

DOWNLOAD PDF PREFACE. MOLLIE MAGUIREISM IN THE ANTHRACITE COAL REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA

Chapter 1 : SCHUYLKILL COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT PATCH COLLECTION

The Anthracite Coal Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania encompasses six counties in Pennsylvania: Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, and Schuylkill (a small portion of Dauphin County also contained coal).

While the industry has long since left the state, the cultural roots are still there. Local dialect hearkens back to the days of the mines and local culture reflects that heritage. The historical sites evoke a time when millions of immigrants were trying to get a foothold in American society. Local oddities include the use of a "trailing G. People call each other "butt", as in an abbreviated form of "buddy" or "bud". A good resource for some coal region dialect which is more common to hear from older residents is found online [1]. The region is not only composed of descendants from German and Polish immigrants, but there are also many English, Welsh, Irish, and Eastern Europeans i. Wilkes-Barre - Scranton International Airport provides air travel. Get around There is little to nothing in regards to public transportation. Some roads tend to be very winding. A shopping mall and trolley museum are adjacent to the site. A nice amusement park to take the kids. Along with amusement rides, there is an extensive picnic grove. FREE parking and entrance; pay for rides. It is located nine miles east of Hazleton, Pa. Sean Connery was here to film part of the Molly Maguires movie. Pioneer Coal Mine Tunnel in Ashland is a very well-maintained museum which includes an actual tour of a coal mine shaft. The Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville offers free tours with free samples of beer afterwards birch beer for those under The A-Hole in Girardville is popular for swimming. Shenandoah is a popular place to drive your car around in circles, a common coal-region activity known as "cruising". Drinking alcohol is popular in the coal region. Peach Festival is held in Shamokin annually in August. Schuylkill County, is an annual celebration of blended Irish and coal cracker culture held the last weekend in July, filled with music, dance, food, genealogy, games, crafts, and more. Always held the Saturday after St. Visit the Jack Kehoe Division website or the Girardville website [4] for details, photos, and more. No trip to the coal region is complete without peirogies! This tasty Eastern European food similar to a ravioli only with a potato and cheese filling, typically can be found in most area restaurants, even local pizza shops. For a real treat, look for block parties and church picnics which might have homemade peirogies. Amazing how a hot dog can taste so much better when Jimmy makes them for you. Located on Broad St. Part of the fun is the drive through farms and the PA countryside. Has to be experienced to be understood. No kidding - this pizza is famous. Bressi Family Foods is the very best place to go for ethnic city chicken, sopressata, capicola, torpedo, shooters, salami, chorizo, andouille, and a host of other ethnic coal region foods. This article is an outline and needs more content. It has a template, but there is not enough information present. Please plunge forward and help it grow!

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Chapter 2 : Mahanoy City, PA - Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania Map & Directions - MapQuest

The Molly Maguire hangings ended the first wave of violence in the Pennsylvania coal regions. Labor relations throughout the United States remained turbulent, however, and the battle between mine owners and mine workers continued.

The main distinction between the two appears to be that the Ribbonmen were regarded as "secular, cosmopolitan, and protonationalist", with the Molly Maguires considered "rural, local, and Gaelic ". Agrarian resistance often took the form of fence destruction, night-time plowing of croplands that had been converted to pasture, and killing, mutilating, or driving off livestock. In areas where the land had long been dedicated to small-scale, growing-season leases of farmland, called conacre , opposition was conceived as "retributive justice" that was intended "to correct transgressions against traditional moral and social codes". Merchants and millers were often threatened or attacked if their prices were high. New tenants on lands secured by evictions also became targets. The leader might approach a storekeeper and demand a donation of flour or groceries. If the storekeeper failed to provide, the Mollies would enter the store and take what they wanted, warning the owner of dire consequences if the incident was reported. Keep strictly to the land question, by allowing no landlord more than fair value for his tenure. No Rent to be paid until harvest. Not even then without an abatement, where the land is too high. No turning out of tenants, unless two years rent due before ejection served. Assist to the utmost of your power the good landlord, in getting his rents. Cherish and respect the good landlord, and good agent. Keep from travelling by night. Take no arms by day, or by night, from any man, as from such acts a deal of misfortune springs, having, I trust you have, more arms than you ever will have need for. Avoid coming in contact with either the military, or police; they are only doing what they cannot help. For my sake, then, no distinction to any man, on account of his religion; his acts alone you are to look to. Let bygones be bygones, unless in a very glaring case; but watch for the time to come. The newspaper reported that, "a regular faction fight took place in Marybone amongst the Irish residents in that district. The Liverpool branch of the Molly Maguires was known for its gangsterism rather than any genuine concern for the welfare of Irish people. Members of the Mollies were accused of murder, arson, kidnapping and other crimes, in part based on allegations by Franklin B. Fellow prisoners testified against the defendants, who were arrested by the Coal and Iron Police. Gowen acted as a prosecutor in some of the trials. Information passed from the Pinkerton detective, intended only for the detective agency and their client " the most powerful industrialist of the region " was also provided to vigilantes who ambushed and murdered miners suspected of being Molly Maguires, as well as their families. They were located in a section of the anthracite coal fields dubbed the Coal Region , which included the Pennsylvania counties of Lackawanna , Luzerne , Columbia , Schuylkill , Carbon , and Northumberland. Irish miners in this organization employed the tactics of intimidation and violence used against Irish landlords during the " Land Wars " yet again in violent confrontations against the anthracite, or hard coal, mining companies in the 19th century. There is some evidence to support the charge The evidence brought against [the defendants], supplied by James McParlan, a Pinkerton, and corroborated by men who were granted immunity for their own crimes, was tortuous and contradictory, but the net effect was damning The trial temporarily destroyed the last vestiges of labor unionism in the anthracite area. More important, it gave the public the impression Horan and Howard Swiggett write sympathetically about the detective agency and its mission to bring the Mollies to justice. The difficulty of achieving strict and fair accuracy in relation to the Mollie Maguires is very great. Sensible men have held there never even was such an organization We do believe, however, that members of a secret organization, bound to each other by oath, used the facilities and personnel of the organization to carry out personal vendettas By the s, powerful financial syndicates controlled the railroads and the coalfields. Coal companies had begun to recruit immigrants from overseas willing to work for less than the prevailing local wages paid to American-born employees, luring them with "promises of fortune-making". Herded into freight trains by the hundreds, these

