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Curriculum Unit on the Gilded Age in the United States

American History Lesson Plans

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"I am ..."

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Title: “I am...”

Original Author: Kim O’Neil

Adapted Author: Cassandra Nelson

Grade Levels: 9th Grade

Time: One 50-minute class period

Focus Statement:

This lesson focuses on understand the Farmers’ Alliance, Women of the Farmers’ Alliance, the Colored Alliance and the Knights of Labor. Students will learn about the objectives of each alliance and why each alliance was important to the formation of the third party, the populist movement. Students will also understand the historic figures of the Farmers’ Alliance, Women of the Farmers’ Alliance and the Knights of Labor. Students will understand the historic figures lives and contributions to the above organizations of the gilded age.

MN Standard:

MN Standard 9.4.4.20.6 As the United States shifted from its agrarian roots into an industrial and global power, the rise of big business, urbanization and immigration led to institutionalized racism, ethnic and class conflict and new efforts at reform

MN Standard 9.4.4.20.6 Benchmark: Describe the major political and social reform movements of the Progressive Era; analyze their impact on individuals, communities and institutions (Development of an Industrial United States: 1870-1920)

Learning Objective(s): (Both Content and Skill)

- Students will understand the objectives of the Farmers’ Alliance within the class period
- Students will understand the objectives of the Women of the Farmers’ Alliance within the class period
- Students will understand the objectives of the Colored Alliance within the class period
- Students will understand the objectives of the Knights of Labor within the class period
- Students will understand the lives of the historic figures of the gilded age

Resources: (These are all the resources you need to bring into the classroom to conduct this lesson—paper, markers, tape, scissors, magazines, technology needs, textbook, documents, artifacts, guest speakers, etc. The list should contain some of the sources you list in you annotated bibliography. This should be a list)

- Computer
- Projector for the PowerPoint
- Graphic organizer: Historic figures
- Historical Figures sheets for the activity
- Poem for the class
-

Methods/Procedures (Step-by-step instructions that will enable anyone to do what you would do in the classroom with this lesson. Be sure to indicate how many minutes each segment takes.)

Beginning (# of minutes): (May be a review of last lesson and connection with this lesson, or some other way to start the lesson)

- **(15 to 20 minutes)** Begin the PowerPoint, go through all information on the lecture portion of the PowerPoint

Slide 1:

Learning objectives

- Understanding of what the Farmers' Alliance was and what its key objectives were
- Understanding of the Women of the Farmers' Alliance, who the women were and why it was so important for them to be a part of the Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding the Colored Farmers' Alliance. What objectives did colored farmers have for the Colored Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding the Knights of Labor and why they were important for the White Farmers' Alliance and the Colored Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding historic figures of this time in history.

Slide 2:

Originated in 1875 in Lampasas County, Texas.

States that were a part of the National Farmers' Alliance

Each state has its own date that it began, but for the sake of time we will not go into the origins of all of the Farmers' Alliances that existed in

Some of the states that were a part of the National Farmer's Alliance include

- Arkansa, California, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, West Virginia, Washington, Texas, Wisconsin and Nebraska

the gilded age

Slide 3: The Farmers' Alliance

Many farmers' favored the Dawes Act

- Why do you think this is?
- Lead the students, when you are a farmer who is heading out west with his family what will be the first thing that that farmer will need?
 - The farmer will need land
 - Explain the homestead act
 - Explain why the dawes act worked. It worked because the Dawes Act split native American land into 160 acre plots. Men would receive 160 acres, single women would receive 80 acres of land (Half of that of a mans), and their children would receive a forth of a plot of land which would be 40 acres of land.
 - Any land that is left over when the United States government finished splitting up the Native Americans land would be available for private sale to white settlers.

Eligibility for membership of the Farmers' Alliance

- Eligibility was defined as "White persons over 16 years old engaged in agriculture and related pursuits, including country doctors, preachers, editors and teachers."
 - In many rural districts the alliance enrolled virtually the entire white community
- Eligibility excluded most non-white people, as well as most lawyers, bankers, merchants and saloon keepers
 - Why do you believe they would exclude lawyers, bankers, merchants and saloon keepers?

Progress through education

- Farm reformers believed that closing the rural education gap was a prerequisite for improving rural life
- Farmers wanted education that would enhance children's minds to become farmers. They wanted their children to learn more about farming and business in school than any other subject because if they were not taught about farming or business they would be taught other subjects that would alienate them from farming and the culture that they grew up in. (74 online one)

Slide 4: Women of the Farmers' Alliance

Why would women join the farmers' alliance?

- Rural women joined the Farmers' Movement because they were farmers seeking financial relief in the face of hard times. And they joined because they were women with aspirations for educational and professional opportunities and economic independence (100)
- Progress:
 - Progress meant domestic and garden work instead of heavy fieldwork. It meant self-reliance and capacity of employment. It meant training and skills for a place in education, medicine, accounting, telegraphy and other new and expanding occupations (71)
- No Dues
 - The Farmers' Alliance offered women extensive rights within the organization first, the alliance imposed no dues on women members. Otherwise, women enjoyed the same membership rights that men did in terms of speaking, voting and holding office. (70)
- "All things that are of interest to men are of like interest to women." "Rural women farmed, taught school, pursued professions, and faced many of the same societal issues that rural men did." (70)

Education

- What do you think lease was trying to imply in this quote? (47)
 - Why would it be important that it was "cheaper than coal?"
 - Why would she state, "And more common than pork and beans"?

Slide 5: Poem

"O woman! Lovely woman! Nature made thee
 To temper man; we had been brutes without you.
 Angels are painted fair, to look like you;
 There's in you all that we believe of heaven;
 Amazing brightness, purity and truth,
 Eternal joy and everlasting love."

-From the history of the National Farmers' Alliance and co-operative union of America by W. L. Garvin and S. O. Daws

Slide 6: The Colored Alliance

Disclaimer about using the word "colored" to refer to black Americans at this time.

- "I am only using the word "colored" because we are discussing a historical time period and this is the language that was used during this time period. This does not mean that it is ever okay to use the word colored in your own vocabulary unless you are using for historical purposes in this classroom."

Formation of the Colored Farmers' Alliance

- Was formed by a group of southern black farmers in 1886 because the southern farmers' alliance barred black membership.
- They encouraged their members to become economically independent by purchasing homes and eliminating debts.

