap. 14.
- Oct. 23 Post Civil War Bethlehem
W. Ross Yates, *Bethlehem: The Golden Years*, 86-105,108-111,118-128,156-165
“The Diaries of Robert Heysham Sayre, pp.12-21.
- Oct. 25 Immigrants
Growing up on the South Side, “From Tulcik to Bethlehem”(excerpts).
- Oct. 30 Labor—Scientific Management
Robert Kanigel, *The One Best Way*, 310-55.
Taylor, *The Principles of Scientific Management*, 12-21.
- Nov. 1 Charles Schwab and Bethlehem
Yates, *Bethlehem: The Golden Years*, “The Great Adventure of Charles Schwab.”
- Nov. 6 Capital and Labor—the Strike of 1910
“The Bethlehem Steel Strike of 1910”, pp. 2-29.
- Nov. 8 World War I
John K. Mumford, “The Story of Bethlehem Steel, 1914-1918”
Short Paper
- Nov. 13 Political Consolidation
Vadasz, “Political Consolidation”
“Mayor’s Report 1918” online a bapl.org/ reference services/ local history
- Nov. 15 The Roaring Twenties on the Southside.
Dare to Be Brave “Reform Mayor,” excerpts.
H.L. Mencken, “The Noble Experiment.”
- Nov. 20 Bethlehem Steel in Boom, Depression, and War
- Nov. 27 Hess’s: Hollywood on Hamilton
- Nov. 29 Crisis in Bethlehem
Strohmeyer, *Crisis in Bethlehem*

Dec. 4 Latino Bethlehem

Antonsen, *A History of the Puerto Rican Community in Bethlehem*, chaps. 1-3, 6.

Dec. 6 Post-Industrial Bethlehem

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.