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workers often replaced English-speaking miners who, according to labor historian George Korson: Injuries and deaths in mine disasters, frequently reported in the newspapers, shocked the nation. Injured miners, or those too old to work at the face, were assigned to picking slate at the "breakers" where the coal was crushed into a manageable size. Thus, many of the elderly miners finished their mining days as they had begun in their youth. On 6 September, a fire at the Avondale Mine in Luzerne County, took the lives of coal miners. The families blamed the coal company for failing to finance a secondary exit for the mine. In Schuylkill County alone miners had been killed and 1, had been seriously injured over a seven year period In the s, s, and s, some 20, Irish workers had arrived in Schuylkill County. Using the alias "James McKenna", he made Shenandoah his headquarters and claimed to have become a trusted member of the organization. His assignment was to collect evidence of murder plots and intrigue, passing this information along to his Pinkerton manager. He also began working secretly with a Pinkerton agent assigned to the Coal and Iron Police for the purpose of coordinating the eventual arrest and prosecution of members of the Molly Maguires. I am sick and tired of this thing. I seem to make no progress. In addition to the railroad, Gowen owned two-thirds of the coal mines in southeastern Pennsylvania. He was a risk-taker and an ambitious man. But "the Molly Maguires themselves left virtually no evidence of their existence, let alone their aims and motivation. After beginning his investigation, he estimated that there were about members of the AOH in Schuylkill County. The violence-prone areas of Ireland corresponded to areas of violence in the Pennsylvania coalfields. Anthony Lukas has written: But [Gowen] saw an opportunity to paint the union with the Molly brush, which he did in testimony before a state investigating committee Their reports indicate that violence could be traced to the time of the Civil War, but that in the five-year existence of the WBA, "the relations existing between employers and employees" had greatly improved. The Bureau concluded that the union had brought an end to the "carnival of crime". But, in addition to the WBA, there existed a loosely organized body of men called the Molly Maguires, whose membership appears to have been exclusively Irish Both modes of organization But the strategy of the trade union was indirect, gradual, peaceful, and systematically organized across the anthracite region, while that of the Molly Maguires was direct, violent, sporadic, and confined to a specific locality. However, in spite of such differences, the WBA offered a solution, and for the most part "did a remarkable job" in overcoming such differences. As a result, many of its rank and file were members of the AOH, and there is evidence that some disgruntled trade union members favored violence against the wishes of their leaders, especially in the climactic year of But there were no Mollys among the leaders of the WBA, who took every opportunity they could to condemn the Molly Maguires and the use of violence as a strategy in the labor struggle. While the membership of the trade union and the secret society undoubtedly overlapped to some extent, they must be seen as ideologically and institutionally distinct. Dewees, a contemporary and a confidant of Gowen, wrote that by "Mr. The miners decided to strike on 1 January Another member of the AOH was shot and killed by the Modocs a rival Welsh gang operating in the anthracite coalfields led by one Bradley, a mine superintendent. Patrick Vary, a mine boss, fired into a group of miners and, according to the later boast by Gowen, as the miners "fled they left a long trail of blood behind them". At Tuscarora, a meeting of miners was attacked; one miner was killed and several others wounded. Let Linden get up a vigilance committee. It will not do to get many men, but let him get those who are prepared to take fearful revenge on the M. I think it would open the eyes of all the people and then the M. One of the men was killed in the house, and the other two supposed Mollies were wounded but able to escape. A woman, the wife of one of the reputed Mollies, was shot dead. When McParland heard details of the attack at the house, he protested in a letter to his Pinkerton supervisor. He did not object that Mollies might be assassinated as a result of his labor spying â€” they "got their just deserving". McParland resigned when it became apparent the vigilantes were willing to commit the "murder of women and children", whom he deemed innocent victims. This morning at 8 A. I heard that a crowd of masked men had entered Mrs. McAllister whom they took out of the house and shot I reported what those men were. I give all information about them so clear that the courts could have taken hold of their case at any time but the witnesses were too cowardly to do it. I have also in the interests of God

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and humanity notified you months before some of those outrages were committed still the authorities took no hold of the matter. Now I wake up this morning to find that I am the murderer of Mrs. What had a woman to do with the case—did the [Molly Maguires] in their worst time shoot down women. If I was not here the Vigilante Committee would not know who was guilty and when I find them shooting women in their thirst for blood I hereby tender my resignation to take effect as soon as this message is received. It is not cowardice that makes me resign but just let them have it now I will no longer interfere as I see that one is the same as the other and I am not going to be an accessory to the murder of women and children. I am sure the [Molly Maguires] will not spare the women so long as the Vigilante has shown an example. Two of the three men "were wounded but able to escape". Such notes, possibly containing erroneous or as-yet-unverified information, were forwarded daily by Pinkerton operatives. The content was routinely made available to Pinkerton clients in typed reports. Pinkerton detective reports now in the manuscripts collection at the Lackawanna County Historical Society reveal that Pinkerton had been spying on miners for the mine owners in Scranton. Pinkerton operatives were required to send a report each day. The daily reports were typed by staff, and conveyed to the client for a ten dollar fee. Another miner, Hugh McGeehan, a year-old who had been secretly identified as a killer by McParland, was fired upon and wounded by unknown assailants. Gowen "deluged the newspapers with stories of murder and arson" committed by the Molly Maguires. The press produced stories of strikes in Illinois, in Jersey City, and in the Ohio mine fields, all inspired by the Mollies. The stories were widely believed.