The few items that the Colored Farmers' Alliance and White Farmers alliance cooperated on was the

- Abolition of the Louisiana lottery, they feared that this would lead their farmers farther into debt

- Improving their business ventures

Education

- The main focus of the Colored Farmers Alliance.
- Black farmers and laborers hoped that the ability to read, write and calculate would provide leverage in their negotiations with dishonest landlords, creditors, and legal authorities (61)
- Many whites feared that blacks viewed education as a means toward political and social justice, the white farmers' were right to fear because that is exactly how the black farmers' viewed education (61)
- The Colored Farmers' Alliance accepted the principle of segregation and encouraged members to educate themselves to be "more obedient to civil law"
 - This was the mask that the colored farmers' alliance presented to the public while the colored farmers' alliance raised funds for teacher salaries and quietly pursued dreams of improved schools across the south. (62)

Unfortunately I was unable to find any biographical information on any of the members of the Colored Alliance which is why there are no historic figures for the Colored Farmers' Alliance.

The photo to the right shows how the Democratic Party of Georgia tried to sway the colored voters to move away from the third party and vote with the democrats.

Slide 7 The Knights of Labor

In the middle of the photo is Terence V. Powderly "Genl. Master Workman." On the top is the Found of the Knights of Labor, Uriah S. Stephens. The rest of the people in the photo are other labor leaders

For this lesson, I am going to focus on the relationship of the knights of labor and the Farmers' alliance
The Knights of Labor formed in 1869 as a small secret organization of tailors in Philadelphia.

The Knights increasingly looked to the business politics of the farmer as the path to reform.

- "To-day the crops seem to be the business barometer of our nation. Upon them the railroad is dependent for freight, the banks for exchange, the country for exports and the whole world for bread." Toward the farmer the Knights leadership look for its future. (219)

Knights welcome all people

- First the knights' of labor welcomed cotton planters and railway mechanics alike. Proximity allowed for the cross-pollination of ideas and labor populists shared the faith of their rural counterparts in large-scale organization and state building. (19)

The questions of White Farmers' and Black Farmers' being able to collaborate

- In 1880, the Knights of Labor welcomed black members and pledged "in the broad field of labor" to make "no distinction on account of color." Although blacks usually belonged to separate lodges and sat in separate sections when in racially mixed meetings black and white members also made public displays of solidarity as they joined efforts in boycotts, strikes, and parades. Moreover, The Farmers' Alliance, even with its white only clause, initially allowed for dual membership in the Knights, a policy that offered possibilities for cooperation across racial lines. This would later change when the Farmers' Alliance banned the co-membership of the Farmers' Alliance and the Knights of Labor. (39)

Middle: Instructional Strategies / Learning Activities (# of minutes):

- **(30 to 35 minutes)** Activity for historic figures of the gilded age. Each student will receive one historic figure of the gilded age. Each student will read the information given by the teacher to the student about the historic figure of the gilded age. Each student will write a one to two paragraph mini biography of the historic figure that they receive. Students will then present their one to two paragraph biography on their historic figure to the class as if they were speaking at the historic figure that they wrote their paragraphs about. "I am..."

End / Summary (# of minutes): Should include Evaluation / Assessment / Student Achievement (# of minutes if formal)

- **(1 to 2 minutes)** I will conclude the class by going over what we covered in class and what we will cover the next class period

Afterwards

Provisions for Individual Differences (physical, emotional, mental, language, etc.):

- If anyone has difficulty reading, I can adjust the readings for students who inform me prior to the lesson.
-

Self-Reflection (What worked? What needs Improvement? What changes would I make before doing the lesson again?)

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THE RISE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST THIRD PARTY: THE POPULIST MOVEMENT

A lesson on The Farmers' Alliance, The Colored Alliance,
Women of the Farmers' Alliance and the Knights of Labor



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understanding of what the Farmers' Alliance was and what its key objectives were
- Understanding of the Women of the Farmers' Alliance, who the women were and why it was so important for them to be a part of the Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding the Colored Farmers' Alliance. What objectives did colored farmers have for the Colored Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding the Knights of Labor and why they were important for the White Farmers' Alliance and the Colored Farmers' Alliance
- Understanding historic figures of this time in history.



THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

- Originated in 1875 in Lampasas County, Texas.
- States that were a part of the National Farmers' Alliance



First Farmers' Alliance. 1877. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison, Wisconsin.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

- Many Farmer's favored the Dawes Act
- Eligibility for membership of the Farmers' Alliance
- Progress through education

WOMEN OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

- Why would a women join the Farmers' Alliance?
 - Progress
 - No Dues
 - Training
 - Political Equality
- Education
 - Knowledge is "too rare and precious for the common herd, is in our day cheaper than coal and more common than pork and beans." –Mary Elizabeth Lease



WOMEN OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

"O woman! lovely woman! nature made thee
To temper man; we had been brutes without you.
Angels are painted fair, to look like you;
There's in you all that we believe of heaven;
Amazing brightness, purity and truth,
Eternal joy and everlasting love."

"O woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee
To temper man; we had been brutes without you.
Angels are painted fair, to look like you;
There's in you all that we believe of heaven;
Amazing brightness, purity and truth,
Eternal joy and everlasting love."

THE COLORED ALLIANCE

- Formation
- Faced many of the same issues at the Farmers' Alliance
- The few times that the Colored Alliance and Farmers' Alliance worked together.
- Education was the main focus of the Colored Alliance

COLORED VOTERS
READ

Here is one instance of the treatment the Colored People of Georgia receive at the hands of the State Democratic Party.

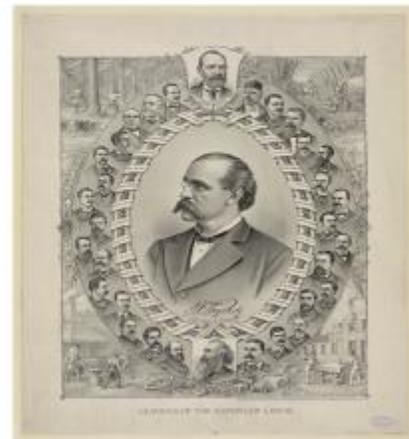
What Evidence have the Negroes of this State that Schools will be provided for their Children in case the Third Party gets into Power?

School Fund derived from Taxes, Direct and Indirect	\$1,000,000 00
School Fund derived from Poll Tax, assessments	50,000 00
Total of School Fund for 1893	\$1,050,000 00
Of the School Fund voted by Democrats and Specie Trusts, the white property of the State paid (School Tax)	\$1,000,000 00
The Colored property paid (School Tax)	50,000 00
Total of School Fund for School and Special Taxes	\$1,050,000 00
Of the Poll Tax the Negroes paid	\$1,000,000 00
The Negroes paid	50,000 00
Total Colored Property Paid Poll Tax	\$1,050,000 00
Of the Distribution of the School Fund in 1893 the white property of the State paid	\$1,000,000 00
The white property of the State paid	50,000 00
Total amount paid for School Fund by white property in 1893 was \$1,050,000 00	
Total paid for by Negroes, including poll tax	\$1,050,000 00

What interest have you in interest in 1893 for all purposes and from all sources was \$1,050,000 00, showing that the number of schools under the State Democratic Party was \$1,050,000 00, or as paid to the Public Schools from all sources.

