

## AFD 225 The Pennsylvania episode (*and also a shorter topic on the Sanders labor bill*)

- Topic 2:

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/05/every-democrat-should-back-bernie-sander-ss-new-labor-bill.html> (<https://twitter.com/josheidelson/status/994700602017042433> )

### Topic 1

- Pennsylvania radicalism - huge overview documents here:

<https://palaborhistorysociety.org/timeline-of-labor-history-in-pennsylvania/>

<http://explorepahistory.com/storydetails.php?storyId=1-9-22&chapter=4>

- The Homestead Strikes of 1882, 1889, and 1892

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead\\_strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_strike)

- 1830

African American delegates from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia meet in Philadelphia in the first of a series of National Negro Conventions to devise ways to challenge the system of chattel slave labor in the South and racial discrimination in the North.

- <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/national-negro-convention-movement-1831-1864>

The catalyst for the first meeting in Philadelphia centered upon a proposal by city leaders to oust Cincinnati's black population as a response to conflict that had emerged over job competition between black and white men. The Cincinnati [Riot of 1829](#) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cincinnati\\_riots\\_of\\_1829](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cincinnati_riots_of_1829)) led black leaders to organize throughout the Midwest and Northeast in protest against anti-black violence, discrimination, and [slavery](#).

The first decade of convention meetings revealed growing interracial cooperation between black and white abolitionists. By the late 1840s the gathering were dominated by frustration and disillusionment among many black activists with the "moral suasion" approach of the abolitionist movement which appeared to have little impact on the slave system in the South. The passage of the [Fugitive Slave Law in 1850](#) led to the crystallization of black nationalist consciousness as many African American leaders began to believe the United States would never act justly toward black people. As a result, the Negro conventions at mid-century debated the merits of voluntary African American emigration to places like [Canada](#), [Liberia](#), and the [Caribbean](#) versus the solidification of a black nationalist movement in the United States.

During this period convention delegates consistently linked the status of free blacks and slaves in their calls for meetings. In 1855, for example, organizers of the Philadelphia convention wrote that "the elevation of the free man is inseparable (*sic*) from, and lies at the very threshold of the great work of the slave's restoration to freedom."

The majority of delegates to the conventions were men, despite the active participation of free black women in the convention meetings and in the black

abolitionist and nationalist movement in general. At the Philadelphia meeting, only two women, Elizabeth Armstrong and Rachel Cliff, served as official delegates.

The Convention Movement died during the Civil War as emancipation came to the four million enslaved people in the South and soon afterwards the promise of citizenship during Reconstruction led, prematurely as it turned out, to the belief that African Americans would fully participate in the nation's politics.

- 1938/1975: Public employee strikes (AFSCME): Public Sector Collective Bargaining. *"In 1938, 3,000 Philadelphia municipal workers launched a strike protesting wage cuts and layoffs, among the first in a major American city. After 8 days, a collective bargaining agreement was reached, leading to the formation of AFSCME District Council 33." / "80,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) [went] on strike in the first legal, large-scale strike of public employees."*
- 1969: "Murder of UMWA insurgent Jock Yablonski [led to the] founding of Miners for Democracy, in 1972." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Yablonski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Yablonski) (UMWA president ordered and funded a gruesome hit, which was immediately solved by police, and 20k workers went on strike in protest - Nixon's Labor Secretary ordered a massive investigation - the UMWA's internal reform wing rose to power)
- 1937: *Penn-Craft*. *"This experimental community for coal miners unemployed during the Depression was developed, 1937-1943, by the American Friends Service Committee. On the 200-acre tract, fifty families built their stone houses, a cooperative store, and a knitting factory. A model for other self-help projects elsewhere, Penn-Craft was a successful example of the back-to-the-land movement of the 1930s."*
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penn-Craft\\_Historic\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penn-Craft_Historic_District)
- April 1924 Klan riot in Lilly PA turns the tide on the northeastern incursion months before the 1924 DNC "Klanbake": *"April 5, 1924 Lilly was targeted for a massive Ku Klux Klan demonstration because local coal mines had hired Catholic immigrants and fired Klan members. Four hundred hooded Klansmen arrived by train early on this April evening and paraded to Piper's Hill where they burned two crosses and exploded multiple dynamite charges to intimidate the locals. But the townspeople were not cowed! During the parade back to the trains, the Klansmen were jeered, pelted, roughed-up and hosed down. Gunfire broke out and lasted for several minutes. The Klansmen then fled in disarray to the trains, leaving Lilly residents Philip Conrad, Cloyd Paul and Frank Miesko to die from gunshot wounds. Lilly's resistance to the Klan's demonstrations proved to be the beginning of the end of the Klan's advance in the north-eastern United States."*
- 1924: Hastings UMWA – District 2 Labor Chautauquas. *"From 1924 to 1926 the United Mine Workers of America held innovative workers' education programs in bituminous coal towns throughout western Pa. Hastings recorded the largest attendance in 1925. With the leadership of district President John Brophy, the Chautauquas featured nationally prominent speakers and educators as well as local entertainers. They received national press attention and recognition from progressive activists."*

- 1905: Pennsylvania State Police. **"First uniformed state police force of its kind in the nation**, created by an Act of the General Assembly May 2, 1905, signed by Governor Samuel Pennypacker. **The force was formed in response to concern over labor and capital unrest, especially the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902.**  
[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal\\_strike\\_of\\_1902 \]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal_strike_of_1902)"
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly\\_Maguires#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly_Maguires#History)
- <https://libcom.org/history/molly-maguires-1850-1875-louis-adamic>