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Chapter 3 : Mollie Maguires, Civil War And Irish Veteran's Unrest | Page 2 | American Civil War Forums

In the spirit of Zinn, we offer a list of books about the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Region. If you know of any that we missed, contact us or let us know in a comment. From the Molly Maguires to the United Mine Workers: The Social Ecology of an Industrial Union,

June 24, Slighted in the mines, they dynamited machinery and assassinated bosses who cheated them, just as farmers had harassed English landlords in Ireland. They took revenge against rival gang members, politicians and police while concocting alibis and terrorizing witnesses to avoid prison. Were the Civil War resisters who roused a mob large enough to stop a troop train linked to the small bands of assassins and saboteurs who went on a spree after a bitter labor dispute a decade later? Was the secret agent serving justice or his boss a coal baron who sought to amass his holdings and suppress the miners? Did the trials and executions of the Mollies replace violence with the rule of law or did the coal companies marshal the violence of their private police, vigilantes and government troops? When six men chased mine foreman F. What did you do? James McParlan could hold a drink and throw a punch, two skills that led the Pinkerton Detective Agency to assign him to the case. He had a love affair with barmaid while courting a year-old whom he plied for information about her brother-in-law, a Molly Maguire ringleader. McParlan began insinuating himself into the Irish community of the coal region in He foiled a murder after learning of a plot to kill a German tailor in Tamaqua. In court when McParlan revealed who he was and testified against Molly Maguires, defense lawyers accused him of provoking violence, such as a riot in Mahanoy City on July 3, Defense attorneys noted instances where McParlan failed to warn people whom the Mollies planned to kill. Historians continued the scrutiny. Harold Aurand, who was a history professor at Penn State Hazleton, said McParlan began work with pre-conceived notions. He failed to obtain convictions. Meanwhile, he watched Irish power in action when a mob prevented a train carrying Schuylkill County draftees from reaching Harrisburg, where the men would have been pressed into Army service. Rather than risk federal troops in battle, the government decided not to force a full complement of soldiers to enlist from Cass Township, center of the resistance. After his stint as district attorney, Gowen became counsel for Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, and within five years, rose to presidency of the corporation. The state legislature erased that for him, and his corporation became known as Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron. The WBA tried to keep wages high and shorten the workday to eight hours while cooperating with owners to stabilize coal supply and price. Negotiations failed, as did strikes in and The WBA expelled criminals and dampened violence, according to reports of a mine inspector and testimony that mine owners gave to the Legislature. Even McParlan predicted violence would mount if the union collapsed. When the strike ended, Gowen and the owners won. The union was finished and the most notorious murders of the Molly Maguires era ensued, such as the slaying of Tamaqua policeman Benjamin Yost in Juries excluded Irish Catholics and featured Germans and Pennsylvania Dutch who had trouble following arguments in English. Gowen, historians said, used his corporation to co-opt the legal system, avenge his losses as DA and achieve his aim of crushing the union. Later, the squadron gathered evidence and arrested the Mollies, whom Gowen and other coal company attorneys helped prosecute. The state only had to provide a courtroom and a hangman, Aurand wrote. Freese wrote of Gowen: Kerrigan organized the assassination of Yost because the policeman gave a beating to a Molly Maguire member a year before. During the trials, Kenny wrote, public opinion and the jury pool was predisposed against the Molly Maguires. Even within the Irish community, Mollies had detractors. Catholic priests sermonized against the Mollies. The union excluded Mollies. Kehoe had been elected constable twice in Girardville, where he owned the Hibernia House saloon and was leader of a borough branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was sentenced to 14 years for conspiracy in two earlier Molly trials. But in his final case, Kehoe faced the death penalty, charged with first-degree murder in the death of mob boss Langdon, attacked 15 years earlier in Audenried as Davis watched while draining a whiskey bottle. Weeks before Langdon died, Kehoe allegedly said Langdon cheated

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Irish miners. On the night Langdon died, he spoke at a pro-draft rally where Kehoe spit on an American flag. Defense attorneys said the mob attack was unplanned so the appropriate charge against Kehoe should have been second-degree murder. The jury convicted Kehoe, who was hanged in Aftermath One condemned Molly proclaimed innocence while mashing a dirty handprint into the wall of his cell, where he said it would remain as long as the Mauch Chunk jail kept standing. Today his prophecy brings tourists to the jail, which has become a museum. Kehoe received a state pardon a little more than a century after his death. Three years later, Gowen killed himself.

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Chapter 4 : Molly MacGuire's in Pennsylvania Coal Regions | HistoryNet

About the Anthracite Coal Mining Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Anthracite Coal Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania encompasses six counties in Pennsylvania: Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, and Schuylkill (a small portion of Dauphin County also contained coal).