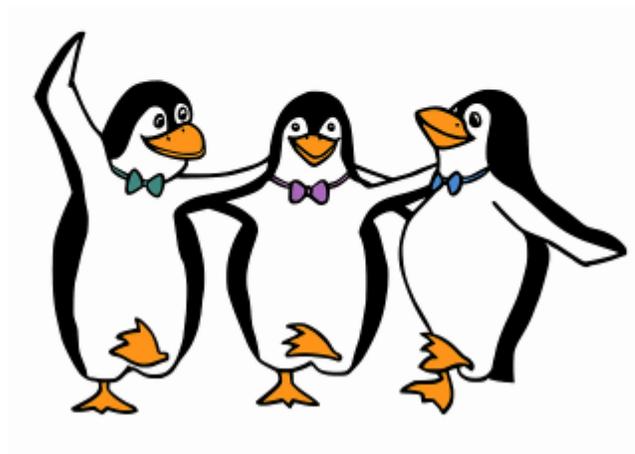
THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR

- Relationship with the Farmers' Alliance.
- Farming as a path to reform
- Knights welcome all people
- The questions of White Farmers' and Black Farmers' being able to collaborate



The Farmers Alliance	Women of the Farmers Alliance	The Colored Alliance	The Knights of Labor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated in 1875 in Lampasas County, Texas • Supported the Dawes Act • To join the Farmers' Alliance you must be white, over 16 years of age and be engaged in agriculture or related occupations • Education was a priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress was important to rural farming women • Able to speak, vote and hold office within the Farmers' Alliance • Education was also a priority for rural women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated in 1886 when the Farmers' Alliance barred black membership • There were a few times that the Colored Alliance and Farmers' Alliance cooperated with each other • Education was a priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in 1869 as a small secret organization of tailors • Looked at the business politics of the farmer • Welcomed all people • Questioned collaboration among organizations.

ACTIVITY TIME!!!



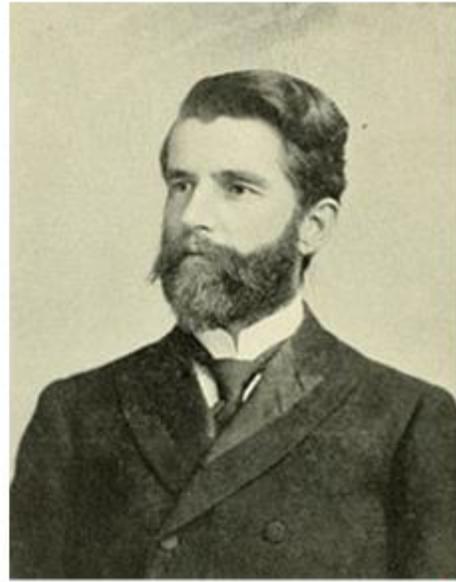
WILLIAM ALFRED PEFFER



LEONIDAS L. POLK



MARION BUTLER



CHARLES MACUNE



MARY ELIZABETH LEASE



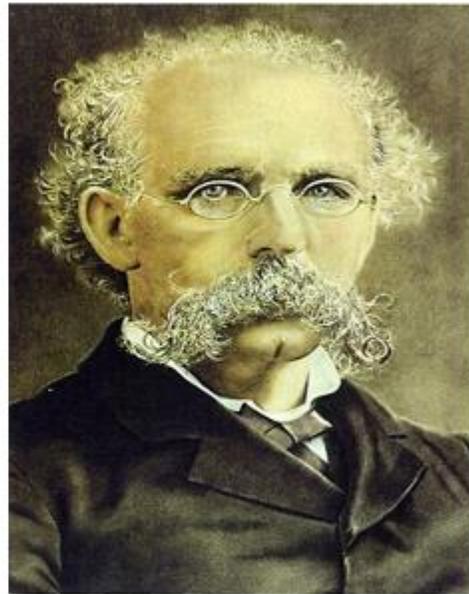
LUNA KELLIE



BETTY MUNN GAY



TERENCE V. POWDERLY



URIAH S. STEPHENS



JAMES SOVEREIGN



PEFFER, WILLIAM ALFRED (1831-1912)

William Alfred Peffer was a prominent newspaper editor who helped organize the People's Party and became the first Populist U.S. senator. Born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on September 10, 1831, Peffer farmed and taught school in several states before settling in Fredonia, Kansas, in 1870. There he purchased a small newspaper that he renamed the Fredonia Journal.

A Republican, Peffer was elected a state senator in 1874 and a presidential elector in 1880, but he was more involved in journalism than politics. In 1875 he moved to Coffeyville, renamed his newspaper the Coffeyville Journal, and became active in the Kansas Editors Association. In 1881, leaving a son to run the Coffeyville Journal, Peffer moved to Topeka as editor of the Kansas Farmer, the state's foremost farm journal and most widely circulated newspaper. He also became an associate editor for the Topeka Capital, the state's leading Republican daily. But he followed a nonpartisan course in making the Kansas Farmer an influential reform newspaper, advocating railroad regulation, financial reform, antimonopolism, and political democratization. He urged farmers to organize, and the Farmers Alliance made the Farmer its official state paper.

In 1890 Peffer's editorials and speeches helped the alliance launch the People's Party of Kansas, which defeated the Republicans and in 1891 elected him senator. Resigning from the Farmer, he became the major shareholder of the Topeka Advocate, the leading Populist newspaper, and organized and became the first president of the Kansas Reform Press Association. His books, *The Way Out* (1890) and *The Farmer's Side: His Troubles and Their Remedy* (1891), were fundamental Populist literature.

Peffer chaired the 1891 Cincinnati conference that organized the national People's Party, and he became the principal advocate of Populist measures in Congress. He used his official salary to help start the National Watchman as a Populist newspaper in Washington DC, and in 1895 he took control of the Advocate. He consistently promoted a radical and independent course for the Populist Party but gradually lost influence as it turned to a policy of fusion on the basis of free silver. He was not reelected in 1897 and shortly thereafter sold the Advocate. He continued to write for newspapers and magazines on agricultural and economic topics until his death in Grenola, Kansas, on October 6, 1912.

Citation:

Wishart, David. "Encyclopedia of the Great Plains." Encyclopedia of the Great Plains. 2011.
15, 2015. <http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.med.036.xml>.

Accessed November

Leonidas L. Polk (1837-1892)

Agrarian leader, editor, and first North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, Leonidas L. Polk was born on April 24, 1837 in Anson County. He was the son of Andrew and Serena Autry Polk, successful farmers and owners of thirty-two slaves. By age fifteen, Leonidas lost his father and mother. Their estate was divided between him and three half-brothers, with young Polk's share being 353 acres and seven slaves. Polk was educated in the local schools and at nearby Davidson College. In 1857, Polk married Sarah Pamela Gaddy of Anson County; they had six children.

In 1860, Polk was elected to the state House as a Whig Unionist. Like most Whigs, he only advocated secession after President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) in April 1861 issued a call for troops to quell the states that formed the Confederate States of America and bring them back into the Union. As a state representative, Polk chaired a joint committee that created the state militia that he soon led as a commissioned colonel. (He was known thereafter as Colonel Polk.) In May 1862, he joined the 26th North Carolina Regiment as a private; he was later promoted to the rank of sergeant-major. Later that year, he transferred to the 43rd Regiment. He served in it as a second lieutenant, until he was elected in 1864 to the state legislature.

After the Civil War, Polk restored his farm, started and edited the weekly *Ansonian*, and founded the town of Polkton. His newspaper was *Conservative* (a synonym then for *Democratic*), and in 1876, he supported Zebulon B. Vance (1830-1894) for governor. Meanwhile, he championed agricultural diversification and education. In 1877, Governor Vance and the newly established North Carolina Agriculture Commission appointed Polk the state's first Commissioner of Agriculture. Dissatisfied with lack of legislative support for the agency, Polk resigned in 1880 and started working as a reporter for the *Raleigh News*.

Polk was an early leader of the Grange (the Patrons of Husbandry), an agricultural organization that had limited success in North Carolina. In 1886, Polk founded the *Progressive Farmer* and editorialized for agriculture improvement, farmer club organization, and establishment of a separate state agricultural college under the Morrill Act. In 1887, the North Carolina College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts (later N.C. State) was established; many believed this educational achievement would have been impossible without Polk's support.

When the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, also known as the Southern Alliance, moved to North Carolina in 1887, Polk joined and quickly gained influence within the organization. Membership was a little over 100,000 in the Tar Heel State and over two million nationally. In 1889, Polk was elected president of the National Farmers' Alliance; he was re-elected in 1890 and 1891.

As its president, Polk advocated all the core principles of the Alliance. He supported free coinage of silver, a graduated income tax on incomes over \$10,000, and direct election of U.S. senators. Polk likewise supported a "sub-treasury plan," an idea originally suggested in November 1889 by North Carolinian Harry Skinner (1855-1929) and soon adopted as an official proposal of the Alliance. The plan called for the establishment of a system of government warehouses, where farmers had the option to deposit crops for government certificates worth eighty-percent of their market value. The plan's purpose was to eliminate forced seasonal crop sales at deflated prices and provide a means so that farmers could sell crops for a profit and pay off loans.

By the 1890s, the Democratic Party had thwarted Polk's agricultural reform efforts, so he joined the People's (or Populist) Party. Among Populist rank and file, his popularity soared like a meteor; he had finally found a political home. In early 1892, rumors abounded that Polk would be the Populist presidential nominee. As a former Confederate officer, Polk was an immediate success among many white Southerners, but some leaders of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)—a Union veteran's organization—and the western Farmers' Alliance supported his candidacy, too. On June 11, 1892, however, Polk died from a hemorrhaging bladder, and some Populists' hopes of reform died with him. James B. Weaver (1833-1912) took his place, but the former Union general as a political candidate fared poorly; Polk undoubtedly would have rallied more Southern support.

Polk had been financially successful in the 1880s. When he died, however, debt plagued the Polk family, for he had used his personal fortune to promote agricultural reform. Leonidas Polk's close associate, Marion Butler (1863-1938), remarked: "Col. Polk died poor, and there probably has never lived a man who could

have prostituted his position for greater financial gain.” Polk’s ideas lived long after his death. They later influenced many Progressives to enact agricultural reform at the state and national levels.

Citation:

Faulkner, Ronnie. "Leonidas L. Polk (1837-1892)." North Carolina History Project. 2015. Accessed November 15, 2015. <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/commentary/42/entry>.

MACUNE, CHARLES WILLIAM (1851–1940).

Charles William Macune, leader of the Texas and National Farmers' alliances, was born on May 20, 1851, at Kenosha, Wisconsin, the third child and only son of William and Almira S. (McAfee) Macune. His father, a blacksmith and minister, was evidently a native of Saratoga County, New York. His mother came from the Ontario village of Bertie. The family moved to the Iowa frontier in 1843. They then lived in northwest Illinois until 1852, when Charles's father was lured by the prospects of the California gold fields, where he died of cholera. Charles Macune was thus reared by his widowed mother in Freeport, Illinois, where he acquired limited public-school education. At the age of ten he went to work for a nearby German farmer. In 1866, at the age of fifteen, he began employment as an apprentice in a pharmacy, the first step toward his later profession as a physician. In 1869 he went to California, where he worked as a ranch hand. By the fall of 1870, however, he was in Kansas working with a circus. By the summer of 1871 he had moved to North Texas, where he spent several years as a cattle drover between Fort Worth and Mineral Wells. By the spring of 1874 Macune had moved to Burnet, where he briefly supported himself painting houses. Between September 1874 and the spring of 1875, he made his initial venture into journalism as editor of the Burnet Bulletin, a Democratic weekly newspaper. He called himself a Jeffersonian Democrat and was a vigorous critic of radical Reconstruction. In June 1875 he was elected secretary of the county Democratic party executive committee. In September 1875 he married Sallie Vickrey, the Kentucky-born daughter of a Salado, Texas, stonemason engaged in building the Burnet County Courthouse. Six children were born of this marriage. After a brief attempt in 1875 to manage a hotel in Georgetown, Macune moved to San Saba and reportedly continued painting houses while he studied medicine with a local physician. By 1878 he was in Junction City, where in 1879 he was certified by a state medical examiner to practice medicine. He worked for several months as a doctor in Junction City, then in Fredericksburg, before finally setting up his practice in 1881 in Cameron. There he invested in town and nearby farm properties, including a farm at Ad Hall, where he and his family lived. Another man, however, operated the farm. In the summer of 1886 Macune and local physician Thomas A. Pope purchased the Cameron Herald.

Macune had also become a charter member of the local chapter, formed sometime in the spring of 1886, of the state Farmers' Alliance. He was promptly named one of the county organization's three delegates to the annual state convention in Cleburne in August 1886. There he was elected chairman of the state executive committee. At that tumultuous gathering the delegates split over a series of resolutions demanding radical economic reforms by the state and national governments. As acting president, Macune sought to stave off division of the order with a two-pronged program, which he offered at a special conference he summoned in Waco in January 1887. He proposed to expand the level of cooperative activity within the alliance and to expand the state Farmers' Alliance across the whole South with a new national organization, the National Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union.