These include over 50 books about coal mining mostly in Pennsylvania , over 25 books about the Molly Maguires, and 2 films about mining and the Molly Maguires. Books about Coal Mining Include: M62 U "Another Civil War: During the Civil War anthracite from the coal region of Pennsylvania especially in Schuylkill, Luzerne, and Carbon counties was depended on by the Union Army to fuel steam powered factories, locomotives, and battleships. This book discusses the coal miners and the struggles they faced as a result of the social and economic impact of the war on their industry. M62 U "Images of America: Early Coal Mining in the Anthracite Region," by John Stuart Richards, who comes from a family of coal miners, includes nearly pages of pictures, with detailed captions included, of the daily life of miners including, roof falls, underground equipment, and much more. M7 U "The Corrupt Kingdom: Finley discusses the coal miners union and the role of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, in the miners worker struggle. M62 U "Coalcracker Culture: After a lifetime of studying anthracite coal mining, Aurand begins by looking at the coal regions industrial and social situation, the nature of the work, the consequences, and the lifestyle. He then turns to the values cultivated by the miners; their sense of freedom, physical toughness, and the love-hate relationship they had with their job. P4 S The film, "Silver Cinders: The 56 min recording traces the history of coal mining and coke production in southwestern Pennsylvania, especially in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. P4 P65 "When Coal was King: Deasy and Phyllis R. A Model of Industrial Solidarity? Bell The Molly Maguires were a secret society of approximately 20 Irish immigrants working in the coal region of Pennsylvania around the time of the Civil War. In the s these men were convicted and executed for the murder of 16 mine employees. Since then, there has been much speculation as to who these men really were and their true guilt or innocence. The Molly Maguires left virtually no record of themselves; the only information known about them was recorded by observers and historians who many believe have biased opinions on the topic. P4 M6 "Making Sense of the Molly Maguires," by Kevin Kenny Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin combines social and cultural history to uncover who the Molly Maguires were and why people have the beliefs they do about them and their actions. Claire, Pa, during a renewed interest in the Molly Maguires. The book now includes excerpts of the report of the case of the Commonwealth vs. John Kehoe, et al, who was sentenced to be hanged in for his involvement in the Molly Maguire murders of coal miners. Pinkerton is famous for his detective agency, The Pinkerton National Detective Agency, but more so for his plan to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Pinkerton was hired to investigate the labor unions in the Pennsylvania coal mines and his testimony was used against the Molly Maguires and is still some of the only evidence in the case. Crown and Mark T. Major includes a "tour" to guide the reader though Carbon and Schuylkill counties stopping at important Molly Maguire landmarks. In addition, the book serves as a guide to the major events, participants, mining, and other related issues to the Molly Maguire era. A M65 "Mollies Were Men: The story of John J. Kehoe ," by Charles A.

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Chapter 5 : Links to other Coal Region sites of interest

The Molly Maguires: Or, Labor Wars in the Coal Mines () "Some thirty years ago there existed among the anthracite coal miners of Northeast Pennsylvania a secret organization known as the Molly Maguires.

These men were sentenced to death by judges who were heavily influenced by powerful mining companies and the biased testimony of a spy, James McParlan. Today, these hangings have been recognized as unjustified, and in the state of Pennsylvania gave John Kehoe, the alleged king of the Molly Maguires, a full state pardon over a hundred years after his death. Molly Maguire, an Irish widow, in the s, protested against English landlords who tried to steal peoples land. During the midth century, America saw a huge influx of Irish immigrants. Many of these immigrants moved to the anthracite coal regions of eastern Pennsylvania to find work, specifically in the mines located in Carbon, Schuylkill, and Lehigh Counties. The Irish moved to America hoping they would escape horrible working environments and the brutal tyranny of the English, as well as to find a better life for their families. They soon discovered that the conditions in America were not so different from the conditions in Ireland. They were subject to overwhelming ridicule and discrimination. With almost no labor or mining laws, the coal mines were extremely dangerous and in decrepit condition. The WBA strictly forbade violence and opposed militancy. However, this organization catered more to its own interests than the needs of the workers. Due to this self-serving attitude and also due to prejudice that existed within the organization, the Irish decided to form their own group to protect their workers. They sought to provide fairness for the Irish working class and were willing to punish those who mistreated workers. Many of the Irish immigrants who relocated to the Anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania originated from oppressed regions of Ireland where the Molly Maguries fought for human rights. However, most historians have since accepted their existence as fact. The Molly Maguires was a secret group. Many believe the AOH was their cover or working name, which was recognized by the state as a legitimate organization. When the AOH could not make changes through legislation, the Molly Maguires allegedly tried to make changes through force. However, despite the AOH and Molly Maguires fighting hard for better working conditions, little improvement was made. Due to the nature of the Molly Maguires, it was also the scene for some of the most violent crimes in labor history. Both the unions and the coal companies were responsible for numerous violent acts during the strike including violent brawls, sabotage, and even coordinated murder. Eventually, the violence got out of hand and the coal companies needed to put a stop to the chaos. This is why James McParlan was recruited by the coal companies to infiltrate the AOH and provide enough incriminating evidence to bring them to trial. They were an organization that companies could hire as a private military in times of crisis. From there he gradually worked his way deeper and deeper into the organization, eventually being initiated into the secret group of the Molly Maguires. Lehigh University A number of Mollies were hanged at these very gallows in Pottsville. With the assistance of McParlan, the police were able to arrest over 60 men in accused of being linked to the Molly Maguires. These arrests made it possible to defeat the miners strike. Despite the strike ending, the mine owners wanted more. From to a series of trials were held in Pottsville, Pennsylvania to uncover alleged crimes committed by the Molly Maguires. Although the trials could not provide any evidence that the Molly Maguires actually existed, the media still referred to these men by that name. Since there was no evidence to link these men to the Molly Maguires, the men were tried as individuals. The trials resulted in 20 men being sentenced to hang. Emotions were so strongly against them that before they were executed, they were excommunicated from the Catholic Church and consequently denied a proper Christian burial. During and after the trials, the local and national press had a field day at the Mollies expense. During the Molly Maguires trial there were numerous incidents of skeptical testimony that has now been recognized by the state of Pennsylvania as inconclusive evidence. It has been speculated that the witnesses were clearly refutable and the evidence was circumstantial at best. Even McParlan was accused of perjury during the trials, but he was never convicted. The court found 20 men to be guilty for the coordinated