The cooperative efforts of the Texas Farmers' Alliance grew out of alliance farmers' efforts to get better prices for their cotton and escape the burden of the crop-lien system, a mechanism for financing the cotton crop with crop mortgages. It produced a capital-starved South in the years after the Civil War and drove millions of southern farmers, black and white, into severe poverty and loss of land. The difficulty local alliance stores had in defeating the concentrated opposition of local merchants and banks, as well as the savings promised to the farmers by large-scale cooperative purchasing and sales, underlay Macune's plans for the Farmers' Alliance Exchange of Texas. The exchange, with Macune as business manager, opened in September 1887 with very little capital in a building donated by the city of Dallas. The first year of the exchange's operation demonstrated that the benefits of statewide cooperation could not reach most lien-harassed farmers without some adjustment. In November 1888 the Texas Farmers' Alliance announced the "joint note" plan, developed primarily by Macune. This plan called for more prosperous farmers to take mortgages on the crops of their less prosperous neighbors, including tenants and sharecroppers. It failed when Texas and regional bankers refused to take the notes as collateral on loans, although these institutions had been doing the same thing with merchants for years. Despite an effort to raise the money within the Texas alliance in the summer of 1889, by the early fall of that year the Farmers' Alliance Exchange of Texas had collapsed. Inspired nonetheless by this precedent, exchanges were established by alliances in other southern states.

The other half of Macune's 1887 proposal succeeded enormously. The National Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union spread rapidly across the South and into the West between 1887 and 1889 and claimed 1,200,000 members by the summer of 1890. Macune served as president until the alliance convention at St. Louis in December 1889. In March of 1889, with \$10,000 borrowed from wealthy Texas alliance man R. J. Sledge, Macune established the National Economist in Washington, D.C., and opened the Alliance Publishing Company to go with it. The National Economist became the official voice of the National Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union, which at St. Louis in December 1889 was renamed the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.

Macune's final effort to solve the farmers' credit problem was his subtreasury plan. The plan, written into the alliance platform and amended slightly by the national council meeting at Ocala, Florida, in December 1890, provided for government owned and operated warehouses to store nonperishable agricultural commodities. Farmers depositing commodities could borrow, in United States Treasury notes, up to 80 percent of the market value of their stored crops or their land from the federal government, with a minimal charge for handling and operation. The national government would replace the lien system. Ironically, this plan led to Macune's defeat within the National Farmers' Alliance. The Democrats' refusal to support the subtreasury plan allowed Macune's opponents within the alliance to push the organization closer and closer to independent politics. In February 1892, at the St. Louis convention held to plan for the new People's party, Macune apparently gave in. He supported the new party until late October 1892, when he permitted his associate J. F. Tillman to send out Democratic campaign literature to alliance members. At the December 1892 meeting of the National Farmers' Alliance, Macune lost his bid for the presidency to Henry L. Loucks of the Dakota Farmers' Alliance. In the wake of the revelation of his last-minute switch to the Democratic party and questions about his finances as editor of the National Economist, Macune resigned his position on the national executive committee. The National Economist lost its status as the official organ of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union in February 1893 and folded soon after Macune left the newspaper.

Macune reputedly remained in Washington, D.C., as an editor with the Evening Star until 1895, when he moved his family back to Cameron, Texas. There he founded, edited, and published a twice-weekly newspaper, the News, until it failed after a few months. Simultaneously, in May 1895 he was licensed in Cameron by the district court of the Twentieth Judicial District to practice law in Texas. Around 1896 he opened a law office in Beaumont. After a brief effort to recapture control of the National Farmers' Alliance during a trip to Washington, D.C., Macune reportedly returned to Beaumont determined to enter the ministry of the Methodist Church. When his daughter developed tuberculosis, he moved his family in 1900 back to Central Texas. At Star Mountain, near Goldthwaite, and then at Center, Macune practiced medicine for about a year, waiting for an opening in the ministry. He received his license to preach in June 1901 and in 1902 took his first pastorate at Copperas Cove. For approximately the next sixteen years, Macune served as a supply preacher in a number of small Central Texas communities, including Florence, Rising Star, Thurber, Wortham, Coolidge, and Hillsboro. In 1918, during World War I, he sought appointment as a naval chaplain but was refused permission because of his age. He then turned his attention to foreign mission work, joining in 1919 his youngest son, Rev. Dennis Macune, in Piedras Negras, Mexico. He also worked in Ciudad Acuña, farther up the Rio Grande. In 1920 he wrote a history of the Farmers' Alliance and deposited the manuscript in the University of Texas library. Macune served as pastor of a Methodist church in Miami, Arizona, in 1923 before retiring to Fort Worth. In that city he resided until his death on November 3, 1940. He was buried there in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Citation

Bruce Palmer and Charles W. Macune, Jr., "MACUNE, CHARLES WILLIAM," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fma09>), accessed November 15, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

GAY, BETTIE MUNN (1836–1921).

Bettie Munn Gay, prominent member of the Farmers' Alliance and women's rights advocate, daughter of Mary Ann (Talbert) and Neill Munn, was born on December 24, 1836, in Monroe County, Alabama. While she was a small child her parents moved to Texas, and by 1844 her stepfather, Reddin Andrews, was teaching school in Ruttersville. In 1851 Bettie Munn married Rufus King Gay in Fayette County, where they lived briefly. Gay served four years in the Civil War, after which he returned to a 1,700-acre farm in Colorado County to settle with his wife and their only surviving child, James Jehu Bates Gay, who later became a prominent Populist. Gay died in 1880, leaving his wife with a farm to manage and a mortgage to pay. In addition to managing her farm successfully, Bettie Gay participated actively in the Farmers' Alliance, the Socialist party, and the Baptist Church.

She played a large role in the Farmers' Alliance, although her only official position was as a delegate from Texas to the national Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union meeting in St. Louis in 1892. As early as 1888 she wrote to the editor of the *Southern Mercury*, the official newspaper of the Texas Farmers' Alliance, urging alliance members to boycott high-priced coffee. In 1889 she wrote again, urging a revival of the alliance. The same year Nelson Dunning included a chapter on "The Influence of Women in the Alliance" by Bettie Gay in his *Farmers' Alliance History and Agricultural Digest*. Gay recommended education as a way women could improve their status in society. In 1894 and 1895 she continued to express herself on women's rights, including suffrage, in letters to the *Southern Mercury*. She believed that women were better informed in political economy than many men and that it was up to women to reform the world with their votes. Accordingly, she also worked for prohibition. She died in 1921 and is buried in Columbus, Texas.

Citation

Melissa G. Wiedenfeld, "GAY, BETTIE MUNN," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fga60>), accessed November 15, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Luna E. (Sanford) Kellie, 1857-1940

Luna Sanford was born June 9, 1867, the eldest of five children of J.M. Sanford. During her childhood the family moved from Pipestone, Minnesota to Madison, Wisconsin, and later to Rockford, Illinois. While in Rockford she attended the Girls Seminary there. Luna Sanford married James Thompson Kellie on December 31, 1874. In 1876 the young couple followed Luna's family to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in Adams County. After eight years of struggle there, Luna and J.T., as her husband was called, moved to a timber claim in Kearney County. Later they operated a "suburban grocery store" in Minden, Nebraska, before moving to a farm near Heartwell, where they both became active in rural reform movements. She became State Secretary of the Nebraska Farmers' Alliance.

Although burdened with the many duties associated with farming and the responsibility of raising eleven children. Mrs. Kellie found time for her Alliance editorial and secretarial duties. She was also active in the temperance movement and the Methodist Church. Her involvement in reform causes in Nebraska met with frustration and she retired to Arizona. She died in Phoenix on March 4, 1940, and was buried at Heartwell, Nebraska, the scene of her earlier reform endeavors. Her husband, who had also been active in the Farmers' Alliance, died in 1918.

Citation

"Luna E. (Sanford) Kellie, 1857-1940." Luna E. (Sanford) Kellie, 1857-1940. May 10, 2010. Accessed November 15, 2015. <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/family/luna-kellie.htm>.

LEASE, MARY ELIZABETH (1853-1933)

In the heyday of the Populist Party, 1890–96, Mary Lease was one of the most prominent women in America, celebrated as the "Kansas Joan of Arc." She was born on September 11, 1853, in Ridgway, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Irish immigrants. Her father died as a Union prisoner of war, a calamity that plunged the family into poverty. In 1870 his widow sent twenty-year-old Mary to teach at Osage Mission, Kansas, where she married local pharmacist Charles Lease in 1873. The couple lost everything in the Panic of 1873 and moved to Denison, Texas. While her husband shifted from job to job, Lease took in washing and bore six children, two of whom died in infancy. She also joined the temperance movement and discovered her talent as an orator.

In the 1880s the family moved to Wichita, where Lease became a Knights of Labor organizer and women's suffrage advocate, as well as one of the first women to pass the Kansas bar. When the Populist Party formed in 1890, it seemed poised to address a broad range of Lease's concerns, and she plunged into the campaign. Her speeches were famously fiery, though she did not—as myth has it—urge farmers to "raise less corn and more hell."

Lease's agenda did not match those of many other Populist leaders. Denouncing those who cooperated with Democrats, she also offended anti-imperialists with her 1895 book, *The Problem of Civilization Solved*, advocating U.S. colonization of Latin America. In 1896 Lease declared herself a socialist but stumped reluctantly for William Jennings Bryan. After Bryan's defeat, Lease divorced her husband and moved with her children to New York, where she worked as a lawyer and lecturer until her death on October 30, 1933.

Though Lease repudiated the Populists, she left an enduring legacy from her years in the Plains. According to reports from an 1890 convention, it was she who gave the People's Party its name. She inspired novelist Hamlin Garland to fictionalize her in *A Spoil of Office* (1893). The first woman to be appointed a state superintendent of charities (by a Populist governor in Kansas), she blended with passion the advocacy of women's rights, overseas expansion, and domestic economic reform.

Citation

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James Richard Sovereign (1854–1928)

A native of Wisconsin, James Richard Sovereign lived in Arkansas only briefly at the end of the nineteenth century. During that time, however, he played a prominent role in politics and the labor movement at the state and national levels. By the early twentieth century, his prominence had faded, and he subsequently moved to the state of Washington, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Born on May 30, 1854, in Cassville, Wisconsin, to Thomas Clark Sovereign and Ruby Mitchell Sovereign, James R. Sovereign grew up primarily on his grandparents' farm near Elgin, Illinois. At age sixteen, he migrated to Kansas and worked as a cattle driver on the Gonzales and Abilene cattle trail, which ran through Kansas and Texas. Sovereign also worked on the construction of bridges and tunnels in Kansas before moving to his father's home in Cresco, Iowa, in the spring of 1872, where he worked on the family farm and attended high school. In 1874, he became a marble cutter. Two years later, he married Caroline A. Saucer, with whom he had four boys and two girls.

In 1881, Sovereign joined a local assembly of the Knights of Labor in Muscatine, Iowa, and three years later, he began working as a Knights organizer and editor of a Knights newspaper, the *Industrial Leader* of Dubuque, Iowa. He rose to the highest position in the Knights' state hierarchy (State Master Workman), and Governor Horace Boies appointed him in 1890 to the first of two consecutive two-year terms as the Commissioner of Labor Statistics. In November 1893, at the Knights' annual General Assembly convention in Philadelphia, a coalition of Midwestern agrarians and eastern socialists forced the resignation of longtime Knights General Master Workman Terence V. Powderly and replaced him with Sovereign, who was a leader among the agrarian faction that, by now, supported the Populist movement.

Sovereign's own involvement with third-party, farmer-oriented politics dated back to at least 1882, when he ran unsuccessfully in Iowa as a Greenback-Labor Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1894, he campaigned for the Populists in the South. The following year, he purchased a farm in Sulphur Springs (Benton County), where he built a stone residence located near a cave that he would use for the cold storage of apples. Sovereign's prominence as a national labor leader enabled him to assume a significant role in the Populist Party. He served in the Arkansas delegation to the Populists' national convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1896, and he played a leading role in the party's nomination of the free-silver supporter William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska (who had already been nominated by the Democratic Party) for president and Georgia Populist leader Tom Watson for vice president. In 1897, at a time when a state legislature chose the state's U.S. senators, some Populists in the Arkansas legislature voted (to no avail) for Sovereign to occupy that office. Other Arkansas Populist leaders, however, strongly disapproved of Sovereign's support for engaging in fusion with the Democratic Party; Populist newspaper editor (and 1898 gubernatorial candidate) W. Scott Morgan denounced him as a "Jumping Jack for the Democratic Party," and the Populist state convention removed Sovereign from the Populist national executive committee in 1898.

Sovereign's reign as the national leader of the by-then moribund Knights of Labor ended in November 1897. He made national headlines in July 1899 when he visited the site of the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, miners' strike and accused U.S. Army troops of committing atrocities. Sovereign subsequently returned to Sulphur Springs, where he farmed and sold insurance. Not long afterward, he moved to Ferry County, Washington, where he resumed his earlier career as a newspaper editor. Sovereign died on December 16, 1928. In 1931, residents of Keller, Washington, erected a monument in his honor.

Citation

Hild, Matthew. "James Richard Sovereign (1854–1928) - Encyclopedia of Arkansas." James Richard Sovereign (1854–1928) - Encyclopedia of Arkansas. August 21, 2014. Accessed November 15, 2015. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=7907>.