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murder of John P. Yost and several other mining officials, policeman, and supervisors that took place during The Long Strike. On June 21, , these 20 men were hanged as punishment. To date, official documentation that the Molly Maguires ever existed in America has never been produced, but their legend will not be forgotten. After the hangings, the coal miners and the Irish community regarded the Molly Maguires as heroes. They admired their courage and determination through one of the most difficult union movements ever recorded. The Molly Maguires are recorded as the first worker-only labor movement in American history. Today, the Mollies are remembered through numerous mediums including a monument in Mahanoy City, a movie titled The Molly Maguires starring Sean Connery, and a known historical meeting place of the Mollies called The Wooden Keg Tavern, to name just a few. The Mollies have even been the inspiration for music. Make way for the Molly Maguires. Making Sense of the Molly Maguires.

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Chapter 6 : Molly Maguires and Centralia

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, featuring a permanent exhibition entitled (appropriately enough) "Anthracite People: Immigration and Ethnicity in Pennsylvania's Hard Coal Region," is open Monday through Saturday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.; and Sunday, Noon to 5 P.M.

Insisting he was innocent, Campbell declared that "this is proof of my words. That mark will never be wiped out. Were the Mollies terrorists, working-class heroes, or something in between? To this day, the guilt of the twenty Mollies executed between and is hard to discover. Nearly all of the evidence that led to their convictions was provided by James McParland, a Pinkerton detective who infiltrated them. What is not in doubt, however, is the dangerous precedent in the history of Pennsylvania law enforcement that the convictions and execution of these Irish coal miners initiated. Molly Maguire was, supposedly, the leader of riots in Ireland against exploitative English landowners during the s. In the s, Irish coal miners brought the organization with them when they crossed the ocean to work in the anthracite coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania. Conditions were terrible in the Pennsylvania mines - safety regulations were non-existent or neglected; breaker boys as young as six worked picking slate; families lived in poor company-owned houses, and were forced to shop at company stores; nothing except a few dollars compensated those injured or the families of those killed in this dangerous trade; and foremen frequently abused workers or undervalued the quantity of coal mined, which determined their wages. Pinkerton detective James McParland, circa During the Civil War, Irish immigrant miners killed a number of mine supervisors and executives on local draft boards who attempted to induct them into the Union army. After the war, the violence and lawlessness continued. Northeastern Pennsylvania was in many ways like the Wild West. An isolated region with towns that had few, if any, police and constant conflict between the coal operators and their workers, disputes were settled by the men who took action. We may never know whether the Mollies carried out any murders, and what, if any, connections existed among the Mollies, the murders, the local Democratic Party, the Order of Ancient Hibernians, and the union formed in the coal regions in The Mollies, in league with the local Democrats, had their own political machine, which controlled a number of local governments in Schuylkill County. In the early s, Gowen hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to infiltrate the Molly Maguires and eliminate the last opposition to his control of the anthracite mines. Franklin Gowen, president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, circa For two and a half years, James McParland, an Irish Catholic from Ulster, worked under cover, working, fighting, and conspiring with his fellow countrymen. Death Warrant of John Kehoe, February 27, John Kehoe, "King of the Mollies," soon before his execution in It also won the Pinkerton Agency national celebrity. Indeed, to capitalize on the publicity, and to attract clients, Allen Pinkerton wrote Molly Maguires and the Detectives, a romanticized history of the story, which he published in The executions did not, however, intimidate workers elsewhere in the state. Less than a month after the Molly Maguires execution, the great rail strike of erupted in Pittsburgh, and then spread to rail yards across the state. What took place, according to historian Harold Aurand, was "one of the most astounding surrenders of sovereignty in American history. A private corporation initiated the investigation through a private detective agency; a private police force arrested the alleged offenders; the coal company attorneys prosecuted them. The state only provided the courtroom and hangman. Henry Frick, chairman of the Carnegie Steel Company, used them in to guard his coal fields and strikebreakers, in to protect Italian strikebreakers, and again, with disastrous results during the Homestead Strike of

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Chapter 7 : Special Collections - Coal Mining & The Molly Maguires

Posted in Anthracite, Coal Region, History, Mining Tagged anthracite, coal mine, coal region, miner, Pennsylvania, Railroad, Schuylkill County, Transportation Post navigation The Mahanoy Plane Engineering Feat â†’.

Since the Mollies had been blamed for numerous murders, beatings, knifings, armed robberies, and incidents of arson. In fact, he arrived in Schuylkill County determined to join the secret society. His Irish background would help too. The Mollies were all Irish Catholics, drawn mainly from the desperately poor men who worked in the coal mines of eastern Pennsylvania. Theirs was a hard life of cave-ins, explosions, flooded mines, and long hours of back-breaking labor in the darkness, all for wages that were barely sufficient to support a family. The mine workers even had to buy their own work tools and dynamite at the company store for elevated prices. The mine owners, however, were equally determined to smash the union. The resulting conflict between workers and owners sparked the creation of the Molly Maguires, who vowed to fight the exploitation of the workers by predominantly Protestant mine owners and supervisors. It was in this tense atmosphere that James McKenna found himself when he stepped off the train. McKenna soon became a popular character around the bar, entertaining customers by spinning tall tales and dancing Irish jigs. In conversation, McKenna let it be known that he was wanted for murder and counterfeiting in Buffalo, New York. Dormer himself was impressed with McKenna, and in February took him to the neighboring town of Shenandoah to meet fellow saloon-keeper Muff Lawler. Jack Kehoe ran the Hibernian House saloon in Girardville, an important Molly headquarters, and was a kingpin in the organization. Without McKenna knowing how, Kehoe secretly signaled his approval of the newcomer, and McKenna soon received an invitation to a secret meeting of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In the coal region, however, the A. Although not all members of the local A. It also contained a clause that I should keep everything secret pertaining to this organization. McKenna rose high in the organization over the next two years, in large measure because he could read and write, accomplishments not shared by many of the brethren. He became secretary and later bodymaster president of the Shenandoah lodge and a trusted advisor in many matters. On one occasion, when members of the Shenandoah lodge planned to strike a blow against the mine owners by dynamiting the Ringtown bridge, a railway bridge used by coal trains, McKenna warned them that the authorities kept a close watch on the structure. Fearing arrest, the men abandoned the plan. As the police officer climbed a ladder to extinguish a street lamp, Hugh McGehan and James Boyle stepped forward and shot him. The Mollies had accused the superintendent of blacklisting miners who had taken part in a strike. Sanger died because of an alleged workplace grievance, while Uren, who boarded with the Sanger family, was slain to eliminate him as a witness. The violence, however, was not all one-sided. The most noteworthy case of the tables being turned took place in Wiggans Patch, near Mahanoy City. Early in the morning of December 10, , a group of armed and masked men burst into the home of the three men believed to be involved in the deaths of Sanger and Uren. McAllister was wounded but survived. The Wiggans Patch incident came as a shock to the Molly Maguires. The organization was further shaken by a series of recent arrests, indicating that there was an informer within the Molly Maguires. Kehoe agreed to the meeting but secretly assigned men to murder McKenna instead. Two weeks later, James McKenna disappeared from the region. On May 6, , an impeccably dressed, clean-shaven man strode into the courthouse, took the stand, and testified. I am a detective. I was sent here by Major Allan Pinkerton of Chicago, the chief. I came to discover as to who were connected with an organization known as the Molly Maguires. He testified that some time after the murder Hugh McGehan showed him the pistol he had used to kill the police officer. McClellan, who later employed him to handle intelligence for the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. McClellan eventually lost his command, so Pinkerton returned to detective work and opened agency branches in Philadelphia and New York. He concentrated on railroad robberies and security but also became involved in helping industrialists fight labor disputes. Gowen and Pinkerton decided that the best way to bring the Mollies to heel was to plant a trusted

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Pinkerton detective within the organization. My detective should become, to all intents and purposes, one of the order, and continue so while he remains in the case before us. He joined the Pinkerton National Detective Agency in and once went undercover to expose pilferers on the streetcars of Chicago. What the Irish detective lacked in experience he made up for in other ways. McParlan possessed an outgoing personality, with a good sense of humor and a knack for quickly ingratiating himself to those he met. The detective, who died in , never set down a full account of his adventures. Linden was also employed by Pinkerton, and his arrests and interrogations of McParlan were orchestrated opportunities to exchange information. Whenever possible, McParlan used Linden to pass word of upcoming outrages and to warn victims. At other times, such as in the case of the Ringtown bridge episode, he sought to scuttle or at least delay plans. McParlan reported on numerous Molly crimes by train mail sent to the head of the Pinkerton office in Philadelphia. His cover was nearly blown when a letter from the Philadelphia office arrived at the Pottsville post office addressed to James McParlan instead of James McKenna. He suffered from several bouts of illness but steadfastly continued his work until he learned of the Wiggans Patch incident. Once the arrests began, McParlan faced his final crisis. Unaware that Kehoe never planned to hold the meeting, McParlan notified Captain Linden by slipping an invitation to him along with those mailed to Molly leaders. When he learned that Kehoe planned to have him killed, McParlan left the region on March 7, , on an early morning train bound for Philadelphia. In the years since the accused Mollies went on trial, opinion about the organization has been divided. At the conclusion of the court proceedings, scholarly writer Francis P. The trials were held at a time of strong anti-Irish prejudice and were often preceded by prejudicial newspaper accounts. Labor leaders, the clergy, and hierarchy of the Catholic church, afraid of being linked with the Molly Maguires, were quick to condemn them as well. The juries in many of the trials were composed largely of German immigrants, some of whom readily confessed that their limited knowledge of English made it difficult for them to follow the proceedings. Not a single Irish American was empaneled on any of the juries. Sympathetic judges allowed Gowen, who conducted several of the prosecutions himself, to rant on endlessly about the Molly Maguires, often painting an even more sinister picture than the facts supported. One of the more questionable convictions was that of Alexander Campbell, who was charged with masterminding the slayings of mine superintendent Morgan Powell in and John P. A prominent tavern owner and A. Jack Kehoe was hanged in for the murder of mine foreman Frank W. A century later Pennsylvania Governor Milton J. Labor relations throughout the United States remained turbulent, however, and the battle between mine owners and mine workers continued. Frustration on both sides led to violence through intimidation, beatings, industrial sabotage, and military intervention, but the founding of the United Mine Workers of America in ultimately changed the lives of the miners. The union advocated an eight-hour workday and opposed the compulsory buying of goods in company stores, employment for children under 14, and the use of hired gunmen to enforce company rules. Even with these regulations, coal mining remained a difficult and dangerous way to make a living, but no longer one that would have to rely on the Molly Maguires and their brand of justice. They include stories of peasants who banded together to avenge Molly Maguire, an old woman who had been evicted from her house; a tavern owner of that name who allowed a secret society to meet on her premises; and a fierce, pistol-packing woman who led her male followers on raids through the countryside. Most likely, the name came from groups of Irishmen who called themselves the Molly Maguires, and who engaged in violence against the agents of their English landlords during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There is no evidence to suggest that the men who acted against the Pennsylvania mine owners named themselves after the Irish Molly Maguires. Gowen perpetuated the name during legislative hearings for rate raises for his railroad in He suggested to the committee that the area was under attack by a group of men he referred to as the Molly Maguires. This article was written by Joseph Bloom and was originally published in the April issue of American History magazine. For more great articles, subscribe to American History magazine today!