Marion Butler (20 May 1863-3 June 1938)

Agrarian leader and U.S. senator, was born near Clinton in Sampson County. His grandfather, James Butler, fought in the Revolutionary War, and his father, Wiley Butler, served in the Confederate Army. Wiley Butler, a yeoman farmer, married Romelia Ferrell, and Marion was the oldest of their six children.

Despite the poverty that afflicted Tar Heel farmers in the years after the Civil War, Marion Butler managed to graduate from The University of North Carolina in 1885. His plans to study law at the university were cut short, however, when his father died; though still in his early twenties, he had to assume the responsibility of running the family farm.

In addition to farming, Butler conducted an academy for the schooling of his younger brothers and sisters, as well as for the children of neighbors. When the Farmers' Alliance movement, destined to become the most militant agrarian combination in American history, spread from the Southwest into North Carolina in the late 1880s, he immediately joined the organization, and it provided him a ladder of political opportunity that he climbed with impressive speed. Possessing the formal education and literate articulateness lacking in many of his fellow farmers, he became president of the Sampson County Farmers' Alliance; he purchased a weekly newspaper in the county seat of Clinton, the *Caucasian* (which he subsequently moved to Goldsboro and then to Raleigh); and in 1890, at the age of twenty-seven, he was sent by the voters to the state senate as an Alliance Democrat.

In the legislature, Butler quickly emerged as the leader of the dominant agrarian forces, and in 1891 he became president of the state Farmers' Alliance. After the death in 1892 of another important agrarian leader from North Carolina, Leonidas L. Polk, Butler was elected president of the National Farmers' Alliance in 1893.

Ardent advocates of free silver and other financial and economic reforms, Butler and his followers in the Alliance had little use for Grover Cleveland, whom the national Democratic party renominated for the presidency in 1892. When the leaders of the Tar Heel Democratic party ruled that no member could "split the ticket," that is, vote Democratic in the state and local elections but not in the presidential race, Butler led thousands of Alliancemen in a bolt from the Democratic party—the "white man's party" that had ruled the state since Reconstruction—to join the new People's or Populist party.

In North Carolina the Populists entered the campaign of 1892 too late to hope for much, yet they and the Republicans together polled a larger vote than the Democrats. Butler then emerged as the nemesis of North Carolina Democrats, who dubbed him "the sly fox of Sampson County"; in the state elections of 1894 he led the Populists into cooperation with the Republicans, a policy known as "fusion." The combined forces of the Populists and the Republicans swept the state to gain control of both houses of the legislature and to send Butler to the U.S. Senate in 1895 for a full six-year term. In Washington he proceeded to shock veteran senators by his vigorous advocacy of reform and to take his place alongside other agrarian champions of the silver cause.

Butler achieved his greatest national prominence in 1896 when, as national chairman of the Populist party, he led in effecting the compromise whereby the Populists at their convention in St. Louis, Mo., endorsed William Jennings Bryan, already the Democratic nominee for the presidency, on a ticket with the Populists' own vice-presidential nominee, Thomas E. Watson of Georgia. In the momentous campaign that followed, Butler worked closely with Bryan and other national Democratic leaders to effect a policy of Populist-Democratic cooperation or fusion on the tickets for presidential electors, even though in North Carolina, Populists and Republicans continued to cooperate in many of the state and local elections.

After Bryan was defeated, the Populist-Republican forces extended their control in North Carolina in 1896. When the Tar Heel Democrats returned to power with their massive "white supremacy" campaigns of 1898 and 1900, however, Butler lost his seat in the Senate. He continued to serve as Populist national chairman until 1904, when he became a Republican. Although not he but Governor Daniel L. Russell originated the famous interstate lawsuit wherein South Dakota successfully sued North Carolina on certain railroad bonds that the latter state had semi-repudiated, Butler did play a secondary role in the affair; and for many years,

almost until his death in fact, Tar Heel Democrats fought the Republicans by variations on the theme of "Butler, Boodle, and Bonds."

As a U.S. senator, Butler played a key role in the establishment of free rural mail delivery. He was also instrumental in the beginning of postal savings banks. In North Carolina he and his fellow agrarian reformers were proud of their contributions to the establishment of a state college for women at Greensboro, to the establishment of a state railway commission, and to other reforms. A conspicuous friend of public education at all levels, Butler stood by The University of North Carolina at a critical time and served as a trustee and a member of the executive board from 1891 to 1899.

While still a senator, Butler resumed his study of law at The University of North Carolina, and after retiring from public life he engaged in practice in Washington, D.C. He had married Florence Faison of Sampson County on 31 Aug. 1893, and they had five children: Pocahontas, Marion, Edward F., Florence F., and Wiley. Butler died in Takoma Park, Md., and was buried from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Clinton, to which he and his wife belonged, in the Clinton Cemetery.

Citation

Durden, Robert. "Marion Butler, 1863-1938." Marion Butler, 1863-1938. November 15, 2015. Accessed November 15, 2015. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/butler93/bio.html>.

Uriah Smith Stephens, (born August 3, 1821, Cape May, New Jersey, U.S.—died February 13, 1882, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

American utopian reformer who was instrumental in founding the Knights of Labor, the first national labour union in the United States. Stephens wanted to become a Baptist minister, but family financial reverses (largely brought about by the Panic of 1837) led him into an apprenticeship to a tailor. After working as a tailor in Philadelphia from 1845 to 1853, Stephens traveled to California by way of the West Indies, Central America, and Mexico. When he returned to Philadelphia in 1858 he became caught up in antebellum reform movements, advocating abolitionism and a utopian socialism that would later underlie his union-organizing efforts.

Those efforts began in 1862, when Stephens helped organize the Garment Cutters' Association of Philadelphia. When that union collapsed in 1869, Stephens joined with six others that same year to found the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor, with Stephens becoming the union's first grand master workman. Open to all working people (excluding bankers, lawyers, stockbrokers, gamblers, doctors, and liquor manufacturers and salespeople), the Knights were supposed to serve as a voluntary association of producers, brought together in a great fraternal body to replace the ugly materialism of the new industrial age with a cooperative economic order. In Stephens's view, the Knights constituted something akin to a secular church and thus required substantial secrecy and ritual to bind together its diverse membership. In an era that saw several brutal union-busting struggles, secrecy was also regarded as an essential survival strategy.

As the Knights grew into the most powerful labour organization of its day, Stephens found himself and his beliefs more and more the targets of attack. Secrecy and ritual became the central issues of controversy, and many members took exception to Stephens's opposition to strikes and other job actions. In 1878—after losing a congressional bid as a Greenback Party candidate—Stephens resigned as leader of the Knights. His successor was Terence V. Powderly, and Stephens and Powderly clashed bitterly over the secrecy issue until in 1881 Powderly triumphed and the Knights repudiated the rule of secrecy and employed less ritual, stripping the union of the quasi-religious trappings in which Stephens believed so devoutly. Under Powderly the Knights of Labor went on to acquire almost 700,000 members by 1886—four years after Stephens's death. But by that time it was an entirely different organization from the cooperative commonwealth that Stephens had envisioned.