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Chapter 8 : Shenandoah, PA - Shenandoah, Pennsylvania Map & Directions - MapQuest

The Molly Maguires was an Irish 19th-century secret society active in Ireland, Liverpool and parts of the eastern United States, best known for their activism among Irish-American and Irish immigrant coal miners in Pennsylvania.

Who Are These Anthracite People? Zehl This article originally appeared in Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine Volume XXIII, Number 1 - Winter In the beginning were only the great transverse mountains, seen as ridge upon overlapping ridge stretching far into the horizon of northeastern Pennsylvania. Wide expanses of sweeping landscape contained virgin forests—thick, verdant, and heavy. Deep valleys formed by resplendent rivers—on the east, the Delaware; to the west, the Susquehanna; and northward, the Lackawanna where it joined the Susquehanna-held crystal clear creeks and streams laden with fish of beautiful varieties. Part of the great Appalachian valley, this majestic—almost magical—vast terrain of seventeen hundred square miles held an immense secret, one that would change the landscape, as well as the world. Beneath the bosom of this uncharted wilderness lay great seams of hard coal. In time, trees disappeared and machinery and buildings took their place. Surfaces caved in where mines and tunnels had been abandoned. Water rushed downward not to fill steams but to fill these great pits. And steam shovels became the new beasts that thundered across the land. What happened to this region is part of the story of anthracite. The impact of hard coal upon the economy of northeastern Pennsylvania is another. But the story that lingers is the saga of these that historian John Bodnar in christened the Anthracite People—the resourceful, vibrant, brave, and hardy people who came from all parts of the world to seek their fortunes by mining coal. This is their story, and the telling and retelling of their tale is the mission of the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, located in McDade Park, overlooking the City of Scranton. Surface deposits of coal were soon exhausted, forcing workers to dig in ever deepening recesses in the earth. Open pits and shallow mines, drift and slope mines, all gave up their bounty to the relentless efforts of the industrious anthracite workers. At daybreak miners throughout this part of Pennsylvania climbed into vertical shafts and slopes that took them hundreds of feet below the surface, into the winding bowels of the earth. The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum tells the story not only of coal the mineralogical phenomenon and of coal the industry, but of those who gravitated to the mines and built their lives in what they had believed to be a promised land. The museum commemorates the Anthracite People, the heterogeneous community that became the backbone of the region. The museum also investigates what life was like for young children whose daylight hours were spent working in the collieries—the breaker, boiler and engine houses, shops, and offices that composed a typical anthracite mining operation—and in the silk and lace factories that fed voraciously upon the abundant female labor force. Anthracite, according to David L. Salay, editor of the definitive study, *Hard Coal, Hard Times: Ethnicity and Labor in the Anthracite Region*, is a ranking coal based on its carbon content and percentage of volatile material. It differs from bituminous, or soft coal lies in relatively flat seams, making it readily accessible and cheaper to mine. Hard coal is considerably more difficult to extract because its veins bend and fold irregularly and unpredictably within the layers of rock that have sheltered it for millennia. Mining it in the nineteenth century proved to be a complex and costly operation, but one deemed well worth the effort and expense. The country, reeducated to recognize the advantages of this new "stone coal" over other fuels, demanded increasing quantities. With increased demand came a compelling need for more efficient means of mining anthracite and preparing it for market. Soon steam-powered machinery—fueled, of course, with hard coal—dug out the black gold, moved the cars that hauled it from the mines, and ran the equipment that processed it. But steam, too, would be replaced, giving way to petroleum, and eventually electricity. An extensive canal system, created to accommodate coal, timber, and iron, gave way to yet another system of transportation. With the three-prong punch of coal, iron, and petroleum, Pennsylvania was destined—and would become—the foremost industrial state in the country. And until the mid-twentieth century, the railroad itself would be a prime consumer of the anthracite it transported by the ton each and every day. Following the Civil War, a crushing wave of

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immigrants from more than twenty countries arrived in Pennsylvania. From to , population in the coal region spiked sharply, burgeoning from little more than one hundred and fifty thousand to more than one million residents. Coal companies, aggressively recruiting workers, dispatched advertisements, letters of invitation, and even representatives to induce immigrants to be a part of the new and exciting industry. Friends and family members recently employed in the industry were able to purchase steerage tickets from company agents or banks and send them to those they had left behind in Europe. The influx of foreigners into the region was but part of an enormous global emigration, the largest the world had ever witnessed. Emigrants, desperate to escape the famine that had held their families captive, left Ireland; others fled the poverty and hardship of England, Scotland, and Wales; still more sought relief from the uncomfortable density of overpopulated Germany. Many were simply eager to sample for themselves the freedom and boundless opportunity the young nation represented. It was no longer the Irish, English, German, and Welsh who came by the thousands. By , Eastern and Southern Europeans were bounding off the "immigrant trains" that brought them to their new lives in the hard coal fields. There was work to be had, too, in the anthracite iron industry—in the blast furnaces, the rolling mills, the foundries, and the factories. Men, women, and children alike sought and found employment that promised them—or so they thought—entry to the good life in America. Native-born Americans occupied the highest echelon of the occupational hierarchy in the industry. Skilled miners, such as the experienced English or Welsh, or Prussians who had attended steigerschulen that graduated master miners from their rigorous curriculum, found good jobs with the companies. Those with no experience found themselves able only to enter the lowest rung of the mining organization—not coincidentally also the bottom end of the pay scale. Most miners were paid a specified sum for each car they filled or for each ton of coal they extracted. They, in turn, paid their helpers, "miners in training" who aspired to someday join their ranks. Miners needed extensive knowledge to work safely—where and how many holes to drill in the "breast" or "chute" to accommodate the black powder and later, dynamite charges that would take another bite of the solid rock and anthracite; carpentry and lumbering; and first aid to save a life, if needed. Not all who labored in the coal industry were miners. The job of breaker boy was held by a youngster who, today, would just be entering the first grade. Breaker boys, their fingers raw and bloodied, picked pieces of slate and stone from the endless mounds of coal sliding down chutes in mammoth breakers. Older boys graduated to the position of mule driver, guiding the animal through the mine tunnels. Others worked as door-boys, scrambling to open heavy doors for the approaching cars, or as runners, catching up with the moving coal car and thrusting a "sprag" a double-pointed stick, into its wheel to stop it. When they turned sixteen, boys might garner the position of an underground laborer in a move that would help them eventually attain the status of miner. And then the cycle begins again. When his mining days ended because of age or disability, a man might well find himself working again in the breaker, pulling slate and stone from the long, narrow chutes. The amalgamation of widely diverse people into a single, albeit segmented, culture was generally painless, with the common bond forged by shared difficulty transcending ethnic differences and efforts of the companies to fragment the workers into separate factions. Ethnic groups organized fraternal and benefit societies to support their own in times of desperation, but often crossed over ethnic lines when help was needed by a neighbor. Their hard lives were to frequently be punctuated by violence. Fear instilled by the legendary Molly Maguires and others—seen by some as terrorist gangsters, by others as stalwart advocates of labor—overshadowed the coalfields before supreme law and order, in the form of the company-engaged Coal and Iron Police and Pinkerton Agency detectives, too, matters firmly in hand. Anthracite People were tethered to their jobs by an invisible but insidious bond—the company that provided their living also dictated how and when they spend their meager income. Companies kept employees permanently indebted by directing them to purchase domestic goods and sundries, as well as tools and materials needed to work in the mines, at what was commonly called the company store. By , natives of some three dozen countries called the anthracite region their home. Many languages reverberated throughout the hilly landscape, which had also changed dramatically. Many of the farms and villages once nestled in the bucolic mountains were gone, replaced by sprawling collieries, patch

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towns, railroad track, and factories. Towering breakers stood stark against the horizon. Canals cut through valleys to augment natural but insufficient waterways. And the countless miles of railroad tracks could be likened to the stitches on the body of a ravaged surgery patient—an apt metaphor for the mutilated terrain of northeastern Pennsylvania. After World War I came a slow slide from which the anthracite coal industry would never recover. Many of the thousand of laborers who had come to the region to find a better life would again move in search of new livelihoods. But the Commonwealth was better for the discovery of anthracite and the social and economic powerhouse it created. It ultimately gave Pennsylvania the legacy of the Anthracite People. The legacy of the Anthracite People is chronicled by the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum which is actually located atop one of the countless mine sites that once hallmarked the area. Visitors to the museum, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are drawn into an extraordinary atmosphere, created by the powerfully evocative historic objects and photographs. There stirring exhibits pay tribute to the indomitable men and women who left Europe and minded the coalfields and kept homes and families to a landscape that has at times been described as hardscrabble and grim. Hard coal mining was not the only nineteenth-century industry to rise in this part of the Commonwealth. Labor provided by women made possible the production of exquisite silk and fancy lace. Displays of the handsome machinery used in the textile industry offer a remarkable sense of another time—a time when patience and exacting craftsmanship were irrevocably entwined in the creation of beautiful goods and wares. One exhibition segment features a warping creel, reed, and warping machine, all used in the process of rearing silk filaments into yarns. The kitchen was the hub of family life. From the large coal-fired stove came precious warmth during harsh winter months, and always the hearty aromas of traditional ethnic foods, such as sauerkraut, past, sausage, and corned beef with cabbage. Not only food preparation and meals but sewing, laundry, bathing, and childcare took place in the kitchen. Expressive, deeply hewn faces mark the dramatic mural of Eastern Europeans who immigrated to work in the coalfields about , their baggage too small for anything but a few beloved possessions to pass on to future generations as prized heirlooms and remembrances of their roots. These people, with their distinctive ethnic styles, customs and traditions, beliefs, and sense of community endowed this region of Pennsylvania with a heritage that will never die. Unlike the industry that lured them to America and then faded into the past, the imprint of these stalwart people endures. They need no further introduction. They are the Anthracite People. The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, featuring a permanent exhibition entitled appropriately enough "Anthracite People: There is an admission charge. For more information about exhibitions and special programs, write: Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, R. Individual with disabilities or who need special assistance or accommodation should write or telephone the museum in advance of their visit to discuss their needs. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired who wish to contact a hearing person via Text Telephone may use the PA Relay Center at In , the museum in Ashland was turned over to the Borough of Ashland, Schuylkill County, for operation]. Railroad enthusiasts will enjoy a visit to nearby Steamtown National Historic Site, noted for its extensive display of steam locomotives and rolling stock, as well as for its special excursions. For more information about museums and historic sites in Lackawanna County, write: The author and editor thank Chester J.

Chapter 9 : The Coal Region — A Tribute to Anthracite Miners

The Coal Region is a historically important coal-mining area in Northeastern Pennsylvania in the central Ridge-and-valley Appalachian Mountains, comprising Lackawanna, Luzerne, Columbia, Carbon, Schuylkill, Northumberland, and the extreme northeast corner of Dauphin counties.