Citation

Encyclopædia Britannica Online, s. v. "Uriah Smith Stephens", accessed November 15, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Uriah-Smith-Stephens>.

Terence V. Powderly, (born January 22, 1849, Carbondale, Pennsylvania, U.S.—died June 24, 1924, Washington, D.C.)

American labour leader and politician who led the Knights of Labor (KOL) from 1879 to 1893. Powderly, the son of Irish immigrants to the United States, became a railroad worker at the age of 13 in Pennsylvania. At 17 he became a machinist's apprentice, and he worked at that trade until age 28. He joined the Machinists' and Blacksmiths' Union in 1871 and rose steadily within the organization. In 1874 he joined the secret order of the Knights of Labor, in which he also advanced rapidly. In 1879 he was chosen grand master workman (after 1883, general master workman), the union's highest post. In addition to his union activities, Powderly was also elected mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania, three times as a Greenback-Labor candidate, serving from 1878 to 1884.

Like his predecessor as the head of the Knights, Uriah Stephens, Powderly saw the union as a vehicle for leading American workers out of the bondage of wage labour. He presided over the Knights in the period of their greatest numerical strength—the mid-1880s—but never understood that the KOL's appeal came as much from the weakness of competing trade unions as it did from the distinctiveness of the KOL's approach, which emphasized secrecy while repudiating involvement in strikes. In the spring of 1886, the Knights claimed a membership of 700,000. Within a year, however, counterattacks by businessmen such as Jay Gould and public blame for the Haymarket Riot had tarnished the KOL's image. Membership steadily declined. Powderly became absorbed in internal disputes and finally resigned in 1893.

In the remaining years of his career, he practiced law, tried his hand at business, and served in several government posts. His first book, *Thirty Years of Labor*, was published in 1889; his autobiography, *The Path I Trod*, was published posthumously in 1940.

Citation

Encyclopædia Britannica Online, s. v. "Terence V. Powderly", accessed November 15, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Terence-V-Powderly>.

Graphic Organizer: Historic Figures

This graphic organizer for historic figures will include those from the Farmers' Alliance, Women of the Farmers' Alliance and the Knights of Labor. Please fill in any information you hear about each individual through the class and through the activity. Make sure to take notes on every person, as there will be information on the unit exam that will include these important figures.

Historic Figure	Information about historic figure given during class and activity
William Alfred Peffer	
Leonidas L. Polk	
Marion Butler	
Charles Macune	

<p>Mary Elizabeth Lease</p>	
<p>Luna Kellie</p>	
<p>Bettie Munn Gay</p>	
<p>Terence V. Powderly</p>	
<p>Uriah S. Stephens</p>	

James Sovereign	
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Image Citations for the "I am..." Activity

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marion_Butler.

Lesson I adapted from

Female Spies of the Revolutionary War

Introduction

During the American Revolution, women helped the war effort in official and unofficial capacities. They kept their households and farms running while their husbands, fathers, and brothers fought; collected and donated money for the troops; sewed shirts, stockings, and other supplies for the troops; accompanied the army as camp followers, cooking and doing laundry for the soldiers; and assisted in many other capacities. But one of the more controversial ways women helped the war effort was by spying for one side or the other—or both—during the conflict. Today such actions are sometimes viewed as glamorous and exciting, but these women put themselves and their families in danger and overcame great risks for the patriot or the loyalist cause. These women did not always receive recognition for their work, and many have been relegated to the back pages and margins of history. But their actions affected the outcome of battles, furthered the causes they believed in, and in some cases, protected their families.

In this lesson, students read biographies of the lesser-known female spies Lydia Darragh, Elizabeth Thompson, and Dacey Langston, all of whom contributed to the Revolutionary War effort in unusual ways. Students then analyze the actions of these women and identify and infer the consequences of their participation both to the conflict and in their personal lives.

Objectives

In this lesson, students:

- Describe the actions taken by each of these female spies.
- Discuss how their actions affected the war.
- Analyze the personal consequences of their actions.

Materials

[Download Lesson Materials \(PDF\)](#)

Female Spies Biography Cards

[Graphic Organizer: Female Spies of the Revolution](#)

[Graphic Organizer: Female Spies of the Revolution – Answer Key](#)

Strategy

Ask students to access their prior knowledge of women involved the Revolutionary War. Who are some of the women they've heard about? You may wish to write these names on the board. If students cannot answer, guide them toward Betsy Ross, Molly Pitcher, or Abigail Adams, or use these legendary women as examples to start discussion.

Point out that these famous women did something special that caused them to be remembered. Ask, what about all the other women who didn't become famous? What do you think other women did during the Revolution? Guide students toward the idea that women contributed to the war effort on both sides, and in many different ways.

Introduce to the class that a few women became spies for the patriots and loyalists.

Explain that in this lesson, students will work in small groups to learn about specific female spies during the Revolutionary War. They will record the women's actions, how those actions affected the war, and what the personal consequences were for them.

Divide the class into small groups of about three students each. Provide each student with a copy of the [Graphic Organizer: Female Spies](#).

Distribute a Biography Card to each group. Note to teacher: You may choose to modify this activity by assigning all three Biography Cards to each group, depending on your students' abilities and available class time.

Allow students time to read and discuss their groups' Biography Card. They may wish to highlight or underline important information as they read. Circulate to ensure understanding, and to help students answer the questions on their graphic organizers. Help students extrapolate general information from each specific person's story.

When all groups have had a chance to read and to answer the questions, reassemble the class. Have a representative from each group briefly summarize for the class each individual the group studied, and answer the questions. Note: larger classes may wish to do this as a jigsaw activity. Rearrange groups so that each group of three has one person in it who analyzed each Biography Card. Have each student share what they learned about that woman with the others in their group.

As each group's representative presents its findings, have the rest of the class fill out the appropriate sections of their graphic organizers.

Lesson Extensions

Have students use art materials to illustrate a scene from the life of one of the featured women, and explain how the chosen scene shows the value of this woman's contributions to the American Revolution.

Have groups write a list of interview questions to ask their chosen or assigned person, or one of the other individuals featured in the activity. If time allows, students could work in pairs to conduct the interview, each taking a turn as the interviewer and the chosen individual subject. (Technology Adaptation: Digitally record the interviews.)

Students may conduct further research on other female spies of the Revolutionary War, such as Miss Jenny and Ann Bates.

This lesson was written by Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Master Teachers Chris Whitehead, Mesa, AZ, and Kim O'Neil, Liverpool, NY.